

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, GLADES COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA

The Glades County Board of County Commissioners met on Monday, October 25, 2021,
at 6:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Tim Stanley, Chairman
Donna Storter Long, Vice Chairman
Tony Whidden
Jerry Sapp

Present via telephone:
John Ahern

Others present:

Marcos Montes De Oca, County Manager
Tami P. Simmons, Clerk of Court
Brittany Heflin, Administrative Secretary
Tasha Morgan, Finance Director
Tracey D. Parrish, County Manager Executive Assistant
Trae Scism, Kofile Technologies, Inc., Account Executive
Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections
Bob Jones, Retired County Manager
Robert Houston, Glades County Sheriff's Security
Steve Ramunni, Attorney for Lakeport Water Association

Chairman Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Commissioner Sapp gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Commissioner Storter Long led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Note: Unanimous Board Action is required to amend agenda for official vote.
There were none.

PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS

There were none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. County Warrants
2. Approve Minutes of June 28, 2021, Regular Meeting
3. Approve Minutes of August 23, 2021, Regular Meeting
4. Approve Minutes of September 7, 2021, Public Hearing that was tabled on August 23, 2021
5. Approve Minutes of September 27, 2021, Regular Meeting

ON MOTION of Commissioner Whidden seconded by Commissioner Sapp the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

No discussion.

Motion carried by 4 - 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. Request approval of Budget Amendments (BA) 20-21-56 and corresponding Resolution processing fiscal year end 2021 adjustments to the Supervisor of Elections Budgets and appropriating Supervisor of Elections (SOE) CARES Funds in FY 2021.

Tasha Morgan, Finance Director, stated this Budget Amendment is re-aligning budgeted dollars within the SOE departments and appropriating CARES funding into FY 21.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Whidden seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board approved Budget Amendment 20-21-56 and corresponding Resolution 2021-36.

Chairman Stanley read the Resolution into the record.

No discussion.

Chairman Stanley called for a roll-call vote.

Commissioner Storter Long – Yes

Commissioner Sapp – Yes

Chairman Stanley – Yes

Commissioner Whidden – Yes

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

7. Archival Digitization of Real Property (Kofile)

Trae Scism, Kofile Technologies, Inc Account Executive stated that he is requesting approval of a plan to digitize all of Glades County's Official Records from 1988 to present date. Everything would be on-line accessible. Currently, requests for Official Records prior to 1988 would require a Clerk pulling the old Official Records books and then photocopying the images in order satisfy each request. Mr. Scism stated that the records would be in Kofile's custody and if someone wanted an image request, Kofile would provide that record within one (1) hour.

Chairman Stanley asked if these records would become public and if anyone could access these records? Mr. Scism state yes, anyone with internet connection would have immediate access.

Commissioner Whidden asked if Kofile would guarantee the reproduction of records with water spots. Mr. Scism answered yes, absolutely.

Commissioner Whidden asked how long this process would take? Mr. Scism stated that to scan all 160 volumes it would take sixteen (16) to twenty (20) weeks. Then load it into their software platform, (which is cloud based, so that it is protected forever), would be four (4) to five (5) months.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if Kofile would take all the records at one time and if Kofile is bonded for loss? Mr. Scism stated yes but could be done in phases if preferred; Kofile is bonded and partnered with General Services Administration (GSA).

Commissioner Whidden asked if this is funded by CARES Fund. Mr. Scism answered yes.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Whidden seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board approved the digital archiving of Glades County Official Records dating back to 1921 by Kofile Technologies, Inc. to be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

No discussion.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

8. Approve Amendment to Travel Policy in the Glades County Handbook Adopted on 08/31/2020- Section 12 Page 82

Christine Bearden, HR/SHIP Director, stated that some employees would like to get an advancement prior to traveling for their meals and mileage. Our current handbook on travel policy does not allow or disallow for an advancement. She is requesting to amend our policy to include the following verbiage. *An advancement to cover anticipated costs for mileage and meals to employees traveling on County business is permitted with a Department Head signature authorizing the advance.*

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Whidden the Board amended the travel policy located in the Glades County Handbook, Section 12, Page 82 to include the verbiage “An advancement to cover anticipated costs for mileage and meals to employees traveling on County business is permitted with a Department Head signature authorizing the advance.” that will allow for a travel advancement to go towards county business travel meal and mileage expenses with the permission of the Department Head.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

Commissioner Whidden inquired if an employee gets the advancement but does not go. Mrs. Bearden stated that the mileage is calculated through Map Quest and meals are on an allotment basis. And we have a new travel voucher that is filled out before traveling and submitted again upon return.

Commissioner Storter Long inquired about employees no longer able to obtain 80 hours of Covid time. County Manager Marcos Montes De Oca stated the federal government discontinued the COVID money.

No further discussion.

9. To Encumber SHIP funds and approve bid for Demo/Reconstruction for Joyce Ash located at 1128 Latum Bell, Moore Haven, FL 33471

Christine Bearden, SHIP Director, requested to encumber an additional \$19,000 on top of the \$150,000.00 Ms. Ash already qualified for. This was due to the increased cost of materials. A bid was requested and only one was received from Neal Long Construction. The bid amount was for \$174,000.00 for a two bedroom/two bath home or \$199,000.00 for a three bedroom/two bath home. In addition, there could be another \$10,000.00 if there is a muck situation. Ms. Ash is aware and has agreed that the difference in pricing will be her responsibility. She has indicated she will go with the three bedroom/two bath house. If we encumber \$169,000.00, she will be responsible for the difference of \$30,000.00 on the home and an additional \$10,000.00 if there is a muck issue.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if Ms. Ash will have to have the additional monies before the County encumbers \$169,000.00. Ms. Bearden stated yes. Also, Commissioner Storter Long also inquired if Ms. Ash will be able to afford the increase with taxes and insurance. Ms. Bearden was unsure but will inform Ms. Ash of the possible increases.

Chairman Stanley asked if the current home is one or two bathrooms? Ms. Bearden stated she did not know but would inform Ms. Ash that if additional septic and/or drainage issues are required, she would be responsible for the additional cost.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Whidden the Board approved SHIP FY 19/20 Encumbrance of \$169,000 for Ms. Joyce Ash Demo/Reconstruct located at 1128 Latum Bell, Moore Haven, FL 33471 and to approve the Neal Long bid for a three bedroom/two bath home for the amount of \$199,000 with an additional amount for muck of \$10,000 with the understanding that Ms. Ash will pay the difference of \$30,000 for the home if she chooses the three bedroom and \$10,000 for the muck should there be an issue and commencement will not begin until funding is secured.

No discussion.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

10. Satisfaction of SHIP Mortgage - 429 Avenue F, Moore Haven, FL 33471

Christine Bearden, HR/SHIP Director, stated this is a SHIP mortgage for Ora Dee Rush, 297/829 for \$9,193.31 signed on October 12, 2011, with a term of ten (10) years. Ms. Bearden is asking the Board to satisfy the SHIP mortgage on October 25, 2021.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Whidden the Board approved the satisfaction of SHIP Mortgage executed by order 297/829 for \$9,193.31 with a term of 10 years which began 10-12-2011 and authorized the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board.

No discussion.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

11. Summarize SHIP Activity from September 10 & 16 and October 4, 2021

Christine Bearden, HR/SHIP Director, stated the following items were reviewed and approved by the County Manager and was asking approval from the Board.

1. Gruskos, Henry and Vivian, 1599 West Ave, Moore Haven, FL 33471- Low Income- REHAB 2021 for year 19/20 – encumbered \$30,000 on 9/16/2021 for moving water lines to the septic, roof, and electrical issues, and to move the AC onto a slab. Bryant Roofing bid for Shingle roof was approved for \$7,480.00 and Echols Plumbing was approved for \$2,000.00 to move washer and sink lines to the septic tank. Echols Plumbing bid to move the A/C to a slab was also approved for \$450.00. On 10/14/2021, a bid from Taylor Electric for \$85.00, but not to exceed \$250.00 without notifying us was received to assess the electrical issue
2. Cynthia Haynes, 1133 Latem Bell Street, Moore Haven, Florida 33471 – moderate income – 2021 REHAB for year 19/20, encumbered \$30,000.00 for floor rotting, termites, and window replacement. Approved 10/04/2021.
3. Venisha Lewis, 844 Thatcher Boulevard, Moore Haven, Florida 33471 – moderate income- 2021 REHAB, for year 19/20. Encumbered \$30,000.00 on 09/10/2021 for doors, flooring, garage door, and leaking roof. On 10/04/2021, received a bid from Bryant Roofing was approved for a shingle roof for \$9,240.00.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Whidden seconded by Commissioner Sapp the Board approved the SHIP activity that was approved by the County Manager on 9/10/2021, 9/16/2021, 10/4/2021 and 10/14/2021.

Commissioner Storter Long stated prior approval \$30,000 on number one and is now bringing each item to the Board. Some of the items do not exceed the \$30,000.00. Ms. Bearden agreed and stated that once everything is finished, she will bring it back to the Board.

Chairman Stanley called for further discussion. There were no additional comments.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

12. Award of Request for Qualification (RFQ) 2021-04- Crescent Avenue from Highway 78 to Everett Street- Roadway Resurfacing

Florida Department of Transportation funded roadway resurfacing project for Crescent Avenue from Highway 78 to Everett Street. Project has been awarded for the County to seek qualified consultants. Project was duly noticed and advertised as request for proposals, which were due October 5, 2021. Two (2) respondents submitted complete packages. Johnson Engineering, inc., ranked number one (1) and Aim Engineering, Inc., ranked number two (2). Meeting to rank firms was held on Monday, October 18, 2021

Marcos Montes De Oca, County Manager, stated that funding has been secured and the County has had projects with both companies. Johnson Engineering, Inc. to do the engineering designs and with Aim supplementing doing the construction engineering services. FDOT requires two (2) separate engineers.

Commissioner Storter Long abstained from voting. There have been three engineering firms approved and they had been rotated but because of lack of action they have expired.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Whidden seconded by Commissioner Sapp the Board approved to award Request for Qualifications 2021-04 to be awarded to Johnson Engineering, Inc. for project Design Engineering Services and Aim Engineering and Surveying, Inc for Construction Engineering Inspection Services, per staff recommendation, and enter into negotiations with County Manager and Attorney to complete the contract and return at a later date to county commission meeting for approval.

No discussion.

Motion carried by 3 – 0 vote with Commissioner Storter Long abstaining.

13. Award of Request for Qualification (RFQ) 2021-05 - Cornella Drive from County Road 78 to dead end - Roadway Resurfacing

Florida Department of Transportation funded roadway resurfacing project for the resurfacing of Cornella Drive from Highway 78 to dead end. Project has been awarded for the County to seek qualified consultants. Project was duly noticed and advertised as request for proposals, which were due October 5, 2021. Two respondents submitted complete packages., Aim Engineering, Inc., ranked number one (1) and Johnson Engineering, Inc., ranked number two (2). Meeting to rank firms was held Monday, October 18, 2021.

Marcos Montes De Oca, County Manager, stated this project is desperate need.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Whidden seconded by Commissioner Sapp for the Board to approve to award the Request of Qualifications 2021-05 to be awarded to Aim Engineering and Surveying, Inc. for project design engineering and Johnson Engineering, Inc. for construction engineering inspection services, per staff recommendations, and to enter into negotiations with County Manager and Attorney to complete contract and return at a later date to County Commission meeting for approval.

No discussion.

Motion carried by 3 – 0 vote with Commissioner Storter Long abstaining.

14. Lakeport Water Association Creating a Special Taxing District Support

Lakeport Water Association District is seeking discussion and support of creating a special taxing district for water and wastewater services in the Lakeport area. Steven Ramunni, Attorney for Lakeport Water Association, stated the Board approved in 2010-

14 that Lakeport Water Association to provide water for Lakeport area. Recently the Board agreed to increase by adding wastewater services. We are now ready to move forward and are scheduled to go before the State Legislative Delegation and are need of a resolution. Mr. Ramunni is asking for the Board's support and to have the resolution on the agenda at the next Board meeting.

No discussion.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long and seconded by Commissioner Whidden to support the creation of a special taxing district to the state legislation for water and wastewater services in the Lakeport area and prepare a letter for Commissioner Chair's signature.

No discussion

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

15.Award of Request for Qualification 2021-03 Buckhead Ridge Fire Station Remodel Project

Item for clarification of utilization of funding source on September 14, 2021, and subsequent Board action at the October 12, 2021, meeting to proceed forward with the award of the request for qualifications as rated by staff. There were two (2) responses received for the RFQ 2021-03; Wright Construction ranked number two (2) and Big-League Builders ranked number one (1). There were also two (2) no response statements submitted as well.

Marcos Montes De Oca, County Manager, stated he reviewed the activity and researched to see if the dollars from American Recovery plan can be utilized. This will be presented to Big-League Builders, and he will return to the Board with the findings.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the RFQ had been advertised. Mr. Montes De Oca stated he believed it was advertised in the newspaper.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Sapp seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board approved to award the Request for Qualification 2021-3 to Big League Construction as the most qualified respondent for this project and direct the County Attorney and County Manager to negotiate a maximum guaranteed cost to be presented at a future Board of County Commissioner's meeting.

No discussion.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

16.Training Center Lease Agreement with Collier County School Board

A Lease Agreement with Collier County School Board to lease the entire Training Center and applicable areas for a term of five (5) years beginning December 1, 2021. The building will be utilized for the purposes of a technical school known as iTECH Glades Technical College, to provide academic and technical training.

Marcos Montes De Oca, County Manager, stated that iTECH will be taking over the training center. They will have to do some additional changes to the building. The County will be maintaining the building, but we will not be maintaining the utilities. The truck driving company will remain because we do not want to cut any services that we already provide. There are other minor modifications but he does not foresee any major issues.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if we will incur any additional liability? County Manger Montes De Oca stated that they are working on that issue and that Collier County School is very amiable and trying to help on this issue.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Whidden seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board approved the lease agreement with Collier County School Board for the purpose of establishing iTECH Glades Technical College at the Glades County Training Center and allowing for the County Manager and Attorney to make minor modifications as subject to the Collier County School Board's approval and Glades County Chairman to execute.

No discussion.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

17. December Board of County Commission (BOCC) December Meeting Schedule

County Manager Montes De Oca stated that the Court House will be closed for scheduled BOCC on December 27, 2021, and requests the Board cancel or reschedule.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Sapp seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board to approve to cancel the BOCC meeting scheduled for December 27, 2021 and authorized the Chair to process the December Warrants.

No discussion

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Panagioti Tsolkas, 822 North C Street, Lake Worth, Florida stated he was raised in Pinellas County and lived in Palm Beach County for the last twenty (20) years. Is a friend of Ellen Peterson who is a member of Save our Creeks. He got married on the creek in 2012. He is editor of Prison Legal News, a national magazine for the human rights defense center. He has been following a series of complaints that have been filed with the civil rights Division of Homeland Securities (DHS) and wants the Board to be concerned and aware that women being contained in the Glades County Detention Center have complained about sexual harassment from the Security Guards and Dr. Rosen, the psychiatric doctor. Reports of food having infestations of bugs and contaminated water, acute withdrawal to pain medications. The commission should be very concerned about a lawsuit for sexual harassment and wrongful deaths.

Mathi Mugilan, 1510 N D Street, Lake Worth, Florida 33460, this is his third time speaking to the commission speaking about Glades County Detention Center. He spoke about the ongoing use of highly toxic disinfectant spray that was sprayed multiple times a day, living conditions are unsanitary, and civil rights complaints. Mr. Mugilan stated that Scientific American did an investigation at the Glades County Detention Center and found the use of chemicals that cause breathing problems and long-term damage and reproductive health.

Wendy King, 1361 Northwest 94th Way, Coral Springs, FL, 33471, stated she had submitted 32-page complaint in February and as of today nothing has improved. Repeated and continued complaints about bug infested food and a new outbreak of COVID, inmates not being given medication, beaten and pepper sprayed and sexual harassment. A man just released a couple weeks ago reported to her that there were only two (2) working toilets for more than 40 men in his unit; the rest are broken. He said they are filthy and they must clog the broken toilet with towels and other materials so the sewage does not flow up and spill out everywhere.

F. L. Conlin, 655 Cabrera Street, Key Largo, FL 33037, stated he is the founder of Immigrant Action Alliance. He stated that Monroe County has canceled their contract with ICE due to the COVID pandemic and the spread of the disease in the facility and community because of the liability. Failing to act with deliberate indifference to inmates' safety violates the inmates' rights. We have files more than thirty-two civil rights and civil liberties complaints. He encourages the termination of the agreement with Immigration Custom Enforcement (ICE).

Noam Brown, 1701 N D Street, Lake Worth Florida, spoke about racism in Glades County Detention Center and that there has been a long history of anti-black violence. Mr. Brown stated that there have been reports of Doctor Rosen withholding medications for two (2) weeks; an inmate received no medical care for days despite his medical condition. Two different men detained at GCDC were told they would be hung if they file a suit about the abuse in the facility. He hoped the Board will take everything into consideration and end the contract with ICE.

Chairman Stanley asked for further non-agenda comments. There were none.

Question from the audience to Commissioner Whidden of his observations of the Glades County Detention Center upon his inspection of the facility. Commissioner Whidden stated that he did not see any of the things he was hearing from the speakers. He did not go through the entire facility. The parts that he has seen were very well maintained and clean.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS:

Aletris Farnam stated everyone is welcome to go to the Supervisor of Elections office to view the map of the proposed redistricting and would be happy to answer any and all questions.

Tami P. Simmons, Clerk of Court, thanked the Commission for approving the digitization of the records.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Richard Pringle was not present.

COUNTY MANAGER

Marcos Montes De Oca invited Commissioners to the Fall/Halloween luncheon on this coming Friday. He announced that on December 14, 2021 the annual holiday county luncheon will take place and welcomed the Commissioners to attend.

Construction for the Harney Pond pedestrian crossover will begin soon.

Craig A. Smith Construction continues on their project and scheduled to be wrapped up in November with DEO.

Working with Human Resources about social media policies.

This was officially Bob Jones' last meeting and thanked him for his time and effort he has put in getting him up to date on ongoing projects.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned if bottled water is provided for the EOC and medical stations? Chairman Stanley stated no because when they built the EOC building they put in a very expensive water system. Need to have the four-inch pipe for water checked out because we do not need bad water sitting in the fire trucks.

Person from the audience asked the commissioners to have visitation set up with some of the inmates that were reporting their complaints and have personal contact with the individuals and that the inmates be given respect and compassion.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if these allegations are verified with recordings or photos? The BOCC has not seen any evidence of the allegations. Commissioner Storter Long stated that the Commission is not the judge and jury and are only responsible for providing the facility and the Sheriff is responsible for operating it. Complaining and exposing issues are not the Commissions judgement call.

Commissioner Sapp stated no documentation has been provided. Why are they in our facility? Are they here illegally? Answer from the audience was that the complaints that

were reported tonight have all been documented in Civil Rights Complaints. There will be no video because the cameras are turned off.

Commissioner Whidden stated he has been through the detention center. He did not see any evidence of what the complaints were tonight. A complaint and an allegation are not fact. The facility is inspected regularly.

DEPARTMENT HEAD

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Sapp stated there was a very nice turnout and the ladies did a great job decorating our building. Centennial is turning out to be a great thing. There will be a Veteran's Day Dinner on November 6 at the Doyle Connor Building.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned if the Equestrian Center ball field can be used? Commissioner Sapp stated he did not see a problem and feels someone complained about a person putting his horse on the field. The County responded by sending a representative out and instructed the person they could no longer put their horse on the property. County Manager, Marco Montes De Oca stated that he will work with County Attorney Pringle to write up regulations on the facility that the community wants.

Commissioner Storter Long stated that on Saturday, November 20, 2021, the Ortona Community Association will have their annual fall festival and chili cook-off and the Board is invited.

She stated that she has noticed that the medical facility that supplies the Detention Center has been advertising for help. She asked if there may be some issues in the facility?

She would like the Board to consider the COVID pay for our employees. We need to get a uniform policy.

There was a joint meeting with the Supervisor of Elections and the School Board on the mapping of redistricting and it must be done by December 31, 2021. Does the resolution become effective when Board adopts it?

Commissioner Whidden stated he would be 100% against a mandate for vaccination. He attended a cake auction for someone in the community on Saturday. There were several people in attendance.

Commissioner Ahern stated via telephone that GCDC's has two new Board members,

Chairman Stanley stated the Buckhead Ridge Homeowners meeting is tomorrow at 6:30 for potluck. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The dates have changed.

Chairman Stanley addressed the issue of Glades County Detention Center and stated that Board will listen to the speakers for their allotted three (3) minutes. There is nothing the Board can do.

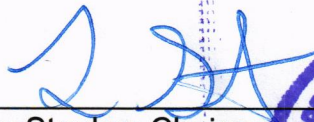
J.C. Long asked to speak. Chairman Stanley allowed him to speak. He thanked Glades County for having such a nice facility in Ortona. His graduating class of 1955 had their 66th class reunion in Ortona.

Antibody treatment will not be there on Friday because of lack of patients the last two (2) weeks.

ADJOURN

ON MOTION of Commissioner Sapp seconded by Commissioner Whidden the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

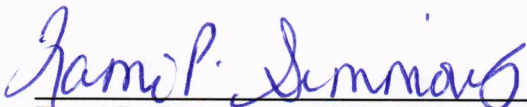
There being no further discussion, Chairman Stanley adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.



Timothy Stanley, Chairman



ATTEST:



Tami P. Simmons, Clerk of the Circuit Court



Approved: May 23, 2022

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM RECORD. AN AUDIO IS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO THE ENTIRE MEETING ACCORDING TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES.