

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

JUNE 14, 2011

REGULAR MEETING

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

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, Planner David Richardson, Sheriff Joe Nugent, Sheriff's Office Major Bobby Plair, T.D.C. Director Tim Kerigan, T.D.C. Secretary Kellee Novak, and County Engineer/Preble-Rish, Inc. Clay Smallwood, III.

Sheriff Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., E.T.

Deputy Administrator Lanier opened the meeting with prayer, and Chairman Yeager led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner McDaniel, and unanimous vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Minutes – May 9, 2011 – Special Meeting
 - May 10, 2011 – Special Budget Meeting
 - May 10, 2011 – Regular Meeting
 - May 24, 2011 – Regular Meeting
2. Approval of Checks and warrants for May, 2011 which are incorporated herein by reference, pursuant to Chapter 136.06 F.S.
3. Agreement – Jantech Services, Inc. (E.O.C. Uninterruptible Power System)
4. Bid Advertisement – E.M.S. (#220-115 * 1985 Plymouth * V/N 1P3BP4607JF246273)
5. Budget Approval – Employee Payroll/Retirement

6. Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Shoreline Inspection Report (S.C.A.T. 4/3-4/13/2011)
7. Fee Waiver – Tipping Fee (Selina Roberson Waller)
8. Grant Agreement – E.M.P.G. (FY 2011-2012 \$49,444.00)
Grant Agreement – E.M.P.A. (FY 2011-2012 \$105,806.00)
9. Inventory – Clerk of Circuit Court (Junk #10-372, #10-327)
10. Invoices - Agency for Healthcare Administration - Medicaid (4th Quarter, 2010-2011 * \$203,550.00 * to be paid from Account #51161-82000)
 - County Attorney Jeremy Novak (May, 2011 * \$6,891.60 * to be paid from Account #21314-31100)
 - Disaster Strategies and Idea's Group, LLC - Gulf County & Sacred Heart Hospital Joint Mass Causality Exercise (Invoice #1337 * \$10,000.00 * to be paid from Account #39125-34000)
 - Disaster Strategies and Idea's Group, LLC – Enhancement & Reformat of Local Mitigation Strategy (Invoice #1338 * \$5,142.00 * to be paid from Account #39525-34000)
 - GAC Contractors – Iola Road Paving Project (Invoice #26126 * \$39,379.57 * to be paid from Account #40741-63000)
 - Harrison Rivard & Duncan – Lobbying Services (Invoice #12237 * \$18,333.00 * to be paid from Account #21111-31300)
 - Rumberger Kirk & Caldwell – General Employment Matters (Invoice #761704 * \$483.00 * to be paid from Account #21111-31200)
 - St. Joseph Bay Humane Society – Animal Control (May, 2011 * \$5,554.00 * to be paid from Account #43262-82000)

- State of Florida – Hurricane Ivan, F.E.M.A. (Contract #11-BG-55-02-33-01-142 * \$14,932.82)

11. Purchase Request (Emergency) – Gulf County Beaches Volunteer Fire Department (\$6,972.95)
12. Rate Increase – Waste Management
13. Resolution – Grant Agreement (F.D.O.T. S.C.O.P. J.P.A. / C.R.-30A) as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD TO ENTER INTO A S.C.O.P. JOINT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT (J.P.A.) WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

WHEREAS, THE Small County Outreach Program has been created by Section 339.2818, Florida Statutes, to assist small county governments in resurfacing or reconstruction of county roads or in construction of capacity or safety improvements on county roads; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (F.D.O.T.) has the authority under Section 224.044, Florida Statutes, to enter into an Agreement with Gulf County; and

WHEREAS, Gulf County has certified to F.D.O.T. that eligibility requirements have been met of said Section 339.2818, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, FDOT is willing to provide Gulf County with financial assistance under Financial Management Number 429975-1-58-01 for costs directly related to **widening and resurfacing of C.R. 30-A from east of Money Bayou Bridge to Gulf Pines Drive**, hereinafter referred to as the **“PROJECT”**;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners that the Chairman of the Board is authorized to sign the Joint Participation Agreement (J.P.A.) with F.D.O.T. for the widening and resurfacing of C.R. 30-A from east of Money Bayou Bridge to Gulf Pines Drive.

ADOPTED this 14th day of June, 2011.

(End)

PUBLIC HEARING – C.D.B.G.-DISASTER RECOVERY ENHANCEMENT FUND (\$859,541.61)

Jeffery Winter of Jordan & Associates appeared before the Board and reported that he is here today to hold a Public Hearing for the Disaster Recovery Enhancement Fund, stating that this is supplemental funds to enhance projects selected for the community affected from the 2008 storm season. Chairman Yeager called for public comment. There being no public comment, Mr. Winter reported that they have met with the Citizens Advisory Task Force and recommended to move forward with the projects that would include 14% of the allocation to go towards affordable rental housing, and this would be an ongoing project based upon the work currently through the D.R.I. to mitigate and rehabilitate some affordable rental housing complexes throughout the County and the remainder of the funds to go towards the additional rock revetment at the Stumphole area. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

For Board consideration, County Attorney Novak read by title the proposed resolution designating signatory authority on this project by title. Commissioner McDaniel motioned to adopt the proposed resolution. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-11

APPOINTING THE CHAIRMAN, COUNTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OR THE COUNTY GRANT COORDINATOR OF GULF COUNTY TO BE THE SIGNING AUTHORITY ON ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE FLORIDA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM 2008 DISASTER RECOVERY ENHANCEMENT FUNDS.

WHEREAS, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners hereby agrees to apply for funding through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Enhancement Funds for urgent need projects in critical areas of Gulf County which were adversely impacted during the storms of 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners understands the importance of this grant program and the need for expeditious execution of various documents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioner that the Chairman, County Chief Administrator or County Grant Administrator is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents including and resulting from the filing of this application.

ADOPTED this 14th day of June, 2011.

(End)

PUBLIC HEARING – SMALL CITIES C.D.B.G. (\$700,000.00)

Blunt Armstrong of Jordan & Associates appeared before the Board and reported that this is a Public Hearing to announce the availability of the County receiving up to \$700,000.00 of C.D.B.G. funds in the 2011 application cycle, stating that there are four areas the funds can be applied for (1) economic development, (2) commercial revitalization, (3) neighborhood revitalization, and (4) housing rehabilitation. Chairman Yeager called for public comment. There being no public comment. Mr. Armstrong reported that they have met with the Citizens Advisory Task Force and they are recommending pursuing a housing rehabilitation application for the County in the 2011 cycle. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

For Board consideration, County Attorney Novak read by title the proposed resolution designating signatory authority on this project by title. Commissioner McDaniel motioned to adopt the proposed resolution. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-12

APPOINTING THE CHAIRMAN, COUNTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OR THE COUNTY GRANT COORDINATOR OF GULF COUNTY TO BE THE SIGNING AUTHORITY ON ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE 2011 FLORIDA SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, Gulf County is experiencing a need for physical improvements in one or more neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Gulf County is experiencing a need for economic improvement and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners that local residents be assisted in creating an improved living and working environment in these areas; and

WHEREAS, THE Gulf County Board of County Commissioners understands the importance of this grant process and the need for expeditious execution of various documents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners that the Chairman, County Chief Administrator or County Grant Coordinator is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents including and resulting from the filing of this application.

ADOPTED this 14th day of June, 2011.

(End)

FAIR HOUSING WORKSHOP

Blunt Armstrong of Jordan & Associates appeared before the Board and reported that this is part of the application process for the Community Development Block Grant to hold two Fair Housing Workshops during the application cycle; stating that the first tonight is for elected officials and the general public. He read a section of the Fair Housing Act which prohibits the discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of dwellings and other housing related transactions based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, familiar status, and handicap. Mr. Armstrong stated that Gulf County has passed a Fair Housing Ordinance which includes provisions to protect these citizens groups and also gives them an avenue for complaints if they feel they have been discriminated against.

GULF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Clarissa Herndon of the Gulf County Health Department appeared before the Board and introduced three second year medical students (Jolisa Timmins, Meme Van, and Anquita Patel) that will be in our community for the next six weeks. Ms. Herndon presented the 2010 Health Needs Assessment to the Board. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams concerning the Health Needs Assessment, Ms. Herndon reported that this assessment is in conjunction with Sacred Heart Hospital.

STUMPHOLE REVETMENT PROJECT – INVOICE #3 – I-C CONTRACTORS

Grant Writer Kopinsky recommended approval of Invoice #3 from I-C Contractors for the Stumphole Revetment Project, in the amount of \$226,993.50 to be paid from the

C.D.B.G./D.R.I. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

AVENUE “A” SEWER – INVOICE #26136 – GAC CONTRACTORS

Grant Writer Kopinsky recommended approval of Invoice #26136 from GAC Contractors for the Avenue “A” Sewer Project, in the amount of \$35,480.75 to be paid from the C.D.B.G./D.R.I. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE PROPERTY – CAPE SAN BLAS

Grant Writer Kopinsky requested permission to submit a letter to Eglin Air Force Base, located at Cape San Blas, requesting permission for Gulf County to seek grants and other funding to re-nourish the beach adjacent to Eglin property. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

BID AWARD #1011-21 – AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING REHABILITATION

Grant Writer Kopinsky recommended to waive the Local Housing Assistance Program (L.H.A.P.) and award bid #1011-21 (for affordable rental housing rehabilitation) to Bryan-Co Services (low bidder), in the amount of \$270,062.00 and to allow the Chairman to execute all documents necessary in conjunction with this award. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

D.R.I./STUMPHOLE – CHANGE ORDER – I-C CONTRACTORS

Grant Writer Kopinsky recommended approval of a change order for I-C Contractors on the Stumphole project, and allow the Chairman to execute the change order contingent on approval by D.C.A., in the approximate amount of \$355,545.00. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPLICATION – U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE B.I.G GRANT

Grant Writer Kopinsky requested permission to apply for a Boat Infrastructure Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife for a possible buoy/channel marker system for St. Joe Bay, stating that the grant is for infrastructure for boats over 26 feet in length. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPLICATION – DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AFG GRANTS

Grant Writer Kopinsky requested permission to apply for a Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) through Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant for a fire truck for the Dalkeith Fire Department, and for new ambulances. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

FUNDING – OVERSTREET ROAD C.R. 386

Grant Writer Kopinsky requested permission to look for funding for the Overstreet Road for widening and resurfacing. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McDaniel concerning giving C.R. 386 back to the State, Grant Writer Kopinsky reported that this was a swap for S.R. 30. The motion then passed unanimously.

GULF COAST WORKFORCE BOARD

Gary Ross, Chairman of Gulf Coast Workforce Board, appeared before the Board and gave an update on the Workforce Board. He reported that the goal is to raise awareness and services for Gulf County, stating that they have provided in Gulf County over the past few weeks (1) bookkeeping and accounting training, (2) assistance in starting a small business, and (3) assisted individuals in obtaining Microsoft Excel certification. Kim Bodine, Executive Director of Gulf Coast Workforce Board appeared before the Board and thanked Commissioner Smiley and Chief Administrator Butler for their help at the Washington Gym. She reported that Gary Ross is the Chairman of the Chairs Group for the State of Florida. Ms. Bodine presented a pamphlet to the Board on Gulf Coast Workforce Board, stating that they served 80 individuals last year in Gulf County who needed training to be re-skilled or first time training for employment, and worked with businesses who are hiring. She reported that they like to work with and assist the Economic Development Council, The Port, and Enterprise Florida; stating that they are currently working with the Chamber of Commerce to help find the new E.D.C./Chamber of Commerce President. Chairman Yeager stated that Kim Bodine has been with Gulf Coast Workforce Board for 18 years and has done an excellent job. Commissioner Williams congratulated Gary Ross on his position as Chairman of the Chairs Group for the State of Florida. Commissioner Smiley thanked Ms. Bodine for her assistance in getting the Washington Gym re-opened.

CONTRACT – BEACH CLEANING – BID #1011-18

T.D.C. Director Kerigan appeared before the Board and reported that they have had numerous calls concerning beach clean-up, stating that the June grass has come in early this year, and recommended to review the contract. He reported that they are promoting the beaches heavily and the beaches need to be clean. Chairman Yeager stated that this has been on an as needed basis, but there needs to be a more structured contract.

Commissioner Williams stated that there were vacationers at Windmark Beach and the June grass was 6 to 8 inches thick on the beaches. T.D.C. Director Kerigan requested to continue with current contract (Coastal Parasail) until a new contract is in place. Chief Administrator Butler reported that the contract allows for them to be called anytime, stating that the problem is not with the contractor, it has been with the County not calling the contractor. Discussion followed. T.D.C. Director Kerigan requested to re-bid with one point of contact; bringing specifications back to the Board for approval before advertising. The Board had no objections.

CONTRACT - COUNTY UNIFORMS – ADVERTISE FOR BIDS

Deputy Administrator Lanier requested approval of a new contract for county employee's uniforms with UniFirst (fka, Riverside Uniforms), contingent upon County Attorney review, stating that they promised the County would get the lowest rate from any of the invoices formally billed from Riverside. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion for discussion. Upon inquiry by Chairman Yeager and Commissioner McDaniel concerning employee payment, Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that the Board pays 50% and the employee pays 50% for the uniforms to be cleaned, stating that the company replaces the uniforms as needed. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams, Deputy Administrator reported that it has been about 5 years since competitive bids were solicited for this service. County Attorney Novak reported that the language in the new contract is the same as the previous contract. Deputy Administrator Lanier stated that she does not like the long term commitments on these contracts, stating that historically they try to keep them at 2 to 3 years. Discussion followed. Commissioner Smiley withdrew the second. Commissioner McLemore withdrew the motion. Commissioner McLemore motioned to re-bid the County uniform contract. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CONTRACT - COURTHOUSE ELEVATORS

Deputy Administrator Lanier requested approval of a contract for the courthouse elevators maintenance and repairs with Kone, contingent upon County Attorney review. County Attorney Novak requested direction from the Board concerning contract terms. Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that there are limited organizations to provide these services in this area. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the request, contingent upon County Attorney Novak and Chief Administrator Butler reviewing. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – GULF COUNTY FIRES

Emergency Management Director Nelson appeared before the Board and reported on the fire situations, stating that the fire situation scale is 646 State wide, and Gulf County is 654, and it is getting really dry. He reported that we are starting to get afternoon storms with a

little rain and a lot of lightning, which is starting a lot of small fires. Emergency Management Nelson reported on the drought monitor for Gulf County, stating that the eastern half is severe and the western half is under an extreme drought. He reported that the Governor has issued a State of Emergency for the State of Florida (#11-128), stating that the state has 330 active fires. He reported there has been a lot of small fires throughout the County, and two large fires (one on Doc Whitfield Road and the other at Lake Wimico). Emergency Management Director Nelson thanked the Division of Forestry, all Fire Departments, E.M.S. and the Sheriff's Department for all their assistance.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Planner Richardson reported that he received a letter from Florida Department of Agriculture concerning the Comprehensive Plan and Indian Lagoon and requested Board review. Chairman Yeager reported that this is in his District and the comments look fine.

GULF COUNTY BEACHES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT – PURCHASE REQUEST

On behalf of Gulf County Beaches Volunteer Fire Department, Planner Richardson requested approval for the fire department to purchase lighter bunker gear, stating that this will exceed the \$5,000.00 bid limit and will purchase from the best quote; stating that they have this in their budget. Commissioner McDaniel motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Planner Richardson encouraged the public to be extremely careful.

COUNTY WIDE VOTING

County Attorney Novak gave an update on the County Wide Voting, stating that Michael Spellman of Sniffen & Spellman, P.A. has received the data compilation from Dr. Bullock at the University of Georgia, and the data from the Supervisor of Elections. He reported that Mr. Spellman will make a presentation at the June 28, 2011 meeting, and requested that he be placed on the Agenda to speak.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (R.V.) MORATORIUM – PROPOSED ORDINANCE

County Attorney Novak reported that the proposed R.V. Moratorium has been placed on the County website, stating that the first Public Hearing will be held at the June 28, 2011 meeting with the second Public Hearing on July 12, 2011 meeting.

AMENDED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – CITY OF PORT ST. JOE – ANNEXATION ORDINANCE

Chief Administrator Butler presented an amended Interlocal Agreement to the Board for review from the City of Port St. Joe, stating that this would replace the annexation ordinance which was adopted in 2005.

S.C.R.A.P. AGREEMENT

Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Board previously agreed to apply for C.I.G.P./S.C.O.P./S.C.R.A.P. grants, stating that the St. Joe Beach roads were on the S.C.R.A.P. application, and option #2 was C.R. 30-A. He recommended changing the application to C.R. 30-A instead of one street at St. Joe Beach, and for himself and Chairman Yeager to meet with Secretary at D.O.T. Commissioner McDaniel motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

C.O.B.R.A.

Chief Administrator Butler reported that one of the major issues in the County is dealing with the County C.O.B.R.A. issues, stating that the people cannot buy flood insurance, the County has a \$15 million beach renourishment project that is being held up by F.E.M.A., and the Federal government will not pair up with the State to re-nourish the beach again. He recommended (1) to seek out individuals who are willing to be on a committee to modify or eliminate C.O.B.R.A., and (2) consider hiring professional help to get this done. Chairman Yeager stated that he will work on forming a committee and report back to the Board. Planner Richardson stated that Indian Pass needs to be included. Chief Administrator Butler reported that one good thing concerning Indian Pass is that the old subdivisions are not in C.O.B.R.A., but all the people at Cape San Blas are in C.O.B.R.A. Chief Administrator Butler reiterated that the second part is that at some point we need to hire professional help to get it done.

STUMPHOLE REVETMENT PROJECT

Chief Administrator Butler reported the County is close to spending \$5 million on the Stumphole Revetment project, stating that the Federal government should have been spending this money, because the County could have spent that money on other projects.

GULF COUNTY C.D.C. – F.H.O.P. – S.H.I.P.

Chief Administrator Butler discussed a letter from the C.D.C. (was in the May information packet), stating that there is a recommendation from Michael Chaney with Florida Housing Coalition, and this helps clean-up one issue he was speaking to the C.D.C. about. He, together with the C.D.C. and Mr. Chaney, recommend that the F.H.O.P. language be changed concerning the pay-off dates on loans as follows: it is intended that the F.H.O.P. loan should be repaid within 18 months after the closing date of the loan, and the home buyer would pay off within earlier of 18 months or 10 days after receipt of their Federal Income Tax, shall be subject to repayment terms outlined in F.H.O.P.; stating that if the County changes to this it would clean that part up. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

S.H.I.P. LOAN FORGIVENESS

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the possibility of facilitating a short sale instead of a foreclosure on the S.H.I.P. loans to get some of the dollars back; stating this is already in place. He further recommended to forgive these S.H.I.P. loans which would help stop the program, contingent upon County Attorney review. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EIGHT COUNTY COALITION – MEETING

Chief Administrator Butler reported that there is a meeting in South Walton County on Friday, June 17th, with the Eight County Coalition, stating that he has a conflict and has ask Grant Writer Kopinsky to take his place at the meeting.

OIL POLLUTION ACT / STAFFORD ACT – DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL

Commissioner Williams thanked the Board for allowing him to represent Gulf County and the State of Florida, stating that he testified before Congress a few weeks ago. He reported that the Oil Pollution Act vs Stafford was discussed and all projects must be submitted by October 1, 2011. Commissioner Williams stated that he will report back to the Board concerning this issue.

TRAVEL

Commissioner Williams requested permission to travel to South Walton County to the Eight County Coalition meeting on Friday, June 17th. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Commissioner Williams reported that the Board was presented a recommendation at the last Board meeting from our Agent of Record and Health Insurance Committee to accept a 9% increase on the Health Insurance, stating that the Board gave him a 5-0 vote to go back and review this issue. He reported that after this action was taken Mr. Torgenson came to the staff and based on the revisions and numbers he found he could drop it to 4 to 5%, which equates a \$51,000.00 savings.

Commissioner Williams inquired of Todd Torgenson about the savings. Todd Torgenson appeared before the Board and thanked them for allowing him to represent the County and allowing him to speak, stating that when they originally met with the Insurance committee, BCBS came with a 13% increase and they negotiated it down to a plus 9%. He stated that at that point if they looked at updated claims experience, then we may can get it down, but it could also go up. Commissioner Williams stated that two weeks ago Mr. Torgenson

recommended a \$100,000.00 increase at 9% and then come back with a decrease of \$51,000.00 after the Board denied the 9% increase. Discussion followed about loss ratios, administrative fees and the process.

Upon request by Commissioner Williams, Tony Grippa of Brown & Brown Insurance appeared before the Board and reported that they are the largest writer of public entities in the State of Florida. Mr. Grippa presented a handout to the Board and discussed the process of determining Medical Loss Ratio and other factors that alarmed him. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McDaniel, Mr. Grippa reported that he was asked (by Commissioner Williams) to review the County documentation concerning health insurance. Commissioner McDaniel inquired if Brown & Brown has any holdings in Gulf County. Mr. Grippa reported that they have employees that live in Gulf County and work in the Panama City office. Mr. Grippa reported that Brown & Brown Insurance currently handles the Property & Casualty Insurance for Gulf County. Discussion continued. Commissioner Williams motioned for Brown & Brown to become the agent of record of our medical and ancillaries, but do not compensate until savings are proven. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion under one condition, that Mr. Torgenson has the same opportunity to come back with information, in writing.

J. Frank Graddy of Gaskin-Graddy Insurance appeared before the Board and reported that he is the 3rd generation owner of Gaskin-Graddy Insurance, stating that they have been in business since 1931. Mr. Graddy discussed many contributions his agency has provided to Gulf County over the years. He reported that they received the rate from BCBS at a 9.3% increase, and with one month of claims experience were able to lower the rate. Mr. Graddy reported that one of the problems in a rural County is the doctor network is not available. He reported that he is not BCBS, he is only the agent here to work for the betterment of this County. Commissioner Williams reported that he has been on this Board since 2004, and that Gaskin-Graddy Insurance has never been before this Board, stating that they are a silent partner behind Mr. Torgenson, and that no one on this Board knew that he was affiliated with this County. Commissioner Williams stated that Mr. Graddy has never been the County's partner; he has been Todd Torgenson's partner. Based on a statement made by Commissioner Williams about Mr. Graddy having a family member current or former sitting on the Board, Mr. Graddy stated that he has no current or former family member on this Board. Mr. Graddy stated that he brought Todd Torgenson to this County, and that he meets somewhat regularly with the County Insurance person. Mr. Graddy stated that he has never hidden anything; a combined Insurance Services sign sits in his window at his office in Wewahitchka, and he is here tonight to defend himself against accusations and verbal attacks. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McDaniel concerning campaign contributions, Mr. Graddy stated that he had never made any campaign contributions to any member of this Board. Commissioner Smiley stated that we need to see it in black and white and stop

pointing fingers. Discussion followed. Commissioner Williams stated that we have a motion and a second to change the Agent of Record at no cost to this County, and if he cannot do it, then we will go back to Mr. Torgenson.

June Green of Wewahitchka appeared before the Board and asked if anyone on this Board had received a contribution from Brown & Brown Insurance. Commissioner Williams stated that Brown & Brown Insurance has not made a contribution to him, but that Tony Grippa personally made a contribution to him. Ms. Green stated that you (Commissioner Williams) are trying to take a local agent out of this County and go with somebody else and that is wrong.

Commissioner Smiley stated he needs to see a little more data. Chairman Yeager stated that the motion was to give them both an opportunity to come to this Board to show us in black and white. Commissioner McLemore agreed and discussed further. Chairman Yeager stated that one of the problems here is that health insurance is high, and the employees are unable to pay for it. Commissioner Williams stated that the other group (Brown & Brown) cannot even look or negotiate if they are not the Agent of Record. Commissioner Williams stated that the County could go back to Todd Torgenson as Agent of Record if they don't find those savings. Chairman Yeager inquired as to the cost of the family plan and Human Resource Director Manuel stated that it depends on the plan. Mr. Torgenson stated it runs about \$2,000.00 a month.

Human Resource Director Manuel appeared before the Board and explained the process for the health insurance renewal, stating that since the County went to the October renewal typically this is the time of the year that we start looking at our insurance renewal, and we look this early to give the Board the opportunity to reject or accept; stating if the Board rejects we have to submit an RFP, and this takes time. She reported that open enrollment starts in August, stating that the premiums have to start being deducted from the employee's checks in September to be paid in October. Discussion followed in reference to RFP's, the Sheriff's Association and the Insurance Committee meetings. Chairman Yeager called for order.

Commissioner McDaniel called for clarification of the motion. Commissioner Williams stated that his motion was to allow this letter of agent agreement to go out so that it will enable Brown & Brown Insurance to review this issue at no cost, stating that they will come back with a presentation of what the savings will be, and if they are unable to do this, Mr. Torgenson stands corrected. Commissioner McLemore stated that his second stands.

Todd Torgenson appeared before the Board and stated if we are going with Commissioner McLemore's second, then he should have the same opportunity as Brown & Brown.

Commissioner Williams stated that Mr. Torgenson had his opportunity. Mr. Torgenson said you don't have to provide Agent of Record letters, you can provide an authorization and the Insurance Company will provide them the same information they provided him.

Chairman Yeager called for the vote, and the motion then passed 3 to 2, with Commissioner McDaniel and Commissioner Smiley voting no.

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner Williams requested permission to work with Ms. Marsha Player, Gulf County Health Department Administrator and Sacred Heart Hospital concerning the commitment in the Interlocal Agreement with the Agency for Healthcare Administration relating to the L.I.P. The Board had no objections.

COUNTY ROAD 386

Timothy Stein appeared before the Board and discussed that he has been concerned about the hazards on C.R. 386, and thanked the Board for addressing and handling this issue tonight. He also reminded the Board that standing water and narrow shoulders are also a problem that needs to be addressed.

GRANT APPLICATION – EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE

Sheriff Nugent appeared before the Board and requested permission for the Chairman to execute the grant application for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice grant. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

THEFTS/ARREST

Sheriff Nugent reported on the recent thefts at the school and the Howard Creek Fire Department, stating that arrests have been made for both of these.

DITCH LANDING ROAD

Lawrence Woodman appeared before the Board and inquired directly to Commissioner McLemore about the gates being removed from the Ditch Landing Road. Commissioner McLemore stated that County Attorney Novak can answer his questions. County Attorney Novak reported that he made contact with St. Joe Company (David Harrelson) concerning this issue, stating that these gates were inserted by the County twelve years ago, and the gates were removed and returned to the County since it was built and constructed with County property twelve years ago; stating that Mr. Harrelson agreed. Mr. Woodman stated that Mr. Harrelson has nothing to do with this property, stating that it has been sold two times, and that Lee Cathey put the gate up. Mr. Woodman requested that the County pay for someone to put the gate back in place. Chairman Yeager reported that he was not

aware of the County removing the gate. County Attorney Novak reported that he is not aware of the gate Mr. Woodman is speaking about, stating that the gate that was removed was on St. Joe property, and Mr. Harrelson confirmed. Chairman Yeager requested for Mr. Woodman and Mr. Cathey speak with the County Attorney concerning this issue.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 8:33 p.m., E.T.

**WARREN J. YEAGER, JR.
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:
REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**