

Nassau County of County Commissioners
Special Session, September 8, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
Commission Chambers, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida

Call to Order.

Commissioners:

Present: Chairman Daniel B. Leeper, Commissioners George Spicer, Justin Taylor, and Pat Edwards.

Absent: Commissioner Steve W. Kelley.

Other Official Present: Michael S. Mullin, County Attorney; and Shanea Jones, County Manager.

Staff Present: Justin Stankiewicz, Office of Management and Budget; Scott Herring, Public Works Director; Taco Pope, Department of Planning and Economic Opportunity Director; and representing the Clerk's office Brenda Linville, Deputy Clerk.

Purpose: Update on Hurricane Irma and discussion of other items related to Hurricane Irma requiring Board action.

Audience Input:

None.

EXPANSION ITEM(S) :

SS170908 - 9:03:26 Address the following: (1) September 11, 2017 agenda and receive dates for continuance; (2) Read into the record the Department of Revenue opinion, following the Governor's Executive Order; and (3) Notices to be posted at the James S. Page Governmental Complex related to financial items on the September 11, 2017 agenda.

Motion: Expand the meeting to consider three (3) items as stated above.

Maker: Commissioner Edwards

Second: Commissioner Taylor

Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Edwards, Spicer and Taylor

Follow up: County Attorney

RS170828 - 8:18:58 Expansion Item #1: Address the (1) September 11, 2017 agenda and receive dates for continuance; (2) Read into the record the Department of Revenue opinion, following the Governor's Executive Order; and (3) Notices to be posted at the James S. Page Governmental Complex related to financial items on the September 11, 2017 agenda.

Discussion: Mr. Mullin distributed for the Board's review a letter from the Department of Revenue dated September 6, 2017; September 11, 2017 draft agenda; Emergency Order implementing Provisions of Executive Order No. 17-235 (Re: Hurricane Irma; and Notice of Cancellation of Board of County Commissioners Meeting. He commented that some of the items on the September 11, 2017 agenda are budgetary matters and he suggested that the Board continue the financial matters to the September 25, 2017 meeting and the non-financial matters be continued to September 18, 2017. Mr. Mullin addressed the notice of cancellation of Board of County Commissioners meeting. He commented that the Department of Revenue opinion issued subsequently to the Governor's Executive Order is pursuant to Hurricane Irma as it relates to the notice of cancellation.

Motion: Continue the regular meeting on September 11, 2017 to September 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. for non-financial matters and September 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. for financial matters.

Maker: Commissioner Spicer

Second: Commissioner Edwards

Action: Aye: Commissioners Spicer, Taylor, Edwards, and Chairman Leeper

Absent: Commissioner Kelley

Follow up: Public Works, County Attorney, County Manager, Public Works Director, Facilities Maintenance, Solid Waste, OMB, Finance

Discussion: Mr. Mullin read for the record the State of Florida, Office of the Governor, Executive Order Number 17-235 regarding Hurricane Irma.

Mr. Mullin commented that the executive order did not address Non-Ad Valorem Assessments. It is the opinion of all the County Attorneys statewide and outside counsel that it was an oversight by the Department of Revenue; therefore the County is treating the SAISS Assessment as if it is

under the control of the Department of Revenue opinion. Mr. Mullin reiterated that staff will post the appropriate notice of cancellation at the entrance of the Commission Chambers and also on the door on the west side of the building.

SS170908 - 9:09:20

Discussion: Billy Estep, Emergency Management Director, came forward to provide an update on Hurricane Irma. He addressed the Weather Service's briefing regarding the new forecast track for Hurricane Irma. Mr. Estep responded to an inquiry regarding the County's level of activation.

The group discussed scheduled conference calls; hauling debris containers off the island; closing of stores and restaurants in anticipation of Hurricane Irma, closing of the bridges; re-entry passes; and turning off power on the island.

Mr. Estep briefly addressed the location of the shelters.

Gil Langley, Tourist Development Council (TDC) Director, came forward to provide an update on the TDC as it relates to Hurricane Irma.

Mr. Estep responded to an inquiry from Julia Allen stating that if citizens do not adhere to the mandatory evacuation, the County does not physically have the resources to enforce it; however, there will not be any emergency services, hospital, water, or electricity to help them. Ms. Jones to provide Ms. Allen with a map of the flood zones.

Mike Hays, Nassau County Council on Aging (COA), came forward to request that the County or the appropriate entity indemnify the COA against losses, damages, or liability which might be incurred while their vehicles are being operated by the school system to help with evacuations. Mr. Mullin commented that it would be a pledge of ad-valorem funds and, legally, the County is not allowed to indemnify anyone. Upon an inquiry from the County Manager, Mr. Mullin suggested contacting the County's Risk Management Department to research if the COA can be included under the County's policy.

Chairman Leeper recognized Sheriff Bill Leeper in the audience.

Ms. Jones commented that staff has determined all the positions for the Emergency Management Operations and also the schedule. She advised that all the Constitutional Offices are closed today and that the County offices would be closed Monday, September 11, 2017 and Tuesday, September 12, 2017. After the storm, staff will determine if the County offices can re-open on Wednesday, September 13, 2017.

Ms. Jones commented that the City of Fernandina Beach would be getting a survey of their section of the beach, along with pricing to include the county beach in order to have documentation pre-storm landfill.

Ms. Jones advised that staff is working on Notices to Proceed to have debris contractors ready, in order for them to be on notice within twenty-four hours of the passing of the storm to begin clearing roads. She noted that the Landfill, Fernandina Beach Library, and the Bryceville Library will be closed on Saturday, September 9, 2017. Mr. Herring responded to an inquiry that staff is in the process of preparing a notice for the closing of the Landfill.

Mr. Estep responded to an inquiry that in the State of Florida the decision has been made to abandon the counter flow concept, because of the logistical aspects; however, the State of Florida has opted to go to a ramp, exit lane, emergency lane type of concept to develop three lanes of traffic. Discussion followed regarding I-75 southbound lanes opened to northbound traffic and a request to the Florida Department of Transportation to have a representative in the Emergency Operations Center.

There being no further business, the special session of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Daniel B. Leeper, Chairman

Attest:

John A. Crawford, Ex-Officio Clerk