

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2017**

**PRESENT AND ACTING:**

**DANNY RAY WISE, CHAIRMAN  
GENE BAILEY, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
DARRELL MCDUGALD  
JERAL HALL**

**CARLA HAND, CLERK OF COURT AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER  
ANGIE SMITH, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR  
SARAH WILLIAMS, CLERK ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

The emergency meeting was called to order by Chairman Wise at 8:05 a.m., CT.

Ms. Smith advised the Board to declare a Local State of Emergency due to the potential impacts from Hurricane Irma.

- ❖ Commissioner McDougald made a motion to declare a Local State of Emergency. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Ms. Smith asked if the Board had any other recommendations, and if they had any reservations about a shelter being opened on Sunday at Blountstown High School at 1:00 pm. Ms. Smith stated she would announce the opening of the shelter Sunday morning due to the fact that people from Bay County and Gulf County may be evacuating before then, and space will be limited at the shelter. Ms. Smith stated Red Cross is stretched thin between Texas and South Florida, so they would only be able to staff one shelter location. Commissioner McDougald asked if Ms. Smith thought there would be many people evacuating from the coastal areas. Ms. Smith stated with the potential for storm surge, there could be an impact on the coast especially if the storm shifts further west. There was further discussion about a shelter.

Chairman Wise inquired about sand bags for the County. Mr. Clifford Edenfield, Road Superintendent, stated they have about 250 sand bags made currently and have been giving them out as needed. Mr. Edenfield stated they would plan to make more on Monday if needed.

Ms. Smith stated our area may only be brushed by this storm, but the preparations we make now are going to help prepare us if another storm comes after Hurricane Irma. Ms. Smith stated the season is just starting to peak, more storms could be forming and affecting our area through October.

Commissioner Bailey asked Ms. Smith what her staffing hours would be over the weekend. Ms. Smith stated she would be answering phones Saturday and Sunday morning at 7 a.m. have 24-hour operations through Monday evening, as conditions are expected to improve by Monday evening. Ms. Smith stated her office would rotate working twelve (12) hour shifts during this time. Ms. Smith stated if the weather

changes they would be ready to revise their plan as needed. There was further discussion about the weather conditions.

Ms. Smith stated Duke Energy contacted her to inquire if they could stage five (5) or six (6) bucket trucks at Sam Atkins Park, and she has given them permission to do this. Ms. Smith stated they want to be out of the path of the storm but close enough to help with power outages.

There was further discussion about Hurricane Irma.

Ms. Smith stated Emergency Management would be having conference calls throughout the day today with the State for updates.

Commissioner Bailey asked if Ms. Smith would be using social media to keep the public informed of updates. Ms. Smith stated the County does not have a facebook or twitter account, but she would be giving updates to News Channel 7 and 13, and also the local radio station.

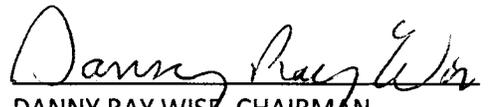
There was further discussion about shelter locations.

Ms. Carrie Baker inquired about a list for people locally with special needs and how they know where the special needs shelter is located. Ms. Smith stated there is a state database for those who are oxygen dependent, dialysis dependent, or have other life threatening issues. Ms. Smith stated anyone who is hearing impaired, eyesight impaired, or mobility impaired would be placed in a general population shelter because these conditions are not considered special needs. Ms. Rachel Bryant stated the Health Department went through the list and called everyone who is on the list locally and informed them they would need to go to the special needs shelter in Jackson County in the case they need shelter. There was further discussion about special needs shelters. Ms. Baker asked if there is a loss of power, how would people get updates on the weather conditions. Ms. Smith stated in those instances Emergency Management relies on the Alert Calhoun system to send out updates on land lines, cell phones, and e-mail. Ms. Smith stated in her Public Service Announcement on the radio this week she encouraged all citizens to sign up for the alert system so they could get notifications if power is lost.

There was further discussion about Hurricane Irma.

Commissioner Bailey asked if the special needs citizens of the County have transportation to the special needs shelter if needed. Ms. Bryant stated if they do not have transportation, the Health Department refers them to the Senior Citizen's Center or to Emergency Management. Ms. Smith stated there are coordinated efforts to get these citizens where they need to go, they will not be left without transportation. There was further discussion about transportation and shelters.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 a.m., CT.

  
DANNY RAY WISE, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

  
CARLA A. HAND, CLERK