

JULY 20, 2015

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

SPECIAL MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this day in special session with the following members present: Chairman Ward McDaniel, Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, and Commissioners Joanna Bryan and Sandy Quinn, Jr. <District 5 Commission Seat is currently vacant, awaiting Governor's appointment>.

Others present were: Clerk of the Circuit Court Rebecca L. Norris, Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, Clerks Budget/Finance Director Sherry Herring, Chief Administrator Don Butler, County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Assistant Administrator Michael L. Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Gulf County Economic Development Director Chris Holley, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, Fire Coordinator Brad Price, Deputy Grants Coordinator Kari Summers, Information Technology Dennis Barfield, Sr., Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, County Planner Brett Lowry, Property Appraiser Mitch Burke, Deputy Property Appraiser Dennis Barfield, Jr., Public Works Director Joe Danford, Sheriff Mike Harrison, Deputy Supervisor of Elections Gene McCroan, Tax Collector Shirley Jenkins, and Veterans' Service Officer Joe Paul.

Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., E.T.

BUDGET

Chief Administrator Butler presented a handout and discussed the outside agencies that are requesting additional funding for FY2015-16. He reported that their additional request for funds is not in the proposed budget request but could be added should the Board vote to give them an increase in funding. Chief Administrator Butler stated that if the Board approves the additional funding requests from these outside agencies, the additional total dollar amount would be \$84,435.00. He discussed a proposed increase of the St. Joseph Dependent Fire Control District to .5000 mills for FY2015-16 to help pay toward the County's communication system. After discussion, he then discussed pages 10-11 of Proposal #2 of the Budget Packet; highlighting those line items with increases. Commissioner McLemore requested that the Property Appraiser and the Sheriff be given time to explain their increases; stating that he would like to hold any millage increase to one-quarter (1/4) of a mill. Commission Bryan discussed her concerns regarding allowing the public time to review the proposed budget and being mindful of every dollar that the County spends. Commissioner Quinn stated that he would like to hear from these departments (Property Appraiser and Sheriff) as well. Chairman McDaniel stated that he agrees with Commissioner Bryan in that the Board needs to closely review this proposed budget; discussing his concerns regarding taxes, revenue, and meeting the budget.

Property Appraiser Burke appeared before the Board to report that his increase (\$122,116.00) is due to the need to add two (2) additional employees (field appraisers) in order to meet his statutory obligations and to cover the travel and education for certification for the additional field appraisers. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Property Appraiser Burke stated that he does not have the numbers in front of him, but he would estimate that one new field appraiser would be approximately \$30,000.00. Commissioner McLemore stated that he did not have a problem with hiring one (1) employee. Clerk Finance Officer Herring reported that the cost for one (1) new hire would be \$44,357.00 which would include FICA, Medicaid, and etc., but not travel and education. After discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve only a \$50,000.00 increase over the FY2014-15 Budget (a decrease of \$72,116.00 from his request). Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Sheriff Harrison appeared before the Board to discuss the reasons for his increase budget request (\$194,021.00); as follows: 1. an additional position for Courthouse Security; 2. an additional position for patrolling the beaches; 3. three (3%) percent salary increase for employees; 4. \$35,000.00 for a new vehicle, and; 5. \$40,000.00 for radios for his fleet of vehicles. After discussion regarding the Leave No Trace and Beach Driving Ordinances, Commissioner McLemore motioned to throw out the Leave No Trace Ordinance. County Attorney Novak advised the Board that repealing an ordinance would require the Board to go through public hearings. After further discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for a second. There being no second, the motion failed for a lack of a second. After discussion, Commissioner McLemore then motioned to approve a \$100,000.00 increase in the Sheriff's budget over the FY2014-15 Budget (\$94,021.00 decrease from his request). Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner Bryan voting no.

Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Grants Department has been consolidated for a savings of \$75,000.00 and the reduction is in the proposed budget. He discussed the funding request list from outside agencies that was previously submitted to the Board for review. Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Board has no choice but to fund the D.R.A. (Downtown Redevelopment Agency) and the Medical Examiner; stating that these two (2) line items are listed within the proposed budget. He then discussed each outside agency's funding requests from the list provided. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Chief Administrator Butler stated that it would be hard to get the budget down to a one-quarter (1/4) of a mill increase. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan inquired about the purpose of the \$10,150.00 appropriation to the City of Wewahitchka for T.L. James Park. Chief Administrator Butler stated that the City of Wewahitchka contention is that the County uses this park. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan motioned to strike (remove) the \$10,500.00 from the budget to the City of Wewahitchka for T.L. James Park. After further discussion, Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion for discussion, stating that he would like Staff to review and discuss with the City of Wewahitchka on how these funds are used. Commissioner Bryan then amended her motion, requesting that County Administrator Butler contact the City of Wewahitchka to see what these funds are used

for and report back to the Board. Commissioner Quinn seconded the amended motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner McLemore voting no.

Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Gulf County Health Department requested an additional funding appropriation of \$20,320.00 <Commissioner McLemore left the meeting at 9:35 a.m., E.T.>. Health Department Administrator Marsha Lindeman appeared before the Board to report why their additional request was needed to maintain the same level of income. She stated that these funds will replace the Low Income Pool (LIP) match. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan discussed waiting on this figure until Ms. Lindeman hears from the State. Chairman McDaniel stated that the Board would put a hold on this funding request. <Commissioner McLemore returned to the meeting at 9:39 a.m., E.T.>

Chairman McDaniel called for a representative from the Humane Society to come before the Board. There was no one present. Chief Administrator Butler stated that the Humane Society is requesting an additional \$486.00. After discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner McLemore motioned to hold the Humane Society Budget at the same level (no increase). Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Senior Citizens Association requested an additional \$16,340.00; stating they are now receiving \$33,660.00. Clerk Finance Officer Herring stated that with the \$5,000.00 added this year in lieu of a grant, the Senior Citizens is funded \$38,660.00. After further discussion, the Board agreed to hold this funding increase request.

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the request made by C.A.R.E. (Chemical Addictions Recovery Effort) and Bay Cares. After discussion, the Board agreed not to fund C.A.R.E. or Bay Cares.

After discussion by Chief Administrator Butler, Gulf County Library Coordinator Nancy Brockman appeared before the Board to request the Board fund their agency at the prior funding level; reporting that State Aid has been cut by over \$7,500.00 and their insurance and bonds have increased. Upon inquiry by Chairman McDaniel, Gulf County Library Coordinator Brockman reported that both municipalities contribute funds; stating that she has requested an increase in funding to assist with State Aid cuts from them as well. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan discussed the level increase of \$13,340.00. She then motioned to approve the \$13,340.00 increase over the FY2014-15 Budget. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion failed 2 to 2, with Chairman McDaniel and Commissioner McLemore voting no.

Chief Administrator Butler recommended hiring a building inspector and discussed hiring a code enforcement officer. Commissioner McLemore motioned to remove the funds to hire both positions (building inspector, \$63,000.00 and the code enforcement officer).

Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Chief Administrator Butler reported it would be a decrease of \$63,000.00 for the building inspector and a decrease of \$51,500.00 for the code enforcement officer. He then amended his motion to leave the new hire of a code enforcement officer out of the proposed budget (decrease of \$51,548.00), and to leave the new position of a building inspector and the vehicle in the proposed budget. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. After discussion by Commissioner Bryan, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. Pat Hardman, of Port St. Joe appeared before the Board to state that the Building Department does need the extra position. She inquired as to why this would be funded from ad valorem dollars instead of permitting fees collected by the Building Department. After further discussion, the motion passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner Bryan voting no. <Commissioner Quinn left the meeting at 10:12 a.m., E.T.> Commissioner McLemore motioned to remove the purchase of an animal control vehicle (decrease of \$22,000.00). Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously (3-0) <Commissioner Quinn returned to the meeting at 10:14 a.m., E.T.>. After discussion, The Board agreed to hold a budget meeting on Tuesday, July 28th at 8:00 a.m., E.T.

WHITE CITY PARK

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Bryan, Chief Administrator Butler reported that the County accepted bids for the White City Boat Dock (Bid #1314-26) project; stating that the bids came in at \$40,000.00 to \$60,000.00. He reported that if the County spends funds for this project that it will be temporary due to the retaining wall that the Corps of Engineers installed is giving way and leaning into the basin. He discussed his concerns regarding the leaning retaining wall and the cost for this project; stating that the County could look to apply for grants to help fund this project. Upon inquiry by Chairman McDaniel, Chief Administrator Butler reported that there are three (3) boat ramps at the White City Park. Chairman McDaniel stated that there is not a problem with loading and off-loading of the boats. He also discussed contacting FWC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission) regarding this project. Chief Administrator Butler recommended that the County strive to obtain a grant to fund this project. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan inquired and expressed concerns for public safety as activities continue at the park while the County awaits funding for repair to the dock. Chief Administrator Butler stated that Staff can stake and rope it off again to make it safe for the public. He reported that people have torn the rope and posts down, but they will be replaced to keep it safe. Commissioner Bryan requested the Board place this project as a priority to look for grants and funding. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Commissioner Bryan stated that she would love for this project to be on the BP "wish list".

GARBAGE

Commissioner Bryan discussed the matter of yard debris along the coast and in District III. She stated that she is interested in mandatory garbage pickup. Commissioner Bryan then discussed the verbal report presented to the Board by Assistant Administrator Hammond regarding mandatory garbage pickup, and the requests made to obtain a copy of his report. She then requested that the Board direct Assistant Administrator Hammond to respond to the requests. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan explained that she just

wants Assistant Administrator Hammond's notes regarding this topic. Chief Administrator Butler discussed the MSTU and the study that will have to be done in order to move forward with mandatory garbage pickup. Commissioner Quinn requested that Assistant Administrator Hammond provide Commissioner Bryan a copy of his notes. <Assistant Administrator Hammond presented his notes to Chief Administrator Butler who then presented them to the Clerk for the record.> Assistant Administrator Hammond reported that he just provided his notes to Chief Administrator Butler; stating that jotted down notes from a meeting, typically are not public record. He stated that the only person from Staff that makes an opinion is the Chief Administrator, unless he or the Board tells me to give an opinion, he will provide the facts for the Board to consider. Assistant Administrator Hammond reported that the majority of the information presented came from the R.F.P. and the bid (Solid Waste Services – Bid #1314-15), which can be obtained from the Clerk's Office. Commissioner Bryan stated that she didn't ask for an opinion, but requested a recommendation from Staff. Further discussion followed.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Quinn, and unanimous 4-0 vote, the meeting did then adjourn at 10:44 a.m., E.T.

**WARD MCDANIEL
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**