

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, GLADES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MOORE  
HAVEN, FLORIDA

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The Glades County Board of County Commissioners met on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Donna Storter Long, Chairman  
Tim Stanley, Vice Chairman  
Paul Beck  
Russell Echols

Not present:

Crystal Drake

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary  
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director  
Richard Pringle, County Attorney  
Paul Carlisle, County Manager  
Avant Brown, County Road Superintendent  
John Ahern, Commissioner-Elect  
Stuart Whiddon, Glades County Sheriff  
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director  
Matthew Howard, Johnson Engineering  
Terri Anascavage, E911 Coordinator  
Weston Pryor, Commissioner-Elect  
Missie Barletto, AIM Engineering  
Charlie Murphy, Okeechobee Radio  
Inga Williams, Community Development Director  
Gary Ritter, Water Management District  
11 citizens

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

**PRAYER**

Commissioner Beck gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE**

Commissioner Echols led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

Chairman Storter Long requested that the cancellation of the December night meeting be added under the Business Agenda as Item 14 and that the Christmas holiday schedule be added as Item 15.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board amended the agenda.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

### **PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS**

#### **1. Presentation to Gary Ritter**

Chairman Storter Long presented a plaque to Gary Ritter, South Florida Water Management District, for his dedication to the County throughout his tenure as the liaison between the County and the District.

Mr. Ritter thanked the Board. He stated he had never had as much appreciation and pleasure as he had working with Glades County over the years. He stated he would cherish the plaque and that he would miss Glades County.

#### **2. Presentation on behalf of Glades County**

Chairman Storter Long presented a plaque to Commissioner Russell Echols for his dedicated service as Commissioner. This meeting was Commissioner Echols's last meeting. She stated Commissioner Echols had served as District 4 Commissioner from November 16, 2004 to November 17, 2014.

Bob Jones, Public Safety Director, also presented Commissioner Echols with a plaque from County Staff.

#### **3. Resolution Supporting the Healthiest Weight Florida Initiative**

Chairman Storter Long introduced Mary Ruth Prouty, Program Manager for the Florida Department of Health in Hendry and Glades counties.

Mrs. Prouty stated the Surgeon General for the State of Florida Department of Health had requested that each County apply to be recognized as the healthiest weight champion for the State of Florida. She stated she had been working with Terri Anascavage to get this program implemented. She stated Glades County should be recognized for all of the things that were provided to the citizens, such as healthy opportunities for physical activity – the Lake, the bridge and sidewalks, parks, etc. She stated the school also remained open after hours to provide physical activities for the public.

Chairman Storter Long read the Resolution into the record.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board adopted Glades County Resolution 2014-28, supporting the Healthiest Weight Florida Initiative.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

**PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There was none.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**4. Cemetery Ordinance**

Chairman Storter Long stated this was a public hearing and had been properly noticed.

County Manager Carlisle stated a proposed Ordinance had been presented at a prior meeting but the Commission had requested that County Staff make the Ordinance more applicable to its facilities. He stated if the Board needed to this item could be postponed to a future date.

Attorney Pringle stated again that this hearing had been properly noticed. He stated revisions had been made to language to ensure that there would be a central location for all of the documentation from permitting to approval. He stated this would be the Clerk's Office. He stated revisions had been made to the language in the definitions section to address the fact that a cemetery deed applies to a future use right of a burial site in the cemetery. He stated this Ordinance would only apply to County owned or County managed cemeteries. He stated the deed would be the first step in use of the cemetery. He stated he had changed the language on the burial site certificate so that it was clear. He stated this document was issued by the Road Department to allow an interment to occur. He stated there would be a separate approval required for an above ground memorial. He stated there had been some discussions about the burial lot size and the term of burial lot. He stated the lots would be approximately 5' x 15'. He stated the burial lots may vary in size. He stated there was also some language changes that dealt with the rules and regulations related to candles, torches, and battery powered lights. He stated there was a provision that prohibited lit candles, torches, and lanterns, nor any electrical operated lights. He stated solar powered lights would also be included in this provision, if the Board so desired. He stated a reference had been made to a perpetual care fund where the sale of burials in excess of \$3,500.00 would be deposited. He stated the interest from this fund would be used in the future. He stated there was some thought that maybe this number should be higher. He stated in Section 14-27 there was a reference to the guidelines for a head stone. He stated this language may need to be tightened up a little. He stated the last item that had been discussed was the reference to monuments being banned. He stated the Ordinance, as written before, stated that monuments would only be allowed in the west section of the cemetery. He stated there had been some discussion about designating the existing

area with monuments as the area where monuments would be allowed. He stated this area was to the east of the existing cemetery.

Chairman Storter Long stated the term “burial lot” needed to be defined. She stated some of the lots were 20’ x 30’ and some were 40’ x 60’ and each one of these had multiple burial sites. She stated most of the sites were considered to be 5’ x 15’ in size. She stated Attorney Pringle had created a burial site certificate. She stated when someone had a cemetery deed they held a right for a future interment, but with a burial site certificate they could do the interment immediately. She stated the certificate gave the right to use the lot. She commented on the language about the headstones. She stated Section 14-27 addressed the rules and regulations for the headstones. She stated these guidelines would have to be met in accordance with the Road Department. She stated where it says “the uniform lines, maximum size, type of material, and content/type of construction” that the term “content” needed to be defined. She stated these guidelines needed to be tightened up. She stated at this time only a permanent resident of the County could purchase a burial site. She stated only \$3,500.00 of all sales went to the General Fund to take care of the cemetery maintenance. She stated this maintenance was costing the County approximately \$25,000.00 - \$27,000.00. She stated only 13 lots were sold last year at \$550.00/each for a total of \$7,150.00, of which \$3,500.00 went to the General Fund and the balance into the perpetual care fund. She stated she understood the purpose of this but the County was not meeting their expenses. She stated costs were up and interest was down. She stated the Board needed to consider changing this policy to authorize the first \$25,000.00 to go into the perpetual care fund. She stated she would not personally use the solar lights, but was not sure that their use should be restricted. She stated the headstone permits would be issued in accordance with the guidelines. She stated the language should be changed from burial “lot” to burial “site”. She stated any permission given to bury someone in a lot should be in writing. She stated a vacant lot being used for the interment of cremains only should be designated as so and the Clerk should be notified in writing. She stated the most important thing needed was a database kept by the Clerk’s Office and Road Department. She stated Ms. Brown was going to look into have a map done that would be accessible via a website. She suggested that the Board direct County Staff to clean up the Ordinance and bring it back at a later date for consideration. She asked what the Board thought about the solar/battery powered lights.

Commissioner Beck stated he believed the solar/battery powered lights should be prohibited.

Commissioner Echols stated indigent burials were funded, in whole or part, by the County after a determination was made that the deceased was a resident of the County at the time of death. He stated he understood that if a body was found in Glades County it was sent to the Medical Examiner in Lee County and then returned and Glades County would be responsible for the burial.

County Manager Carlisle stated this was correct.

Commissioner Echols stated it would be difficult to make the determination as to whether the person was a resident of the County or not.

Ms. Brown stated the County did not have a written policy regarding indigent burials. She stated years ago the County would pay for an indigent burial and funeral. She stated over the years this had been changed to cremations only. She stated if someone was found in the County and taken to the Medical Examiner the body would be cremated.

Commissioner Echols stated the County had to pay for the cremation. He stated the line item for the Medical Examiner was based on how many deaths we had in the County.

Chairman Storter Long stated these would not be considered indigent but unidentified bodies. She stated they could be both, unidentified and indigent.

Commissioner Echols stated the County was responsible either way.

Attorney Pringle stated a provision could be added to the Ordinance stating that the County would take care of these burials.

County Manager Carlisle stated the Medical Examiner usually disposes of the bodies but the County is responsible for the cremation. He stated the Board may wish to consider just paying for the cremation of the indigent burials and not for a burial site.

Ms. Brown stated there was a section of the cemetery dedicated for indigent burials.

Chairman Storter Long stated Section 14-25 Item E (Site and purchase) stated that purchase of a burial site for investment or resale of a profit was strictly prohibited. She stated no person shall charge or receive as consideration any money or goods valued in excess of the original purchase price of a burial site. She stated the sites were sold by the County for \$550.00. She asked how this could be controlled and enforced.

Attorney Pringle stated it would be very difficult and almost impossible to enforce. He stated the language needed to be included since it was a County cemetery.

Commissioner Beck stated he agreed with most of the language in the Ordinance. He stated there needed to be some parameters set for the language/text on the headstones. He stated the word burial site needed to be changed to burial plot and refer to the 5' x 15' space within the lot and within the site. He stated he would prefer to call them burial plots.

Attorney Pringle suggested that he and County Manager Carlisle get with Chairman Storter Long and Clerk Brown to revise the language.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Beck the Board tabled the Public Hearing for Item #4 – Cemetery Ordinance until the January meeting date.

Attorney Pringle clarified that because this was a Public Hearing he would re-notice hearing.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

5. **Approve payment of County Warrants. (Exhibit A)**  
**General Fund: 74695 – 74778**  
**Courthouse Facilities Grant: 1437**  
**Court Facilities Surcharge: 1004-1005**  
**SHIP: 1600**  
**Intergovernmental Radio: 10255**  
**Tourism Development Council: 1017**
6. **Approved the Minutes of the October 27, 2014 Regular Meeting.**

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

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

7. **Acknowledge receipt of the following 2014 Annual Financial Reports: Clerk of Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff's Office, Supervisor of Elections, and Tax Collector**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board acknowledged receipt of the following 2014 Annual Financial Reports: Clerk of Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections, and Tax Collector.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

8. **Emergency Medical Services**

County Manager Carlisle stated the Commission had authorized him to negotiate with a private company to provide ambulance services. He stated Positive Medical had agreed to provide this service for a total of \$70,000.00/year plus maintaining the costs received from Medicaid, Medicare, and insurance companies. He stated Positive Medical would provide a 24 hour service to the north County and reside in the

Buckhead Ridge Fire Station. He stated he felt Positive Medical would provide better service in the area and quicker response times.

Commissioner Echols asked if Positive Medical would be covered under the County's sovereign immunity since they would be working for the County as a contractor.

Attorney Pringle stated they would be an independent contractor and the County would still have its sovereign immunity protection. He stated Positive Medical would have its own medical direction; however, if Bob Jones, Public Safety Director, showed up on scene he could take control of the scene.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Echols the Board approved the Ambulance Service Agreement between Positive Medical Transport and Glades County. (See Exhibit B)

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

#### **9. Annual County/City/School Luncheon**

County Manager Carlisle stated he had received 2 quotes at the time the agenda was prepared. One from Cracker Cookin' & Caterin' in the amount of \$14.95/person (\$1,943.50) and one from the Hide Out Café in the amount of \$15.00/person (\$1,950.00). He stated he had received a later quote from Aruba that was a little cheaper but did not have the exact figure.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Beck the Board approved the quote from Cracker Cookin' & Caterin' in the amount of \$1,950.00 to provide the catering at the Annual County/City/School Luncheon on December 9, 2014.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

#### **10. GCDC Board Appointment**

Chairman Storter Long stated Commissioner Echols was currently representing the Board until the further notice.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board authorized Commissioner Echols to remain as the GCDC (Glades Correctional Development Corporation) Board representative until the 2015 BOCC Committee appointments were made.

Attorney Pringle clarified that the Board would have to take official action to rescind this motion and authorize someone else to serve when the Board Committee appointments were made.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

**11. Furniture for EOC**

Bob Jones, Public Safety Director, stated these were the final costs for the furniture at the new Emergency Operations' Building and provided a drawing of the furniture. He stated Pride Enterprise was a State Contract bidder. He stated they had provided the furniture for the new Jail Facility. He stated the furniture had held up and lasted very well. He stated this figure covered all of the furniture except for the mattresses. He stated this figure included building the furniture, holding/storing it, delivery and installation.

Chairman Storter Long asked if the grant required the County to go out for bid on the furniture.

Mr. Jones stated he had followed the State Contract. He stated he had looked at other figures and the quality of the products was not there.

Attorney Pringle stated the County's policy on purchasing authorized it to use state contracts. He stated any decision that the Board made was still subject to the funding source's approval.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Beck the Board approved the bid from Pride Enterprise in the amount of \$138,172.20 for the furniture in the EOC building.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**12. Law Enforcement Trust Request**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board approved the Glades County Sheriff's request for funds from the Law Enforcement Trust in the amount of \$94,075.00.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

**13. Adopt the Personnel Policy Manual**

Chairman Storter Long stated she believed the Policy Manual looked good and thanked Mary Ann Whitney for her efforts in updating it.

Bob Jones, Public Safety Director, stated he had someone from PRM review the document and had had several discussions with them regarding the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) law. He stated the County needed to be very specific on how this law was used. He stated the policy was not clear. He explained that in the past FMLA was always run after the employee had used all sick and vacation time. He stated this policy states that FMLA should be run concurrently. He disagreed.

County Manager Carlisle stated this was not true. He stated FMLA was a Federal Law that goes into effect on the third day of a qualifying event. He stated a Physician would make the determination as to whether or not the event was a qualified event. He stated this law protected the employee from being terminated during the qualified event.

There was a brief discussion regarding the FMLA Law.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Beck the Board approved the adoption of the Personnel Policy Manual effective December 1, 2014 and authorized the distribution of the new manual to all employees.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

**14. December Night Meeting (*added to the agenda by amendment*)**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Beck the Board cancelled the December 22, 2014 meeting and authorized the Chairman to sign outstanding warrants, if any.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

**15. Christmas Holiday**

Chairman Storter Long stated this year the courts were giving employees Thursday, December 25, 2014 and Friday, December 26, 2014 vacation leave for the Christmas Holidays. She explained that the County was currently giving employees Wednesday, December 24, 2014 and Thursday, December 25, 2014 and asked if the Board wished to change these dates to be consistent with the Court's.

Sheriff Whiddon stated his employees would be off on Thursday and Friday.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Echols seconded by Commissioner Beck the Board agreed to change the Christmas Holiday to Thursday, December 25, 2014 and Friday, December 26, 2014.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

**CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

There was no discussion.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Pringle thanked Commissioner Echols for working with him during his tenure as Commissioner. He thanked him for his willingness to work with him and the County Manager. He thanked Commissioner Drake (in her absence) for her willingness to come in and serve. He stated Commissioner Drake was not present tonight because her term officially expired yesterday. He stated the contract with Wright Construction

had shifted into a design/build arrangement and combined all services together. He stated some provisions had been made to the contract so that the County could hire an independent architect to review the plans if they so desired. He stated the contract would be before the Board for approval at the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. He stated in order for the Board to consider placing any assessment on the tax bills for 2015 they would need to adopt a Resolution before December 31<sup>st</sup>. He asked the Board if they were considering any assessments.

Commissioner Beck stated he would not support any new taxes.

Vice Chairman Stanley agreed.

Commissioner Echols agreed.

Attorney Pringle stated he would not advertise for any assessments.

### **COUNTY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT HEADS**

County Manager Carlisle thanked Commissioner Echols for having the confidence in him to bring him on board and that he had enjoyed working with him. He stated he wanted to continue to work with Commissioner Echols on the Moore Haven Canal project. He stated Mr. Jones had informed him that the light at Dyess Ditch had been replaced & repaired. He thanked Mr. Jones for getting this done. He stated he would be working with Wright Construction and scheduling meetings to put together a team to work on the design of the building.

### **PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

JC Long, resident of Ortona, thanked Commissioner Echols for all of the years he served. He stated Commissioner Echols had done a fantastic job on so many different things. He stated that he admired Commissioner Echols for always having his homework done on all of the agenda items. He stated he would miss him.

### **COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Beck stated it had been a pleasure to work with Gary Ritter over the years. He stated Mr. Ritter had always been truthful and very honest. He stated he and Commissioner Echols had not always agreed on things but he did appreciate that when the meetings were adjourned the disagreements were left behind the desk. He complimented Commissioner Echols on the professionalism he had displayed over the years. He stated it had been a pleasure to serve with Commissioner Echols and wished him success with the rest of his life.

Chairman Storter Long stated she really appreciated all of the work Mr. Ritter had done for Glades County over the years. She stated she would truly miss Commissioner Echols. She stated Commissioner Echols always thought out of the box. She stated

Commissioner Echols was always prepared and had gone the extra mile with the Moore Haven Canal project. She stated she truly appreciated all that he had done.

Vice Chairman Stanley thanked Mr. Ritter as well. He thanked Commissioner Echols for his guidance and looked forward to being able to talk with him on issues now.

Commissioner Echols stated tonight was bitter sweet. He stated he had 3 good reasons to leave- his wife, his daughter, and his grandson. He stated it had been a blast and he thanked all of the Board and staff, along with the people of Glades County for giving him the opportunity, honor, and privilege to serve as their County Commissioner. He encouraged the public to support the elected officials. He stated this Board should define who we were and what we are as a County. He stated the County should unite and make their voices heard. He stated he would hope that this Board would continue to work on the Moore Haven Canal project. He stated he had spent a lot of hours on that project. He stated there was a good group on the Board and the proper management to make things happen. He stated he appreciated the employees and the Commissioners. He stated a lot of times the Board went to battle about things but it was more a war of ideas. He stated he would not say good bye to Glades County but to the District 4 seat. He thanked everyone. (The audience gave Commissioner Echols a standing ovation).

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

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Chairman Storter Long adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

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Donna Storter Long, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: November 24, 2014

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