

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING OF THE GASPARILLA ISLAND
BRIDGE AUTHORITY
February 13, 2019

A Quarterly Board Meeting of the Gasparilla Island Board of Supervisors was called to order at 1:00 pm on February 13, 2019. The meeting was held in the conference room at the Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority. Voting Board Members present were Gay Darsie, Jay Feinberg, Bill Klettke, Drew Tucker, and Ginger Watkins. Advisory Members present were Randy Hicks and Peter Strong. Also present was Executive Director Kathy Banson-Verrico, GIBA attorney Rob Berntsson, GIBA independent auditor Tom Cramer from *Suplee, Shea, Cramer and Rocklein*, and GIBA engineer Jon Cole from *Giffels Webster Engineering*.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The first order of business was the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. GIBA Attorney Berntsson opened the floor for Chairman nominations. **Darsie nominated Watkins. There were no other nominations. Watkins was elected Chairman.** Berntsson opened the floor for Vice Chairman nominations. **Watkins nominated Darsie. There were no other nominations. Darsie was elected Vice Chairman.**

Appointment of Advisory Member

The next order of business was the appointment of advisory seat #7. GIBA received a resume from island resident Jean Hoysradt. She was present for the meeting and gave a description of her background and qualifications. **The Board unanimously appointed Jean Hoysradt to advisory seat #7.**

Public Comments/Questions on Agenda Items: No Comments

Minutes Approval:

The next order of business was the approval of the minutes from previous meetings. **On motion by Feinberg seconded by Klettke the minutes from the Quarterly Board Meeting on November 18, 2018 were unanimously approved.**

Chairman Report:

The chairman thanked the Board for the privilege of serving, a responsibility she thoroughly enjoys.

Executive Director Report:

Traffic/Revenue

For FY19 cash tolls are down -6% and pass tolls are up 3%. Cash sales represent 26% and pass sales represent 73% of total revenue. Compared to FY18 the average toll per unit is up from \$5.02 to \$5.22. There are currently 4,857 active toll pass accounts. With no indication of red tide in January and February traffic and revenue have started to increase.

Bridge Openings

In 2019 bridge openings increased 15% in November, 18% in December, and 7% in January.

Toll System Update

Progress on the project continues to move forward at a steady pace. The new servers are functioning properly with the previous database successfully transferred. The toll lanes are operating with the new hardware including lane and license plate recognition cameras. The next phase of the project is the distribution of the new RFID cards and stickers. GIBA staff currently has the annual pass stickers entered

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in the system and ready to distribute. The exchange for all cards and sticker is set to begin February 19, 2019.

Southern Roadway Improvements

The Board reviewed a proposed plan for a sidewalk along the west side of the southern roadway. The sidewalk will require some type of crosswalk to direct users to the east side of the roadway. There was a lengthy discussion regarding potential crosswalk locations. The Board asked Jon Cole to further research the accuracy of the GIBA right of way on the southerly limits of the recognized GIBA property. Once the right of way ownership on both the east and west sides of the southern roadway is confirmed, the Board can further discuss the possibilities of a new sidewalk and crosswalk.

Northern Roadway Paving

The Board discussed the mill and resurface of the GIBA causeway from CR775 to the toll plaza. A set of overhead photos was reviewed detailing the project limits. **On motion by Watkins and seconded by Feinberg the Board voted to move forward with the milling, resurfacing, and restriping of the causeway from Placida Rd. south to the GIBA toll plaza. The plan is to add two additional asphalt aprons: one at the entrance to the GIBA administration parking lot, and one on the southernmost driveway entrance to Eldred's Marina. The apron to the Eldred's Marina parking lot, if outside of GIBA's right of way, will only be included after written approval is received from Eldred's Marina. The project will go out for bid and be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidding contractor for an amount not to exceed \$500,000.**

Engineering Committee:

Strong reviewed the 2018 Bridge inspection report. Overall the report was favorable with some minor items requiring attention regarding painting and corrosion protection. GIBA staff is working on preparing the documents and RFP for a painting of the Swing Bridge.

There is an existing issue with birds on the center pier of the Swing Bridge. GIBA staff has been trying to keep the area clean but lacks the equipment and expertise to remediate the situation caused by the continuous flow of birds. GIBA staff will research area bird mitigation companies to inquire on possible solutions.

Finance/Audit Committee:

Tom Cramer presented the GIBA FY18 audit report. Cramer confirmed that GIBA is in strong financial position and was given a clean audit report. **On motion by Tucker and seconded by Darsie the Board voted to approve the GIBA fiscal year 2018 audit report.**

Finance/Audit Chairman Tucker presented the FY19 first quarter financial statements. GIBA continues to build cash reserves to fund long term bridge and causeway capital projects and to prepay long term debt. GIBA Staff will prepare a cash flow for review at a future meeting to help the Board select the timing and type of potential investments.

Legal:

Attorney Rob Berntsson was requested to consult with Charlotte County records, Jon Cole and any other needed entities to confirm all right of way ownership issues on GIBA's previously drawn southern roadway.

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New Business: None

Public Comments/Questions on Non-Agenda Items: No Comments

Board Member Comments: No Comments

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Ginger Watkins, GIBA Board Chairman