

JULY 9, 2013

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

REGULAR MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in regular session with the following members present: Chairman Tynalin Smiley, Vice Chairman Ward McDaniel, and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore, Joanna Bryan, and Warren J. Yeager, Jr.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Sherry Herring, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael L. Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Deputy Administrator Brett Lowry, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Building Inspector George Knight, Central Service Director Denise Manuel, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, Fire Coordinator Brad Price, Maintenance Supervisor Steve Mork, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Preble-Rish/County Engineer Clay Smallwood, III, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Assistant Public Works Director Jake Lewis, Sheriff Mike Harrison, and T.D.C. Executive Director Jennifer Jenkins.

Sheriff Harrison called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., E.T.

Clerk Norris opened the meeting with prayer, and Chairman Smiley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Yeager discussed Item #3 (Pages 10-11) of the Consent Agenda, stating he needs to abstain due to a business relationship with Preble-Rish, Inc. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously, with Commissioner Yeager abstaining from Item #3 (Pages 10-11), as follows: <Form 8B on file in the Clerk's Office.>

1. Minutes – Correction to May 28, 2013
2. Approval of Checks and Warrants for June, 2013 which are incorporated herein by reference, pursuant to Chapter 136.06 F.S.
3. Bid Award – Bid #1213-14 LAP Design Proposals for C.R. 386 Striping
4. Grant Agreement – Emergency Management (Emergency Preparedness Grant (E.M.P.G.) Agreement Contract #14-FG-____-02-33-01-090 * \$54,428.00)

- Emergency Management (Emergency Management Preparedness Assistance (E.M.P.A.) Grant Agreement Contract #14-BG-____-02-33-01-023 * \$105,806.00)
- 5. Inventory – Fire Coordinator (Transfer 30 Yamaha Jet Drive Outboard Motor Serial #1004975 * Model #F40JEA from Gulf County Beaches Fire Department to Gulf County Search and Rescue)
- 6. Invoices – County Attorney Jeremy Novak – Professional Services (File No. 2200-005 * April-June, 2013 * \$4,991.00 * to be paid from Account #21314-31100)
 - UniFirst Corporation (Old Courthouse * Invoice #2710047833 * \$19.06 * Invoice #2710048298 * \$19.06 * Public Works * Invoice #2710047834 * \$10.00 * Invoice #2710048299 * \$10.00 * Invoice #2710047838 * \$68.50 * Invoice #271004-8303 * \$68.50 * Invoice #2710047835 * \$62.55 * Invoice #2710047836 * \$51.12 * Maintenance * Invoice #271004-7837 * \$39.12)
- 7. Policy – E.E.O.P. Short Form (Department of Justice for Sheriff's Department)
- 8. Request for Approval – Mosquito Control (Chairman to sign Gulf County Mosquito Control Documents for FY 2013-2014)
- 9. Tax Collector – Advertising Cost for Unsold County Certificates (\$1,161.15 for 2012)
- 10. Tax Roll Recapitulation for 2012

(End)

RIVERWAY SOUTH

Homer Hirt, President of the Riverway South Apalachicola/Choctawhatchee Rural Tourism Group appeared before the Board to thank Commissioner McDaniel for his service regarding the fifty-eight person governing board that encompasses three states, and thanked the Board for their \$5,000.00 allocation. He discussed the need for two representatives to serve on the Riverway South Apalachicola/Choctawhatchee Rural Tourism Group and recommended that T.D.C. Executive Director Jenkins be appointed as one of the representatives. Upon motion by Commissioner McDaniel, second by Commissioner Yeager, and unanimous vote, the Board allowed Mr. Hirt additional time to speak. Commissioner McDaniel thanked Mr. Hirt for attending the meeting and reported that Mr. Hirt does an excellent job. Commissioner McLemore stated that this Group is making a difference because the dams are being controlled a lot better.

EVENT PERMITS – TRIATHLON & BREAST CANCER RUN

Olga Cemore, of Panama City appeared before the Board to request permission to use the roads and Beacon Hill Park for a Triathlon set for September 14th and a Breast Cancer Run to be held on October 5th. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McDaniel, Ms. Cemore discussed the organization (for profit) and working with Sheriff Harrison to coordinate the events. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, County Attorney Novak reported that there is not a County policy regulating events to be held at the County Parks for profit or non-profit organizations. After discussion, County Attorney Novak discussed organizations adding the County as an additional insurer on the insurance policy for events held at the County Parks. Upon motion by Commissioner Bryan, second by Commissioner Yeager, and unanimous vote, the Board granted the permit for both events.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

T.D.C. Executive Director Jenkins appeared before the Board to present the June, 2013 Monthly Report, stating that the first eight months of this fiscal year, with the exception of the November bed tax revenues, are up by approximately 13%. She reported they are pushing the increase back into the website, stating the numbers were up 62% for web traffic for June, 2013, and 72% are new visitors. Ms. Jenkins discussed the social media for the month of June, stating there was an increase of 4.8% over May with a total of 463 likes, and the Welcome Center numbers are up over 34% from last year.

RECOMMENDATIONS – COUNTY EMPLOYEE INSURANCE

Deputy Administrator Lowry appeared before the Board to discuss the Insurance Committee recommendations, as follows: (1) Health Insurance – recommendation to move forward with a single H.S.A. Plan under Public Risk Management (PRM) that will be administered by Florida Blue, stating this will be an increase of approximately 6.5%, and PRM is a self insured pool, (2) Dental Insurance – recommendation to accept current provider, Florida Combined Life with a one (1) year commitment at a 20% increase, or approximately \$100.00 per month to the County, (3) Life Insurance – recommendation to accept the renewal offer with ING with an increase of approximately \$100.00 per month with a two year rate guarantee, (4) Voluntary Vision Insurance – recommendation to move forward with a two year renewal with our current provider Humana, with no change in premium and a two year rate guarantee, and (5) Voluntary Work Site Benefits – recommendation to continue with current provider, American Fidelity Assurance Company with no change. After discussion, Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve the recommendations by the Insurance Committee. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – CITY OF PORT ST. JOE

County Attorney Novak gave an update regarding the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Port St. Joe, stating that the Board will have something to review within the next two weeks.

HEALTH SERVICES – WEWAHITCHKA

County Attorney Novak reported that a tentative date has been set to hold a public workshop at the Honeyville Community Center in Wewahitchka on July 30, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., C.T. to discuss health services; stating that representatives from the Gulf County Health Department and Sacred Heart Hospital will be attending this workshop.

PORT AUTHORITY

County Attorney Novak discussed Item F (Page 50) in the Information Packet regarding a letter from the Port Authority; reporting their Summary Judgment Hearing is scheduled for July 16th.

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN/GRANT EXTENSION – U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE

County Attorney Novak reported they have received confirmation regarding the extension request for the Habitat Conservation Plan (H.C.P.) Grant, stating that the next step is to execute the contract once received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

REDISTRICTING

County Attorney Novak reported that Sniffen & Spellman will appear before the Board later this month to present an update regarding redistricting.

PROCLAMATION – PORT AUTHORITY

County Attorney Novak discussed a proposed proclamation with the St. Joe Company regarding the Port Authority. Commissioner Yeager discussed his concerns in support of the proposed proclamation. Commissioner Yeager motioned to adopt the proposed Proclamation regarding the Port Authority. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

SETTLEMENT – BRITISH PETROLEUM (B.P.) DISTRIBUTION & CLAIMS

County Attorney Novak discussed the previously approved acceptance of the partial distribution & claims settlement from B.P., stating that Beasley Allen Law Firm has provided those funds, in the amount of \$20,781.68, which will be submitted to the Clerk's Office.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS – LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (L.D.R.)

County Attorney Novak reported that the L.D.R. Ordinance has been submitted to the State, stating there are some amendments to this ordinance which will be advertised and public hearings will be held later this month.

MEETING – TENTATIVE BUDGET

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the Budget Review Committee meeting that was held last week and requested that the Chairman schedule a Tentative Budget meeting.

RESIGNATION – VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER

Chief Administrator Butler reported that Veterans Service Officer James Kennedy has submitted his resignation, effective September 30, 2013.

MEETING – TENTATIVE BUDGET

Commissioner McDaniel requested the proposed budget meeting be scheduled as soon as possible and for Chief Administrator Butler to work with the Constitutional Officers in scheduling this meeting.

DISTRICT III - COMMUNICATION

Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Commissioner Bryan stated that she does have a County cell phone. Commissioner McLemore discussed his concerns regarding phone calls received from residents of District III, stating they are unable to reach Commissioner Bryan by phone. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan requested a list of the residents that had called so that she may get in contact with them. Commissioner Bryan stated that she is receiving calls regarding the water issue.

PUBLIC HEARING – F.D.O.T.

Commissioner Yeager reported the Florida Department of Transportation (F.D.O.T.) will be holding a Public Hearing to discuss C-30 on July 16th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., E.T. at the Buffer Preserve.

REPAIR – COUNTY ROADS

Commissioner McDaniel discussed the recent rain and road conditions and requested that Assistant Public Works Director Lewis check all the County roads to prioritize the road repair.

SOFTBALL – 12U DIXIE YOUTH GIRLS

Commissioner McLemore reported the 12 & Under Dixie Youth Girls Softball won the State Championship. Sheriff Harrison stated the team is preparing for the World Series that will be held in South Carolina later this month.

Chairman Smiley called for public discussion.

VIOLATION – SIGN ORDINANCE

Bill Williams, III appeared before the Board to discuss the matter regarding the sign at Beacon Hill, stating the sign was to be torn down and that he is the owner of the sign. Mr. Williams stated he is willing to provide the funds to repair the sign, but needs a commitment from the County that they will extend the agreement. After discussion by Mr. Williams, County Attorney Novak discussed the background of the sign, stating the sign was cited under the new Sign Ordinance. He reported that the County was preparing to tear down the sign (no claim of ownership), but Mr. Williams came forward and notified Code Enforcement Officer Aiken that he is the owner and did not receive notice. County Attorney Novak discussed the issue regarding the land use element as to where the sign is located, also stating the Land Agreement has expired. Commissioner Bryan reported that the Schrader's do not want to use this sign and she stated she is not in favor of refurbishing the sign. T.D.C. Executive Director Jenkins discussed the need to look at the sign before giving a recommendation to the Board. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, County Attorney Novak stated the sign is posted on County right-of-way. Commissioner Yeager recommended that County Staff,

County Attorney Novak, and Commissioner Bryan work together regarding this issue and to bring a recommendation to the Board for review. Mr. Williams stated there are a couple of issues that need to be made clear (1) the personal property rights were not in the sales transaction to Mr. Schrader, (2) the cut-through road from Highway 98, where the sign is located, that road access agreement has expired as well, and (3) the due process, that he was not given time to rectify the issue because he was not officially notified. After further discussion, Chairman Smiley agreed in moving forward with the recommendation by Commissioner Yeager.

PORT AUTHORITY

Christy McElroy, of Port St. Joe appeared before the Board to discuss an item that transpired during the May 28th Board meeting regarding the Port Authority, stating there was a letter written by Johanna White that was published in the newspaper. She requested this letter be placed in the record. Ms. McElroy reported that the Port Authority as a whole was requesting this loan, not just one member from the Board. She discussed the change in the Port Authority members over the past ten years, and reported that the public is invited to attend the Port Authority meetings. Ms. McElroy also requested that an email trail from one of the P.A.C. members regarding Mrs. White be entered into the record. After discussion by Ms. McElroy, Commissioner Bryan stated that the emails between people in the community and the Port Authority are really not the business of this County Board. Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner McDaniel, and unanimous vote, the Board allowed Ms. McElroy additional time to speak. After discussion by Ms. McElroy, County Attorney Novak discussed the procedure in submitting documents into the record and recommended that Ms. McElroy submit a cover letter along with the documents that she is requesting to be part of the record. After discussion by Commissioner Bryan and Ms. McElroy, Ms. McElroy then submitted documents to the Clerk to be placed into the record.

ROAD CONDITIONS – COUNTY ROAD 386

Bill Williams, Sr., of Overstreet appeared before the Board to discuss his concerns regarding the conditions on C.R. 386 due to the rain, and suggested the Board place a mobile caution sign at State Highway 71/State Highway 98 and County Road 386 to notify the public of the water in the road. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McDaniel, Chief Administrator Butler reported that reflectors and stripping have been installed on County Road 386 from State Highway 71 to State Highway 98. He discussed Pages 10-11 of the Consent Agenda regarding the striping work, stating it was approved by the Board for engineering on this road. After discussion by Commissioner McDaniel; Commissioner Bryan discussed placing signage in locations where there is an emergency situation. Commissioner Yeager discussed the S.C.R.A.P./S.C.O.P. grant that was granted to the County from D.O.T. and requested Chief Administrator Butler submit a letter to Tommy Barfield requesting the project list be moved up (one on the list being County Road 386).

DISTRICT III – COMMUNICATION

Bill Williams, Sr., of Overstreet appeared before the Board to report that he has been unable to reach Commissioner Bryan by phone on several occasions. After discussion, Chairman Smiley stated this issue has already been addressed earlier in this meeting.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Yeager, second by Commissioner McDaniel, and unanimous vote, the meeting did then adjourn at 10:30 a.m., E.T.

**TYNALIN SMILEY
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**