

***Emergency Meeting
Tropical Storm Elsa and
Local State of Emergency Staffing
Dixie County EOC Building
July 06, 2021 – 11:00 AM***

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 via telephone
James Valentine
Jamie Storey, Chairman
W C Mills, Chairman

STAFF

Duane Cannon, County Manager
Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk
Jacki Johnson, Chief Financial Officer
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 11:15 AM 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 Mills.

The conference call began with the State of Florida Emergency Management Team informing everyone that Tropical Storm Elsa is nearing the Key West area and will be approaching the Tampa and then the Big Bend area soon after. They said to expect three to five inches of rainfall up to possibly eight inches. They also said that tornados are a possibility and tornado watches are posted for the peninsula and the Suwannee Valley area. They said the storm surge will be three to five feet.

Regarding recovery efforts they said that additional counties have been added to the Governor's Executive Order. They said everything must be documented in order to meet your county's specific threshold. They said that municipalities will fall under the county threshold. They said that the State of Florida is at a Level 1 stage of alert. There will be high tides and heavy rain when the storm makes landfall. They said the current path looks to be moving into the Cedar Key area. They reminded everyone that we have been receiving above average rainfall already and the ground is saturated. They said with high winds hitting the tree canopy that several trees may fall. They said to expect damage after the event and for days later. They advised everyone to be prepared and take Local State of Emergency actions.

They opened the floor to discuss and address any critical needs that counties within different regions may have:

Region 7, Monroe County said there is some local flooding in Key West now.

Region 6, Collier County said they are monitoring the situation and they have no damage yet and still have power. They said the winds are at 16 MPH with some rain.

Region 6, Lee County said they are at Level 2 and their shelters are on standby.

Region 6, Sarasota County said they are at Level 2 and are staffing their EOC for 24-hour operation. They have not opened shelters yet.

Region 6, Manatee County said they have opened their Special Needs and General Public Shelters.

Region 6, Charlotte County said they are at Level 2.

Region 5 counties. No reply.

Region 4, Pinellas County said they are at Level 2 activation and their shelters are open.

Sumter County said their Board of Commissioners approved their Local State of Emergency today.

Region 3, Marion County said their Local State of Emergency has been executed and they will be at Level 2 later this evening. They said their Special Needs Shelter will open at 4:00 PM.

Region 2, Jefferson County said they are at Level 2 and will change to Level 1 tonight.

Columbia County said they will be opening their shelter for the medically needy and will be at Level 2 by midnight.

Wakulla County said they are at Level 2 and have not opened shelters or decided to close schools yet.

Lafayette County said they are at Level 2 and will open shelters tonight.

Suwannee County said they are at Level 1 and will open shelters at 5:00 PM.

The State of Florida Emergency Management Team recommended that Brevard County take the lead on coordinating Mutual Aide for those counties that need more assistance. They said that all debris coverage will have to go through FEMA so it's important to get the damage assessments turned in ASAP.

This concluded the conference call.

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

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

Chief Garner informed everyone that the State of Florida threshold is \$29 million plus and Dixie County is \$63,000.00 plus.

He said the Sheriff's Office can be reimbursed for calling the Citizens on Patrol to help. He said the Road Department staff will be at the expense of the county. He recommended that everyone document with photos any debris and damage and any cleanup efforts they see. He said that low lying areas like the Hammock will also be affected by the storm. He said that Dixie County is at Level 1 and they will open shelters at 4:00 PM. He said the EOC will be staffed for 24-hour operation. He said they are coordinating with Gilchrist County for the Special Needs Shelter. He said the Health Department Program is shared by Gilchrist, Levy, and Dixie County. He informed everyone that the Debris and Damage Assessment documentation is very important. He said the power outage yesterday was not due to the storm but was a transformer and was repaired by Central Florida Electric within a few hours.

He reminded everyone that they will not transport to Gainesville if winds reach 45 MPH. He said there should be some effects felt in our area by 7:00 AM tomorrow.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the rainfall
Chief Garner replied from four to six inches and possibly eight inches.

Commissioner Stephenson recommended they check all equipment and make sure it is functioning properly.

Director Brown addressed everyone and thanked them all for a good turnout to this meeting and for paying close attention to the information that has been presented and discussed. He said there was good representation throughout the county showed today. He reminded everyone to

contact the Emergency Management staff for help with their needs and with reimbursement documentation.

Chief Garner informed everyone that the path of the storm is moving towards the Cedar Key area but could also affect the Keaton Beach area which would put more storm surge on our coastal communities.

Dixie County Sheriff Darby Butler asked if the area evacuation is voluntary. Chief Garner replied yes. He added they don't have enough manpower to handle a mandatory evacuation. He said they can issue an Evacuation Order and ask the public to leave.

Sheriff Butler asked about a generator for the jail. Chief Garner said he must make the request two hours prior to need and see if it's available. He said they need to know the specifics of KW, lugs and wires needed for operation at the jail. He said they will ask a certified electrician.

Chief Garner said for staffing they will need the mileage of the automobiles used, the vin numbers of the automobiles, the staff rate of pay, and any fringe benefits for reimbursement. He said use the same form from last year and start documentation. He clarified that normal staff is not reimbursed only extra people called in and their automobiles used.

Someone asked about Road Closures and if any are expected. Chief Garner replied No.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 12:00 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 Mills.

County Manager Duane Cannon appeared before the Board to request Administrative Leave for Wednesday, July 07, 2021 for all Board Employees.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Administrative Leave for Wednesday, July 07, 2021 for all Board Employees. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

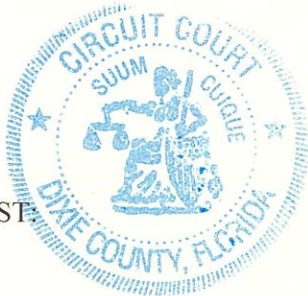
Commissioner Stephenson asked how this works. Manager Cannon replied they get overtime after 40 hours.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns expressed at this time.


ADJOURN

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 12:05 PM. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.



ATTEST

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA



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.