

Barbie Higginbotham
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
DIXIE COUNTY
CROSS CITY, FLORIDA 32628

Emergency Meeting

August 4, 2024, at 4:30 PM

Held at Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Cross City for Tropical Storm / Hurricane Debby

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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chief Scott Garner.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The invocation and the pledge were led by Commissioner Storey.

3. Storm Update from Chief Garner

Chief Garner gave an update on the emergency operations for Tropical Storm Debby.

Chief Garner asked the Board to implement a curfew for the Coastal Communities of Jena and Suwannee. Chief Garner stated that he is not concerned about a curfew for Northern 19 but so far just the coastal communities.

Chief Garner presented a map of the coast of Jena. He explained that the red color on the map represents flooding above nine (9) ft, the orange greater than six (6) ft, and the yellow greater than

three (3) ft. He said that worst case scenario with running models indicate that this area will receive around 18 inches less than we did with Hurricane Idalia.

Chief Garner stated that the latest models have Tropical Storm Debby becoming a hurricane before landfall within the next one to two hours. He said this means that there will be a few hours of hurricane strength winds out in the Gulf of Mexico versus tropical storm force winds. He added that Tropical Storm Debby is projected to be a Category one (1) hurricane at 8 PM tonight (August 5, 2024) off the coast of Tampa, near the Clearwater area. He said as of now it is measuring 56-58 miles from our coastline to the center of the storm, the eye being about 160 miles out.

Commission Hatch asked if the last time a curfew was implemented was it from around the Fire Tower or Jimmy Green Park.

Attorney Watson stated there was no markers indicated on the last curfew.

County Manager Paul Gainey asked if the Board could amend the motion for the curfew to be 11 PM to 7 AM instead of 11 PM to 6 AM, so that Attorney Watson won't have to change the Resolution she has already completed.

Commissioner Hatch asked Police Chief Jamie King if it would be a problem for them to enforce different times for different towns.

Chief King said it would be less confusing if it was the same curfew times across the board.

Attorney Watson said she was already working on getting new ones written up with the 11 PM to 6 AM as we speak.

Motion to declare a general curfew from 11:00 PM on August 04, 2024, until 6:00 AM on August 05, 2024, for the Town of Suwannee and Jena during the emergency resulting from Tropical Storm Debby made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Chief Garner also recommended the Board to make a motion to close the County boat ramps along with the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) activation of the no wake policy. He said that the Suwannee River is due to be at a moderate flood stage before the next Board of County Commissioner (BOCC) meeting.

Motion to follow Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) no wake policy activation to close the County boat ramps and for Chief Garner to notify the County Manager Paul Gainey, the Board of County Commissioners, and Steve Hutchinson by email of the boat ramp closures was made by Commissioner Wood. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

Director of Emergency Operations Darian Brown asked if the Board could go ahead and present a onetime vote for following FWC River Boat Ramp No Wake Closures from here on out.

Attorney Watson said she can't enact a permanent vote in an emergency meeting because it must be advertised before there can be a vote on it.

Attorney Watson stated she just needed an emergency vote for now but agrees on implementing a permanent vote later; however, it must be advertised before doing so.

Chief Garner showed a picture of the bridge at South US Hwy 19 in Steinhatchee and stated the values came in at 24 ft, but the County is looking at 26 ft on the Steinhatchee River side of the bridge and they are expecting the flood waters to be on the North side of the Bridge as well as the South bound side.

Chief Brown informed the Board that one of the ambulance units got broad sided as they were leaving the station this morning. He said the crew is alright, but the truck is severely damaged.

25. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



Jamie Storey, 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.