

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA
Citrus County Courthouse
Room 100, 110 N. Apopka Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450

EMERGENCY MEETING
AGENDA

September 22, 2021 5:15 PM

Scott Carnahan, Chair, District 4 Ronald E. Kitchen Jr., 1st Vice Chair, District 2 Ruthie Davis Schlabach, 2nd Vice Chair, District 3 Jeff Kinnard D.C., Commissioner District 1 Holly L. Davis, Commissioner, District 5	Angela Vick, Clerk of the Circuit Court Charles R. Oliver, County Administrator Denise A. Dymond Lyn, County Attorney
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MISSION

Citrus County Government is a value-driven organization dedicated to responsive citizen service by providing quality programs, services and facilities to build a strong community and promote the best quality of life for our citizens.

All persons desiring to address the County Commission will be asked to limit their comments to the specific subject being discussed.

The Board gives citizens multiple opportunities for **PUBLIC INPUT**. All members of the public wishing to speak at the "Open To The Public" portion of a meeting will have three (3) minutes per person to make their request or presentation or five (5) minutes if they represent an organization with the appropriate documentation on file with the Clerk of Courts. If the request or presentation deals with a matter that requires investigation by County Staff, the Chairman will refer it to the County Administrator to follow-up with the person making the request.

Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Governing Body with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose may need to provide that a verbatim record of proceeding is made which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (Section 286.0105 Florida Statutes)

Any person requiring reasonable accommodation at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the County Administrator's Office, Lecanto Government Bldg., 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 267, Lecanto, FL 34461 (352) 527-5210, TTY (352) 527-5312 at least two days before the meeting.

A. CALL TO ORDER

A.1. Invocation

A.2. Pledge of Allegiance

A.3. Roll Call

**B. EMERGENCY MEETING: DETERMINE THE ADVISABILITY OF CONTINUING
THE DECLARATION OF GENERAL EMERGENCY**

B.1. Emergency Meeting - Declaration of General Emergency

The Board of County Commissioners will hold an Emergency Meeting on September 22, 2021 at 5:15 pm to determine the advisability of continuing the Declaration of General Emergency relating to emergency medical transportation executed on September 17, 2021.

C. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

D. UPCOMING MEETING

1. Regular Meeting: September 28, 2021 at 1:00 PM , Citrus County Courthouse, Room 100, 110 N. Apopka Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450
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E. ADJOURN



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

FROM:	Charles R. Oliver, County Administrator
SUBJECT:	Emergency Meeting - Declaration of General Emergency
AGENDA DATE:	September 22, 2021

BRIEF OVERVIEW:

The Board of County Commissioners will hold an Emergency Meeting on September 22, 2021 at 5:15 pm to determine the advisability of continuing the Declaration of General Emergency relating to emergency medical transportation executed on September 17, 2021.

BUDGET IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:

Account No.	Account Title	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	Encumbrances	Available Balance
					\$0

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Board of County Commissioners will hold an Emergency Meeting on September 22, 2021 at 5:15 pm to determine the advisability of continuing the Declaration of General Emergency relating to emergency medical transportation executed on September 17, 2021.

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING A STATE OF GENERAL EMERGENCY,
CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, emergency medical transportation services are essential to the health and well-being of all citizens of Citrus County; and

WHEREAS, Citrus County has engaged Nature Coast Emergency Medical Foundation, Inc. to manage and operate emergency transport and medical services for the transportation of ill, injured or otherwise incapacitated persons; and

WHEREAS, Citrus County has engaged Nature Coast Emergency Medical Foundation, Inc. to respond to all requests for Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support ambulance service in Citrus County, including emergency calls from residents, the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, police departments, fire departments, the Florida Highway Patrol and various other governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2021, the Board determined that because of increased funding requests, the County would transition from Nature Coast Emergency Medical Foundation, Inc., providing services to the County providing such services beginning on October 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Citrus County has a duty to take protective measures to support the public health and safety of the community; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38(3)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, provides authority for counties to declare a State of General Emergency; and

WHEREAS, after due and reasonable effort, it is not possible to convene the Board of County Commissioners in a special emergency meeting; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Citrus County Code Section 30-35, in the event a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners cannot be convened, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners may declare a state of general emergency; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Citrus County Code Section 30-35, I hereby resolve, find, and declare:

1. The above recitals are true.
2. I am the duly selected Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida.

3. After due and reasonable effort, it is not possible to convene the Board of County Commissioners in a special emergency meeting.
4. Pursuant to Citrus County Code Section 30-35, in the event a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners cannot be convened, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners may declare a state of general emergency.
5. The lack of emergency medical transport services, appropriate equipment and appropriately trained personnel to respond to emergency calls poses a serious threat to the health of the citizens, residents, and guests of Citrus County. A State of General Emergency is hereby declared in Citrus County, Florida, effective for seven (7) days beginning 3:00 p.m., this 17th day of September, 2021.
6. On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, I hereby waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of Citrus County pertaining to:
 - a. Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to insure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.
 - b. Entering into contracts.
 - c. Incurring obligations.
 - d. Employment of permanent and temporary workers.
 - e. Utilization of volunteer workers.
 - f. Rental of equipment.
 - g. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities.
 - h. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.
7. The County Administrator, or his designee is hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to exercise, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, such emergency powers as are necessary to carry out the provisions of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, including, but not limited to, requesting

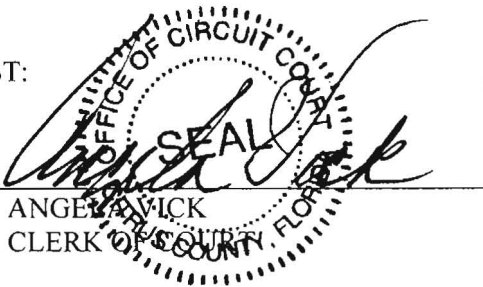
assistance from the state or invoking emergency-related mutual-aid assistance to perform emergency medical response and transport services and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community, while under a State of General Emergency, as well as any other powers expressly or implicitly conferred pursuant to Chapters 125 and 252, Florida Statutes, and any other provision of law or county ordinance.

8. This authority shall extend only for the period of the State of General Emergency, as determined by the County Administrator or his designee, or until further action by the Board of County Commissioners terminates such authority or declares that the State of General Emergency has ended.

ATTEST:

By: _____

ANGELA WICK
CLERK OF COUNTY



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____

SCOTT CARNAHAN
CHAIRMAN



Board of County Commissioners Executive Office

110 N. Apopka Ave., New Courthouse, Inverness, Florida 34450
(352) 341-6560 • Toll Free From Citrus Springs/Dunnellon • (352) 489-2120
Fax (352) 341-6584 • Website: www.citrusbocc.com

Our Vision

"We are a user-friendly and common sense organization dedicated to responsive citizen services."

September 17, 2021

Nature Coast Emergency Medical Foundation, Inc.
c/o Mary Hedges, Chairman
3876 W. Country Hill Dr.
Lecanto, FL 34461
and via email – maryfran.hedges@gmail.com

RE: Termination of Contract

Dear Ms. Hedges,

On January 8, 2020, Nature Coast Emergency Medical Foundation, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Nature Coast EMS"), was notified of the Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida's (hereinafter referred to as "BOCC"), determination that Nature Coast EMS was not in compliance with the parties' agreement dated September 19, 2017. Nature Coast EMS was given forty-five days to come into compliance. On February 13, 2020, Nature Coast EMS was given notice of its deficiencies regarding its certificate of public convenience and necessity and given until February 28, 2020, to demonstrate that it was financially and operationally able to maintain emergency medical transport services at a level that protected the public's interests. Nature Coast EMS hired Fitch & Associates to review its operation and make recommendations to enable Nature Coast to become fiscally viable and meets its operational requirements and on June 23, 2020, Fitch & Associates, presented its plan and recommendations to the BOCC. On September 22, 2020, the parties amended the September 19, 2017 agreement to address Nature Coast's operational and financial issues, however, despite the County's increase in the subsidy paid Nature Coast and assumption of some of Nature Coast's financial liabilities, Nature Coast continues to have staffing and financial issues that prevent it from meeting its contractual obligations and adequately serving the public's need for emergency and non-emergency transport. As a result of Nature Coast EMS's continued noncompliance with the terms of the September 19, 2017 agreement, as amended on September 22, 2020, Citrus County, Florida hereby terminates its agreement with Nature Coast EMS effective October 1, 2021.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Oliver
County Administrator