

## **MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD APRIL 5, 2004.**

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County Florida, convened in a regular meeting on Monday, April 5, 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 B. Suggs**

(Absent: Commissioner Bush)

**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, Ben Chumley, County Planner, Beth Latner, Amos Philman, Diane Rondolet, Ron Mills, John Ayers, Mike Burnett, Lynette Vermillion, Gene Parrish, Robert Moeller, Don Strickland, Dwayne Yates, David Brooks, Edward Aderholt, Geneva Cornwell, Kenrick Thomas, Evelyn Meece, Hattie Tucker, Jeff Feller, Gerald Feller, Lee Mills, Andrew Carswell, Doris Aderholt, Rick Reed, Robert Phillips, Ted Burt.

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Durden called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Commissioner Gentry delivered the Invocation and Commissioner Suggs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Agenda Changes:**

Additions:

1. Value Adjustment Board (*Clerk's Report*)
2. Public Safety Coordinating Committee (*Attorney's Report*)
3. Robert Moeller, Stage Project at Fanning Springs (*Old Business*)
4. Bids, South Santa Fe Avenue paving project

Deletions:

1. Citizen's Request, Frances A. Jones re: NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Court

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

## **Consent Agenda:**

### CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Approval of Bills
- 2) Approval of EMS Write-Offs: Total amount \$10,092.73
- 3) Approval of Budget Entries:
  - a. #BE4-033, General Fund (\$14,398.74)
  - b. #BE4-034, Local Housing Assistance Trust Fund (\$57,142.11)
  - c. #BE4-036, Fire District Trust Fund (\$1,100)
- 4) Approval of Minutes:
  - a. August 14, 2003, Budget Workshop
  - b. August 21, 2003, Budget Workshop
  - c. August 25, 2003, Budget Workshop
  - d. August 26, 2003, Budget Workshop
  - e. March 15, 2004, Regular Meeting

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

## **Attorney's Report:**

Martini Grade – Mr. McPherson reported that the Langford's attorney has agreed to a stipulated order of taking and will not appear to contest any matters at the April 8<sup>th</sup> hearing. This confirms that the County will obtain the property for the right of way. The Langfords have requested that they be permitted to put up their own fencing and that they be given 60 days to complete it.. Mr. McPherson advised he had discussed this with Lee Mills and there should be no problem with the request. The County will reimburse them for the cost of the fencing materials from the construction funds.

Mr. Gilliam mentioned that the funds for eminent domain will need to be deposited in the registry of the court on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. McPherson referred to copies of the closing documents for the voluntary sales and pointed out that all were under \$500. He stated that Mr. Ted Burt has completed most of the closings at this time. (1/088)

Five-Foot Setback – Mr. McPherson advised the proposed ordinance regarding the five-foot setback regulations is pending before the Planning and Zoning Board. (1/233)

Ginnie Springs v. Gilchrist County – Mr. McPherson stated this case is pending before the First District. Mr. McPherson has filed an answer brief in response to Ginnie Springs initial brief.

(1/257)

Poitevint v. Gilchrist County – Mr. McPherson advised the plaintiffs in this case are required to file a second amended complaint that is limited to the issue of consistency with the County's comprehensive plan. (1/279)

Brooks and Strickland v. Aderholts and Gilchrist County – Mr. McPherson advised at the prehearing conference held on March 30<sup>th</sup>, the plaintiffs said they would be filing an amended complaint. (1/281)

Public Safety Coordinating Council – Mr. McPherson advised he was contacted by a public defender expressing concerns about the fact the jail has been at or above capacity recently. Mr. McPherson recommended that a meeting be scheduled as soon as possible for the Public Safety Coordinating Council to review this issue. He also recommended, after reviewing the statutes regarding the Public Safety Coordinating Council, that this committee should be established by resolution. He will prepare a resolution for the Board's consideration at the next meeting. Chairman Durden directed staff to schedule the Public Safety Council meeting.

### **Constitutional Officers:**

Chairman Durden referred to the Sheriff's monthly report for discussion. In regard to the payroll software program, Mr. Ferguson advised he is waiting for a quote from Pentamation for the Sheriff's Office. Chairman Durden asked Mr. Ferguson to check into finding out why the jail has not received the new toilet yet.

Chairman Durden asked Mr. McQueen for an update regarding moving the generator from the Sheriff's Office to the Jail. Mr. McQueen referred to a quote received from Ring Power in the amount of \$1,290 for the move and a quote from Fason Electric for a cost up to \$6,000 for the electrical work. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the payment up to \$7,092 to move the generator. The motion carried unanimously. (1/385)

### **Attorney's Report (continued):**

Mr. McPherson advised the amount to be deposited in the registry of the court for eminent domain on the Langfords property is \$21,625. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to deposit \$21,625 in the registry of the court from the Transportation Impact Fee Fund for eminent domain on the Langford properties plus court fees and costs. The motion carried with Chairman Durden voting "no." (1/805)

### **Proclamation 04-05 / Child Abuse Prevention Month:**

Mr. Rick Reed presented Proclamation 04-05 recognizing the month of April 2004 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Mr. Reed explained that the Tri-County Prevention Task Force was assembled on March 19, 2004 to help facilitate services, network and awareness programs for child abuse in Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy counties. The task force is requesting participation from

the local media, local government and the school boards to bring child abuse education issues to the forefront. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to adopt Proclamation 04-05. The motion carried unanimously. (1/950)

**Progress Energy:**

Chairman Durden recognized Lynette Vermillion, Community Relations Manager for Progress Energy. Ms. Vermillion presented information concerning the companies accomplishments and activities for the past year. She stated the Company has strived to improve service in the area, reducing outages, adding generation and reducing the rates. She referred to the “report card” and pointed out that the outages have been reduced by 18%, the daily power survey indicates that their services have improved and the base rates have been reduced . (1/1090)

**Lee Mills:**

Mr. Lee Mills and Mr. Andrew Carswell, Mills Engineering, appeared before the Board to discuss current projects.

South Sante Fe Avenue Project – Mr. Mills presented the following bid for South Sante Fe Avenue. The bids were opened on April 2, 2004.

(1)	Anderson Columbia	\$454,958.13
(2)	John C. Hipp Construction	\$363,592.12
(3)	Music Construction	\$456,924.63

**Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to accept the bid in the amount of \$363,592.12 from John C. Hipp Construction for the South Santa Fe Avenue project. The motion carried unanimously. (1/1178)

County Road 138 – Mr. Mills advised a preconstruction conference with Anderson Columbia will be scheduled soon.

Solid Waste Permit – Referring to a letter from DEP regarding the transfer site permit, Mr. Mills explained that the information requested will be provided and the application is on schedule.

SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Mr. Mills advised the SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue project is now ready for bidding. Mr. McQueen stated that he has been in contact with Mr. Clyde Forbes regarding the railroad property. Mr. Forbes advised him that he would be getting the permitting and carrying out the work for the crossing. Afterward, he will invoice the County for the cost. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to authorize Mr. Mills to put the SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue project out to bid. The motion carried with Commissioner Durden voting “no.” (1/1559)

### **North Central Florida Health Planning Council:**

Jeff Feller, Resource Development Director, North Central Florida Health Planning Council, appeared and presented information concerning the District 3 Health Plan. He advised that the Health Planning Council is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> year in providing services to North Central Florida. Their primary mission is to improve health care for residents by advocating, facilitating and implementing a variety of health care programs which include Healthy Start, Ryan White Program and the Rural Health Partnership.

Mr. Feller recognized Mr. Dwayne Yates, who serves on the Council as representative for Gilchrist County and thanked him for his participation.

### **Clerk's Report:**

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson – Mr. Gilliam advised the Board that Senator Nelson's Regional Director will be available in the County Commissioners' Meeting Facility once a month to meet with citizens. (1/2945)

Judicial Complex – Mr. Gilliam referred to copies of letters that he sent to MM Parrish Construction Company, Gardnyr Michael Capital, Inc., USDA and Architects Design Group. The letters along with a copy of Resolution #04-15 serve as notification of the termination of all agreements relating to the proposed judicial complex. (1/2970)

Records Management Seminar – Mr. Gilliam provided information regarding a Public Records Management Seminar in Crystal River. The cost per person is \$50. (1/2998)

Budget Amendments – Mr. Gilliam presented the following resolutions for approval.

**1) Resolution 04-18 (BE4-031):** This resolution amends the Local Housing Assistance Trust Fund Budget by an increased amount of \$2,042.02, which represents the payoff of the Todd and Sharla Smith mortgage. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve Resolution 04-18. The motion carried unanimously.

**2) Resolution 04-19 (BE4-032):** This resolution amends the General Fund Budget by an increased amount of \$6,308 which represents the grant awarded by the State of Florida, Office of Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement Block Grant titled Gilchrist County Special Operations. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve Resolution 04-19. The motion carried unanimously.

**3) Resolution 04-20 (BE4-035):** This resolution amends the General Fund Budget by an increased amount of \$11,518 which represents the additional grant award for the Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance (EMPA) Base Grant. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve Resolution 04-20. The motion carried unanimously. (1/3057)

Proclamation 04-04 – Mr. Gilliam presented Proclamation 04-04, proclaiming the month of May, 2004 Civility Month. The request for the proclamation was received from the City, County and Local Government Law Section of The Florida Bar. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve Proclamation 04-04. The motion carried unanimously. (1/3220)

Value Adjustment Board Organizational Meeting – Mr. Gilliam recommended that the 2004 VAB organizational meeting be scheduled at 3:00 p.m. on May 17<sup>th</sup>. He requested the Commission appoint three (3) representatives to serve on the Value Adjustment Board. The Board agreed to appoint Chairman Durden, Commissioner Gentry and Commissioner Langford to serve on the VAB Board for 2004. (1/3300)

### **Sheriff's Report:**

Sheriff Turner asked for the Board's input regarding submission of a COPS grant application for two (2) school resource deputies (1 for each elementary school). He explained that this grant would fund the personnel cost but would not pay for all of the benefits, a vehicle, training or equipment. Chairman Durden questioned whether or not the Board could continue funding for those positions once the grant funds are expended. Sheriff Turner commented that the current priority for the Sheriff's Office is to acquire additional patrol deputies in the future. This would give more flexibility in scheduling and have deputies who could backup or fill in at the schools.

Mr. Gilliam mentioned the repairs needed for the tower. He recalled that the Board had discussed finding an alternate location for the landing pad. The cost of the tower repairs could then be utilized to put in a new landing pad. Chairman Durden stated that he is still working on this issue with the City of Trenton.

Discussion was held concerning the relocation of the Road Department to Walker's Curve. Chairman Durden suggested that Commissioner Langford meet with Mr. McQueen and bring back an estimate for the cost of the move.

Sheriff Turner advised he is working with the Clerks, States Attorneys and Florida Department of Law Enforcement on implementing an Integrated Criminal History System (ICHS). (2/001)

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

Modification COOP Agreement – Mr. McQueen presented a modification to the COOP Agreement (#03-FT-1B-03-31-01-288) which will provide an additional \$3,332. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to accept the modification in the amount of \$3,332 to be placed in the General Fund. The motion carried unanimously. (2/377)

DOT Five Year Work Program Update – Mr. McQueen referred to a letter from DOT concerning the addition to the County's priority list for the 5-Year Work Program. DOT approved the

request for a left turn lane at CR 339. (2/490)

Reimbursement Medical Expenses – Mr. McQueen presented a reimbursement request in the amount of \$40 from Ms. Liz Holder for medical expenses. The reimbursement is for expenses paid to the Trenton Medical Center where Ms. Holder sought treatment after a fall in the courthouse hallway. Mr. Ferguson advised that Ms. Holder was struck by a door opening into the hallway and that the door was subsequently removed. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the reimbursement request. The motion carried unanimously. (2/517)

EMS Overpayment Request – Mr. McQueen referred to a letter from First Coast Service Options, Inc. requesting reimbursement of an overpayment in the amount of \$18,637.33 paid to the EMS Department by Medicare. Mr. McQueen then reviewed another letter from EMS Consultants, LTD. claiming that the refund requested is due to an incorrect allowance calculation by the Medicare Carrier. EMS Consultants recommends payment in full followed by an audit to determine if the amount is actually owed. Mr. McQueen advised that Ms. Walker has suggested that this issue be turned over to EMS Consultants to collect any monies due back to the County. Mr. McPherson advised that the County has recently received two (2) notices from the IRS stipulating that any money owed to EMS Consultants be sent to the IRS instead to pay for taxes owed. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to pay the reimbursement in the amount of \$18,637.33, to contact the legislative delegation for assistance to help resolve this matter and to direct the County Attorney to make inquires concerning the IRS notices mentioned. Commissioner Gentry commented that he does not agree that the bill should be paid if it is not certain that the County owes it. The motion carried with Commissioner Gentry voting “no.” (2/581)

Economic Development Strategy – Mr. McQueen presented the status report prepared for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update Survey. He requested authorization to submit the survey to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve the Economic Development Strategy Report. The motion carried unanimously. (2/852)

Transportation Enhancement Projects – Mr. McQueen referred to the application for Transportation Enhancement Projects which were received by the municipalities.

Solid Waste Transfer Station – Mr. McQueen presented a purchase order request in the amount of \$9,878 to Mills Engineering. This amount is due for engineering services required to submit the permit application to DEP. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the purchase order in the amount of \$9,878. The motion carried unanimously. (2/947)

Fueling Station, Update – Mr. McQueen provided information concerning the use amount for each County department including the Constitutional Officers. The total cost for the past year is \$208,212.19. Chairman Durden estimated that with a fueling depot, there will be an approximate 15% to 20% savings. (2/985)

Alachua County Solid Waste Contract – Mr. McQueen reported that he had met with Norm Thomas, the director of the Alachua County Solid Waste Department and representatives from Wesley Sanitation and Waste Pro to discuss options for the Solid Waste costs. Mr. Thomas is going to suggest to the Alachua County Commission that the \$3 out of county fee be eliminated. Discussion was also held concerning borrowing trailers from Alachua County to have loaded in Gilchrist County so that the waste is only handled once which should reduce the cost of operation for Gilchrist County and reduce the tipping fees. More discussions will be held in the future to work something out with Alachua County. (2/1062)

SR 47 Solid Waste Site – Mr. McQueen reported that the SR 47 site has been opened for a few weeks and operations are going well with the exception of a few citizens who are refusing to pay. Mr. McQueen asked for the Board’s direction concerning enforcement of the fees charged to the citizens. Commissioner Suggs stated that she would meet with Mr. McQueen concerning this issue to bring back a recommendation. (2/1161)

**Public Hearing / High Springs Hills Subdivision, Preliminary Plat:**

Mr. Chumley presented the preliminary plat for “High Springs Hills” subdivision. The proposed subdivision includes 15 lots and a paved road. Mr. Chumley advised the plat is generally consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan. He also stated the plat is consistent with the LDRs with the exception of Section 5.26.2, which pertains to the road paving issue. Mr. Chumley provided the staff recommendation for approval, subject to the applicant making provisions for the paving of NE 30<sup>th</sup> Street and NE 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue from the subdivision entrance to CR 337.

Mr. Ted Burt, representing Mr. Robert Phillips, addressed the issue of the requirement for paving of CR 337 and NE 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue to NE 30<sup>th</sup> Street (Dixie Grade). Mr. Burt referred to Section 5.26.2 of the LDRs and contended that the language provides for discretionary action by the Board and is not a requirement. Discussion was held concerning the language which was adopted in 1998.

*Section 5.26.2: Where the proposed subdivision includes an existing street, said street shall also be improved as required to conform with this schedule. The Board of County Commissioners requires that one access road be paved as specified in Section 5.26.2.11 from the proposed major subdivision to the closest or most convenient paved state, county or municipal road at the expense of the subdivider.*

Chairman Durden explained that it was the intention of the Board at that time to require a paved road from a major subdivision to the nearest paved road. During discussion, it was suggested, due to the cost to the developers for paving, that the Board approve the proposed preliminary plat for High Springs Hills and consider an amendment to the language in Section 5.26.2. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve the preliminary plat for High Springs Hills without requiring the paving of the road to the Dixie Grade. Mr. McPherson recommended that approval be granted and that the language in the LDRs be amended to clarify the Board’s intent. The motion carried with Commissioner Suggs voting “no.” (2/1703)

**County Planner:**

Tool Sale for T.A.P. Enterprises, Inc. – Mr. Chumley presented a request from T.A.P. Enterprises for approval to conduct a tool sale on Friday, April 9, 2004 from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Building on Highway 129. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the request. The motion carried unanimously. (2/2745)

Right of Way Deed for NE 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Mr. Chumley recalled that at a recent meeting, the Board tentatively approved acceptance of a right of way deed for NE 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This property is being conveyed by Mr. Lowell Chesborough at no cost to the County. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to accept the right of way deed for NE 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The motion carried unanimously. (2/2770)

FDOT Functional Classification Map – Mr. Chumley presented a revised version of the Roadway Functional Classification Map and requested authorization for the Chairman to sign the map. The map will then be submitted to FDOT for its periodic map update process. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to authorize Chairman Durden to sign the Roadway Functional Classification Map. The motion carried unanimously. (2/2859)

**Public Hearing / Ordinance 04-06:**

Chairman Durden read the short title of Ordinance 04-06. Mr. McPherson explained that the proposed ordinance is a result of the Board's recent action to adopt an ordinance establishing the position of "County Administrator" thus transferring the authority to approve purchase orders up to \$5,000 to the County Administrator

**ORDINANCE 04-06**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING PURCHASING PROCEDURES TO PROVIDE FOR APPROVAL OF CERTAIN PURCHASES BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR RATHER THAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER; PROVIDING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve Ordinance 04-06. The motion carried unanimously. (2/3200)

**Citizens Request / Senior Citizens Bell Area:**

Ms. Joyce Corley presented a request from a group of senior citizens in the Bell area who wish to use the Cruse Community Center on Friday nights for games and socializing. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve the request. The motion carried unanimously. (2/3310)

## **Gilchrist County Safety Program Committee:**

First Aid Kits – Ms. Beth Latner, Safety Coordinator, presented a request from the Safety Program Committee for approval to purchase 18 first aid kits. She provided the following vendors and prices available: Wal-Mart (\$4.83), Viking (\$25.47), Emedco (\$15.79) and Global Ind. (\$16,50). **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve the purchase of 18 first aid kits from Wal-Mart at a cost of \$4.83 each. The motion carried unanimously. (3/014)

First Aid Training – Ms. Latner advised the Safety Program Committee has recommended that in-house first aid and CPR training be provided to employees on a voluntary basis. Ms. Linda Walker is working to put together a training package and will provide the cost to the committee. (3/058)

Drivers Licenses – Ms. Latner presented a proposed amendment to the Employee Personnel Policy relating to motor vehicle use and record checks. The amendment to the policy coincides with Chapter 401.273, F.S..

The proposed amendment to “Motor Vehicle Use and Record Checks,” Paragraph 3: Drivers who have, within the past 3 years, been convicted of reckless driving or driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances or who have had a driver’s license suspended under the point system provided for in chapter 322 of the Florida Statutes, ~~with unsatisfactory motor vehicle reports or who have had their licenses suspended~~ may be prohibited from driving County vehicles and/or from using their personal cars when performing work for the County. If this prevents an employee from performing his/her duties, the employee may be reassigned to another position, suspended or discharged at the discretion of the Department Head.

**Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to amend the language to the Employee Policy as recommended. The motion carried unanimously. (3/088)

## **EMA/County Administrator’s Report (continued):**

Building Department Report – Mr. McQueen presented the Building Department Report for the month of March 2004.

Mobile Homes	25 Total / 11 Replacements 14 impact fees=\$20,178.34 (Transp.=\$15,000.02 / Capital =\$5,178.32)
New Construction	15 Total (with 2 being Commercial) / 3 replacements 11 impact fees = \$16,320.05 (Transp =\$12,145.53 / Capital =\$4,174.52)
Remodeling/Additions	1 Pools 2
Barns	7 Roofing8
Sheds	3 Garages1
Miscellaneous	6

Code Enforcement Report – Mr. McQueen presented the Code Enforcement Report for March 2004. Ms. Diane Rondolet reported that the file for Mr. Mac Johnson is still pending and that she is going to meet with Mr. McPherson to proceed with a Code Enforcement Hearing. Ms. Rondolet also advised that there is a problem with illegal dumping and she recommended that the Board consider the use of surveillance cameras to help with enforcement.

Application by Richard S. Goolsby – Mr. McQueen referred to a letter from Mr. Richard S. Goolsby requesting a variance for his mobile home located at 4659 NW 20 Avenue, Bell. Mr. McQueen explained that Mr. Goolsby had the used mobile home pre-inspected prior to moving it into the County. After it was set up, the Building Inspector found that it did not meet compliance with the County's regulations. It is not Wind-Zone 2 compliant. Mr. McQueen discussed the fact that the problem occurred through the pre-inspection and that Mr. Goolsby was not at fault nor does he have the financial ability at this time to move the home. Mr. McQueen told the Board that the department has experienced many problems with the pre-inspections and he recommended that Mr. Wiggins address the Board at a future date concerning options for the pre-inspection process. Chairman Durden asked him to place Mr. Wiggins on the agenda for the first meeting in May. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to approve the request from Mr. Goolsby. The motion carried unanimously. (3/450)

Hart Springs / Birding Trail – Mr. McQueen advised he has received an agreement from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for the Birding Trail. Under this agreement, the Fish and Wildlife Commission will provide signs for the Park and the County will be responsible to report the loss or absence of any signs at which time the signs will be replaced. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement. The motion carried unanimously. (3/724)

Hart Springs / SW 86<sup>th</sup> Way – Mr. McQueen presented a request from Mr. Amos Philman regarding SW 86<sup>th</sup> Way. Mr. Philman recommends that this limerock road be closed to thru traffic due to the fact that it is located between the recreation areas and the new camping facility and there are concerns for safety. He advised that it is also a road that provides access to the springs without paying admission. Mr. McQueen asked direction regarding initiating Road Closure Procedures. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to authorize Mr. McQueen to initiate procedures to close SW 86<sup>th</sup> Way. The motion carried unanimously.

Bell VFD – Mr. McQueen advised that Wayne Taylor and Shawn Fritz, volunteer firemen with the Bell VFD were charged with misdemeanors over the past weekend. Per the Personnel Policy, Mr. McQueen recommended that these volunteers be suspended pending the outcome of the arrests at which time they may be dismissed or reinstated. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Langford to suspend Wayne Taylor and Shawn Fritz from the Bell VFD. The motion carried unanimously. (3/852)

Southeast Gilchrist VFD – Mr. McQueen advised that Mr. Ryan Ray, Fire Chief, is in the process of starting a business in Georgia. Mr. McQueen recommended that Mike Burnett, the Assistant Chief be appointed interim chief in Mr. Ray's absence. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry,

seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to appoint Mike Burnett to serve as interim chief for the Southeast Gilchrist VFD. The motion carried unanimously. (3/900)

### **Old Business:**

Mr. Robert Moeller presented information concerning the progress of the stage project (Rachel's State) at Fanning Springs State Park. He requested the Board to consider a contribution toward the completion of the project. The project is being sponsored by the Friends of Fanning and the Dixie County Chamber of Commerce and will be available for use by organizations within the tri-county area. Mr. Moeller provided a list of contributors and a total of the expenditures to date. Among the contributors, the Levy County Commission and the Dixie County Commission has donated \$5,000 each. The estimated cost of completion is \$5,467.65. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to make a donation of \$5,000 to the project to be paid from General Reserve. After further discussion concerning the budget, Commissioner Suggs amended the motion to contribute \$2,500 to the project. The amendment was seconded by Commissioner Gentry and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Lois Fletcher, Gilchrist County Chamber:**

Mrs. Lois Fletcher, Gilchrist County Chamber of Commerce, advised the Board that a local business owner has offered a donation of \$1,000 to obtain membership for Gilchrist County in "The Original Florida." Ms. Fletcher asked for permission to proceed with the enrollment. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to accept the offer to have Gilchrist County listed in "The Original Florida." The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Fletcher advised the business owner is Barbara Wray Suggs owner of Ginnie Springs.

### **Commissioners' Reports:**

**Commissioner Gentry** told the Board that he would like to schedule an agenda item to discuss the possibility of bringing scuba diving into Hart Springs. Mr. Amos Philman agreed that he would like this issue to be taken into consideration. The Board agreed to schedule the item for May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**Commissioner Gentry** mentioned that he will be attending a seminar in Orlando on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to complete the Commissioner Orientation program. **Motion** by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve the expense for the overnight stay. The motion carried unanimously.

**Commissioner Suggs** reported that she had attended the Levy County Commission meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issues regarding the Florida Association of Counties. She stated that Mary Kay Cariseo, Vivian Zaricki and Guy Maxcy, with FAC were also in attendance. Commissioner Suggs explained that she had advised the FAC representatives that there would be a letter forthcoming from Gilchrist County expressing concerns regarding the lack of representation on behalf of small counties and notifying FAC that if the Commission does not

see a difference or a significant increase in their efforts it will consider doing the same thing Levy County did at budget time. Commissioner Suggs said she will be attending the FAC meeting in the Spring and will report back to the Board.

**Chairman Durden** reported that he is continuing to work with the City of Trenton concerning a possible location for a helicopter landing pad, a county-wide fuel depot and the sewer to the jail.

**Chairman Durden** recalled at the last meeting, he had been asked to write a letter to FAC regarding the Board's concerns about the lack of representation for small counties. He advised he had not written the letter yet because he wanted clarification regarding the message the Board wishes him to relay. He told Commissioner Suggs that he had not written the letter because he was contacted by persons in Levy County advising him that she had told the FAC representatives that if there were not significant changes made, Gilchrist County would be the second county to pull out from FAC. Commissioner Suggs stated that she thought the Board had discussed this decision at its last meeting. Chairman Durden recalled that this had been discussed but that the Board did not agree to take that action. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Suggs, to not send the letter. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

(None)

**Public Participation:**

Mr. McQueen presented a letter and a contribution check in the amount of \$50 from Norman Griggs, 610, NW 36<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Gainesville. In his letter, Mr. Griggs expressed his appreciation for the services provided for recreation on the Suwannee River.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Suggs **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gentry and carried.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Randy Durden, Chairman

Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk