

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

APRIL 8, 2008

EMERGENCY MEETING

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

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Deputy Clerk Kayla Duke, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Planner David Richardson, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

Chairman Traylor called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., E.T.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Chairman Traylor discussed numerous complaints against Mosquito Control and the need to reassure the community that there is a plan. Solid Waste Director Joe Danford discussed the problem of two employees being out due to illness, leaving Mosquito Control with only two people qualified to spray. Danford discussed the issue of being limited by "the label" and the law as to when, where, and how often they can spray. Danford discussed possible solutions such as spraying before daylight and distributing self application mosquito spray. Danford stated that the primary setback Mosquito Control is facing is a lack of equipment and man power. Commissioner McLemore addressed the possibility of contracting a helicopter to spray, stating that he had located the funds to hire a helicopter. Danford stated that the cost would exceed the available funds. Commissioner McLemore inquired about the possibility of transferring employees within the county to Mosquito Control on a temporary basis. Commissioner Williams and Joe Danford discussed possible budget amendments to accomplish this. Danford stated that he has reviewed the budget and between himself and Mark they can supervise 20 people under their license. They can poll the Union for employees that might be interested. Danford discussed the need to follow the justifications of spraying. Danford brought to the attention of the Board that the Mosquito Control Department underwent an intense inspection this day and had zero violations. Upon inquiry by Chairman Traylor, Doug Kent expressed concerns with mosquito spraying in relation to bee keeping and the need to work around the bee schedule. Chairman Traylor stated that at some point public health and safety supersedes bee safety. Mr. Danford discussed the effectiveness of the new plan but stated that time and training is the main problem. Discussion followed concerning how the board should proceed with filling the temporary sprayer positions and whether incentives could be offered to motivate employees to apply. Commissioner Williams motioned for Mosquito

Control to speak with county employees concerning temporary position first, and then advertise to the public, if necessary, and to give Joe Danford authority to make that decision. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Attorney McFarland discussed giving an incentive to the Union if a Union employee shows interest in the position. Upon Mr. Danford's recommendation, Commissioner Williams motioned to give Danford authorization to train six employees for Mosquito Control. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Williams motioned to give Don Butler the ability to make the contractual agreement once he knows what the results of the negotiations with the Union are without the need to call another meeting. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Bill Stitt approached the board to inquire how the public can help themselves by eliminating breeding spaces for mosquitoes. Mark Cothran informed the board that he would be taping a program on April 15 to inform the public of ways to locate and eliminate breeding grounds around their property. Paula Picket discussed the possibility of running the program as a public service announcement all throughout mosquito season.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore the meeting did then adjourn at 5:37 p.m., E.T.

BILLY E. TRAYLOR
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK