

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

6:00 PM

The Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida, met in special session on September 28, 2017 at 6:06 PM in the Government Center Commission Room, Building C, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, Florida.

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rita Pritchett	Vice Chairwoman/Commissioner District 1	Present	
Jim Barfield	Commissioner District 2	Present	
John Tobia	Commissioner District 3	Absent	
Curt Smith	Chairman/Commissioner District 4	Remote	
Kristine Isnardi	Commissioner District 5	Present	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairwoman Pritchett stated Commissioner Smith is present via telephone, and Commissioner Tobia is late due to traffic.

Commissioner Isnardi led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rob Vetrano stated he lives at 455 Sundoro Court, Merritt Island, which is in Sykes Creek; his concern is for the neighborhood and as a boater; he read the article about what happened to the bridge; the Sea Ray Drive Bridge and S.R. 528 Bridge are the two bridges boaters have to go under to get out to the Barge Canal to go boating; and in the south end there is S.R. 520 Bridge which is very low, so for anyone who has a big boat they have to go out to the north. He added he wanted the biggest boat he could get in Sykes Creek at his house since they live on the canal; over the shopping and research times, he measured both bridges at least 20 to 30 times during varying water heights to make sure he could get under it; he is able to clear the bridge right now by one foot; but his concern with the Sea Ray Drive Bridge is mainly two things, if they are going to do repairs, if there is any scenario where they would lower the bridge height lower than what it currently stands at, and what is charted on the charts, as it would affect him and there are some other big boats in the creek that would be affected also; and if they are going to rebuild or do construction on the bridge, there needs to be a way to get past that construction. He stated they live back there because they like boating on all of their free time, and he does not know if the scaffolding or barges that they would use to repair the bridge would shut down the whole access point, or would they be off to the side, depending on what needs to be fixed, or would it be something hourly, kind of like when they did the Port repairs on the locks, where there was restrictions put in place during the day; there are many things he does not know the answers to; he read the articles and saw that there was a meeting about it; and he did not know who to ask or he did not know if anyone had it as a topic for those who live in Sykes Creek.

September 28, 2017

ITEM I.A., RESOLUTION, RE: SEA RAY DRIVE BRIDGE OVER SYKES CREEK

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated John Denninghoff, Assistant County Manager, will address Mr. Vetranos's issue when they give the Board some additional detail on where they are; he expressed his appreciation to the Board for calling the Emergency Meeting today to give staff the opportunity to address it and all of the Board Members getting here under such quick circumstances; and he stated yesterday at approximately 4:00 p.m., he received a joint-letter from both the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Florida Division of Emergency Management, that relates to the County's request made to the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) for Federal assistance to help the County in stabilizing the Sea Ray Bridge over Sykes Creek due to scouring and damage that was sustained from Hurricane Irma. He went on to say in the letter received yesterday, the State notified the County that in order to meet the FDOT obligation to delineate between emergency protective measures and permanent work, that they were requesting a formal emergency resolution from the Board after the completion of the U.S. Army Corps Engineers (USACE) mission that the County would take certain actions; and those actions included making necessary repairs to restore the Bridge to its pre-disaster function. He added in the letter they also talked about making repairs, restoring a nearby underground water-main, and to make any additional repairs that was needed to address damage or deterioration that was not caused by this disaster; the resolution has been developed for the Board's consideration; it also addresses the issue of the underground water-main, which actually belongs to the City of Cocoa; and staff developed alternative language from what was in the State's request. He explained staff spoke to the State and shared with them that language; the State agreed if the County worked collaboratively and supportively, as was put in the resolution with the City of Cocoa, that would meet their needs; and he is requesting the Board to consider and adopt the resolution. He stated the County has been advised by USACE that they stand ready to mobilize, upon notification from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to proceed; that notification is going to occur once the State receives a copy of the emergency resolution before the Board this evening; and they will authorize the USACE to move forward with that Federal assistance mission. He advised this Emergency meeting has been called to further the County's efforts to make sure it does everything reasonably possible to assure emergency protective measures can be implemented as expeditiously as possible, especially in light of approaching weather and the other potentials of the remainder of the hurricane season; Kim Prosser, Emergency Management Director, and the City Manager of the City of Cocoa are present this evening should the Board have any questions; and now Mr. Denninghoff is going to address the issue made in Public Comment.

Mr. Denninghoff advised there will be two different phases of construction associated with the overall project; the first is being done by the USACE that is a shoring up effort, which is subsurface, below the surface of the water under the bridge effort, as far as the construction activity; there will be barges, boats, vessels, and cranes, but it should not obstruct the boat traffic; the bridge will be kept closed during that period of time; none of that effort will change the height of the bridge above the water at all; and as to the second portion of the construction effort, that would be following the shoring up effort, and that would be the rehabilitation effort associated with the bridge to make it to where scouring is no longer an issue associated with the structure. He went on to say they do not anticipate that the bottom of the bridge would be lowered; in other words, the clearance of the bridge remains as it is today; there is no anticipation for that to occur at all, but as to the boat traffic under the bridge during construction, they do not have a design done at this point, there will no doubt be period of time where vessels will be obstructed from being able to navigate through that area; the area under S.R. 528 Bridge, which is very close by, is more restricted than it is under the County bridge, so there will be times when it is going to be difficult to navigate through there; and he suspects the contractor will have to obstruct traffic vessels during a portion of the time. He mentioned he does not anticipate that it being for a protracted period of time, they will allow vessels to go through on a basis that would be a reasonable one, but which might have to be planned by vessel operators;

September 28, 2017

the contractor would be expected to make those times known and understood so that boaters would be able to try to plan activities accordingly; it cannot be expected that it is going to be an operations as normal type of situation, because it is going to be a heavy construction area with cranes, concrete, beams, and pilings that are going to be driven; and the public will need to mind their distance from that construction activity.

Commissioner Barfield inquired if the County will require the contractor to make sure this is published knowledge accessible so the community knows what that schedule is in advance. Mr. Denninghoff responded affirmatively; and he stated that would be part of the permitting effort that is associated with it, which the USACE and the United States Coast Guard will be involved with it; and there will be an opportunity for the vessels to be able to go through, there is no doubt in his mind about that. He advised they will be expected to stop activities for manatees and other things; he has had people ask him about endangered species; he reiterated the construction activity will always stop for manatees to move on through, and get a minimum distance away from the construction activities; and the County will have to manage all of that.

The Board adopted Emergency Resolution No. 17-191E, for the USACE DFA mission to perform rehabilitation and restoration work to the Sea Ray Drive Bridge over Sykes Creek.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jim Barfield, Commissioner District 2
SECONDER:	Kristine Isnardi, Commissioner District 5
AYES:	Rita Pritchett, Jim Barfield, Curt Smith, Kristine Isnardi
ABSENT:	John Tobia

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

ATTEST:

SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

RITA PRITCHETT, VICE CHAIRWOMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA