

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD FEBRUARY 2, 2004.

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County Florida, convened in a regular meeting on Monday, February 2, 2004 at 1:15 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room located at 210 South Main Street, Trenton, Florida, with the following members present to-wit:

Commissioner Randy Durden, Chair
Commissioner Wilbur Bush
Commissioner Mitchell Gentry, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Tommy Langford
Commissioner Sue Suggs

Others in attendance were: Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk of Court, John McPherson, County Attorney, Karen Heaton, Deputy Clerk, Sam Ferguson, Director of Finance, Ron McQueen, EMA/County Administrator, Dennis Radice, John Ayers, Jeff Jordan, Jimmy Sheffield, Kendrick Thomas, Daniel Slaughter, Sandra Curtis, Delight Curtis, Evelyn Meece, Hattie Tucker, Katie West.

Call to Order:

Chairman Durden called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Langford delivered the Invocation and Commissioner Gentry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Changes:

- (1) Cloud Haley, Public Participation re: waiver of permit fee.

Motion by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to accept the agenda with the changes mentioned. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2) Approval of Bills
- 2) **Approval of Addition to Conflict Attorney List:** Dean Galigani
- 3) **Approval of Addition to Dependency Attorney List:** Nancy Baldwin
- 4) **Approval of Budget Entries:**
 - a. #BE4-001 / Local Housing Assistance Trust Fund, (\$22,500)
 - b. #BE4-021 / Emergency Medical Services Fund, (\$3,180)
 - c. #BE4-022 / Law Enforcement Trust Fund, (\$7,807)
 - d. #BE4-023 / General Fund, (\$8,236.09)

- e. #BE4-024 / General Fund, (10,000)
- f. #BE4-025 / General Fund, (\$4,799)

5) **Approval of Purchase Orders:**

- a. #400828 / SunGard Pentamation, (\$896.04)
- b. #400829 / SunGard Pentamation, (\$198.36)
- c. #400830 / SunGard Pentamation, (\$5,260.00)
- d. #400832 / SunGard Pentamation, (\$471.36)
- e. #400833 / Morrell's, (\$1,707.51)
- f. #400844 / Tri-County Transmission, (\$844.00)
- g. #400843 / Preferred Governmental Ins., (\$1,927.00)
- h. #400845 / SunGard Pentamation, (\$11,000)
- i. #400846 / SunGard Pentamation, (\$15,000)
- j. #400847 / SunGard Pentamation, (\$14,320)
- k. #400853 / SunGard Pentamation, (\$3,165.75)
- l. #400865 / Clerk Of Court, (\$3,910.50)
- m. #400866 / Shands at AGH, (\$1,973.69)
- n. #400867 / Town Tire, (\$2,979.30)

6) **Approval of Minutes:**

- a. August 7, 2003, Budget Workshop
- b. December 15, 2003, Regular Meeting
- c. January 5, 2004, Regular Meeting
- d. January 20, 2004, Regular Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Bush, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Proclamation 04-01 / "Step Up Florida":

Ms. Katie West, Health Promotion and Education Coordinator, Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist County Health Departments, presented information regarding the "Step Up, Florida" activity. She explained this activity is a point-to-point event which is taking place within 34 counties in Florida. Three routes will begin on separate dates but will culminate in Tallahassee On March 2, 2004.

The event will come through Gilchrist County on February 24th at which time the banner will be handed off by Alachua County on SR 26. On February 25th, the banner will begin at the Trenton Community Center and will be carried north on Hwy 129 through Bell and onto Ellie Rays River Resort. At that point, the banner will be transported by canoe to Lafayette County at Hatch Bend Landing. Ms. West advised that Sheriff Turner has offered an auxiliary escort and will provide refreshments to the participants.

Ms. West invited the Commission to participate in the activities and requested approval of Proclamation #04-01 to promote Step Up, Florida. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford,

seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve Proclamation 04-01. The motion carried unanimously. (1/078)

Attorney's Report:

Construction Licensing Board – Mr. McPherson advised the proposed ordinance relating implementing a Construction Licensing Board has been scheduled for the March 1st meeting.

Martini Grade (SE 70th Avenue)– Mr. McPherson told the Board that he and Commissioner Gentry are continuing to obtain the signatures for the remaining contracts for right-of-way and retention areas. He recalled at the last Commission meeting, the Board had approved purchase offers in the amount of \$5,850 to Ray Langford and \$19,925, to Edgar Langford. Since that time it was discovered that the Appraiser had failed to include the water retention areas in the price. The addition of these areas increases the amount to \$6,600 for Ray Langford and \$20,300 for Edgar Langford. Considering the increase amount was small and a delay should be avoided, Mr. McPherson contacted Commissioner Gentry and Mr. Gilliam to proceed with the revised offers. He asked the Commission to ratify these amounts at this time. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to accept the changes. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting “no.” (1/255)

Solid Waste Contract – Mr. McPherson advised that Mr. McQueen has contacted the Supervisor of the Alachua County Solid Waste Department and requested this item be scheduled on the agenda for the Alachua County Commission meeting. (1/349)

Interlocal Agreement for Nature Coast Greenway – Mr. McPherson advised he will send notices of termination to Dixie and Levy Counties.

Judicial Complex – Mr. McPherson recalled he was asked to send letters to ADG, MM Parrish, USDA and Gardnyr Michael terminating their services for the Judicial Complex. He will prepare and bring back a resolution stating this action and stating that the Commission will resolve to work toward it's commitment in the future to comply with the administrative order. (1/388)

Ginnie Springs v. Gilchrist County – Mr. McPherson reported that Ginnie Springs has filed a notice of appeal.

Poitevint and Brooks – Mr. McPherson advised case management conferences for these cases have been scheduled for February 26th.

DEP Consent Order re: Solid Waste Transfer Station – Mr. McPherson referred to a Consent Order from the Department of Environmental Protection for the Gilchrist County Transfer Station. He stated that he has reviewed the Order and found that no changes are necessary. Discussion was held concerning the fact the permit for the transfer station had lapsed and that it was due to the fact that Mr. Mills had been waiting for the County to advise him to proceed before applying for the permit. Mr. McQueen advised he has contacted DEP and there is a possibility that the fee charged for noncompliance will be waived. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to authorize the Chairman to sign the consent order from DEP. The

motion carried unanimously. (1/465)

Exemption for Impact Fees – Mr. McPherson recalled that he had been asked to research the extent to which a local government may grant exemptions to impact fees. At the last Commission meeting a resident had requested the ordinance be amended to provide such an exemption to residents who have family owned property going back three generations or more. Mr. McPherson advised that the County may give exemptions but in this case it would not be allowed because building a new dwelling would have the same impact to the community as someone who moves in from another area. (1/737)

Clerk's Report:

Payment in Lieu of Taxes – Mr. Gilliam referred to a letter from Suwannee River Water Management District regarding Payment in Lieu of Taxes. The payment in lieu of taxes for 2003 totaled \$24, 174.32. Mr. Gilliam requested authorization to submit the application for 2004. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to authorize Mr. Gilliam to submit the application. The motion carried unanimously. (1/913)

Life Insurance – Mr. Gilliam referred to a letter from MetLife. He explained that MetLife bought out the John Hancock Insurance Company the previous year. He told the Board that since that time there has been multiple problems with the billing. Mr. Brad Hoard, the agent handling the County's policy, has requested permission to appear before the Board to present another product which will be compatible with the current policy. The Board agreed. (1/940)

Florida West Coast Railroad Co. – For the Board's information, Mr. Gilliam provided a copy of a letter from Florida West Coast Railroad regarding the abandonment and discontinuance of service over a line of railroad between approximately railroad milepost 734.0 in Trenton and railroad milepost 721 in Newberry. (1/1026)

Budget Recap – Mr. Gilliam presented and reviewed a budget recap for the period ending January 28, 2004.

Approval of Budget Entries – Mr. Gilliam presented the following budget entries by resolution for approval:

– **Resolution 04-11 [BE4-026]** – This resolution amends the Emergency Medical Services budget by an increased amount of \$98 which represents additional grant funds awarded by the Florida Department of Health (C3021) to provide funding for ambulance equipment. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to approve Resolution 04-11. The motion carried unanimously.

– **Resolution 04-12 [BE4-027]** – This resolution amends the Local Housing Assistance Trust Fund Budget by an increased amount of \$7,585 which represents the pay off of the SHIP loan for W. Mitchell. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve

Resolution 04-12. The motion carried unanimously.

– **Resolution 04-13 [BE4-028]** – This resolution amends the General Fund Budget by an increased amount of \$200 which represents donations to the Gilchrist County Library. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve Resolution 04-13. The motion carried unanimously. (1/1210)

Purchase Order / Shands Hospital – Mr. Ferguson presented a purchase order in the amount of \$45,330.26 to Shands Hospital at UF. This invoice is for the payment of the County Health Care Subsidy portion of a bill for a County resident. Mr. Ferguson explained that the total budget for the Florida Healthcare Subsidy act this fiscal year is \$50,000. Payment of this invoice along with others received will leave a balance of \$2,561 in the budget. However, by State legislature, Gilchrist County is required to pay up to a maximum of \$62,068 for the fiscal year. If additional invoices are received throughout the year a maximum of \$12,068 may need to be paid from the General Fund. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the purchase order in the amount of \$45,330.26. The motion carried unanimously. (1/1261)

EMA/County Administrator:

Interlocal Agreement / Alachua County – Mr. McQueen presented an interlocal agreement with Alachua County for animal control services. These services include euthanasia and disposal. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement with Alachua County. Mr. Gilliam asked Mr. McQueen if the Animal Control Officer is certified to pick up animals by using a dart gun if he is not able to pick them up or trap them. Mr. McQueen replied that he was certified for euthanasia and he believed that course included chemical capture. Mr. Gilliam stated that the Animal Control Officer has told some citizens that he is not certified to use a dart gun. Mr. McQueen replied that he would check into it and report back. Mr. Jeff Jordan addressed the Board and made a complaint against the County Animal Control Officer. He explained that the officer had bragged about his treatment of cats which was overheard by Mr. Jordan and his children. Mr. McQueen told the Board that he would check into the complaint. The motion on the floor carried unanimously. (1/1472)

CDBG Community-Wide Score – Mr. McQueen advised he received the community-wide score for CDBG. He advised that he has scheduled a meeting to submit the grant application again. Jordan and Associates submitted it last year and they will submit it free of charge this year. If the grant is awarded to the County, the Commission will then select someone to administrate it. (1/1622)

Hart Springs Cleanup – Mr. McQueen referred to a letter from Cindy Butler requesting that she and a group of divers be allowed to clean up the spring opening at Hart Springs. Mr. McQueen provided an agreement and hold harmless agreement to Mr. McPherson for review before the next Board meeting. (1/1682)

Suwannee River Water Management District – Mr. McQueen advised he has obtained a grant

package for spring restoration. He will meet with Mr. Amos Philman to submit a grant application to continue the restoration process at Hart Springs. (1/1822)

Community Emergency Response Team Grant – Mr. McQueen requested authorization for the Chairman to sign an application for the Community Emergency Response Team Grant. He explained if the grant is awarded it will provide funding in the amount of \$11,002.50 for community response training. The Sheriff’s Volunteers and the Spring Ridge Homeowners Association has indicated an interest in the training. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to authorize the Chairman to sign the Community Emergency Response Team Grant application. The motion carried unanimously. (1/1892)

Florida Pure Water Wilderness – Mr. McQueen referred to a letter from the Pure Water Wilderness Committee. Mr. McQueen commended the work the committee has accomplished. (1/1927)

Birding Trail Signage Program – Mr. McQueen presented information regard a signage program for birding trails. He stated he will provide this information to Mr. Philman at Hart Springs. (1/1946)

Code Enforcement Report – Mr. McQueen presented a copy of the Code Enforcement monthly report for February 2004. He commended Ms. Diane Rondolet for the work she is doing. Ms. Diane Rondolet addressed the Board and explained that she is attempting to resolve code enforcement violations without having to go to the expense of a hearing. She requested authorization to work on violations that she observes in addition to the written complaints. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to authorize the Code Enforcement Officer to take proactive action. Mr. McPherson advised the interlocal agreement specifies the action will be by written complaint. He stated that it should not be a problem as long as the actions were not concentrated to one jurisdiction. Discussion was held concerning the special exception for Bailey Farms. The motion carried unanimously.

Building Department Report – Mr. McQueen provided a copy of the Building Department Report for January 2004 and commented that this had been a record breaking month with a total of 17 site built homes and 11 mobile homes.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 2004

Mobile Homes	11 Total / 6 Replacements/5 Impacts = \$7,206.55 (Trans. = \$5,357.15 / Capital = \$1,849.40)
New Construction	17 Total / 1 City of Bell / 16 Impacts = \$23,060.96 (Trans. = \$17,142.88 / Capital = \$5,918.08)
Remodeling	4 Total / 1 Fanning Springs
Barns	5
Sheds	0
Roofing	0

Pools	0
Garages	3 Total / 2 Impacts = \$2,882.62 (Trans.= \$2,142.86 / Capital = \$739.76)
Miscellaneous	2 Total / 1 Fanning Springs

Clerk’s Report (Continued):

Appraisal / Martini Grade – Mr. Gilliam presented an invoice in the amount of \$4,500 from Lampe, Roy & Associates, Inc. for the appraisal for a portion of the properties of Edgar Langford and Ray Langford for the SE 70th Avenue paving project. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$4,500. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting “no.” (1/2427)

SHIP Program – Mr. Radice presented the following SHIP Loan applications for approval:

– **Michelle Marshall:** 4549 NE 44 Ave., High Springs; Rehab, Low Income Category, loan amount, \$17,500. The SHIP Loan review committee recommended approval subject to: (1) applicants contribution, (2) signed contract from contractor, and (3) verification of insurance. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the loan to Michelle Marshall subject to the conditions set forth by the Loan Review Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

– **Hallie & Amber Rollinson:** 9579 Florida Street, Fanning Springs; Purchase; Moderate Income Category; loan amount, \$10,000. The SHIP Loan review committee recommended approval subject to: (1) appraisal showing value equal to or in excess of purchase price, (2) completion of repairs, (3) availability of SHIP funds, (4) closing of first mortgage in the amount of \$56,000, and (5) verification of buyer’s cash to close including contribution. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve the loan to Hallie and Amber Rollinson subject to the conditions set forth by the Loan Review Committee. The motion carried unanimously. (1/2470)

Workshop / Local Housing Assistance Plan:

Mr. Gilliam stated that this is the second workshop for revisions to the Local Housing Assistance Plan. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss proposed changes to the Plan prior to renewal.

Mr. Gilliam advised that Mr. Radice has turned in a resignation from his position as SHIP Administrator. He has accepted full time employment with the Central Florida Community College as an instructor. Mr. Radice will continue to work with the County through February 16th and will help train the person selected to fill his position.

Mr. Radice recommended the Commission consider raising maximum limit to \$80,000 and increasing the maximum loan amount for the very low income category. He explained this would allow the Program to meet the set asides with fewer applicants. This action would also provide greater equity to the buyer which would improve their ability to obtain a loan from a lender.

Mr. Gilliam pointed out that these items are already included in the guidelines and they also be included in the LHAP. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to include items #3 thru #13 in the LHAP. Mr. Gilliam referred to #9, “Authority to Approve Emergency Funding,” and asked that this be excluded due to the fact Mr. Radice will be leaving. This had been added to allow the SHIP Administrator to approve emergency funding in addition to the Clerk of Court. Commissioner Langford **amended** the motion to approve recommendations #3 thru #13 with the exclusion of #9. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bush and carried unanimously.

- #3. Income Producing Properties Not Eligible** – Income producing properties are defined as properties producing rental income, or business income based on day care, personal services, retail services or the like performed in the property. Home offices do not create income-producing properties unless the recipient regularly meets with customers within the property.
- #4. Special Needs Waiting List** – In the event applicants must be placed on a waiting list due to funds availability constraints, priority will be given to special needs applicants and selection for both special needs and other applicants will be based on income certification date.
- #5. Lifetime Limit** – Recipients who have previously applied for, and received, SHIP funds from Gilchrist County are only eligible to reapply if their previous award was less than the maximum award for their income level. In those instances, they may reapply, be decertified based on current income qualifications and may only receive an amount equal to the difference between what they are currently qualified to receive and what they have previously received. For example if an applicant was previously qualified for low income (\$17,500), received \$14,000 and later re-qualifies at the same low income level (\$17,500) the maximum award is \$3,500. Funds previously received under the Emergency strategy do not count towards this calculation.
- #6. Liens** – Properties must be free of any government or tax liens to be eligible for SHIP funding.
- #7. Applicant Contribution Defined** – Such contributions may include cash deposits paid under a purchase contract; typical closing cost expenses paid at or outside of closing; the cost of purchasing hazard insurance in instances where there is no existing insurance; payments made for the SHIP Health and Safety Review; and repairs or additions to the property required by SHIP and paid for by the applicant provided repairs or additions are complete and receipts are provided. Payments for prior year’s taxes, liens, repairs or improvements not required by SHIP or costs to cure existing title defects are excluded.
- #8. Additional Property Qualifications for Rehab/Emergency Assistance** – Property taxes and mortgage payments must be current as evidenced by paid tax receipts and an estoppel letter from the mortgage holder.
- #10. Mortgage Maximums for Build or Purchase** – The total value of new or existing mortgages including the SHIP mortgage cannot exceed the total equal to the appraised value of the property plus approved closing costs. Approved closing costs are those costs that are normal and customary in closing a first or second real estate mortgage.

This specifically excludes any costs associated with any debt consolidation, pay down debt or pay off existing debt or judgments other than an existing mortgage encumbering the property.

- #11. **Mortgage Maximums for Rehab** – The total of existing mortgages and the SHIP mortgage shall not exceed 150% of assessed/just value which ever is greater. The problem with the rehab portion is that it is not unusual for use to qualify a person for \$22,500 in rehab money on a home that is assessed at \$20,000 or less. It happens often for very low income applicants.
- #12. **Require SHIP Mortgages to be First or Second Position** – Stipulate that SHIP mortgages must either be in first or second position. SHIP mortgages may not be in positions inferior to second position even in instances of subordination.
- #13. **Use of SHIP Fund at Closing** – Stipulate that in purchase situations no funds from either the first mortgage or the SHIP mortgage may be used to consolidate debt, pay down debt or pay of existing debt or judgments other than an existing mortgage encumbering the property.

Discussion was held concerning the recommendation (#2), to increase the maximum home value to \$80,000 which will provide additional housing availability for the low and moderate income category. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to increase the maximum home value to \$85,000 and to increase the very low income category maximum loan amount to \$28,500. The motion carried unanimously. (1/2575)

County Administrator (Continued):

Road Department – Mr. McQueen mentioned that he is working on a recommendation for the reorganization of the Road Department and salary recommendations. (2/518)

Tower – Mr. McQueen recalled the Board had instructed him to contact Shands Hospital regarding a complaint made about the tower at the jail and landing a helicopter at that location. Mr. McQueen advised that Linda Walker had contacted Mr. Jim Howard, Director of Operations. Ms. Walker was present and told the Board that Mr. Howard was hesitant to put anything in writing but he did suggest that the County check with a tower company about lighting to address the issue of safety. Considering the safety issue, Chairman Durden suggested the Board consider another location to build a landing pad. He also suggested that he and Mr. McQueen contact the City of Trenton regarding this issue and find out what action they would prefer. The Board agreed. (2/544)

Paramedic Shortage – Ms. Walker advised that another paramedic has resigned for a higher paying position in another county. She told the Board that she had contacted two (2) past employees to fill the vacancies and offered them the positions for \$8.50 per hour. These paramedics reside in the County and would accept the positions if the pay rate were compatible with their current rate of pay. Ms. Walker requested direction from the Board regarding increasing the offer and possibly increasing the rate of the current paramedics. Discussion was held concerning the fact Ms. Walker could hire a new paramedic at a higher rate than some of the

other paramedics when considering their years of experience and qualifications. Ms. Walker explained that she had wanted to avoid any problems that may follow if she hired someone at a higher rate than some of the current paramedics. Chairman Durden commented that it was within her ability to hire within the current pay range. After further discussion, the Board directed Ms. Walker to meet with Mr. McQueen to work something out within the EMS budget. (2/785)

Purchase Order / Solid Waste – Mr. McQueen requested approval of a purchase order in the amount of \$5,000 to Affordable Tires for tire disposal. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to approve the purchase order in the amount of \$5,000. The motion carried unanimously. (2/1614)

South Santa Fe Avenue – Chairman Durden mentioned that he found out that the proposed boat plant project has been cancelled and asked Mr. McQueen what affect this will have on the OTTED Grant for the paving project. Mr. McQueen replied that he and Mr. McPherson had reviewed the contract and there is no provision in the grant that the County would be required to repay any funds. There is a separate contract with the developer who had agreed to create a certain number of jobs within three years after they are opened for business. Mr. McQueen explained that although the developer has cancelled the boat plant project, he has opened the water treatment plant and has employed 15 persons so far. (2/1723)

Proposed Fuel Depot – Chairman Durden advised he and Mr. McQueen met with Sheriff Turner and representatives from the City of Trenton regarding the possibility of entering into an interlocal agreement to construct a fuel depot for the City and the County. The representatives for the City of Trenton indicated that the City would be willing to provide a portion of the funds. Chairman Durden asked for the Board's approval to negotiate with the City of Trenton and bring back a recommendation for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to authorize Mr. McQueen and Chairman Durden to negotiate with the City of Trenton regarding an interlocal agreement for a fuel depot. The motion carried unanimously. (2/1858)

Sewer to the Jail – Commissioner Suggs asked for the status of putting in the sewer to the jail. Chairman Durden advised the project was pending resolution of right-of-way issues with Mr. Parker. These issues were resolved the past week. The equipment and the pipes have been delivered and the City will proceed with the project upon execution of the right-of-way contract. (2/1910)

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Suggs advised that she will be in Tallahassee on Wednesday and Thursday of this week for a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Small County Coalition. She will also be meeting with the Chairman of the committee for Historical Preservation, Florida Library System, regarding the process to have the Commissioner's Meeting Facility placed on the list of Florida Historical Landmarks.

Commissioner Gentry reported that he had contacted Brown Manufacturing Corp. regarding a mower for the trimming crew. He stated that the sales representative recommended a 600 series

mower which has been used by other counties. He explained that this mower is compatible with the current tractor used by the Road Department. Commissioner Gentry then contacted Trenton Farm Equipment and obtained a quote for the mower in the amount of \$3,600. He stated that the this purchase along with the installation of a guard on the tractor would cost a maximum of \$7,000. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to purchase the mower and put the guards on the tractor for a cost up to \$7,000. Commissioner Langford commented that he would

like to discuss this issue with Mr. Martin to make sure the mower will be adequate for the mulching. Commissioner Gentry **amended** the motion to be contingent upon the fact that the mower will be what is needed. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Langford reported that he had talked with Mr. Martin and work is going well with the Road Department.

Commissioner Bush reported that he had attended the Florida Crown Workforce meeting in Lake City. He also advised there will be a groundbreaking this week for the Hospice Center in Chiefland.

Old Business:

(None)

New Business:

(None)

Public Participation:

Mr. Buddy Ellis, on behalf of the Suwannee Valley Leagues, presented a letter acknowledging their agreement to comply with the requirements for the McArthur Park FRDAP Grant.

Mr. Ellis also requested the Board to waive a fee for the upcoming fireworks display. Chairman Durden asked Mr. Ellis to first meet with Mr. McQueen to make application for the permit.

Commissioner Suggs discussed the upcoming campaign and suggested that the Board put a time restriction upon placement of campaign signs. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, to not allow campaign signs to be placed anywhere until the third week in July. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gentry for discussion. Discussion was held concerning the County's restrictions for signs in right-of-ways. Mr. McPherson reminded the Board that the County's ordinance does not allow any signs, including campaign signs, in public right-of-ways. The Supervisor of Elections is providing this information to the candidates. He also advised that the Commission does not have the ability to put a time restriction on the placement of signs. Commissioner Suggs

withdrew the motion.

Public Hearing / Resolution 04-10, Uniform Method of Collecting Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments:

(Notice of this public hearing was published in the January 18, 15, 22, 29, 2004 editions of the Gilchrist County Journal and proof of publication is on file in the Clerk's Office.)

RESOLUTION 04-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA ELECTING TO USE THE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS LEVIED IN THE INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED AREA OF THE COUNTY; STATING A NEED FOR SUCH LEVY; PROVIDING FOR THE MAILING OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. McPherson reviewed the resolution and Chairman Durden read the short title. **Motion** by Commissioner Bush, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve Resolution 04-10. Mr. Jeff Jordan asked questions concerning the use of the proposed assessment. Chairman Durden explained that there will be additional workshops to determine the assessment and funding of the fire departments. The motion on the floor carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Langford **moved** to adjourn at 5:28 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Suggs and carried.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Randy Durden, Chairman

Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk