

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD JANUARY 21, 2021

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County, Florida, convened in a **Regular Meeting** on **Monday, January 21, 2021** at **4:00 pm**, 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, Chairman</i>
<i>District II</i>	<i>Commissioner Bill Martin, Vice Chairman</i>
<i>District III</i>	<i>Commissioner Darrell Smith</i>
<i>District IV</i>	<i>Commissioner Marion Poitevint</i>
<i>District V</i>	<i>Commissioner Kenrick Thomas</i>

Others in Attendance

Todd Newton, Clerk of Court; Richard Romans, Finance Director; Terri Hilliard, Board Secretary/Deputy Clerk; David Lang, County Attorney, Donna Creamer, Administrative Assistant; Tracy Sanders, GCSD; Ralph Smith, EM Director; Chief James Campbell, GCFR; John Ayers, Gilchrist County Journal; Eddy Scott; John Rutledge; Michael & Karen Holbrook; Gene Stockman; Tammy Moore, HR Director; Lou Leone, Road Department Superintendent; Tara Howell, Zoning and Permitting Clerk;

Call to Order

Madam Chair, Sharon Langford called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Commissioner Darrell Smith delivered the invocation and Commissioner Bill Martin led the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda

- Agenda was presented to the Board

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Marion Poitevint, to approve the Agenda, as presented. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- None

Public Participation

- None

Constitutional Officers

- None

County Administrator's Report

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

1. Community Development

- **Recommendation of Building Official:** Mr. Crosby stated that since May 2020, the County has been working with Universal Engineering Services, to do our building inspections and plan reviews. Mr. Gene Stockman has been working with Universal and doing the County Inspections for the last few months. He has a history in the building industry since 1985 and has been doing inspections since 1995. Mr. Crosby stated Mr. Stockman recently passed his State exam, which makes him a Building Official. Mr. Crosby stated that he would like to recommend for the Boards approval, the hiring of Mr. Gene Stockman as the new County Building Official. Mr. Crosby stated that this is not a position that posts a salary, but the salary is negotiated when they make an offer. After discussion with Mr. Stockman, the negotiated salary they agreed on would be \$80,000.00 plus full benefits. This position is budgeted at \$70,000.00, but thru discussions with other Building Officials, Mr. Crosby found that the going rate for this position is between \$80,000.00-\$85,000.00. With benefits and salary, the total cost of the offer would be \$101,949.00. Mr. Crosby stated that if we were to continue to use Universal Engineering, it would be at a cost of approximately \$225,000.00 this year. If the Board were to approve Mr. Stockman's hiring, his start date would be February 1st, 2021.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Marion Poitevint to approve the hiring of Gene Stockman as the County Building Official, at a salary of \$80,000.00 plus full benefits. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, County Clerk, Mr. Todd Newton, wanted the Board to be aware that while he agrees with the County Administrators assessment, the proposed salary would be more than is budgeted for this position. Commissioner Langford confirmed the salary would be coming from the Building Department and not the fund balance? Mr. Crosby confirmed. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, Commissioner Smith stated he has heard back from builders in the county and they pleased with the work Mr. Stockman is doing. County Clerk clarified that with the hiring of Mr. Stockman, we would no longer be using Universal for their services, Mr. Crosby stated only in an emergency. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

2. General

- **County Service Technician:** Mr. Crosby stated that the County has a County Service Technician position budgeted. He stated that while this position could do many things, they are primarily looking for utilize this position for Code Enforcement, Code violations and for assisting Animal Control with cruelty cases. Mr. Crosby stated that after researching,

they found that the average starting rate for a Code Enforcement position is about \$19.00, therefore, they would like to start this position at \$17.50 per hour.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Marion Poitevint, to approve the request to move forward with advertising and hiring of a County Service Technician at a rate of \$17.50 per hour with benefits, as presented. This position will be funded out of Community Development. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

- COVID Policy: Mr. Crosby stated that the rules that he is presenting as the COVID policy, is the guidelines the County has been operating since COVID hit, but the County would like to make it official in the form of policy. He stated that Fire Rescue/EMS is excluded from this policy, as they work under a different protocol and statute. County Attorney has reviewed and agrees with policy.

Motion made by Commissioner Darrell Smith, seconded by Commissioner Bill Martin, to approve the request to move forward with advertising and hiring of a County Service Technician at a rate of \$17.50 per hour with benefits, as presented. This position will be funded out of Community Development. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

- Update from Ralph Smith, EM Director – Mr. Smith stated that the County Health Department received another 100 vaccines this week and that they had filled all appointments in 3 hours. He stated the # of vaccines each county receives is based on a % of the county's population.

3. E911:

- Addendum #1 to AK Associates Contract: Mr. Crosby stated that this is a required addendum from the state, which was not part of the original contract. He stated that this allows us to receive our grant funding. He stated that AK Associates will be bound by the terms of the Florida Federal NG911 Grant Agreement summary. There are 13 points in this addendum that AK Associates will acknowledge and agree to. County Attorney stated that the date on page 1 needed to be changed from “2020” to “2021” and initialed by the parties.

Motion made by Commissioner Bill Martin, seconded by Commissioner Darrell Smith, to approve Addendum #1 with AK Associates, with noted date change as suggested by the County Attorney. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Road Department:

- Purchase of Leased Grader: Mr. Crosby is requesting to purchase a CAT grader that we had originally leased. He stated that this grader had taken on some **cosmetic** damage while we were leasing it. These damages will not prevent the County from using the equipment. The one repair that would need to be done is to replace the tail pipe. This cost would come

out of repairs and maintenance. The damages were done while training new staff members, those individuals are no longer employed with the County. Mr. Crosby stated that the County would have to cover the cost of the repairs if we returned the grader, which would be a cost of \$45,786.37. Or the County could opt to purchase the grader at a cost of \$143,829.56. Mr. Crosby stated that John Deere does have an option for the County to finance the grader for 48 months, with no interest and an annual payment of \$35,957.39.

Motion made by Commissioner Bill Martin, seconded by Commissioner Marion Poitevint, to approve the purchase of the leased grader at a cost of \$143,829.56; to be financed over 4 annual payments of \$45,786.37 at 0% interest. This motion also includes the selling of a CAT grader that is currently being used by the County. County Administrator to bring back disposition for CAT grader at the next meeting. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

- SCRAP & SCOP Submittals: Mr. Crosby wanted to inform the Board that CR 138, from US 129 to SR 47 has been approved for 2023 and CR 232 from US 129 to SR 47 has been approved for 2021, however we have not yet received the contract for 2021 project. We are waiting for approval of NW 30th/20th Avenue from US 129 to CR 340 for 2021 cycle. If we get that project approved, the County will have a little over \$7,000,000.00 for 2021. Mr. Crosby stated that NE 30th ST from SR 47 to NE 58th Terrace and SE 80th Ave from SE 80th St to SR 26 have been submitted for future projects, but we have not heard anything on these yet. Mr. Crosby is requesting that the Board bring back to the next meeting, any road projects that they may have that they would like to see done and the Board will make the final decisions on what to submit.

Time Certain

- 4:30 p.m., David M. Lang, Jr., County Planner/Attorney – VAR 2021-01 – Kohan-Clarke:

Mr. Lang stated that this is a quasi-judicial hearing because this is site specific and that all rules and procedures apply. He stated that any decision made today, should be based on substantial and competent evidence as presented and not on mere opinion. Mr. Lang stated that the Board, at the end of the hearing, can choose to approve, deny, or approve with conditions VAR 2021-01. Mr. Lang asked if any commissioner had any ex-parte contact, if so, that it should now be disclosed for the record, none noted. Mr. Lang asked if any member of Board had any conflict of interest and if so, that should be disclosed at this time, no conflicts of interest noted. Mr. Lang presented VAR 2021-01:

VAR 2021-01: A request by Richard R. Kohan, as Life Estate Tenant, Applicant, and Tracy P. Clarke, as to the Remainder Interest, Owner, seeking a Variance from building set back requirements on a partially improved lot in an Agriculture (A-2) land use category located on approximately 5.00 acres of land, with location shown by the Gilchrist County Property Appraiser's Office as 5787 NW 10th Street, Bell, Gilchrist County, Florida 32619. Gilchrist County Property Appraiser's Tax Parcel Number 34-08-14-0000-0006-0010. The property is described as: The East 330.00 feet of the North ½ of the Northwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 34, Township 8 South, Range 14 East, all lying and being in Gilchrist County, Florida.

Subject Property Description:

The subject property is an approximately 5.00-acre site located in northwestern Gilchrist County, approximately 1 ¼ miles west of the Bell City Limits, approximately 1 mile north of CR 342, East of CR 341 and West of CR 313. The applicant is requesting that a Variance be granted for the subject property to allow construction of a single family residence on an existing concrete slab that already has plumbing and an existing septic system, and upon which a building permit and plumbing permit were apparently issued in August 2006. However, the property was subsequently abandoned, and no home was ever constructed.

Upon present review of the property it was determined that the concrete slab violates the A-2 Land Use building set-back requirements for the zoning district with an encroachment of only some 6 inches into the required set-back from the property line. Side and rear set-backs in the A-2 zoning district are 25 feet pursuant to the Gilchrist County Land Development Code.

The subject property is described as:

The East 330.00 feet of the North ½ of the Northwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 34, Township 8 South, Range 14 East, all lying and being in Gilchrist County, Florida.

The Land Use Classification of the subject property is: Agriculture (A-2).

Surrounding Land Uses:

	<i>Future Land Use</i>	<i>Existing Land Use</i>
<i>North</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>A-2; Timberland; single family residential</i>
<i>East</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>A-2; Timberland; Homestead residential</i>
<i>South</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>A-2, Timberland; Vacant</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>A-2; Timberland; Appears Vacant</i>

Natural & Historic Resources

There are no known historic resources located on the subject property.

There are no known natural resources located on the subject property.

Special Use Permit Analysis

The applicant is requesting a Variance from the Gilchrist County Land Development Code to allow construction of a single-family residence on an existing concrete slab with plumbing. A building permit and plumbing permit appear to have been issued for the property in August 2006, but the project was abandoned. The presently required Certificate of Land Use Compliance and accompanying survey reveal that the existing concrete slab encroaches into the required building set-back for the property by approximately 6 inches, while the septic tank appears to be located entirely within the required set-back area. The required rear set-back of the subject property is 25 feet.

Section 12.05.01 authorizes the Board of County Commissioners, serving as the Planning Commission, to grant a variance from the strict application of any provision of the Land Development Code, subject to certain restrictions which includes a prohibition against granting a variance from the consistency requirements of the comprehensive plan.

Based upon the above analysis it would appear that the property which is subject to this Variance Application would be entitled to a Variance from the strict application of the Gilchrist County Land Development Code, inasmuch as the encroachment appears to be a minimal encroachment into the required building set-back, and it does not appear that the encroachment was the direct result of actions of the applicant, but resulted from the actions of others prior to the applicant obtaining a possessory interest in the subject property. In addition, it appears that a building permit and plumbing permit were issued by Gilchrist County in August 2006 for the proposed construction to one, James D. Jones, although the project was subsequently abandoned, and the permits expired. However, the site plan submitted for the permits by Mr. Jones in 2006 does show that the proposed house would be located some 40 feet from the south property line and not where the concrete slab was constructed and is now located.

Recommendation:

The proposed use is consistent with the Gilchrist County Land Development Code for the intended use as single family residential in the A-2 Land Use District. The Gilchrist County Land Development Code pursuant to Section 12.05 authorizes the Board of County Commissioners, serving as the Planning Commission, to grant a Variance from the strict application of any provision of the Code, with certain exceptions and prohibitions as set forth therein.

I recommend approval of the requested Variance based upon:

- 1. The proposed use arises out of unique physical conditions specific to this site alone.*

2. *There are practical or economic difficulties in carrying out the strict letter of the regulation.*
3. *The requested variance does not arise out of conditions either assumed or created by the applicant.*
4. *The variance request is not based exclusively upon a desire to reduce the cost of developing the site.*
5. *The proposed variance will not substantially increase congestion on surrounding public streets, the danger of fire, or other hazard to the public.*
6. *The proposed variance will not substantially diminish property values in, nor alter the essential character of, the area surrounding the site.*
7. *The effect of the proposed variance is in harmony with the general intent of this Code and the specific intent of the relevant subject areas of the Code.*

For the reasons stated, the Variance Application should be approved.

END OF REPORT.

Mr. Lang stated this concluded his report and stated he was available for questions from the Board. Discussion took place.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Marion Poitevint to approve VAR 2021-01, as presented. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously. It was brought to the attention of the Board, that in the Request Summary, it reads "VAR 2020-04" and not "VAR 2021-01". Mr. Lang stated that this was a typo and that through out the rest of the request, it was correct. Noted for the record.

- 4:45 p.m., David M. Lang, Jr., County Planner/Attorney – VAR 2021-02 – Karen S. and Michael Holbrook:

Mr. Lang stated that this is a quasi-judicial hearing because this is site specific and that all rules and procedures apply. He stated that any decision made today, should be based on substantial and competent evidence as presented and not on mere opinion. Mr. Lang stated that the Board, at the end of the hearing, can choose to approve, deny, or approve with conditions VAR 2021-02. Mr. Lang asked if any commissioner had any ex-parte contact, if so, that it should now be disclosed for the record, none noted. Mr. Lang asked if any member of Board had any conflict of interest and if so, that should be disclosed at this time,

no conflicts of interest noted. Mr. Lang presented VAR 2021-02:

VAR 2021-02: A request by Karen S. Holbrook and Michael F. Holbrook, as Applicants and Owner, seeking a Variance from building set back requirements on an improved lot in an Environmentally Sensitive Land Use-2 (ESL-2), (shown as ESA-2 on the Future Land Use Map), land use category located on approximately 0.500 acres of land, with location shown by the Gilchrist County Property Appraiser's Office as 1491 SW 80th Avenue, Bell, Gilchrist County, Florida 32619. Gilchrist County Property Appraiser's Tax Parcel No. 08-09-14-0023-000F-0010. The property is described as:

Lot 1, Block F, Wannee on the Suwannee Subdivision, according to the plat thereof filed in Plat Book 1, page 24 of the Public Records of Gilchrist County, Florida.

Subject Property Description:

The subject property is an approximately .50 acre (1/2 acre) site located in northwestern Gilchrist County, on the Suwannee River, approximately 4 miles southwest of Bell, Florida, West of CR Number 341 and South of County Road SW 10th Street, adjacent to Gilchrist County Road Number SW 80th Avenue (also known as Wannee Drive). The applicant is requesting that a Variance be granted for the subject property to approve a building setback violation for an existing mobile home that has been previously occupied as a single-family residential dwelling.

The subject property is described as:

Lot 1, Block F, Wannee on the Suwannee Subdivision, according to the plat thereof filed in Plat Book 1, page 24, of the Public Records of Gilchrist County, Florida.

The Land Use Classification of the subject property is: *Environmentally Sensitive Land (ESA-2).*

Surrounding Land Uses:

	<i>Future Land Use</i>	<i>Existing Land Use</i>
<i>North</i>	<i>Environmentally Sensitive Land</i>	<i>ESA-2; Single family residential</i>
<i>East</i>	<i>Environmentally Sensitive Land</i>	<i>ESA-2; Vacant</i>
<i>South</i>	<i>Conservation and Environmentally Sensitive Land</i>	<i>Conservation and ESA-2; Vacant; SRWMDt.</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>Suwannee River</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>

Natural & Historic Resources

There are no known historic resources located on the subject property.

There are no known natural resources located on the subject property.

Case No.: VAR 2021-02
January 21, 2021

Special Use Permit Analysis

The applicant is requesting a Variance from the Gilchrist County Land Development Code for an existing single-family residence which is located in violation of the setback requirements of the Gilchrist County Land Development Code.

The property was acquired by Michael W. Stalvey and Minnie H. Stalvey, husband and wife, pursuant to a Warranty Deed filed 9/26/2000, and recorded as Clerk's Instrument# 2000 3805, Public Records of Gilchrist County, Florida. Subsequently, a building permit was apparently issued by the Gilchrist County Building Department for replacement of a single wife mobile home on the premises on April 26, 2001 and a power Gilchrist County Power Release Permit was subsequently issued on July 3, 2001. Staff finds no record of any site plan for the replacement available to the County. Apparently, the new mobile home was raised and placed on stilts.

Subsequently, the property was conveyed to Diana J. Wilcox Silsby by virtue of a Warranty Deed filed 11/27/2007, and recorded as Clerk's Instrument #2007007075, Public Records of Gilchrist County, Florida. Shortly thereafter, it appears that Diana Wilcox had the property surveyed by Ronald E. Parrish, of Parrish Land Surveying, with field work completion date of 12/04/2007, and the survey dated 12/13/2007. A copy of the survey is attached to this Staff Report and reveals that the replacement mobile home was installed 1.0 feet from the south property line of the subject property in violation of the building set back requirements for the ESA-2 Land Use District.

Minimum Building setback requirements for principle structures within the ESL-2 Land Use Category are:

- (1) Front: 30 feet*
- (2) Side and Rear: 25 feet.*

Provided that any nonconforming lot of record that is 1 acre or less in size, the following setbacks shall apply:

Front: 20 feet

Side: 10 feet
Rear: 15 feet

As such, as it appears that since this lot is a nonconforming lot of less than 1 acre in size, the minimum side setback requirements are front 20 feet; side and rear 10 feet; from the property lines.

Accordingly, the location of the principle structure is in violation of the Gilchrist County Land Development Code, which violation has continued in existence since at least the date that of the survey referenced above of the subject property in 2007, and possibly since the permit was issued in 2001 for the replacement of the single wide trailer.

The setback violation constitutes a significant setback violation and is not a minimal or inconsequential violation, and was known by the applicants' predecessor in interest and could possibly have been resolved many years ago by either relocating the mobile home to the proper required setbacks or alternatively, by negotiating a possible purchase from the adjoining property owner to secure enough property to combine with the existing lot sufficient to cure the setback requirement problem.

The property was subsequently conveyed by a Warranty Deed (With Enhanced Life Estate) by Diana J. Wilcox Silsby, as grantor, to Karen S. Holbrook and Michael F. Holbrook, her husband, as grantee, filed September 23, 2019, as Clerk's Instrument # 201921005035, public records of Gilchrist County, Florida. Pursuant to the Warranty Deed (With Enhanced Life Estate), the decedent, Diana J. Wilcox Silsby, held equitable title to the property up until her death on July 31, 2020 at which time the remainder interest in the property fully vested in the grantees and applicants seeking this variance.

Section 12.05.01 authorizes the Board of County Commissioners, serving as the Planning Commission, to grant a variance from the strict application of any provision of the Land Development Code, subject to certain restrictions which includes a prohibition against granting a variance from the consistency requirements of the comprehensive plan.

Section 12.05.04 requires that the Planning Commission first determine that the requested Variance arises out of conditions that are unique to the property alone and is not a condition that is common to numerous sites so that requests for similar Variances are likely to be received. Here, it would appear that the granting of this particular Variance is a condition that is, or potentially is, common to numerous other sites, such that the granting of the Variance would be problematic and not authorized under the Code.

For example, there is a required 10 feet setback requirement in the instant case and the request is to waive or grant a Variance of some 9 feet off of the requirement. This is a substantial Variance request. Precedent is being established by the Board whereby similarly situated future applicants will expect equal treatment as what is established here. This could lead to intentional manipulation of the Code by those who might seek Variances for intentional or purposeful acts. That is why the Code does not allow the granting of variances where similar issues are common to other sites.

Based upon the above analysis it would appear that the property which is subject to this Variance Application would not be entitled to a Variance from the strict application of the Gilchrist County Land Development Code, inasmuch as the encroachment appears to be a significant encroachment into the required building set-back area, and it appears that the encroachment was the direct result of actions of the applicants' predecessors in interest.

Recommendation:

The proposed use is consistent with the Gilchrist County Comprehensive Plan but is inconsistent with the Land Development Code as to the setback requirements for use as single family residential in the ESL-2 Land Use District. I recommend denial of the requested Variance based upon:

- 1. The proposed use does not arise out of unique physical conditions specific to this site alone.*
- 2. There are no practical or economic difficulties in carrying out the strict letter of the regulation.*
- 3. The requested variance arises out of conditions either assumed or created by the applicant or their predecessors in interest.*
- 4. The effect of the proposed variance is not in harmony with the general intent of this Code and the specific intent of the relevant subject areas of the Code.*

For the reasons stated, the Variance Application should be denied.

END OF REPORT.

Mr. Lang states he is available for questions from the Board.

Mr. Lang stressed that the County is not trying to enforce the violation by making anyone leave the premises, however when the applicant tried to sell it, it then became an issue because a third party lender will not do financing when there is a clear violation of the setback requirements. Discussion took place. After much discussion, the Board **continued** VAR 2021-02 for 6 months, in order to allow the applicant to negotiate with SRWMD for approval to use a small portion of the land that belongs to SRWMD or to purchase that small area that is effected by this setback violation.

County Administrator's Report cont.

5. EMS/FIRE:

- Request to Purchase Four (4) sets of Firefighting Gear: Mr. Crosby is requesting to purchase four sets of firefighting gear at a cost of \$10,130.00. Mr. Crosby stated that the County has been approved for a 50/50 matching grant from Forestry to assist with this

purchase. The Forestry grant will reimburse the County \$5,050.00. This was a budgeted item.

Motion by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Marion Poitevint, to approve the purchase of the 4 sets of firefighting gear at a cost of \$10,130, with piggybacking off of the Lake County Contract and a reimbursement 50/50 match from a Forestry grant, leaving the total cost to the County \$5,050.00. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion; discussion took place. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

- Ratification of Medicaid Contract: Mr. Crosby presented the Medicaid Contract for ratification. Mr. Crosby stated that without the renewal of this contract, the County's ability to bill Medicaid will end February 13, 2021. This application was submitted early to allow for processing before the deadline, preventing any interruption in billing and collections.

Motion by Commissioner Darrell Smith, seconded by Commissioner Bill Martin, to approve the ratification of the Medicaid contract. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

- Request for Extended Warranty on Zoll Cardiac Monitors: Mr. Crosby is requesting to purchase the extended warranty for the Zoll Cardiac Monitors, at a cost of \$32,940.00. This contract would run from 12/01/2020 to 11/30/2024. Mr. Crosby then deferred to Chief James Campbell, to explain the request. Mr. Campbell stated that annually, we have a service contract for our monitors, of which we have 6. Mr. Campbell stated that Zoll has changed their contracts from an annual one to a 4-year contract. He stated that the cost of the contract per unit has increased, but this is not just a service contract but also a repair contract for accidental damage, to include battery replacement. Mr. Campbell stated that the batteries on these units are about \$800.00 each. He stated we usually replace 2-3 of the batteries per year. When Zoll comes and inspects the units, they will also check the batteries and if they need to be replaced, they will take care of that. This policy will also cover physical damage. Mr. Campbell suggested the Board pay for this in 4 annual payments of \$8,235.00.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Darrell Smith, to approve the purchase of the extended warranty for Zoll Cardiac Monitors at an annual cost of \$8,235.00 for 4 years and purchased as a sole source, due to not being able to purchase from another vendor. Commissioner Sharon Langford called for any further comment, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

- Request to purchase New Vehicle for Fire Chief: Mr. Crosby presented to the Board a request to purchase a new Ford Crew Cab pickup for the Fire Chief at a cost not to exceed \$45,000.00. He stated that 50% of this cost would come from Fire, 45% would come from EMS and 5% from Emergency Management. Commissioner Langford stated that when she met with Chief regarding this matter, the percentages were different. Mr. Crosby explained that after speaking with the Clerk, they agreed that the percentages should match how the

Chief gets paid. Commissioner Langford stated that her thoughts on this matter would be that, this is not a necessity and it was not a budgeted item, so it could wait till budgeting for next year. Discussion took place. Chief explained that due to the vehicle not being properly wired for all the equipment that is in the current Chief vehicle, they are having to replace the batteries a couple of times a year. Chief also stated that the request was coming at this time, because in order to lock in this price, the order must be placed by the 25th of February. Chief stated that with the additional job duties the Fire Chief position has now taken on, requires additional equipment be carried and the vehicle that they currently have, is not ideal or safe for some of this equipment and supplies. Mr. Crosby stated that while we need to be cautious with the CARES funding that has been received, he feels that it would be appropriate to use some of those funds towards this purchase.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Bill Martin, to approve the purchase of the vehicle for the Fire Chief, as presented. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion. Discussion took place, as to what would be done with the truck that Chief currently uses. Motion includes that the current vehicle will be used in Code Enforcement, once the new vehicle arrives. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Langford voting against.

- Purchase of Surplus Truck from Jacksonville: Mr. Crosby is requesting to purchase a 2001 Freightliner Air Truck 3126 6CY Fire Truck from the City of Jacksonville Surplus sale in the amount of \$15,000.00. Although this vehicle is noted to be in “poor” condition, there is working equipment on the truck that is valued more than the purchase price. This equipment is a machine that will allow the Fire Department to be able to fill 4 air bottles at a time. Chief Campbell stated that there were some air bottles that were left on the truck in question. These bottles are approximately \$1,100.00 each and there were 48 air bottles, still in date, left. He stated that Gilchrist County can use these air bottles.

Motion made by Commissioner Bill Martin, seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, to purchase the surplus vehicle, contingent on all equipment that was on the truck, is still there and comes with it. Commissioner Sharon Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Parks & Boat Ramp Signage: Mr. Crosby presented to the Board the current signage that is being used at the Parks and Boat Ramps. He has made some changes that he is requesting the Boards approval on. These changes are:
 - # 2 – to remove the words “in water” from that line, so that it now reads, “All activities are conducted at the person’s own risk. The County does not provide any safety supervision for any activities at any park, boat ramp, boat landing or recreational facility.
 - # 11 – to remove the verbiage 10:00 p.m., local time, and add “until sunset” so that it now reads, “Parks, boat ramps, boat landings and recreation facilities are open from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset, except where otherwise noted.The following items were removed:
 - “No disposal of household or commercial garbage or waste generated outside of the park, boat ramp, boat landing or recreation facility.”
 - “No firearms”

Discussion took place as to the design and funding for the new signage.

Motion made by Commissioner Bill Martin, seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas to approve changes to park regulations as presented. Board approved signs being funded from TDC. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion carried unanimously

7. CARES:

- Gilchrist County School Funding Request: Mr. Crosby stated he had received a request by the School Board for funding in the amount of \$330,211.97 for expenditures from March 2020 thru December 2020 in relation to COVID pandemic. Mr. Crosby stated the he and the Clerk, have reviewed this request and feel that the expenditures are justified, and they are asking the Board to approve the request as presented.

Motion made by Commissioner Darrell Smith, seconded by Commissioner Bill Martin, to approve the reimbursement request by the School Board in the amount of \$330,211.97 as presented. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

- CRF Assistance Program Close-out: Mr. Crosby wanted to inform the Board that this program from the State has ended. He stated that we were given 3 days to complete the paperwork and return any unused funds and that the Finance Department had gotten this done in the timeframe, which prevented us from any penalties or fines. He stated that out of the \$175,000.00, we returned \$143,297.00. This part of CARES was not extended, so it closed 12.2020.

No action needed on this item.

8. Comp Plan and LDR Review: This item was delayed till after the Attorney and Clerk's reports

County Attorney's Report

- FYI: Mr. Lang informed the Board that Jefferson County passed a resolution to oppose the Suncoast toll road. Commissioner Langford asked if it was the recommendation of the Attorney for Gilchrist County to do the same. Mr. Lang stated that this would be the pleasure of the Board and that if the County was against it, they should probably do something to show their opposition.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Bill Martin, to direct County Attorney, David Lang, to create a draft of a resolution to shows the County's opposition to the Suncoast Toll Road. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk's Report

1. Request for Corrected Deed Mr. Newton, Clerk of Court presented to the Board a request for a corrected deed for an escheated property. He stated that the recorded deed had an incorrect property description and tax parcel number listed. Mr. Newton is requesting to have Mr. Lang create a corrected Deed of Conveyance and it be recorded and permission for the Chair to sign.

Motion made by Commissioner Bill Martin, seconded by Commissioner Darrell Smith, to have County Attorney draw up a corrected Deed of Conveyance and permission for the Chair to sign. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Martin - none

Commissioner Smith – informed Board that he attended Commissioner training recently

Commissioner Langford – none

Commissioner Poitevint – none

Commissioner Thomas – none

8. Comp Plan and LDR Review: This item was continued to the next meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Darrell Smith to postpone the Comp Plan and LDR Review to the next meeting. Commissioner Langford called for any further discussion, none noted. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Bill Martin, seconded by Commissioner Poitevint to adjourn. No further business noted, motion passed unanimously to adjourn at 6:14 p.m.



Attest:

Todd Newton
Todd Newton, Clerk of Court

Board of County Commissioners
Gilchrist County, Florida

Approved:

Sharon Langford
Sharon Langford, Chairman