

September 13, 2017
Special Called Board Meeting
Emergency Operations Center
Live Oak, Florida

10:30 a.m.

The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners met on the above date and time for a special-called session and the following were present: Chairman Ricky Gamble; Commissioner Don Hale; and Commissioner Larry Sessions. Commissioner Clyde Fleming and Commissioner Ronnie Richardson were not present. Clerk of Court Barry A. Baker; Eric Musgrove, Deputy Clerk; and Randy Harris, County Administrator, were also present. James W. Prevatt, Jr., County Attorney, was not present.

Chairman Gamble called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss, with possible Board action, an extension of a local state of emergency as a result of damage sustained by Hurricane Irma.

Sheriff Sam St. John briefed the Board on the possible closing of Interstate I-75 due to flooding of the Santa Fe River. If the interstate was closed, traffic (including millions of Floridians returning home from evacuations) would be rerouted through Suwannee County. Further road closings would be possible over the next week due to rising floodwaters. Sheriff St. John noted that the Three Rivers Estates area was flooding and evacuations were underway.

Discussion ensued of alternate routes for the interstate and detour signs.

County Administrator Harris stated that the Public Works Department was working with Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative to clear power lines and restore power to residents.

Discussion ensued of deploying law enforcement to handle detours, evacuations, and other related requirements. Discussion also arose regarding ongoing fuel supply, cellular telephone, and landline telephone issues.

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Commissioner Sessions moved to extend the local state of emergency for Hurricane Irma for an additional seven days, beginning Thursday, September 14, at 9 a.m. Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (3-0). (Resolution No. 2017-63)

It was noted that most county roads were clear, but there were still stranded citizens.

Chairman Gamble noted that the final budget hearing, originally scheduled for September 19, could not be held because advertising requirements had not been met as a result of Hurricane Irma. However, the Department of Revenue had signed an Emergency Order allowing up to thirty days for tentative and final budget hearings as a result of the hurricane. Chairman Gamble noted that the Board could set the final budget hearing at a later date.

Mr. Ron Williams, Live Oak City Manager, was concerned with the influx of traffic from the interstate.

Further discussion continued on alternative routes for interstate traffic.

James Sommers, Public Safety Director, discussed emergency medical needs.

Commissioner Sessions moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

ATTEST:

_____, DC
BARRY A. BAKER
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

RICKY GAMBLE, CHAIRMAN
SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS