

Emergency Meeting

Emergency Operations Center
17600 Hwy 19, Cross City, FL 32628
September 26, 2022 – 10:00 AM

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, via telephone
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman
James Valentine, District 5

STAFF

Duane Cannon, County Manager
Paul Gainey, Asst. County Manager
Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator
Chana Watson, County Attorney
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk
Jacki Johnson, Chief Financial Officer
Brenda Royal, Chief Financial Officer

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting/Workshop was called to order at 10:00 AM 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 Mills.

Emergency Management Chief Scott Garner briefed the Board and others on the latest information for Hurricane Ian. He said as of 8:00 AM this morning, Hurricane Ian is moving forward at 14 MPH with winds of 75 MPH. He said within the next 12-24 hours it will be a category four (4) hurricane once it enters the gulf. He said storm surge will affect our area and will be high. He said that currently, Dixie County has an 80 percent chance of tropical storm force winds. He said that as the storm approaches the probability of wind speed increases. He said the county will possibly feel the effects of the storm early Wednesday morning and through the evening. He reminded everyone that Hermine and Irma were both strong tropical storms. He said that the rain will soften the soil and the tree roots will turn loose with the wind. He projected several trees to fall during this time.

Chief Garner pointed out to everyone that they may see some conflicting information because Levy County gets their weather information from Ruskin and that Dixie County gets their information from Tallahassee Weather and the National Hurricane Center.

Chief Garner informed everyone that the storm is currently 210 miles across from the eye to the outside edge and is growing. He said that when the storm is off the coast of Tampa that Jacksonville will feel the tropical storm force winds. He said this storm is larger than Hermine which caused a lot of debris in the canals of our coastal communities. He said the predictions are for six to eight inches of rainfall from this storm.

Chief Garner requested the Board's approval of Resolution 2022-149 for a local State of Emergency.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-149. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if the cold weather would affect the storm.

Chief Garner replied the cold weather is not strong enough to affect the storm.

Commissioner Hatch asked, via telephone, if the community of Suwannee has been notified.

Chief Garner replied yes.

Chief Garner informed everyone that the state of Florida has implemented a warning system which will notify people within a certain zip code of the dangers by alerting their cell phone. He said they have also spoken with the Weather Channel and TV 20 news.

Mr. Jamie King asked about re-entry permits.
Chief Garner said they do not have these.

Road Superintendent Steve Hutchison stated that sandbags are available.

Chief Garner said they will be talking with School Administration about opening shelters. He said they may open shelters Wednesday in Dixie County. He said the Special Needs Shelter will be in Gilchrist County.

Chief Garner said they have another conference call scheduled at 10:30 AM with the state and 11:15 AM with other state agencies. He said they have two briefings per day, one at 11:15 AM and the other at 5:15 PM and he invited all to attend.

Chief Garner requested the Board approve the County Manager making the decision to close county offices based on recommendations from Emergency Management staff.

Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the County Manager making the decision to close county offices based on recommendations from Emergency Management staff. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Chief Garner said the Sheriff's Office tower will be lowered and closed at the County Jail and a mobile facility will be set up.

Chief Garner said emergency vehicles will not respond to calls if the wind speed is 45 MPH. He said they are also looking at staffing the local shelter with a Physician's Assistant.

District (3) Senator Lorraine Ausley was present from Tallahassee and offered her support and assistance to Dixie County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no questions or comments from the public at this time.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 10:20 AM. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

Jamie Storey

Jamie Storey, Chairman

Barbie Higginbotham
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.