

**AT AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
WORKSHOP/MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 2, 2013 AT 4:30 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Doug Croley-District 2, Chairman**
 Eric Hinson-District 1, Vice Chairman
 Gene Morgan-District 3 (arrived late)
 Brenda Holt-District 4
 Sherrie Taylor-District 5 (arrived late)
 Deborah Minnis, County Attorney
 Robert Presnell, County Administrator
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

*****NOTE: There were technical difficulties with some of the audio and/or video portions of the meeting and the entire meeting was not recorded*****

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Croley called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m. and Mr. Presnell stated this was a scheduled workshop concerning Emergency Management. He also informed the Board that the Interlocal Agreement concerning Emergency Management between the Board and the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office had been signed by the Sheriff's Office and was on the agenda for April 16th for the Chairman's signature.

WELCOME

Major Shawn Wood, Emergency Management Director, appeared before the Board and wanted to recognize and pay respect to all the first responders and he mentioned Mr. Curtis King, who lost his life in the line of duty during a tropical storm and said he felt it was important to recognize the sacrifice made by the first responders.

1. Overview of the key functions of Emergency Management: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Major Wood talked about the importance of everyone being safe and getting out safely during disasters and having a healthy response. He stressed the importance of having a plan in place and on paper so if one person was out, someone would be able to come in behind them and handle matters and be able to take over.

He also mentioned he just returned from the National Hurricane Conference and said he found out Florida was ahead of the game and had a good plan in place. He said there were four steps in emergency management and they were: Planning, Mitigate, Response, and Recovery.

He mentioned that Emergency Management is funded through the Federal Government and the State.

2. Updates on the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and Local Mitigation Strategy

Revisions

Major Wood said the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was an overall plan for what Emergency Management does and the plan developed a uniform policy and procedures consistent with the national emergency management system.

He mentioned points of distribution and said it was important so people would know where to go to be able to get supplies and things after a disaster.

Brian Bradshaw, Florida Division of Emergency Management, appeared before the Board. He mentioned that Florida Statutes Chapter 252 gave a guide to counties and cities for emergency management.

Major Wood showed a survival checklist of items suggested that would be needed by households and listed the shelters and mentioned that a pet friendly shelter was in the works.

Tashonda Whaley, Emergency Management Division Program Administrator, and Sara Hinson, Nursing Director with Gadsden County Health Department, appeared before the Board. They informed the Board that they had a Special Needs Registry and currently there were approximately 145-150 people on the registry and it was updated weekly through the home-health agencies. They explained the shelters were staffed during disasters and that a special needs shelter was located at East Gadsden High School. They informed the Board how they prepared for hurricane season.

Major Wood said East Gadsden High School, West Gadsden High School and Havana Middle School were shelters and added that through a grant, East Gadsden High School was solar-powered.

Commissioner Morgan asked about a county-wide emergency notification and thought it was still in place.

Major Wood said during a budget crisis, the notification system was cut, but notification systems were cheaper now and hoped that was something the County would entertain putting back in place.

Aaron Kissler, Administrator, Gadsden County Health Department, appeared and said during an emergency, they were able to communicate with administrators across the State to help take care of needs in this area. He stated that one section of the health department that people did not think about was environmental health. He said they provided education concerning mosquito control and disease monitoring.

Chris Rietow, Apalachee Regional Planning Council, appeared before the Board and spoke about the hazard analysis program. He said Florida was above the curve and had developed a hazard analysis program that provides funding and a report has to be filed by March 1st each year that puts together emergency contact information that responders can use in case of an emergency. He mentioned that Gadsden County had approximately 36 facilities that held hazardous materials, such as water treatment plants that held chlorine and some facilities held sulfuric acid. He said that he handled 7-9 counties in the region and he conducts visits to the facilities every two years.

Commissioner Holt asked about CSX and the hazardous materials that are transported by them on the railways.

Mr. Rietow stated that they were exempt from their program because of transportation of hazardous material, but he was in contact with them.

Major Wood pointed out that time had run out before there was a chance to talk about recovery and maybe a second part to this workshop could be scheduled for a later date. He also mentioned training that would be done in July.

3. Commissioner's Questions and Comments

Chair Croley complemented Major Wood on everything that had been presented and applauded him on how far emergency management had come in the county.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR CROLEY DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:57 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**DOUGLAS M. CROLEY, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

ATTEST:

**MARCELLA BLOCKER, DEPUTY CLERK
FOR NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK**