

AI Summary

The Lake Shore Hospital has been "trashed" due to the negligence of the Lake Shore Hospital Authority (LSHA) Board, whose trustees are appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis. The hospital, which was vacated in October 2020 and was in "broom-clean-move-in condition" as of June 2023, has suffered catastrophic damage.

The LSHA Board, on the advice of Executive Director Dale Williams, voted to cancel the hospital's property insurance in September 2023 to save money, despite knowing about existing roof leaks and having nearly \$20M in reserve funds. After Hurricane Helene in September 2024, the uninsured building suffered massive roof damage, leading to extensive water intrusion, crumbling walls, and a severe black mold infestation.

The Authority attempted to cover up the damage while negotiating a transfer of the property to Meridian Behavioral Healthcare. The LSHA tried to pay Meridian \$2.5 million as an "incentive" to take the hospital "As Is" and waive its right to an inspection.

When a reporter from the *Observer* requested to see the inside of the Hospital, the LSHA attorney blocked access, citing safety concerns. A subsequent inspection by Lake City Code Enforcement confirmed the disastrous state of the building, noting that the roof was "leaking like a colander" and would require complete replacement.

The full article contains before and after photos and links to additional photos.

Quotes

"Clearly, given that is a very substantial building, and as we've not had a history of any property type claims on that building, I really think that's your best option."

– Exec. Dir. Dale Williams, advising the LSHA Board to cancel the hospital's property insurance in September 2023.

"How badly was the roof leaking? Lake City's chief building official, Scott Thomason, said, "It was leaking like a colander."

– Lake City's chief building official, Scott Thomason, describing the hospital's condition in November 2025.