

BOARD ACTION  
August 6, 2024

**HURRICANE DEBBY UPDATE**

CARPENTER

Ms. Megan Milanese, Director for the Office of Emergency Management, provided an update on Hurricane Debby and an overview of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) actions in response to the impacts of the storm, which included the following: the Office of Emergency Management began monitoring a tropical wave near the Country of Puerto Rico on Thursday, August 1, 2024, which had a medium chance of tropical development; the storm formed into potential Tropical Cyclone 4 on Friday, August 2, 2024, which was when the EOC increased its activation level to level three, enhanced monitoring, as they were expecting the forecast on that storm to change significantly as it developed; a local state of emergency was declared at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, August 2, 2024; a State executive order had been issued a day prior on Thursday, August 1, 2024; in response to the local state of emergency, the EOC activated level two, partial activation; they began the Citizens Information Line (CIL) service and mobilized sandbag locations, which opened at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 2, 2024; the EOC remained at level two, partial activation, through the following day and continued to support the CIL and sandbag operations as well as monitoring and coordination activities; the EOC moved to level one, full activation, on Sunday, August 4, 2024; they activated one risk shelter for residents, including general populations, special needs, and pets, at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 4, 2024, which closed at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 5, 2024; they completed the first push road clearing operations as of 1:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5, 2024; and they moved back to level three, enhanced monitoring, as of 7:00 p.m. on Monday evening. She relayed that some of the statistics of this storm included the following: total power outages at the peak were about 19,273 customers across all providers; 100 percent power restoration from all providers was achieved by 7:00 p.m. Monday evening; preliminary rainfall reports showed between four to six inches of rainfall in western portions of the County, including the Cities of Groveland, Mascotte, and Leesburg; preliminary wind analysis showed a wind gust of 54 miles per hour recorded near the City of Leesburg, noting that additional information about wind speeds and rainfall would come from the National Weather Service as they completed their own analyses; a total of 53 missions were handled by the EOC; 187 calls were handled by the CIL; they distributed 6,272 sandbags; and as of the current morning, the assessed damage included some power outages with minimal damage being reported throughout the county.

Mr. Tommy Carpenter, Assistant County Manager, commented that the update of the issue with the 911 center included the following: at about 5:45 a.m. on Monday, the National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for

the southern part of Lake County; subsequent to that, there was squally weather; at about 6:45 a.m. a transformer blew near the Emergency Communications Operations Center (ECOC), which happened frequently; for the 911 center, the generator should have activated to provide the power, which was triggered by a device that managed power; when commercial power was cut, there was an uninterruptable power system (UPS) that provided battery backup to the entire building, which was when the generator was supposed to activate and provide power; the device had a catastrophic failure; about 15 minutes later, staff realized that the generator was on but they were still running on battery backup; at 7:00 a.m., they called in individuals to look at the generator; the ECOC staff put their continuity of operations plans in place; the ECOC staff for the County and the LCSO contacted the City of Leesburg to move the 911 Center there to accept calls; the ECOC contacted the City of Tavares to move the operation center there; the process began to bring in individuals to look at the generator and find the issue; the weather was inclement and slowed people's arrival; they learned that Duke Energy Florida had power restored in two phases and were waiting on the third to be restored; Motorola, which was the computer aided dispatch (CAD) software system that dispatched their resources, and 911 were on site and everything was ready to go; at about 10:00 a.m. the power device that failed was disconnected and generator power was restored; the process began of restoring systems, including CAD and 911 systems; resources were brought back to the ECOC; and by about 11:25 a.m. they were fully able to verify that everything was in place, that they were receiving calls, and that it was working the way it should. He recognized the ECOC staff, and explained that when a shift worked a weekend, which was every other one, they worked on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. He elaborated that the same staff who had worked Friday night were still working Monday morning because they were not sure when the 911 center would come back up and some staff had moved to the City of Leesburg, opining that they performed flawlessly. He related that during that period of time, the ECOC staff leadership worked with the EOC to request resources. He said that there was a communications strike team of four people from Marion County who were there for five days to answer calls, and that they had a site generator and a second generator being provided by the State under the declaration for Hurricane Debby, which was currently connected at the EOC. He remarked that the previous afternoon, they met with Ms. Jennifer Barker, County Manager, the Office of Facilities Management, and all those that utilized the ECOC to discuss what happened, short-term fixes, and the long-term fix. He relayed his understanding that the electrical system for that building was probably installed in 2010, which was vastly different than what it would be currently, and that they were going to do a comprehensive needs assessment to ensure that their UPS was redundant so that this would not occur again.

PROCLAMATION	Approval and presentation of City of Tavares Storm Assistance <b>Proclamation 2024-110.</b>	SMITH
PROCLAMATION	Approval and presentation of City of Leesburg Storm Assistance <b>Proclamation 2024-111.</b>	SMITH
	<p><b><u>CITIZEN QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Vance Jochim, a resident of the City of Tavares, related that a tree fell on a powerline across the street from his residence, and that a crew came out and fixed it in 24 hours, which he opined was pretty good. He then opined that the County should go back to the rollback rate, and mentioned that he had handed out a list from a think tank of people’s concerns. He stated that it was a national list, and that he was preparing a detailed county-based list of concerns of taxpayers. He opined that if the County did not go to the rollback rate in this economy with everything that was going on, people would be put out of their homes because their taxes, insurance, and everything else was going up, making the County part of the issue. He remarked that the Supervisors of Elections had an annual event with a canvassing committee, which had two former County Commissioners and two judges, and expressed concerns that they did not even look at the internals of the machines. He relayed his understanding that there was no discussion about how they could ensure that what he opined had happened all over the country, such as motherboards with code inserted in them and lack of internet connection even though the machines were connected with a built-in phone modem, would not happen in Lake County, opining that according to his experience as a certified information systems auditor and an anticorruption manager, there was not sufficient information to say that this was a fair system. He opined that the County needed to have the Inspector General or an outside person inspect everything related to those machines because of all the evidence that had come up all over the country and through people in this county who had opined about voting inaccuracies and the machine’s ability to insert changes. He also expressed concern about roads and traffic, opining that the Inspector General or an independent expert should analyze the processes used for traffic studies. He opined that it was corrupt, and that the County should not approve any development unless road capacity had not exceeded 70 percent of the capacity because it needed some room to grow.</p> <p>Ms. Debbie Bianchi, a resident of the RedTail community, commented that she lived by the mantra that change was inevitable but growth was optional, and opined that growth was not optional in her area. She related that she had heard very little about the plan related to the infrastructure changes that would be necessary and the impact it would have on the community, and opined that with State Road (SR) 46 on one side and SR 46A on the other, there would be significant change. She expressed concern that those were</p>	

	<p>two-way roads, and opined that they were already crowded. She inquired when residents would hear the entire infrastructure plan relating to expanding roadways, schools, and water, which she opined was inconsistent and expensive at about \$400 per month. She said that she wanted to understand how they were going to handle the growth that would be happening so they could change with it, and asked if residents could hear from the County shortly on what that plan was in detail.</p> <p>Ms. Katherine de Jongh, a resident of Lake County, expressed concern that there was not parking available closer to the County Administration Building. She wondered if the County would provide some kind of transportation for people who may not qualify for a handicap designation but wanted to come to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting, opining that they may not be able to use technology to attend the meeting via Zoom. She opined that it would be nice if there was a shuttle to help people because even though it may not seem far for some, it may take an hour for someone else.</p> <p>Ms. Cindy Newton, a resident of the City of Eustis, expressed condolences to the families of the fallen and injured officers and the entire Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO). She indicated appreciation to every law enforcement agency across the country for their service and prayed that protection would be on each one of them for every call they encountered, opining that one never knew if it would be their last one.</p>	
APPROVED	<p><b>Tab 1.</b> Request from County Attorney to recommend approval to intervene in Lake County Fifth Judicial Circuit Court Case No. 2024-CA-813, Keith Farner vs. Lake County Water District and David W. Jordan. The fiscal impact is unable to be determined at this time.</p>	MARSH
	<p><b>Tab 2. REZONING AGENDA</b></p>	
	<p><b><u>CONSENT AGENDA REZONING CASES:</u></b></p>	
APPROVED	<p>Tab 1. <b>Ordinance No. 2024-23</b>                  Esplanade at McKinnon Groves Community Development District (CDD)                  Adopt an ordinance establishing a Community Development District (the "District") on 326.41 +/- acres of land located entirely within the boundaries of unincorporated Lake County, Florida.</p>	STERN
	<p><b><u>REGULAR AGENDA REZONING CASES:</u></b></p>	
APPROVED	<p>Tab 2. <b>Ordinance No. 2024-24</b>                  Rezoning Case # PZ2023-253                  Sorrento PUD (Hillcrest) Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment (Adoption)</p>	STERN

	<p>Amend the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) to change the Future Land Use Category (FLUC) on approximately 466.18 +/- acres from Mt Plymouth-Sorrento Main Street and Mt Plymouth-Sorrento Neighborhood to Planned Unit Development to facilitate the development program for a mixed-use community intended to provide commercial, office, retail, service, and residential uses.</p> <p><b>The Board approved Tabs 2 and 3 with all concessions as discussed.</b></p>	
APPROVED	<p><b>Tab 3. Ordinance No. 2024-25</b>  Rezoning Case # PZ2023-254  Hillcrest PUD  Rezone approximately 466.18 +/- acres from Planned Commercial (CP), Planned Unit Development (PUD), Urban Residential (R-6), Rural Residential (R-1), and Agriculture (A) to Planned Unit Development (PUD) to facilitate the development of a mixed-use community intended to provide commercial, office, retail, service, and residential uses.</p>	STERN
APPROVED	<p><b>Tab 4. Ordinance No. 2024-26</b>  Rezoning Case # PZ2023-130  Sorrento Pines Expansion Project (Adoption)  Amend the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) to change the Future Land Use Category (FLUC) on approximately 198.68 +/- acres from Public Service Facilities &amp; Infrastructure FLUC to Planned Unit Development (PUD) FLUC and amend associated Comprehensive Plan Policies to revise the development program for the Sorrento Pines Planned Unit Development to allow for an additional 328 dwelling units.</p> <p><b>The Board approved Tabs 4 through 6 including the requirement for the decommissioned spray field notification disclosure and the exception of using bamboo in the revised cross sections.</b></p>	STERN
APPROVED	<p><b>Tab 5. Ordinance No. 2024-27</b>  Rezoning Case # PZ2023-132  Sorrento Pines Expansion PUD  1. Amend Ordinance #1997-61 to remove 198.68 +/- acres from the Community Facility District (CFD) for purpose of establishing a separate development plan for the removed acreage; and  2. Rezone 198.68 +/- acres to Planned Unit Development (PUD) to allow for the development of a 328 dwelling unit single-family residential subdivision with associated amenities and infrastructure.</p>	STERN
APPROVED	<p><b>Tab 6. Ordinance No. 2024-28</b>  Sorrento Pines PUD Community Development District (CDD) Amendment  Adopt an ordinance amending the boundaries of the Sorrento Pines</p>	STERN

	Community Development District (the "District") to add approximately 198.68 +/- acres, for an amended total on 312.123 +/- acres of land located entirely within the boundaries of unincorporated Lake County, Florida.	
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Ms. Barker expressed appreciation to staff, opining that even though it was a difficult weekend, staff did a great job responding to calls and storms.	BARKER
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Shields mentioned that he attended a Lake Economic Area Development (LEAD) Board meeting, and that they would be coming to a future BCC meeting to give an update with some good examples of what had been accomplished in the previous year.	SHIELDS
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Shields relayed that the project to connect Lake County's Sawgrass Bay Boulevard with Orange County's Flemings Road was discussed at a large community meeting; however, he did not have a timeline yet from Orange County as they were still working on buying right of way. He remarked that Orange County wanted the road to be four lanes even though Lake County only had two lanes.	SHIELDS
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Parks opined that it had been a difficult weekend for Lake County, and he indicated appreciation for County staff and the LCSO. He remarked that the Chairman worked overtime during the storm, and he thanked him for that; additionally, he said that because of the way Lake County responded, he was very proud to be a resident.	PARKS
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Campione stated that she sat with the Lake County School District Superintendent and Board members at the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Space Florida to have a space academy in Lake County, which would be in the City of Minneola schools. She remarked that many other Counties were there, opining that it was very impressive. She commented that there were people there from the space industry and the public sector, and that what they were trying to do was no different than the other academies, noting that this program would start in elementary school. She explained that participants could hone skillsets to help market themselves to go into a career right out of high school or possibly go to college and also be working in the career they worked on in high school. She commented that many of these skills were completely transferrable to other areas, such as mechanics, opining that working on a rocket as a mechanic was not much different than working on other engines, including airplanes and automotive. She mentioned that she thought about the program in the City of Tavares, and opined that this was a good fit for Lake County. She related that they were hoping to begin implementing their curriculum in the following year, and opined that there was a great team there from Lake County; furthermore, she was impressed that the Superintendent and School Board decided to be part of the pilot group.	CAMPIONE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION	<p>Commr. Campione expressed her appreciation to staff, and noted that Ms. Barker spent much time on this daunting task. She stated that the storm events were unexpected, and opined that it was how they reacted and adapted that brought the team together and made this work. She mentioned that this allowed them to see what the deficiencies were so they could be improved, and that sometimes deficiencies were not known until something like this happened showing what needed to be done. She indicated appreciation for the Chairman, and opined that Commissioner Smith spent more time in the City of Tavares than at home. She said that she was proud of Lake County Sheriff Peyton Grinnell and how he handled the recent law enforcement situation, and said that she watched his interviews on national news, opining that he was very impressive. She commented that she was proud of how the community was supporting local law enforcement, lifting up these families in prayers and thoughts as they went through this awful time, and that the outpouring of love and support was nothing less than what she would expect from people in Lake County. She opined that they had a wonderful community, and noted that she was proud of everybody that stepped up. She mentioned that the Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and other first responders were a critical part of saving lives, opining that it was a horrific situation to go into, and she thanked them.</p>	CAMPIONE
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	<p>Commr. Blake mentioned that regarding the Deputy that was killed, there was an active Go-Fund-Me, which he opined had been very successful so far, and he encouraged anyone listening to donate to that. He mentioned that he had been praying for that family, the other families, and the LCSO, opining that it was a horrible event that was hard to process, and he indicated appreciation for everybody who had been helping with that.</p>	BLAKE
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	<p>Commr. Blake expressed appreciation to staff for the previous weekend, and opined that it was challenging for their families. He also said that many did not realize how well trained the Lake County staff was until something uncertain and out of the ordinary happened that no one expected, such as the malfunction of a transfer switch. He opined that staff worked very well handling that situation with no interruption to public safety, and he thanked Ms. Barker and other staff.</p>	BLAKE
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	<p>Commr. Smith related that his heart was broken over what happened with the LCSO, and he encouraged everyone to say “Thank you.”</p>	SMITH
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	<p>Commr. Smith related that a freshwater captain requested that the County add to their captain’s license what the saltwater captain’s license had. He explained that a saltwater captain could captain a boat, and that people who came on board the boat did not need a fishing license because they were covered under the captain’s license, noting that captains paid extra for the license to house those people. He remarked that this was not the case for</p>	SMITH

	freshwater fishing, and that if a captain did a tour, each visitor on the excursion had to have their own fishing license, opining that this was a disparity. He commented that since Lake County had all freshwater lakes, he would like to add this request to the legislative priorities so that the freshwater and saltwater captain's license could be consistent.	
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Smith said that it was National Root Beer Float Day.	SMITH