

***Emergency Meeting
Hurricane Elsa and Local State of Emergency
Dixie County EOC Building
July 02, 2021 – 4:00 PM***

While adhering to the CDC Guidelines and following State of Florida Executive Orders: 20-51 Establishing Response Protocol, 20-52 declaring a Public Health Emergency, 20-69 regarding Local Government Public Meetings and the Dixie County Emergency Declaration 2020-27. The Board will meet and limit access by staff and the public to the meeting room. The Board meetings are audio recorded. The public can hear and participate in the meeting via conference call by dialing 1(917)900-1022 and enter code 32628.

COMMISSIONERS

Jody Stephenson
Mark Hatch
James Valentine
Jamie Storey, Chairman

STAFF

Duane Cannon, County Manager
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Commissioner Storey.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The Invocation was led by Commissioner Valentine and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Hatch.

**DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DARIAN BROWN
AND CHIEF SCOTT GARNER**

Director Brown and Chief Garner appeared before the Board to give an update on the approaching storm.

Chief Garner informed the Board that the projected path of the storm put Dixie County in the cone since yesterday. He gave the Board a handout with some information from a conference call they had with Tallahassee today at 2:30 PM. He explained the current issue with the storm is that it is moving too quickly to track. He said that Hurricane Elsa has 85 MPH winds and is moving 20 MPH forward. He said that current Models show the Hurricane moving towards the Gulf area.

He said that from North of Taylor County to the Horseshoe Beach area is also possible. He recommended the county enter a Local State of Emergency and begin planning for the Holiday weekend. He said they can purchase emergency supplies now for the county. He said that Tropical Storm winds will be here by Tuesday.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if there is a chance of the storm decreasing in power while crossing the island of Cuba.

Chief Garner replied the mountain regions would help. He said they will have a better understanding by Sunday.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about another weather front coming down from the North to help move the storm.

Chief Garner said there is some low pressure making the path curve and could possibly weaken the storm. He said the Central Florida and the Big Bend area look to be in the projected path. He said that the Storm Surge looks to be an issue for Mexico Beach down to the Suwannee River.

Commissioner Stephenson said we all need to prepare.

Chief Garner said we should expect rainfall from three to five inches.

He said the Gulf waters are 85 degrees which is a potential factor for the Hurricane to increase in speed.

Director Brown added that if Hurricane Elsa slows down around Cuba then it can grow stronger.

Chief Garner requested the Board approve **RESOLUTION 2021-88** in support of the Local State of Emergency for Dixie County.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-88. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Chief Garner informed the Board that they will have another call with the weather center at 11:15 AM on Monday and with the State of Florida emergency services today at 5:15 PM.

Commissioner Hatch recommended that Mr. Steve Hutchison be on call.

Manager Cannon agreed and said he is coordinating sandbags and inmate crews to help.

Commissioner Hatch informed everyone that Lo (Lorenzo George) will have a county truck at his home as he is on call.

Manager Cannon said they have already received calls for downed trees; and they are addressing those.

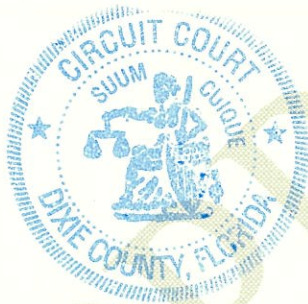
Commissioner Stephenson said he was called about a sink hole on the 351 HWY right of way. He asked what the procedure is for handling this issue. Chief Garner said normally the road is dig out and filled with concrete and packed. Commissioner Stephenson asked if it could be filled with lime rock by the county. Manager Cannon said he can verify with the State and they will let us know who needs to fill the sink holes on the state road right of way.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns expressed at this time.


ADJOURN

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to adjourn at 4:21 PM. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



Jamie Storey, Chairman



Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

PLEASE BE ADVISED that if a person decided to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearings, he/ she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, he/ she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

“Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (352) 486-4931 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771.”

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM and the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. Individuals that would like to be placed on the agenda should call Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court, by 4:00 PM on the Friday Preceding the Board meeting, at (352) 498-1200.