

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014 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, April 8, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Donna Storter Long, Chairman
Tim Stanley
Russell Echols

Not present:

Paul Beck

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Richard Pringle, County Attorney
Paul Carlisle, County Manager
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director
Terri Anascavage, E911 Coordinator
Stuart Whiddon, Glades County Sheriff
Avant Brown, Road Superintendent
Gary Ritter, South Florida Water Management District
James Hull, AIM Engineering
Tosha Reiss, Emergency Management
Charlie Murphy, Okeechobee Radio
Missie Barletto, AIM Engineering
Matthew Howard, Johnson Engineering
Ellen Beers, Planning & Zoning Board
7 citizens

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

PRAYER

Chairman Storter Long gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Commissioner Echols led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS

1. Recognition of the Moore Haven Teacher of the Year and Honor Students

Chairman Storter Long introduced the Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Nicole Davis. She presented Mrs. Davis with a plaque. Mrs. Davis introduced the Honor Roll Students. Each student named the college they were going to attend after graduation.

Matthew Baker
Thomas Barfield
Mattie Bass – Salutatorian
Erica Brickel – Valedictorian
Bailey Browning
Skyler Burke
Isaac Cisneros
Alyssa Clark
Jordan Drayton
Destiny Everett
Niannia Hallback
Kaitlyn Heflin
Elizabeth Johnson
Natalie Leavy
Alaina Lee
Viviana Leon
Domingo Lopez
Sarah Lyons
Luis Martinez
Dorinda Morton
Kaley Pagan
Haley Palladino
Amy Perry
Thomas Perry
Blake Ridgill
Samantha Shearer
Nathan Simmons

Chairman Storter Long congratulated all of the students as well as their parents for all of their hard work.

Mrs. Davis stated she had watched most of these children grow up and they all represented the school very well.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

**2. Second Public Hearing for the State of Florida Small Cities
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Application**

County Manager Carlisle stated this was the second public hearing for the CDBG Block grant. He stated Mr. Fox was present to help conduct the hearing and answer any questions the Board or public may have.

Mr. Fox stated this was the last step that required Commission approval for submission of the application. He stated the County had put in a waiver request to increase the funds available from \$700,000.00 to \$1,154,967.00. He stated this waiver request had been approved by staff and DEO and was now going through the formal approval process. He stated the project involved 2 businesses, one of which was located inside the Industrial Park, and a second adjacent to the Park along US Hwy 27. He stated the grant funds could be used to extend sewer facilities to both businesses. He stated the estimated cost for this extension was \$392,000.00. He stated the funds would also be used to run water to the businesses at a cost of \$162,000.00. He stated funds could be used for street improvements in the amount of \$410,967.00. He stated \$120,000.00 for engineering and \$70,000.00 would be used for administration. He stated the next step would be to get formal approval of the waiver and some information from one of the businesses. He stated the application could then be submitted.

Commissioner Echols stated one of these businesses would be located on Duda property. He asked for advice from Attorney Pringle regarding any conflict of interest since he was employed with A. Duda & Sons.

Attorney Pringle stated this public hearing was to simply approve the CDBG grant application process. He stated County Manager Carlisle had clarified that all of the improvements would be constructed on county property. He stated there would be no direct benefit to Commissioner Echols therefore he believed it would be safe for him to vote on this matter.

Chairman Storter Long called for public input. There was none.

County Manager Carlisle stated the Task Force had voted to recommend approval and submission of the application.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Stanley the Board approved submission of the grant application under the Economic Development category in the amount of \$1,154,967.00 under the FFY 2013 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Attorney Pringle stated this public hearing was properly noticed and published on March 27th as required. He stated there was not a Resolution before the Board and therefore, no title to read into the record. He stated a motion to approve was sufficient.

Motion carried by 3 – 0 vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. **Approve payment of County Warrants. (See Exhibit A)**
General Fund: 73140 – 73224
Intergovernmental Radio: 10234 – 10235
Courthouse Facilities Grant: 1387 - 1392
4. **Approve the Minutes of the March 24, 2014 Regular Meeting.**
5. **Florida Sheriff's Self Insured Fund. (See Exhibit B)**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Stanley the Board approved the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried by 3 – 0 vote.

BUSINESS AGENDA

6. **Resolution Proclaiming May 18th - May 24th, 2014 as National Public Works Week**

Chairman Storter Long stated that since 1960, the American Public Works association (APWA) had sponsored National Public Works Week. She stated that across North America more than 28,000 members in the US and Canada used this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of the contribution of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating the heart of our local communities and building the quality of life. She stated this year's theme "Building for Today, Planning for Tomorrow" represented the classic idea of stewardship embodied by the profession of public works and the professionals that practiced it. She stated that focusing on the communities "building" points out the day to day aspect of public works that is quality of life, while "planning" references the sustainable practices that ensure the quality of life for future generations.

County Manager Carlisle stated Avant Brown was in charge of the County's Road Department, which was typically referred to as "Public Works". He stated he had also come from a public works background and could not express how much work went into the things that Mr. Brown did that people sometimes took for granted, such as going out in storms in the middle of the night, keeping the roads and equipment safe, etc. He stated Mr. Brown was a great steward of the funds used to maintain his department. He stated he appreciated the Commission recognizing them.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Stanley seconded by Commissioner Echols the Board adopted Resolution 2014-10, Proclaiming May 18th – 24th, 2014 as National Public Works Week.

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

Chairman Storter Long called the question.

Motion carried by 3 – 0 vote.

7. 1990 Ford Truck

County Manager Carlisle stated a 1990 Ford Truck (fire truck) had been donated to the County and would be placed in Muse. He stated this truck would be replacing one of the older trucks there. The truck is being donated by International Firefighter Association America in Cape Coral, Florida.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Stanley the Board accepted the donation of a 1990 Ford Truck and placed the truck on the County's Property Records and insurance.

Motion carried by 3 – 0 vote.

8. List of Lands Available for Taxes

County Manager Carlisle stated these parcels escheated to the County on March 29, 2014. He stated one of these parcels was located within the City limits and had an abandoned trailer on it. He stated no Board action was necessary. (Tax Deeds 2010-9, 2010-12 and 2010-15)

9. Extension of Grant Close-Out

County Manager Carlisle stated the existing CDBG grant was modified to allow for retrofit of three public building doors to make them ADA compliant. He stated the period for the grant expenditures was June 6, 2014 and the representative from CDBG had recommended that this date be extended.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Stanley the Board approved the request to modify the grant closeout deadline on the CDBG Grant #12DB-P5-09-32-01-K68 and authorized the Chairman to sign.

Motion carried by 3 – 0 vote.

10. Phone System and Internet

County Manager Carlisle stated the phone system was antiquated and was in need of upgrades. He stated there had been a recent situation that put the system down for over 2 days. He stated broadband was here but staff did not feel that the pricing and services were adequate at this time. He stated Tosha Reiss, Emergency Management, had negotiated some very good pricing and some extra services with Century Link. He stated Century Link would provide a higher speed internet connection and replacement of the existing system. He stated they would then own the system and the County would lease the equipment. He stated this would save the County money over the long

run. He asked that the Commission consider awarding the contract for installation of a new phone system and internet to Century Link and authorize the Chairman to sign the final contract.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Stanley the Board awarded the contract to Century Link for the replacement of the current phone system and to increase internet speeds through a dedicated internet access service and authorized the Chairman to sign after being reviewed and negotiated by the County Attorney.

Motion carried by 3 – 0 vote.

11. LOST Trail Pedestrian Crossover

County Manager Carlisle stated there was only one gap in the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST) that surrounded the Lake. He stated this gap was located at the crossover at Harney Pond Canal. He stated DOT was supportive of the County applying for the infrastructure for them to build a bridge and trail head on the dike where it crossed over Harney Pond Canal. He stated Commission approval was needed to seek support from FHREDI.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Stanley the Board authorized County Manager Carlisle to seek Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) and Regional Multi-Use Train (RMUT) funding from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to assist in covering the cost of a pedestrian access bridge over the Harney Pond Canal.

Commissioner Stanley questioned who would be responsible for maintenance of the bridge after construction.

County Manager Carlisle stated the County would sign a maintenance agreement with FDOT and would be responsible for the maintenance.

Commissioner Stanley questioned the liability if someone hit the bridge.

Attorney Pringle stated first, sovereign immunity would apply and secondly, the County had insurance coverage that would protect them.

Commissioner Stanley questioned matching funds on this project.

County Manager Carlisle stated there was no match. He explained that the entire funding would come from DOT but the County would have to apply.

Commissioner Echols questioned the construction of the bridge.

County Manager Carlisle stated the proposed design was a steel trussed bridge. He stated some piles in the center may be required because of the distance.

Chairman Storter Long questioned the County's impact fee money being deferred for the construction of a pedestrian bridge at Hwy 78.

County Manager Carlisle stated DOT was not in favor of a pedestrian bridge on the Hwy 78 corridor.

Chairman Storter Long stated the County had a specified time to spend the impact fees.

Attorney Pringle stated there was a limited time on the impact fees. He stated he believed the funds had to be used within 5 years.

Chairman Storter Long stated she believed the Board had already voted to use the impact fees as the County's match with FDOT for the construction of a pedestrian bridge at Hwy 78.

Attorney Pringle stated the Board would need to redirect those impact fee dollars. He stated he was not sure how much time the County had left to expend the funds.

Motion carried by 3 – 0 vote.

12. First Amendment to County Manager's Employment Agreement

Attorney Pringle stated the Board had concluded the County Manager's probationary employment status and directed that amendments be drafted to the County Manager's Employment Agreement at the last meeting. He stated he had prepared the first amendment to the County Manager's Employment Agreement. He stated County Manager Carlisle had reviewed the amendment and had found it acceptable. He stated the amendment accomplished 2 points: recognition of the fact that the County Manager's probationary period had expired on March 24th and a description of the benefits that the County Manager would receive. He referred to page 2 of 4 which described the changes to the insurance provision. He stated three was reference in subsection 1 on page 2 of 4 to a change in the life insurance coverage. He stated the coverage amount would be in the amount of the County Manager's annually salary, as adjusted. He stated item #2 referred to disability insurance for the County Manager. He stated the County would provide, at the County's expense, the same short term and long term disability insurance for the County Manager as for other County Department Heads, except that the coverage level shall be at the rate of 50% of the County Manager's salary, as adjusted. He stated item #3 addressed the health insurance provision and provided that if the County Manager elected not to participate in the County's health insurance program that as additional compensation the County Manager would receive 50% of any health insurance premiums savings that the County

may receive as a result. He stated these savings would be paid to the County Manager once a month.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Stanley seconded by Commissioner Echols the Board approved the First Amendment to the County Manager's Employment Agreement and authorized the Chair to execute the same.

Motion carried by 3 – 0 vote.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Stuart Whiddon, Sheriff, notified the Board that sometime this year the County prisoners would be moved back to the old Jail facility. He stated he had met with ICE this past week and he had lost one million in the past 2 months. He stated he could not continue to run the facility like this. He stated he had cut his staff as far as he could and still maintain a safe operation. He stated ICE had indicated that they did not believe things would get any better. He stated he had approximately 140 detainees from ICE, 40 county inmates, and approximately 18 marshals. He stated this was just short of 200 and he needed at least 400 to pay the bills. He stated he had spoke to the investors and they had indicated that they wanted to infuse some money into the facility which would make the process go on a little longer. He stated there was \$3 million in a reserve fund and he would be speaking with the investors via a telephone conference on Friday to see if this was the plan of action they wished to take. He stated if the investors did infuse the funds he would probably be able to operate in the current facility another 3 – 5 months more. He stated if the investors chose not to infuse funds he would need to be out by the end of the month. He stated he would probably lay off approximately 100 people. He stated he would lose some patrol deputies and the jail staff would go from 80 – 90 to 14. He stated he had been in discussions with the County Manager and had done a walk thru of the old jail. He stated there were only a few minor things that would need attention. He stated Wright Construction could probably do this work. He stated he would try to get some staff to begin cleaning the old Jail facility and moving some excess stuff. He stated his main concern would be the moving of 911 and Dispatch. He stated some wiring was already there. He stated he would need a place for his Administration staff. He stated he hoped that the old Health Department could be used for this. He stated the building could be retro fitted using one cent money. He stated this closure was not due to the way the facility was run. He stated the facility had been run well and received high marks on every inspection. He stated this was politics. He stated 800,000 criminal aliens had been detained in the last year and less than 200,000 had been deported. He stated 8 of the 10 detainees that went to court daily were turned loose from the ICE Facility. He stated he would begin to scale back and cut where he could cut. He requested that the County start the process of renovating the old Health Department.

Chairman Storter Long asked how many square feet Sheriff Whiddon would need and how many offices.

Sheriff Whiddon stated he would need at least 2 – 3 offices. He stated he would ask the investors if he could continue to use the Administration part of the jail temporarily. He stated this would provide some additional time. He stated he had run the facility for 8 years and had made money until the past 5 – 6 months.

Commissioner Echols stated it took “x” amount of inmates at “x” amount of dollars to be able to pay the bills. He stated the facility had been scaled back to the point that it was no longer financially feasible to keep the facility open. He stated the Federal Government would not sign a contract and there was no other entity that the County get inmates from to fill the void.

Sheriff Whiddon stated the State had empty prisons all over that were sitting empty. He stated with the debt load, other state facilities could not afford to use them. He stated he would like to bring the marshals with him to the County Jail across the street, which would be an additional income to the County each month to help offset some of the bills. He stated he was sure he would have some unemployment.

Commissioner Storter Long asked what the capacity was at the old jail.

Sheriff Whiddon stated the old jail would hold just short of 100 inmates.

Commissioner Echols stated the old jail facility had been remodeled. He stated the County was in as good a shape as they could be at this point.

Sheriff Whiddon stated he would inform County Manager Carlisle on Friday of the investors’ decision. He stated he may be able to run the facility for 4 – 5 more months. He stated he would begin layoffs immediately if the investors decided not to use the reserved funds.

Chairman Storter Long asked Attorney Pringle if this would be considered an emergency issue. She asked if funds would need to be spent prior to the next Board meeting on April 28th.

Attorney Pringle stated he did not feel that the clean up and removal of storage items would be considered an emergency situation. He stated any repairs would probably fall within the spending limits and would not require Board approval. He stated if the Board needed to call an emergency meeting they could do so.

Sheriff Whiddon stated hopefully he could prolong this on Friday and give the County time to get things in order. He stated his main concern was moving the 911/Dispatch equipment. He stated all of this equipment needed to be moved at one time.

Commissioner Echols commented on the fuel system. He stated the existing tanks made it possible to buy by the load and therefore made the fuel purchases cheaper and allowed the County to get the road tax money back on the fuel.

Sheriff Whiddon stated he would discuss this at the GCDC meeting. He stated he hoped to be able to 20 – 25 marshals with him to the old Jail facility. He stated he received \$55.00/day per marshal and this would generate approximately \$500,000.00 for the County.

Chairman Storter Long stated she understood that the Board was responsible for incarceration and the County Jail. She stated Sheriff Whiddon was willing to work with the Board and suggested that Commissioner Echols work with Sheriff and County Manager to see what was needed.

Commissioner Echols stated the decision had to be made by ICE. He stated nothing was in stone but ICE knew that they either had to give the County some inmates or they were going to have to close the facility.

County Manager Carlisle stated there were surplus items in the old Jail facility that would need to be moved when the Clerk's new storage building was finished.

Chairman Storter Long suggested that the Sheriff's Department could set up temporary offices in the Community Development building.

Sheriff Whiddon stated he was only concerned with his Finance and Records divisions having offices at this point. He stated he did not need an office right now.

County Manager Carlisle stated the Auditor's office could be used as well.

Commissioner Echols stated the old Health Department could be remodeled fairly easily.

County Manager Carlisle stated line item transfers could be done to fund the renovations; however, use of the one cent funds would need Board approval.

Commissioner Echols stated there was approximately \$1 million in the one cent fund.

Sheriff Whiddon stated he would inform County Manager Carlisle of the investors' decision on Friday and again apologized to the Board.

COUNTY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT HEADS

County Manager Carlisle gave an update regarding a recent trip to Tallahassee. He stated Commissioner Stanley and Commissioner Beck had also accompanied him. He stated they had tried to facilitate funding for the training facility. He stated they had

made some good contacts there and the money had not been totally denied yet. He stated there was still an opportunity to get the funding. He stated he was working with Johnson Engineering to get the 10-year water plan done to help facilitate the development.

Commissioner Echols stated the Board and staff needed to consider the fact that with the prison shutting down the water situation would be changed at the new development.

Chairman Storter Long stated the Ortona Community Association had met last night. She stated representative of the OCA had been talking with an adjoining property owner about leasing some property for a parking area. She stated the property owner had declined to enter into any kind of agreement with the OCA or the County. She stated the OCA would need to establish their property line and have some kind of barrier put up.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Stanley commented on his recent trip to Tallahassee. He stated County Manager Carlisle had done a commendable job of representing Glades County. He stated the Board needed to develop a closer relationship with Senator Galvano and Senator Pigman.

Chairman Storter Long stated she appreciated them all going. She stated the OCA was talking about having a storage shed installed and possibly running electricity to it. She stated this would require a building permit and permission from the Board. She stated the OCA was also talking about contracting out some costs (e.g. pest control) but they were waiting to find out what would be included in the Property Management Agreement before making any final decisions. She stated they had also asked her to inquire of the Road Department about the turn out from Ortona Locks Road and if there was a possibility of any additional paving of the roadway.

Avant Brown, County Road Superintendent, stated he could probably pave to the edge of the road right-of-way.

Chairman Storter Long expressed her appreciation to the citizens that served on volunteer boards.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Pringle stated Commissioner Beck's absence was excused today. He stated he would be bringing the adoption of a Flood Plain Ordinance before the Board for consideration in the near future. He stated he had been speaking regularly with Daniel Fitzpatrick, Florida Flood Plain Management Office, in Tallahassee regarding adoption

of the Ordinance and the maps. He stated the maps were not available on line yet but would be. He stated the maps were now finalized and he would bring the matter to the Board sometime in late May or early June. He stated there had been a number of changes in the mapping that would be of benefit to the County residents in regards to a reduction in insurance rates. He mentioned including another provision to further improve insurance rates – a 1 foot free board provision. He stated he and Mr. Fitzpatrick were still discussing this issue. He notified the Board that he would like to hold an executive session regarding pending litigation filed against the County by the JJ Wiggins Trust. He stated a special meeting would need to be scheduled. He stated this would provide an opportunity to discuss negotiations and strategies.

Chairman Storter Long stated the executive session would be tentatively set for May 13th.

Commissioner Echols stated Mr. Ramunni was hired by the County through the City County Public Works Association and questioned how he could file suit against the County. He asked if this was a conflict of interest.

Attorney Pringle stated it could be.

Commissioner Echols stated he did not feel that this was appropriate.

Attorney Pringle stated he would look into the matter. He stated he knew Mr. Ramunni had represented private individuals on various rezoning matters.

Commissioner Echols asked that Attorney Pringle get an answer so that he could bring the matter before the City County Public Works Association at their night meeting.

Chairman Storter Long reminded the Board that they needed to begin work on the redistricting matter.

ADJOURN

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Stanley the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Storter Long adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Donna Storter Long, Chairman

ATTEST:

GLADES COUNTY COMMISSION – APRIL 8, 2014

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: April 28, 2014

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