

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

APRIL 1, 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, Vice Chairman Nathan Peters, Jr. and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore, Bill Williams, and Jerry W. Barnes.

Others present were: Clerk Executive Administrator Towan Kopinsky, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Inspector George Knight, Emergency Management Secretary Stephanie Richardson, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, Tax Collector Shirley Jenkins, Supervisor of Elections Linda Griffin, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

Chairman Traylor called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., E.T.

EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER PROGRAM

Upon discussion by Commissioner McLemore, Emergency Management Secretary Richardson discussed the Emergency Food & Shelter Program and the process that must be followed. After further discussion, Commissioner Peters motioned for Commissioner McLemore to serve on the E.F.&S. Board as the County Commissioners' representative. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

SENIOR CITIZENS / HONEYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Chief Administrator Butler discussed a request from the Senior Citizens Association to hold a County Assistance Program Fair at the Honeyville Community Center (with the rental fee to be waived). Upon inquiry about the liability involved, Human Resources Director Manuel reported that the County does not have insurance to cover agencies holding functions at this building. She stated that a TULIP Program policy can be purchased for approximately \$2,000.00 per year, but there is still a "per function cost" that would be assessed to the organization using the building (based on what type of event is being held). She stated that the other option is for the agency to add the County building to an insurance policy they may already have in place. After further discussion, Commissioner Peters motioned to table this request for further information. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

BOARD/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Traylor stated that this issue has been resolved.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Chairman Traylor discussed numerous complaints received regarding mosquitoes and the need for additional spraying. He stated that the public pressured the Board to cut the budget for this fiscal year, and by doing so, there are no funds available for additional spraying (chemicals, payroll, etc.). He further stated that it was stressed during the budget session that the drastic cut in the budget would create a drastic reduction in services. Commissioner Williams discussed having Chief Administrator Butler look to see if there are funds available in any other areas.

Solid Waste Director Danford stated that one of the sprayers caught on fire and needs to be replaced (they now only have 3 sprayers in operation). He stated that this is a sole-source item that will have to be purchased with funds from the Chemicals line item (\$5,500.00) because there are no funds for the equipment. The Board had no objection. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Peters regarding insurance coverage for the sprayer, Solid Waste Director Danford stated that the deductible for the insurance is \$5,000.00.

BUDGET

Chief Administrator Butler then gave the following PowerPoint presentation regarding the budget for fiscal year 2008-09.

MILLAGE RATES / ROLLED-BACK RATES

- With a simple majority, the maximum rate that may be levied shall be the rolled-back rate plus adjustment for growth per capita Florida Personal Income.
- With a four (4) vote, 110% of the rolled-back rate adjusted can be levied.
- With a unanimous vote, the maximum millage rate allowed is 10. If approved by referendum, a simple majority.

ITEMS NEEDING FUNDING

- Courthouse Roof \$ 250,000.00

▪ Honeyville Storm Shelter	472,000.00
▪ Public Works Building	150,000.00
▪ Air Conditioner for Courthouse	110,000.00
▪ Parks & Recreation (City of PSJ)	600,000.00
▪ Landfill	100,000.00
▪ Road Funding Matches	200,000.00
▪ Mosquito Control Building	200,000.00
▪ E.M.S. Building	500,000.00
▪ Sheriff's Office (Patrol Cars)	100,000.00
▪ Old Courthouse Repairs	<u>200,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2,882,000.00

FUNDING NEEDS NOT INCLUDED ABOVE

- Site Work for Consolidation Concept
- Consolidated Building
- Replacement Equipment at Public Works, Road Department, Mosquito Control, Solid Waste or Maintenance
- Operation & Maintenance Funding for County Parks
- Pay Raises for Employees
- Accounting System (Job Orders, etc.)
- Funding to meet Model Jail Standards
- Affordable Housing
- Radio Tower Repairs
- Repairs for Interior of the Courthouse
- Catastrophe Fund
- Professional Services Litigation
- Telephone System Replacement at Courthouse
- Courthouse Security

Chief Administrator Butler also presented graphs showing the changes in the Producer Price Index, Unrealized Ad Valorem Taxes for the past 10 years, Constitutional Officer Salaries for the past 10 years, and Gulf County's Ad Valorem Taxes for the past 10 years. He stated that the Board really needs to consider giving raises to the employees this year, because their cost of living has increased significantly.

Members of the Board then discussed the financial hardships that the Board has been experiencing this fiscal year. Chairman Traylor stated that he feels the one-half cent sales tax is the fairest way to pay for the items listed above, instead of increasing the ad valorem taxes to pay these costs. After discussion regarding items the Budget/ Alternative Revenue Committee are working on, Chief Administrator Butler reported that they welcome any comments from the Board members.

Earl Miller, of Indian Pass, appeared before the Board to inquire about the possibility of “privatizing” various services in the County (beach cleanup, landfill operations, Courthouse Security, etc.). He further discussed the possibility of charging boat launch fees at the boat ramps. Members of the Board and Staff discussed these issues and laws governing these matters, stating that they are looking at many options to reduce expenditures.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 1:19 p.m., E.T.

BILLY E. TRAYLOR
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK