

Workshop
Hurricane Allocations Discussion
Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
December 19, 2024 – 4:00 PM

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, District 1, Vice Chairman
Daniel Wood, District 2
Mark Hatch, District 3
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman
David Osteen, District 5

STAFF

John Jenkins, County Manager
Roy Bass, Assistant County Manager
Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator
Chana Watson, County Attorney
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk
Brenda Royal, Chief Financial Officer
Joannie Morse, Deputy Clerk
Victoria Darkow, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting/Workshop was called to order at 4:00 PM by Commissioner Stephenson.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

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

DISCUSSION

Chief Scott Garner provided a printout for the Board with information regarding the money from the past hurricanes that explained where the money is at and the projects it goes with. He stated that \$872,121.41 are FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) payments and that \$437,355.11 are insurance payments. Chief Garner stated that the only project the County cannot get started on right now is the Shired Park project, but that every other project can be started at any time the Board sees fit.

County Manager John Jenkins stated that they will be starting on the Horseshoe Beach project after the first of the year.

There was a discrepancy with the numbers and Chief Deputy Clerk Verna Wilson stated that the total amount received from the insurance payments actually adds up to \$513,181.49.

Mr. Jenkins stated that nothing has been spent yet.

Chief Garner stated that the Sheriff had opted to be its own applicant for Hurricane Helene, and for Hurricane Debby there would be \$50,455.20 going back to the Sheriff's Office.

He stated that there is no charges or expense due to Hurricane Milton.

Chief Garner explained that labor costs from Hurricane Idalia on the spreadsheet for Category A are for all departments and equal up to \$154,000.00.

He stated that Category A is for debris removal and Category B are Emergency Protective Measures and informed the Board that Category A is regular hours for limb debris and Category B are for overtime hours only.

He provided a list of the projects that the County is receiving funding on, whether it is from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) or through insurance payments. The Projects are listed as follows:

1. Shired Island – tables, grills and trash cans
2. Shired Island Road
3. Shired Island Potable Well
4. Shired Island 2 of 2
5. Shired Island
6. Road Dixie County Hwy 351
7. Management Costs
8. Horseshoe Beach Commercial Pier
9. Generator repairs – Old Town Fire Station #2 and The Dixie County Jail
10. EOC – fencing and signage
11. Emergency Protective Measures 100% cost share
12. Emergency Protective Measures
13. Dixie County Expedited Debris Removal
14. Debris Removal 9/4/23 through 10/03/23 100% cost share
15. Debris Removal 8/27/23 through 9/03/23 75% cost share
16. Debris Removal 10/04/23 through 2/29/24
17. Cow Creek Bridge
18. Community Center building in Suwannee
19. Communication tower
20. Butler Douglas Park – outdoor equipment, fencing, handrails.
21. Butler Douglas Memorial Park Horseshoe Beach – water control facilities
22. Butler Douglas Park
23. Bowlegs Mainline

He stated that the total amount they are currently waiting to receive is \$3,834,476.92 from FEMA.

Chief Garner stated that the Category B projects have not been obligated yet and they are pending final FEMA review.

Commissioner Hatch asked what the total project submittal was for Hurricane Idalia and Chief Garner stated that it is around 10.5 million dollars and that was LAP (Loan Against Property) funding.

He stated that it is in the account and being paid to Locklear and Associates and everyone else handling the projects.

Chief Garner explained that the State of Florida gave the County a loan for 1.56 million dollars with no interest.

The Board discussed with Chief Garner on the amounts for Sheriff Darby Butler and stated that the total amount Sheriff Butler would be reimbursed between Hurricane Idalia and Hurricane Debby would be \$242,377.52.

Chief Financial Officer Brenda Royal stated that the \$1,56,000.00 is in General Funds with itemized lines set aside for those specific projects.

Sheriff Butler requested his portion of the money which adds up to \$242,377.52 and stated that the emergency protective measure funds are pending review, which could be years from now.

Commissioner Stephenson stated that it could be two (2) years from now before the County could use those funds.

Chief Garner stated that the Shired Island projects have not been obligated yet.

Commissioner Storey clarified that Sheriff Butler's request was to let him have the money now and put off some of the future projects until the County received the money.

Chief Garner recommended not putting the Fire Station and County Jail generator on the back burner because the bids have already been requested.

Commissioner Hatch discussed the record keeping process with Mrs. Royal and stated that the County is working on borrowed money. They discussed if the bookkeeping process was sufficient enough to know how to track the money that FEMA gave the County as a loan.

Chief Garner explained that the money the State loaned the County was for projects and to use as needed.

He stated that he sent roughly \$272,000.00 back to the State, so we still owe them around \$700,000.00.

Mrs. Royal stated that the million that was loaned to the County is sitting in general fund and that the Finance Office knows that its for those projects.

Commissioner Hatch asked Sheriff Butler how soon he needed the money and Sheriff Butler stated that he would need it as soon as possible.

The Board discussed and agreed to pay Sheriff Butler at the next Board meeting tonight.

Commissioner Hatch asked Chief Garner and Mrs. Royal to get together and come up with a number on what the County owes the State of Florida towards the loan.

Chief Garner stated that Sheriff Butler could issue an invoice to the County for the requested amount.

Sheriff Butler stated that he will bring his request to the next Board meeting on January 02, 2025.

Chief Garner reminded the Board that nothing has been submitted on Hurricane Milton or Hurricane Debby, that the only ones that were submitted was Hurricane Idalia and Hurricane Helene. He stated that he is waiting on approval for the request for information from Ernst & Young, that they requested for Hurricane Debby.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

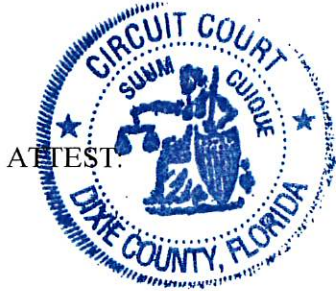
Mr. JD Nobles from Horseshoe Beach asked for clarification on the projects starting in Horseshoe Beach. He stated that at a few meetings ago, Chief Garner stated that he had received funds for the Horseshoe Beach Pier and the pavilion.

Chief Garner stated that the Pier has not been obligated yet, but that the pavilions have been.

ADJOURN

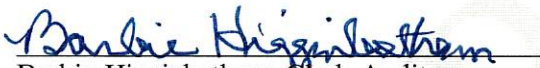
Commissioner Storey made the motion to adjourn at 5:20 PM. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA





Jody Stephenson, Chairman



Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

PLEASE BE ADVISED that if a person decides 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.