

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING OF THE GASPARILLA ISLAND  
BRIDGE AUTHORITY  
April 24, 2019

A Quarterly Board Meeting of the Gasparilla Island Board of Supervisors was called to order at 1:00 pm on April 24, 2019. The meeting was held in the Woman's Club Room at the Boca Grande Community Center. Voting Board Members present were Gay Darsie, Jay Feinberg, Bill Klettke, Drew Tucker, and Ginger Watkins. Advisory Members present were Jean Hoysradt and Peter Strong. Randy Hicks participated via phone. Also present was Executive Director Kathy Banson-Verrico, GIBA attorney Rob Berntsson from the *Big W Law Firm*, and GIBA engineer Jon Cole from *Giffels Webster Engineers, Inc.*

**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 February 13, 2019 were unanimously approved.**

**Chairman Report:**

The Chairman discussed the committee structures. The three active committees each have a Chairman. All Board Members were encouraged to attend and participate in every committee meeting. All committee participants will be given a vote on items discussed at that committee meeting.

**Executive Director Report:**

**Traffic and Revenue**

Traffic and revenue figures for October 2018 – March 2019 were reviewed. The overall traffic count of 562,775 is even compared to last year. Overall revenue of \$2,846,980 was down slightly compared to last year due to a decrease in cash paying vehicles.

**Bridge Openings**

Bridge openings were up 20% in January, 12% in February, and down 13% in March.

**Toll Collection System**

The Executive Director reported that the toll collection system upgrade to all software and hardware will be completed by the end of summer 2019. Currently GIBA staff has exchanged more than 8,000 cards and stickers. The exchange will continue through the next months and anticipated to be completed by December 2019. All current toll rates and policies will remain the same. There are behind the scene changes being completed in the toll lanes. The final phase will include the customer service module upgrade and the creation of a new GIBA interactive website.

**RFP2019-02 Bird Control**

There is an existing issue with birds on the center pier of the Swing Bridge. The Board discussed a Request for Proposal for a bird control system to be installed on the open machinery piers of the Swing Bridge. **On motion by Watkins and seconded by Darsie the Board unanimously approved the distribution of the RFP and the selection of the firm for a not to exceed cost of \$80K.**

**Engineering Committee:**

The Engineering Committee report included a discussion on an addition to GIBA's current emergency plan in the event of a bridge/causeway failure that restricts vehicular traffic flow to the island. GIBA's current emergency plan includes coordinated efforts and shared resources with State and local safety agencies as well as the Florida Department of Transportation. GIBA's mission is to maintain safe and

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efficient traffic flow at all times through the toll booths and along the causeway. Staff will research with emergency agencies the availability of a ferry service and report back to the Board.

**Finance/Audit Committee:**

The Finance/Audit Committee report included a review of the FY19 2nd quarter financial statements. The cash position remains strong. Revenue is down slightly by -1% compared to budget and expenses were also down -9%. The overall net position increased by \$1.3 million for the first 6 months of FY19.

**Legal:**

For the last six months GIBA staff, attorney, and engineers have been working on a plan to add a sidewalk on the west side of the GIBA owned property south of Gulf Shores Blvd. Fieldwork and research has uncovered some inconsistencies with past survey work and the GIBA right of way boundaries. Jon Cole presented detailed documents of the legal boundary history spanning from the 1958 Florida Bridge Company purchase from Sunset Realty through the 1998 causeway purchase by GIBA.

**On motion by Watkins and seconded by Darsie the Board voted to approve GIBA's legal counsel and engineering team to hire a third party firm to confirm Cole's research and the boundaries referred to in the current legal description as Parcel 1. The second step is to re-pave and add shoulders. On motion by Darsie and seconded by Watkins the Board voted to pave and extend the roadway shoulders to the southernmost GIBA property boundary. The third step is to determine the southernmost location of the sidewalk and crosswalk. On motion by Darsie and seconded by Feinberg the Board voted to install a crosswalk and sidewalk close to the southernmost terminus of the survey confirmed GIBA right of way.**

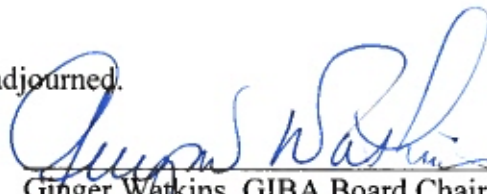
The findings will be discussed at the next scheduled Board Meeting

**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