

**MINUTES
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021**

**CITY OF NICEVILLE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
208 NORTH PARTIN DRIVE
NICEVILLE, FLORIDA**

I. OPENING

Members present: Gordon E. Fornell
 James D. Neilson, Jr.
 Kim Wintner
 James T. Wood, Jr.

Members absent: Parker Destin

Also present: Van Fuller Executive Director
 Michelle Anchors Legal Counsel
 Cathy Demoreski Administrative Assistant
 Bryant Paulk FDOT Ex officio, non-voting

II. PUBLIC HEARING

**A. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget
 1. Resolution 2021-01**

Mr. Fornell opened the advertised Public Hearing at 9:02 a.m. and presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget comprised of operating revenues and operating expenses. He reported that the Budget is stable year to year and that there is standard oversight by the Authority's accountants and auditors annually. Mr. Fornell explained that he and Mr. Fuller will have met with each County Commissioner individually to review the draft budget and address any questions or concerns prior to it being presented to the Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Mr. Fuller explained that the administrative portion of the budget, which is essentially the expenses of the Authority office, is the primary item presented to the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners, with the FDOT budget also discussed. After discussion and there being no public comment, Mr. Fornell closed the Public Hearing at 9:05 a.m. and recommended approval of the FY2022 Budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Neilson to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget by adopting Resolution 2021-01 and presenting the Budget to the Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, with a second by Mr. Wintner and a 4-0 vote taken for adoption and approval.

III. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Fornell reported there were no visitors or members of the press present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – April 15, 2021

A motion to approve the April 15, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Neilson with a second by Mr. Wood and a 4-0 vote was taken for approval.

V. TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. Neilson presented the Treasurer’s Report for April 2021. Account balances were:

FNBT	\$ 149,811.81
Regions	\$45,892,891.44

Mr. Neilson made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for April 2021 with a second by Mr. Wood and a 4-0 vote was taken for approval.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A. Operations. Mr. Fuller reported that both Traffic and Revenue on the System are stable and within the bandwidth of the Traffic Engineer’s projections. He directed the member’s attention to the graphs provided monthly along with the Unaudited Traffic & Revenue Reports which reflect traffic trends for the past four years on the Bridge compared to 2005 (which was the best year historically) and the past five years on the Parkway. Mr. Fuller noted that the good news is the green line which reflects 2021 traffic outperforming all years on this graph for the month of March since 2006 on the Bridge. Likewise on the Parkway, March 2021 is the highest since opening in 2014. He reminded the Board that the revenue reflects cash received not accruals for Toll-by-Plate (TBP) receipts.

Mr. Fuller reported that on May 29, 2021, Memorial Day weekend, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) will officially implement interoperability with EZPass (a northeast system used by 16 states). This will expand the current interoperability with Central Florida Expressway’s EPass, Lee County’s LeeWay, Georgia’s PeachPass, and North Carolina’s QuickPass. Discussion included that the FTE has started the collection process for all TBP billing during COVID-19 Pandemic. Also, during the Pandemic, the FTE was offering free SunPass transponders to increase toll collections versus the delayed TBP billing and collection. Mr. Fuller requested data regarding local area users, which included all of Okaloosa County and western Walton County, who switched from TBP to SunPass

during that time and the number was approximately 3,900. The data also revealed that there are ~69,000 SunPass accounts out of a population of approximately 200,000 in Okaloosa County.

Further discussion included Mr. Neilson and Ms. Anchors both commenting that like the traffic on the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority System, Destin Water Users also saw an increase in revenue during the first quarter of 2021. Mr. Wintner inquired as to whether there would be any legal ramifications to the Authority because of the fatal motorcycle accident on the Bridge on Sunday, May 9, 2021. Mr. Fuller explained that in accordance with the Lease-Purchase Agreement, the FDOT possesses, operates, and maintains the System and is therefore responsible for any liability. Finally, Mr. Fuller reminded the Board that beginning Saturday, May 29, 2021, the seasonal southbound Lakeshore Drive ramp closures will begin between the hours of noon-6:00 p.m. every Saturday, exact timing at the discretion of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's office, through Labor Day. Set-up and take-down will be performed by our contractor Ferrovia, as approved at the February 18, 2021, meeting. The Authority funds set-up and take-down and the county's Tour Development Division funds the Okaloosa County Sheriff's office. Public Information updates will be provided by Okaloosa County,

VII. LEGAL COUNSEL

None

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Paulk reported that the FDOT is still on schedule to open two lanes of the Pensacola Bridge on May 31, 2021. Mr. Fornell reported that Southwest Airlines is now operating out the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport. He also explained that the agreement with the Air Force is that the airport is authorized up to 84 operations in a 24-hour period and with the addition of Southwest it is almost there. Also, he pointed out that the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport is the only one of its size in the country that is debt free. Finally, Mr. Fornell reminded the Board that the FY2022 Budget would be presented to the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioner at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 18 in Shalimar.

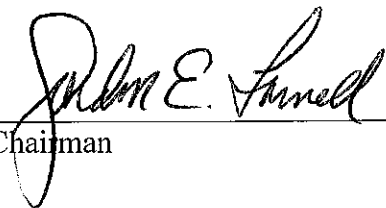
IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on **Thursday, June 17, 2021**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Destin City Hall Board Room, Destin, Florida.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:28 a.m.

Approved this 17th day of June 2021.



Chairman