

Emergency Meeting

Emergency Operations Center
17600 SE Hwy 19, Cross City, FL 32628
August 27, 2023 – 1:00 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
Daniel Wood, District 2
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
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk
Della J. Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk
Brenda Royal, Chief Financial Officer

CALL TO ORDER

The Emergency Meeting was called to order at 1:00 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 Stephenson.

Emergency Management Chief Scott Garner appeared before the Board and informed them that the meeting was originally planned for the Tropical Depression that was approaching in the Gulf of Mexico. He said this has been upgraded to Tropical Storm Idalia as of 11:00 AM today. He said the projected storm models show the storm making landfall between Steinhatchee and the Aucilla River. He said, in comparison, Hermine brought in six (6) to nine (9) feet of storm surge in 2016 which was six (6) inches less than the 1993 Storm of the Century. The National Weather Service predicts a possibility of Category 1 or Category 2 storm surge with 95 MPH winds and five (5) to seven (7) inches of rainfall. He said the storm surge could be six (6) to nine (9) feet above ground for Suwanee, Horseshoe and Jena.

Chief Garner requested them to approve **RESOLUTION 2023-91** in support of the Emergency Declaration for Tropical Storm Idalia from August 27, 2023 through September 03, 2023.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve RESOLUTION 2023-91 in support of the Emergency Declaration for Tropical Storm Idalia from August 27, 2023 through September 03, 2023. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Chief Garner opened the floor for questions from the audience.

Commissioner Hatch asked when will the storm be in our area.

Chief Garner replied Tuesday evening we will start feeling the effects of the storm with landfall around midday on Wednesday. He said the storm is stationary at the moment. He said after the meeting they will be looking at evacuation policy and will speak with the Red Cross at 2:00 PM to open shelters. They will also have to coordinate shelters with the School Board. He said the Special Needs Shelter is in Gilchrist County. He said they will have more information for the public this evening and will begin to open shelters tomorrow.

County Manager Duane Cannon asked about Tropical Storm Warnings for our area.

Chief Garner replied by 5:00 PM today our area will be under Tropical Storm Watch and Warnings. He said the next weather update is 5:00 PM. He said by tomorrow at 11:00 AM we will be under Hurricane Watch and Warnings.

Manager Cannon asked if another Board meeting will be necessary.

Chief Garner replied no.

Manager Cannon asked about closing county offices on Wednesday.

Chief Garner appeared before the Board and requested the County Manager be allowed to determine when to close County offices and facilities due to the storm.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to allow the County Manager to determine when to close County offices and facilities due to the storm. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Chief Garner said the Road Department will be working with Cross City Correctional Facility to dispense sandbags tomorrow morning.

Chief Garner informed the Board that the supply of sandbags is low, and they are very expensive. He said a filling station will be set up for able bodied persons to fill their own sandbags. He said that 10 bags are usually sufficient.

County Road Superintendent Steve Hutchison said, last year, they had allowed up to a limit of 50 sandbags.

Commissioner Hatch asked about future updates on the storm.

Chief Garner replied the EOC staff will attend meetings at 11:15 AM, 2:30 PM, 3:00 PM and 5:15 PM today. He said they will meet with Tallahassee Weather at 9:30 AM tomorrow. He said the Board is welcome to attend a non-official meeting at the EOC tomorrow at 3:00 PM for more information on the storm.

Chief Garner requested everyone use **Form 214** for their emergency documentation this year. He said that the School Board, the Town of Horseshoe and the Town of Cross City will submit their own paperwork.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about rainfall and storm surge. Chief Garner replied five (5) to seven (7) inches of rainfall and the storm surge will come in at high tide.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There was nothing discussed at this time.

ADJOURN


Commissioner Osteen made the motion to adjourn at 1:20 PM. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. 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.