

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD FEBRUARY 18, 2008.**

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County Florida, convened in a **Regular Meeting** on Monday, February 18, 2008, at 4:00 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 Tommy Langford, Chairman**  
**Commissioner Sharon A. Langford, Vice Chairman**  
**Commissioner Randy Durden**  
**Commissioner Kenrick Thomas**

**Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr. (Absent)**

**Others in Attendance**

Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk, John McPherson, County Attorney, Jacki Johnson, Finance Director, Patty McCagh, Board Secretary, Ron McQueen, County Administrator, John Ayers, Gilchrist County Journal, Diane Rondolet, Code Enforcement, Julee Brideson, Administrative Assistant, Justin Watson, Road Department, Chief Perez, Public Safety, Ron Mills, Emergency Management, Taylor Brown, County Planner, and Gene Parrish, Parrish Land Surveying. Others in attendance were Amanda DesMartin with the Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast, Mary Doonan with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Roger Irvin, Dell Ray Cannon, Ben Zuber with Kennedy Communications, Betty Strayer, Nancy Padgett, Norm Conti, Marion and Edgar Potevint, and Terrie & Richard Towers.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Tommy Langford called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with Commissioner Kenrick Thomas delivering the invocation and Commissioner Sharon Langford leading the pledge of allegiance.

Board members extended thoughts and prayers for fellow Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., who is hospitalized at this time.

**Agenda Changes**

- Mr. Gilliam, Clerk presented the following agenda changes:
  1. Addition to the Consent Agenda: Inmate Housing invoice for the month of January, 2008, in the amount of \$6,087.46
  2. Owner Direct Purchase P.O., to Taylor, Cotton & Ridley, in the amount of \$53,563.00, for doors and hardware, for the Emergency Operations Center
- Mr. McQueen, County Administrator presented the following agenda changes:
  3. FYI; Mills Engineering update on the Renovation Steel Piling Modification for the Hart Springs Boat Ramp Project

***Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford to accept the agenda as presented with changes noted. Motion carried 4-0.***

## Consent Agenda

- Budget Entries
  - BE08-019, Fund 001, General Fund..... \$ 150.00
  - BE08-020, Fund 434, Solid Waste..... \$ 750.00
  - BE08-022, Fund 140, Transportation..... \$2,027.00
  - BE08-023, Fund 001, General Fund.....\$6,800.00
- Approval of Minutes
  - Regular Meeting..... January 7, 2008
- Agenda Change
  - Inmate Housing, month of January, 2008..... \$6,087.46

***Motion made by Commissioner Sharon Langford seconded by Commissioner Randy Durden to approve Consent Agenda as presented with changes noted. Motion carried 4-0.***

## County Administrator's Report

Mr. Ron McQueen, County Administrator, presented the following documents, and/or addressed the following issues, for the consideration of the Board.

### Public Safety

- EOC Update: Mr. McQueen updated the Board on progress of construction at the new Emergency Operations Complex.
- Request for travel to attend 2008 Governors Hurricane Conference: Ron Mills, Emergency Management submitted a travel request for Chief Perez, Billy Careccia and himself for approval to attend the 2008 Governors Hurricane Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Conference dates are May 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. All travel, hotel, training and per diem costs budgeted and paid for by Emergency Management and Fire.

Chairman Durden asked if it is necessary for all three to attend. Mr. McQueen stated that it is necessary for at least two to attend.

***Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford to approve travel for Chief Perez and Ron Mills to attend the 2008 Governors Hurricane Conference in May. Motion carried 4-0.***

- Recommendation to award Communications Contract: Chief Perez addressed the Board with the recommendation to award the communications contract for phone communications equipment, audio/video equipment, installation and service to Kennedy Communications of Gainesville.

The quote received from Kennedy Communications, in the amount of \$54,872.00, included all the phone switching, and video/audio equipment needed for the EOC to become operational. Chief Perez stated that this price also included a one year warranty for parts and labor and that all pricing is on State Contract and has been budgeted.

Mr. Joe Gilliam, Clerk, stated that ALL pricing for the communications equipment was not on State Contract. Actually, only one (1) item was on State Contract. He explained that it may be necessary to amend our purchasing policy to include items on Federal Government Contracts as well as on State Contract.

***Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas to award bid (waiving bid requirements, due to pricing being on State and Federal Contract) to Kennedy Communications of Gainesville, in the amount of \$54,872.00, from State Contract and GSA Contract, for the audio, video and phone communications equipment for the EOC. Motion carried 4-0.***

- Recommendation to establish an account with Windstream: Chief Perez addressed the Board with a recommendation to establish an account with Windstream Communications for phone service at the EOC. He also presented a breakdown of the costs: Monthly Recurring Charges, in the amount of \$1,485.94 and the Total Installation Charges, in the amount of \$2,371.36.

***Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford to approve the contract with Windstream Communications for the phone and data service at the new EOC. Motion carried 4-0.***

C.D.B.G.

- Review of Final inspection for Kay Carlisle: Mr. McQueen discussed the report on the Final Inspection of the Kay Carlisle/C.D.B.G. remodeling project, submitted by Mr. Bob Zerbe, County Inspector. A power point presentation was also shown. No Board Action at this time.

**Time Certain 4:15 pm**

Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast; Amanda DesMartin

- Proclamation 08-01; Children's Week: Ms. DesMartin presented a request that the Board recognize and observe the week of March 3-7, 2008, as *Children's Week* in Gilchrist County.

***Motion made by Commissioner Sharon Langford seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas to approve Proclamation 08-01. Motion carried 4-0.***

**Time Certain 4:30 pm**

Road Department Report: Mr. Justin Watson, Road Department Supervisor, presented the January 2008, Monthly Limerock Report for the Townsend Pit as follows:

District 1	22	Loads	
District 2	19	Loads	2 Loads paid for
District 3	123	Loads	1 Load paid for
District 4	77	Loads	
District 5	28	Loads	
EOC	68	Loads	
Shop Stock Pile	43	Loads	
Solid Waste – 47	<u>27</u>	<u>Loads</u>	
	<b>407</b>	<b>Loads</b>	

## **County Administrator's Report Continued...**

- **Approval of Subordination for Kay Carlisle:** Mr. McQueen stated that Mr. Michael McElroy with Ameris Bank called, requesting that the County subordinate the CDBG loan for Kay Carlisle. Mrs. Carlisle's existing mortgage with Ameris will be rolled into the new loan and will become a new first mortgage.

***Motion made by Commissioner Sharon Langford seconded by Commissioners Randy Durden to approve the subordination of the CDBG loan for Kay Carlisle. Motion carried 4-0.***

### **S.H.I.P.**

- **Satisfaction of Lien on Mispah Griffin:** A request to be forgiven for debt, in the amount of \$16,700.00 for the SHIP Loan of the deceased, Mispah Griffin, was received by the SHIP Administrator. At this time, the heirs are uncertain of the plans for the home and feel that they should not be responsible for the debt incurred by their mother's home.

***Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas to deny the request that the SHIP Loan to be forgiven, in the amount of \$16,700.00. Motion carried 4-0.***

### **Planning & Zoning**

- **"Laurel Oaks" Subdivision Final Approval:** County Planner, Taylor Brown, presented the Preliminary Plat Approval for "Laurel Oaks" Phase One, Subdivision. The proposed plat encompasses 39.15 acres and 16 lots, all of which meet the minimum requirement of two (2) acres within this zoning district. The developer is William McArthur. The Technical Review Committees recommendations have been met and both Staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the Master Plan and the Preliminary Plat, for "Laurel Oaks" Phase One, Subdivision.

**Commissioner Kenrick Thomas abstained from voting because of conflict of interest.**

***Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford to approve Master Plan and Preliminary Plat for "Laurel Oaks" Phase One, Subdivision. Motion carried 3-0.***

### **Time Certain 4:45 pm**

#### **Meridian Behavioral Healthcare**

- **Resolution 08-22; Bond Issues:** Ms. Betty Strayer, representative from Meridian Healthcare, and Mary Doonan with Regions Bank, addressed the Board with the request for a resolution in support of bond issues for health care facilities revenues.

Chairman Langford read the resolution with the short title as follows:

## RESOLUTION 08-22

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE ALACHUA COUNTY HEALTH FACILITIES AUTHORITY OF ITS HEALTH FACILITIES REVENUE NOTES, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES (MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, INC. PROJECT) IN A COLLECTIVE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,000,000 TO FUND A LOAN TO MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, INC.; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

*Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford to approve Resolution 08-22. Motion carried 4-0.*

### **County Administrator's Report Continued...**

#### **Planning & Zoning**

- **Resignation from Johnnie Martin:** Mr. McQueen presented the resignation of Planning Commission Member, Johnnie Martin. Mr. Martin has accepted a position out side of the County.

He also stated that a notice has been placed in the Gilchrist County Journal for Letters of Interests and Resumes.

The letter of resignation will take effect immediately with replacement taking place upon review of applicants.

*Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford to accept the Letter of Resignation from Johnnie Martin as Planning Commission Member.*

#### **Memorial Courtyard Update**

- **Soil Boring:** Mr. McQueen presented a quote from Geo-Tech for soil boring services, in the amount of \$1,465.00, in order for TR Engineering to proceed with the proposed site for the monument courtyard.

He requested that the Board approve, with costs funded out of General Revenue Reserve.

Commissioner Durden suggested creating a line item for the costs of the Memorial Courtyard.

*Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas to approve the proposal, in the amount of \$1,465.00, for the soil borings for the Memorial Courtyard, costs to be funded out of General Revenue Reserve and for a line item to be created.*

**Rural Leadership Academy:** Mr. McQueen presented, for the Boards' information, notes provided by Mr. Bill Kilborn, on the Rural Leadership Academy meeting held on January 23, 2008.

Suwannee River Economic Council

- Trenton Senior Center: Mr. McQueen shared an email he received from Ms. Frances Terry, Executive Director with the Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc., in reference to the Trenton Senior Center.

She noted that the grant application that had been submitted for a Senior Center, in Trenton has been awarded in the amount of \$245,847.00 and will be contacting the Board in the near future. This is good news for the citizens of Gilchrist County.

**Board agreed that a site plan needed to be developed for the Senior Center.**

**Time Certain 5:00 pm**

Ordinance 08-03; Additional Exemption: Chairman Langford read the short title as follows:

**ORDINANCE 08-03**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN QUALIFYING PERSONS AGED 65 OR OLDER; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS AND CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

*Motion made by Commissioner Sharon Langford seconded by Commissioner Randy Durden to approve Ordinance 08-03.*

Mr. McPherson stated that this past legislative session, the Legislature added another \$25,000 to this potential exemption to make it a total possible additional exemption of \$50,000. He drafted the ordinance title so that the Commission could go up to the statutory maximum.

*Motion carried 4-0.*

**Attorney's Report**

Mr. John McPherson, County Attorney, presented the following documents, and/or addressed the following issues, for the consideration of the Board.

Ordinance 08-03; Additional Homestead Exemption: Noticed for adoption hearing at this meeting. Board approved.

Ordinance 08-04; Creating of Rolling Oaks Special Assessment District: Noticed for adoption hearing at the Special Meeting to be held on February 26, 2008.

Ordinance; Creation of Audit Committee: Mr. McPherson stated that by state statute, this Committee needs to be created in order to review the responses to RFP' for auditing services. He suggests setting the ordinance for adoption hearing at the March mid-month meeting.

*Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas to approve adoption hearing at the March 17, 2008 (mid-month) meeting.*

Resolution 08-20; Clarification of Speed limit Determinations: Mr. McPherson stated that some time ago, he and Justin Watson, Road Department Supervisor, recommended an amendment to the policy relating to the setting of speed limits on county roads. Resolution 08-20 adds the clarification to Section 3.4 of the policy manual.

Chairman Langford read the short title as follows:

### **RESOLUTION 08-20**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA; CLARIFYING THE METHOD BY WHICH THE COUNTY WILL DETERMINE SPEED LIMITS ON COUNTY ROADS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

*Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas to approve Resolution 08-20. Motion carried 4-0.*

Rolling Oaks Special Assessment District: Resolution, ordinance, and the notices have all been prepared and are being published as necessary for the February 26, 2008, Special Meeting.

Mr. Joe Gilliam, Clerk stated that the Board had directed the Finance Department to go back out for bid or seek a financing source for a twenty (20) year fixed rate on the Special Assessment Loan. He contacted Ralph Cellon, with Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc., and asked for guidance to obtain a twenty year, fixed rate note. Through several conversations, a 20 year loan at a fixed rate of 5%, for \$206,000.00 could be obtained. If the ordinance passes at the next meeting and the Board approves, then Regions Bank could be used for the special assessments funding for the Rolling Oaks paving project.

Mr. McPherson stated that we will have to use the Uniform Method of Collection in order to take advantage of this financing method. The Property Appraiser and Tax Collector are willing to utilize the Uniform Method of Collection for this special assessment.

Animal Control Interlocal Agreement: Ron McQueen is working with the cities to come up with a funding formula to put in the revised Animal Control Agreement.

Saunders v. Gilchrist County: Answer brief prepared and filed.

Gilchrist County v. Richard: Motion for Summary Judgment prepared and to be filed this week.

Settlement of Wolf Case: Mr. McPherson stated that Mr. Wolf was (is) a prisoner at Lancaster Correctional Institution. While working on a job for the County as a member of a prisoner detail, he was injured. The state paid his medical bills and the insurance company has reached a settlement with Mr. Wolf on behalf of the County; a copy of the letter from our insurance carrier, PGCS was included as part of the Attorney's report. The State has a lien against Mr. Wolf for his medical bills, and has assured the PGCS that it will not be looking to the County for reimbursement of those bills, but will only look to Mr. Wolf. He recommended that the County accept the proposed settlement.

***Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas to approve the settlement agreement with the insurance company, for the claimant Mr. Matthew Wolf (referring to the settlement agreement dated February 12, 2008, as set forth on page 63 of the Agenda Packet). Motion carried 4-0.***

Bert Harris Act Legislation: Mr. McPherson addressed the issue of the Bert Harris Bill. He recommended that the Commission take a strong position against the waiver of sovereign immunity in this bill. The Board directed Mr. McPherson to draft a resolution replying to all the changes, especially the sovereign immunity that they can take with them to Legislative Day in March.

### **Time Certain 5:30 pm**

#### **Terrie Towers, President of the Homeowners Association at Meadow Woods Trail**

- Deeding Road back to the County: Ms. Towers addressed the Board with the issue of deeding the subdivision road to the County in order for the County to take over road maintenance.

Justin Watson, Road Department Supervisor, addressed the Board with a suggestion that testing been done to make sure the roads do meet all specifications before moving forward with any making any decisions.

The Board directed Justin to contact Lee Mills, County Engineer, for testing on the road.

**Board took *no action* on Ms. Towers request and advised her to obtain information on deeding roads back to the county.**

### **Clerk's Report**

Mr. Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk of Court, presented the following documents, and/or addressed the following issues, for consideration of the Board.

#### **City of Keystone Heights**

- Resolution 2008-19: This resolution was presented on behalf of the City of Keystone Heights who requested Gilchrist County's support on the expansion of Seminole Electric's Coal-Fired Plant

**The Board *declined to take action* on Resolution 2008-19.**

#### **Inmate Housing**

- Amended Invoice: An amended invoice for the December 2007 billing was presented for payment, in the amount of \$3,838.57, for Dixie County Inmate Housing.

***Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas to approve Dixie County Inmate Housing amended invoice, in the amount of \$3,838.57 for December 2007. Motion carried 4-0.***

PGIT (Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust)

- Final Audit Invoice: The Year End Final Audit invoice for Workers Compensation was presented, in the amount of \$26,495.00.

***Motion made by Commissioner Sharon Langford seconded by Commissioner Randy Durden to approve PGIT Final Audit invoice, in the amount of \$26,495.00. Motion carried 4-0.***

Mills Engineering Invoices

- Invoice #2006051, CR 232, Widening and Resurfacing \$5,306.00

***Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas to approve invoice 2006051, in the amount of \$5,306.00 to Mills Engineering. Motion carried 4-0.***

- Invoice #2007105, CR 307 & 307A, Widening and Resurfacing \$14,178.75

***Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford to approve invoice 2007105, in the amount of \$14,178.75 to Mills Engineering. Motion carried 4-0.***

Resolution 08-21 & BE08-021

- A resolution amending the General Fund Budget was presented for the Edward Bryne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, awarded by the Department of FDLE for equipment upgrades, in the amount of \$2,399.00; and a budget entry (BE08-021) was also presented to provide budget for Bryne Grant.

***Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas seconded by Commissioner Randy Durden to approve Resolution 08-210 and BE08-021. Motion carried 4-0.***

Gilchrist County Public Safety Complex

- A Owner Direct Purchase Order to Taylor Cotton & Ridley, was presented for the doors and hardware for the EOC, in the amount of \$53,563.00

***Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas to approve ODP, in the amount of \$53,563.00 for the EOC. Motion carried 4-0.***

Budget Workshops

- Mr. Gilliam discussed the upcoming budgets and recommended that the Board go ahead and start preparing by holding workshops.
- Ms. Jacki Johnson addressed the Board with budget concerns and what budget issues would be addressed at that time.

**Board agreed to schedule a Budget Workshop on March 24, 2008, at 4:00 pm for approximately 1-1 ½ hours.**

**Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Kenrick Thomas: None noted.

Commissioner Randy Durden: Addressed the issue of fencing and temporarily closing Philpot Park due to vandalism, trash and evidence of drug use. He recommended leaving the park CLOSED until a solution can be determined.

***Motion made by Commissioner Randy Durden seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas to approve the temporary fencing at Philpot Park. Motion carried 4-0.***

Commissioner Sharon Langford: None noted.

Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr: Not present.

Commissioner Tommy Langford: None noted.

**Old Business**: None noted.

**New Business**: None noted.

**Public Participation**: None noted.

**Adjourn:**

With there being no further business, Chairman Langford adjourned at 6:41 pm.

Board of County Commissioners  
Gilchrist County, Florida

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tommy Langford, Chairman

Attest:

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Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk