

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD FEBRUARY 16, 2004.**

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County Florida, convened in a regular meeting on Monday, February 16, 2004 at 4:30 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, Jacki Johnson, Deputy Clerk, Sam Ferguson, Director of Finance, Ron McQueen, EMA/County Administrator, Marvin Weaver, Mike Burnett, Delight Curtis, J.C. Robertson, Daniel Slaughter, Tom Richardson, Don Alexander, Margot Alexander, Frances Brooks, Charles Zanalua, Judy Zanalua, William Robinson, Regina Robinson, Michael Lamar, Ray Handy, Amanda Weeks, Milton Weeks, Gene Parrish, Jeff Jordan, Roy Smith, Lee Schaltenbrand, Brenda Schaltenbrand, Robert Bennett, Sharon Langford, Peter Butt, Bud Riffle.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Durden called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m. Commissioner Bush delivered the Invocation and Commissioner Gentry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Changes:**

Mr. Gilliam advised of one addition to his report, a request from Angela McKeefrey for use of the Courthouse grounds.

**Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to accept the agenda with the changes noted. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1) Approval to add MaRia Rogers to the Conflict Attorney List.
- 2) Approval of Purchase Order #400946 – to Medtronic Physio Control (\$4,722)
- 3) Approval of Budget Entry #BE4-029 – Local Housing Assistance Trust Fund (\$52,288)
- 4) Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2004, Regular Meeting

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

**Attorney's Report:**

Construction Licensing Board – Mr. McPherson advised the proposed ordinance establishing a Construction Licensing Board is scheduled for March 1, 2004. (1/078)

Resolution 04-14 – Mr. McPherson presented Resolution 04-14 authorizing the use of eminent domain for acquiring property for the SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Martini Grade) paving project. He explained that this resolution had been presented at an earlier meeting and failed on a vote of 2 to 2. At that time he intended to proceed with eminent domain by submitting a copy of the minutes of the meeting in which he first received authorization. However, there is a statutory provision that requires the County to take this action by resolution.

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-14**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN FOR THE TAKING OF CERTAIN PROPERTY NECESSARY FOR THE WIDENING, PAVING AND IMPROVING OF SOUTHEAST 70<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE IN UNINCORPORATED GILCHRIST COUNTY; MAKING A FINDING OF PUBLIC PURPOSE; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO INITIATE A “QUICK TAKE” UNDER CHAPTERS 73 AND 74, FLORIDA STATUTES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to approve Resolution 04-14. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting “no.” (1/085)

Martini Grade / Contracts – Mr. McPherson provided copies of the following contracts for approval:

(1) **Austin A. Martin:** 1.36 acres @ \$3,000 per acre for right of way; total purchase price, \$4,080. There are no special provisions included. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the contract with Austin Martin for a purchase price of \$4,080 and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the contract. The motion carried with Chairman Durden voting “no.”

(2) **Carroll M. Mixon:** 2.53 acres @ \$3,000 per acre for right of way; total purchase price, \$7,590. There are no special provisions included. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve the contract with Carroll M. Mixon for a contract price of \$7,590 and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the contract. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting “no.”

**Motion** by Commissioner Bush, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to reconsider the contract for Mr. Austin Martin. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the contract with Mr. Austin Martin and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the contract. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting “no.”

**(3) Patricia J. Nobles-Walling and James P. Walling:** .24 acres @ \$5,000 per acre for right of way, total of \$1,200. The contract includes the following special provisions; attorney fee, \$500 and survey, \$800; total purchase price \$2,500. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve the contract with Patricia and James Walling for a purchase price of \$2,500 and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the contract. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting “no.”

**(4) Carroll Mixon:** 3.71 acres @ \$3,000 per acre to purchase an easement for the water management area; total purchase price, \$11,130. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve the contract with Carroll Mixon for a purchase price of \$11,130 and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the contract. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting “no.”

**(5) Samuel E. & Bertha G. Lovelady:** .428 acres @ \$5,000 per acre for property to be used for water management. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve the contract with Samuel and Bertha Lovelady for a purchase price of \$2,140 and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the contract. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting “no.”

**(6) Stanley and Margaret Brocklebank:** .686 acres @ \$5,000 per acre for property to be used for water management; total purchase price, \$3,430. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the contract with Stanley and Margaret Brocklebank for a purchase price of \$3,430 and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the contract. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting “no.”

**(7) Larry A. and Marcia J. Davis:** .592 acres @ \$5,000 per acre for right of way and .430 acres @ \$5,000 per acre for water management area; total purchase price, \$5,110. The contract includes the following special provision; *“at the time when any existing fencing on Sellers’ property is removed, the Purchaser shall install a permanent American wire fence with a single board along the top along the west boundary line of the SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue right of way and around the associated water management area.”* **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve the contract with Larry and Marcia Davis for a purchase price of \$5,110 and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the contract. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting “no.”

**(8) Kevin P. Davis and Amy M. Russell:** 1.8 acres @ \$5,000 per acre for right of way and .360 acres @ \$5,000 per acre for property to be used for water management, total purchase price, \$7,690. The contract includes the following special provisions: *“(a) The Purchaser shall reimburse the Sellers for any damage caused to the Sellers’ well resulting from construction of SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue or the associated water management areas. The burden shall be on the Sellers to prove that damage to the well is the result of such construction. (b) The Purchaser shall install a new permanent fence (48" wire field-type on wood posts) along the west boundary line of the SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue right of way and around the associated water management area (along new property line). Whereas existing fencing in the specific area addressed by paragraph 14c below will become unnecessary, Purchaser shall provide an equal distance of fencing adjacent to said areas*

*as specified by sellers. Fence construction shall be completed, to Sellers' specifications, within 330 days of closing and Purchaser agrees to provide ample notice to Sellers in advance of day(s) when work will be conducted so that Sellers may relocate Sellers' animals from work area. Upon completion, fence will be wholly owned by Sellers. (c) The Purchaser shall install culverts under the driveways connecting SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue with Sellers' property of sufficient dimensions to allow access by large vehicles (70-foot tractor trailer), and agrees to orient culverts in such a manner as to duplicate Sellers' existing parking situation as shown on the attached Exhibit A. (d) The Purchaser agrees that, notwithstanding minimum lot size requirements in the Gilchrist County land development regulations, the Sellers' lot shall hereafter be treated as a conforming lot despite reductions in the Sellers' lot size due to land purchased for the SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue right of way and associated water management area."* **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve the contract to Kevin Davis and Amy Russell for a purchase price of \$7,690 and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the contract. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting "no."

**(9) David and Leah Neilson:** .537 acres @ \$5,000 per acre for water management area and .064 acres @ \$3,000 per acre for a water management easement; total purchase price \$2,877. There are no special provisions included in the contract. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve the contract with David and Leah Neilson for a purchase price of \$2,877 and to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to sign the contract. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting "no."

Mr. McPherson advised once these deeds have all been signed they will be ready to record. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to record the deeds. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting "no."

**Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve a blanket purchase order in the amount approved by the Board for the right of way and retention areas on SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue and to record the deeds. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting "no."

Mr. McQueen asked for clarification regarding the replacement of fencing. He stated that there is existing fencing along SE 70<sup>th</sup> that is on the property lines and is not in good condition. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to replace any existing fence along the easement whether the right of way was conveyed voluntarily or purchased. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting "no."

Mr. McQueen mentioned that there is a set of stock pens that belong to Carroll Mixon that are 28 feet into the right of way. He asked if the Board wanted these to be replaced also. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to replace the stock pens for Carroll Mixon. Commissioner Gentry advised that this expense can be paid through the grant. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting "no."

Discussion was held concerning the issue of driveways. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to replace the existing driveways or at least one (1) driveway

per property owner. The motion failed on a vote of 2 to 3 (Gentry/yes, Suggs/yes, Langford/no, Bush/no, Durden/no). **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to replace only the existing driveways. The motion carried with Commissioner Bush and Chairman Durden voting “no.” (1/131)

### **Workshop / Special Assessments for Fire Protection Services:**

*(This is the first of three scheduled workshops, the subsequent workshops will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup>.)*

Mr. McQueen explained the purpose of the workshop is to discuss the conversion of the funding for fire protections services from a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) to a special assessment. He explained that the Small County Technical Assistance Program has provided funding for the County to prepare a fire study this year.

Mr. McPherson explained the County Commission will also be considering the conversion of the funding for EMS from a special assessment to an MSTU. The reason being, a court in South Florida made a determination that a special assessment may not be used for EMS. Subsequent to that case, the Florida Legislature amended the law to allow it. Considering the uncertainty of the interpretation of the law, Mr. McPherson has advised the Commission to change the funding mechanism for EMS to M.S.T.U. which is unquestionably lawful.

Mr. McQueen recounted the changes that have taken place in fire services over the past years. In 1992, the Board agreed to fund the departments by special assessment but a method or nexus could not be determined at that time or in the following years. The current MSTU for fire services is 1 mill. Mr. McQueen discussed the training and equipment needed by the departments now and the increase in the cost of these items.

Mr. Lee Schaltenbrand, Assistant Fire Chief, Spring Ridge VFD, discussed the need for more training of firefighters, better equipment and vehicles. He explained that there was a fire in Bell on this date in which a double wide home was lost. He expressed his opinion had the fire departments been better equipped and response time quicker, the mobile home might have been saved.

Mr. Daniel Slaughter commented that he would like to see the County first come up with a plan or goal for the fire departments in order to determine the amount of funding needed. Chairman Durden stated that he agreed and that the Board would be considering this in the scheduled workshops.

Chairman Durden related that he and Mr. McQueen are currently discussing a county-wide fire service with the City of Trenton and will be entering into discussions with the Town of Bell and the City of Fanning Springs. Mr. Michael Lamar, City Manager, City of Trenton, commented that he believes the City will be interested in such a program in order to coordinate departments and the volunteers. He stated that he is in favor of moving forward with the proposed assessment and recommended that the City Commission and the public at large be further educated in this matter.

Chairman Durden advised that one of the increasing costs for the fire departments has been the workers compensation insurance. Commissioner Langford discussed the fact that if the County were able to lower the ISO rating by improvements in the fire service, citizens will see a reduction in their homeowner insurance premiums. He recommended that emphasis be placed on educating the public about these facts so that people will realize the assessment will actually save them money on insurance.

***Commissioner Bush left the meeting at 6:15 p.m.***

Commissioner Suggs related that her home was destroyed by fire in 1990 and that it may have been saved had there been better equipment.

Mr. McQueen introduced Mr. Robbie Robertson who will be conducting the fire study for the County.

Mr. Michael Lamar suggested that a joint meeting with the City of Trenton and the County be held after these workshops have concluded. The Board agreed. (1/1545)

#### **County Planner:**

Mr. Chumley advised the public hearing for a special permit application by Norfleet has been rescheduled to March 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Suggs suggested that this public hearing be held after 5:00 in order to provide an opportunity for more of the public to attend. She stated that she has had many citizens call her about this issue. Mr. Chumley suggested that it be rescheduled to the mid-month meeting. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to reschedule the public hearing for the application for special permit by Norfleet to the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:00 p.m. if that time is available. Mr. William Robinson, 8564 SE 64<sup>th</sup> Street, asked the Board to approve a time after 5:00 p.m. in order for him and his neighbors to be in attendance. The motion carried unanimously. (2/191)

#### **Deer Meadows Subdivision / Preliminary Plat:**

Mr. Chumley presented the application submitted by Pardue Land Surveying and O'Neal Sutton for preliminary plat approval of Deer Meadows Subdivision. The proposed subdivision, to be located off of CR 340, contains 70 lots to be constructed in three (3) phases. Mr. Chumley recalled this issue had come before the Board in January and there was an issue concerning turn lanes. He was directed to bring back additional information regarding turn lane regulations. He explained that the County does not have regulations for turn lanes into subdivisions. However, many counties require that if a development will generate a specified number of trips, the developer must provide a turn lane. Mr. Chumley stated that turn lanes would be helpful considering the number of lots and the fact that it is across from the Spring Ridge Subdivision.

Commissioner Gentry commented that this developer, having gone through all of the preliminary steps for approval, should not be required to provide turn lanes at this point. Mr. Chumley agreed and stated that in discussions with applicants, the rules adopted by ordinance are applied.

Mr. Mike Pardue referred to a map of the area and advised that the visibility to the west of the entrance is 1,100 feet and the visibility to the east is approximately 1,500. Considering the visibility in both directions is for quite a distance, he did not think the turn lanes would be needed. He said that he had discussed this issue with the engineer and they concluded that the radius at the entrance could be widened to the maximum width in order to provide a quicker turn off or a better angle upon exit.

***Commissioner Bush returned at 6:45pm***

**Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve the preliminary plat for Deer Meadows Subdivision. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to send a request to the Planning and Zoning Board for a recommendation concerning turn lane requirements for subdivisions. The motion carried unanimously. (2/333)

**Trenton Terrace Subdivision / Final Plat:**

Mr. Chumley presented the final plat for Trenton Terrace Minor Subdivision. The proposed subdivision, located off of SE 97<sup>th</sup> Trail, contains three (3) lots, all of which have frontage on existing roads.

Mr. Chumley recommended approval with two corrections; (1) indication of the power line easement along the north end of the property, and (2) revisions to legal description contained on the plat. He advised that Mr. Gene Parrish will take care of these revisions. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to approve the final plat for Trenton Terrace Minor Subdivision contingent upon the corrections mentioned. The motion carried unanimously. (2/635)

**County Attorney (Continued):**

Solid Waste Contract – Mr. McQueen has contacted the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners and is waiting to hear back regarding a time on the agenda to discuss the Solid Waste Contract. (2/707)

Interlocal Agreement for Nature Coast Greenway – Mr. McPherson advised he sent a notice of termination to Dixie and Levy counties for the Nature Coast Greenway agreement. (2/737)

Judicial Complex – Mr. McPherson stated a resolution has been scheduled for the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Mr. Gilliam told the Board that he has reviewed the resolution and forwarded a copy to the Court Administrators Office for review. (2/742)

Ginnie Springs v. Gilchrist County – Mr. McPherson reported that Ginnie Springs filed Notice of Appeal, but then filed a motion arguing that the filing of a Notice of Appeal was incorrect and asked the court to convert the Notice of Appeal into a Petition for Writ of Certiorari. He responded that the Notice of Appeal was the correct avenue of review. The Court agreed and told

them to file a brief. The brief has been filed but with errors. Mr. McPherson has filed a motion to strike the brief. (2/770)

Poitevint v. Gilchrist County – A case management conference has been scheduled for February 26. The County’s Motion to Dismiss has been set for hearing on March 9, 2004.

Brooks and Strickland v. Aderholts and Gilchrist County – A case management conference has been scheduled for February 26.

OTTED Contract / Santa Fe Avenue – Mr. McPherson recalled he had been asked to review the contract and make sure there is no provision whereby the County would be liable for refund of the grant funds if the specified amount of jobs are not created. He stated that he could find no language in the contract that would require the Count to pay it back. (2/800)

### **Clerks Report:**

Waters Lake Park FRDAP Project – Mr. Gilliam referred to a letter from DEP regarding the Waters Lake Park FRDAP Project. Mr. McQueen told the Board that he had contacted Mary Ann Lee, DEP, and found out that in order to resubmit the grant, they will need to close this one out. She asked that the County send her a letter withdrawing the application. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to withdraw the application for the Waters Lake FRDAP project. The motion carried unanimously. (2/854)

Proclamation 04-02 – Mr. Gilliam presented Proclamation 04-02 proclaiming March 2004 as “Mental Retardation Awareness Month.” A request for the proclamation was received from Comprehensive Community Services, Inc. Chairman Durden read the proclamation. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to approve Proclamation 04-02. The motion carried unanimously. (2/907)

Proclamation 04-03 – Mr. Gilliam presented Proclamation 04-03 honoring Mr. Jack Lindsey. Mr. Gilliam explained that Mr. Lindsey is very ill and several agencies are declaring Wednesday, February 18, 2004 to be “Jack Lindsey Day.” Chairman Durden read the proclamation. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve Proclamation 04-03. The motion carried unanimously. (2/930)

Public Records – For the Board’s information, Mr. Gilliam provided copies of articles published in the February 7 and 8 edition of the Gainesville Sun concerning violations of the “freedom of information” act. He explained that he had received a phone call from one of the reporters mentioned asking for copies of all of the emails from the County Administrator to the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Gilliam explained that during his conversation with the reporter he had asked him what time period he would like to have the records for and he had asked him for his name so that staff would know who to give the information to when he came to pick it up. According to the article, Gilchrist County had three (3) violations. Mr. Gilliam referred to the County Policies and Procedures Manual which requires a public records request be made in writing. Mr. McPherson advised that he did not see any violations with the public records

request but stated he would make any necessary revisions to the County's policies and procedures and bring back for the Board's approval.

Local Law Enforcement Block Grant – Mr. Gilliam presented the Local Law Enforcement Block grant awarded by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The grant award is \$6,308 and is for the period of February 1, 2004 thru July 31, 2004. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to accept the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and to authorized the Chairman to sign the Certification of Acceptance. The motion carried unanimously. (2/1178)

Tourism Task Force – Mr. Gilliam presented the First Amended Interlocal Agreement Creating *The Original Florida* Tourism Task Force. The amendment adds Leon County to the task force. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to authorize the Chairman to sign the Interlocal Agreement. The motion carried unanimously. (2/1200)

Application for Payment in Lieu of Taxes – Mr. Gilliam provided a copy of the application for payment in lieu of taxes which has been completed and forwarded to Suwannee River Water Management.

Town Meeting – Mr. Gilliam advised that Congressman Cliff Stearns will be holding a Town Meeting in Trenton on February 21<sup>st</sup> in the County Commission Meeting Room.

Suwannee River Economic Council – Mr. Gilliam presented a request from Suwannee River Economic Council for a letter of support for its application to Rural Development for funding for its Housing Preservation Grant Program. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the letter of support to the Suwannee River Economic Council. The motion carried unanimously. (2/1266)

SHIP Program – Mr. Gilliam presented the amended Local Housing Assistance Plan for approval. The plan includes changes made by the County Commission in it's last meeting. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to approve the SHIP Local Housing Assistance Plan. The motion carried unanimously. (2/1295)

Angela McKeefrey – Mr. Gilliam presented a request from Angela McKeefrey to allow Brownie Troop #1100, Trenton Elementary School, to use the Courthouse grounds on the weekends between February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 14<sup>th</sup> to hold their cookie sale. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the request. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **EMA/County Administrator's Report:**

Fire Service Study – Mr. McQueen referred to a letter from Robbie Robertson regarding the fire service study. He explained the purpose of this study is to provide recommendations, not only for a nexus for special assessment, but for improved service. (2/1385)

New Employment Application – Mr. McQueen provided a copy of a new employment application which has been approved by Mr. Mike Grogan, the County’s Labor Law attorney. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to adopt the revised employment application. The motion carried unanimously. (2/1475)

DEP, Request for Fine Reduction – Mr. McQueen advised he sent a request to DEP for a reduction in the amount of the fines incurred for the lapse in the landfill permit. It was determined that the County will be responsible for payment in the amount of \$3,250 as stated in the Consent Order. Mr. McQueen also advised that the deadline for the new application for permit is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. McQueen and Mr. Fischer will be attending a class in Gainesville this week to receive certification and an operators license. (2/1524)

EMS – Mr. McQueen referred to a memo from Ms. Walker, EMS Director, and a copy of his response. He advised that one former employee has been hired to fill one of the vacancies and another one is scheduled to come in for an interview. Mr. McQueen and Ms. Walker will also be meeting with one of the employees who runs a consulting service. They will meet with him to discuss staffing issues. He has offered to do a staffing plan at no charge to the County. (2/1630)

Sheriff’s Request for Write-Offs – Mr. McQueen referred to a request from Sheriff Turner regarding the write off of two invoices. These invoices were approved by the Board on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McQueen explained that in the past, the invoices for non-transport to the Sheriff’s Office were written off but that those for transport were not. Discussion was held concerning whether or not to pay such invoices out of the General Fund or to write them off with the quarterly write-offs. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to instruct EMS to submit these invoices with the quarterly write-offs for approval. The motion carried unanimously.

EOC Grant – Mr. McQueen recalled the Board had recently authorized him to submit a grant application for funding of an Emergency Operations Center. Upon completion of the application, he met with Mr. Gilliam and Chairman Durden for review. The total cost would be approximately \$899,000 with a grant amount of \$300,000. It is their recommendation that the application be postponed until the next grant cycle. **Motion** by Commissioner Bush, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to postpone the EOC grant until the next grant cycle. The motion carried unanimously. (2/2026)

Boat Ramps – Mr. McQueen referred to a letter from Frank Darabi, Environmental Consultant, regarding grants through the Florida Boating Improvement Program. He has offered to submit a grant application for the construction of boat ramps at Hart Springs and Log Landing. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to approve the application for the grants and to authorization to obtain the surveys needed. The motion carried unanimously. (2/2130)

### **Commissioners’ Reports:**

**Commissioner Suggs** reported that she is expecting a packet of information to apply for the Historical Landmark program. She is working on having the Meeting Facility included on the list of Florida Historical Landmarks.

**Commissioner Suggs** also discussed the efforts being made by the Small County Coalition for the Article V and Solid Waste issues.

**Commissioner Gentry** asked Commissioner Langford about the status of purchasing a mower for the Road Department. Commissioner Langford replied that he had not had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Martin and Mr. Gothard to go look at one. Mr. McQueen advised that he contacted RingPower and found out they have a three year lease/purchase plan for a tractor that would be suitable for the limbing crew. He stated he would obtain a quote to bring back to the next meeting.

**Commissioner Gentry** asked Mr. McQueen if he had anything to report concerning the Road Superintendent position. Mr. McQueen replied he did an evaluation of the Road Department in 1994 and he wants to compare it to what he has now. He will bring back a report to the next Board meeting.

**Commissioner Gentry** mentioned that Governor Bush is considering reinstating the SCRAP Program for road projects. He suggested that in the future an attempt should be made to acquire right of way prior to receiving the funding. Discussion was held concerning the NW 10<sup>th</sup> St. Commissioner Langford told Mr. McQueen that he would meet with him to schedule a committee meeting to discuss the road issues. Mr. McPherson reminded the Board that such committee meetings will need to be advertised.

**Commissioner Langford** asked Mr. McQueen about the status of the permit for the Peanut Road. Mr. McQueen advised that he has submitted the paper work to the State but has not received the permit yet.

**Commissioner Langford** advised that one of the Road Department trucks, the 93' Ford F-150, will need to have a new transmission. He obtained a quote from White Ford in the amount of \$2,231.50 and a quote of up to \$2,000 from Tri-County Transmission. Mr. Milton Weeks suggested that the Commission also consider the warranty on a rebuilt transmission. He stated that with Ford, the warranty should be for 3-years or 3,600 miles. Commissioner Langford stated that he would like to obtain at least one more quote, with warranty information, before bringing back a recommendation.

**Chairman Durden** told the Board that he is gathering some information in order to meet with the City of Trenton concerning the proposed fuel depot. Mr. McQueen stated that he had contacted Lube Specialist to obtain information from them about putting in a fuel depot. Commissioner Bush said that he had talked with Wes Grant, Chiefland Purina Store, and found out that they wish to sell their fuel system. They have a 10,000 gallon tank, meters and keys. The system will record the date, the amount of fuel and the driver of the vehicle. The Board asked Mr. McQueen to contact Mr. Grant for more information.

**Chairman Durden** advised that he will also be discussing the issue of the tower and the landing pad with the City of Trenton.

**Commissioner Langford** asked if the speed limit is 55 mph on a County grade unless otherwise posted. Mr. McPherson advised it is 30 mph in a residential area and suggested that if this is the case it should be posted in order to have the Sheriff's Office readily recognize the fact. Chairman Durden stated that the request to have the speed limit posted should be brought before the Board in order to have it recorded in the official records.

**Old Business:**

**Mr. Sam Ferguson** presented two (2) purchase orders for the replacement of the floor in the Library Meeting Room; \$1,561/for labor and \$1,707/for materials (total: \$3,268). He recalled that the funds for this project had been obtained through a donation by Mr. McElroy. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to approve the purchase orders. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

(None)

**Public Participation:**

(None)

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Langford **moved** to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Suggs and carried.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Randy Durden, Chairman

Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk