

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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, November 14, 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:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Richard Pringle, County Attorney
Paul Carlisle, County Manager
Susan Whidden, Administrative Assistant
Keri Vanderhoff, SHIP Administrator
Jerry Randolph, Public Works Director
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff
Chris Felker, Okeechobee News
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director
Joe Pepe, Director - Health Department
Libby Pigman, SFWMD Representative
Tracy Whirls, Glades EDC Director
3 citizens

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

PRAYER

Commissioner Storter Long gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Commissioner Strenth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

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

Commissioner Strenth requested that the closure of the Harney Pond Canal Park for the Lakeport Garden Club's Annual Christmas Boat Parade be added to the Business Agenda.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Starter Long the Board amended the agenda as requested.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS

There were none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approve County Warrants (See Exhibit A)**
General Fund: 81985 – 82046
82051 – 82213
Intergovernmental Radio: 10339 – 10340
Law Enforcement Trust Fund: 1072
SHIP: 1697
Buckhead Ridge Utility: 230
Tourism Development Council: 1047 - 1048
2. **Approved Minutes of the September 6, 2017 Emergency Meeting**
3. **Approved Minutes of the September 25, 2017 Regular Meeting**
4. **Approved Minutes of the September 27, 2017 Public Hearing**
5. **Approved Minutes of the October 23, 2017 Regular Meeting**

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

Chairman Ahern abstained from voting on 2 invoices (in the County Warrants) from Ahern's Service Center. (See Exhibit B)

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

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

6. Property placed on List of Lands Available for Taxes

County Manager Carlisle stated these 2 properties had gone to tax deed sale and had not been purchased. He explained that the Board now had the opportunity to pay the taxes and obtain the property or waive their right to purchase. He stated he thought FDOT may have been interested in one of the parcels; however, they were not.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked about the parcel located along the highway.

County Manager Carlisle stated the parcel was an 80 foot strip located along the right of way.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board waived its right to purchase Tax Deeds 2014-12 and 2017-5.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

7. \$30.00 Surcharge Transfer for 2017/18 Budget

County Manager Carlisle stated these were a list of departments that would be paid from the \$30 Court Surcharge.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board approved the transfer of \$107,615.00 from the Court Surcharge to the following departments: Court Administration - \$35,357.00; Circuit Judge - \$3,342.00; County Judge - \$8,150.00; Probation - \$8,305.00; and Courthouse Maintenance - \$52,461.00.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

8. 2017 Audit Engagement Letter

County Manager Carlisle stated the County did have an agreement and a not to exceed maximum costs for the year. He stated an Engagement Letter was done every year. He stated he and Attorney Pringle had discussed the letter and there were a couple of minor points that they would like to negotiate with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP prior to signing. He asked that if the Board wished to approve the letter that they also authorize him and Attorney Pringle to negotiate these minor points and authorize the Chairman to sign.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board approved the 2017 Audit Engagement Letter with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP; authorized County Manager Carlisle and Attorney Pringle to negotiate several minor points within the letter; and authorized the Chairman and County Manager Carlisle to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

9. Port LaBelle Utility Systems Board of Directors Citizen Application

County Manager Carlisle stated Mr. Gaskins was interested in serving on this Board.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner the Board approved the application of Thomas Gaskins, III; appointed Mr. Gaskins to the Port LaBelle Utility System's Board of Directors; and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

10. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

County Manager Carlisle stated these certificates were required by statute each year. He stated these were entities that the County partnered with for Emergency Medical Services.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board approved the Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for the following entities that operate within Glades County: Glades County Public Safety, Okeechobee Fire Rescue, West Coast Southern Medical, Seminole Tribe of Florida, and Positive Mobility and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

11. EMS Grant Program (Ambulance Remount)

County Manager Carlisle stated the Florida Department of Health EMS grant was now open. He stated he would be reaching out to try to these funds so that one of the older ambulances could be remounted. He stated the grant was a 75%/25% match.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board authorized the Public Safety Director to submit a grant application for remounting an ambulance.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

12. Digital Recording and Agenda Software for the BOCC Meetings

County Manager Carlisle stated the Board had recently asked County staff to look at upgrading the recording system. He stated he and staff had met with 3 different vendors – BoardDocs, BIS Digital, Inc., and iCompass and had received information from a 4th - Granicus. He stated BoardDocs offered only agenda software for \$14,000.00 per year. He stated this company did not offer a recording system. He stated BIS Digital, Inc. offered a recording system but the agenda software would be an additional costs and the software was not transportable. He stated iCompass offered both agenda software and a recording system. He stated the agenda would be searchable and users would be able to look at the backup documents. He stated the user would also be able to listen to the recorded meetings. He stated iCompass offered unlimited access. He stated staff would recommend iCompass after reviewing the services and costs that each vendor offered. He stated there was money in the IT budget and this purchase would not impact the Clerk's budget.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if training software would be provided.

County Manager Carlisle stated iCompass offered unlimited training and 24-hour support services.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board approved using iCompass for the Board's agenda software and recording needs for a fee

not to exceed \$7,850.00 and authorized the County Manager to sign documents on behalf of the Board.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked if the minutes would be printed out immediately after the meetings.

County Manager Carlisle stated the recording of the meeting would be downloaded to the County's website. He explained that as votes were taken during the meeting they would be recorded. He stated Ms. Braddock would still be able to take notes during the meeting and prepare the minutes afterwards.

Vice Chairman Stanley commented on the system that Okeechobee County uses. He stated it appeared to be similar. He stated a user could see the voting histories of each Board member.

County Manager Carlisle stated Ms. Braddock would record the votes taken immediately during the meeting and would also have the ability to go back and make edits to her notes.

Attorney Pringle stated this was a digital system and the motions would need to be clearly stated as well as the intent.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if there was an additional cost to upload the meeting's audio to the website.

County Manager Carlisle stated the link would be imbedded in our website but when a user listened to the audio they would actually be on the vendor's website. He stated the recordings would be hosted off their website and would meet public retention requirements.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if CD's could be made and purchased by the public.

County Manager Carlisle stated CD's could be made available.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked about recording if the internet was not available.

County Manager Carlisle stated the recording system would be connected to the audio equipment in the board room and if the internet connection was interrupted the audio would be uploaded upon reconnection. He stated the cloud would be a back-up.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if documents and items could be added to the agenda after publication.

County Manager Carlisle stated amendments could be made to the agenda after publication.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

13. Closure of the Harney Pond Canal Park for the Lakeport Garden Club's Annual Christmas Boat Parade

Commissioner Strenth stated the Lakeport Garden Club was requesting that the Board authorize closure of the Harney Pond Canal Park on December 2, 2017 for the Annual Boat Parade.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board authorized closure of the Harney Pond Park on December 2, 2017 (time to be determined) for the Lakeport Garden Club's Annual Boat Parade.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Sheriff Hardin stated there were currently 494 inmates at the jail facility - 428 ICE inmates, 44 local inmates, and 22 US Marshall inmates. He commented on the challenges faced this weekend with the phone lines being down. He stated everything was back up and running normally this morning. He stated Sheriff's Office staff would be shopping on Thursday for their annual Cop's for Christmas Program. He stated approximately \$10,000.00 would be spent. He stated the toys would be given away at the Doyle Conner Building on December 1, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. He stated no registration was required.

Joe Pepe, Director - Glades Health Department, stated everyone was doing well at the Health Department. He stated the Hendry County Health Department had been displaced since the storm and Glades County had supported them tremendously. He stated there were approximately 50 displaced employees who had been office sharing with staff in Glades County. He stated that as a part of the facility's continuity of operations they were now looking into archiving all past medical records and digitalizing all environmental health records so that a public facing portal could be offered to the public. He stated this project was being priced out right now so that they could move forward. He stated all of the square footage in the building that was currently being used for storage could be used for different things in the future. He stated this would be a significant improvement. He stated he hoped to have a Public Health App to be able to show the board at the next meeting. He stated this was part of emergency preparedness but also public health and awareness.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked if Veterans' Services were still being offered at the Health Department.

Dr. Pepe stated Veterans' Services were still offered; however, he not sure how much longer the services would be provided. He stated he had reached out to the Director in Palm Beach but different answers were being received depending on who he spoke with. He stated some were saying that the services would be continued for another year and others were saying the services would be discontinued. He stated clients had shown up on different occasions but no provider was present. He stated it was not a good situation.

He stated he was working with Representative Diaz Balart's office and they had been very helpful.

Tracy Whirls, Executive Director – Glades County Economic Development Council, handed out the first edition Destination Lake Okeechobee Regional Tourism Guide. She stated the Glades County section began on page 72. She stated the guide had turned out really well. She stated there were 2 boxes of the guide available at her office. She stated she was working with Susan Giddings, Publisher, to get the link so that it could be posted on both the Economic Development Council and Tourism Development Council Facebook pages. She stated she had also inquired about re-prints so that copies could be included in marketing materials. She stated she and staff were hard at work on the 70th Annual Chalo Nitka Festival and the program guide for the event. She stated ad sales were going really well. She stated she intended to make this the biggest and best ever Chalo Nitka Festival. She stated she would be updating a lot of the content in the festival guide. She stated the theme this year would be "Glades County Then and Now". She stated the history of Glades County and the City of Moore Haven would still be in the guide along with up to date information. She stated she hoped to have some additional content for different parts of the festival. She stated history on the rodeo would be included this year. She stated she would also like to include content that allowed folks to meet their elected officials. She stated she would like to get a group photo of the Board members to add to the guide.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the guide looked really nice and thanked Mrs. Whirls for the presentation.

Libby Pigman, South Florida Water Management District, stated a meeting regarding the Lake Okeechobee Watershed project was scheduled for December 8th in Okeechobee. She stated she was not sure of the time yet. She stated this was a big project and community participation, as well as input from the County Commissioners and County Manager was very helpful. She stated SFWMD was still making decisions regarding where the project would be sited and how big the project would be.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Commissioner Storter Long asked if a recent lawsuit filed on behalf of a former employee had any activity.

County Manager Carlisle stated PRM was handling this lawsuit.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she had asked Attorney Pringle for a list of anything outstanding. She stated she realized that the Sammons lawsuit would eventually be dismissed due to lack of prosecution since Mr. Sammons had passed away.

Attorney Pringle stated there were several litigation matters still active and that he would prefer to speak to each Commissioner individually about these matters.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Carlisle stated he would be heading up to attend the Florida Association of Counties Legislative meeting this afternoon. He stated he hoped to address some of the issues that pertained to the rural counties. He stated he would let Vice Chairman Stanley talk about the recent meetings with the Water Management District and where those matters were going. He stated he and Vice Chairman Stanley were still working on the water storage issues at Buckhead Ridge.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

JC Long, resident of Ortona, came forward to address the on-going problems with the recycling dumpsters. He stated he had taken some recycling items to the dump last week and when he arrived the barn was locked up and the recycle trailers were fully loaded. He stated there was a bunch of aluminum laying in front of the trailer. He stated there was no recycling trailer in Ortona and had not been for some time. He stated he had ended up dumping all of the recyclables into the garbage. He stated he did not believe one person alone could handle this job. He asked if the County was going to be in the recycling business or not.

Chairman Ahern stated he knew that there was a problem with the recycling program and that there were not enough trailers to distribute throughout the County.

County Manager Carlisle stated one of the recycling trailers had been destroyed during the recent storm. He stated he had asked Mr. Randolph to put one of the trailers back out at Ortona. He stated a trailer would not be put at Muse because of the garbage that was being placed in it. He reminded everyone that there was only one person handling all of the recycling for the County.

Mr. Long commented on other employees being asked to help when they had time. He agreed that only one person would not be able to get the job done.

Chairman Ahern stated GEO had supplied some inmates at one time to help with the recycling program; however, since a change in personnel this had stopped. He suggested approaching the new Warden and inquiring about using some of the inmates again. He stated he believed the County needed to look into purchasing some new equipment for the program. He stated he would look into the matter and see what solutions were available.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the barn was usually locked except when the employee was there sorting. She suggested leaving the barn opened.

County Manager Carlisle stated leaving the barn open would create liability issues that the County did not need.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested having high school students who may need community service hours to help with the recycling program.

County Manager Carlisle stated this would be a liability due to their age.

Attorney Pringle stated if the County contracted with a Workforce Program, a minor could do the work.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested purchasing more recycling trailers. She stated the trailers were packed every time she went to the landfill.

There was a discussion regarding the grant for the program and if more could be obtained.

County Manager Carlisle suggested looking at possibly funding an additional employee position in the next budget year.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Storter Long stated she was a member of the Lee Trauma Advisory Council and Lee Health had the trauma unit for our area. She commented on some other hospitals around the State deciding to get into the “trauma” business. She stated having the staff and equipment for a trauma unit was extremely expensive. She stated Lee Health would be moving their unit to Gulf Coast. She stated the Lee Trauma Advisory Council may be asking some counties to provide resolutions supporting opposition to the State allowing more trauma units. She stated it would become a competitive market. She stated she was thankful to have Dr. Pigman and Denise Grimsley on the Advisory Council. She stated Muse had a good Community Association meeting last night. She stated they were planning their festival for next year. She invited everyone to attend the Ortona Community Association’s Annual Fall Festival on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. She stated she was thankful for Mr. Gaskins’ willingness to serve on the Port LaBelle Utility Systems Board. She asked if Mr. Mouthaan’s seat had been filled.

County Manager Carlisle stated it had not.

Commissioner Pryor commented on the new Agriculture Program at the Moore Haven Elementary School. He stated Leslie Fulford was the teacher and the program was doing really well. He stated Mrs. Fulford had the students growing citrus trees, tending to chickens, and was in the process of getting a dobbie calf to raise. He stated the children were enjoying the class. He stated he had recently attended a 16 County Coalition meeting and reviewed the legislative priorities. He stated the number one priority was to fix the dike.

Chairman Ahern stated he had attended the 16 County Coalition meeting as well. He stated there was a discussion regarding the implementation of dues to be used to hire a lobbyist. He asked that this item be placed on the Board’s next agenda for consideration.

Commissioner Pryor stated the dues were originally \$1,000.00 per year but had been suspended.

County Manager Carlisle asked if a formal request had been made for the payment of the dues.

Chairman Ahern stated no formal request had been made yet.

Commissioner Strenth stated it was nice and quiet in Lakeport. He invited everyone to attend the upcoming Boat Parade at Harney Pond.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he had also attended the Muse Community Association meeting last night. He stated there was a lot of discussion regarding the debris pickup after the recent storm. He stated the Muse area was under water for a long time and did not have the same amount of time to get the debris collected from their yards. He asked if there was a cut-off day with FEMA for the debris pickup.

County Manager Carlisle stated there was a certain time frame where the debris was no longer a health, safety, life, and protection of property issue. He stated it was then simply a clean-up of property. He stated the County could be picking up storm debris for the next 5 years. He stated that at a certain point the County would have to say the pickup was complete.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he had explained this to the Muse area residents. He stated their concern was that they could not even find a vendor to come to their area due to the flooding. He stated the residents had asked if it would be possible for the County to have an amnesty day at the landfill.

County Manager Carlisle stated there would still be a cost to the County.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he realized there would be a cost. He asked that the Board consider doing this and decide whether or not it would be possible. He stated the County should consider the fact that those residents were under water than most.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she recalled the volunteer Fire Department at Buckhead Ridge holding a pickup day for debris several years ago. She stated she did not believe the event was related to a storm. She suggested a free weekend at the landfill for these residents.

Chairman Ahern asked that the item be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

County Manager Carlisle stated the event would need to be county wide.

Commissioner Storter Long stated that maybe the Sheriff's Office employees may be willing to help. She stated the County had directed the cleanup of Crescent Acres and Washington Park several years ago and questioned why the event would have to be county wide.

County Manager Carlisle asked if the landfill would be open to receive furniture, appliances, construction debris, and vegetation debris.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the Muse area suffered longer, higher sustained winds and probably more water than other areas of the County. She stated the area was without power longer than any other area in the County. She stated she was not asking for special treatment for Muse. She stated she realized that some people would abuse the free day at the landfill.

Diane Cianfrani, resident of Muse, agreed with the idea of an amnesty day but cautioned the Board about being very specific about what would be accepted at the landfill. She stated the people with furniture and appliances in that area could call the garbage company and for \$10.00 they would pick up that type of debris. She stated her home was still under up until last week. She stated there would be people that would abuse it. She commented on the recycling bins being gone from the Muse area. She stated she used them and now had to go to LaBelle.

Vice Chairman Stanley commented on the event in Buckhead Ridge years back. He stated he believed their event was paid for with grant funds and done for fire safety.

Commissioner Storter Long stated eventually Code Enforcement would be citing people who did not remove the debris from the roadside.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he had and County Manager Carlisle had met with Brandon Tucker (SFWMD) regarding the proposed reservoir in Buckhead Ridge. He stated Mr. Tucker was favorable in getting the site changed; however, he was only one member out of nine. He stated they would meet with the other 8 members, one on one, and explain the issues with siting the reservoir in Buckhead Ridge. He stated they were not fighting the reservoir, just the placement of it. He stated if the reservoir was built in Buckhead Ridge and ever broke, the water would be trapped in the area. He stated it was a safety issue. He stated there would be 10 foot of water in that basin. He stated if a Bass Pro Shop was built on the property across from the canal, all of the property along the side of Highway 78 would be part of a reservoir and it would take a lot of money out of our economy. He stated WMD would be taking private property to site the reservoir in that area. He stated he was getting together a petition for the residents of Buckhead Ridge and anyone opposing the reservoir to sign. He stated he would be pushing this issue really hard because the effects of it could be devastating to Buckhead Ridge. He stated he had also recently attended a HRPTO meeting. He stated Highlands County was getting ready to put in a bus service for Sebring, Lake Placid, and Avon Park. He stated another meeting would be held on Thursday to discuss the matter and would be open to the public. He stated it would be nice if later on Glades County could have a bus route to Lake Placid. He stated the passengers could then get on the Highlands County transit system and travel all of Highlands County.

Chairman Ahern commented on the Veteran's Day program held at the cemetery. He stated the event was well attended and everyone had a place to sit. He stated the turn out for the Veteran's Dinner on that Saturday was not as well attended as last year. He stated he had worked a little on the hotel property. He stated the study had been received and looked good. He stated he had reached out to a couple different hotel chains

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regarding purchase. He asked that County Manager Carlisle get with Attorney Pringle to figure out how the County could sale the property.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked that if anyone present knew any of the WMD Governing Board members personally that they see him after the meeting.

ADJOURN

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

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Ahern adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

John Ahern, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: December 12, 2017

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