

ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Sheriff Sadie Darnell
Post Office Box 5489 • Gainesville, FL 32627

November 10, 2015

Edward J. Bielarski, Jr.
P. O. Box 147117, Mail Stop A134
Gainesville, FL 32614-7117
Email address: bielarskiej@gru.com
Office Phone: 352-393-1007

Dear Mr. Bielarski:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Radio Management Board (RMB) sub-committee tasked with providing input and direction regarding the viability and expansion of the public safety 800 MHz trunked radio system (TRS) that is owned, maintained and supported by GRU/GRUCom. The sub-committee was formed in 2014 due to a continued impasse as to how to move the TRS forward. There were competing interests and unresolved questions between GRU/GRUCom and its public safety subscribers secondary to the Interlocal revision that occurred in 2012. The sub-committee is comprised of public safety agency representatives appointed by voting members of the RMB. In addition, Mr. Solon Bellot has participated as the GRU representative.

For the past year or so, the sub-committee has worked on a position paper (please see attached) to articulate various concerns regarding the current, intermediate, and long term viability, reliability, and expansion of the TRS. The RMB formally approved the position paper in September of 2015.

In the position paper, two options were adopted by the RMB in an attempt to bring resolution to the challenges. The preferred option is for GRU/GRUCom to continue to administer and expand the system; and the RMB was advised at the October 8, 2015 meeting that GRU/GRUCom wished to continue to do so as well.

To date, after another sub-committee meeting on November 3rd, the sub-committee finds itself in a similar position as to which led to its creation, with serious concerns and questions that still can only be best answered by GRU/GRUCom. For example:

- What is the end of life for all current components of the TRS and what plans are in place to replace and upgrade them?
- What is the final cost and timeline to upgrade the system components to allow for fully functional P25 radio operations?
- What is GRU/GRUCom's position on maximizing potential partnerships with entities such as the City of Gainesville Traffic Management fiber optic system or Florida Department of Transportation to provide connectivity backhaul to areas where radio coverage is currently an issue?

(352) 367-4000

TRS Viability Position Paper RMB Sub-Committee

ISSUE:

Ensuring viability and expansion of the public safety 800 MHz trunked radio system (TRS) as the current interlocal is due to expire in 2020.

DISCUSSION:

The initial TRS interlocal between the City of Gainesville (d/b/a Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU)) and Alachua County was implemented in November of 1999 for the purposes of establishing a public safety 800MHz trunked radio system owned and managed by GRU, and supported fiscally with subscriber charges. Prior to the TRS interlocal, the radio system(s) for public safety and other governmental entities were operated as separate systems on analog VHF and UHF frequencies, with very limited interoperability and coverage. The original interlocal addresses reception and transmission capacity, tower location(s), infrastructure requirements, roles and responsibilities of the parties, and user fees/charges.

In addition, the TRS interlocal established a Radio Management Board (RMB) comprised of representatives from GRU and system customer agencies to provide oversight and direction within the boundaries of the Interlocal agreement.*

**System expansion, capital funding, and similar functions currently fall outside the purview of the RMB.*

The TRS interlocal was amended in January of 2012, with a primary focus for the system to be "P25 capable and operational" by September 30, 2012, and any upgrades, replacements and/or new components of the system to be "P25 compliant" by 2020.

"P25" is an acronym for Project 25, which is a set of public safety digital radio standards that maximizes the ability for disparate systems to have local and regional interoperability, increased competitive vendor pricing options, greater radio frequency/channel/encryption efficiencies, system security and extended equipment life. P25 can also allow for greater chances for federal grant funding.

At this time, GRU has established three (3) P25 channels in the system and is making efforts to secure funding for more channels; however there is no set number of P25 channels established in the interlocal. Three (3) channels do not provide enough capacity for the larger subscriber agencies to function in the P25 environment.

Local agencies have made significant capital investments recently in portable and mobile radios that are P25 capable. In addition, law enforcement has purchased advanced encryption options that require a P25 operating environment to ensure effectiveness.

In addition to the shortfall in the number of P25 channels and capacity, the current interlocal does not address the issue(s) related to infrastructure expansion to ensure reliable radio system transmission and reception coverage in all service areas. For example the southwest area of Alachua County has expanded in population and requests for services; subsequently there is a need for radio capacity via another TRS tower being built; however this is a significant capital expense that is not provided for in the interlocal. In addition, as the overall amount of TRS subscribers will most likely continue to increase (for

Approved by RMB

3. Enhancement/Replacement schedule for core infrastructure (CEB's, etc) that includes immediate or near future needs and will also take TRS Interlocal past 2020.
4. Minimum subscriber connectivity rates and/or other financing model options to meet P25 expansion and infrastructure replacement; and in addition to include language that would allow flexibility for GRUCom to present options/solutions to TRS subscriber agencies if unanticipated coverage and/or infrastructure issues arise during the span of the Interlocal.
5. Provide recommendations to subscriber agencies on mitigating situations (or potential situations) such as those due to impacts of new/retro-fitting construction on structures or interference from distributed antenna systems (DAS) and/or bi-directional antenna systems (BDA).
6. Maximizing evolution of P25 and other technologies such as 4G/LTE, radio area networks (RAN), FirstNet/FloridaNet as there may be opportunities for the TRS to capitalize on this and improve the system (and potential system life) while potentially decreasing cost to the subscribers and GRUCom; the subscriber rates could be adjusted without a complete re-write of the Interlocal.

Option 2 (fallback option if option 1 is not available):

Option 2 would potentially involve two (2) phases but would require governmental entities to secure significant amounts of funding.

Phase I: Via an RFP process-secure the services of a public safety radio consulting firm in FY 15-16 with a scope of work that would include evaluation and recommendation of parameters such as: current performance of the system, immediate and/or potential short term efficiency gains available under the current interlocal, forecasting infrastructure needs/timelines (with associated funding and cost models) for system, and governance model(s).

Phase II: Utilize public safety radio consulting firm to provide subject matter expertise with implementation and consultation for the next generation of the TRS program (a.k.a. forklift upgrade)



CITY OF ARCHER

November 13, 2015

Charles Chestnut, IV, Chair
Alachua County Commission
P.O. Box 5547
Gainesville FL 32627

Dear Chair Chestnut,

Thank you for your letter of September 22nd 2015 asking for the position of the Commission of the City of Archer on the proposed referendum ballot language regarding the funding for land conservation and recreation improvements.

The City of Archer Commission feels the city should have the right to decide which infrastructure projects to fund from any tax dollars generated by a sales tax referendum. We specifically would like to fund recreation and road repairs as our priorities.

The City of Archer Commission also feel that, especially for the small communities, such as Lacrosse, Micanopy, Hawthorne, Archer and Waldo that a minimum of funding be set. We suggest \$2 million per municipality. This distribution mechanism suggested will establish a regional benefit unique to each area throughout the county.

I want to thank the Alachua Board of County Commissioners for establishing a line of communication early in this process.

John Glanzer, Interim City Manager
City of Archer
P.O. Box 39
16870 SW 134th Ave
Archer FL 32618
352-495-2880 (office)
352-353-5172 (cell)
jglanzer@cityofarcher.com

Received: Commission Office

Date: 11/24/15

From: Chair

To: BoCC, County Manager,
County Attorney, Agenda

LATOYA GAINES

JIM HARRIOTT

STEVE LACHNIGHT

Received: Commission Office

Date: 10/26/15

From: Chair

To: BoCC, County Manager,
County Attorney, Agenda



P.O. Drawer B
Waldo, FL 32694-0802
Established 1859

Gina Peebles
Mark Sexton

Office: 352-468-1001
Fax: 352-468-2482

October 14, 2015

The Honorable Charles Chestnut, Chair
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 5547
Gainesville, Florida 32627

Dear Chair Chestnut,

In response to your letter dated September 22, 2015, the City of Waldo City Council voted unanimously to accept the referendum ballot question for land conservation as presented:

“Shall Alachua County be authorized to extend the Alachua County Forever Program to acquire and improve environmentally sensitive lands to protect drinking water sources, water quality, and wildlife habitat, and to create, improve, and maintain park and recreational facilities in all cities and the County, with citizen oversight and independent audit, by the levy of a one-half percent sales tax for ten years starting January 1, 2017?”

If you have any questions or need further information please feel free to contact myself or Manager Kim Worley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louie Davis".

Louie Davis
Mayor



City of Alachua

MAYOR GIB COERPER
Vice Mayor Ben Houkan, Jr.
Commissioner Shirley Green Brown
Commissioner Gary Hardacre
Commissioner Robert Wulford

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

October 29, 2015

Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 5547
Gainesville, FL 32627

Dear Chair Chestnut:

The City of Alachua Commission, during its regular City Commission meetings on Oct. 12, 2015 and Oct. 26, 2015, discussed the proposed referendum ballot language referenced in your Sept. 22, 2015 letter. Thank you for your correspondence and the opportunity to discuss this proposal.

The City of Alachua requests clarification regarding the proposal: specifically, how the proposed sales tax would be administered, if approved by voters. This includes the citizen oversight process, eligible project development/approval process, and funding splits and methodologies. The City recognizes that the County is in the exploratory phase of this initiative; however, having clarity on these matters will provide for a better understanding for the City.

This correspondence is not to be construed as the City of Alachua Commission taking a position on the proposed initiative, either for or against. I look forward to receiving additional information and clarity on the matter.

Sincerely,


Gib Coerper
Mayor

Cc: City of Alachua Commissioners
Board of County Commissioners
Traci L. Gresham, City Manager
Marian B. Rush, City Attorney
Lee A. Niblock, County Manager
Michele Lieberman, County Attorney

Received: Commission Office

Date: 11/19/15

From: Chair

To: BoCC, County Manager,
County Attorney, Agenda

RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY

Devin Dissell

From: Rick Coleman <Rick.Coleman@ci.newberry.fl.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 11:34 AM
To: Latoya T. Gainey; bboukari@cityofalachua.com; tcain@cityofalachua.us; gcoerper@cityofalachua.com; jparham@highsprings.us; sweller@highsprings.us; ebooth@highsprings.us; jpevans@highsprings.us; gjames@highsprings.us; bwilliams@highsprings.us; sgreenbrown@cityofalachua.com; ghardacre@cityofalachua.com; rwilford@cityofalachua.com; administration@cityofarcher.com; citymanager@cityofarcher.com; Bill Conrad; Amy Dalusio; Monty Farnsworth; Tim Marden; Jordan Marlowe; Jason McGehee; Mike New; Judy Rice; pbouie@cityofhawthorne.net; jfloyd@hawthorne.net; decheat826@gmail.com; 'msurrency@cityofhawthorne.net'; evause@cityofhawthorne.net
Cc: BOCC (Only Commissioners); Devin Dissell; Lee Niblock; Mark Sexton; Gina Peebles
Subject: RE: Possible November 2016 Ballot Measure Information Request

Commissioner Rick Coleman here. I am 100% against this! Sell the land you got, back to the private sector.

Sent from Samsung Mobile

----- Original message -----

From: "Latoya T. Gainey"
Date: 11/18/2015 9:20 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: bboukari@cityofalachua.com,tcain@cityofalachua.us,gcoerper@cityofalachua.com,jparham@highsprings.us,sweller@highsprings.us,ebooth@highsprings.us,jpevans@highsprings.us,gjames@highsprings.us,jparham@highsprings.us,bwilliams@highsprings.us,sgreenbrown@cityofalachua.com,ghardacre@cityofalachua.com,rwilford@cityofalachua.com,administration@cityofarcher.com,citymanager@cityofarcher.com,Rick Coleman ,Bill Conrad ,Amy Dalusio ,Monty Farnsworth ,Tim Marden ,Jordan Marlowe ,Jason McGehee ,Mike New ,Judy Rice ,pbouie@cityofhawthorne.net,jfloyd@hawthorne.net,decheat826@gmail.com,"msurrency@cityofhawthorne.net",evause@cityofhawthorne.net
Cc: "BOCC (Only Commissioners)" ,Devin Dissell ,Lee Niblock ,Mark Sexton ,Gina Peebles
Subject: FW: Possible November 2016 Ballot Measure Information Request

Dear Commissioners and City Managers,

Back in late September, the Chair of the Alachua County Commission sent you the attached letter requesting your position on proposed referendum ballot language regarding funding for land conservation and recreational improvements. We respectfully request your input no later than Friday, November 20th. Please send your responses to bocc@alachuacounty.us.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Sexton, Communications and Legislative Affairs Director at 352-374-5204 or msexton@alachuacounty.us.

Latoya Gainey
Alachua County

Hutch

Hello Commissioner Hutchinson,

As requested, the Micanopy Commission read and discussed the proposed *Alachua County Forever* ballot language. The Micanopy Commission voted not to approve the presented ballot language, as the Commissioners unanimously felt that the language was misleading as to the intended use of the entire amount of funds collected from the taxpayers and, furthermore, that the ballot language should reflect as much information as is known regarding the proposed tax increase by the proposer.

Regards,
Ginny Mance
Mayor

Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public-records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing via regular mail.



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Charles "Chuck" Chestnut, IV, *Chair*
Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson, *Vice Chair*
Mike Byerly
Ken Cornell
Lee Pinkoson

Administration
Dr. Lee A. Niblock, CM
County Manager

May 14, 2015

Russ Blackburn
City Manager
City of Gainesville
PO Box 490, Station 6
Gainesville, Florida 32627

Dear Mr. Blackburn:

As requested at the meeting convened with City and County staff concerning potential resources to provide outreach and mental health services to the homeless, I am providing viable recommendations which the City may explore. Additionally, referenced below are existing outreach and mental health services that Alachua County, Meridian and the Veteran's Administration provides to the homeless. Consideration will first be given to the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant (CJMHSAG), as it was discussed at length during the meeting.

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) awards Alachua County the CJMHSAG, in the amount of \$1.2 million over three years and \$400,000 annually. Alachua County matches the grant over three years with cash and in-kind services in the amount of \$1,258,530. CJMHSAG supports services which improves access to treatment and case management for adults with mental illness, substance abuse or a combination of these issues.

CJMHSAG eligibility requirements stipulate that services funded with the grant must be provided to persons involved in the criminal justice system. Pursuant to a broad interpretation of this eligibility requirement, the Forensic Diversion Team provides services to residents of the Empowerment Center who have been released from jail, are on bond, or are awaiting a court date. Delineated below are the services provided at the Empowerment Center through CJMHSAG funds.

CJMHSAG Services at the Empowerment Center

The Forensic Diversion Team provides outreach, clinical screening and assessment services five days per week at the Empowerment Center. The Team also provides these services and a broader range of additional services that are available at other locations in the community, including Meridian's offices. Court Services Staff is on site one day per week to assist individuals requiring access to disability benefits and to coordinate the application process. Efforts are focused on expanding services at the pre-booking stage. Meridian in collaboration with the Forensic Diversion Team provides training to law enforcement agencies on crisis intervention, trauma informed responses and mental health first aid. Moreover, law enforcement officers are trained to inform the mentally ill with whom they may interact regarding the treatment and social services which CJMHSAG funds at the Empowerment Center.

Health Care Services: \$1,607,391

Alachua Cares - \$159,495

Pharmacy Assistance - \$225,000

Vision services - \$13,467

Health Department - \$941,992

CAPP Agencies (contracted community partners) - \$267,437

Estimated cost of staffing the Empowerment Center Oversight Board from 9/14 through 3/15- \$54,945. See attached spreadsheet.

Coordination of Donated Goods - The Community Stabilization Program coordinated tangible support for the Empowerment Center/Empowerment Center. Material goods donated included: Office furniture and computer equipment; fifty piece telephone system; and a variety of smaller personal equipment items. These items and twenty-five gallons of paint from the Household Hazardous Coordinator were transported to help prepare Empowerment Center for its opening. Additionally, over 5,000 books and 3,000 pounds of bed linens and other items were donated to Empowerment Center.

Veteran's Administration Mental Health Outreach Services:

Veteran's Crisis Line

VA Medical Center Mental Health Services - Also convenes a biannual Mental Health Summit

Vet Center Off-site Mental Health Provider

Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Outreach - Empowerment Center; Helping Hands Clinic

St. Francis House; Salvation Army Veteran Justice Outreach Mental Health Services

The recommendations contained in this memorandum were developed in consultation with County Staff and Community Service Providers and are not exhaustive by any assessment. However, it is our hope that they will inform your deliberations concerning outreach and mental health services for the homeless. If you should have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 374-5205. I welcome the opportunity to discuss the recommendations and existing outreach and mental health services.

Best Regards,



Angela D. Montgomery
Assistant County Manager

ADM/adm
Attachment

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Dr. Lee A. Niblock, County Manager
Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager
Betty M. Baker, Project Manager
Susan Myers, Community Support Services Director
Perla Duncan, Court Services Director
Minnie Rolark, Assistant CSS Director
Tom Tonkavich, Assistant CSS Director
Stuart Wegener, Administrative Assistant



Questions/Discussion

Sally Palmi, Solid Waste and Resource Recovery

scp@alachuacounty.us





Cons

Interlocal Agreements

- Limited to rules and procedures of creating entities
- May have less legal standing than a Special District
- Binds participants to short and long term obligations of created entity
- Responsibility for successes and failures of new entity a political liability of the participants





Cons

Special Act of Legislature

- Entity only has powers set in its legislation
- Must go back to Legislature for amendments to the legislation
- Lacks legislative flexibility
- Depends on votes from legislators outside the area
- Local government may not have ultimate control
- Local elected officials give up the powers granted the new Special District





Example

Solid Waste Administration

Interlocal Agreement

- Aucilla Area Solid Waste Administration
- Madison, Jefferson, Taylor and Dixie Counties
- No other information available





Example

Solid Waste Association

Powers

- Powers and authority set by FS 163.01
- Acquires real property, use eminent domain procedures (requires at least 5 votes)
- Issue notes and revenue bonds not exceed 10 years (amended to 30 years)
- enter franchises and contracts not exceeding 10 year terms (5 votes required)





Example

Solid Waste Association

Created July 1988 by Interlocal Agreement

- Baker, Bradford and Union Counties
- Governing Board of the Association
 - Counties appoint 2 BoCC members to governing Board





Example

Solid Waste Authority

Purpose Provides **Flow Control**

- requires all wastes collected by public or private agreement from within any municipality or unincorporated area of the county to be transported to Authority designated processing and disposal facilities





Example

Solid Waste Authority

- 1991 – Dependent Special District of BoCC
- 7 BoCC members are the Board





Example

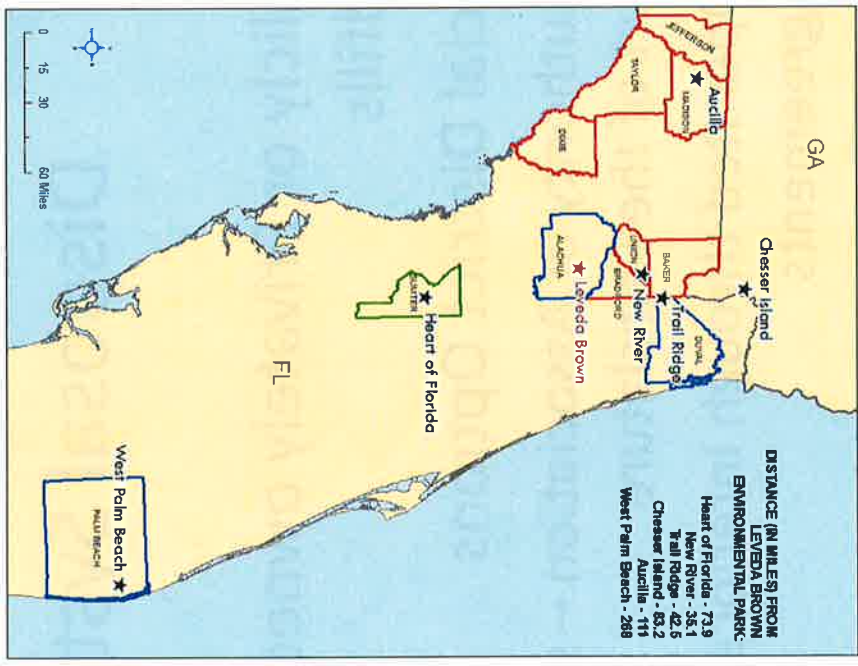
Solid Waste Authority

Special Act of the Legislature

- Palm Beach County Solid Waste Authority (SWA)
- Only accepts garbage from within Palm Beach County
 - County wide
 - Includes 38 municipalities and governmental entities



Systems Map





Today's Presentation

- Disposal Systems
- Examples in Florida
- Pros and Cons
- Regional Opportunity
 - Solid Waste Authority Option

