

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD APRIL 6, 2015

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County, Florida, convened in a **Regular Meeting** on **Monday, April 6, 2015**, at **2:00 p.m.**, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Facility, located at 210 South Main Street, Trenton, Florida, with the following members' present to-wit:

<i>District I</i>	<i>Commissioner Sharon A. Langford</i>
<i>District II</i>	<i>Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr.</i>
<i>District III</i>	<i>Commissioner Todd Gray, Chairman</i>
<i>District IV</i>	<i>Commissioner Marion Poitevint</i>
<i>District V</i>	<i>Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, Vice Chairman</i>

Others in Attendance

Todd Newton, Clerk of Court; Jacki Johnson, Finance Director; Patty McCagh, Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk; Wesley Roberts, Deputy Clerk/Finance; David Lang, County Attorney; Bobby Crosby, County Administrator; Terri Hilliard, Administrative Assistant; John Ayers, Gilchrist County Journal; David Peaton, Director of Emergency Management; Billy Cannon, Road Department Superintendent; Chief Mitch Harrell, Fire/EMS; Mitchell Gentry, Hart Springs Manager; Damon Leggett, Property Appraiser; Katherine LaBarca; Lowell Chesborough; Robin Riley, PRIA; Keith Gornto; Ray & Jane Rauscher; David & Tess Padot; Donna Creamer, GCTDC; Lori Hayes and Chris Dunn, Bell High School Band; Trip Lancaster, Mayor of Fanning Springs; Diane Clifton, GCEDAC; Richard & Leslie Esseck; Azim Soju and Navroz Soju; Mark Collin; Joyce Ferrante; Bill Kilborn; and Elmer Lane.

Call to Order

Chairman Todd Gray, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Bobby Crosby, County Administrator, delivered the invocation and Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., led the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda

Mr. Bobby Crosby, County Administrator, presented the following change(s):

1. Addition: Approval of Fee Schedule for Rock Bluff Bridge Project

Mr. David Lang, County Attorney, presented the following change(s):

1. Addition: Approval of John C. Hipp Construction Contract for SW 100th Street

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., to approve the Agenda, as presented, with noted changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

The Board **approved** the Consent Agenda, as presented:

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting January 22, 2015

Approval of Bills

On file in Clerk's Office March 2015

SHIP Reimbursement; Emergency Repairs

Priscilla Gabel \$7,500.00
Pegeen Gould \$7,085.00

Motion made by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Sharon A. Langford, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation

At this time, Mr. Elmer Lane addressed the Board regarding the property that has escheated to the County, once belonging to his parents. *Mr. Newton had this on his report to discuss as well.*

Mr. Newton explained the situation to the Board. He stated that Mr. Lane’s parent’s property escheated to the County late last year and will be going up for auction on the 21st of this month. Mr. Newton stated that F.S. 197.52 allows the former property owner to apply to the board asking to pay what is owed and have the property revert back to them. Mr. Newton read F.S. 197.52. Mr. Newton stated that the reserve amount at auction on said property is set for \$12,295.00.

Mr. Lane had visited Mr. Newton with the intent to purchase the land at what was currently owed, in the amount of \$9,907.08, to regain property formally escheated to the County. Mr. Lane came before the Board today with the intention hoping the Board would be interested in entertaining his interest to purchase escheated property before if goes to auction at the cost of what is currently owed, in the amount of \$9,907.08 (back taxes). Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharon A. Langford, seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, to accept the payment of \$9,907.08 for taxes owed, on subject property, by April 20th, for property formally escheated to the County; as requested by Mr. Elmer Lane. Motion carried unanimously.

County Administrator’s Report

Mr. Bobby Crosby, County Administrator, presented the following documents, and/or addressed the following issues:

General Government

- Agent Services Agreement: Mr. Crosby presented, for the Boards' approval, a request to renew the Agent Services Agreement with Risk Management Associates, Inc. /DBA Public Risk Insurance Agency (PRIA), for an extended three (3) years. The agreement has been reviewed by the County Attorney. Mr. Lang stated that it is his understanding that the fees are to remain the same. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, to approve/renew the Agent Services Agreement with Risk Management Associates, Inc. /DBA Public Risk Insurance Agency (PRIA), for an extended three (3) years. Motion carried unanimously.

Road Department

- BID presentation for SW 100th Street: Mr. Crosby presented the bid results for widening and resurfacing of SW 100th Street as follows:

	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
Anderson Columbia, Inc.	\$873,014.36
John C. Hipp Construction	\$710,519.56
Preferred Materials, Inc.	\$945,405.50
RE Arnold Construction	\$1,345,222.69
VE Whitehurst & Sons, Inc.	\$772,679.88

Mr. Crosby stated that John C. Hipp Construction's bid, in the amount of \$710,519.56, was low bid and is within the grant amount. This bid has also been reviewed by Andrew Carswell with Mills Engineering and he found the bid to meet all the grant stipulations. Mr. Crosby recommends approval and award to John C. Hipp Construction, as low bid for widening and resurfacing of SW 100th Street.

Motion made by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Sharon A. Langford, to approve and award John C. Hipp Construction, as low bid, in the amount of \$710,519.56, for widening and resurfacing of SW 100th Street. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Change; Road Department

- Fee Schedule for Rock Bluff Bridge Project: Mr. Crosby presented the Fee Schedule for the Rock Bluff Bridge Project, for the Boards' approval. He stated that the fee schedule is one of the items that needed to be finalized to finish up the contract. The contract for this project was approved and awarded to Kisinger Campo and Associates (KCA). Mr. Crosby stated that the cost for the design has been received, in the amount of \$145,151.33, and that the FDOT has also reviewed and agrees with the amount; the grant does cover this amount with NO cost to the County. Mr. Crosby requested the Boards' approval to move forward, at this point, with this design. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sharon A. Langford, to approve the final approval of the Fee Schedule for the Rock Bluff Bridge Design, by Kisinger Campo & Associates. Motion carried unanimously.

2:15 p.m. Time Certain

- Bell Junior/Senior High School Band: Mr. Christopher Dunn, Band Director at Bell Junior/Senior High School, addressed the Board and requested the use of Gilchrist County Agriculture Complex, for Band Camp, and that the rental fee be waived. This event will take place August 3-7, 2015 and August 10-13, 2015, during the day, with the exception of Thursday, August 13th for a Parent Preview that evening. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Sharon A. Langford, to approve the request from BHS Band Director, for the use of the Gilchrist County Agriculture Complex, waiving rental fees, for Band Camp, on noted dates; subject to insurance requirements being met and approved by the County Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

County Administrator's Report continues...

Fire/EMS

- EMS Write-Offs: Mr. Crosby presented, for the Boards' information and approval, the EMS Write-Off's for the period of October – December 2014, in the amount of \$51,481.60. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., to approve the EMS Write-Off's for the period of October – December 2014, in the amount of \$51,481.60. Motion carried unanimously.

It was the consensus of the Board to include the EMS Write-Off's on the Consent Agenda, for future consideration and approval.

- Ten8 Fire Equipment Contract: Mr. Crosby requested permission to continue to piggy-back off of modified contract with Ten8 Fire Equipment. The modified contract has been reviewed by the County Attorney. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sharon A. Langford, to approve the request to continue to piggy-back on Ten8 Contract, with Lake County. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Development

- Building Official Contract: Mr. Crosby presented for the Boards' approval, the contract between Gilchrist County and Dixie County re: Building Official Services. Discussion took place. Mr. Crosby suggested that the County Administrator's *names* be removed,

leaving a line for whoever the County Administrator might be at the time of execution, to sign; due to the current Dixie County Administrator resigning.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., to approve the contract between Gilchrist County and Dixie County regarding Building Official Services. Motion carried unanimously.

Parks & Recreation

- Hart Springs Seasonal Workers: Mr. Crosby requested permission to advertise for seasonal workers, for Hart Springs Park & Campground. Funds for these positions have been budgeted at minimum wage. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharon A. Langford, seconded by Commissioner Marion Poitevint, to approve the request to advertise for Seasonal Workers, for Hart Springs Park & Campground, as budget item. Motion carried unanimously.

- Hotel Reimbursement: Mr. Crosby presented a request for hotel reimbursement, in the amount of \$130.80, for training attended by Mitchell Gentry, for floor coatings by Increte Systems. Mr. Gentry explained the training class he attended in hopes to resolve the issue of having to repaint the pavilion floor after flooding. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., to approve the hotel reimbursement, in the amount of \$130.80, to Mitchell Gentry. Motion carried unanimously.

TDC

- Staff Assistant: Mr. Crosby presented a recommendation made by the Tourist Development Committee, for the Boards' approval, to hire a Staff Assistant. Ms. Donna Creamer was recommended for ten (10) hours per week, at \$10.91/hour. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Sharon A. Langford, to approve hiring Donna Creamer, as Staff Assistant, to the TDC, for ten (10) hours a week, at \$10.91/hour, as recommended by the TDC; cost to be funded by TDC Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

- TDC Bags: Mr. Crosby presented, for the Boards' approval, the request to purchase 10,000 plastic tote bags, with handles, for advertisement, in the amount of \$2,780.00; the TDC board approved and cost would be funded from TDC funds. Ms. Donna Creamer explained purpose of this purchase. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Sharon A. Langford, to approve the request from TDC to purchase 10,000 plastic tote bags, with handles,

for advertisement, in the amount of \$2,780.00; cost to be funded from TDC Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

- Billboard Rental: Mr. Crosby and Ms. Donna Creamer, requested the Boards' approval to increase billboard rental amount from \$2,400.00 to \$4,800.00 per year, for better location; the TDC board has approved. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., to approve the request for new billboard, as a cost of \$4,800.00, to replace existing sign at a cost of \$2,400.00; to be funded out of TDC funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Solid Waste

- John Deere Front-End Loader: Mr. Crosby requested permission to transfer a John Deere Front-End Loader, from Solid Waste (47 Site), to the Road Department's inventory. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Marion Poitevint, to approve the transfer of a John Deere Front-End Loader, from Solid Waste (47 Site), to the Road Department's inventory. Motion carried unanimously.

3:00 p.m. Time Certain

- Ordinance 2015-03: Mr. David Lang, County Attorney, opened this Public Hearing and explained that the Board will take in certain considerations during the presentation of Ordinance 2015-03; granting an Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption to Hotel Development and Management Group, LLC, upon approval.

Chairman, Commissioner Todd Gray abstained from discussion and voting on this ordinance. The gavel was passed to Vice Chairman, Commissioner Kenrick Thomas.

Mr. Lang proceeded and read the short title, for the record, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA GRANTING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION TO HOTEL DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC, FOR ITS NEW CONSTRUCTION AND TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HOTEL BUSINESS TO BE LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF FANNING SPRINGS, IN GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA; MAKING REQUIRED FINDINGS; ESTABLISHING THE AMOUNT OF SUCH EXEMPTION AND THE TERM OF SUCH EXEMPTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

At this time, Mr. Bobby Crosby, County Administrator, stated for the record that the application has been received and submitted for the exemption of Ad Valorem and Property Tax. There has been three (3) resolutions passed by the Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in support of this request. He also presented numbers calculated by the Property Appraiser, for further information. Discussion took place.

Trip Lancaster, Mayor, City of Fanning Springs, addressed the Board stating the numbers and processes being administered by his office.

Ms. Diane Clifton, Gilchrist County Tourist Development Committee, also addressed the Board, on grant issues.

Mr. Lang, County Attorney, asked Commissioner Todd Gray to declare his reason of conflict, regarding this issue, for the record; Commissioner Gray stated that *"I do not have a contract to build this hotel, and I don't want to prohibit myself from being able to pursue potentially doing a job, that is how I make my living"*.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked the hotel owners, Mr. Navroz Saju and Mr. Azim Saju, Hotel Development Management Group, to introduce themselves and answer any questions that the Board may have.

The question of a sprinkler system being installed for fire protection, was asked. Mr. Lancaster, Chief Harrell, as well as the Hotel owners clarified this concern.

At this time, Vice Chairman Thomas called for public comment. Those with concerns addressed the Board and expressed their concerns.

At this time, Mr. Lang informed the Board that any motion that is to be made is to include the percentage of the assessed value that is going to be subject to the exemption, for instances, 100% exemption, the term, up to ten years, and also because of the EDAC's recommendation whether or not you want to include that that will not exceed \$600,000.00 in Real and Personal Property Taxes, over the term you so define and describe and pass.

Vice Chairman Thomas called for a motion.

Motion made by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Marion Poitevint, to approve Ordinance 2015-03; granting 100% exemption with a ten (10) year term on Ad Valorem and Tangible Personal Property Taxes to be capped at \$600,000.00.

Commissioner Sharon A. Langford expressed her reason for voting for this request. Motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Todd Gray abstaining from voting.

Vice Chairman Kenrick Thomas turned the gavel back over to Chairman Todd Gray.

Mayor Trip Lancaster, thanked the Board for the City of Fanning Springs. He also reminded everyone of Family Movie Night to be held at Fort Fanning on Friday, May 8, 2015, at dark.

County Administrator's Report continues...

Solid Waste

- Mobile Trash Routes: Mr. Crosby recommended discontinuing the mobile trucks routes at Rock Bluff, Cruise and Leggett. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, to approve the recommendation, as presented, for discontinuing mobile truck routes, for Solid Waste. Motion carried unanimously.

General Government

- County Logo: Mr. Crosby presented for discussion and Board approval, options for the new County Logo adding a ribbon with "In God We Trust". Ribbon color choices were red, black, blue or green.

Motion made by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, to approve the color blue, for the added ribbon "In God We Trust" to the County Logo. Motion failed 2-3; Commissioners Gray, Poitevint and Langford voted NO for blue.

Motion made by Commissioner Marion Poitevint seconded by Commissioner Sharon A. Langford to approve the color black, for the added ribbon "In God We Trust" to the County Logo. Motion carried 3-2; Commissioners Harrison and Thomas voted NO for black. The Board requested that the new logo be incorporated on new orders.

Attorney's Report

Mr. David M. Lang, Jr., County Attorney, presented the following documents, and/or addressed the following issues:

Resolution 2015-10: Mr. Lang presented Resolution 2015-10, requesting the reduction of permit fees by the Suwannee River Water Management District and the Department of Environmental Protection. He read the short title for the record as follows:

RESOLUTION 2015-10

A RESOLUTION BY THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO REDUCE PERMIT FEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., to approve Resolution 2015-10, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2015-11: Mr. Lang presented Resolution 2015-11, authorizing the SCOP Agreement for widening and resurfacing of Santa Fe Park Loop from NE 40th Court to the Columbia Line; SCOP Agreement was provided for the Boards review/information as well. He read the short title for the record as follows:

RESOLUTION 2015-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO ENTER INTO THE SMALL COUNTY OUTREACH PROGRAM OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR FUNDS FOR WIDENING AND RESURFACING OF SANTA FE PARK LOOP FROM NE 40th COURT TO THE COLUMBIA COUNTY LINE IN GILCHRIST COUNTY, FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO EXECUTE SUCH AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., to approve Resolution 2015-11, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Change

SW 100th Street Contract: Mr. Lang presented the proposed contract for the SW 100th Street, based on the bid award to John C. Hipp Construction earlier, as prepared by Mills Engineering Company. He stated that he has reviewed and recommended that the Board approve.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., to approve the contract with John C. Hipp Construction Equipment Inc., as presented, for the SW 100th Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk's Report

Mr. Todd Newton, Clerk of Court, presented the following documents, and/or addressed the following issues:

Budget Recap: Mr. Newton presented and reviewed, for the Boards' information, a Budget Recap for Fiscal Year 2015, for the period ending March 30, 2015. Discussion took place.

State of Florida - Attorney General Settlement Letter: Mr. Newton presented a settlement letter in re LCD Flat Panel Settlement Distribution. The settlement of \$1,199.85 was received and will be put in to General Fund and the records that were retained can now be destroyed.

Discussion on letter *To the Residents and Taxpayers of Gilchrist County*: Mr. Newton presented a letter that Commissioner Todd Gray had drafted informing the Residents and Taxpayers of Gilchrist County of the County's revenue status. Discussion took place. **The Board agreed on adding the County logo to the letter and that minor changes be made and brought back to the next meeting for final approval, for publication.**

Commissioners Reports

- Commissioner Sharon A. Langford informed the Board of a very good financial workshop that she attended
- Commissioner Kenrick Thomas asked everyone to keep Damon Leggett and Billy Cannon's grandkids in their prayers
- Commissioner Todd Gray asked how the new code enforcement complaint process was coming along
- Commissioner Kenrick Thomas informed the Board about *Another Way Event* to be held April 11th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at Otter Springs
- Commissioner Todd Gray informed the Board about the CARES Dinner on May 7th at 5:00 p.m. in Live Oak
- Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., asked for update on NO Wake Zone

Old Business/ New Business: None noted.

Public Participation

- Keith Gornto from Coleman Construction discussed the breakdown in communication and thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with Gilchrist County.

The Board informed all parties involved that once the project is complete, pending CHW's final approval and review by Road Superintendent, the FINAL Payment Request should be presented for consideration and approval.

Adjourn

With there being no further business... a *Motion was made by Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Marion Poitevint, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.* Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at **5:12 p.m.**

*Board of County Commissioners
Gilchrist County, Florida*

Attest:

Todd Newton, Clerk of Court

Approved:

Todd Gray, Chairman