

SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 20, 2011
11:00 A.M.

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The Lafayette County Commission met on the above date and hour for a special meeting. The meeting was held in the County Commissioner's Meeting Room in Mayo, Florida. The following members were present: Commissioner Lance Lamb, Dist. 1; Commissioner Gail Garrard, Dist. 2; Commissioner Donnie Hamlin, Dist. 3; Commissioner T. Jack Byrd, Dist. 4; and Commissioner Earnest Jones, Dist. 5.

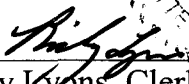
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER PROJECT

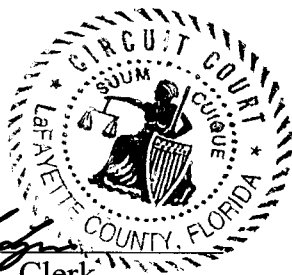
Mr. Will Rutherford and Mr. Hal Lynch were present to discuss the Emergency Operations Center project. On a motion by Mrs. Garrard and a second by Mr. Hamlin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the contracts in the amount of \$463,220 and authorize Mr. Jones to sign the documents. On a motion by Mr. Byrd and a second by Mr. Hamlin, the Board voted unanimously to exempt the permit fee for this project.

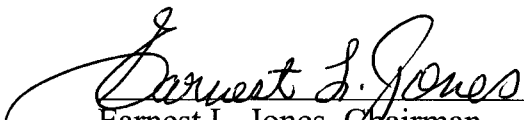
ADJOURN

On a motion by Mrs. Garrard and a second by Mr. Lamb, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Attest:


Ricky Lyons, Clerk




Earnest L. Jones, Chairman

Approved this 27th day of June, 2011.

NEW EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

Your Lafayette County Board of County Commissioners has authorized the building of a new **Emergency Operations Center** to support our Lafayette County residents with a centralized location for the management of any natural or man-made hazards facing the community.

The administration of emergency management is the process of coordinating available resources to deal with emergencies effectively, thereby saving lives, avoiding injury, and minimizing economic loss. This protection process involves four phases of emergency management. They are:

- Mitigation:** Taking specific actions that will reduce the possibility of a disaster occurring or to reduce the loss such as relocating structures out of a flood plain.
- Preparation:** The process of writing plans, identifying resources, negotiating agreements, training and exercising.
- Response:** The mobilization of the forces using the resources available to stabilize a situation.
- Recovery:** The immediate and long-range effort made to assist in returning a situation to near normal conditions again.

As part of this new construction project the Sheriff's Office and Public Safety are remodeling the old Emergency Operations Center to house our expanding 911 Emergency Dispatch office. The Emergency Dispatchers are an integral part of our emergency response system. They are the ones who receive the first notification of an incident and determines which response agency should be notified. Once the response crew arrives on scene the dispatchers assist crews in obtaining additional personnel or equipment as needed.

Between October 1, 2012 and January 1, 2013 the communications system for the county will come under some new state and federal requirements. These requirements are what jump-started the expansion of the Dispatch Office and the construction of the new EOC.

The funding source for the combined projects is an accumulation of excess funds from the local option sales tax which by county ordinance has to be spent on infrastructure. When the courthouse and EMS/Fire station projects were done in 2001 they were jointly funded by the sales tax and several grants. At that time a revenue projection was made to fund the part of the projects funded from the sales tax and the collections have exceeded the bond payment on the projects. The money was kept in a trust account until a long term infrastructure project was needed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Day to day functions of the Lafayette County Emergency Management Department is performed by the office Coordinator Alton L. Scott. The new Emergency Management office will be located at 194 NW Community Circle in Mayo.

The Lafayette County Emergency Management assists public safety agencies in all types of disasters including natural (severe storms, tornados, floods, etc), technological/man made (major fires, hazardous materials releases, etc) and national security (enemy attack, terrorism, etc).

The Lafayette County Emergency Management is the local link to the Florida Office of Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency who provide financial assistance in the event of a significant disaster. Lafayette County Emergency Management Department also assists in obtaining homeland security grant funding from State & Federal Agencies.

WORKING PARTNERSHIP

The task of disaster management requires a close working partnership among all levels of government (federal, regional, state, county and local) and the private sector (business, industry, voluntary organizations and the general public). Planning is a key component of emergency management. Planning to deal with emergencies occurs at each government level and should take place at the personal or family level as well.