

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, GLADES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MOORE
HAVEN, FLORIDA

The Glades County Board of County Commissioners met on Tuesday, August 8, 2017
at 9:00 a.m. with the following Commissioners present:

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

Others present:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Court
Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Paul Carlisle, County Manager
Richard Pringle, Glades County Attorney
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff
Charlie Murphy, Okeechobee Radio
6 citizens

Chairman Ahern called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRAYER

Commissioner Pryor gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Vice Chairman Stanley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Note: Unanimous Board Action is required to amend agenda for official vote.

Chairman Ahern requested that Item #5 – Resolution 2017- Texting While Driving be
moved up on the agenda under presentations.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the
Board amended the agenda as requested.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS

5. Resolution 2017- Texting While Driving (This item was taken out of order by amendment to the agenda)

Deniz Ozaltin, District Secretary for Representative Slosberg, came forward to make a presentation. She thanked the Board for having them on the agenda today. She stated texting while driving really hit home for Representative Slosberg because she lost her twin sister in 1996, at the age of 14, to a distracted driver. She stated this bill was a priority for Representative Slosberg. She stated motor vehicle crashes were the number one cause of death for teen drivers. She stated between 2013 and 2016 crash reports rose by 10,000 for distracted drivers. She stated the current law in Florida states that texting while driving is considered a secondary offense. She stated as soon as the seat belt law came into effect citation numbers dropped significantly. She stated when looking at the numbers it was not just teens, but adults as well, who were texting on the road. She stated drivers age 20 – 24 were responsible for the highest number of distracted driving crashes, followed by 25 – 29 year olds, and then 15 – 19 year olds. She stated Florida was currently one of 4 states that enforces texting while driving as a secondary offense. She stated the remaining states consider it a primary offense. She stated it wasn't until 13 people were killed on a church bus in Texas that the State of Texas made it a primary offense. She asked what it would take for Florida to pass this legislation. She stated this bill had been taken to session last year, but had it died in a subcommittee on May 5, 2016; however, it had gone to a workshop. She stated the workshop had concluded that the only solution to this problem was to make texting while driving a primary offense. She stated she and Representative Slosberg were going county to county, making phone calls, sending emails, and mailing letters to every county and commissioner in the State of Florida. She stated this year when the bill went to legislation again they would have all of the counties supporting them. She stated Representative Slosberg was actually in Levy, Citrus, and Brevard today.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if they knew why the bill had died in a subcommittee.

Ms. Ozaltin stated they did not get a full explanation as to why the bill had died. She stated this was one reason they were trying to get all of the counties and cities on board. She stated with this much support, there was really no reason for the bill to die again this year.

County Manager Carlisle read the title of the resolution into the record.

Commissioner Storter Long pointed out some typos in the Resolution. She stated the word "secretary" had been omitted in one of the paragraphs and the language in the sentence containing "to use a hand-held cellular devices" needed to be either plural or singular.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board adopted Glades County Resolution No. 2017- 19, Urging the Florida Legislature to enact Legislation that would make texting while driving a primary offense and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Chairman Ahern called for public input. There was none.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Ordinance No. 2017-

County Manager Carlisle stated this ordinance would amend Chapter 46, Article IV of the code of Glades County regarding economic development ad valorem tax exemption by amending sections 46 – 68 to amend the economic development ad valorem tax exemption previously granted to Greencore, LLC by Ordinance 2014-1, in part, to recognize the transfer of the subject property from Greencore, LLC to the Quikrete Companies, Inc. He stated Greencore's application provided for a longer term and 100% tax abatement. He stated the actual number of employees that Quikrete had would give them 6 years of tax abatement at 100% and then the abatement would taper off up to 10 years.

Chairman Ahern called for public input. There was none.

County Manager Carlisle read the title of the ordinance into the record.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board adopted Glades County Ordinance No. 2017- 14, an Ordinance of the County Commissioners of Glades County, Florida, amending Chapter 46, Article IV, of the Code of Glades County regarding economic development ad valorem tax exemption by amending Sections 46 – 68 to amend the economic development ad valorem tax exemption previously granted to Greencore, LLC by Ordinance No. 2014-1, in part, to recognize the transfer of the subject property from Greencore, LLC to the Quikrete Companies, Inc.; making findings; providing for conflict and severability; providing for codification, providing for liberal construction; and providing an effective date; and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Vice Chairman Stanley suggested that the Board review the tax abatement. He stated the ordinance had been in place for numerous years and only one company had applied for the abatement. He stated the County was giving 10 years of tax abatement and it seemed as though if the companies were going to come they would do so anyways.

County Manager Carlisle stated the tax abatement was at the discretion of the Board and done on a case by case basis. He stated he would like to review the ordinance as well. He stated, as written, the ordinance did not include any milestones for performance. He stated he and Attorney Pringle were already working on this issue.

Chairman Ahern asked that each Commissioner write down their vote. He called the following roll call:

Commissioner Storter Long – yes
Commissioner Pryor – yes

Vice Chairman Stanley – yes
Commissioner Strenth – yes
Chairman Ahern – yes

(See Exhibit B for votes)

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2. Approve County Warrants (See Exhibit A)**
General Fund: 81420 – 81505
EMS Award Grant: 1930
SHIP: 1688 – 1690
Intergovernmental Radio: 10333 - 10334
- 3. Approved Minutes of the July 11, 2017 Regular Meeting**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley Board approved the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked if the Board paid for fireworks every year.

Chairman Ahern stated the County made this donation every year to the City of Moore Haven.

PUBLIC COMMENT 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.

Chairman Ahern asked if there was any public input on any of the Business Agenda items. There was none.

BUSINESS AGENDA

- 4. Resolution No. 2017- EMS Trust Fund Monies**

County Manager Carlisle stated this resolution was done annually and dedicated funds the County received from the Department of Health to Emergency Management Services.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned the language in the resolution. She stated the funds were received from the State and not “by the State” or “through the State”. She stated the title of the resolution needed to be corrected, along with this language in 2 of the paragraphs.

County Manager Carlisle read the title of the Resolution, as corrected, into the record.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board adopted Glades County Resolution No. 2017- 20, Dedicating EMS Trust Fund Monies received from the State exclusively and solely for the improvement and expansion of Pre-Hospital EMS.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

6. Resolution No. 2017- ADA

County Manager Carlisle stated the CDBG grant required all of the County facilities to become ADA compliant. He stated if there were facilities that were not ADA compliant a resolution had to be adopted describing what would be done to make them compliant.

County Manager Carlisle read the title of the Resolution into the record.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board adopted Glades County Resolution No. 2017- 21, Updating Compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, adopting a Handicap Accessibility Self-Evaluation Plan, Adopting a Transition Plan for Handicap Accessibility, and Adopting Section 504 Grievance Procedure and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Storter Long handed County Manager Carlisle corrections to Resolution.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

7. SHIP, HHRP, and CDBG Satisfactions

County Manager Carlisle requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting so that Susan Whidden, SHIP Director, could be present. He stated there were 2 satisfactions listed that may not need to be satisfied.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the date of the mortgage on one of the satisfactions needed to be corrected and the notary date was incorrect.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board tabled Item #7 – SHIP, HHRP, and CDBG Satisfactions until August 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

8. SHIP Down Payment Assistance

County Manager Carlisle stated this down payment assistance was set to expire on July 31, 2017. He explained that the Applicant was outbid on the original home that she wished to purchase. The Applicant was now having a modular home constructed and the bank had requested that the encumbrance be extended for an additional 90 days.

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Commissioner Storter Long questioned which year of funding these funds would be coming from and if the timeframe for expenditure would be met.

County Manager Carlisle stated the funds were coming from the 2014-2015 funding and the timeframe would be met.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board approved granting Applicant 2017-DPA-2 a 90-day extension on the Down Payment Assistance application and authorized the County Manager and SHIP Administrator to sign the SHIP Mortgage documents on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

There was no discussion.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

There was no discussion.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Carlisle introduced Jerry Randolph the County's recently hired Public Works Director. He stated he had attended a meeting with South Florida Water Management District and the Army Corps of Engineers regarding water storage at the north end of the Lake. He commented on the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society addressing these issues. He stated he would be meeting with one of the new Board members of the SFWMD. He reminded the Commissioners that he would be out of the office next week but would be available by telephone, if needed.

Chairman Ahern asked if County Manager Carlisle had heard from Mr. Xanders regarding the feasibility study for the hotel property.

County Manager Carlisle stated Mr. Xanders had sent him some documents regarding the percentage of stays throughout the Okeechobee and Clewiston areas. He stated he would be reaching out the Mr. Xanders to discuss the figures more thoroughly. He stated the occupancy rate during the week was 70 – 80%, which seemed fairly high. He stated the rooms rates appeared to be slightly higher than what he had expected (\$90.00 - \$158.00 per night).

Chairman Ahern asked if County Manager Carlisle had met with Game and Fish on the landscaping project at the Moore Haven Canal.

County Manager Carlisle stated he had met with Game and Fish and the project would commence on August 13th.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

John Trail, resident of Lakeport, passed out a packet of documentation and pictures. He explained that he had received a code violation last week for having a trailer on his property hooked up to electricity. He stated he was told that the trailer appeared to be occupied. He stated he did have the trailer hooked to electric and water for the purpose of cleaning the camper for a 4 day camping trip. He stated he understood the reason for the citation, but requested that the Board consider revising the ordinance to allow the trailers to be connected to electricity only for humidity reasons. He stated these trailers were made of a card board type material that was subject to deterioration from humidity. He stated the air needed to circulate in them. He stated he had contacted the manufacturer of the trailer that he owned and they recommended air circulation. He stated he understood the reasoning behind the ordinance. He stated he understood the need to deter people from coming down from the north and staying all winter on someone's property. He stated for the residents of the County; however, it would be nice if they could hook their trailers up to electricity only for the purpose of circulating air and maintenance reasons. He stated Mrs. William's had also noted that there was a chicken coop on his property. He stated after researching the issue he had discovered that his chicken coop was listed on the tax roll. He stated the coop had been on his property for quite some time. He stated he and his girlfriend, Jodi Goodman, had 6 grandchildren. He stated the chickens had names and he would like to at least keep them until they died. He stated the chickens were strictly for entertainment purposes. He stated he kept bedding down in the coop and the eggs were consumed by him and his family. He stated he did not realize this created a violation. He asked that the Board consider changing the ordinance. He stated he had some issues with a neighbor over the years and had several complaints filed against him. He stated he had made lots of improvements to his property. He stated he felt that his property was an asset to the community.

Commissioner Pryor commended Mr. Trail for keeping his property so clean. He stated the County needed more residents that kept their yards like this.

Chairman Ahern stated he had talked to Mr. Trail about this issue yesterday afternoon. He stated the issue was somewhat related to something they had done in the City years ago. He stated the City offered a vacation rate on electricity usage so that if someone wished to leave their electric on while they were gone for part of the year, they could do so. He asked that County Manager Carlisle take a look at the ordinance and bring some suggestions back to the Board.

County Manager Carlisle stated he had spoken with Mrs. Williams about this violation. He stated he did not know that there was an issue as long as water and sewer were not hooked up to the trailer. He stated he would research the issue to see if the ordinance needed to be revised or if these concerns could be left to the discretion of the Code Enforcement Officer. He agreed that the air needed to be circulated.

Commissioner Strenth stated he understood the need for electricity hook up with motor homes and campers and the damage that humidity could cause.

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Commissioner Starter Long stated she had received an email from Ms. Goodman yesterday regarding the chickens. She stated she had informed Ms. Goodman of the issue with the residents in the Port LaBelle area who wished to have horses on their property. She stated the area was not zoned for horses so the residents had given \$2,500.00 to the County for planning and preparation of an ordinance so that a special exception could be applied for in cases such as this. She stated each case would be reviewed and approved by the Zoning Board. She stated this ordinance would also help with the residents who wished to have 4H animals and could apply to those who wanted to have chickens.

County Manager Carlisle stated the ordinance stated that the trailer could not be inhabited.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked if it was illegal to have friends come down in their motor home, hook up to electric, and stay for the weekend.

County Manager Carlisle stated it would be illegal if the friends were staying in the motor home.

Commissioner Pryor asked if the people could run their own generator.

County Manager Carlisle stated this would be a violation of the ordinance.

Commissioner Pryor stated he did not agree with this.

Commissioner Starter Long suggested creating a process for a 3 day application or a temporary stay permit.

Chairman Ahern stated this issue was fairly common. He stated the City's ordinance allowed for overnight stays in a camper or motor home but for temporary periods of time.

Commissioner Pryor stated he understood that these provisions were in the ordinance to prevent someone from living in a motor home or a trailer year round.

Commissioner Strenth questioned the letter addressed to Mr. Trail indicating that he could no longer make any code violation complaints as of April 1, 2015.

County Manager Carlisle stated the letter stemmed from 2 neighbors using Code Enforcement to make numerous complaints. He stated the letter was sent to both neighbors informing them that their complaints against each other would not be addressed. He stated the Code Enforcement Officer was there nearly every day.

Commissioner Strenth stated the letter did not prohibit Mr. Trail from filing other complaints.

County Manager Carlisle stated this was correct.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Strenth commented on his recent trip to Washington, D.C. He stated it seemed as if the current administration was really involved in trying to get input from local governments. He stated it appeared that the administration wanted to move the decision making authority from the federal government back down to the local governments. He stated the meeting had been very informative. He stated he had made several contacts. He stated he had meet with Ethan, Congressman Tom Rooney's office, regarding additional funding for the Moore Haven Canal project.

Commissioner Storter Long thanked Commissioner Strenth for making the trip.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he and County Manager Carlisle had spoken with Senator Rubio's assistant to obtain additional funding for the Moore Haven Canal project, as well. He reminded everyone of the school supply event that would take place at the Doyle Conner Building tomorrow night.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the Ortona Community Association finally had a lighted flag pole. She thanked Mr. Longwell for his efforts in making this happen. She commented on the successful summer program the Ortona Community Association had this year and stated the Muse Community Association meetings should start back up in September.

Commissioner Pryor welcomed Jerry Randolph and stated he looked forward to having him on the County's team.

Chairman Ahern stated there 428 inmates being housed as of yesterday at the jail facility.

Commissioner Storter Long thanked Sheriff Hardin for the recent drug bust.

Chairman Ahern commented on his meeting with Senator Rubio's assistant. He stated it was nice to have a local person to communicate with.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if Sheriff Hardin had received any response regarding the leasing of the old jail facility.

Sheriff Hardin stated Homeland Security had not indicated that they would want to use the building. He stated they were waiting for the overflow from Chrome. He stated until they reached capacity at that facility, they would not need to lease the old jail facility. He commented on Okeechobee County building an addition on to their jail facility.

ADJOURN

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board adjourned the meeting.

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Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Ahern adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

John Ahern, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: September 19, 2017

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