

# Cate: Acquiring wastewater plant 'is a mistake'

**COMMISSIONER**  
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ground.”  
“Maybe they want to sell it. Maybe we could buy it. Someone needs to buy it,” Hart added.

“There is a whole lot I don’t know. There are a million questions that I don’t have the answers to,” Ketring said.

When asked by Hart for the Taylor County Development Authority’s (TCDA) recommendation, TCDA Executive Director Bob Cate addressed the council.

“If Andy wins, we all win,” Cate began, adding that while the TCDA has not been involved in the effort, it had discussed the issue at a board meeting the previous day in anticipation of being asked to weigh in.

Cate then read the TCDA Board’s position statement regarding wastewater treatment needs “as they relate to economic development.”

“The TCDA Board of Directors supports the City of Perry’s five-year capital plan to build an appropriately designed and sized wastewater treatment facility to support the future needs of our growing community and industrial base.

“While GP’s treated effluent discharge pipeline could be utilized in tandem with a future City wastewater treatment facility, the TCDA Board believes GP’s wastewater treatment facility is significantly oversized for the community, and would be prohibitively costly to purchase, operate and maintain.

“The wastewater treatment facility may be appropriate for a future large industry choosing to locate on the remediated former GP site, but not for county or city ownership.

“The TCDA Board believes that resorting to eminent domain actions by the City or County will discourage industries from locating in Taylor County; rather, our focus should be to recruit new business to the brownfield site created by the completion of the GP closure and remediation plan.”

“We support economic development across Taylor County, and we are also working on a lot of initiatives, some of which include Andy and some that do not at this point,” Cate said. “There is much more happening behind the scenes.”

Cate then gave a detailed explanation of GP’s wastewater treatment facilities, reading from the FDEP permit that spells out

## TCDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS STATEMENT OF POSITION REGARDING WASTEWATER TREATMENT NEEDS AS THEY RELATE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 8/11/25

The TCDA Board of Directors supports the City of Perry’s five-year capital plan to build an appropriately designed and sized wastewater treatment facility to support the future needs of our growing community and industrial base.

While GP’s treated effluent discharge pipeline could be utilized in tandem with a future City wastewater treatment facility, the Board believes GP’s wastewater treatment facility is significantly oversized for the community, and would be prohibitively costly to purchase, operate, and maintain. The wastewater treatment facility may be appropriate for a future large industry choosing to locate on the remediated former GP site, but not for County or City ownership.

The Board believes that resorting to eminent domain actions by the City or County will discourage industries from locating in Taylor County; rather, our focus should be to recruit new business to the brownfield site created by the completion of the GP closure and remediation plan.

what it can be legally used for.

“This was specifically designed for a pulp mill plant’s effluent,” Cate said, adding that Wharton Smith, who constructed the Foley Cellulose wastewater treatment plant, recently completed a wastewater treatment facility for

Columbia County’s megasite industrial park for \$30 million. When asked what it would cost to convert the Foley Cellulose site, the company estimated it would be more than \$30 million, and that it would be more cost effective for Taylor County to build a new sewer plant rather

than converting the one at Foley Cellulose for another use.

“The activated sludge system will not work without being modified,” Cate said, adding that the money needed to modify it could be used to “build a new one.”

“I hear this asset (GP’s wastewater treatment plant) discussed like it is a giant porta-potty. It is not. The GP system is specifically designed for a targeted pulp mill waste load; it is not a generic treatment plant,” Cate added. “The wastewater treatment facility and pipeline are a lot of assets for an unknown future use, with unknown contaminants, unknown solids/liquid ratio and an unknown volume.”

“I am not for it or against it, but I just want to make sure you know what all else we have to think about,” Cate added.

“You have to have flow to make it work. I am not telling you what to think, but the questions you should ask,” Cate said, adding that he supported acquiring the use of the pipeline, “but I am not sure yet we know it will have to be ripped out of the ground.”

“This is a court case, and court cases have steps and stages and conclusions, so I am not sure this is the right point to insert yourselves.

I agree with Andy, Diane and Jeff. The pipeline is a nice asset. However, in my personal opinion, acquiring the wastewater treatment plant is a mistake,” Cate added.

When asked by City Attorney Hope Demps, Cate said he was not in support of using eminent domain at this time, stating, “this is much more hypothetical... and you need more clarity and more definition before you do this.”

Cate cautioned that the county could be put in a bad position if it were saddled with the reputation of using eminent domain or the threat of it to get private companies to the negotiating table.

On a motion by Councilwoman Diane Landry and second from Councilwoman Shirlee Hampton, the city council voted 5-0 in favor of tabling a decision on Jackson’s request for a resolution of support.

Jackson then requested the city take action on the \$2 million bridge loan, which has a Sept. 26 application deadline, but the council opted to table that decision as well until its next meeting on Aug. 26.

However, the council did vote 5-0 in favor of allowing Hart to sign an NDA in order to discuss and negotiate confidentially with GP.

# Commission delays decision on special event clause

**AMBULANCE**  
Continued from page 1

Ambulance expires on Dec. 31, and the company declined to bid on a new contract.

Survival Flight EMS, whose home office is in Batesville, Ark., was one of the three companies to bid on the new contract, and was the apparent low bidder at \$1,050,000 per year. The other bids were \$1,900,000 from Columbia EMS of Lake City and \$2,329,914 from AmeriPro of Jacksonville.

The commission is expected to receive

the bid committee’s recommendation at its next meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 19.

Back in April, the commission issued a COPCN to Survival Flight, which despite its name, is only operating interfacility ground transports here.

In late June, Doctors’ Memorial Hospital (DMH), announced an agreement with Survival Flight under which the company is stationing a transport vehicle at the hospital to facilitate interfacility transfers from DMH to other facilities.

Over the past several years,

delays for non-emergency interfacility transports from DMH have been a source of community complaints to the commission, the hospital and the county’s current 911 emergency medical services (EMS) provider, Century Ambulance.

Under Florida Statutes, the county commission must issue a COPCN in order for a company to provide EMS service within the county.

At the board’s July 7 meeting, Greg Melvin with Specialized Event Services approached the board about receiving a COPCN for interfacility transfers, as

well as for special advanced life support (ALS) transport services at special events.

According to Melvin, a lieutenant with the Taylor County Sheriff’s Office, his company has provided ambulance service for recent mud bog events held in the county.

Although county staff raised no objection to issuing another COPCN for interfacility transports, County Administrator LaWanda Pemberton and Taylor County Fire-Rescue Chief Dan Cassel raised concerns about whether issuing a COPCN for special

events would violate the county’s existing contract with Century Ambulance for 911 EMS.

They requested time to consult with the County Attorney Conrad Bishop and Century Ambulance prior to making a final recommendation.

The board agreed, and returned to the issue at their July 22 meeting, during which Melvin again requested the COPCN.

At that meeting, a representative from Century stated the company did not have a position on granting the proposed COPCN for Specialized Event Services. When asked by Bishop if he would provide that in writing, he said he would.

Pemberton read a proposed draft COCPN that would allow for interfacility transports, as well as, “upon mutual aid request of the county’s contracted 911 EMS provider, transportation from a... contracted event.”

Additionally, like the COPCN for Survival Flight, the draft COPCN for Specialized Event Services would also allow for secondary emergency response upon request of the county in a time of need -- such as a natural disaster or mass-casualty event.

When asked for more information, Melvin said he established the company because he saw a need in Lafayette County, where he also provides 911 services.

At the commission’s next meeting on Monday, Aug. 4, Pemberton presented the board with two draft

COPCNs -- one including the contracted events language and one without.

Cassel noted that with Century declining to bid on the new contract, there would be one less company offering interfacility transports in the county in 2026.

Commissioner Pam Feagle said she did not have an issue with Specialty Event Services providing interfacility transports, but added she was concerned that the event transports clause could pose an issue with whatever company was awarded the EMS 911 contract.

Feagle said that while the Century Ambulance representative had stated his company did not have a position on the issue, they would no longer be the county’s EMS provider starting Jan. 1.

Feagle said she would prefer to wait until a new contract was in place and the county could confirm the new contract holder did not have an issue with the proposal.

Pemberton noted that the county would have a new contract finalized before the current one expires on Dec. 31.

Following a brief discussion, Feagle made a motion to approve the COPCN for Specialty Event Services that only allows for interfacility transports, which according to the draft, will begin Sept. 1.

Commissioner Michael Newman seconded, and the measure passed unanimously.

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## LEGALS

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TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS. Dated this 5th day of August 2025.

Gary Knowles  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
By: Kathryn Lago  
As Deputy Clerk

**NOTICE**  
“If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration, 173 NE Hernando Avenue, Room 408, Lake City, Florida 32055; adamaill@jud3.flcourts.org; (386)758-2163 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired call 711.”

### TAYLOR STORAGE CENTER AUCTION SALE NOTICE

To: Patricia Brannen, Unit # 4A06  
Sherri Tuten, Unit #354  
Ruth Austin, Unit #350  
Robin Miller, Unit #314  
Tammy Mosley, Unit #233  
Terry Santerfeit, Unit #227  
Taylor Storage Center, 3498 Hwy 19 S. Suite 1, Perry, FL 32348, has possession lien on all of the goods stores in the prospective units above. All these items of personal property are being sold pursuant to the assertion of the lien on August 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in order to collect the amounts due from you. The sale will take place at 3948 Hwy 19 S. Suite 1, Perry, FL 32348.

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

**CASE NO: 2025-CA-000039**  
IN RE: FORFEITURE OF: EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-

FOUR DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-SEVEN CENTS (\$8,154.77) FGCC Case No.: 250N0000025 IN U.S. CURRENCY

### NOTICE OF FORFEITURE COMPLAINT

TO: PERRY FAST MART, INC, LILLY WENG, HUA CHEN; and, All parties having or claiming to have any right, title, or interest in the property herein described.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that on March 27, 2025, the Florida Gaming Control Commission filed the above styled forfeiture action against the above-described property in the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit of Florida, in and for Taylor County, which was seized on February 11, 2025, pursuant to a criminal investigation for offenses occurring in Taylor County, Florida. An order finding probable cause was issued by the Court on March 25, 2025. A copy of the aforementioned Complaint and Order are on file at the Office of the Clerk of the Courts for Taylor County, Florida, and are available for examination during regular business hours.

YOU ARE REQUIRED to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the Complaint and Order finding Probable Cause upon Marc Daniel Taupier, Deputy General Counsel and Chief Gaming Enforcement Legal Advisor for the Florida Gaming Control Commission, whose address is 4070 Esplanade Way, Suite 250, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, and file the Original with the Clerk of Court, Taylor County, Florida. Failure to file and serve such pleadings may result in the entry of a Default pursuant to Florida Rules of Civil Procedure 1.550, and a Final Order of Forfeiture.

### NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting bids for Professional services for the NUCLEAR MEDICINE CAMERA ROOM MODIFICATIONS PROJECT AT DOCTORS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA.  
Qualified firms or individuals desiring

to provide the requested services must submit their bid package in an envelope or similar package marked: Sealed bids for “NUCLEAR MEDICINE CAMERA ROOM MODIFICATIONS” PROJECT AT DOCTORS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA” to the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida 32347 to arrive no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, on September 30, 2025. All bids MUST have name and mailing address clearly shown on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted.

Bids will be opened and respondents announced at 6:00 p.m. local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on October 6, 2025 at the Taylor County Administrative Complex, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347.  
The County reserves the right, in its sole absolute discretion, to reject any or all bids, to cancel or withdraw this bid at any time or waive any irregularities in the bid process. The County reserves the right to award any contract(s) to the bidder/respondent which it deems to offer the best overall service, therefore,

the County is not bound to award any contract(s) based on the quoted price. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to waive minor defects in the process and to accept the bid deemed to be in the County’s best interest. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to assign a local business preference in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid price. NO FAXED BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Taylor County is an AA/EOE employer and requires all contractors and subcontractors to comply with Executive Order 11246.  
For additional project information:  
Lauren Faison-Clark  
Doctors Memorial Hospital  
333 N Byron Butler Pkwy  
Perry, FL 32347  
(850) 584-0800  
Lfaison-clark@doctorsmemorial.com  
Bid packages may also be obtained from www.taylorcountygov.com  
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Taylor County, Florida