

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

SPECIAL MEETING

JANUARY 14, 2008

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in special session with the following members present: Chairman Billy E. Traylor and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore, Jerry W. Barnes and Bill Williams (entered at 9:44 a.m.). <Vice Chairman Nathan Peters, Jr. was absent>.

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Becky Norris, Clerk Executive Administrator Towan Kopinsky, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Building Inspector George Knight, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Grant Writer Loretta Costin, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, T.D.C. Director Paula Pickett, and Veterans' Service Officer James Kennedy.

Chairman Traylor called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., E.T.

HONEYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER / BID #0607-13

Commissioner McLemore discussed the meeting held regarding completion and final payment on the Honeyville Community Center/Storm Shelter. He requested that this topic be tabled until Chief Administrator Butler arrives at this meeting.

BUDGET

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Commissioner Barnes discussed the current Mosquito Control budget, and requested that Mosquito Control Director Cothran appear before the Board to discuss the program. Mosquito Control Director Cothran discussed the programs currently in operation by the Mosquito Control Department (spraying, larvaecide application, "chicken" program, bird-flu testing), stating that salaries make up the majority of this budget. After discussion by members of the Board regarding the possibility of going back to part-time sprayers or utilizing other County employees to spray, the Board requested that Commissioner Barnes continue to work with Mosquito Control Director Cothran regarding this budget.

HONEYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER / BID #0607-13

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the meeting held between all parties regarding the Honeyville Storm Shelter/Community Center building completion, stating that after calculating all of the delays that were beyond Mr. Cathey's control, no penalties are due for not completing the project by the deadline. He presented and recommended that the Board approve Change Order #3 (removes items that were Direct Purchases by the Board for a total deduction of \$234,904.44) and to pay the final invoice from Cathey Construction & Development, in the amount of \$73,925.17. Chairman Traylor passed the Chair to Commissioner Barnes, and motioned to approve these recommendations. The motion died for lack of a second. Chairman Barnes returned the Chair to Commissioner Traylor.

BUDGET

SOLID WASTE

Solid Waste Director Danford discussed that solid waste costs will continue to rise every year and discussed options, as follows: (1) close the landfill, (2) continue as it is, or (3) take steps to ensure revenues meet expenditures by (a) instituting an M.S.B.U., (b) requiring everyone to pay a tipping fee, and (3) discontinue trash pickup on County right-of-ways. He also discussed that the Engineers are working on a plan to extend the lifetime of Five Points Landfill, which could alleviate the costs needed for a new landfill, and could also reduce the amount of escrow the County is required to budget for the landfill. After discussion by County Attorney McFarland regarding the M.S.B.U. process and the tipping fee ordinance process, Chief Administrator Butler recommended that the Board advertise to hire a firm to make certain that the M.S.B.U. process is followed accurately. Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board approved this recommendation. Chief Administrator Butler stated that another possible avenue could be to contract out operation of the landfill.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Road Department Superintendent Knee discussed the possibility of the Road Department go back to installing culverts, as this will not only generate revenue for the Road Department, but will ensure that the culverts are installed properly. Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board agreed for the Road Department to resume the culvert installation process.

WASTE MANAGEMENT / GARBAGE COLLECTION

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Barnes, Chief administrator Butler reported that there are approximately 5,800 properties that should have garbage collection. He further reported that Waste Management is working on a proposal for mandatory services, senior discounts, etc.

BUDGET

Tim Stein appeared before the Board to discuss completion of the Mosquito Control Building, and Chairman Traylor reported that this will be paid with grant funds. Mr. Stein also offered to allow the Mosquito Control Department to use his chickens for the "chicken program."

Mr. Stein also discussed mandatory garbage collection, stating that he believes this is fair, but he does feel that residents should be allowed to take debris to the landfill free of charge to prevent illegal dumping.

HONEYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER / BID #0607-13

Chairman Traylor passed the Chair to Commissioner McLemore. Commissioner Barnes motioned to approve Change Order #3 (removes items that were Direct Purchases by the Board for a total deduction of \$234,904.44) and to pay the final invoice from Cathey Construction & Development, in the amount of \$73,925.17, for completion of the Honeyville Storm Shelter/Community Center. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed 2-1, with Chairman McLemore voting no. Chairman McLemore returned the Chair to Commissioner Traylor.

BUDGET MEETING

Chairman Traylor scheduled the next budget meeting for Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., E.T. (as next Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).

BUDGET

BUDGET / ALTERNATIVE REVENUE COMMITTEE

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that if the Property Tax Amendment passes, the County is facing a possible reduction of \$1.8 million, and reported on ideas that the Committee has discussed for alternative revenue (charge fair market value for office space rentals and space on the radio tower, timers on lights at the parks, etc.). Commissioner McLemore stated that he and Chairman Traylor already have a process in place for turning off the lights in their parks, so the County does not need to purchase timers for those. <Commissioner Williams entered the meeting at 9:44 a.m., and reported that he has been at a meeting with Allan Bense.> Chief Administrator Butler also discussed the possibility of having to reduce the numbers of employees. He stated that the committee is preparing a report which includes amounts to present to the Board at a later date.

PROPERTY APPRAISALS

Commissioner McLemore reported that he has met with the Property Appraiser, and they are looking at approximately 1,000 items that are not on the tax roll (structures, pools, etc.). G.I.S. Director Warner stated that this number includes a variety of items (docks, campers with shelters, etc.), and the Property Appraiser's Office is working to get these items included on the tax roll.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 9:47 a.m., E.T.

BILLY E. TRAYLOR
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK