

## **MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD JANUARY 24, 2005.**

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County Florida, convened in a regular meeting on Monday, January 24, 2005 at 5:00 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 Mitchell Gentry, Chair**  
**Commissioner Randy Durden, Vice-Chair**  
**Commissioner Sharon Langford**  
**Commissioner Tommy Langford**  
**Commissioner Kenrick Thomas**

**Others in attendance were:** John McPherson, County Attorney, Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk of Court, Karen Heaton, Deputy Clerk, Sam Ferguson, Director of Finance, Ron Mills, Julie Harrison, John Ayers, Justin Watson, Billy Cannon, Ron Mills, Gene Parrish, Bruce Thompson, Jack Wittewer, Delight Curtis, Slade Celeste, Carl Cornwell, Geneva Cornwell, Bill Cox, Bill Humphrey, Mary Humphreys, Bob Neilson, Joyce Neilson, Mary Myers, Russell Sibert, Darrell Swilley, Kitte Slysofski, Regina Knight, Stan Castle, Mary Castle, Michael Odom, Julie Odom, Shannon Watson, Alton Howard, Jerry Reynolds, Nicholas Fields, Regina Sorah, Wendell Sorah.

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Gentry called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. Commissioner Sharon Langford delivered the Invocation and Commissioner Durden led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Agenda Changes:**

Additions: (1) Tax Certificate Proceeds  
(2) Mike Odom, SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to approve the agenda with the changes noted. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda:**

#### **Consent Agenda**

- 1) Approval of Write-Off; invoice from the Solid Waste Department to the County Road Department (\$879.60).
- 2) Approval of Purchase Order #500708, College of Medicine (\$2,193.77)

- 3) Approval of Budget Entries:
  - a. #BE5-008, Local Housing Assistance Trust Fund (\$28,500)
  - b. #BE5-009, General Fund (\$14,053)
  - c. #BE5-010, Emergency Medical Services (\$7,000)
  - d. #BE5-011, Local Housing Assistance Trust Fund (\$5,000)
  - e. #BE5-013, Local Housing Assistance Trust Fund (\$17,500)
  
- 4) Approval of Minutes:
  - a. October 18, 2004, Regular Meeting
  - b. October 25, 2004, Emergency Meeting

**Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to approve the consent agenda as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

**Attorney's Report:**

Right of Way Rental – Mr. McPherson advised the proposed amendments to the Right of Way ordinance has been scheduled for a workshop on February 21, 2005.

Ordinance, Court Fees – Mr. McPherson asked the Board to schedule an adoption hearing for an Ordinance that removes all of the court fees that the County is no longer collecting. He explained the amendment is a result of Article V. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to schedule an adoption hearing for the amendments on the agenda for the February 21 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution, Uniform Method to Collect Fire Assessment – Mr. McPherson advised the Resolution for the use of the uniform method of collection of fire assessment has been scheduled for the February 21 meeting.

Town of Bell, Impact Fees – Mr. McPherson advised he spoke with Duke Lang, Attorney for the Town of Bell, about the limitations on the use of impact fee funds collected in Bell pursuant to the County's impact fee ordinance. Mr. Lang will take the issue back to the Town Council for further consideration. (1/140)

Florida Rock, Use of Right of Way – Mr. McPherson stated that he has not yet received a reply from Florida Rock concerning the proposed use of County right of way.

Brooks and Strickland v. Aderholts and Gilchrist County – Mr. McPherson reported that he has moved to dismiss the Aderholt's cross-claim against the County for trespass and damages based on the fact that they failed to provide 60-days notice to the County and the State Department of Finance. (1/155)

Bailey v. Gilchrist County – Mr. McPherson advised this case has been dismissed and the Planning Department has agreed to accept an application from Larry Grant for an amended special use permit. (1/161)

Bailey Code Enforcement Appeal – Mr. McPherson explained that the appeal is pending. The parties have agreed to hold this matter in abeyance until after the application by Mr. Grant is dealt with. Mr. Bailey has agreed not to pack watermelons while the appeal is held in abeyance.

Gilchrist County v. Langfords – Mr. McPherson advised he has not yet received the final settlement proposal from the attorney for the Langfords.

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

Courthouse Addition – Mr. Gilliam reported that the mandatory pre-bid conference was held on this date. Over 20 individuals were present. Mr. Gilliam advised the process is on schedule and the bids should be received by March 7. The Committee will review the qualifications and bring three (3) recommendations to the Board. (1/245)

Sheriff's Request – Mr. Gilliam presented an invoice submitted by Sheriff Turner for payment to the Juvenile Assessment Center. The invoice amount, \$2,000, represents a percentage of use by Gilchrist County for security services for FY 04/05. Mr. Gilliam explained that there is a line item for this expense but currently there is no funding mechanism for it. In the past it was paid from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$2,000 to be paid out of General Reserve and request that they submit a funding request for the next budget year. (1/281)

Appraisal Report– Mr. Gilliam presented an appraisal report for the property located at 204 & 214 East Wade Street. The properties have a present market value of approximately \$180,000 to \$190,000. Discussion was held concerning the potential use of the property and funding. **Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to not pursue the acquisition of the properties from Mr. Ted Burt. The motion carried unanimously. (1/415)

Gilchrist County Housing Authority – Mr. Gilliam referred to a request from the Governor's Appointments Office for recommendations to fill five (5) vacancies on the Gilchrist County Housing Authority Board. Mr. McQueen stated that some of the Planning and Zoning applicants may be willing to serve. Mr. Gilliam advised the applications are available in his office.

USDA Grain Program – Mr. Gilliam referred to a letter from USDA concerning participation in the Counter-Cyclical Program. The property at Walker Curve is eligible for the program. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to notify USDA that the County will not participate in the program. The motion carried unanimously. (1/570)

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare – Mr. Gilliam presented a payment request for the first quarter, \$5,044.50 and the renewal contract with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare for FY 04/05. **Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Durden, to approve the funding agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor of Elections – Mr. Gilliam presented a request from the Supervisor of Elections for approval of the Voter Education Grant Funds. Gilchrist County's portion is \$2,533.84 with a match of \$380.08. **Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford, to approve the grant and matching funds. The motion carried unanimously. (1/665)

Resolution 05-05 – Mr. Gilliam presented Resolution 05-05 accepting a loan from Tri-County Bank in the amount of \$88,000 for the purchase of a Mack dump truck.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2005-05**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA; ACCEPTING A LOAN FROM TRI-COUNTY BANK AND AUTHORIZING THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO EXECUTE A PROMISSORY NOTE FOR \$88,000.00 TO TRI-COUNTY BANK IN ORDER TO PURCHASE A MACK DUMP TRUCK.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford, to approve Resolution 05-05. The motion carried unanimously. (1/700)

EMS – For approval, Mr. Gilliam presented a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to the County's EMS Department. It was suggested that the Certificate be extended for a two (2) year period through 2006. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to approve the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for a two year period. The motion carried unanimously. (1/721)

Proclamation 05-01 – Mr. Gilliam presented Proclamation 05-01 for the Step Up, Florida Program. Mr. Gilliam recognized Ms. Slade Celeste, Levy County Health Department. Ms. Celeste discussed the Step Up, Florida Program which is a statewide initiative. It is scheduled to be carried out February 2 - 22. **Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to approve Proclamation 05-01. The motion carried unanimously. (1/823)

Character Council of Gilchrist County – Ms. Geneva Cornwell, Character Council of Gilchrist County, presented the Council's "Achieving True Success Books" to the Commission and staff in appreciation of the County's support. (1/970)

Resolution 05-0-6 – Mr. Gilliam presented Resolution 05-06 accepting the 2004-2005 EMS County Grant. The grant amount for FY 04/05 is \$5,600.51.

**RESOLUTION 05-06**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ACCEPTING THE 2004-2005 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNTY GRANT AWARDED BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE COUNTY'S PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEM.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Sharon Langford, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to approve Resolution 05-06. The motion carried unanimously. (1/1020)

Tax Collector Request – Mr. Gilliam presented a request from the Tax Collector's Office for authorization to begin the Tax Deed Application process for County held Tax Certificates. There are a total of 53 parcels which are delinquent. The total cost to begin the Tax Deed Process is \$9,275. This amount represents the cost of each title search at \$175 each parcel. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to approve the request to proceed with the Tax Deed Application process and to release funds in the amount of \$9,275. The motion carried unanimously. (1/1067)

PO #500709, HIPP Construction – Mr. Gilliam requested approval of purchase order #500709 in the amount of \$70,882.91 to HIPP Construction for the Santa Fe Avenue project. **Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to approve purchase order #500709 in the amount of \$70,882.91. The motion carried unanimously.

P.O. #500686, Craggs Construction – Mr. Gilliam requested approval of Purchase Order #500686 in the amount of \$253,899.79 to Craggs Construction Company for the SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue project. **Motion** by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to approve purchase order #500686. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McQueen advised the D.O.T. contract for this project ends on January 30. However, he has submitted a request for a 30-day extension in order to have time to complete the striping. (1/1265)

Request, Tax Certificates – Mr. Gilliam presented a request from Lewis and Marie Henkel for the reissue of payment of Tax Certificates. Mr. Gilliam explained that the checks in the amount of \$109.21 and \$1,836.17 were issued to the Henkel's and came back undeliverable. After 90 days, the monies were then transferred to the BOCC and deposited. The Henkel's are requesting the funds be reissued due to the fact they severely impacted by the hurricanes in South Florida and were unable to receive mail during the period of time the checks were first issued. **Motion** by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford, to reissue the checks in the amount of \$1,836.17 and \$109.21. The motion carried unanimously. (1/1430)

OTTED – Mr. Ferguson advised that reimbursement in the amount of \$306,131.60 has been received from OTTED for the South Santa Fe Avenue paving project.

### **Public Hearing / Final Plat, Oak Leaf Subdivision:**

Mr. Gene Parrish, representing REPJHB, Inc., presented the final plat for Oak Leaf Subdivision for approval. Mr. McQueen recalled that the plat had been before the Board twice before for the preliminary plat and for the construction plan. **Motion** by

Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to approve the final plat for Oak Leaf Subdivision. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McPherson pointed out that there is a dedication of roads on the plat and recommended that if the Board will accept them, it should do so at this time. He stated this will include the roads, streets, utility easements and drainage easements. Mr. Watson advised he has reviewed the plat and determined that it meets all of the requirements. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to accept the dedication of the roads for the Oak Leaf Subdivision. The motion carried unanimously. (1/1620)

### **Recognition of Darrell Miller for Heroic Act:**

Chairman Gentry advised that Mr. Miller is unable to attend the meeting. This agenda item will be rescheduled for 5:30 p.m. on February 21.

### **Public Hearing / Ordinance 05-01, Sludge Disposal:**

Mr. McPherson provided a copy of a summary of the proposed ordinance for sludge disposal and reviewed each item. Discussion was held about the current septic businesses within the County. These businesses are operating under the Department of Health permits and regulations and the owners are spreading the sludge on their own property. It was suggested that the current septic businesses be exempt from the ordinance unless they move the location of the landspreading, at which time they would be required to apply for a special permit.

#### **ORDINANCE 05-01**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA; ESTABLISHING THE REQUIREMENT FOR OBTAINING A SPECIAL PERMIT FOR DISPOSAL OF SLUDGE WITHIN GILCHRIST COUNTY; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING PROCEDURES, STANDARDS AND CONDITIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF PERMITS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Commissioner Durden recommended that the ordinance be tabled and that the owners of the septic businesses in the County be notified of the next public hearing. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to continue the hearing for the proposed ordinance to the February 21 agenda at 5:45 p.m and to notify the current business owners. The motion carried unanimously. (1/1880)

### **Public Hearing / Proposed Ordinance 05-02, Sign Regulations:**

Mr. McPherson provided a copy of a summary of the proposed ordinance for sign regulations and reviewed each item. He stated that the ordinance will repeal the existing regulations which are unconstitutional and vague.

**ORDINANCE 05-02**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA; ESTABLISHING NEW SIGN REGULATIONS FOR UNINCORPORATED AREA OF THE COUNTY; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS AND EXEMPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR PROHIBITED, ALLOWABLE, AND TEMPORARY SIGNS; PROVIDING FOR PERMANENT ACCESSORY AND ADVERTISING SIGNS; ESTABLISHING SIZE, NUMBER, HEIGHT, LOCATION AND MEASUREMENT STANDARDS; REPEALING THE EXISTING SIGN REGULATIONS; PROVIDING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Discussion was held concerning the prohibition of using portable trailer signs. It was suggested that this section be revised to allow the temporary use of trailer signs. It was also suggested that no permit should be required for the temporary signs and that the height limit for Developed Commercial signs be changed from 10 feet to 12 feet.

**Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to continue the proposed ordinance to the February 21 meeting at 6:30 p.m. and to direct Mr. McPherson to make the following revisions; allow temporary use of portable trailer signs, no permits required for temporary signs, and the height limit moved to 12 feet. The motion carried unanimously. (2/074)

**Citizen's Request, Mike Odom:**

Mr. Mike Odom recalled that at the last meeting, the Board had discussed taking up the milled material on SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Waccasassa Road). He related that since that meeting he has talked to many of the residents in the area and most of them are of the same opinion, that they do not want the asphalt replaced with lime rock. He told the Board that there had been a period of eight (8) weeks since anyone had done anything to the road. However, this past week, patching was done on that portion of the road.

The Board entertained concerns and complaints about the condition of the road from the following residents; Mr. John Lester, Mr. Thomas Parrish, Mr. Bruce Thompson, Mr. Bill Humphries, Mr. Bill Cox, Ms. Kitte Slysofski, Jack Wittewer, Ms. Shirley Reynolds, Ms. Doris Smith, Mr. Alton Howard, Ms. Shannon Watson and Ms. Regina Sorah.

The complaints discussed included safety issues with the traffic, the school buses and lack of maintenance. Several of the residents commented that they did not want the milled portion of the road turned back into a limerock road. Instead, they believed the County should re-pave the milled portion or pave the entire road. A few of the residents contended that the condition of SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue has caused the need for many automobile repairs.

Chairman Gentry stated that since the last meeting he had checked the road again and it his opinion that the first 1300 feet is the greater problem and he does not think it is necessary to mill up the entire section. He told the Board that he had asked Mr. Watson to provide an estimate to pave the 1300 foot. The estimated cost for the Road Department to do the work would be \$16,000. He stated that to date, \$45,724.17 has

been collected for the Transportation Impact Fund and suggested that some of these revenues be used to repave that section.

Commissioner Sharon Langford stated that she had inspected the road again and found that approximately 2/10 of a mile at the South end of the milled area to be in bad condition.

Discussion was held concerning the possibility of funding a paving project for the road by implementing a special assessment district. Mr. McPherson explained the process to those present and many of the residents commented that they would not be in favor of paying for the road through a special assessment.

Mr. Bruce Thompson told the Board that there is an application coming before the Commission the next meeting for a mining operation on SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He explained that the trucks used in this operation are tearing up the road.

Concerning the use of Transportation Impact Fee funds, Commissioner Durden cautioned the Board to take into account the expenses that have already been obligated for the Fund. He stated that the Road Department Budget currently has a \$60,000 debt service payment that will need to be transferred to Transportation Impact. In addition, any additional cost for the eminent domain process for SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be paid from the fund. Payments for the new rock truck and bulldozer will also be made from this fund. He also explained that the Board, in the past, had agreed to use Transportation Impact Fee funds to pay for the relocation of the Road Department and as much as possible for the widening of CR 232 and possibly CR 307.

Commissioner Sharon Langford suggested that the Board consider borrowing the \$16,000 needed. The Board discussed options for funding. Chairman Gentry stated that in reviewing the Transportation Impact budget, he believes that the \$16,000 could easily be used for the project.

Mr. Mike Odom told the Board that the widening projects mentioned earlier should not take priority over a road such as SE 70<sup>th</sup> which is not useable. He stated that something needs to be done to make it safe and passable. He asked the Board to make every effort to seek funding from the State to see if something can be done. He also asked the Board to have the first portion of SE 70<sup>th</sup> re-striped to make it a safer at night. Commissioner Langford told him that she noticed that too and has asked Mr. Watson to obtain a price for the striping.

Mr. Watson stated that in addition to the \$16,000 it will cost approximately \$600 for the equipment rental.

After further discussion and comments from the public, Commissioner Durden recommended that the entire portion be milled up and to put down a six inch base of compacted limerock on the entire road. He suggested that the paving project then be included in the upcoming budget year.

**Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to reconsider the original motion to remix the milled portion of SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Waccasassa Rd.). The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford, to amend the original motion to mill up the 6200 feet portion of SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue, put down six inches of compacted limerock and to include the road paving project in the upcoming budget year. The motion carried with Commissioner Gentry voting “no.”

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

Proclamation #05-02 – Mr. McQueen presented Proclamation 05-02 declaring the week of January 23 - 29, 2005 to be Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. **Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to approve Proclamation 05-02. The motion carried unanimously. (4/270)

Surplus Property – Mr. McQueen provided a list of items to be included on the surplus property list. He stated that once approved, these items will be included in the upcoming surplus property sale. **Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Durden, to approve the list of surplus equipment. The motion carried unanimously. (4/307)

CDBG Consultant – Mr. McQueen advised that only one (1) proposal had been received for consulting services for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); Jordan & Associates. The grant will provide up to \$750,000 for the Housing Rehabilitation Program. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to accept the proposal from Jordan & Associates. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McQueen told the Board that he is looking into the eligibility requirements for a special CDBG application for communities and counties for hurricane damages. (4/370)

Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) – Mr. McQueen referred to a notice from D.O.T. stating that the SCRAP - CR 339 project has been moved to FY 06 on the 5-Year Work Plan. (4/512)

Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) – Mr. McQueen recalled the Board had asked him to contact Mr. Mills concerning a time frame for the SCOP project. This project is to: (1) resurface CR 337 from the North end of SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Martini Grade) CR 232, (2) to widen and resurface CR 232 approximately four miles, and (3) resurface CR 337 to CR 340. Mr. Mills has advised that with full Board approval, he will be able to prepare the bid documents within 60 days from the notice to begin work and it will take an additional 30 days for the permitting. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to authorize Mr. Mills to proceed with the SCOP projects. the motion carried unanimously. (4/600)

Gilchrist County Foster Parents Association – Mr. McQueen presented a letter of request from Regina Sheffield, Gilchrist County Foster Parents Association, for use of the voting precinct at the corner of SR 47 and CR 340 for the organization's monthly meeting. The meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. Mr. McQueen stated that since this will also serve a public purpose, she has requested a waiver of the fees. Mr. McPherson advised that the Board has the discretion to waive the fees and recommended it be done in a consistent manner. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford, to approve the request and to waive the rental fees. The motion carried unanimously. (4/700)

Traffic Light, SR 26 & SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Mr. McQueen provided information concerning the replacement of the traffic light at SR 26 and SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He explained that since the Department of Transportation will provide some of the equipment, Summerville Electric has reduced the cost from \$17,000 to \$8,495.43. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to approve the bid from Summerville Electric in the amount of \$8,495.43 to be paid from General Fund Reserve. The motion carried unanimously. (4/802)

Buddy Ellis, Letter of Resignation – Mr. McQueen presented a letter of resignation from Buddy Ellis. His resignation will be effective February 22, 2005. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to accept the Mr. Ellis' resignation. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. McQueen requested the Board authorize him to advertise the position for with a salary range from \$30,000 to \$35,000. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to accept the salary range of \$30,000 to \$35,000. The motion carried unanimously. (4/966)

Hart Springs – Mr. McQueen requested approval to go to bid for cleaning and repairs at Hart Springs for the damages caused by the recent hurricanes and flooding. Ms. Harrison related that the buildings will need to be power washed and painted and that many of the doors will need to be replaced. Mr. Gilliam stated that the insurance company will reimburse the County \$13,651.90 and FEMA will pay for the balance. **Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to authorize Mr. McQueen to go out to bid for the cleaning and repairs at Hart Springs. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McQueen advised that now that the Hart Springs residence has been completed, a concrete slab is needed under the house and the insulation under the home needs to be covered. The cost will be approximately \$2,800. He recommended this expense be paid out of the Other Buildings budget. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to approve the expenditure in the amount of \$2,800 to be paid out of Other Buildings. The motion carried unanimously. (4/1051)

Solid Waste Loader – Mr. McQueen advised that the wheel loader at the Solid Waste facility is scheduled for ‘buyback.’ He requested authorization to go out for bid for a new loader with a buyback provision. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to go out to bid for a wheel loader for the Solid Waste Department. The motion carried unanimously. (4/1357)

40-Yard Compaction Container – Mr. McQueen presented a purchase order in the amount of \$7,135 to Accurate Industries from the Solid Waste Department for the purchase of a 40-yard compaction container. **Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford, to approve the purchase order in the amount of \$7,135. The motion carried unanimously. (4/1464)

Planning & Zoning Board Vacancy – Mr. McQueen presented letters from the following applicants seeking appointment to the Planning & Zoning Board: Danielle Judd, Delight Curtis, Roosevelt Stalvey (for reappointment), Michelle Crawford (for reappointment), Shelby Boyette, II, John Crothamel, and George Manchester. **Motion** by Commissioner Sharon Langford, seconded by Commissioner Durden, to reappoint Michelle Crawford and Roosevelt Stalvey and to send letters to the other applicants concerning the vacancies on the Gilchrist County Housing Authority Board. The motion carried with Commissioner Tommy Langford voting “no.” (4/1580)

Flood Elevation Maps – Mr. McQueen discussed an issue with the flood elevations in the Waters Lake area. Water Management is currently under contract with FEMA to prepare a new flood map. However, they are not able to establish a level of event for the recent flooding in that area. Many residents want to reestablish their homes but the Building Department is not able to tell them at this time at what level they must build. Mr. McPherson suggested that people in that location be allowed to build at the level they wish but the Building Department will need to advise them that the flood levels have not been determined.

Mr. McQueen recognized Mr. Truby Fowler who related that he has lived in that area for 52 years and has never seen the water get that high. Mr. Fowler asked about getting the water tested and explained that since the flooding many have become ill. Commissioner Durden asked Mr. McQueen to check into water testing in the area.

Planner Position – Mr. McQueen advised he has interviewed two Planners that are qualified for the position. The position was advertised between \$40,000 and \$45,000. One of the applicants cannot accept the position for the salary range and the other will accept the position at the higher salary of \$45,000. He stated that he will contact him this week and offer him the position. (4/2288)

Hart Springs – Mr. McQueen stated that the Springs Initiative Task Force will be visiting Blue Springs in Levy County on February 2 and he has asked them to visit Hart Springs at that time to discuss restoration of the springs at Big Hart and Little Hart, to remove the blockage.

Bell VFD – Mr. McQueen advised that Mr. Wilbur Thomas has offered to donate two (2) acres adjacent to the Bell EMS Station for the purpose of building a fire house for the Bell Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. McQueen recalled that construction of a building for the Department has been discussed in the past and funds are included in this year's budget. Commissioner Durden stated the only conditions in connection with the donation is that the County pay for the survey and closing costs. He advised that the Town of Bell is in favor of the move. **Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to accept the donation of property and to proceed with obtaining the survey and paying the closing costs. The motion carried unanimously.

EMS Station, Trenton – Mr. McQueen discussed the need to build a new EMS Station for Trenton. He said that part of that process was to locate a site for a fueling station. An offer has been received for a long term lease on property adjacent to the Forestry tower. He suggested a lease with an automatic renewal. A contract provision would also be needed stating the County's responsibility for any fuel spill. He explained the lease would be similar to Forestry Department's lease, \$1 per year for 25 to 30 years. **Motion** by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Durden, to proceed with the lease. Mr. McPherson will contact the property owners attorney to work out the terms of a lease. The motion carried unanimously. (5/070)

Proposed Pay Increases – Mr. McQueen advised that three (3) of the County employees are working outside of their classification and provided the following recommendations:

**Billy Cannon:** increase from \$13.17 per hour to \$14.42 per hour.

**Ron Mills :** reclassification to Asst. Supervisor, increase from \$10.34 per hour to \$11.78 per hour.

**Pat Fischer:** reclassify to exempt (salaried) position @ \$30,000 annually.

**Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to approve the request. The motion carried unanimously. (5/331)

Mitigation Funds – Mr. McQueen advised that he received notification that Gilchrist County has been approved to receive approximately \$300,000 of Mitigation Grant funds. This grant includes a 25% match. He explained that this grant was intended to fund items included in the local mitigation plan. However, after a major disaster, there is an option to change the mitigation plan. The deadline for the amended list is April 15 and a rough draft is due by January 31. Mr. McQueen recalled the Board had discussed EOC enhancements in the past and these may be items to include in the mitigation projects. He recommended that two projects to consider would be to re-roof the Sheriff's Administration Building and the drainage projects. He stated that he would

prepare the rough draft for submission and will add a few EOC enhancements and various other projects to be considered.

### **Road Department:**

SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue, (Waccasassa Rd.) – Mr. Watson recalled the Board had instructed the Department to take up the milling material on SE 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He requested the Board's direction concerning the cost of the rental equipment. He advised the rental equipment will cost approximately \$5,400 and the transport will cost an additional \$600.

**Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to approve the expenditure and to transfer \$6,000 from Road Department Reserve to a line item for rental equipment. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Watson told the Board that the centerline of the first mile of pavement on SE 70<sup>th</sup>, South of SR 26, has faded. He obtained a quote from Jenkins Painting in the amount of \$750 to restripe the center line. **Motion** by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Durden to approve the expenditure. The motion carried unanimously. (1/781)

Vehicle Usage – Mr. Watson requested approval of the list of employees to take home vehicles; Billy Cannon, Chris Tryon, Melvin Meece and Justin Watson. **Motion** by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to approve the list for vehicle usage. The motion carried unanimously. (5/959)

NW 60<sup>th</sup> Street – Mr. Watson asked the Board to consider lowering the speed limit on NW 60<sup>th</sup> Street (Little Lake City Road). He explained that the hills on this road make it dangerous to travel at 55mph. He also requested permission to post "limited sight distance" signs along the road. The Board asked Mr. Watson to provide Mr. McPherson the information needed to prepare a draft ordinance for the speed limit reduction. (5/1011)

Chairman Gentry asked Mr. Watson to look into a portion of CR 344 East. He stated that some of the ditch needs to be graded down in order to allow the water to run off.

### **Commissioners' Reports:**

**Commissioner Sharon Langford** referred to a request from GCRA concerning an advertising banner at the park. She suggested that each of the Commissioners donate \$30 to cover the cost of the sign. The Board agreed.

**Commissioner Durden** reported that he had attended the recent Bell Town Council meeting. The Town Council has invited Ms. Rondolet to attend the next meeting in order to discuss Code Enforcement. Commissioner Durden suggested that Board allow the Town of Bell to participate in the Code Enforcement Program at the same terms held with the City of Fanning Springs, \$1,500 the first year and a reevaluation at the end

of the fiscal year. If they entered into it at this time, the \$1,500 could be prorated for the remaining portion of the year. **Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to accept the conditions outlined by Commissioner Durden for the Town of Bell to enter into the Code Enforcement Program. The motion carried unanimously.

**Commissioner Thomas** reported that he has gone out on the job with Mr. Watson and Mr. Cannon several times over the past few weeks and the Department has made a lot of progress.

**Commissioner Tommy Langford** stated that he had contacted Mrs. Susan Bryant about the quilt donation to the Educational Foundation. She indicated that they would accept the quilt and would auction it off for a fund-raiser. **Motion** by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford, to donate the quilt to the Educational Foundation. The motion carried unanimously.

**Commissioner Tommy Langford** asked Mr. McQueen to discuss the issues of the volunteer fire departments and the lack of volunteers. Mr. McQueen told the Board that there is a need to promote the volunteer fire departments and to sign up more volunteers. Discussion was held concerning the training requirements and equipment needs for the fire departments. Commissioner Durden recommended that the Board pursue implementation of the fire special assessment and the Fire Protection Plan. Mr. McQueen stated that he could go ahead and set up a training class with a State Certified Instructor. He will bring back more information to the next meeting. Commissioner Tommy Langford recommended that each fire department be required to give an annual report similar to that provided by the Spring Ridge VFD. Ms. Delight Curtis told the Board that there is a public relations problem within the County and recommended that each Commissioner have the departments in their district hold a meeting with the community in which they can address these issues.

**Commissioner Tommy Langford** asked about the possibility of requiring companies, such as a logging company, that use County Roads to put up bonds to help cover the cost of maintaining the roads. Mr. McPherson stated that he would look into it.

**Chairman Gentry** asked the Board to consider widening CR 340 in the upcoming paving project. Discussion was held concerning the fact the road project is slated for the SCRAP program and the grant amount is to pave the existing road. It may be possible for the County to do the widening portion and pay for the additional asphalt. Chairman Gentry stated he would check into it further.

### **Old Business:**

Mr. Gilliam asked Mr. McQueen to have Maintenance Department put up the projector and screen in the Board Room.

**New Business:**

(None)

**Public Participation:**

Ms. Delight Curtis asked the Board to appoint a Commissioner to serve on the Pure Water Wilderness Board. She stated that the meetings are scheduled at 9:00 a.m. and that Commissioner Sharon Langford would not be able to attend. Chairman Gentry stated that he would attend the meetings.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Tommy Langford moved to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford and carried.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mitchell Gentry, Chairman

Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk