

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
OCTOBER 6, 2017
11:30 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Noah Lockley-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, William Massey, Ricky Jones

Others Present: Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

Mr. Moron stated this emergency meeting was called because of pending Tropical Storm Nate. He explained Mrs. Brownell will provide an update on the storm and then the Board can move forward with a motion to declare a local state of emergency. Mrs. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Director, reported the storm is around the Yucatan Peninsula but once it enters the Gulf of Mexico there is a possibility it could shift to the east. She asked the Board as a precautionary measure to declare a local state of emergency so the County is covered if the storm shifts. Mrs. Brownell explained the Governor has already declared a state of emergency for most of the counties. She reported if the storm stays on the same track, the County would be looking at a low percentage of tropical force winds on Saturday night into Sunday. Mrs. Brownell estimated there will also be a storm surge at high tide of 1-2 feet at St. George Island and 2-3 feet at Alligator Point. She said this information was provided to the public and the Board has a copy in their packet. She said the public has been advised to start moving items and securing boats. She reported this storm could become a hurricane when it gets in the Gulf of Mexico and if it shifts to the east then the County could see more affects. Commissioner Sanders asked Mrs. Brownell to keep the Commissioners updated about the storm. Mrs. Brownell explained a partial activation was considered but they will just monitor the storm unless it changes. Vice-Chairman Lockley inquired if everyone is on standby. Mrs. Brownell answered yes, and said Duke Energy contacted her and they are also on standby. She reported if the storm shifts east then Duke Energy will come and stage in the County. Commissioner Sanders questioned if Mr. Moron and Mrs. Brownell have been in contact with all the department heads. Mrs. Brownell said they all attended the conference call yesterday and Mr. Howard Nabors, Superintendent of Public Works, has staged the items he will need for the storm. Commissioner Sanders asked if Mr. Mike Cooper, Weems Memorial Hospital, has been notified and knows not to close the hospital. Mr. Moron stated Mr. Cooper and Mr. Craig

Gibson, Weems Memorial Hospital, were present yesterday and Mr. Gibson was present again this morning so they are both aware of the situation. Commissioner Sanders said if the worse situation happens, everyone knows what to do. Mr. Moron answered yes. Commissioner Jones asked if the storm is still a Tropical Storm. Mrs. Brownell answered yes, but the storm has not entered the Gulf yet. She stated they will have more information at the 2:30 p.m. meeting with The National Weather Service because they provide more in-depth information about how the storm will affect our area. Commissioner Jones asked if the updates are provided at 6 hour intervals. Mrs. Brownell answered The Hurricane Center provides updates at 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., the state has a webinar at 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. and the National Weather Service does their update completely separate. Vice-Chairman Lockley asked Mr. Moron and Mrs. Brownell to keep the Commissioners informed about the storm and to let them know if it changes. Mr. Moron agreed to provide a report after the 2:30 p.m. update. Commissioner Sanders stated there have been a lot of onshore winds this week and the tides have been high so they need to watch them. She reported if there are warnings given then people need to heed the warnings. Commissioner Massey asked when the storm should be in the Gulf. Mrs. Brownell reported it will be tonight or this afternoon. She stated when the storm gets in the Gulf; it will move faster and may intensify. She reported right now the models are showing the storm going to the west but the approaching cold front could shift it to the east. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to declare a local state of emergency.**

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Joseph A. Parrish - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts