

Emergency Meeting

Emergency Operations Center
17600 SE Hwy 19, Cross City, FL 32628
September 15, 2023 – 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
Mark Hatch, District 3
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman
David Osteen, District 5

STAFF

Duane Cannon, County Manager
Paul Gainey, Asst. County Manager
Chana Watson, County Attorney
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Della J. Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Emergency Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Commissioner Storey.

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 Osteen.

RESOLUTION 2023-103

Extend the Local State of Emergency

Emergency Management Chief Scott Garner requested the Board approve RESOLUTION 2023-103 supporting the extension of the Local State of Emergency for Hurricane Idalia.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve RESOLUTION 2023-103. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

County Manager Duane Cannon informed everyone that he has spoken with DEP about their executed contract with another company to remove the debris from the waterways. They will be working in all three coastal towns at once. He said that FDOT has started the road-side debris removal.

Chief Garner said they have started burning the debris at Suwannee, Hwy 55A, and Jena. He said they need to request an air curtain and/or a rake for the smoldering sites.

Chief Garner said that the FDOT contractors, TRF, are using the Jack Roberts Curve site to dump the debris.

Chief Garner said the mission for five (5) steel bodied-walking-floor semi-trucks, tractors and drivers to haul C & D for 30 days has been requested. This debris will be hauled to the Aucilla site. He said Suwannee Waste Water is waiting for the install quotes. He said the mobile DRC will be in Suwannee for four (4) days and then rotate to Horseshoe and Jena.

Manager Cannon said FEMA is also available at the Cross City Library.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about debris placement along the road.

Manager Cannon said it must be in the county right-of-way to be picked up.

Chief Garner said FDOT will be cleaning up debris from the coastline, then in town, and then the rural areas.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the houses that have been destroyed and if they can be placed in the right-of-way.

Chief Garner said the contractors will pick up what is on the county road right-of-way. He said that FDOT is working on the debris along the state roads.

Commissioner Hatch recommended residents also sign up with Red Cross for some assistance.

County Attorney Chana Watson spoke about the electric breaker boxes and meters being raised above water level.

Manager Cannon said this will need to be raised to the base flood elevation.

Commissioner Hatch requested help for an individual in Suwannee who lost their primary home. He asked for a temporary pole to be connected for an RV/camper.

Chief Garner said they are working with the state to get travel trailers for those who need them.

Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham praised Building Official Leon Wright for all his help within the coastal communities.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve those who have lost their Primary Residence (not Secondary Residence) be allowed to get a Temporary Power Hookup which will be re-evaluated in six (6) months. (100 amp power pole in Suwannee, and 60 amp power pole county wide.) Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch instructed the County Manager to inform Building and Zoning about this.

Commissioner Hatch said the debris placed along the roads is very dangerous for traffic and pedestrians.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the debris in the marshlands.

Chief Garner replied that will be a state and federal issue.

Director of Emergency Services Darian Brown added that the Town of Horseshoe is a municipality and has their own Ordinances to follow and will make their own decisions regarding temporary power connections.

Chief Garner requested the Board schedule a De-briefing regarding Hurricane Idalia Preparation and response successes and issues to be held on September 21, 2023 at 12:00 PM at the EOC.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to schedule a De-briefing regarding Hurricane Idalia Preparation and response successes and issues to be held on September 21, 2023 at 12:00 PM at the EOC. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch asked about the County Audit and how it will affect the SHIP program.

Manager Cannon said this will be presented at the Regular Board Meeting on September 18, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Manager Cannon said this has been the best Audit in the past nine (9) years.

Manager Cannon said the Administrators of the SHIP program will be requesting a LHAP change and increase from the maximum rehab repairs of \$10,000.00 up to \$25,000.00.

Commissioner Hatch said they won't be able to help as many people with that increase.

Manager Cannon said it will be a slow road to recovery.

Chief Garner said the FDOT debris contract is for 120 days. There will be 25 debris removal trucks and 10 hazardous tree removal trucks.

Director Brown said 60 days will be pick up and 60 days will be removal from the FDOT staging sites.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There was no comments or concerns expressed at this time.


ADJOURN

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 4:51 PM. Commissioner Osteen 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 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.