

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MAY 24, 2011

REGULAR MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in regular session with the following members present: Chairman Warren J. Yeager, Jr., Vice Chairman Bill Williams, and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore, Ward McDaniel, and Tan Smiley.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Assistant Administrator Michael Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Gulf County Chamber of Commerce Director Sandra Chafin, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Sheriff Joe Nugent, Sheriff's Office Major Bobby Plair, T.D.C. Director Tim Kerigan, and County Engineer/Preble-Rish, Inc. Clay Smallwood, III.

Sheriff Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., E.T.

Deputy Administrator Lanier opened the meeting with prayer, and Chairman Yeager led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner McDaniel, and unanimous vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Minutes – April 26, 2011 – Regular Meeting
2. Appointment – Citizen Advisory Task Force (Sue Marley, Tom Graney, and David Richardson)
3. Deed – Charles Anthony Costin/Margaret Renee Shoaf/Thomas Gibson to Gulf County Board of County Commissioners (Americus Avenue Outfall Ditch)
4. Grant Applications – T.R.I.P. (Chipola RTA and Bay RTP)
5. Invoices – County Attorney Jeremy Novak (May 1-16, 2011 * \$3,832.50 * to be paid from Account #21314-31100)
 - Sniffen & Spellman, P.A. – Professional Litigation Services (Invoice #7147 * \$1,636.71 * to be paid from Account #21111-31200)

6. Records Disposition – BOCC Documents
7. S.H.I.P. – Tenant Assistance (Tanya Ellis * Increase from \$1,000.00 to \$1,033.00 * 2008 Tenant Assistance Recipient)
8. Travel – Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Meeting (Pensacola * June 1, 2011)

(End)

PUBLIC HEARING - P.D.R.B. RECOMMENDATIONS (5/16/11)

The Board then considered the following recommendation from the May 16, 2011 meeting of the Planning & Development Review Board:

VARIANCE – GRIFFIN

Pursuant to advertisement to hold a public hearing to consider a setback variance for Sue Griffin (Parcel ID #03894-000R), County Attorney Novak read the public hearing notice and called for public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve the variance requesting to encroach into the road setback that will extend a porch addition to be in-line with the adjacent footprints. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Bobby Pickels appeared before the Board and gave an update on the Chamber of Commerce on working with the County on the Economic Development function, stating that the Chamber requested public participation and conducted a Town Hall meeting, receiving good input. He reported that they then had a professional facilitator come in and put together a formal report, with assistance by Kim Bodine (Workforce Board) and a Human Resource Professional; the report was formulated into a formalized (Executive Director) job description, which is now being actively advertised, Pickels stated.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that she received a call from Waste Management today and they had an exceptionally large pick-up from residents in the Oak Grove and Port St. Joe areas today and were unable to complete their pick-ups in those areas, stating that they will complete the pick-up first thing in the morning.

S.H.I.P.

Deputy Administrator Lanier read a memorandum from Chief Administrator Butler concerning a S.H.I.P. loan subordination for Donna Lanier and recommended for the Board to allow this and other subordinations and to start the process of forgiving

existing loans, stating that if the County could close the books on the S.H.I.P. program, there would be less administration time involved and would eliminate the need for an annual S.H.I.P. audit. Chief Administrator Butler also recommended that in the event the State was to again fund a housing program, the County would need to consider running it by one of the County departments. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

AMERICUS AVENUE DITCH – QUIT CLAIM DEED

Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that the County received a Quit Claim Deed from Charles Anthony Costin, Margaret Renee Shoaf, and Thomas Gibson in reference to the Americus Avenue outfall ditch parcel, and requested for the Board to accept 80' x 297' (Parcel #03817-000R). Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this request. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

STUMPHOLE REVETMENT PROJECT – EASEMENT

Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that the County has received a fully executed easement from Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the reconstruction of the Stumphole Revetment project and recommended for the Board to accept. Commissioner McDaniel motioned to accept the easement. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

UNIFIED VOICE & DATA COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (V.O.I.P.)

Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that they are currently working on the transition from regular analog telephones to voice over internet protocol telephones, stating that they are waiting on equipment to network the buildings and the intent of I.T. and Administration is to start this project in a phased approach. She reported that once everything is complete it will eliminate all DSL modems that are allowable, stating that this will be a considerable amount of savings, and there will no longer be a need to have roll over lines for all the departments. Deputy Administrator Lanier recommended eliminating the entire roll over lines, eliminating the extra lines, and creating a new department list. Commissioner Smiley motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION (A.H.C.A.) – LOW INCOME POOL

Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that she received a letter from the Florida Association of Counties concerning the Low Income Pool and the Intergovernmental transfers, stating that A.H.C.A. is requesting an additional \$45 million dollars in additional funds to fund this program, and if they do not receive this money the indication is that they will lower the level of hospital reimbursements. County Attorney

Novak discussed that he met last week with the Health Trust Board and they have been working on next year's commitment in terms of A.H.C.A., stating that he can report back with new figures after May 31st. Commissioner Williams discussed that this is a big issue, stating that there are donor and non-donor Counties, and this is going to be a major effect for the rural hospitals.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Planner Richardson reported that the Comprehensive Plan has been submitted.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

On behalf of all fire departments, Planner Richardson encouraged the public to be very careful due to the dry weather.

GULF COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY – CONTRACT – SACRED HEART HEALTH SYSTEM

Jail Administrator Hammond requested permission for the Chairman to sign the new contract with Sacred Heart Hospital for the laboratory services at the jail. Commissioner Smiley motioned to approve this request. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

On behalf of the Insurance Committee, Assistant Administrator Hammond reported that he presented a letter to the commissioners from Todd Torgersen of Combined Insurance, stating that the dental insurance has a zero percent increase, with a proposal to extend for two years with no changes in rate or plan design. He reported that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida's original renewal rate was 13.2% with no changes in benefits, stating that this has been reduced to 9.3% which is somewhat less than the current medical trends, and have agreed to renew the plan for two years. Assistant Administrator Hammond stated that the Insurance Committee recommendation is to accept the offer at 9.3% and not rebid. Commissioner Williams stated that the total impact has been shifted to the employees, with less provider based services. Commissioner Williams motioned to deny the recommendation from the Insurance Committee. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion for discussion, stating that the County has to face this every year, and the employees cannot continue to take the impact. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Assistant Administrator Hammond reported that there is time to rebid if the Board decides to rebid, stating that the sign up would be in August so the deductions can start in September. Assistant Administrator Hammond stated that if the Board decides to rebid, it must be done immediately, and that all offers are off from BCBS. Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that BCBS may or may not bid, and that there will be a lot of employee time off for

employees to travel to providers. Commissioner McLemore stated that the Board has time to review and requested for Commissioner Williams to work on this issue. Discussion followed. The motion then passed unanimously.

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST POLICY – WORKSHOP

County Attorney Novak reported that there will be a workshop scheduled with the County Staff on the Sunshine Laws and the new Public Records Request Policy on June 9th at 7:30 a.m. in the Board Room.

COUNTY WIDE VOTING

County Attorney Novak reported that Attorney Spellman will be here next week to meet with him and any of the Commissioners that would like to meet with him, stating that the Supervisor of Elections has provided them the data, and that Attorney Spellman will give an update at the next Board meeting. Commissioner McLemore and Commissioner Smiley requested for County Attorney Novak to schedule a meeting for them with Attorney Spellman.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE MORATORIUM - ORDINANCE

County Attorney Novak updated the Board on the proposed R.V. Moratorium Ordinance, stating that he is scheduled to meet with Planner Richardson to make sure the ordinance language is in compliance with the L.D.R. and Comprehensive Plan. County Attorney Novak stated that the June 14th meeting will be the first reading of the proposed ordinance, and June 28th will be the final reading of the proposed ordinance.

DITCH LANDING ROAD

County Attorney Novak reported that he reached out to the representative from Regions Bank, and he has not received a response from them, stating that they have requested to come and view the road on the week of May 16th, stating that he has not heard anything back. Commissioner McLemore discussed that there are four parcels going to this road, stating that when you enter the road, the first two parcels the County already has a lease agreement with the St. Joe Company, and he is ready to move forward. Upon inquiry by Chairman Yeager on what options the County has, County Attorney Novak reported that there are three options (1) contact property owner, (2) legal recourse with rights to the landing along private property, and (3) the public taking of the roads to demonstrate public necessity to access the water way. Commissioner McLemore stated that the gates need to be removed. County Attorney Novak reported that he has submitted a letter to David Harrelson of the St. Joe Company requesting for them to recommit to the agreement the County has with them.

S.H.I.P.

County Attorney Novak reported that he and Chief Administrator Butler had a conference with Rob Dearduff of the Florida Housing Coalition, stating that the County has requested an extension on the current S.H.I.P. program and the different projects throughout the County, and they have responded indicating that they (Florida Housing Coalition) would like to provide some technical assistance from their Florida Housing Coalition and come down and review where the County is at with funding.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN

Sheriff Nugent reported that school is now out for the summer and reminded everyone to be careful and watch for the children.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - 2nd ANNUAL BASS TOURNAMENT

Sheriff Nugent reported that he is working with T.D.C. concerning the Sheriff's Department 2nd Annual Bass Tournament to be held in September or October, and that T.D.C. will help with the prize money and other things, stating that this will be used for the Explorers Club and the kids Christmas throughout the County.

HOWARD CREEK ROAD REPAIRS – ROAD BOND FUNDS

Commissioner McLemore reported that there are Road Bond Funds available that can be used for the repairs to the Howard Creek Road, at the intersection of Highway 71. Commissioner McLemore motioned to proceed with the repairs to the Howard Creek Road repairs, contingent upon County Attorney review. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion for discussion. Chairman Yeager reported that the road bond funds can be closed out at this time. Upon inquiry by Chairman Yeager, County Attorney Novak stated that if there is still an outstanding contract for the Road Bond project it can be done under the current contract without bidding it out. Chairman Yeager stated that the total amount was \$10,300.00. The motion then passed unanimously.

TRAVEL – DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Williams reported that he has been invited by the Congressional Oversight & Accountability House Committee to testify June 2nd on behalf of Florida and Gulf County in Washington, D.C. concerning the Oil Pollution Act the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill caused, and requested permission to travel. Chairman Yeager reported that this will be filed with the Attorneys for reimbursement by B.P., and also that this is an honor to be asked to speak before Congress. Commissioner Williams requested permission for County Attorney Novak to travel to assist with the written testimony. County Attorney Novak stated that this is an excellent opportunity, but it also serves Gulf County's claims and where we stand in this, as well as the seven Counties that

have been primarily affected throughout Florida. County Attorney Novak stated that he would like to accompany Commissioner Williams to Washington and he will take care of his own travel cost. Commissioner Smiley motioned to approve this request. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CITY OF PORT ST. JOE – SEWER

Commissioner Williams requested permission for County Attorney Novak to speak with the City of Port St. Joe's Attorney in regards to the City charging a \$5.00 maintenance fee on grinder pumps; making sure this is conducive to the interlocal agreement. County Attorney Novak stated that he will report back to the Board on this issue.

DEBRIS PICKUP

Commissioner McDaniel requested clarification on the debris pickup motion previously made at the last Board meeting. Chairman Yeager reported that it was mentioned at the last Board meeting to pick up one day per week but it looks like we decided to get it all caught up, then go back to one day a week. Commissioner McDaniel stated that when he brought this up it was a money issue, and the intent was strictly for pick up of limb debris. Public Works Director Danford reported that there has already been a reduction in traffic at the landfill, which is a reduction in the amount of money we have coming in. Mr. Danford Stated his estimate for fuel for the remainder of this fiscal year is approximately \$50,000.00, running two trucks four times a week. He reported that they are still playing catch up. Chairman Yeager reported that the intent was to run one day per week. Commissioner McDaniel stated that the trucks do not need to be bouncing all over the County; there needs to be a schedule to go by. Chairman Yeager agreed but stated we need to get the word out so the public will know. Discussion followed.

E.M.S. TRANSPORTS

Upon inquiry by Commissioner McDaniel concerning E.M.S. transports outside of the normal operating areas. E.M.S. Director Whitfield reported that they have made approximately 6 or 7 transports this fiscal year with 30% of these being from Sacred Heart to another facility, which the County has a contract with Sacred Heart to do, stating that they are clearing approximately \$1,000.00 to \$1,200.00 per transport. He reported that they have made several transports for Sacred Heart and billed Sacred Heart directly, not the patient, which guarantees payment. E.M.S. Director Whitfield reported that they have made two transports for Bay Medical Center and they have guaranteed payment, stating that they are not leaving the County uncovered; it is handled by off duty volunteer employees. Discussion continued about the process. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore concerning why the Wewahitchka Ambulance Service sends two trucks out on every call, E.M.S. Director Whitfield explained that they have one ALS truck in the Wewahitchka area, which is manned by

one Paramedic and one E.M.T., and there are several BLS trucks available with part time people, stating that they send the ALS truck as soon as the call is received, and the BLS truck follows with volunteers. He reported that the Paramedic assesses the patient and decides if it is an ALS or BLS patient, stating that there is only one unit in Wewahitchka paid as a fulltime unit; the rest are volunteers. Commissioner McLemore and Chairman Yeager commended E.M.S. Director Whitfield.

PUBLIC HEARING – C.D.B.G.

Chairman Yeager reported that the County is applying for a C.D.B.G. Fair Housing Grant, and recommended scheduling a Public Hearing for June 14th at 6:00 p.m., E.T. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chairman Yeager reported that the St. Joseph Historical was called to come to Leon County to receive an award for the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, stating that the Board has done a great job in applying for grants to refurbish the lighthouses. He stated that the Lighthouses are being operated by the Historical Society and encouraged the public to visit them. Chairman Yeager read the inscription from the award.

GULF COAST WORK FORCE BOARD

Chairman Yeager reported that he attended the Work Force Board meeting last week, stating that they are doing a great job working with the County, City, and Chamber of Commerce on the advertisement for the Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

MUNIS MEETING

Commissioner Williams stated that he attended the Munis meeting held in the Clerk's Office with other department heads, and thanked Clerk Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Hand, and Clerk employee Elaine Bland for their hard work on trying to move the labor component in the Munis system.

CLERK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Commissioner Williams reported that Clerk Norris brought the Executive Committee meeting to Port St. Joe, stating that she will be First President of the committee next year, stating that she is doing a great job representing Gulf County.

T.D.C. – RECORDING SYSTEM

T.D.C. Director Kerigan reported that they are still working on the broadcasting system for the County, stating that they are moving the PEG Channel system over tomorrow and they are still waiting on equipment.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 7:15 p.m., E.T.

**WARREN J. YEAGER, JR.
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:
REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**