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BOARD MINUTES FOR 07/06/94

JULY 6, 1994

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 11:00 A. M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 711 THIRD STREET, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS CORBIN, MORRIS, TAYLOR, BROCK AND CARTER PRESENT. DEPUTY CLERK DIANNE CARTER AND ADMINISTRATOR ROGER HAGAN WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS CALLED THE EMERGENCY MEETING TO ORDER. HE STATED HE DECLARED AN EMERGENCY MEETING DUE TO THE AMOUNT OF RAINFALL WASHINGTON COUNTY IS PRESENTLY HAVING.

ADMINISTRATOR HAGAN UPDATED THOSE PRESENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FLOODING AREAS IN CARYVILLE AND ALONG THE CHOCTOWHATCHEE RIVER. HE STATED THAT HOLMES COUNTY HAD ALREADY DECLARED A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY. HAGAN RECOMMENDED THE BOARD ISSUE A CALL FOR VOLUNTARY EVACUATION FOR THE TOWN OF CARYVILLE AND THE LOW LYING AREAS AROUND THE CHOCTOWHATCHEE RIVER AND CREEK BANKS. HE STATED PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE VERNON AND CHIPLEY HIGHSCHOOLS TO BE OPEN FOR EVACUATION SHELTERS IF NECESSARY. HAGAN SAID BECAUSE OF FLASH FLOODING, THE PRESS NEEDED TO BE ASKED TO ADVISE THE PEOPLE TO STAY OFF OF ROADS.

HAGAN ALSO REMINDED THE BOARD OF THE ALLEGATION OF A SUIT AGAINST THE COUNTY FROM THE 1990 FLOOD BECAUSE OF THE CLAIM THERE WERE NO BARRICADES UP. HE URGED THE ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE SURE BARRICADES WERE IN PLACE WITH LIGHTS ON THEM AND TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE CHECKED ON.

LEON SEXTON, CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR, THEN BRIEFED THE BOARD ON THE FLOODING CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTY. HE STATED THE PREDICTION IS TO EXPECT NO LESS IN THIS FLOOD THAN THE FLOOD OF 1990. HE ASKED SHERIFF HASTY TO GET HIS PEOPLE TO NOTIFY PERSONS IN LOW LYING AREAS TO VOLUNTEER TO EVACUATE. HE STATED THE NEWS MEDIA WANTED TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE FLOOD CONDITIONS AND HE WOULD CONTACT CHANNEL 4 WHEN HE GETS A PREDICTION. HE SAID WASHINGTON COUNTY WAS IN A FLOOD WARNING NOW AND THAT HE AND SHERIFF HASTY WOULD BE WORKING ON GETTING PEOPLE OUT OF THE LOW LYING AREAS. HE ASKED THE SHERIFF AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO KEEP THEIR PEOPLE ON STANDBY, ESPECIALLY IN THE EBRO AND VERNON AREA.

SHERIFF HASTY ADVISED THE BOARD HE HAD ALERTED LT. RUSCHMEIER IN CARYVILLE AND HE AND OTHER OFFICERS ARE NOW WORKING IN THE LOW LYING AREAS STARTING NORTH OF CARYVILLE WORKING DOWN THE EDGE OF THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE RIVER ADVISING THEM OF THE POSSIBILITY OF EVACUATING DUE TO THE FLOODING. HE STATED HE HAD ALERTED HIS OFFICERS TO BE ON STANDBY AND THE NATIONAL GUARD HAS BEEN ALERTED ALSO TO BE ON STANDBY. HE STATED HE HAD TALKED TO KEVIN PARKER AND MEMBERS OF THE CHIPLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT ABOUT ASSISTANCE WITH BOATS, ETC. IN CASE THEY ARE NEEDED FOR EVACUATION PURPOSES. HE REQUESTED MARY ENFINGER, REPRESENTATIVE OF COUNCIL ON AGING, PROVIDE A LIST OF PERSONS OF THE ELDERLY THAT WILL NEED ASSISTANCE. HE SAID ANOTHER PROBLEM IS ESTABLISHING EVACUATION SHELTERS. KATHY FOSTER, WITH THE WASHINGTON POST, ADVISED THOSE PRESENT OF THE SHELTERS OPEN IN HOLMES COUNTY. ADMINISTRATOR HAGAN RECOMMENDED VERNON HIGH SCHOOL BE THE FIRST SHELTER OPENED. SEXTON QUESTIONED WHEN THE COUNTY WAS GOING TO OPEN UP THE SHELTERS. ADMINISTRATOR HAGAN SUGGESTED OPENING THEM WHEN THE MEETING WAS OVER. ADMINISTRATOR HAGAN SAID THE BOARD MAY WANT TO GO AHEAD AND MAKE IT A MANDATORY EVACUATION FOR PEOPLE IN CARYVILLE AND IN LOW LYING AREAS. HE ADDED THAT IF THE EVACUATION WAS PROLONGED, IT COULD ENDANGER THOSE EMERGENCY PERSONNEL WHO HAVE TO GO ASSIST WITH THE EVACUATIONS. SHERIFF HASTY AGREED WITH ADMINISTRATOR HAGAN AND FELT IT WAS TIME TO MOVE ON THE EVACUATIONS. COMMISSIONER CORBIN SUGGESTED THE POWER COMPANIES BE NOTIFIED.

ADMINISTRATOR HAGAN SAID THE BOARD NEEDED TO PASS A DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLORIDA STATUTE 252 DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO EXCESSIVE RAIN AND FLOODING. COMMISSIONER CORBIN OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARTER AND CARRIED TO PASS A DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLORIDA STATUTES 152 DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO EXCESSIVE RAIN AND FLOODING CAUSED FROM TROPICAL STORM ALBERTO.

ADMINISTRATOR HAGAN STATED WHEN ED PUCKETT ARRIVES, THE POWER COMPANIES, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, ETC., WILL NEED TO BE NOTIFIED AND REQUESTED THE CHAIRMAN CALL AN EMERGENCY MEETING WHERE THE PRESS CAN BE NOTIFIED OF THE FLOOD CONDITIONS. COMMISSIONER CORBIN SAID WHEN THE BOARD DECLARED A STATE OF LOCAL

EMERGENCY, THIS GAVE LEON SEXTON, THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR, AND THE SHERIFF THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HANDLE IT.

SEXTON SAID THE POWER COMPANIES SAID THEY WOULD DISCONNECT THE POWER FOR THOSE PERSONS WHO REQUEST DISCONNECTION.

AL CLEVELAND, HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, STATED AS FAR AS PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS IN THE COUNTY, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IS RESPONSIBLE. HE ADVISED THAT ON WATER FROM INDIVIDUAL WELLS, THERE WAS NOTHING THAT COULD BE DONE UNTIL THE WATER RECEDES. HE SAID HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD THEN ADVISE THE PEOPLE OF WHAT THEY NEEDED TO DO.

MARY ENFINGER OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISED THE BOARD THEY WERE PREPARED IF THEY HAD ELDERLY THAT WOULD NEED TO BE EVACUATED. SHE ALSO STATED THE COUNCIL ON AGING BUILDING WOULD BE OPEN FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

SEXTON SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO GET A PLAN OF ACTION FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS, HEALTH DEPARTMENT, COUNCIL ON AGING, SHERIFF HASTY, THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AND DAVID CORBIN.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS READ THE RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA. COMMISSIONER CORBIN OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND CARRIED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR WASHING- TON COUNTY DUE TO EXTENSIVE RAINFALL AND FLOODING FROM TROPICAL STORM ALBERTO. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN AT 11:43 A. M.

SEXTON ASKED THE BOARD TO WORK WITH PERSONS IN THEIR DISTRICTS.

GEORGE ROGERS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, STATED HE MIGHT HAVE TO RENT SOME BARRICADES. THE BOARD SUGGESTED HE GET BARRICADES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. ADMINISTRATOR HAGAN SAID THE BOARD MAY WANT TO LOOK AT RENTING BARRICADES BECAUSE WHOEVER YOU RENT THEM FROM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE ON THEM. HE ADDED THAT IF BARRICADES ARE BORROWED FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO KEEP UP WITH WHICH BARRICADES BELONG TO WHOM.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR ASKED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BE NOTIFIED BEFORE THE CLOSING OF ANY STATE ROADS.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN OFFERED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. SOMEONE QUESTIONED IF THE EVACUATION WAS VOLUNTARY OR MANDATORY FOR PERSONS IN THE CARYVILLE AREA. CHAIRMAN MORRIS STATED THOSE PERSONS WERE UNDER MANDATORY EVACUATION. COMMISSIONER BROCK SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPUTY CLERK

\*END OF MINUTES\* FOR 07/06/94