

EMERGENCY MEETING

HURRICANE FRANCES

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SEPTEMBER 2, 2004

An Emergency Meeting was held this day at the Murdock Administration Complex in Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida. The following were in attendance: Chairman Matthew D. DeBoer and Commissioners Thomas C. D'Aprile, Adam Cummings and Sara Devos. (**Commissioner Mac V. Horton was not present for this meeting.**) Also in attendance were County Administrator Bruce D. Loucks, Interim County Attorney Brendan Bradley, Chief Deputy Board Services Tommy Q. White and Deputy Clerk Karen S. Mitchell. The meeting was called to order at **9:05 A.M.**

The invocation was given by **Chairman DeBoer** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman DeBoer explained first there would be an update by Mr. Sallade, then Mr. Loucks will update them on closing the County offices and then the Board will discuss the declaration. Wayne Sallade, Emergency Management Director, said this was the second Category 4 hurricane in three weeks which was a first in Florida's history, the track has been adjusted farther south since yesterday, the 5:00 A.M. advisory has projected landfall near Stuart which was due east of us, the County's consultant says landfall will be more of a West Palm Beach to Tampa track and if that track holds the winds could still be 100 to 110 mph with higher gusts and 10 to 15 inches of rain. Mr. Sallade said this was a monster hurricane four times the size of Charley and just as strong, the eye was measured this morning at 35 miles in diameter where Charley was 4 miles in diameter, Charley had a damage swath of about 10 miles where the damage swath expected from Frances will be close to 80 miles, reiterated this was a dangerous hurricane and said it's coming in our general direction. Mr. Sallade stated the philosophy now has moved to one of refuge of last resort which means they will take every building including this building for those persons whose homes were compromised, County staffers without a home could utilize

parts of this building staying away from the glass areas to ride out the day Saturday and staff was working with the School Board to identify those structures left standing from Charley that could be used. Mr. Sallade advised there would be some storm surge if this storm exits into the Gulf of Mexico at Tampa, upon the Board's declaration regarding Frances he was asking for an evacuation order for what's left of the County's mobile and manufactured inventory and the barrier islands because they were at the point of trying to save as many lives as possible without any conveniences because there's nothing left to give them, the food stuffs were leaving the County, the resources have been pulling out in droves, they would do the very best with what they have, and Lee County has offered shelters across the north part of Lee County. Mr. Sallade reported the medical special needs facility which was Pilgrim Church was compromised in Charley and was not available to us so they were working with Lee County on the possibility of utilizing the Harborside Convention Center. Mr. summarized they were continuing to watch everything very closely, he felt the 5:00 P.M. update would tell them the most regarding projected landfall, they were in survival mode right now, it was estimated that upwards of 40,000 homes have tarps on their roofs and there were 20' debris piles everywhere plus all the logs created when the felled trees were cut up for disposal making for a lot of flying missiles. **Chairman DeBoer** asked the plans for refuge sites of last resort since they no longer had the Red Cross. Mr. Sallade said they don't have the staffing since many of the volunteers have either lost their homes or been forced to leave the County, they may use Parks & Recreation personnel, the Sheriff's office will staff shelter areas and notices were going out via radio and television but no supplies will be available so everyone needs to bring everything they will need. Bruce D. Loucks, County Administrator, advised all County office would be closed by 3:00 P.M. today and all day Friday, and any personnel needing to leave prior to 3:00 P.M. today will have to use vacation time. **Commissioner D'Aprile** said he was concerned because this hurricane was so much larger than Charley and asked the size of this hurricane. Mr. Sallade clarified the storm was 400 miles wide and the eye was 35 miles wide. **Commissioner D'Aprile** asked the expected winds in Charlotte County. Mr. Sallade said 40 to 50 mph along the coastal areas, 60 to 70 mph in inland areas like Deep Creek, this storm will cover the entire state of Florida, 55 of the 67 counties will be impacted and reiterated

he was requesting evacuation of the barrier islands and all mobile and manufactured homes. **COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED APPROVAL TO ADOPT EMERGENCY RESOLUTION #2004-181, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEVOS AND DECLARED UNANIMOUS (4:0).** Mr. Sallade said there was a lot of work to do in the next 36 hours to focus on Frances, the alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be ready by this afternoon at the jail should he be forced to again evacuate the Sheriff's building which was severely compromised during Hurricane Charley. **Chairman DeBoer** said it was good to be scared because people underestimated Hurricane Charley, and everyone needs to pray hard, stay strong, stay together and they will make it through this.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:28 A.M.

Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Matthew D. DeBoer
Chairman

ATTEST:

**BARBARA T. SCOTT, CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**By: Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Deputy Clerk**

/ksm