

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

Emergency Meeting

September 25, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Held at Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Cross City for Hurricane Helene

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 Commissioner Storey.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The invocation and the pledge were led by Commissioner Storey.

3. Storm Update from Chief Garner

Emergency Operations Chief Garner gave an update on the Hurricane Helene.

He stated that the primary purpose for the meeting was to establish a curfew for the County. He announced that the Town of Horseshoe Beach has already implemented a curfew from 11:00 Pm to 6:00 AM to begin on 9-26-24.

Chief Garner gave storm surge updates from the 11:15 AM call. He said storm surge projections are as follows:

County Road 358 and 361 in Jena at Caseys Cove is looking to get around 11-13 feet of salt water.

Yellowjacket is projected to get three (3) feet on Highway 349, nine (9) feet in campground.

Lilly Creek is projected to get three (3) to six (6) feet at Highway 351.

Horseshoe Beach Fire Station, which is the highest point in Horseshoe Beach is projected to get 15-17 feet.

Suwannee average for the whole town is projected to be 13-15 feet.

Chief Garner stated that Tallahassee also told him the storm would possibly a CAT 4 at landfall.

Sheriff Darby Butler recommended setting the curfew the same as what they are accustomed to from the last two storms and to start on September 26, 2024, in order to allow residents to get themselves and their belongings out of the path before the storm.

Motion to begin curfew tomorrow night, September 26, 2024, for 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Attorney Chana Watson also recommended voting to allow Sheriff Butler to change the curfew time to ensure the health and safety of the community if needed.

Commissioner Stephenson suggested implementing curfew for the entire county.

Attorney Watson stated that she spoke to Sheriff Butler regarding county wide curfew, and he told her he could handle a county wide curfew post storm, but not pre storm because of staffing. Attorney Chana recommended implementing just Jena and Suwannee for the next couple of days and then, if need be, come back and implement a county wide curfew later if needed. She added that she has drafted a Resolution in case it is needed in the future.

Motion that Sheriff Butler have the discretion to change the curfew as needed to protect the health and safety of Dixie County Citizens as the storm progressed made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

Commissioner Stephenson asked for an update on sustained winds.

Chief Garner said 58-74 mph winds county wide, and he also gave an update on the rainfall and all aspects of the storm.

Commissioner Hatch asked if we are doing any door to door down in the coastal areas.

Sheriff Butler answered they are pushing their teams out, but the hardest part is getting teams in here to help us do door to door pre storm because those teams are heading to their staging sites.

Commissioner Hatch asked how much door to door has the Sheriff's office completed.

Sheriff Butler answered they are rolling into what they call Alpha Bravo's on the next shift which will give extra manpower for the call load for the county. He said they are running under normal shifts right now and will hold that until post storm and then try and get more assets in to help.

Attorney Watson asked if the Sheriff's Office could push out notification to residents that if they are not leaving to call this number.

Sheriff Butler said he didn't know if it was a good idea because that could encourage people to stay.

Commissioner Stephenson asked how the EOC has made residents aware that normal safe places may not be safe during this storm.

Chief Garner answered that the EOC has put out notices via robo calls, reverse 911 calls, Everbridge, Facebook, CNN, Fox News, and TV20 news.

Commissioner Hatch asked how the County will get a head count on those that stay behind.

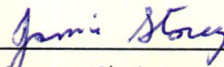
Director Brown asked everyone to get lists of the people that are staying in order to check on them after the storm.

Chief Garner stated that the evacuation included RVs in the County.

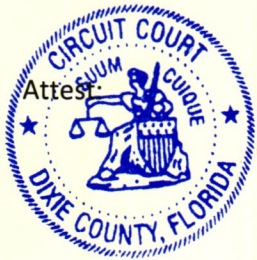
25. ADJOURN

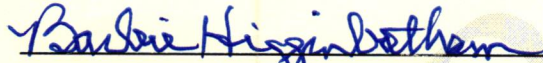
Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA



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.

