MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020 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, January 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. with the following Commissioners present:

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

Others present:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court
Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary
Richard Pringle, County Attorney
Bob Jones, County Manager
Susan BuChans, Community Development Director
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Cindy Ricker, SHIP Coordinator
Nancy Peno, Assistant - Community Development Department
Matthew Howard, Johnson Engineering
Gabrielle Ibietatorremendia, Human Resources Officer
Steve Dobbs, Steve Dobbs Engineering
Tracy Whirls, Executive Director
Angie Snow-Colegrove, Public Safety Director
Marissa Shivers, Emergency Management Director
Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections
Duane Pottorff
4 citizens

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

PRAYER
Commissioner Storter Long gave the invocation.

PLEDGE
Vice Chairman Pryor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA
There were no amendments.

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

There were none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. **Glades County Ordinance No. 2020-1 Update of the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan to incorporate an updated Capital Improvements Program, a Transportation Improvements Program, and an updated Glades County School District 5-Year District Facilities Work Program**

Susan BuChans, Community Development Director, stated this update was required by Florida Statute. She stated this Ordinance had been property noticed and advertised in the local newspaper.

Mrs. BuChans read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

Mrs. BuChans stated she had met with Mrs. Patterson and County Manager Jones who had added 2 items to the plan under capital improvements. She stated 2 SCOP/SCRAP projects had been included – CR 721 from Bullhead Grade to the Highlands County line and CR 74, 2.5 miles East of Fire Tower Grade to SR 29.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if this was everything that would be improved over the next 5 years.

Mrs. BuChans stated this plan could be amended as needed.

Chairman Stanley called for public input. There was none.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board adopted Glades County Ordinance No. 2020-1 – amending the Capital Improvement Element to incorporate a revised Capital Improvement Program as Exhibit I, a Transportation Improvement Program as Exhibit II, and a revised School Board District 5-Year Facilities Work Program as Exhibit III.

Chairman Stanley called a roll call vote:

Chairman Stanley – Yes
Vice Chairman Pryor – Yes
Commissioner Ahern – Yes
Commissioner Storter Long – Yes
Commissioner Strenth – Yes

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

2. **Case Number RZ18-04 – Glenn Harvey**

Mrs. BuChans stated this hearing had been properly advertised and noticed. She stated the Applicant's Attorney had requested that the hearing be tabled to a later date to allow agreement by all parties on the concepts, objectives and points for the proposed rezoning.

Attorney Pringle explained that no one would need to be sworn in since the case was being tabled.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the case would have to go back to the Planning & Zoning Board.

Mrs. BuChans stated it would depend on what the changes were.

Chairman Stanley called for public input. There was none.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved the request to table Case Number RZ18-04 – Glenn Harvey to a later date.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

3. **Glades County Ordinance No. 2020-2 - relating to the Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Ordinance in Glades County, Florida, authorizing the suspension and rescission of the Ordinance**

Attorney Pringle stated the Board had adopted a county wide Economic Development Tax Abatement Program by Ordinance in July 2013. He stated the Ordinance contained a sunset provision, which had occurred in November 2016. He stated this Ordinance would formalize the sun-setting of the previous Ordinance. He stated this Ordinance did not affect the prior tax abatements afforded to Greencore or Quickcrete.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board adopted Glades County Ordinance No. 2020-2 – suspending and rescinding the County's Economic Development Tax Abatement Program and Glades County Ordinance No. 2013-13 (as amended).

Attorney Pringle read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

Chairman Stanley called for public input.

Tracy Whirls, Executive Director – EDC, stated the River Forest Yachting Center had applied and their application for expansion had been approved; however, they had not taken advantage of the exemption for 5 years. She explained the history of the abatement program. She suggested the Board hold a workshop regarding this matter.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the Board should consider modifying the Ordinance instead of allowing it to be rescinded.

Commissioner Ahern agreed that a workshop should be held.

County Manager Jones stated he would contact Mrs. Whirls regarding any outstanding applications and the possible need for a workshop.

Chairman Stanley called a roll call vote:

Chairman Stanley – Yes
Commissioner Storter Long – Yes
Vice Chairman Pryor – Yes
Commissioner Ahern – Yes
Commissioner Strenth – Yes

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. **Approve County Warrants (Exhibit A)**
5. **Consider deleting surplus property record items (Emergency Management)**

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

PUBLIC INPUT ON BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

6. **2020 Census Proclamation**

County Manager Jones requested that the Board adopt a proclamation recognizing the kickoff of the 2020 Census.

Chairman Stanley read the proclamation into the record.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved a Proclamation kicking off a local census campaign inviting all Glades County residents to participate and to "Make Glades Count" and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Ahern stated he was glad the Board was supporting the census. He stated they were still looking for census workers in the area.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

7. **Board Selection of Officers of Chair and Vice Chair**

Attorney Pringle explained that the Board was required by Statute each year to re-organize through the selection of a Chair and Vice Chairman. He explained the process and opened the floor to nominations for Chair.

Commissioner Strenth nominated Commissioner Stanley for Chair.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Pryor the Board ceased nominations for Chair.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

Commissioner Stanley was named Chairman of the Board.

Chairman Stanley opened nominations for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Pryor nominated Commissioner Strenth.

Commissioner Strenth declined the nomination.

Commissioner Storter Long nominated Commissioner Pryor to serve as Vice Chair.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board ceased nominations for Vice Chair.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

Commissioner Pryor was named Vice Chairman.

8. Resolution No. 2020-1 – Amending the 2019-2020 General Operating Fund by revenues received from the Lakeport Fire Department and donations received by the Library

Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director, asked that the Board recognize revenues from the Lakeport Volunteer Fire Department. She stated they had closed their accounts and turned the funds over to the County. She also asked that donations received by the Library be recognized in the budget.

Commissioner Storter Long asked why each volunteer fire department had not been asked to turn over excess funds. She stated she had never seen any accounting from any of the volunteer fire departments and they were using the County's facilities and property to earn these funds.

County Manager Jones stated the only volunteer fire departments still open were Ortona and Buckhead Ridge.

Chairman Stanley agreed that he believed the departments should be able to furnish an accounting of what they had earned and spent.

Attorney Pringle commented on the need for management agreements. He stated there was a mechanism in place within the agreement that provided for accountings to occur.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board adopted Glades County Resolution No. 2020-1 – amending the 2019-2020 General Fund

budget to recognize revenue received from the Lakeport Volunteer Fire Department and contributions and donations received by the Library.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

9. Complete Count Committee

County Manager Jones stated the Census Bureau is asking each local government to establish a Complete County Committee. He gave an overview of the recommendations for selection of the members.

Commissioner Storter Long named Diane Cianfrani and Marge Vandervent as possible members.

Vice Chairman Pryor named Jeffery Patterson as a possible member.

Commissioner Ahern named Terri Moorehouse as a possible member.

Commissioner Strenth stated he would get a couple of names together tonight and submit them to County Manager Jones.

Chairman Stanley named Cathy Crosswhite as a possible member.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board directed staff to move forward with asking Diane Cianfrani, Margie Vandervent, Jeff Patterson, Cathy Crosswhite, Terri Moorhouse, Jeanie Bayless, and a member that Commissioner Strenth will provide to serve on the Complete Count Committee.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

10. Audit Selection Committee

Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director, stated the current agreement with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP would expire after the completion of September 30, 2019 audit. She requested that the Board create an Audit Selection Committee and that she be appointed as a member.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board appointed David Hardin – Sheriff, Sandra H. Brown – Clerk of Court, Gail Jones – Tax Collector, Lorie Ward – Supervisor of Elections, Commissioner Stanley (and/or his designee), and Tiffany Patterson – Finance Director to the Auditor Selection Committee.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

11. RFQ's for Independent Auditing Services

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Pryor the Board authorized Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court, to advertise an RFQ for Independent Auditing Services for Fiscal Year beginning 2019/2020.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

12. Encumbrance of SHIP Funds

Cindy Ricker, SHIP Director, requested encumbrance of SHIP funds for 2 rehab projects in the amount of $30,000.00 each.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board approved the encumbrance of SHIP funds for Applicant 2019-Rehab-Treuman- 3 in the amount of $30,000.00 and Applicant 2019-Rehab-Awbrey-4 in the amount of $30,000.00 and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

13. Request for Increase of Encumbrance of SHIP Funds

Cindy Ricker, SHIP Coordinator, requested that the funding limits be increased for 2 projects. She explained the circumstances around each request.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved increasing the encumbrance of SHIP funds for Applicant 2019-Demo/Rebuild-2 (Jones) from $100,000.00 to $135,000.00 and for Applicant 2019-Demo/Rehab-1 (Dixon) from $80,000.00 to $135,000.00 and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

14. Letters opposing Medicaid Cost Share Increase

County Manager Jones requested authorization to send letters to Senator Albritton and Representative Pigman opposing the Medicaid Cost Share increase.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Pryor the Board approved sending letters to Senator Albritton and Representative Pigman requesting their assistance in stopping a scheduled increase in the Medicaid cost share to counties and authorized the Chairman to sign.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

15. Agreement for Purchase and Sale between Glades County and New Moore Haven, LLC regarding Glades County's hotel site and additional parcel

Commissioner Ahern stated the negotiations on this agreement had gone on for months and months. He stated a lot of effort had been put forth and nothing had happened.

Attorney Pringle stated he had asked on numerous occasions for Mr. Cortez to deposit the initial $5,000.00 into his account so that the County could sign the agreement. He stated the funds have still not been received. He asked the Board for direction.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board terminated negotiations with New Moore Haven, LLC regarding the hotel property.

Vice Chairman Pryor asked if the Board could go back out to bid on the project.

Attorney Pringle suggested bringing this matter to a close first by sending a letter to Mr. Cortez's attorney and moving forward later with another bid process.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

Commissioner Ahern stated there were options and several others interested in bidding.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Archie Branch, Public Works Director, stated his department had been busy with the festivals coming up. He stated he was continuing to work on SCOP and SCRAP projects and paperwork. He thanked County Manager Jones for his assistance. He stated he would be placing some of the recycle trailers (dump trailers) at each festival venue for garbage pickup. He stated the bathrooms were moving right along in Lakeport.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

There was no discussion.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Jones stated Connie Vanassche had submitted an agreement on the Northeast are septic/sewer project. He stated the Washington Park septic project was almost ready to go out to bid. He commented on the derelict vessel issues. He stated the one in Hickpochee would be tagged and set up for a 45 day notice. He stated the vessel could then be removed and the County would be reimbursed for expenses. He stated the vessel in Turkey Creek would require court action. He stated a woman had given a gentleman permission to dock the vessel there years ago. He stated once the County received the Notice to Proceed the vessel would be removed. He stated the Public Safety Building was moving forward in the legislature.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tracy Whirls, Executive Director – EDC, gave a brief quarterly report on several proposed projects. She stated Love's Truck Stop was expanding to include a Tire & Lube Service Center. She stated they expected to open in February and would hire 10 new people. She stated she was continuing to work with Brent Starts with project across the river. She stated she was working with the owners of the Calusa Lodge regarding conceptual plans for that property. She commented on the Heron Bay project. She stated there were some prospects for a couple of projects at the Business Park. She stated the Goodwill building would be leased out in the future. She stated the Burger King building and the Sea Coast bank building had been acquired. She stated as soon as she found out what their plans were she would inform the Board.

Commissioner Ahern stated he had been told the properties were being flipped.

Mrs. Whirls stated the M RV Mobile Home Park and the Ortona RV Park were both under contract. She stated an updated Tourism Development Plan had been submitted to Attorney Pringle for review.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Strenth invited everyone to attend the Sour Orange Festival this Saturday. He stated the festival would begin at 10:00 a.m. He invited everyone to attend the Lakeport Community Association meeting tonight and potluck dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Ahern stated the jail population was up and the GCDC officers continued to work on refinance options. He stated the jail population is up working on refinance options. He stated he was continuing to work with Congressman Steube's office on the Moore Haven Canal project.

Commissioner Storter Long commented on the census data and zip codes throughout the County. She stated the Cane Festival would be held on February 1st. She stated one of her constituents visited the Ortona Cemetery often. She stated Block 11 was in the southern-most/eastern corner. She stated there were 32 graves there where babies were buried. She stated some of these were unmarked graves and some of them were marked with wooden markers that were deteriorating. She stated she would be looking into the records in Ms. Brown's office. She stated they were thinking of asking for donations and having a large plaque made to mark this section of the cemetery. She stated she would bring this matter before the Board at a later date when she had more information. She invited everyone to attend a spaghetti dinner on Saturday night at the Ortona Community Center. She stated all of the Commissioners would receive complimentary tickets. She stated the Ortona Community Association would be holding its biannual membership meeting on January 23rd. She stated this would be followed by a potluck dinner.

Vice Chairman Pryor stated several counties had become sanctuary counties for firearms. He suggested that Glades County do the same. He stated this would allow everyone to better protect themselves.

Attorney Pringle stated he would get some copies of the ordinances that had been passed and provide them for review.

Chairman Stanley stated he had spoken with Sheriff Hardin regarding this matter and he was in support of the County moving forward with an ordinance.

Commissioner Storter Long commented on the section in the Personnel Policy that dealt with concealed weapons. She stated she was very pleased with the policy. She commented on the per diem being paid for meals being too low.

Commissioner Ahern agreed.

County Manager Jones suggested the Commissioners review the buy-back policy on sick leave.

Chairman Stanley suggested that the policy be sent back to PRM after the final draft was complete so that they could review it for legalities. He thanked the Board for appointing him Chairman again. He reminded everyone to attend the Catfish Festival in Buckhead Ridge on the last Saturday of the month.

Attorney Pringle asked that everyone meet back here to reconvene and open the traveling workshop at 11:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

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

There being no further discussion, Chairman Stanley adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

_____
Timothy Stanley, Chairman

ATTEST:

_____
Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved:_____

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