

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BOCC WORKSHOP MINUTES - HHRP
OCTOBER 15, 2019**

PRESENT AND ACTING:

**GENE BAILEY, CHAIRMAN
SCOTT MONLYN, VICE CHAIRMAN
EARL HUNT
JERAL HALL
DANNY RAY WISE**

**DEBBIE SHELTON, CLERK ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
KATHY STEWART, CLERK FINANCE MANAGER**

Chairman Bailey called the workshop (held in the Board Meeting room) to order at 4:00pm.

Chairman Bailey began the meeting with the discussion of the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP). Chairman Bailey read the advertisement that will appear in the local paper, The County Record, concerning the HHRP application process beginning October 16, 2019. Chairman Bailey stated the County has received \$2,923,000 of the \$5,135,000 that has been allotted for Calhoun County.

Commissioner Wise stated he would like the staff to spend time with the applicants explaining the checklist and application acceptance dates.

Commissioner Hunt stated he looks for the office to be very busy with applicants.

Commissioner Monlyn stated communication is most important with the staff being professional and helpful to the residents of the County.

Commissioner Wise stated there is a need for our staff to go to the homes of residents who are disabled. Commissioner Hunt stated there is not enough staff to accommodate this need.

Commissioner Monlyn agreed with Commissioner Wise. Commissioner Wise stated additional staff could be hired to meet this need and Chairman Bailey stated this will be further discussed later in the meeting. Chairman Bailey stated mitigating circumstances that would require a home visit should be handled by the Commissioners.

Chairman Bailey stated any questions the staff cannot answer for the residents should be referred to a Commissioner.

Chairman Bailey referred the Commissioners to the HHRP booklet before them.

Purchase Assistance

Chairman Bailey read the summary of this strategy which is to assist income-eligible first-time home homebuyers with a deferred payment loan and informed Mr. Newsome and Ms. Kelley to give each Commissioner the income criteria for each of the income categories.

Commissioner Hunt asked what happens after a loan is made and the resident cannot make the payments. Chairman Bailey stated the resident would lose the house to whomever made the loan (foreclosure).

Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation

Chairman Bailey stated this strategy is what we have been doing with our State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP). Chairman Bailey stated there has been a cap of \$29,000 and this has now been increased to a \$60,000 to rehabilitate a home.

Demolition/Reconstruction

Chairman Bailey stated this strategy is replacing a mobile home with a new mobile home. Chairman Bailey stated the old mobile home must be removed at the time of the new home being delivered and this is to be included in the contract with the mobile home company. This strategy only covers single wide mobile homes. Ms. Kelly asked if a down payment would be required with this strategy. Chairman Bailey stated there is no down payment required. There was further discussion.

Foreclosure Prevention/Mortgage Assistance

Chairman Bailey stated this is a strategy the County has never been involved with before but due to the hurricane this strategy has been adopted. This strategy is designed to assist applicants who are delinquent in their mortgage payments.

Land Acquisition and Construction

Chairman Bailey stated this strategy is designed to facilitate the acquisition of vacant land to build a new home. Chairman Bailey stated 60% of this money must go to low and very low income families and 20% to special needs families. Chairman Bailey stated the main objective of this strategy is to relocate houses that are in the flood zone. There was further discussion.

Chairman Bailey referred the Commissioners to the last page of the booklet with the estimated budgets in each strategy. Chairman Bailey stated these are only estimates and the money can be moved to different strategies as needed.

Chairman Bailey stated he attended a meeting with Senator Montford, Representative Moskowitz and Mr. Michael Hammond, Gulf County, County Manager. This meeting was concerning a \$25 million Special Appropriation funded by the Florida Legislature for projects that support hurricane repair and recovery related to Hurricane Michael. The Hurricane Michael State Recovery Grant Program includes funding for county revenue loss, county operating deficits, infrastructure repair and or replacement and debris removal. Chairman Bailey stated the application requesting funding for Calhoun County has been completed and signed.

Chairman Bailey turned the floor over to Ms. Ranew to explain the programs the County applied for in the application.

Ms. Ranew stated there are six (6) items included in the grant application within these categories totaling \$3,087,647.26. These items are as follows:

- 1) Ad valorem tax loss \$215,917.00
- 2) Operations replacement \$591,312.96
- 3) Roadway repairs \$570,081.27
- 4) Mossy Pond Volunteer Fire Department \$752,065.67
- 5) Search and Rescue \$368,292.36
- 6) Sheriff Administration Building \$589,978.00

Ms. Ranew stated there is no timeline as to when the funding requests will be awarded. There was further discussion.

Chairman Bailey stated he asked for funding for debris clean-up on the Chipola River from the Environmental Protection Agency. Chairman Bailey also requested from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding to build a storm shelter.

Chairman Bailey stated the remainder of the HHRP funding is forthcoming. They are making the rules in February and it may take six (6) months to a year for the Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG) money to be available for funding. Chairman Bailey stated the Sheriff has been encouraged to apply for funding for a new jail.

Chairman Bailey stated there are several grants that are available including a \$150 million Rural Housing Facility Grant and a \$112 million Affordable Housing Grant (Low Income with Disabilities).

Ms. Ranew stated the Legislative Funding Requests are due November 1, 2019 and several of the programs require matching funds. Chairman Bailey has asked the Department of Economic Opportunity to allow our County to take \$100 million of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to use as our match for the Hurricane Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

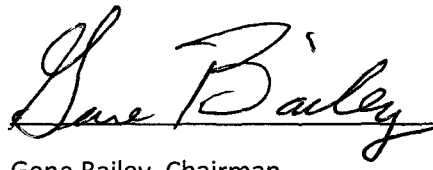
Ms. Ranew asked the Board to get with her for any projects the Commissioners would like to request funding. Chairman Bailey stated the County would request for debris removal and road repair funding.

Chairman Bailey stated now is the time to think about building an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Commissioner Wise mentioned the property behind the Courthouse to build a jail and an EOC. There was further discussion.

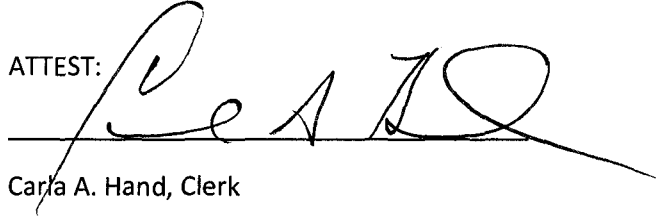
Chairman Bailey stated the County is applying for a Rural Infrastructure Grant to extend water and sewer service to the Shelton Trucking location on Highway 20 West (formerly Mowery Elevator).

Chairman Bailey stated there are five (5) employment positions available in the Road Department; these are temporary positions employed and funded through the National Dislocated Worker Grant and administered by Career Source Chipola.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.


Gene Bailey, Chairman

ATTEST:


Carla A. Hand, Clerk