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Jimmy Jones honored for work during Hurricane Irma



Levy County Construction and Maintenance Department Director Jimmy Jones listens to people speak about his high quality of work and his good spirit.

Story and Photo

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BRONSON -- Jimmy Jones was recognized for his work during Hurricane Irma in Levy County during the Tuesday morning (Sept. 19) meeting of the Levy County Commission.

Commissioner Mike Joyner invited Jones to the meeting so that he could tell the audience about what he thought of the director of construction and maintenance of the County Commission.

Joyner said Jones was active during the hurricane event, and he “never complained” and “never went home.”

“He went to every place in this county that was havin’ problems and took care of ‘em,” Joyner said. “Jimmy is to me, is a true leader – a colonel, a chief. And he has got his men where they want to be warriors, ‘cause you’ve got a good chief.”

Commissioner Lilly Rooks agreed with Joyner.

“He went above and beyond with everything he did,” Rooks said about Jones.

Rooks said Jones helped her remove all of the shelves, furniture and books from the Cedar Key Public Library before the storm hit. That library had suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Hermine’s storm surge and had to be rebuilt.

At Levy County Animal Services, Jones helped Rooks to secure and start a generator that was needed there.

“And he does this with a smile on his face,” Rooks said. “Everything he does, there’s no problem that he can’t find a solution for. And his employees that work under him, are the very

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same way.”

Rooks told Jones that she appreciates his work ethic.

Florida Department of Health Administrator for Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties’ units Barbara Locke, R.N., M.P.H., was in the audience awaiting the renewal of the annual contract with the county.

She added her commendation for Jones.

“Jimmy Jones is rock solid,” Locke said, “and there isn’t ever any job that is too big. During the storm, the ALF Good Samaritan needed a generator, so the people could go back there.

“So I said, ‘I don’t trust anybody but Jimmy to go and make sure that generator is hooked up right,’” she added.

Locke went on to say that he does every job to the highest level of skill, and he does so with a great attitude.

“This county is so fortunate to have him in charge of the maintenance department,” Locke said.

Rooks said that while Jones was taking care of county property, there were two trees that had fallen on his house.

Chairman John Meeks said Jones’ wife Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones, and their son and the young man’s girlfriend volunteered to work during the hurricane.

Jimmy Jones accepted the compliments by saying he was just doing the job he gets paid to do. He stressed that there were many other people doing their jobs at the time as well.

“It’s great to be recognized,” Jones said. “It is awesome and I appreciate it. There were a lot of unsung heroes out there that were doing it, and aren’t here right now.”

Jones said Chairman Meeks and County Coordinator Wilbur Dean, and all of the county’s elected officials all did their job as well, as a team.

“And this is why it’s awesome to be from Levy County,” Jones said, “and to do what we’re doing.”