

## **PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**

**FEBRUARY 8, 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 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, Chamber of Commerce Director Sandra Chafin, E9-1-1 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Assistant Public Works Director Bobby Knee, Sheriff Joe Nugent, and Sheriff's Office Major Bobby Plair.

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

Assistant Administrator Hammond 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 – January 5, 2011 – Workshop
  - January 11, 2011 – Special Meeting
  - January 11, 2011 - Regular Meeting
  - January 25, 2011 – Regular Meeting
2. Approval of Checks and warrants for January, 2011 which are incorporated herein by reference, pursuant to Chapter 136.06 F.S.
3. Agreement – Florida Department of Corrections (#A2391 \* Transporting Inmates)

Agreement – Public Risk Management of Florida (Contract and By-Laws)

4. Invoices – Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell (General Employment Matters  
(File #G214-107990 \* Invoice #756742 \* \$400.00 \*  
to be paid from Account #21111-31200)

(End)

**PREBLE-RISH, INC.**

Bill Kennedy of Preble-Rish, Inc. appeared before the Board and stated that he will be leaving Preble-Rish, Inc. at the end of February, and introduced Clay Smallwood, III as his replacement. Mr. Kennedy thanked the Board for seventeen years of service working with this County.

**C.D.B.G. – DISASTER RECOVERY INITIATIVE PROGRAM**

Blunt Armstrong and Jeffrey Winter of Jordan & Associates appeared before the Board and discussed the C.D.B.G. Disaster Recovery Plan, specifically the Housing Assistance Plan, stating that it was included in their contract to review the contractor applications for participation in the Counties Disaster Recovery Project, and to provide a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Winter reported that the County received 9 contractor applications, stating that only 3 contractors met all the requirements for the Counties adopted housing assistance plan, and there were 5 additional contractors that met all requirements, with the exception of the automobile insurance. Mr. Winter requested direction from the Board on how they would like the applications addressed; whether to accept all 3 contractors that met the requirements or extend the invitation to the remaining 5 contractors under the condition that they secure the additional coverage within 30 days prior to the pre-bid walk through. Chairman Yeager recommended making it available to all 8 contractors, requiring the 5 to obtain the additional insurance. Commissioner McLemore stated that he needs time to review this. Mr. Winter reported that the County has an activity work plan that states you will have the contract bid out in March, stating that if we delay we have the possibility of going over that contract as scheduled; setting the County back on the project. After further discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner McLemore motioned to make it available to all 8 applicants, with the 5 obtaining the additional required insurance. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mr. Winter recommended the Board to accept the 8 contractors for inclusion in the contractor pool; who are (Cathey Construction & Development, LLC, KAFA, LLC d/b/a KAFA Construction, Bryan-Co Services, Inc., Michael E. Nelson d/b/a/ Affordable Remodeling & Roofing, Bo Rodriguez Construction, LLC, Raymond Driesbach, LLC, Yarbrough Construction, LLC, Windolf Construction, Inc.). Commissioner McDaniel motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **COUNTY WEBSITE**

Deputy Administrator Lanier stated that the Florida Economic Budget and Outlook documentation from the Joint Officers Meeting has been placed on the County website, as requested by Commissioner Williams at the last meeting.

## **BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE**

Mike Dombrowski of MRD Associates appeared before the Board and gave a power point presentation on the Beach restoration project for the 18 month post construction. Commissioner Williams reported that the Beasley Allen Law Firm is present at the meeting tonight, and requested for Mr. Dombrowski to meet with them.

## **BID AWARD #1011-11 – SALE OF VEHICLES**

Assistant Public Works Director Knee recommended that bid #1011-11A (sale of 1995 Chevrolet Van \* #25-128 \* asset #01675) be awarded to Bill Haun, in the amount of \$500.00. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mr. Knee stated that there were no bids received for bid #1011-11B (sale of 1995 Ford F150 Pickup Truck \* #25.185 \* VIN 1FTDF15Y7SNA09143), and recommended the Board table this until the next meeting, stating that he received quotes from 2 different junkyards, but would like to review this with the County Attorney. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Assistant Public Works Director Knee reported that \$3,123.20 has been collected from the sale of junked vehicles.

## **WEWAHITCHKA SEARCH & RESCUE**

Sheriff Nugent reported that the Wewahitchka Search & Rescue had two call outs this past week, stating that there were approximately 25 to 30 people that responded, and thanked the volunteers of the Wewahitchka Search & Rescue for the great response. Commissioner McLemore discussed that it is sometimes hard to get volunteers, stating that there are several County employees who are members of the search & rescue, and recommended giving authority to Chief Administrator Butler to determine if these employees can get off of work in order to respond. Commissioner McLemore motioned to give Chief Administrator Butler the authority to make all decisions concerning leave and pay for employees who are volunteers for this organization. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion for discussion. Commissioner McDaniel discussed the 5 people in 2010 that lost their lives on the Apalachicola River, stating that this search & rescue unit is made up of strictly volunteers and requested that the County employees not lose any pay for this service under the direction of Chief Administrator Butler. Commissioner McLemore stated that was his intent when he brought it up; but under the coordination of Chief Administrator Butler. Commissioner Williams discussed reviewing a similar

setup for our employees who are Volunteer Fire Fighters, and requested a recommendation from Chief Administrator Butler. Chief Administrator Butler stated that he has had discussions with Commissioner McDaniel and he is willing to review and assist the County in trying to figure out the stipend issue. The leave portion for Search & Rescue will be easy to figure out, Chief Administrator Butler stated. Commissioner Williams asked to amend the motion and second to include that so it can be reviewed by Chief Administrator Butler and Commissioner McDaniel. Chairman Yeager affirmed that the motion can include the fire departments. Clerk Norris called for clarification of the motion. Commissioner McLemore stated that his motion is to turn all volunteer leave over to Chief Administrator Butler, giving him the authority to make the decisions on who gets off, who gets paid and who don't. Commissioner Smiley confirmed his second stands. Sheriff Nugent stated that these people are an invaluable asset to this County. The motion then passed unanimously.

### **COURTHOUSE SECURITY**

Upon request by Chairman Yeager, Sheriff Nugent reported that he obtained quotes for an x-ray machine and other things and spoke with some private companies about contracting out security, stating that they will have some numbers ready for the meeting on Thursday with the Judges.

### **E9-1-1 CONTRACT**

County Attorney Novak reported that the Board previously approved an E9-1-1 contract, contingent upon legal review, stating that they are waiting on an indemnification clause to be signed, and then it will be presented to the Chairman for signatures.

### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

County Attorney Novak reported that he met with Raymond Wood and reviewed the incident report concerning his dog bite, stating that there are some inconsistencies with the dog and the ownership. He reported that the conclusion is in terms of timing and the timeliness of the report from the Animal Control Officer to having the dog vaccinated. County Attorney Novak recommended the Animal Control Officer join the Florida Association of Animal Control, stating that half of the Counties in the State are members, and the cost is approximately \$75.00 annually. County Attorney Novak stated this membership will give Animal Control Officer Jones best practices, monthly newsletters and updates, and how to stay in compliance with local and State statutes. Commissioner Williams motioned to join the Florida Association of Animal Control and the Board will review any travel as it comes forth. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **DITCH LANDING ROAD**

County Attorney Novak reported on the Ditch Landing Road issue, stating that he spoke with David Harrelson of the St. Joe Company and the property has been transferred and conveyed to two other entities since the St. Joe Company had possession of this property. He reported that they did not retain easement access rights across the property, stating that it is a company called Wimico Timber, LLC, and requested permission from the Board to contact the new owners with the same request that was made to the St. Joe Company; which is, can we accomplish what we need to do through an easement, record it, and then open and maintain the access. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore concerning taking the road back if the new owners deny the lease, County Attorney Novak reported that he is not prepared to comment on whether the County could, but he will research and report back to the Board. Commissioner McLemore motioned for County Attorney Novak to contact the new owners concerning the Ditch Landing Road access. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion for discussion. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McDaniel, County Attorney Novak reported that there has been no problem with the St. Joe Company. The motion then passed unanimously.

### **BRITISH PETROLEUM CLAIMS PROCESS / GULF COAST CLAIMS FACILITY**

County Attorney Novak gave an update on the B.P. claims process, stating that they attended the Seven County Coalition meeting last Friday and they now have a letter of support from Beasley Allen Law Firm that he will provide to County Staff for individuals that approach the Board. Deputy Administrator Lanier requested permission to place this on the County Website. The Board had no objection. County Attorney Novak gave an update concerning the February 2<sup>nd</sup> Order from Judge Barbary in the Multi-District litigation in New Orleans, stating that it addresses exactly what the G.C.C.F.'s role is and to clarify what their function is disclosed to the individual private business owners and government entities going forward of what capacity they are working for. He will provide this information to the Board and make it available to the public.

### **SEVEN COUNTY COALITION MEETING – BRITISH PETROLEUM**

County Attorney Novak reported that he, Chief Administrator Butler, and Commissioner Williams attended the Seven County Coalition meeting last week, stating that the County council thought it was very productive, and all counties were in attendance and came up with ideas on how to pool resources.

### **BEASLEY ALLEN LAW FIRM – BRITISH PETROLEUM**

County Attorney Novak reported that he and the County Liaison (Commissioner Williams) met with Beasley Allen Law Firm today concerning the sampling and data

collection, and a timeline in terms of claims for the County, stating that they received a schedule for the events for the next month and a half.

### **COUNTY WIDE VOTING / REDISTRICTING**

County Attorney Novak discussed that he met with the individual Commissioners concerning issues with County-Wide voting, stating that he has gone back and addressed with the Law Firms the expert analysis and the cost related to County Wide voting. He reported that the first stage will be the Data Compilation and expert analysis, then the initial oversight, covering a three to four month period for approximately \$40,000.00. Commissioner Williams motioned to proceed, not to exceed \$40,000.00 as counsel outlined as the first stage. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion for discussion. County Attorney Novak discussed the redistricting issue coming up, stating the timeliness of this overlapping with the County-Wide voting issue and this will have an indirect benefit to the County from having outside counsel. He further stated that the expert analysis done by Dr. Weber in 2005 can be used and will be a cost savings to the County as well. Chairman Yeager discussed that it is time for the redistricting and that he would like to engage the School Board, stating that the district lines are different. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, County Attorney Novak discussed that depending on the vote this evening, he and Chief Administrator Butler will make a recommendation as to securing counsel at the next meeting based on the initial interviews and cost, stating that there will be an initial retainer and there will be professional services rendered and a bill generated for the County on a monthly basis; the \$40,000.00 would roll out over the first three to four months. Commissioner McLemore stated he would prefer to budget for this. Commissioner Smiley stated that we do not have the money to spend at this time and he would rather put dollars into providing more jobs. Chairman Yeager stated that the public has voted numerous times and wishes to go to County-Wide voting. After further discussion by members of the Board, the motion then passed 3 to 2, with Commissioner McLemore and Commissioner Smiley voting no.

### **BEASLEY ALLEN LAW FIRM – BRITISH PETROLEUM**

County Attorney Novak reported that David Burn of Beasley Allen Law Firm is present at the meeting tonight, and if anyone has questions concerning the letter of support, to speak with Mr. Burn.

### **RFP #1011-13 – PROPERTY/CASUALTY INSURANCE**

Chief Administrator Butler reported that he presented a draft for RFP #1011-13 (Property/Casualty Insurance), and requested permission to proceed and advertise. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **TRAVEL - RURAL SUMMIT MEETING – COUNTY/CITY JOINT MEETING**

Chief Administrator Butler recommended having representation at the Economic Development Rural Summit meeting in St. Augustine on February 16–18, 2011. He reported that the Joint County/City meeting was previously scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup>, and requested permission to change this meeting to February 24<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner McDaniel motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Chief Administrator discussed that it will be very important to have representation at the Economic Development Rural Summit meeting. Commissioner Williams motioned for Chairman Yeager to travel to St. Augustine for the Economic Development Rural Summit meeting. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **TRAVEL – COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3**

Chief Administrator Butler stated that there is going to be meetings involving the Seven County Coalition which Commissioner Williams needs to attend. Commissioner Williams requested permission to travel on Thursday, February 10, 2011 to meet with Dean Cannon, Speaker of the House and Will Weatherford on Legislative issues, and Thursday, February 17, 2011 with Representative Broxton who has ask representatives from the Seven Counties to attend and meet with the Chief Financial Officer, the Attorney General and the Governor. Chairman Yeager stated that the travel related to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill will be totally reimbursed by B.P. Commissioner McDaniel motioned to approve this travel request for two days. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion for discussion. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Commissioner Williams stated that the meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> is not oil spill related, it is strictly Legislative issues. The motion then passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner McLemore voting no.

### **TRAVEL – LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that last year Chairman McLemore gave permission to travel to the Legislative Session, and requested permission to travel this year for the Legislative Session, stating that it is starting soon. Commissioner Williams motioned to give the Chairman the authority to approve travel of Commissioners and/or staff to attend legislative meetings in Tallahassee during session. Chairman Yeager stated that there are more changes in Tallahassee than ever. Chairman Yeager stated that he will get our Legislative delegation here for an open forum. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **GULF COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed a payment request from the C.D.C., in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the development of the two lots in Williamsburg, and recommended

payment, contingent upon County Attorney review and approval of the time line. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – SIGN MORATORIUM**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed a letter from D.E.P. concerning the sign moratorium in Gulf County, stating that it is being reviewed and not completed. He recommended for D.E.P. to be allowed to put up one sign concerning the St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve. Commissioner McDaniel motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### **PREBLE-RISH, INC. – PROPOSAL – STUMPHOLE REVETMENT PROJECT**

Chief Administrator Butler recommended approval of a proposal from Preble-Rish, Inc. for the engineering portion of the Stumphole Revetment project (HMPG portion), in the amount of \$52,756.38. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. Commissioner McDaniel inquired about why this service was not bid. Chief Administrator Butler stated that all these type projects the County Engineer designs and submits a proposal for the Boards approval before the work is done and payment is made. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McDaniel, Chief Administrator Butler explained that all Engineering work is done by our in-house Engineers except for those grants that require competitive bids. The motion then passed 4-0, with Chairman Yeager abstaining, due to a business relationship with Preble-Rish, Inc.

#### **PREBLE-RISH, INC. – PROPOSAL – BEACHES RESURFACING – ALABAMA AVENUE/AMERICUS AVENUE/GEORGIA AVENUE/COURT STREET**

Chief Administrator Butler recommended approval of a proposal from Preble-Rish, Inc. for the engineering portion of the resurfacing project of Americus Avenue, Alabama Avenue, Georgia Avenue, and Court Street, in the amount of \$118,665.00. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McDaniel, Commissioner Williams discussed that the specifications from the Department of Transportation specifically outline what the funds can be used for (S.C.R.A.P.). Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0, with Chairman Yeager abstaining, due to a business relationship with Preble-Rish, Inc.

#### **CORRECTION TO THE MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 2011**

Chief Administrator Butler stated that he made a recommendation at the January 11, 2011 Board meeting to award bid #1011-04 to Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan for the construction, engineering, and inspection of the Cape San Blas Bike Path, stating that

the minutes in tonight's Consent Agenda reflect Greenhorne & O'Mara was awarded the bid and requested this be corrected. Commissioner Williams motioned to correct the minutes to reflect P.B.S. & J as the contractor for bid #1011-04. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **CAPE BIKE PATH PHASE III – CONSTRUCTION/ENGINEERING/INSPECTION**

Chief Administrator requested approval of a proposal from P.B.S. & J. for the C.E.I. on the Cape Bike Path Phase III, in the amount of \$141,271.12. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this request. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **INDUSTRIAL PARK BUILDING – ADVERTISE RFP'S**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed page 7 of the Information Packet (a letter from Frank Healy), stating that he is requesting to lease the Industrial Park building to open a business. He reported that the County Commission handed over the Industrial Park building to the E.D.C. for purposes of getting it leased out, stating that E.D.A. has guidelines that the County must adhere to and the County needs to make sure everyone is aware of the E.D.A. requirements. Chief Administrator Butler recommended advertising to receive RFP's for the lease of the Industrial Park Building. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Commissioner McLemore stated that he is not happy with the E.D.C., discussing that some of the members have been on the council for a long time, and he would like to replace Jim Garth on the E.D.C. Board and appoint Ralph Rish. Mr. Rish who was in the audience respectfully declined. Commissioner McLemore motioned to remove Jim Garth from the E.D.C.; bringing a recommendation for replacement back at the next Board meeting. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion for discussion. Discussion followed. The motion then passed unanimously.

### **SAULS CREEK ROAD**

Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Chief Administrator Butler reported that he spoke with Dan Garlick, of Garlick Environmental and the County has received a permit from the Corp of Engineers to do the work as planned on the Saul's Creek Road; that is to take the existing material and make 3 low water crossings. He reported that the County is still waiting on the permits from the Water Management District.

### **SEVEN COUNTY COALITION MEETING**

Commissioner Williams gave an update on the Seven County Coalition meeting, stating that it was a very informative meeting and that there will be a multi County resolution sent to all seven Counties. He reported that one of the topics was to support the coalition of the seven T.D.C.'s, and to request a \$25,000,000.00 addition to tourism. Commissioner Williams stated that Florida's Great Northwest is attempting to put together a not-for-profit arm and how these monies flow. He stated that the Natural Resource and Damage Assessment (NRDA) will look at all the shorelines and the environmental impacts. He reported that he met with the Beasley Allen Law Firm concerning the multiple levels of operational and administrative tax base strategies.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Commissioner Williams stated that the County is making progress with the I.T. bid status, and that they are trying to look at all the information from communication to I.T. capabilities, to centralized purchasing so they can make recommendations as they go into budget.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Commissioner Williams discussed that the E.D.C. and Chamber of Commerce issue needs to be pushed along and get resolved so jobs can be brought to Gulf County.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Chairman Yeager stated that he received the Economic Development Assessment report and requested for it to be placed on the County website.

### **ODEANA BOAT RAMP**

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Smiley, Chairman Yeager reported that he and Chief Administrator Butler have a meeting scheduled with the St. Joe Company, stating that the County has maintained this boat ramp for approximately 35 years. He stated that the County does not have site control of this boat ramp because there is not a lease, and the St. Joe Company is ready to issue the County a lease. Commissioner McLemore stated that there needs to be enough property that would allow the County to get grant funds for the road, the boat ramp, and parking. Chairman Yeager agreed.

### **CONSOLIDATION SITE**

Commissioner Smiley motioned to proceed with moving the Public Works building from the Howard Creek site and go ahead and put it up. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion for discussion. Commissioner Williams stated that the County does not know the specifics of what to do with this building at this time. Commissioner Williams recommended the matter be brought back to the Board for a final vote. Upon Chairman

Yeager recommendation, Commissioner Smiley agreed to amend the motion to include allowing of County Staff (Chief Administrator, Public Works Director Danford, Building Official Collinsworth, and Assistant Public Works Director Knee) to review and make a recommendation for the location. Public Works Director Danford discussed that the building needs to be removed from the mud, but there needs to be a plan before putting the building up. Further discussion followed. The motion then passed 3 to 2, with Commissioner McLemore and Commissioner Williams voting no. Chief Administrator Butler reported that Cathey Construction has agreed to the \$5,000.00 to move the building and can move it on February 14<sup>th</sup> to the current Public Works site.

### **COURTHOUSE SECURITY**

Commissioner Smiley stated that the Courthouse security needs to move forward more quickly. Chairman Yeager agreed, stating that the County should have a proposal to present to the Board in about two weeks.

### **WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL CENTER**

Commissioner Smiley requested for this Board to work with the City of Port St. Joe to get the Washington Recreational Center back open for the children. Chairman Yeager requested for Chief Administrator Butler to add this to the Agenda for the Joint County/City meeting.

### **SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS BUILDING**

Commissioner McDaniel reported that he spoke with the Supervisor of Elections concerning the portion of the building occupied by Sacred Heart, stating that they have now vacated the space. He stated that the Supervisor of Elections would like to retain a portion of this space for early voting, and a portion for the Clerk's storage. Commissioner Williams agreed that the use of this space should be dedicated to the Supervisor of Elections and the Clerk of Court. Chairman Yeager discussed that he will work with County Staff and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

### **HIGHWAY 22 / COUNTY ROAD 5**

Commissioner McDaniel discussed a sign on County Road 5 off Highway 22, stating that the sign states there is a 10 ton weight limit, and the school bus will not proceed down County Road 5 due to this sign. Assistant Public Works Director Knee discussed that the bridge has a 10 ton weight limit, stating that the sign needs to be replaced with the correct wording (10 Ton Weight Limit Bridge Ahead). Commissioner McDaniel motioned to change the sign. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Assistant Administrator Hammond reported that this bridge was replaced years ago with railcars and is approximately an 80 ton bridge. Chairman Yeager requested for Chief Administrator Butler to contact D.O.T. for clarification.

## **IOLA LANDING ROAD**

Commissioner McDaniel discussed a previous motion concerning the road paving projects for Iola Landing Road and Old Bay City Road, stating that he met with GAC (low bidder) on the Iola Landing Road project about the way it has been paved. Commissioner McDaniel stated that when the award was made for 10,000 feet of paving he assumed it was to fill in the void, or break in the paving, but since learned the 10,000 feet would be on up the road. He stated that there is nothing, not even power poles and doesn't understand why. Commissioner McLemore stated that this was a Water Management Grant and they have to be so far from the river, they dictate where you can pave, and what kind of pavement to put on the road. Commissioner McDaniel stated, and Chairman Yeager agreed that this additional 10,000 feet has nothing to do with the Water Management District. Chief Administrator Butler reported that this is a C.I.G.P. funded project. Commissioner McDaniel indicated that a portion of the previously paved road has failed. He discussed the approximate \$1 million cost of this 10,000 additional feet, referring to it as the "road to nowhere", and stated he would rather scrap that and go back and pave the void/gap, and requested the Board to revisit this. Commissioner McDaniel stated that G.A.C. even agreed to do some improvements on this road. Chairman Yeager stated that he and Chief Administrator Butler met with D.O.T. today on these grants, and went on to explain the C.I.G.P. program. Chief Administrator Butler discussed the original funding (Florida Forever Grant) and subsequent C.I.G.P. funding on this road and the reason for the gap in the roadway, including the type of materials required by D.O.T. and Water Management District. Chief Administrator Butler stated that based on his meeting with D.O.T. today, they do not like for Counties to change their project after application has been made but he would be glad to make the contacts to see if this grant could be amended and used to pave the gap first then on up the road. Chief Administrator Butler further stated he would also have to check with the Engineers on this to see what could be worked out. Commissioner Williams said he could see where Commissioner McDaniel is coming from and that it is incumbent on this Board to better communicate and educate the public on these grants. Discussion continued on where these grant funds come from and how they are applied for. Commissioner McDaniel stated that grants are fine but sometimes they need to be left alone.

## **PORT AUTHORITY**

Chairman Yeager stated that he met with Representative Lake Ray, the Port Authority, and City of Port St. Joe Mayor Mel Magidson concerning the Port Authority funding, stating that they are trying to get funding for the existing area north to the paper mill site that possibly might create some jobs.

### **STUMPHOLE PROJECT**

Chairman Yeager reported that the Stumphole rock project will be starting within the next few weeks, stating that this is 100% grant funded.

### **RIFLE RANGE**

Chairman Yeager requested for Chief Administrator Butler to schedule a meeting with the Northwest Florida Water Management District concerning the rifle range.

### **TOWN HALL MEETING – SOUTH GULF COUNTY**

Chairman Yeager reported that he and County Attorney Novak attended a town hall meeting in the South Gulf County area, stating that the criteria for usage of Rish Park were discussed. Chairman Yeager stated that he and Chief Administrator Butler will meet with Billy Quinn concerning the criteria for usage of Rish Park.

### **GULF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Marsha Player, Gulf County Health Department Administrator, appeared before the Board and reported that the Gulf County Health Department has been awarded a five year continuation grant for their F.Q.H.C. from the Federal Government, stating that this is 12% of their overall budget. She briefly discussed the release of the Government proposed budget and reported that she has applied for some expanded services funding as well. Commissioner Williams inquired about A.H.C.A. and L.I.P. and County Attorney Novak responded that they are still in discussion about these.

### **COUNTY ENGINEER**

Freddie Whitfield appeared before the Board and stated that this Board awarded tonight \$200,000.00 to \$250,000.00 to a firm for engineering on roadways without any quotes or price checks, trying to make it sound like this is the only choice you have. He stated that they are making decisions and people do not trust you. Commissioner Williams discussed that a lot of this work is off State Contract and what is allowed by D.O.T. guidelines. Commissioner Williams stated that the County could go out for bids for these type services (professional) but would be challenging to do on an ongoing basis, acknowledging that there is a time and a place to review everybody. Upon inquiry by Mr. Whitfield, Commissioner Williams stated that construction is a different issue and these are bid out. Commissioner Williams stated that many Counties have multiple standing Engineers, (Gulf only has one) who go through an R.F.Q. process, who can be given those jobs on an ongoing basis and suggested Mr. Whitfield look at other Counties and how they up their Engineering structure. Mr. Whitfield Stated that his concerns is that the process is not fair; the County is giving the work away without getting a comparison. Ralph Rish of Preble-Rish, Inc. appeared before the Board and discussed F.S. 287.055, stating that this is the Consultants Competitive Negotiations Act which does not allow

this Board or any other Board in the State of Florida to bid out professional services. He reported that it allows for this Board to go out and ask for qualification package, stating that this Board awarded tonight a project to P.B.S. & J. from Tallahassee based on an R.F.Q. Commissioner Smiley motioned to give three additional minutes to speak. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mr. Rish then discussed what he knew about the Lola Landing Road project.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 8:45 p.m., E.T.

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

**ATTEST:**  
**REBECCA L. NORRIS**  
**CLERK**