

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY MEETING
HURRICANE MICHAEL – COUNTY STATUS UPDATE
OCTOBER 14, 2018**

PRESENT AND ACTING:

**DANNY RAY WISE, CHAIRMAN
GENE BAILEY, VICE-CHAIRMAN
DARRELL MCDUGALD
DENNIS JONES**

CARLA A. HAND, CLERK OF COURT AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER

Chairman Wise called the Emergency Board meeting held in the Office of the Clerk of Court to order at 5:00 p.m., CT.

Clerk Hand stated the Courthouse is set to reopen tomorrow, but it is unsure of what services would be able to be provided. Clerk Hand stated the courts are closed through October 19, so her court employees would be able to help in the EOC. Clerk Hand stated she asked her employees not to take any shifts in the EOC past 6:00 tonight so they could rest before work in the morning, which leaves the EOC short staffed, and volunteers and a volunteer coordinator is needed. Commissioner Bailey asked what staff is mandatorily needed in the EOC currently. Clerk Hand stated she is not sure; her staff was only filling in where they could. There was further discussion about staffing in the EOC and reopening the Courthouse. Commissioner Bailey asked if employees could be hired to work in the EOC and Emergency Management Office, and other areas in the county, and charge these costs to FEMA for reimbursement, instead of asking for volunteers. Ms. Kristy Terry stated Career Source Chipola has a program where they can potentially hire people who are out of work because of the storm who could fill needed jobs. Ms. Terry stated (at this time) it would be up to the Board to handle the administration of these positions. Ms. Terry stated Career Source Chipola is looking for someone who could hire these people for the County and she could have a contract to the County by Monday afternoon if this were something they were interested in, but if the County is not interested in handling the administration it would take some time to find an outside entity to process the payroll. Clerk Hand stated with the workload Human Resources and Finance already have, they would have a difficult time handling the administration. Ms. Terry stated her suggestion would be to get a couple of the library employees to help at the distribution center and a couple to fill in downstairs while Career Source Chipola looks for an outside entity to handle the administration of hiring temporary employees to help out where needed. There was further discussion about donations and distribution. Clerk Hand stated more space for donations would be needed. Ms. Terry stated the agriculture park arena has been discussed, but it is not enclosed. Commissioner Bailey asked about the old Piggly Wiggly grocery store building. Ms. Terry stated she is unsure how much the building has been cleaned out since they moved. Clerk Hand asked about the building being donated to the County by Neal Land and Timber. Ms. Terry stated these suggestions are helpful and they could get started on looking for another storage area tomorrow. Commissioner Bailey stated the number of employees needed in Emergency Management would need to be determined. Chairman Wise asked Ms. Maupin how many employees she could place in Emergency Management. Ms. Maupin stated she could place two (2) employees in Emergency Management and she has some employees she could send to the distribution center. Chairman Wise asked Mr. Johnson if one (1) person in Emergency Management would be sufficient. Mr. Johnson stated at least two (2) people are needed

in case someone needs to go between the EOC and the Emergency Management Office. Commissioner Bailey stated someone would be needed in the Emergency Management Office 24/7 to answer phones. Ms. Maupin stated she would work with the Board however needed to staff Emergency Management and the distribution center. Clerk Hand stated she would have some court staff who could help for a couple days until the courts are open. There was further discussion about staffing needs. Chairman Wise asked if schoolteachers are being paid during this time when school is out, or if they were in need of work. Clerk Hand stated she has asked Superintendent Yoder this question, and he said he would know more after a meeting tomorrow. There was further discussion about distribution to PODs (Points of Distribution). Chairman Wise stated someone needs to make sure hygiene supplies are distributed as quickly as possible to the POD sites. Commissioner Bailey stated the County would need to contact Career Source Chipola to figure out how to hire people to handle these duties. Chairman Wise stated there would be many people in the school system who would probably be able to help. Ms. Carla Peacock stated others in the community have already contacted her who are looking for work. Clerk Hand stated if the County hires more people to work, she would need an extra person in her office to handle the increased workload on the finance department. Ms. Kathy Stewart stated that in order for this to function properly Career Source Chipola should find an outside contractor who has the experience to handle these employees. Ms. Kristy Terry stated she would speak with Career Source Chipola and let them know the County does not have the capacity to handle hiring anyone at this time, and see if they could find an outside entity who could handle this for the County. There was further discussion about hiring employees and volunteers within the County.

- ❖ Commissioner Bailey made a motion to have Career Source Chipola draft a contract between the County and an employee leasing company to hire employees. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

There was further discussion about road clean-up efforts. Mr. Edenfield stated there are about forty (40) clean-up crews clearing roads and hopefully in about 3 days all roads will be passable. Mr. Edenfield stated debris sites and removal is something the County cannot handle financially, and hopefully the State would agree to handle this. Commissioner McDougald stated the County is still waiting to hear back from the State regarding debris sites and removal. There was further discussion about debris removal.

Clerk Hand stated the County is facing monetary hardships. Clerk Hand stated most stores are closed, and the County is not collecting sales tax or fuel tax currently, so revenues would be decreased this year. Clerk Hand stated there is a chance ad valorem taxes would not be collected timely as well. Clerk Hand stated the County really needs the State to pick up debris sites and removal because FEMA reimbursements are hard to receive timely, and the County does not have the money to front for debris removal. Clerk Hand stated the County would need to work hard to get the State to pick up these costs. There was further discussion about debris sites and removal. Commissioner Jones voiced concerns for his district for tree removal from citizen's personal property. Commissioner Jones stated many people would not have the means to pay someone to remove trees from their property to the State right of way for removal. Ms. Carla Peacock stated FEMA has a program for tree removal people could sign up for to get assistance. Commissioner Bailey stated there is also something called right of entry that could be declared by the State where debris removal could occur on private property. There was further discussion about tree removal from personal property.

Ms. Sharon Chason stated she would need an emergency Board meeting sometime tomorrow to discuss elections. Ms. Chason stated she would be on a conference call with the Secretary of State tomorrow sometime to get further information on how to proceed with the upcoming election. Ms. Chason stated

decisions would need to be made quickly and circulated throughout the County to the citizens. There was further discussion about elections. Ms. Chason stated she is unsure what time the emergency meeting would need to be held, but it would most likely need to be in the afternoon.

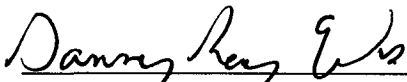
Ms. Carla Peacock stated the tax roll was certified on Tuesday and sent to the Tax Collector's Office. Ms. Peacock stated they reported to Emergency Management the number of houses in the County, and would have to go out and conduct damage assessment on all homes in the County. There was further discussion about damage assessment. Ms. Peacock stated her staff would be back at work tomorrow.

Commissioner Jones asked Mr. Johnson what shower locations are open for citizens. Mr. Johnson stated the only open showers currently are at Blountstown High School until additional shower points can be opened. Commissioner Jones stated this would need to be worked on as soon as possible. Ms. Maupin stated there are two (2) showers at Mossy Pond, and portable showers have been constructed behind the library. Ms. Maupin stated they have portable bathrooms and portable showers being delivered in a couple days. There was further discussion about showers.

Chairman Wise stated he is hoping, while they are in the County, that the National Guard could staff the POD sites instead of the county looking for people to run the sites. Mr. Johnson stated POD sites are located at Sam Atkins Park, Mossy Pond Library, Altha Town Hall, and Magnolia Square. Mr. Johnson stated the POD sites are open from sun up to sun down. Mr. Johnson stated effective this evening, the POD site at Magnolia Square would be relocated to Scotts Ferry to support the volunteer operations in that area. Mr. Johnson stated a POD site would also be opened at Kinard Volunteer Fire Department. Chairman Wise asked if the National Guard would be able to staff these sites. Mr. Johnson stated the National Guard is currently posted at Sam Atkins Park and Mossy Pond, and the Red Cross is staffing Blountstown High School and working to go to Mossy Pond. Mr. Johnson stated National Guard has also been staffing the POD site at Magnolia Square, and those operations would be moved to Scotts Ferry. There was further discussion about POD sites.

Ms. Sharon Chason stated she got further information about her conference call scheduled with the Secretary of State tomorrow, and suggested the Board schedule the Emergency Meeting for tomorrow at 3:00. There was further discussion about elections. There was consensus to hold an Emergency Meeting at 3:00 on Monday, October 15 in the Supervisor of Elections Office.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.


DANNY RAY WISE, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


CARLA A. HAND, CLERK

Calhoun County Commissioners Meeting – October 14, 2018