

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

DECEMBER 16, 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, Commissioners Nathan Peters, Jr., Carmen L. McLemore, Warren J. Yeager, and Bill Williams.

Others present were: County Attorney Tim McFarland, Deputy Clerk Kayla Duke, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, Planner David Richardson, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Assistant Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Building Inspector George Knight, Veteran's Service officer James Kennedy, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

Chairman Traylor called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., E.T.

RIVER FLOODING

Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson updated the Board concerning the flooding of rivers in Gulf County. EMS Director Nelson stated that the Chipola River will crest today and the levels should decrease quickly.

SCHOOL BOARD REFERENDUM/LAWSUIT

County Attorney McFarland informed the Board that the Gulf County School Board has filed a lawsuit against the County in response to their decision to not allow the School Board to hold a special election in March. County Attorney McFarland stated that the Board has 20 days to file a response. He further stated that the Board has some grounds to defend their actions, but the law suit could be a lengthy and costly process. Commissioner McLemore stated that he does not want to waste the tax payer's money on this. After discussion, Commissioner Peters motioned to allow the School Board to hold a Special Election in March. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Upon County Attorney McFarland's request, Commissioner Peters motioned to allow County Attorney McFarland to settle the lawsuit with the School Board. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 9:58 p.m., E.T.

**BILLY E. TRAYLOR
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK