

MINUTES OF AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD OCTOBER 25, 2004.

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County Florida, convened in an emergency meeting on Monday, October 25, 2004 at 12:00 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 Mitchell Gentry, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Tommy Langford

Others in attendance were: John McPherson, County Attorney, Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk of Court, Karen Heaton, Deputy Clerk, Delight Curtis, John Ayers, Justin Watson, Ron Mills, Kenrick Thomas, Jeff Jordan, Virgil Rush.

Call to Order:

Chairman Durden called the emergency meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Emergency Management:

Mr. Ron Mills reported that FEMA has entered into a contract with Ellie Ray's Campground for the temporary location of travel trailers for 29 families displaced by the hurricanes. The agreed rate for the rental spaces and utilities is \$325 per unit and will be paid by FEMA. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the temporary housing at Ellie Ray's Campground due to the amount of room available. The motion carried unanimously.

BioMedical, Site Plan:

Mr. Mills presented a site plan for the Dialysis Center, a portable unit to be placed on County property. He pointed out that the parking areas will be limerock and that the existing asphalt will be sectioned off for handicapped parking. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve the site plan for the Kidney Dialysis Center for temporary housing. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter of Response:

Chairman Durden opened discussion regarding articles placed in the last issue of the Gilchrist County Journal. The articles were submitted by citizens and several inaccurate statements were made about the County's purchase order system and County business. He referred to a draft letter of response and recommended that these issues be clarified. Commissioner Gentry and Commissioner Langford agreed that the letter of response should be published in order to clarify any misunderstandings by the citizens. Mr. Gilliam stated that he had received several phone calls regarding the issues

mentioned in the articles and he recommended that the letter of response be published. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to submit the letter of response from the County Commission to the Journal for publication. The motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Road Issues:

NE 33 Way – Mr. Justin Watson asked for the Board's direction concerning a culvert on NE 33rd Way. He provided photographs of the area and explained that he had placed a berm to the left side of the road at the culvert in order to prevent the flooding of a resident's mobile home. Mr. Watson discussed the situation with the flooding in the area and the fact that the berm is stopping the natural flow of the water. He also told the Board that the culvert will need to be replaced. Commissioner Langford expressed concern that if the berm is taken down at this time, there is a risk that the residence will be flooded. Mr. McPherson advised to use caution in stopping the natural flow of water at any time but in this situation he recommended the Department wait until the water had gone down before taking further action. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to wait until the water recedes and then remove the berm and replace the culvert. The motion carried unanimously.

SE 35 Avenue – Mr. Watson provided photographs of SE 35th Avenue. He related that after the hurricanes, the Road Department hauled in six (6) loads of fill dirt for a portion of the road where water was crossing. At that time, Mr. Bonnell spread the dirt with his equipment because the Road Department equipment was not available. About a week later, Mr. Bonnell called Mr. Watson and asked if he could put a couple of more loads of fill dirt from his own property onto the road. After receiving complaints, Mr. Watson found that Mr. Bonnell had placed approximately 60 loads of dirt on the road which built it up to a point that it was stopping the flow of water from Waters Lake to Highway 47. He stated the road was built up approximately four feet in this area. Mr. Bonnell later called Mr. Watson and asked who to send the bill to. The Board discussed the fact that Mr. Bonnell had built up the road without permission and that the flood waters were subsequently preventing the drainage of water from the Waters Lake area. The initial work was done to make the road passable for approximately 25 families in the area. Mr. McPherson recommended that Mr. Watson meet with Water Management and with Mr. Bonnell to consider a possible solution, either removal of the dirt or to install a culvert. Mr. McPherson advised that the County is not responsible for paying a bill from Mr. Bonnell for this work.

Mr. Watson presented another issue concerning SE 35th Avenue. He referred to photographs of a sign that had been posted on the road near the area built up by Mr. Bonnell. The sign stated "dead end," "residents only," and "private property." Mr. Watson explained that the road is a County maintained road and that it serves approximately five residences but beyond the sign, it serves two residences. The Board discussed the flooding issues with SE 37th Avenue and SE 35th Avenue. Mr. McPherson suggested that if the road is not a thru road and only serves a few residences, the County may want to consider vacating SE 35th if that is the wish of the

property owners. However, he explained that the signs will have to be removed. He recommended that Mr. Watson contact Suwannee River Water Management regarding the conditions in this area.

Mr. Virgil Rush addressed the Board concerning the water flow from Christmas Lake to Waters Lake. He said that he has noticed that the flow had changed since Gilchrist Timber Company had purchased property and blocked off the flow south of Christmas Lake. Mr. Rush recommended that someone look into this issue to help resolve the flooding situation. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to instruct Mr. Watson and Mr. McQueen to contact Suwannee River Water Management regarding the existing flood problems. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Watson explained that because of the flooding on SE 37th Avenue, Mr. Hall has allowed residents in that area to access their properties by driving through his property. Mr. Hall has since decided to close his gate because of the problems with the traffic. Mr. Watson advised that there are no immediate solutions to open SE 37th Avenue. Commissioner Gentry stated that he will contact Mr. Hall to see if something can be worked out. Commissioner Langford told the Board that Mr. Casey Carlisle had also allowed residents to use his property for access and that he too intends to close the gate because of problems with the traffic. Commissioner Langford stated that he would contact Mr. Carlisle to discuss a solution.

SE 46th Way – Mr. Watson provided photographs of SE 46th Way. He pointed out an area in which water continues to run across the road. Mr. Watson stated that Commissioner Langford had asked him if a culvert could be placed there to allow residents to drive over it. Mr. Watson recommended that it be left alone and to build up the road after the water drains out. Commissioner Langford stated that his concern had been the fact that people were driving through the running water which was deep at the time. He said that it has gone down considerably over the last few days. The Board agreed to take no action at this time.

Other Business:

Mr. McPherson recalled that the Board had asked him to find out when the terms for the new Commissioners officially begin. He advised that the new Commissioners will officially take office on November 16th and that the installation ceremony scheduled for November 22nd will be a formality.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Durden adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mitchell Gentry, Chairman

Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk