

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING OF THE GASPARILLA ISLAND
BRIDGE AUTHORITY
August 20, 2019

A Quarterly Board Meeting of the Gasparilla Island Board of Supervisors was called to order at 1:00 pm on August 20, 2019. The meeting was held in the conference room at the Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority administration building. Voting Board Members present were Gay Darsie, Bill Klettke, Ginger Watkins, with Jay Feinberg and Drew Tucker participating via phone. Advisory Members Randy Hicks, Jean Hoysradt and Peter Strong participated via phone. Also present was Executive Director Kathy Banson-Verrico, GIBA attorney Rob Berntsson from *The Big W Law Firm*, GIBA engineer John Cole from *Giffels Webster Engineers, Inc.* and Gulf Shores Property Management representative Tim Freeman.

Public Comments/Questions on Agenda Items: No Comments

Minutes Approval:

The April 24, 2019 meeting minutes were presented. **On motion by Darsie and seconded by Klettke the minutes from the Quarterly Board meeting on April 24, 2019 were unanimously approved.**

Old Business:

The GIBA Board voted at the April 2019 meeting to design and construct a sidewalk on the west side of Gasparilla Rd. from south of Gulf Shores Blvd. to the end of the GIBA right of way that would facilitate safe pedestrian travel along the existing GIBA right of way. GIBA attorney Rob Berntsson and GIBA engineer Jon Cole met with Charlotte County representatives to verify property boundaries and inquire about the transfer of additional right of way to GIBA. **On motion by Darsie and seconded by Feinberg the GIBA Board unanimously voted to approve a right of way acquisition from Charlotte County to connect the proposed sidewalk to the current GICIA bike path.**

Executive Director Report:

The Executive Director reported that the toll collection system upgrade of all software and hardware is on track to be completed by the fall of 2019. To Date, GIBA staff has exchanged more than 12,000 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. The final phase of toll lane upgrades will include the customer service module and the creation of a new GIBA interactive website. The website will require improved internet speed, which Century Link is in the process of upgrading the GIBA service to 500mbps. The service should be installed within the next 60 days.

Bridge openings were down -10% in May, down -11% in June and up 20% in July. Openings are up 2% for the fiscal year.

Traffic and revenue figures for October 2018-July 2019 were reviewed. The overall traffic count of 902,228 is an increase of 3% compared to last year. Overall revenue of \$4,531,365 is up 2% compared to last year.

The paving project to mill and resurface from Placida Rd. to the toll plaza began on August 20th and is expected to be complete by August 26th.

The bird netting project on the bridge piers is complete. There has been a significant decrease of birds under the bridge.

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING OF THE GASPARILLA ISLAND
BRIDGE AUTHORITY
August 20, 2019

GIBA needs to purchase a bucket truck for maintenance purposes. GIBA employee Scot Van Atten has a bucket truck for sale for \$8,000 and a 1 year bumper to bumper warranty. Staff researched comparable vehicles including price. **On motion by Watkins and seconded by Klettke the purchase of the bucket truck from Scot Van Atten for a cost of \$8,000 was unanimously approved.**

Finance/Audit Committee:

The draft FY20 budget was reviewed. Revenue was budgeted at an increase of 1% and expenses were decreased by 1%. **On Motion by Tucker and seconded by Watkins the draft FY20 budget was approved.**

On motion by Darsie and seconded by Klettke the GIBA Board approved a \$1.5 million long-term debt principal prepayment to SunTrust Bank to be made before September 30, 2019.

For FY20, on motion by Feinberg and seconded by Tucker the GIBA Board approved quarterly long-term debt principal prepayments beginning December 2019.

GIBA will continue to build cash reserves to fund capital projects and repay the long-term debt to Suntrust and the State Infrastructure Bank.

Engineering Committee:

The end lift reduction unit that was approved at the May 20th Engineering Meeting has been manufactured and is on site. The final design for the emergency hydraulic jack system has been approved for local manufacture.

Governance Committee:

Darsie led a discussion on the Executive Director's annual performance evaluation. She commended the Executive Director on her performance and recommended a 4% salary increase. With the recommended increase the Executive Director's annual salary will be \$127,196. **On motion by Darsie and seconded by Watkins a 4% pay increase for the Executive Director was approved.**

Due to the toll collection system upgrade requiring Suzie Moore and Kathy Banson-Verrico to be onsite and unable to take their respective vacation days, Darsie informed the Board that Suzie Moore would be rolling over 7 vacation days and Kathy Banson-Verrico would be rolling over 13 vacation days.

Legal:

Berntsson will be meeting with Charlotte County to inquire about the formal process and timing on acquiring the additional right of way discussed at the onset of this meeting. He will update the Board at the next meeting.

New Business: No Comment

Board Member Comments: No Comments

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Ginger Watkins, GIBA Board Chairman