

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

May 15, 2008

SPECIAL MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in special session with the following members present: Chairman Billy E. Traylor, Commissioners Jerry W. Barnes, Bill Williams, and Nathan Peters, Jr. <Commissioner Carmen McLemore arrived at 2:40 pm, E.T.>

Others present were: County Attorney Tim McFarland, Clerk of Court Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kayla Duke, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Planner David Richardson, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Mosquito Control Department Director Mark Cothran, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Building Inspector George Knight, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, City of Wewahitchka Mayor Ray Dickens, and Veteran's Service Officer James Kennedy.

Chairman Traylor called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m., E.T.

POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Chairman Traylor stated that he would like to give Vice Chairman Peters authority to sign anything that has been approved by the Board to avoid inconvenience to those who have to transport documents from Port St. Joe to Wewahitchka for the Chairman's signature.

Commissioner Williams motioned to give the Vice Chairman authority to sign Board documents that have previously been approved by the Board, and have them ratified in the next Consent Agenda. With Commissioner Barnes' second, the motion passed 4-0.

Chairman Traylor inquired about the possibility of the Clerk's Office paying invoices based on Chief Administrator Butler's signature and approval, without Board approval. Clerk Norris stated that these invoices need to be projects that the Board has already approved. Butler agreed but stated there will still be invoices that need Board approval.

Commissioner Williams motioned to allow Mr. Butler to sign invoices for projects that the Board has already approved. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

MEETING TIMES

Chairman Traylor discussed the policies for meeting times and when they were established. He stated that it is no longer feasible for County staff, due to budget cuts to stay long after 5:00 p.m., and discussed that through the internet, TV, and the media, the public has easy access to information on the meetings. Chairman Traylor stated that he would like to hold one regular meeting, (the second Tuesday of every month) at 9:00 a.m., E.T. Commissioner Peters discussed his concern with that because it was inconvenient to

people who have to work until 5:00 p.m., and stated that he believes the majority of the public will be unhappy with a change in meeting times. <Commissioner McLemore arrived at the meeting.> Chairman Traylor informed McLemore about the current topic. Commissioner Williams stated that he believes it will be a problem for the public, and they need to be sensitive to them. Commissioner McLemore stated that if it saves money, he supports it. Commissioner Barnes stated that he has no problem with it. Chairman Traylor passed the chair to Commissioner Peters and motioned to hold the first regular meeting of every month at 9:00 a.m., E.T. County Attorney McFarland stated that their budget meetings are mandated by statute to occur after 5:00 p.m., E.T. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. Commissioner Traylor confirmed it will be the second Tuesday of every month. The motion then passed 3-2, with Commissioner Peters and Williams opposing. Chairman Peters returned the chair to Commissioner Traylor.

TRAVEL

Human Resource Director Denise Manuel stated that in 2003 the Board adopted a Resolution that increased the millage reimbursement rate to 36 cents per mile. Ms. Manuel discussed that the current state rate is 44 ½ cents and the IRS rate is 50 ½ cents per mile, and stated that 70% of the states have adopted the IRS standard which changes yearly, and 30% of the states have adopted the state guidelines. Commissioner Williams motioned to adopt the state rates for millage reimbursement. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MEETING TIMES/PUBLIC COMMENT

Marjorie Stitt appeared before the Board, and stated that she opposes the change in meeting times because it is not fair to the working public.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner Peters, the meeting did then adjourn at 2:47 p.m., E.T.

**BILLY E. TRAYLOR
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**