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BOARD MINUTES FOR 09/21/00

SEPTEMBER 21, 2000

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 2:00 P. M. WITH COMMISSIONERS CARTER, COPE, ENFINGER AND BROCK PRESENT. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PETER HERBERT AND DEPUTY CLERK CARTER WERE ALSO PRESENT.

CHAIRMAN CARTER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AND ADVISED THE MEETING WAS CALLED AT THE REQUEST OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR, ROGER HAGAN, DUE TO THE THREAT OF AN INCOMING STORM.

HAGAN ADVISED THE BOARD ON TROPICAL DEPRESSION 12 BEING UPGRADED TO TROPICAL STORM HELENE AND BRIEFED THEM ON THE WEATHER CONDITIONS WHICH WERE EXPECTED. HE RECOMMENDED THE BOARD ADOPT A RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY, ALLOW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE THAT CALLS FOR A VOLUNTARY EVACUATION FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN LOW LYING AREAS AND OTHERS WHO FEEL UNSAFE WHERE THEY ARE AND AUTHORIZE EOC TO WORK WITH THE RED CROSS AND SHELTER MANAGERS ON OPENING SHELTERS ON NECESSITY.

HAGAN ADVISED THE STATE EOC WOULD BE MAKING ANOTHER CALL AT 4:30 P.M. TO UPDATE ON TROPICAL STORM HELENE; BAY COUNTY, WASHINGTON COUNTY, HOLMES COUNTY AND WALTON COUNTY SCHOOLS WILL BE CLOSED ON SEPTEMBER 22ND. HAGAN REQUESTED THE COUNTY EOC BE ACTIVATED AT TOP LEVEL BEGINNING AT 6 P.M. TONIGHT. HAGAN READ THE RESOLUTION AND THE PRESS RELEASE HE WAS REQUESTING THE BOARD APPROVE. HE ALSO RECOMMENDED PUBLIC WORKS MAKE SURE BARRICADES AND GOOD SIGNAGE ARE UP WHERE CONSTRUCTION IS GOING ON.

COMMISSIONER COPE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENFINGER AND CARRIED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON WHETHER TO CLOSE THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES ON THE 22ND DUE TO THE WEATHER CONDITIONS EXPECTED FROM TROPICAL STORM HELENE. DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON WHETHER PUBLIC WORKS SHOULD HAVE EMPLOYEES ON STANDBY, GO AHEAD AND PUT A CREW TOGETHER IN CASE THEY ARE NEEDED, ETC. TO HANDLE SITUATIONS WHICH MAY OCCUR FROM WINDS, RAIN, ETC. FROM HELENE. COMMISSIONER COPE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENFINGER AND CARRIED TO LEAVE IT AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISORS TO HANDLE THE SITUATION.

THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS FOR IT TO BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS IF THEIR OFFICES ARE CLOSED ON THE 22ND.

COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK AND CARRIED TO WAIT UNTIL THE 4:30 ADVISORY FROM THE STATE EOC AND IF TROPICAL STORM HELENE IS GOING TO BE A HURRICANE OR IF THERE IS GOING TO BE HIGH WINDS, CLOSE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICES ON THE 22ND.

JERRY FARLEY ADVISED THE BOARD A MEETING WOULD BE HELD AT 3:00 P. M. IN PANAMA CITY TO MAKE A DECISION IF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES IN HOLMES AND WASHINGTON COUNTY WOULD BE CLOSED ON THE 22ND DUE TO HELENE.

WHEN QUESTIONED ON THE DESIGNATED SHELTERS, HAGAN ADVISED NO SHELTERS HAD BEEN DESIGNATED AT THIS TIME; HOWEVER, THE SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER IS THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING. OTHER POSSIBLE SHELTER SITES ADDRESSED WERE THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN CHIPLEY, THE AG CENTER AND ONE OF THE SCHOOLS.

COMMISSIONER COPE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENFINGER AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN. ATTEST:\_\_\_\_\_

DEPUTY CLERK  
\*END OF MINUTES\* FOR 09/21/00

CHAIRMAN