

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 23, 2010

REGULAR MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in regular session with the following members present: Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, Vice Chairman Warren L. Yeager, Jr., and Commissioners Billy E. Traylor, Bill Williams, and Nathan Peters, Jr.

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, E-911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Sheriff Joe Nugent, and Work Crew Supervisor Gerald Shearer.

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

Clerk Norris opened the meeting with prayer, and Commissioner Traylor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Traylor, and unanimous vote, the consent agenda passed as follows:

1. Minutes – February 9, 2010 – Regular Meeting
2. Agreement (Ovation Beach Conservation Enhancement)
3. Contract – Change Order #27 – GAC Contractors, Inc. – Road Bond Project
(Bid #0607-11 * Decrease \$937.00 * Remove Whitfield Landing Road and add Neal Road and Shorty Kemp Road)
4. Emergency Operations Center (Architectural & Engineering Upgrade to the E.O.C. * to be paid from E9-1-1 D.R.I. Funds)
5. Funding Request – District 5 (Youth Enrichment & Prevention Program * \$100.00)
6. Invoices – Gulf County Sheriff (Homicide Training * Nugent/Greenwood * \$841.26 * to be paid from Account #31021-54100)

- Gulf to Bay Construction & Development (Salinas Park Pier *
Application #1 * \$29,454.52 * to be paid from Account
#26472-63000)

7. Resolution – Eastern Shipbuilding Group’s Export Business

(End)

PUBLIC HEARING - P.D.R.B. RECOMMENDATIONS (02/15/10)

The Board then considered the following recommendation from the February 15, 2010 meeting of the Planning & Development Review Board:

SETBACK VARINACE – BARTON

Pursuant to advertisement to hold a public hearing to consider a variance for Charles Barton (Parcel ID #00979-120R, S33, T5S, R9W) County Attorney McFarland read the public hearing notice and called for public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner Peters motioned to approve a setback variance. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

SETBACK VARINACE – VOYLES

Pursuant to advertisement to hold a public hearing to consider a variance for Terry L. Voyles (Parcel ID #03761-010R, S31, T6S, R11W) County Attorney McFarland read the public hearing notice and called for public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner Williams motioned to approve variance setback with a caveat of the structure being built must be less than 8 1/2 feet in height from the ground to the eaves. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

GRANT CERTIFICATION – SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Nugent requested permission for the Chairman to sign a grant certification for new equipment for the Sheriff’s Department. Commissioner Peters motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

C.S.B.G. PUBLIC HEARING

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the Public Hearing held on February 16, 2010 concerning the C.S.B.G. Project Administrator, stating that the Board needs to make a recommendation as to the Project Administrator. Commissioner Yeager motioned to recommend Gulf Coast Workforce Board as the Project Administrator for the C.S.B.G. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Chief Administrator Butler stated that the Governor will make the Final Decision.

CHANGE ORDER – ROAD BOND #0607-11 – BALTZELL AVENUE/WILLIAMS – M.L.K. CONNECTOR

Chief Administrator Butler recommended a change order for the Baltzell Avenue by-pass. Commissioner Peters motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion for discussion. Commissioner Peters discussed that this will be paid from District 4 and District 5 road bond funds which were split equally between the districts, stating that the total amount from District 4 and

District 5 will be \$12,500.00 each. Bill Kennedy of Preble-Rish, Inc. appeared before the Board and reported that the City of Port St. Joe will be connecting Williams Avenue to M.L.K. Boulevard and that Commissioner Peters will contribute the balance of his road bond funds, in the amount of \$34,241.00 for this project and that this needs to be included in this change order. After further discussion, Commissioner Peters added the connector to M.L.K. Boulevard to his motion. Commissioner Yeager stated his motion still stands, and it passed unanimously.

BYRD PARKER DRIVE

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the erosion problem on Byrd Parker Drive, stating that D.E.P. allowed them to perform some emergency work and now a joint application needs to be filed with the Corp of Engineers and D.E.P. ratifying the work and requested permission for the Chairman to sign the applications. Commissioner Peters motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion for discussion. He reported that the water is approximately 8 to 10 feet from the road, stating that this has not fixed the problem (it is only a patch) and that eventually we will lose this road. After further discussion by members of the Board, the motion passed unanimously.

EXTENSION C.R. 30E – GRANT FUNDS

Chief Administrator Butler requested permission to submit a letter to D.E.P. requesting an extension on the C.R. 30E project. Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

INDUSTRIAL PARK/TAUNTON LEASE

Chief Administrator Butler reported that he made contact with David Taunton concerning the Industrial Park building, and that the County has not received a payment since 2007, stating that Taunton was given credit for the sand provided to the County. Commissioner Williams motioned to proceed with legal action. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion for discussion. Commissioner Traylor discussed that the building has not been used in several years, and that the County has tried their best to work this situation out. After further discussion by members of the Board, the motion passed unanimously.

LANDFILL – VOUCHER SYSTEM

Public Works Director Danford reported that the voucher system for the landfill is currently in place, stating that the vouchers can be purchased at the Public Works Department or at the Clerk's Office in Wewahitchka. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Peters, Public Works Director Danford reported that there is a \$20.00 minimum on the voucher.

ADVERTISE – METAL CONTRACTOR

Public Works Director Danford requested permission to advertise to receive sealed bids for a metal contractor for the landfill. Commissioner Traylor motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

E9-1-1 GRANT APPLICATION/MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

E9-1-1 Coordinator Guthrie requested permission for the Chairman to sign a 911 equipment grant application, stating that the current equipment has reached its full capacity. Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion for discussion. Upon inquiry by Chairman McLemore, E9-1-1 Coordinator Guthrie reported that there is not a match for this grant. After further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

County Attorney McFarland reported that Gulf, Calhoun and Franklin Counties have a joint 9-1-1 system and that this grant will require for the Chairman to sign a Memorandum of Agreement between the three Counties to share the cost. Commissioner Traylor motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

AGREEMENT – HIGHLAND VIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Administrator Lanier requested approval of the design/build agreement for the Highland View Fire Department with Cathey Construction, contingent upon review by Chief Administrator Butler, County Attorney McFarland and Highland View Fire Chief. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY/COURTHOUSE SECURITY

Commissioner Peters reported that Grant Writer Kopinsky is looking for any grants that might be available to assist with public safety equipment. Commissioner Yeager recommended that Commissioner Peters work with the Sheriff and the Chief of Police concerning this issue.

BIOMASS PLANT

Commissioner Traylor discussed that approximately a year ago there were numerous meetings concerning the Biomass Plant coming to Port St. Joe, stating that on February 18, 2010 a Massachusetts Attorney and twenty-five local residents filed a petition to D.E.P. against the permitting of the Biomass Plant. He reported that this would employ approximately 200 people in this County, and that there are a lot of people unemployed at this time and this Biomass Plant would help put people to work. Commissioner Yeager reported that he spoke with Glenn Farris concerning educating these people, and they will set up individual meetings to speak to these people.

VERIZON WIRELESS

Commissioner Yeager discussed the problems with the Verizon Wireless service and requested that the Chairman send a letter to them concerning this issue. Commissioner Traylor motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

GULF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT INVENTORY

Commissioner Yeager reported that Gulf County Health Department Administrator Doug Kent contacted him concerning surplus equipment at the Health Department. County Attorney McFarland reported that he would have to provide a list of the equipment which has to be approved by the Board. Clerk Norris reported that it can be placed in the Consent Agenda for approval.

BEACH RENOURISHMENT/F.E.M.A. REIMBURSEMENT

Commissioner Yeager discussed that he and Chief Administrator Butler have a meeting with Senator Nelson, Congressman Boyd, and F.E.M.A. to discuss the \$15,000,000.00 project at Cape San Blas, and he hopes that they inform the U.S. Fish and Wildlife that this project is an exception to the rule, stating that this project needs to move forward. Upon inquiry by Chairman McLemore, Commissioner Yeager reported that they will discuss the river project at this meeting.

SACRED HEART HOSPITAL ON THE GULF – BLESSING AND DEDICATION

Commissioner Williams discussed that the dedication for Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf held last week, stating that there was approximately 300 people in attendance. He reported that \$10,000,000.00 was raised in private donations for the new hospital.

INSURANCE – AETNA

Commissioner Williams reported that AETNA Insurance has joined the Florida Association of Counties, stating that they are in negotiations with Sacred Heart Hospital and they will bring back recommendations to the Board.

BUDGET

Commissioner Williams discussed the Budget Hearing held at 4:30 p.m., E.T. today, and complemented the Chairman for addressing and moving forward with the budget, stating that this is going to be critical times for this County.

RATE STRUCTURES – CITY OF PORT ST. JOE

Commissioner Williams discussed the rate structures with the City of Port St. Joe, and requested that Chief Administrator Butler continue to move forward with the City on this issue, stating that there is still poor water quality in this County. Commissioner Yeager reported that the City approved to advertise for RFP's for a Company to do a rate study.

FRANCHISE FEE/TAX – PROGRESS ENERGY

Commissioner Williams reported that if you live within the City limits there will be a franchise tax on your Progress Energy bill, stating that they cannot charge outside the City limits and you may be entitled to a refund. G.I.S. Director Warner appeared before the Board and discussed that all unincorporated areas need to check their utility bills, phone bills and water bills for this franchise fee/ tax.

COMMODITY PROGRAM

Chairman McLemore reported that the Commodity Program has been having problems receiving the food from Tallahassee due to the economy, and that they will only be

distributing commodities every other month due to this problem, stating that they are serving over 500 hundred families per month.

SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET

Barbara Radcliff appeared before the Board and reported that there was no public comment called during the Special Meeting concerning the Budget, stating that the Board needs to consider if State law permits, whatever reduction that the Property Appraiser reports to the Board, they take that amount in pay reduction. Commissioner Traylor stated that this is set by the State. Chairman McLemore apologized for not calling public comment during the Special Meeting.

BUDGET

Patricia Hardman appeared before the Board and discussed that she feels for anyone that is affected by the budget cuts, but that this Board has to make the necessary cuts. She encouraged the residents to put pressure on the Legislatures at the State Capital, stating that the County does not have control over the \$11.4 million dollar budget because of the mandates.

BIOMASS PLANT

Patricia Hardman reported that Coastal Community Association supports the Biomass Gas & Electric Facility, stating that she visited the University of South Carolina campus and toured the Biomass Gas & Electric plant on the campus, and she could hardly find the place and there was no noise or emissions. She requested that the Board contact D.E.P. to expedite the process for the Biomass Plant, stating that this County needs jobs.

HOMELESS

Patricia Hardman discussed that they have started helping the homeless and hungry people in this County, and requested that each Commissioner personally donate money for an Easter basket to the Sheriff's Department to be given out to the needy children in this County.

BIOMASS PLANT

Commissioner Peters reported that he was Chairman during the Biomass Public Hearings, stating that he held combined meetings with the City to make sure everybody was in favor. He reported that Biomass brought a demonstration to the County and that no local residents objected to this Plant. Commissioner Yeager reported that this could delay the project from four to nine months. Commissioner Williams requested that E.D.C. push this through at the executive level. Tom Graney appeared before the Board and reported that D.E.P. gave a notice stating that they were going to issue Intent to permit with a 30 day window, stating that this could move as fast as two weeks, and that there will be a Biomass Plant in Gulf County.

Tom Graney discussed that this is tough times for Gulf County, and that the County is positioning themselves well. He reported that there is a Broad Band Meeting tomorrow for a Broad Band Grant.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, the meeting did then adjourn at 6:53 p.m., E.T.

**CARMEN L. MCLEMORE
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:
REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**