

TE CERT Minutes

June 17, 2026

Attendance: Dan and Mary Lou Smith, Sharon Denson, Laura Freese, Charlie Rizzo, Aileen Mirabito, Tom Briggie

Laura called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Treasurer Dan Smith reported available funds at \$6,147.96, less a \$300 donation to provide swim lessons at Bayshore Park.

Tom Briggie reported on his presentation to the Board of Trustees on June 16, 2026. He discussed with the board reports he sends to the Emergency Operations Center following an event activation. He noted that an activity report (ICS214) is used to provide a log of incidents during activation. The log is also used to reimburse the county for hours spent during activation. He told the board a Situation Report (ICS213) has fields for power outages, flooding, and blocked roads. He told the board ICS213 has an important field for unmet needs, which can report such needs as displaced residents and the need for food. EOC uses that report to send to the organizations that assist the community. The follow-up was with FEMA, the Fire Department and Red Cross. He also told the board in preparation for this hurricane season Trailer Estates CERT conducted a hurricane drill and an expo, both events in May. The board made recommendations for a communication bridge with the board. It was noted the board has two GMRS radios programmed to the same channels used in the field.

He continued with discussions from the board on a new contract with Spectrum that will boost speeds to 1 Gb and supply three cable boxes per household.

A folder was added to the communications cabinet by Tom that outlined basic communications with first responders and EOC. He reminded that phone numbers are included and he noted they should be used first to contact emergency organizations. The radios are back-up when the cellphone system is down. He gave a spare key to Dan.

Tom recommended upgrades to the communications cabinet. He presented a 20 Watt GMRS radio selling for \$109.89 and power supply at \$39.99 to provide a connection to MAN-17, which is monitored by ARES/RACES personnel during the recovery phase following an event. The current 5 Watt radio could be used in the field. Sharon Denson made a motion to purchase the new radio, seconded by Mary Lou. Motion passed.

Sharon made a motion that would allow Tom to purchase any equipment he felt was necessary to upgrade and maintain radio equipment needed to communicate with first responders and EOC. It was seconded by Mary Lou and the motion passed.

Tom then introduced an X300A antenna at \$176.99 to replace the existing antenna. He said it was difficult to connect with simplex HAM radio frequencies, and this should solve the problem. After some discussion it was noted that the previous motion that passed also covered the purchase of an antenna. Tom said maintenance had agreed to put up the antenna and Dan is looking into the requirements for installation.

Mary Lou reported on a county initiative to reimburse homeowners that had their homes damaged by Hurricane Milton not covered by insurance. It was noted these funds are only available to permanent residents. She said more information on the Home Recovery Program is available on the MyManatee.org website.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Laura seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 10:50

Aileen Mirabito, Secretary Pro Tem