

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 22, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, GLADES COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA

The Glades County Board of County Commissioners met on Monday, July 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Tim Stanley, Chairman
Weston Pryor, Vice Chairman
John Ahern
Donna Storter Long
Donald Strenth

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary
Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director/Interim County Manager
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Connie Vanassche, CAS Governmental Services
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director
Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff
Susan Whidden, Administrative Assistant
Paul McGehee, Chairman – Glades County EDC
Angela Snow-Colegrove, Emergency Management Director
Jeffery Patterson, TDC Member
Susan BuChans, Community Development Director
Tracy Whirls, Executive Director – Glades County EDC
Jennifer James-Mesloh
Libby Pigman, South Florida Water Management District
Chris Felker, Lake Okeechobee News
6 citizens

Chairman Ahern called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Vice Chairman Pryor gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Commissioner Strenth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held in respect of those who lost their lives last night.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

There were none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approved the minutes of the May 28, 2019 Regular Meeting**
2. **Approved the minutes of the June 10, 2019 Regular Meeting.**
3. **County Warrants (Exhibit A)**
General Fund: 85990 – 86075
ACH: 163 – 168
SHIP: 1820 – 1822
Buckhead Ridge Utility: 248
Intergovernmental Radio: 10388

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board approved the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

PUBLIC INPUT ON BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS

(Anyone wishing to provide public comment on an Agenda Item please fill out a comment card on the table at the entrance to the Commission Chambers)

There was no public input.

BUSINESS AGENDA

4. **Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board Inc.**

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Starter Long the Board acknowledged receipt of the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, Inc.'s 2019-2020 budget.

Motion carried by 5 - 0 vote.

5. **US Department of Justice grant Certification**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Starter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Pryor the Board approved the County's participation in the U.S. Department of Justice Grant Program and authorized the Chairman to sign the Program Certification document on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

6. Multi-Use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance Program (MCORE)

Bob Jones, Interim County Manager, stated the Multi-Use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance Program (MCORE) had requested that a commissioner serve on its board.

Vice Chairman Pryor volunteered to serve on the board.

Chairman Stanley stated the board would meet on August 27, 2019 in Tampa.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board appointed Vice Chairman Pryor to the Multi-Use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance Program (MCORE) and authorized the Chairman to sign the appointment letter.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

7. Letter concerning Lake Okeechobee

Commissioner Ahern stated Terry Burroughs, Okeechobee County Commissioner had requested that the Board sign a letter concerning the lake levels.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved submitting a letter regarding concern with Lake Okeechobee to Representative Steube, Senator Scott, and Senator Rubio and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

Chairman Stanley stated Commissioner Burroughs was trying to get money set aside for constrained counties around the lake to draw from when pursuing water projects. He stated he would have this item on the next agenda.

8. 2019 PRIMA Conference

Gabrielle Ibietatorremendia, Human Resources Director, requested permission to attend the 2019 PRIMA Conference in Naples on October 23, 2019.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Ahern the approved Gabrielle Ibietatorremendia, Human Resource Director's request to attend the PRIMA Conference in Naples, Florida on October 23, 2019.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

9. Marsy's Law Compliance for State Attorney's Office

Bob Jones, Interim County Manager, stated the State Attorney's Office had requested that a wall be constructed in their office so that the State Attorney would have privacy to work with victims. He requested that the Board allow him to go out for bid on the project

and approve an amount up to \$12,000.00. He stated Dawn Oliver, Administrative Services Manager, had granted permission for the use of the \$30.00 surcharge funds.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board authorized County Staff to obtain quotes for the construction of a wall in the State Attorney's Office using funds from the \$30.00 surcharge and authorized the Interim County Manager to award the bid in an amount up to \$12,000.00 and sign the contract.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

10. Paint and Carpet Quotes

Bob Jones, Interim County Manager, stated Dawn Oliver, Administrative Services Manager, had requested that the carpet in the court room and board room be replaced. He stated she had also granted permission to have the entire second floor repainted, as well. He stated this project would be paid for using \$30.00 surcharge funds. He stated 2 bids had been received for painting: Foster's Painting and Waterproofing - \$15,650.00 and Florida Painters - \$15,800.00 and 2 bids had been received for the replacement of the carpet: Jeanette's - \$26,315.00 and Wayne Wiles - \$36,701.70. He requested that the Board award the bids to the lowest bidders.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Pryor the Board awarded the painting project bid to Foster's Painting and Waterproofing in the amount of \$15,650.00 and awarded the carpet replacement project bid to Jeanette's in the amount of \$26,315.00 and authorized the Interim County Manager to sign on behalf of the Board.

Vice Chairman Pryor requested that another Glades County emblem be placed on the wall going out of the Commission Chambers.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

11. Purchase of new TV for BOCC Chambers

Susan Whidden, Administrative Assistant – County Manager's Office, agreed that another emblem should be placed on the wall leaving the Commissioner Chambers. She stated Dawn Oliver, Administrative Services Director, had approved the purchase of a new television for the board room. She made several suggestions as to where to place the television.

There was a discussion regarding where to put the television and the possibility of the Board purchasing 2 smaller televisions.

Mrs. Whidden reminded the Board that the purpose of the television would be for the jurors. She stated the Board could purchase additional televisions if they wished to.

Mr. Jones suggested bringing this item back to the Board after researching it a little more.

12. Consider Assisting with Funding for Creative Placemaking Proposal

Vice Chairman Pryor stated Glades Electric Cooperative and several other entities had contacted the County regarding trying to create a better tax base.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she would like for Glades Electric to make a presentation to the Board regarding this matter. She stated she did not feel comfortable voting on this matter tonight. She expressed concern with the amount of money this would cost.

Commissioner Ahern stated this was Glades Electric's venture. He gave an overview of the meeting he had attended with the stakeholders.

Commissioner Storter Long expressed concern with not being able to give County employees a raise, but committing \$10,000.00 to this proposal. She stated again that she would like to see a presentation.

Chairman Stanley stated the Board would be paying a portion of the \$94,000.00, not the entire amount.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board voted to allocate \$10,000.00 for the Creative Placemaking project.

Chairman Stanley called for public input.

J. C. Long, resident of 1450 Coffee Mill Hammock, Ortona, stated this same kind of study had been done numerous times in the past. He expressed concern with spending money when the Board was not even sure of what it would be getting.

Commissioner Storter Long called for the question. She asked if the motion could include a presentation.

Commissioner Ahern stated he could ask that a presentation be made.

Motion carried by 4 – 1 vote.

Commissioner Storter Long voted against the motion on the floor.

13. Moonshine Marsh Overlook Park

Bob Jones, Interim County Manager, stated former County Manager, Mr. Murphy, had signed a contract with Crosscreek Environmental, Inc. for the planting at the Moonshine Marsh Overlook Park. He stated a letter had been sent to them awarding the bid back in May; however, the funds had not been budgeted. He asked that the Board budget \$16,818.20 for this project.

Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director, stated the funds would be transferred from BOCC – Professional Services to Moore Haven Canal – Professional Services.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Strenth seconded by Commissioner Starter Long the Board approved the contract by and between Glades County and Crosscreek Environmental, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$16,818.20 and directed County Staff to move forward with the project. (See Exhibit B)

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

14. Budget Transfer Request

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board approved a budget transfer request of an amount not to exceed \$16,820.00 from General Fund BOCC – Professional Services to General Fund Moore Haven Canal – Professional Services for services to be provided by Crosscreek Environmental, Inc. at the Moonshine Marsh Overlook Park.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

15. MGT Consulting Group Employee Handbook

Gabrielle Ibietatorremendia, Human Resources Director, stated this contract had been signed on March 13, 2019 by former County Manager Mr. Murphy and MGT Consultants for work to be done on a revised Employee Handbook. She stated the contract had ended May 31, 2019. She asked for direction from the Board on how to proceed. She stated Staff had not received the draft handbook until June 6, 2019, although the contract had already ended. She explained that MGT had extended the contract for one week for Staff to review and finalize. She stated the County had already paid MGT \$8,480.00 to date. She stated a final bill had just been received in the amount of \$5,260.00. She stated payment of this bill would satisfy the contract in the amount of \$13,740.00 and the County still did not have a final revised Employee Handbook. She stated once she received the final version she would forward it to the Commissioners for review.

Chairman Stanley agreed that each Commissioner should review the handbook. He suggested that the Personnel Policy Committee also reconvene and review the handbook and make any needed revisions and then bring it back to the Board for consideration.

Commissioner Starter Long suggested not making the final payment until the final version of the handbook was received.

Mr. Jones stated a lot of administrative stuff had been added to the handbook.

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court, stated a lot of the added policies were not relevant.

Mr. Jones stated he would handle this matter in-house and bring it back to the Board for review.

Chairman Stanley suggested that hurricane pay policy be incorporated in the handbook.

Ms. Brown agreed.

16. Business Park Wetlands Discussion

Bob Jones, Interim County Manager, referred to a map of the Business Park (Exhibit C) and stated he and Commissioner Ahern had discussed the possibilities of mitigating the site. He suggested enlarging the wetland area in the back and making the front more presentable. He stated he had made 3 phone calls to the Army Corps of Engineers and had not yet received a return call.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested moving the wetland area.

Commissioner Ahern agreed. He stated this plan would extend the wetland in the back and move the one in the front.

It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with this plan.

17. County Manager Position

Chairman Stanley stated he had allowed several candidates for the County Manager position to speak at a previous meeting. He invited Jennifer James-Mesloh, candidate for the County Manager position to address the Board.

Jennifer James-Mesloh, County Manager candidate, stated she had met with each of the Board members last year and thanked the Board for allowing her to re-present her credentials and qualifications. She stated she was an 8th generation Floridian who had experience in working in the Southwest Florida area. She stated she had a lot of experience in working with agriculture, lobbying, municipal government and public information. She stated she was currently a Village Manager and had professional government experience as well. She commented on the personnel handbook issue and the placemaking project. She stated she had significant experience in both of these areas. She apologized for not moving forward with employment last year and stated he decision had been based on family matters; however, those matters were no longer a hindrance for her. She thanked the Board for their willingness to reconsider her for employment.

Chairman Stanley stated there 14 applicants as of noon today. He asked how the Board wished to proceed.

Commissioner Ahern suggested having each Commissioner present their short list of candidates at the next meeting.

Commissioner Storter Long agreed and suggested ranking all of the candidates and short listing the top 5.

Vice Chairman Pryor suggested ranking 7 and interviewing the top 5.

The Board directed Ms. Ibietatorremendia to have back ground checks done on the top 5.

Chairman Stanley stated he was very pleased with the candidates that had applied.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to have each Commissioner provide their rankings to Ms. Ibiatorremendia by Friday, July 26, 2019; to rank their top 5 candidates at the Special Meeting on Thursday, August 1, 2019 at 5:05 p.m.; and scheduled the interviews at the Training Center for Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Stanley suggested Attorney Pringle provide the questions. He stated the interviews would be open to the public.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Susan Whidden, Administrative Assistant – County Manager’s Office, stated she received the tentative agenda for the Joint Meeting with Hendry County scheduled for August 8th at 5:30 p.m. at the Training Center. She stated the only items on the agenda were the presentation from Marybeth regarding the Heartland Regional Transportation and a presentation regarding the Training Center. She asked if the Board wished to add anything to the agenda.

Commissioner Storter Long requested that a discussion regarding the Library be added.

Chairman Stanley requested that an update on the Airglades project be added.

Vice Chairman Pryor requested that a discussion regarding the modular homes be added.

Mrs. Whidden asked if the Commissioners wished to have a representative from the State update the Board on the Good Wheels program. She also asked if the Board had any issues with the meeting being livestreamed to Facebook.

The Board had no issues with the meeting being livestreamed.

Libby Pigman, South Florida Water Management District, stated the Department of Environmental Protection would hold a meeting on July 30th regarding the Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). She stated the meeting would be held at the Williamson Center at Indian River Community College in Okeechobee from 9:00 – 12 noon. She stated the Lake Okeechobee Aquatic Plant Management Interagency Task Force meeting would be held on August 8th at the Okeechobee Service Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. She stated the Heartland REDI Group would be meeting on August 16th from 10:00 a.m. – 12 Noon at the historic Courthouse in Okeechobee.

Connie Vanassche, CAS Governmental Services, gave an update on the FDEP grant for the wastewater project. She stated she had submitted the quarterly report. She stated there was a balance left in the pre-construction task 1. She stated a change order would be done to update the grant manager to Chairman Stanley and incorporate moving the

chapter on review activity under the project management. She stated it was a pleasure working with Glades County Staff and the Board members.

Gabrielle Ibietatorremendia, Human Resources Director, thanked staff and all of those who had come together to make the Health Fair happen this year. She stated the event had been very successful this year and she was very proud of the Wellness Committee. She reminded everyone about the upcoming open enrollment.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

There was no discussion.

COUNTY MANAGER

Bob Jones, Interim County Manager, stated Butch Jones had informed him today that the American Legion would be closing. He stated Mr. Jones wanted to know if the Board was interested in taking over that building at no costs. He reminded the Board that the building was used as a voting precinct. He asked the Board to consider the matter and let him know their thoughts.

Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections, stated she would be moving that precinct to the Doyle Conner Building.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Storter Long thanked Mrs. Whidden, Ms. Ibietatorremendia, all of the Department Heads, the Finance Department, and Mr. Jones for all of their hard work. She stated she appreciated the Friday at 5 reports. She thanked Ms. Brown, Mrs. Patterson and staff for their efforts with the budgets.

Vice Chairman Pryor commented on the recent deaths of 3 young men in the community. He asked that if there were people with differences with someone that they reach out to the other and make things right. He reminded everyone that they did not know when their last day would be and to love one another.

Commissioner Strenth agreed with Vice Chairman Pryor's comments.

Commissioner Ahern updated the Board on the hotel project. He stated Attorney Pringle had sent a draft agreement for review to Mr. Cortez's attorney. He stated Attorney Pringle continued to work on the matter. He reminded everyone of the pilot program presentation regarding the removal of algae from the water in Lake Okeechobee that would be held at the spillway in the morning at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Stanley commented on an email he received about a FEMA grant from Hurricane Irma. He stated these funds could be used to purchase homes that were damaged significantly and that could not be repaired. He also commented on an email

GLADES COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING – JULY 22, 2019

from the Agriculture Commission regarding a grant that was open for agricultural improvements.

Mrs. Vanassche stated the deadline for this grant was October 1st. She stated the grant covered construction renovation, agricultural education, and promotional facilities. She stated the County would have to provide 40% or more of the costs. She stated details of agriculture promotion would have to be provided. She stated the County could use the value of the land as part of the local contribution.

Chairman Stanley stated there was still approximately \$400,000.00 in FEMA funds that the County had not yet received. He stated that because the funds were not guaranteed they had not been included in the budget. He suggested purchasing an ambulance with the funds. He reminded everyone of the Homeowners' Association meeting at Buckhead on Thursday night.

ADJOURN

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Stanley adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Timothy Stanley, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: September 23, 2019

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM RECORD. TAPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO THE ENTIRE MEETING.