

Emergency Meeting

Flooding

Dixie County EOC Building

August 21, 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, District 1
W. C. Mills, District 2, Vice Chairman
Mark Hatch, District 3
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman
James Valentine, District 5

STAFF

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order 4: 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

County Manager Duane Cannon appeared before the Board and informed them that there is a need to address the culverts near the Ray Hodge and Chris Barber properties. He directed them to refer to a map for culvert locations and ground elevations.

Commissioner Mills made the motion to dig around the culverts. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Mills said the fence needs to be cut so they can access the area.

Road Superintendent Stevie Hutchison discussed pipe sizes and informed the Board that they need to get right of entry from the private landowners. He said the water is running over the pipes.

Commissioner Hatch said that some of the flooding has to do with the river cresting.

Division Chief Scott Garner said the river will hold for seven days.

Commissioner Hatch suggested they pull the culverts from the Barber and Hodge property and monitor the flow. He suggested putting in a bridge instead of culverts.

Manager Cannon reminded the Board that since 2016 a lot of money has been spent on the culverts and if they change the system that the Suwannee River Water Management District will want a study done if altered. He said that the county installed the culverts as in-kind work.

Commissioner Hatch said they should just dig around the culverts for now.

Commissioner Stephenson said it has already washed out.

Mr. Dwayne Driggers suggested the Board fix this so it will work

Mr. Hutchison said he can start the work on Monday. He said he will move the pipes on Road 30 first and then work on this area.

Manager Cannon said they need to order more 36-inch pipes and that \$15,000.00 is the cost.

Commissioner Mills agreed the county needs the pipes.

Commissioner Stephenson said to place the order.

Mr. Hutchison informed the Board that they had spent \$9,000.00 on 30- and 38-inch pipes and \$6,500.00 on 20-inch pipes the first week of flooding.

Commissioner Mills said they will be used, and they need to order some more inventory.

Commissioner Mills made the motion to buy 36-inch pipes. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Hutchison said that 48-inch culverts flow to Bugum Bay.

Commissioner Stephenson said they need to find out from SRWMD who is responsible for the canal maintenance.

Commissioner Mills said the timber companies need to help because they way timber is cut can also affect the flow of water.

Commissioner Mills said the ditches along the Hwy need to be addressed also.

Commissioner Hatch said that they are using the Gradeall along the Hwy. He said they can look at the FDOT maps of the storm water drainage system. He said that DEP owns the Greenway Trail and they have drainage maps too.

Manager Cannon said he will ask Kirk Marhefka about them. He reminded all that the elevation and the ground water is the same as the surface water. He said the culverts are lower than the water table, so they need to be cautious.

Commissioner Hatch asked if the culvert at the Cecil James curve on Hwy 55A had been cleaned. Mr. Hutchison replied yes on Monday.

Commissioner Stephenson said that some digging was done from Hwy 349 to Dwight Knight's property at Twin Lakes and on the H. F. Jones property.

Commissioner Hatch said that Hwy 349 to the county line is maintained by FDOT because it is a State Road.

Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham informed the Board that some people are digging in the area near Pam and Lewis Pate and making a mess.

Mr. Hutchison said the county had replaced culverts there.

Commissioner Stephenson said that Watson Homestead is flooded.

Manager Cannon said that some box culverts are also a concern. He said there are no restrictions at Anderson South of 346 property and the box culvert at 349 and the bridge at Bob Reed.

Mr. Hutchison said there are two culverts between the river and 246.

Commissioner Stephenson said the water is still in the Hammock area.

Commissioner Hatch said the water from the Hammock will flow to the South.

Commissioner Stephenson said the water will cross the Alton Land Road and flow towards Anderson's shop

Commissioner Hatch said water is flowing from Hwy 55A to Hal Chairs and then on to Old Town.

Commissioner Stephenson said that near Clerk Higginbotham's road there are two mobile homes that have just cleared lots and put up a new fence. He said the gulley in the back is full of debris. He said the water must flow through this gulley.

Commissioner Stephenson said they need to get some elevations and dig a ditch for some pipes along Cooper Road and Chavous.

Commissioner Hatch asked if Mallory Swamp has caught up yet.

Commissioner Stephenson said it keeps running out of Dwight Knight's and is flowing towards Clerk Higginbotham's area. He said it is going towards Ocean Pond and Sanchez.

Commissioner Mills said the Airport Canal also needs to be dug out near the Health Department. He said that FDOT said this was made by design.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that there is a bridge on Andrew Sauls Road and Marvin Martin Road. He informed the Board that they are spraying for mosquitos around the county and have completed one cycle. He said they are using Larvicide too. He said that not all areas can be reached due to the water.

Commissioner Hatch had asked about bug spray for the public. Chief Garner said that the EOC does not have any bug spray and people may have to purchase it for themselves.

Chief Garner informed the Board that three people had stayed at the shelter. He said that the Red Cross may possibly give people a card to stay at a Hotel like they do in a burnout situation.

Commissioner Stephenson said to keep the shelter open.

Chief Garner said it has been rented for a Quilting Class in mid-September. He said they can move the event to the Hwy 55 A or Trail Riders Club.

Commissioner Mills said they need to talk to an engineer and look over the lay of the land and send the water to the river.

Commissioner Hatch said they can talk to DEP about Marsh Grass Recharge and ask Mr. Greg Bailey for help.

Manager Cannon said he had met with the Airport Engineer last week and has a Canal Street meeting this week with them and Mr. Greg Bailey.

Commissioner Hatch said the water needs to drain from the area around the George Sapp home and the Lee Childer's property. He said this culvert is not draining properly. He said that Mr. Sapp's home is lower than the road.

Commissioner Stephenson said there is a culvert Near B. Beckham that is dry.

Commissioner Stephenson said he wants the Board to have a notice run in the newspaper informing the public that Dixie County has not received any federal money.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns expressed at this time.

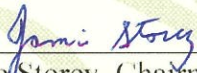
ADJOURN

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to adjourn at 4:56 PM. Commissioner Valentine 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) 498-1700.