

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MARCH 11, 2008

REGULAR MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in regular session with the following members present: Chairman Traylor, Vice Chairman Nathan Peters, Jr. and Commissioner Bill Williams. Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore and Jerry W. Barnes were 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, Extension Agent Roy Lee Carter, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Shane McGuffin, Grant Writer Loretta Costin, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

Sheriff Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m., E.T.

Planner Richardson opened the meeting with prayer, and Vice Chairman Peters led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Williams, and unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board adopted the following Consent Agenda items:

1. Minutes - February 5, 2008 - Emergency Meeting
 - February 26, 2008 - Special Meeting
 - February 26, 2008 - Emergency Meeting (Re-Convene)
 - February 26, 2008 - Regular Meeting
 - February 28, 2008 - Special Meeting

2. Invoice - Ausley & McMullen, P.A. - Gulf Pine Hospital Bankruptcy Litigation (#64307 * \$160.00 * to be paid from Account #21111-33000)
 - Cathey Construction & Development - Courthouse Roof (Bid #0607-07 * #14 * \$21,210.60 * to be paid from Account #26219-62100)
 - County Attorney Timothy McFarland (February, 2008 * \$9,492.00 * to be paid from Account #21314-31100)
 - Dixie Dandy - WorkCrew Lunch/District 2 (#2415247 * \$82.77 *

to be paid from Account #24523-52002)

- M.R.D. Associates - St. Joseph Peninsula Permit Processing
(#1026 * \$38,000.00 * to be paid from Account #43137-31000)
- Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell - General Employment Matters
(#G214-107990 * #722600 * \$581.01 * to be paid from Account #21111-31200)
- St. Joseph Bay Humane Society - Animal Housing (February, 2008 * \$2,548.00 * to be paid from Account #43262-82000)
- Windolf Construction - Gulf County Welcome Center (Bid #0607-16 * #6 * \$119,199.93 * to be paid from Account #27452-81001)

3. S.H.I.P. - Purchase Assistance (Helen & Peter Larkin - \$17,000.00)

- Rehabilitation Assistance (Connie Williams - \$5,500.00 / Mary Mann - \$5,500.00)

(End of Consent Agenda)

GRANT AGREEMENT BEACHES SEWER SYSTEM / D.E.P.

Upon request by Grant Writer Costin, Commissioner Williams motioned to execute the grant amendment #2 from D.E.P. for Phase III of the Beaches Sewer System project (state line item appropriation), in the amount of \$400,000.00. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

GRANT AGREEMENT FLORIDA FOREVER GRANT (N.W.F.W.M.D.)

Upon request by Grant Writer Costin, Commissioner Peters motioned to execute the grant agreement with Northwest Florida Water Management District for paving of approximately 2 miles of Iola Road beginning at the intersection of Lake Grove Road (\$950,000.00). Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

GRANT EXTENSION LIGHTHOUSE RENOVATION GRANT

Upon request by Grant Writer Costin, Commissioner Williams motioned to execute the grant agreement with the Florida Department of State for extension of the timeframe for completion of the Lighthouse Renovation project (Historical Preservation Grant) until December 31, 2008. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

AWARD BID #0708-12 / DONNIE WAYNE BRAKE PARK

Upon request by Grant Writer Costin, Commissioner Williams motioned to award bid #0708-12 (for tennis court coating & accessories for Donnie Brake Park in Highland View) to McLean Tennis, Inc. (low bidder), in the amount of \$15,870.00, to be paid from F.R.D.A.P. Grant Funds Account #46472-63000. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

AWARD BID #0708-17 / OVERSTREET WATER SYSTEM

Upon request by Grant Writer Costin, Commissioner Peters motioned to award bid #0708-17 (for installation of the Overstreet Water System) to G.A.C. Contractors (low bidder), in the amount of \$627,537.00, to be paid from C.D.B.G. Grant Funds Account # 27550-31000. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

INVOICE LIGHTHOUSE RENOVATION GRANT

Upon request by Grant Writer Costin, Commissioner Peters motioned to pay M.R.D. Associates invoice #3715, in the amount of \$32,973.00, for work completed on the Lighthouse Renovation Project, to be paid from Department of State Historical Preservation Grant Funds Account #57573-31000. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

GRANT WRITER / RESIGNATION

Grant Writer Costin discussed that she has submitted her resignation as Grant Writer effective March 20th, and has really enjoyed working for the Board. She stressed the importance of the Board keeping the Grant Writer position, and reported that the County has received \$10.5 million in grant funds in the last couple of years. Chairman Traylor thanked Grant Writer Costin for the tremendous job she has done for Gulf County. Commissioner Peters stated that she has been an excellent employee with great communication skills. Commissioner Williams stated that she has definitely been an asset to Gulf County. After further discussion, Commissioner Williams motioned to fill this position (take applications or hire from within). Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Deputy Administrator Lanier discussed that the Board has been contacted by Jerry Stokoe

regarding a Community Assistance Program to be held at the Senior Citizens Building on March 25, 2008 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., E.T. She stated that there are many programs available to assist the residents of Gulf County, and there will be 12-16 agencies attending to discuss these programs and take applications (food, eyeglasses, small home repairs, low-interest loans, health care, clothing, etc.), and will have a sliding-scale system.

INVOICE CAPE SAN BLAS SHARED-USE (BIKE) PATH PHASE II / D.O.T.

Upon request by Deputy Administrator Lanier, Commissioner Peters motioned to pay Preble-Rish, Inc. invoice #65606, in the amount of \$6,234.00, for work completed on Phase II of the Cape Bike Path project (to be paid from L.A.P. Grant Funds Account #40341-31000). Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

INVOICE CAPE SAN BLAS SHARED-USE (BIKE) PATH PHASE III / D.O.T.

Upon request by Deputy Administrator Lanier, Commissioner Peters motioned to pay Preble-Rish, Inc. invoice #65605, in the amount of \$19,120.00, for work completed on Phase III of the Cape Bike Path project (to be paid from L.A.P. Grant Funds Account #40341-31000). Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

INVOICE CAPE SAN BLAS SHARED-USE (BIKE) PATH PHASE II / D.O.T.

Upon request by Deputy Administrator Lanier, Commissioner Peters motioned to pay G.A.C. Contractors invoice #5448, in the amount of \$135,715.32, for work completed on Phase II of the Cape Bike Path project (to be paid from L.A.P. Grant Funds Account #40341-31000). Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

UNPERMITTED CONSTRUCTION

Building Official Collinsworth discussed complaints received regarding unpermitted construction taking place, and they will be strictly enforcing the County's ordinance regarding penalties for unpermitted construction (all contractors will be notified and it will be placed on the website).

TAX ABATEMENT HEALTH CHECK

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the County's agreement for tax abatement for Health Check, a business that relocated to Gulf County. After discussion, Commissioner Williams

motioned for County Attorney McFarland to begin the ordinance process for the tax abatement. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

ROAD BOND PAVING PROJECT (BID #0607-11)

Chief Administrator Butler discussed a request from Commissioner Barnes regarding striping of C. R. 30A from Dead Man's Curve to the Franklin County Line (5.8 miles), stating that it will cost approximately \$32,460.00. Chairman Traylor discussed Road Bond funds that are still available that were set aside to be used as grant matching funds (\$250,000.00), and presented the following breakdown for expenditure of some of these funds.

\$ 75,000.00 - Iola Road
\$ 25,000.00 - South Long Street
\$ 25,000.00 - Striping of C.R. 30A
\$ 24,000.00 - Americus Avenue Ditch Pipe
\$ 50,000.00 - District 4
\$199,000.00 TOTAL

Chairman Traylor then passed the Chair to Vice Chairman Peters and motioned to approve the above expenditures from Road Bond Paving Funds that were set aside as funds to use for matching grants (Account #41441-63000). Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and discussed reimbursing the District 3 funds if the insurance company pays the claim for the Americus Avenue ditch pipe that was burned. The motion then passed unanimously (3-0), and Chairman Peters returned the Chair to Commissioner Traylor.

ROAD ACCEPTANCE VICTORIA AVENUE

Chief Administrator Butler discussed a request from Madison B. Kennington, Jr. for the Board to accept the West end of Victoria Avenue (670 feet). He stated that it was believed that the County already owned the road because they have been maintaining it. Upon recommendation by Chief Administrator Butler, Commissioner Peters motioned to accept this section of roadway. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

S.H.I.P. PROGRAM / GRANT WRITER

Chief Administrator Butler discussed changes in administration of the S.H.I.P. Program, and discussed the possibility of the Board taking back the S.H.I.P. Program and allowing the new grant writer to administer it. Commissioner Williams discussed holding a meeting

with Gulf County C.D.C. to discuss this matter. After further discussion, Commissioner Peters motioned to table this matter until a meeting can be held with C.D.C. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

Upon discussion by Chief Administrator Butler regarding checking the S.H.I.P. contract to determine the term expiration, etc., he stated that the Board also needs to obtain a copy of C.D.C.'s S.H.I.P. Program audit as soon as possible. The Board agreed to obtain the audit and requested that County Attorney McFarland review the S.H.I.P. contract.

2008 FIRE GRANT APPLICATION

Upon request by Gulf County E.M.S. Director McGuffin, Commissioner Peters motioned to allow him to apply for a joint fire grant for 2008. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VIOLENT CRIME AND DRUG COUNCIL GRANT

Sheriff Nugent reported on a presentation Gulf County made before the Violent Crime and Drug Council, stating that they have been awarded approximately \$10,000.00 to help fight narcotics use in the County.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING

Sheriff Nugent discussed that a Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be held at the Highland View Fire Station on March 18th.

ROAD ACCEPTANCE REQUEST

Road Department Superintendent Knee discussed a request from Commissioner McLemore for the County to accept the South-end of Reynolds Road (approximately 600 feet) for ditch maintenance. After discussion by members of the Board and County Attorney McFarland that the Board should obtain a limited maintenance agreement, Commissioner Williams motioned not to accept the road, but to obtain a limited maintenance agreement to maintain the ditches. Chairman Traylor passed the Chair to Vice Chairman Peters and seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-1, with Chairman Peters voting no. Chairman Peters returned the Chair to Commissioner Traylor.

LANDFILL TIPPING FEES

Solid Waste Director Danford discussed that the City of Port St. Joe is demolishing homes and placing liens on the property (the debris is then brought to the landfill), and stated that the Board should consider also obtaining a lien on the property for the tipping fees. After discussion, the Board agreed for County Attorney McFarland to meet with City Manager

Charlie Weston to discuss this matter.

SLUDGE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Solid Waste Director Danford discussed that members of the committee took 6 samples and had them tested by an independent lab and the test results came back with levels below what the State allows, and he reviewed the report. Jim Respress appeared before the Board to discuss that the samples were taken from various locations, and that none of the samples tested were higher than what is allowed by D.E.P. Chairman Traylor thanked the Committee members for their hard work and dedication to this issue. Upon inquiry, Mr. Respress reported that Mr. Williams (Williams Environmental) agreed to perform quarterly tests with members of the committee certifying the taking of the samples. Road Department Superintendent Knee discussed the specific locations where they took the 6 samples. Commissioner Williams discussed the possibility of a policy regarding sludge dumping (required testing, etc.), and County Attorney McFarland stated that these issues were addressed in the proposed ordinance. Chairman Traylor stated that they need to begin by tying down the dates, times and places the testing will be done.

AMNESTY DAY

Solid Waste Director Danford reported that Amnesty Day was not as successful this year, as there were only 48 customers.

LEGISLATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN LAND USE CHANGES

Planner Richardson discussed proposed legislation regarding Comp Plan amendments that could radically change the way we do business in Gulf County.

ADVERTISE FOR BIDS - FIRE STATIONS

Upon motion by Commissioner Williams, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board agreed to advertise to receive sealed bids for an Architect to design the proposed fire stations that are to be constructed.

TOWN HALL MEETING HIGHLAND VIEW / VOTING PRECINCTS

Commissioner Williams discussed the town hall meeting held in Highland View on March 10th, stating that moving of the precinct was a main concern of the residents. He stated that he would like to see the cost savings that have been/will be realized by combining these precincts. Chairman Traylor agreed to meet with Supervisor of Elections Griffin regarding this matter.

ADVERTISE FOR BIDS WHITE CITY PARK

Upon motion by Commissioner Williams, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board agreed to advertise to receive sealed bids for work to be done at White City Park (to be paid from the \$95,000.00 B.I.P. Grant Funds).

HIGHLAND VIEW SEWER SYSTEM

Commissioner Williams reported that the bid for completion of the Highland View sewer system was awarded to Royal American, and they have a 60-day completion date. Upon motion by Commissioner Williams, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board agreed to advertise a notice in the newspaper regarding this matter.

OVERSTREET FIRE DEPARTMENT / PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Commissioner Williams reported that a church group contacted him about the possibility of obtaining the old playground equipment at Overstreet Fire Department park. Upon discussion by County Attorney McFarland and Clerk Norris, Commissioner Williams motioned to junk the playground equipment, and advertise to receive sealed bids to sell it. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

LANDFILL PROPERTY / LAND SWAP ST. JOE COMPANY

Commissioner Peters discussed property donations (through the Windmark D.R.I.) and the proposed land swap for a County Department consolidation site. Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Williams, and unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board agreed to swap their 40 acres at Fleming Curve for 30 acres on Doc Whitfield Road (near the intersection of S. R. 71). Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Williams, and unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board agreed to accept 80 acres on S. R. 22 (near the Wetappo Transfer Station), with the County and the St. Joe Company splitting the costs of the survey, each will provide their own title work, and allowing St. Joe Company 12 months to cut the timber. Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Williams, and unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board agreed to accept 20 acres on S. R. 71 across from 5 Points Landfill (to be used as a debris storage site during storms), with the County and the St. Joe Company splitting the costs of the survey, each will provide their own title work, and allowing St. Joe Company 12 months to cut the timber. Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Williams, and unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board agreed to accept 32.7 acres adjoining Five Points Landfill which the St. Joe Company has agreed to deed to the County. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams, Solid Waste Director Danford reported that the County is already occupying the 32.7 acres, and it will increase the life expectancy of Five Points Landfill.

STRIPING / C. R. 30A

Commissioner Peters discussed striping of the side and center lines on C. R. 30A from Dead Man's Curve to the Franklin County line, stating that this needs to be completed as soon as possible.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Peters, E.D.C. Chairman Tom Graney appeared before the Board to present a status report. He stated that Alan McNair has officially resigned as the E.D.C. Director, several other members have fulfilled their terms, there is approximately \$11,000.00 in the budget, and they will need an additional \$80,000.00 for this fiscal year. Commissioner Peters stated that he is encouraged by the progress, and he feels that E.D.C. and the Port Authority are the County's number one priorities for economic recovery right now. Commissioner Williams stated that there should be a joint community effort with E.D.C., T.D.C., the Port Authority, the Cities, etc. Commissioner Traylor stated that the Board should be kept more informed regarding E.D.C. matters (there has been too much confidentiality in the past).

After further discussion, Chief Administrator Butler reported that Enterprise Florida needs a point of contact for E.D.C. Mr. Graney stated that he will be the point of contact until a new Executive Director is hired.

Upon inquiry by Chief Administrator Butler regarding the Sand Removal Project (Jim Townsend said that he is canceling his contract), Mr. Graney stated that they are trying to negotiate this matter with Townsend Marine. Commissioner Williams motioned to advertise to receive sealed bids for a company for the Sand Removal Project if an agreement is not reached with Townsend Marine. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0). Commissioner Peters then read a list of the current members of E.D.C., as follows.

Tom Graney - Chairman (BOCC)
Jim Garth - Vice Chairman/Secretary (BOCC)
Carolyn Husband - Treasurer (At-Large)
Jerald Gaskin - Member (City of Wewahitchka)
Eddie Fields - Member (City of Port St. Joe)
Tommy Lake - Member (At-Large)
Doug Kent - Member (At-Large)
Keith Jones - Member (At-Large)
Joe Rentfro - Member (BOCC)

E.D.C. member Jim Garth appeared before the Board to discuss that the new E.D.C. members sense the urgency to do something quickly, and will need help from the Board both physically and fiscally. Commissioner Williams requested that Planner Richardson meet with E.D.C. to go over issues regarding the Comp Plan and land use that may be important to what they will be doing. Commissioner Peters requested that E.D.C. also request funding from both Cities.

SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

Upon request by Chairman Traylor, Derwin White and Andrew Rowell (of G.A.C. Contractors) appeared before the Board to discuss that they are working on the Sacred Heart Hospital project, and will begin moving dirt in late March or early April.

G.A.C. CONTRACTORS

Chairman Traylor thanked Derwin White, of G.A.C. Contractors, for their dedication to Gulf County. Upon his inquiry, Mr. White stated that 90 of their employees are from Gulf County. Chairman Traylor then presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation, and thanked them for their support given to the community. Commissioner Peters discussed that the Association for Retarded Citizens/Gulf Transportation did not have the funds to complete the parking lot at their new facility, and G.A.C. finished the work for them at no charge.

INVOICE / CHANGE ORDER COURTHOUSE ROOF PROJECT (BID #0607-07)

Michael Hammond, of Preble-Rish, Inc., appeared before the Board to discuss a change order needed for additional work on the roof project (the total project amount is still below the amount expected), and payment of Cathey Construction & Development invoice #15, in the amount of \$66,979.33, for work completed on the Courthouse roof project (to be paid from Account #26219-62100). Upon motion by Commissioner Williams, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board approved Change Order #4 (an increase of \$22,015.00) and payment of Invoice #15.

EQUIPMENT DONATION HOWARD CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT

Upon request by H.C.F.D. Chief Billy Moore, Commissioner Peters motioned to accept donation of a 6,000-gallon storage tank from BreakAway Hauling for Howard Creek Fire Department. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

AWARD BID #0708-15 / FIRE TRUCK HOWARD CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT

H.C.F.D. Chief Billy Moore recommended that the Board award Bid #0708-15 for the fire truck to Deep South Fire Trucks, in the amount of \$209,250.00 (Option 1 2,500 gallon tank). He stated that this is not the lowest bid, but this truck has more equipment on it and will suit their needs better than the other truck. He also stated that there has been some question about the company not being licensed to sell fire trucks in the State of Florida. After discussion that the Board does not have a policy prohibiting the purchase of items from other States, Commissioner Williams motioned to approve Chief Moore's recommendation. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

S.H.I.P. PROGRAM

Chief Administrator Butler reported that he received a request from Gulf County C.D.C. for the Board to approve purchase assistance for Zachary Franks, in the amount of \$17,000.00. After discussion that Commissioner Williams would have to abstain from this vote and there would not be a quorum, the Board tabled this request until the next regular meeting.

FLOODING PLEASANT REST CEMETERY ROAD

Jim Respress discussed flooding on the Pleasant Rest Cemetery Road due to the amount of rainfall recently, and Chairman Traylor stated that he will have the Road Department take care of this matter tomorrow.

C. R. SMITH

Chairman Traylor reported that long-time Gulf County resident C. R. Smith passed away today, stating that he was a great man who was dedicated to his community.

COMMISSIONER BARNES - ABSENCE

Chairman Traylor reported that Commissioner Barnes is absent tonight because he is at the hospital with his wife.

EXTENSION AGENT

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Peters regarding the meeting in Marianna, Extension Agent Carter reported that it will be held in April.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner Peters, the meeting did then adjourn at 7:19 p.m., E.T.

**BILLY E. TRAYLOR
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**