

(06-02-04)

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
EMERGENCY MEETING
06-02-04 7:00 P.M.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners met June 2, 2004 to conduct an Emergency Meeting. Attending the meeting were: Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Thomas, Chairman Johnson, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Cooper, Clerk Norman, Marlene Stafford, Lisa Hall, Mark Crawford, Steve Ripley, Bill Dampier, Lee Vincent, Percy Sullivan and Sheriff Milner.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Cooper gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comm. Thomas MOVED to declare this meeting an emergency. **Comm. Mann SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

Mr. Dampier said that the particular reason for this emergency meeting is to consider some potential expenses that would be borne by Bradford County at this time, barring any allocation in the future of state and/or other source dollars.

The fire in the southwest end of the County has consumed between 3,000 and 5,000 acres since late yesterday afternoon. The Alachua County Emergency Manager and County Fire Chief, both recommend that the Commission discuss the consideration to request resources that are planned for and available through the Florida Fire Chief's Association Emergency Response Plan. This is a step beyond normal mutual aid that is available through surrounding and other counties. At 2:30 a.m., he declared a local state of emergency, which would, by action of this Board to be ratified at your next regular scheduled meeting, provide additional resources through the State Emergency Operations Center and/or mutual aid.

We have received some area local mutual aid from Putnam, Clay and on stand-by from Alachua County, which may or may not have some future requests for reimbursement costs. If the County requests assets through the Florida Fire Chief Association's Emergency Response Plan, it will definitely have a bill for services and equipment, which is not necessarily in the Board's budget and definitely not in the Emergency Management budget. These costs could be as little as \$150 per hour, per piece of equipment, or as much as 800 to \$1,000.00 per hour, depending on the piece of equipment. As late as 5:30 p.m. this afternoon, the head of the forestry overhead team does not plan to recommend that we request the additional resources.

There is present in Bradford County, to be operating out of the area of Keystone Airport, an overhead team from the Florida Division of Forestry. This consists of about 30 personnel and multiple pieces of heavier equipment, which is geared up and prepared to start taking command and responsibility for the wild land fires sometime tomorrow morning. Our firefighters, volunteers and professional, together with the mutual aid firefighters, are there to support the defense of homes and structures.

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Mr. Steve Ripley and Mr. Wayne Jones both reported on the status of the fire. It is their contention that unless there is a very serious change of events, they do not foresee having to request additional resources through the Fire Chief's Association.

There was brief discussion regarding the criteria for a FEMA declaration and its affects on the County receiving funding.

Following discussion, there was Board consensus not to request additional resources from the Fire Chief's Association at this time. If and when it becomes necessary to do so, Chairman Johnson has the authority to request the resources, and such request to be ratified by the Commission at a later date.

Mr. Dampier said that before the Commission is a draft resolution that will ratify his decision to declare a local state of emergency. The resolution must be adopted no later than the next regular scheduled meeting of the County Commission.

Chairman Johnson said that the resolution would be considered at the June 7 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

HERMAN JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK TO THE BOARD

These minutes typed by:

Marlene K. Stafford, Deputy Clerk