

Commissioner Minutes of May 17, 2013

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Friday, May 17, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Reid. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present.

*Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Walters, to reconsider the motion from the May 14th meeting to not allow the payment of Payroll to the new FOC employee. Ayes carried, **motion passed**. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow the Clerk to pay the FOC employee. Chairman Reid made it very clear that anytime there is a transfer, or a vacancy, while a hiring freeze is in effect that the Board needs to be involved with the hiring of a replacement employee. Ayes carried, **motion passed**.*

Public Comments –

Mike Greer, District Court Magistrate, commented that he and Judge Farrell spoke to the Board at the last finance meeting in regards to hiring while expressing their concerns of the vacancies and the services affected by those vacancies. Discussion. Chairman Reid stated that there was a Finance meeting yesterday with the Financial Coordinator that he wished the Courts would have participated in. Chairman Reid asked if the two positions can be combined, noting that the Financial Coordinator has urged the Board to eliminate the funding until the Courts work with the Board to hire someone. Mike Greer stated the two positions are in separate locations and do separate duties, so the options to combine and still be effective is not likely. Mr. Greer went on to state that he has worked very well with the Board over the past several years and has implemented programs to reduce budgets. Chairman Reid stated that the Finance Committee will meet again soon to discuss the issue. Commissioner Whittington stated that he agrees with the portion of Judge Farrell's letter about revenue. Mr. Greer asked that the Board consider allowing him to hire the Probation Clerk, explaining that the Judge may consider increasing the regular supervision fees to \$20.00/month, the mail in supervision fees to \$15.00/month and the non-reporting to \$10.00/month. This would be an estimated increase of \$1000-\$2000/month in revenue. (Mr. Greer left the meeting to call Judge Farrell)

Chairman Reid asked the Board to consider the draft letter in support of the USDA grant for the Park and Recreation kitchen remodel. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the Chairman to sign the letter as drafted by Attorney Jacobson. Ayes carried, **motion passed**.*

Magistrate Greer returned to the meeting and stated that the Judge is not willing to put the revenue enhancements in writing but is committed to increase the fees effective June 1, 2013 if the Board allows for the hiring of a part-time probation Clerk. Discussion on hiring a part-time Clerk as long as it is an internal transfer. *Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow the Magistrate to hire a part time probation Clerk. Ayes carried, **motion passed**. Commissioners Carl and Reid voting no. Commissioner Carl noted the reason he voted no was due to the Judge's unwillingness to place his intent in writing today and that he should have researched the ability of internal "cross-training" as they were directed to do. Mr. Greer thanked the Board for allowing him to hire, stating that he is doing as much as he can to assist.*

Commissioner Whittington commented on the most recent figures the Board received from the Financial Coordinator, noting concern that there will be no funding soon to pay the bills.

Commissioner Walters stated that he appreciates the Judge working with the Board to create revenue, but the Board needs to re-visit the revenue to be sure that the revenue is coming in as assured to be.

Chairman Reid commented that he is in receipt of the "phase one and phase two" letters from department heads on proposed cuts and revenue enhancements. The Board will be drafting a response to them on which items they are considering and which items they are not comfortable with.

Public Comments -

Ray Hartwell, Undersheriff, voiced his concerns on Neil's figures and the perception that the Board needs to "cut personnel to make payroll". Chairman Reid spoke about the amount borrowed last year and the decrease in revenues over the past several years, noting that this is a repair that will occur over three years. Discussion. Undersheriff Hartwell stated that he cannot understand why Neil and the Board are convinced that the current staffing levels are causing the County's financial hardship? The Undersheriff stated that the path the Board is going down with the Financial Coordinator does not make sense and that the Board should prepare to justify their actions to the public. Commissioner Whittington stated that Neil is a CPA and the Board has faith in his ability to calculate the numbers even if the Board does not like his recommended cuts. Sheriff Shea spoke about the option for a headlee millage.

Commissioner Whittington excused himself from the meeting at 10:52.

*Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to receive and file various correspondence and reports. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

*Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m., until May 28, 2013 at 8:50 a.m., unless otherwise ordered.*

Laura Brandon-Maveal
County Clerk

Josh Reid
Chairman