

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2018**

PRESENT AND ACTING:

**DANNY RAY WISE, CHAIRMAN
GENE BAILEY, VICE-CHAIRMAN
DARRELL MCDOUGALD**

**CARLA A. HAND, CLERK OF COURT AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER
SARAH WILLIAMS, CLERK ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Chairman Wise called the Emergency Board meeting held in the Clerk of Court Office to order at 1:15p.m., CT.

Mr. Adam Johnson, Interim Emergency Management Director, provided the Board with a situational update. Mr. Johnson stated they have requested many resources for the County, and are continuing to make requests. Mr. Johnson stated temporary housing for displaced residents is a high priority, and mission requests have been submitted. Mr. Johnson stated he would get mission numbers to the Commissioners when they are received. Mr. Johnson stated every morning at 7:00 and every evening at 6:00 there is a briefing in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and strongly urged all Commissioners to attend. Mr. Johnson expressed gratitude to everyone who has come to help the County in this time of crisis. Mr. Johnson stated he would continue to give information throughout the day, and provide information at any other Board meetings held in between. Commissioner Bailey asked Mr. Johnson if he had an idea of how many FEMA trailers would be needed. Chairman Wise stated he requested for Mr. Johnson to request at least 1,000 trailers. Mr. Johnson stated he has also requested a representative from FEMA to attend these meetings as they are in the County currently at the POD (point of distribution) sites, but since they arrived, he has not received a report from them. Mr. Johnson stated they are wrapping up the initial search and recovery phase, but there are still a lot of roads that have not been cleared. Mr. Edenfield stated about 90% of the roads in the County have at least one (1) lane open, and are expecting all roads to be cleared in about three (3) days. Mr. Edenfield stated FDOT has about fifty-five (55) crews out clearing roads in the County as well. Mr. Edenfield stated the Road Department has received some minor calls about driveways being blocked, and they are taking care of these calls the best they can. Mr. Edenfield stated he would be sending a few people from his crew to find hidden roads throughout the County that are not used often, and making sure there are no houses down these roads and making sure they are open, and also reporting them to FDOT. Mr. Johnson stated a mobile pharmacy has been requested and ordered to be staged at the County Health Department. Mr. Johnson stated Calhoun Liberty Hospital has sent out mobile medical units throughout the community so citizens do not have to come all the way to the hospital with medical needs. EMS Chief Keith Maddox stated since USAR came to assist the County, EMS has been able to start scaling back and are not as overwhelmed as they were initially. Chief Maddox stated they are able to focus on the medical aspect more now, and have strike teams operating throughout the County. Chief Maddox stated these teams are staged throughout the County at Kinard, Mossy Pond, and have been rotated through other areas as well. There was further discussion about medical assistance for the County. Commissioner Bailey asked if there has been an increase in calls since the hurricane hit. Mr. Maddox stated the number of calls has significantly increased, and anticipate continuing to see an increase the longer electricity is off due to patients with COPD and diabetes needing more assistance, followed by a plateau after the next couple

of weeks. Chief Maddox stated Mr. Edenfield has been providing EMS assistance with mechanical issues and helping keep trucks operational and on the road. Chief Maddox stated there have been communications issues. Chief Maddox stated EMS and Fire Departments work on a separate system, but use the same tower, and have been working on how to mitigate their communications issue. Chief Maddox stated Sheriff Kimbrel was able to obtain space on the Clarksville tower, and forestry has also given space on their tower indefinitely for communications for free. Chief Maddox stated they have been able to establish temporary communications on the forestry tower, and brought up communications at dispatch in Blountstown. Chief Maddox stated there is an opportunity to merge the forestry tower in Bristol, the tower in Clarksville, and the Board of Directors for Gulf Coast Electric has given permission for permanent space at their tower to the south. Chief Maddox stated if these towers are merged via simulcast EMS and fire departments would have the ability to communicate very effectively digitally throughout the County. Mr. Maddox stated the cost to equip all ambulances and fire trucks with digital communication would be around \$160,000, but could possibly be requested in an emergency purchase order and would be eligible for reimbursement. Chief Maddox stated this would give the County a permanent solution to radio communications. There was further discussion about communications. Chief Maddox stated a 4-wheel drive emergency vehicle is much needed at EMS to be a command vehicle and to be an ALS (Advanced Life Support) unit that could respond and treat even if there is no ambulance available. Commissioner Bailey stated the County's budget is stretched thin. Chief Maddox stated the need for this vehicle is extreme. Chairman Wise stated he would make some calls to see if he could find a vehicle. Ms. Carla Peacock stated the Property Appraiser has a 4-wheel drive truck they are currently not able to use, and could lend EMS their truck if the Board were agreeable. Chief Maddox stated this would be greatly appreciated, but a permanent solution would still need to be looked into for the future. Commissioner Bailey stated a 4-wheel drive truck could be bought on state contract for around \$24,000 to \$26,000, but the truck EMS has expressed needing cost \$150,000. Chief Maddox stated they just need a crew cab, 4-wheel drive truck. The full quote for the ALS unit was high because of the equipment that would be installed but this equipment could be bought later, the vehicle itself is a need as of now. Commissioner McDougald stated EMS would have to get by with a loaned vehicle now, and the County could look into what they could do after things settle down from the storm. Chief Maddox asked if they should move forward with the emergency communications plan purchase order. Clerk Hand asked if this would be a County purchase order or a hospital purchase order. Chief Maddox stated it would be a County purchase order. Clerk Hand asked to hold off on the purchase order until more information could be gathered to be sure the amount would be reimbursable. There was further discussion about communications.

Mr. Johnson stated the State of Florida has agreed to take responsibility for debris removal and monitoring of debris removal, which was of great fiscal concern to the County. Mr. Johnson stated when he got the information in writing he would forward this to the Commissioners. Mr. Johnson stated a curfew is in effect from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Mr. Johnson stated they encourage everyone to use water sparingly for hygiene and cooking. Mr. Johnson stated a burn ban has been established while individual property clearing is critical and fires could spread quickly. Mr. Johnson stated the Chipola River is expected to crest on Tuesday afternoon just below major flood stage. Mr. Johnson stated the FEMA assistance number is 1-800-621-FEMA or disasterassistance.gov. Mr. Johnson stated bottled water and food are being provided at five (5) POD sites throughout the County at Sam Atkins Park, Mossy Pond Library, Altha Town Hall, Kinard Volunteer Fire Department, and Scotts Ferry Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner McDougald stated there is also a volunteer based POD at Ocheesee Park. Chairman Wise requested a list of mission numbers Mr. Johnson is having trouble receiving. Commissioner Bailey asked if ice has been delivered to all POD sites today. The National Guard delivered

ice today but it was in blocks, and ice picks were needed to chip the ice out. Mr. Johnson stated he would follow up on all requests.

Ms. Sharon Chason stated they have decided to keep the precincts the County originally had for elections. Ms. Chason asked the Board if they could use Kinard Volunteer Fire Department instead of the Kinard Community Center because of storm damages. Commissioner Bailey stated they would make sure there is a space to be used for elections in Kinard. Ms. Chason stated the Secretary of State came by her office with the Division of Elections this morning, and they are willing to accommodate in any way and help voters be able to vote. Ms. Chason stated email and faxed ballots would be allowed to be accepted, and would like for anyone working here from other areas to be informed they could request a ballot from their county from the Supervisor of Elections Office which could be emailed or faxed back to their county on their behalf. Ms. Chason stated they are looking into opening two (2), maybe three (3) mega vote centers five (5) days before early voting, and anyone would be allowed to drop off their vote by mail ballots at any location. There was further discussion about the mega vote centers and early voting. Commissioner McDougald asked if the sites have been selected. Ms. Chason stated she has not decided on any sites yet, and is open to suggestions. There was further discussion about mega voting site locations. Commissioner McDougald asked how information regarding these sites would be gotten out to the public. Ms. Chason stated they would put the information on Facebook and radio stations. Chairman Wise stated a mass text could be sent out to citizens as well. Mr. Johnson stated he could help get the word out as well. Ms. Rita Maupin stated the library uses "constant contact" and could send the information out by email. There was further discussion about elections.

Ms. Becky Smith, Tax Collector, stated the DMV (Division of Motor Vehicles) is willing to bring their mobile unit to perform services run by her office while her system is down, but the unit would need a generator in order to run. Ms. Smith stated there is nowhere at the Courthouse for the unit to set up, and asked if there would be any other government building the unit could set up. Ms. Smith stated Chairman Wise suggested West Side Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Edenfield stated he is unsure how much longer the generator at West Side would make it because it has been running at all times, and generators do not last long when ran for long periods of time. There was further discussion about a generator and the mobile unit. Mr. Edenfield stated they could make room at the Road Department for the mobile unit to be hooked up to their generator. Ms. Smith stated she would make some calls in the morning to find out when the mobile unit would be coming and how big the unit would be. Mr. Edenfield stated the Road Department would have room either way.

Clerk Hand stated the Clerk of Court system was disabled before the storm, and the connection with the Florida Clerk's Association in Tallahassee is still not working but the Consolidated Communications internet line is working. Clerk Hand stated she had to ask Mr. Jenks to turn on the air for the first floor due to the server rooms getting too hot.

Clerk Hand stated there are a few job openings that were advertised prior to the storm and the deadline has passed. Clerk Hand stated due to the chaos and confusion they would like to extend filing applications indefinitely at this time until the department heads are ready to accept applications.

- ❖ Commissioner McDougald made a motion to extend filing applications for the open positions. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Clerk Hand stated Ms. Rita Maupin has allowed Ms. Kelly Wyrick to work in the Emergency Management Office to be the help desk manager, and Mr. JK Newsome would be in charge of the distribution center as of this evening. Ms. Maupin stated Mr. Newsome has had a family emergency so he would not be at

the distribution center until tomorrow. Clerk Hand stated she got word from Ms. Lori Flowers that they are in need of more help at the POD site in Kinard, so she would be going there tomorrow. Clerk Hand stated Ms. Cassie Futch has been designated to be the volunteer coordinator. There was further discussion about volunteers coming into the County. Clerk Hand stated Ms. Kristy Terry has been doing an awesome job coordinating efforts, and would now be the communications manager for the County.

Ms. Kristy Terry stated the distribution centers are running well, and they are making sure supplies are being taken to each POD site. There was further discussion about POD sites. Ms. Terry stated there are several food trucks that have come in and are feeding the community, and several more would be coming as well. Ms. Terry stated a group in Tallahassee called Tally Moms would be coming to set up in Bristol, Blountstown, and Altha. Ms. Terry stated they would be bringing truckloads of pizza, and would be taking individual's laundry to wash and bring the laundry back two (2) days later with more pizza for clothes to be picked up. Ms. Terry stated Tide Loads of Joy would be coming as well in a couple weeks. Ms. Terry stated Bay County has stopped receiving physical donations, and Walton County, who is facilitating for Bay County, called and wanted to send the overflow of physical donations to Calhoun County. Ms. Terry stated she spoke with the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce Director, Sue Dick, and expressed to her concerns for the County's businesses. Ms. Terry stated local businesses are unsure what to do so she has requested guidance on how to help these businesses. Ms. Terry stated they have offered to help make assessments on businesses and help them open again or start up needed businesses. Ms. Terry stated she would be speaking with Ms. Dick again tomorrow for more information. There was further discussion about storage of donated goods.

Chairman Wise stated Senator Marco Rubio would be visiting the County tomorrow to meet with the Board of County Commissioners, Sheriff Kimbrel, and other key County personnel between 12:45 and 1:45. Chairman Wise asked where they would need to tell Senator Rubio to meet. There was consensus to meet in the Clerk of Court Office.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m., CT.


DANNY RAY WISE, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


CARLA A. HAND, CLERK