

## **PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**

**AUGUST 14, 2007**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

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

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Executive Administrator Towan Kopinsky, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Chamber of Commerce Director Sandra Chafin, E.D.C. Director Alan McNair, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Grant Writer Loretta Costin, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Shane McGuffin, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Assistant Road Department Superintendent Chris Wood, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, T.D.C. Director Paula Pickett, and Sheriff's Office Captain Bobby Plair.

Captain Plair called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m., E.T.

Vice Chairman Barnes opened the meeting with prayer, and Chairman Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous vote, the Board approved the following Consent Agenda items, after removal of page 53 (a portion of Item #6).

1. Minutes - July 24, 2007 - Special Budget Meeting
  - July 24, 2007 - Special Public Hearing
  - July 24, 2007 - Special Public Hearing
  - July 24, 2007 - Regular Meeting
  - July 25, 2007 - Special Budget Meeting
  - August 2, 2007 - Special Meeting
  - August 9, 2007 - Emergency Meeting
2. BCC Correspondence - Chairman (Support of Coastal Artificial Reef Management Association)
3. Agreement/Contract - County Audit Services (Carr, Riggs & Ingram \*  
(Not to exceed \$88,550.00 \* 2006-07 through 2008-09)
  - Correctional Facility/Jail Commissary Services

(McDaniel Supply Company)

- Correctional Facility/Jail Fingerprinting Computer Maintenance (Livescan 3000 R \* Motorola, Inc. \* \$4,700.00)
- Juvenile Detention Costs (Florida Department of Juvenile Justice)

4. Change Order Proposal - Road Bond Paving Program (Bid #0607-11 \* Adjustment for Gaskin Side Camp Road length and Bea Bea Road length)
5. E.M.S. Fees (Request to write-off unpaid fees as in-kind services, in the total amount of \$13,741.00)
6. Grant Modification - Homeland Security Grant (FY2005 \* \$31,226.00 increase \* #06-DS-3W-02-3201-403)
  - Grant Submission - District 2 (Dead Lakes Park to be submitted for next cycle of F.R.D.A.P. grant applications)
  - Grant Submission - District 5 (Salinas Park to be submitted for next cycle of F.R.D.A.P. grant applications)
7. Invoice - Agency for Health Care Administration - Medicaid (June, 2007 \* #0706 \* \$3,520.00 \* to be paid from Account #52264-34100)
  - Ausley & McMullen, P.A. - Gulf Pines Hospital Bankruptcy Litigation (#58673 \* \$555.68 \* to be paid from Account #21111-33000)
  - Bailey Bishop & Lane, Inc. - Overstreet Water C.D.B.G. Grant #06DB-89-09-32-01-N35 \* Invoice #12303 \* \$13,341.90 to be paid from Account #27550-31000)
  - Bay Medical Center - H.C.R.A. (#07162-00724 \* \$121.14 \* to be paid from Account #51462-31500)
  - Cathey Construction & Development - Courthouse Roof Project (Bid #0607-07 \* #8 \* \$82,059.83 \* to be paid from Account #26219-62100)
  - Cathey Construction & Development - Honeyville Storm Shelter Project (Bid #0607-13 \* #4 \* \$62,957.38 \* to be paid from Account #27172-62000)
  - Coastal Metal Roofing, Inc. - Donnie Brake Park (#3968 \* \$2,564.03 \* to be paid from Account #57157-63000)
  - County Attorney Timothy McFarland (July, 2007 \* \$17,559.00 \* to be paid from Account #21314-31100)

- Emerald Coast Building Materials - Direct Purchase for Court-house Roof Project \* Bid #0607-07 \* #9167 \* \$687.40 \* to be paid from Account #26219-62100)
- Preble-Rish, Inc. - Courthouse & Jail Roof Replacement (Bid #0607-07 \* #65147 \* \$2,771.00 \* to be paid from Account #26219-62100)
- Preble-Rish, Inc. - Honeyville Main and Pump Station (#75513 \* \$15,795.00 \* to be paid from Account #27172-31000)
- Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell - General Employment Matters/ Bolden Litigation (File #G214\_107990 \* Inv. #713860 \* \$742.42 / File #G214-109747 \* Inv. #713866 \* \$301.56 / File #G214-109853 \* Inv. #713868 \* \$40.30 / File #G214-107990 \* Invoice #715150 \* \$161.50 / to be paid from Account #21111-31200)

8. Payment Request - \$12.50 Surcharge Fund Committee (Sheriff's Office - 60% over balance of \$1,000.00 / City of Port St. Joe - 30% over balance of \$1,000.00 / E.M.S. - 10% over balance of \$1,000.00)

Payment Request - Property Tax Refund (Parcel I.D. #01538-120R \* \$208.84)

9. S.H.I.P. - Purchase Assistance (Brooke & Suzanne Doran \* \$25,000.00)

(End of Consent Agenda)

### **D.O.T. / L.A.P. AGREEMENT CAPE BIKE PATH**

Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous vote the Board agreed to execute the Local Agency Partnership Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for construction of Phase III of the Cape San Blas Shared-Use (Bike) Path. Commissioner Peters discussed this path has greatly increased the safety of bikers in the Cape area, and Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that this phase will go from Salinas Park to the Stumphole area.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS PAYMENT**

Deputy Administrator Lanier presented an invoice from Lowe's Home Center, in the amount of \$162.12, to be paid from District 1 Special Projects funds. The Board tabled this invoice until later in the meeting.

### **BID AWARD #0607-35 / GULF COUNTY E.M.S. VAN**

Upon recommendation by Road Department Superintendent Knee, Commissioner Traylor motioned to award Bid #0607-35 for sale of a van for Gulf County E.M.S. to Ellis Laurimore (only bidder), in the amount of \$10.00. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **ROAD PAVING / WEIGHT LIMIT**

Road Department Superintendent Knee discussed North Murphy Road in Howard Creek, stating that this is a very narrow road and the edges of the road that has recently been paved are being damaged. He further discussed the possibility of making this a one-way road. Commissioner McLemore stated that it would not be acceptable to make this a one-way road, but a weight limit could be placed on the road to alleviate some of the damage. Upon inquiry by Road Department Superintendent Knee regarding the garbage truck using this road, Commissioner McLemore stated that he will check into this matter and report back to the Board.

### **INVOICE ROAD BOND PAVING PROJECT (BID #0607-11)**

Road Department Superintendent Knee presented G.A.C. Contractors Invoice #5078, in the amount of \$730,684.53, for work completed on the Road Bond Paving Project. Commissioner McLemore motioned to pay this invoice, and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. After discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner Traylor withdrew his second, and Commissioner McLemore withdrew the motion. Commissioner McLemore then motioned to pay this invoice, contingent upon receiving a breakdown of the costs by District/City/Priority. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Peters voting no.

### **CHANGE ORDER #5 ROAD BOND PAVING PROJECT (BID #0607-11)**

Road Department Superintendent Knee presented Change Order #5 to the Road Bond Paving Project with G.A.C. Contractors (an increase of \$620,676.66 - \$65,000.00 in District 1 that is to be reimbursed by The St. Joe Company and \$555,676.66 for Priority Projects) for the Board's approval. Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous vote, the Board agreed to execute this change order.

### **ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FINANCING OF WHEELED LANDFILL COMPACTOR**

Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Traylor, and unanimous vote, the Board agreed to advertise to receive sealed bids for financing of the wheeled landfill compactor (\$493,954.00), as requested by Solid Waste Director Danford.

### **BID AWARD #0607-34 / ST. JOSEPH PENINSULA EROSION CONTROL PROJECT**

Upon motion by Commissioner Barnes, second by Commissioner McLemore, and unanimous vote, the Board awarded Bid #0607-34 (for the St. Joseph Peninsula Erosion Control Project) to low bidder Manson Construction Company, in the amount of \$20,831,760.00, as recommended by T.D.C. Director Pickett. She stated that the T.D.C. will now begin contract negotiations with them, but the contract will not be signed until the permits are received.

### **F.I.R.M. MAPS**

Planner Richardson reported that the new Flood Insurance Rating Maps (F.I.R.M.) have been received and will become effective on September 28, 2007.

### **PLANNING DEPARTMENT / BUILDING DEPARTMENT ELEVATION CERTIFICATES**

Planner Richardson discussed problems recently experienced in the Planning Department and Building Department regarding elevation certificates, and requested permission to require a higher level of flood zone evaluation data before issuing building permits. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Traylor, Planner Richardson stated that this issue has not been brought before the P.D.R.B. for consideration. After discussion and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner McLemore, and unanimous vote, the Board agreed for a draft policy to be presented to the P.D.R.B. and then presented back to the Board for consideration.

### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORT**

Planner Richardson reported that the Comp Plan E.A.R. has been submitted to the Florida Department of Community Affairs for their review and approval.

### **TROPICAL STORM DEAN / FLORIDA GET A PLAN! DAY**

Emergency Management Director Nelson gave a report on T. S. Dean, and requested that all departments look at their plans and policies in case it makes landfall near Gulf County. He also discussed that residents should also develop a family plan and can get examples from [floridadisaster.org](http://floridadisaster.org).

Commissioner Peters discussed Governor Crist's Florida Get A Plan! Day Proclamation, and recommended that the Board adopt a similar proclamation for Gulf County. County Attorney McFarland read the proposed proclamation. Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous vote, the Board adopted the following proclamation.

### **GULF COUNTY GET A PLAN! DAY PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Florida is the most hurricane vulnerable state in the nation and from June through November annually, the Atlantic hurricane season is with all who call the Sunshine State

home; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's residents and numerous visitors must remain aware of, and be prepared for natural hazards, such as hurricanes, and man-made hazards, by adopting a culture of preparedness; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida has developed a nationally accredited emergency management program and Florida's State Emergency Response Team remains committed to meeting the needs of 18 million Floridians during times of disaster by developing greater capability and state-of-the-art resources such as the State Logistics Response Center in Orlando; and

**WHEREAS**, this 200,000 square foot facility funded by the foresight and leadership of the 2006 Legislature and the Executive Office of the Governor, will store vital commodities and keep response teams safe so they may respond to the urgent needs of communities from the Panhandle to the Keys; and

**WHEREAS**, all Floridians are urged to do their part, to take personal responsibility and to get a plan based on their own needs as the active part of the hurricane season looms;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners does hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing August 14, 2007 as Florida Get A Plan! Day.

**ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2007.

(End of Proclamation)

### **PERSONNEL /2007-08 BUDGET / PROBATION DEPARTMENT / S.H.I.P. PROGRAM**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the number of personnel that will be lost due to the budget cuts for 2007-08 (5 Union & 21 Non-Union), and stated that they need to be able to notify these individuals as to when their jobs will end.

Chief Administrator Butler reported that Richard Stewart, of Judicial Corrections Services, Inc., would like for the new contract with their company for probation services to begin on October 1, 2007. He stated that if the Board approves this, he can give the employees in the Probation Department notice of when their last day will be.

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the possibility of re-assuming administration of the S.H.I.P. Program in order to keep 2 of the employees who are to be terminated. Commissioner Peters motioned for Chief Administrator Butler to develop a plan regarding implementation of the S.H.I.P. Program (contingent upon the recommended employees having the skills to operate this program) to bring back before the Board, and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion by members of the Board regarding who may run this program and their capabilities/skills needed, the motion passed unanimously.

## **GULF COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (G.C.T.C.)**

Steve Norris, Gulf County Transportation Committee Chairman, appeared before the Board to report on the first meeting of the Gulf County Transportation Committee. Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner McLemore, and unanimous vote, the Board agreed to submit a \$1.8 million T.R.I.P. application of behalf of the Port Authority as the County's top priority, as recommended by the G.C.T.C. Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous vote, the Board agreed to submit C. R. 50 as the County's alternative (second priority) for T.R.I.P. funding, as recommended by the G.C.T.C. Mr. Norris reported that the G.C.T.C. is also recommending that Tommy Pitts be appointed to serve on the Committee, and Commissioner Peters motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Traylor voting no. Mr. Norris discussed a meeting he attended regarding formation of an interlocal agreement between Gulf, Calhoun and Jackson Counties (similar to the Washington, Gulf, Bay & Holmes partnership). Upon discussion regarding a new agreement interfering with the coalition they are already in. Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous vote, the Board agreed to join the Calhoun & Jackson County Coalition contingent upon approval with the Washington, Bay & Holmes Group. Mr. Norris further reported that a Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority meeting will be held on Thursday, August 16, 2007 at 1:00 p.m., E.T. in the County Commission Meeting Room.

Chairman Williams discussed an e-mail he received regarding the upcoming budget reductions for the State and Counties, and how it will affect the Florida Department of Transportation and project funding. He requested that Mr. Norris meet with Chief Administrator Butler to review this information. Mr. Norris thanked Grant Writer Costin for her assistance in development of the local transportation committee, and members of the Board thanked Mr. Norris for his work on this committee.

## **DALKEITH FIRE CHIEF**

On behalf of the Board, Commissioner McLemore presented a plaque to the family of Lisa Blankenship in recognition of her being named as the first female fire chief in Gulf County. Bill Davis stated that his daughter could not be present tonight to accept the plaque, but sends her thanks to the Board, Sheriff's Office, Search & Rescue, Fire Fighters, etc. for their dedication to Gulf County.

## **BUILDING PERMITS / IMPACT FEES**

Planner Richardson discussed collection of impact fees within the City Limits now that the Cities are providing their own building department services. After discussion, the Board agreed for County Attorney McFarland to follow-up with the Cities regarding this matter.

## **SACRED HEART HOSPITAL**

Dr. Henry Roberts appeared before the Board to thank them for their support in construction of the new hospital in Gulf County, and he presented proposed drawings of the facility. He reported that the plan is for an opening date of January, 2009, and the General Contractor will be selected in 30-60 days. Chairman Williams thanked Dr. Roberts for attending the meeting tonight to give the Board an update, and for including the residents of Gulf County in all aspects of the hospital (construction, operation, etc.). Upon inquiry by Commissioner Peters, Dr. Roberts stated that Sacred Heart Hospital does accept Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance.

### **SALE OF TIMBER / INDUSTRIAL PARK FLEMING CURVE**

Upon inquiry by Deputy Administrator Lanier regarding receiving bids to sell the timber on the 40 acres at Fleming Curve. After discussion, the Board tabled this matter until the next meeting.

### **F.R.D.A.P. APPLICATION DEAD LAKES PARK / SALINAS PARK**

Commissioner Traylor stated that he withdrew his request for a F.R.D.A.P. Grant application for Dead Lakes Park because he feels Salinas Park should be the top priority for application. He further discussed that the second application should be for the park that scores the highest for the application. After discussion by members of the Board,

Commissioner Traylor motioned to submit F.R.D.A.P. applications for Salinas Park as the #1 priority and for the #2 priority to be the park that will score the highest in the process. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **LAY-OFFS / COUNTY PERSONNEL**

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Peters, Chief Administrator Butler reported that any unemployment compensation costs associated with lay-off of County employees would have to be paid from Reserves.

### **HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION**

Commissioner McLemore discussed a situation in Franklin County where it was determined that individuals were claiming homestead exemption in more than one place (State to State). After discussion that T.D.C. Director Pickett could assist in the research, the Board agreed for Chairman Williams to meet with Property Appraiser Colbert to discuss this issue.

### **F.R.D.A.P. / SALINAS PARK**

Commissioner Barnes thanked the Board for allowing Salinas Park to be the top priority for the upcoming F.R.D.A.P. Grant process, stating that this could be a very pristine park with these

improvements.

### **RAILROAD TRACK REPAIR**

Commissioner Barnes reported that he received notification that repair of the railroad tracks on S. R. 71 will begin the first week in September.

### **HIGHLAND VIEW TOWN HALL MEETING**

Chairman Williams discussed the town hall meeting held in Highland View, and thanked Port St. Joe Mayor Mel Magidson for attending the meeting to answer questions regarding the sewer system installation.

### **WHITE CITY BOAT RAMP**

Chairman Williams reported that \$95,000.00 in funding was received for repairs at the White City Boat Ramp (this does not affect the bulkhead problem).

### **SUMMER SOFTBALL**

Chairman Williams congratulated Cory Adkison, coach of the Girls' Summer Softball Team, stating that they came in 9<sup>th</sup> out of 130 teams in the National Playoffs.

### **ADVERTISE FOR BIDS / AMERICUS AVENUE DITCH**

Upon request by Chairman Williams, Commissioner Traylor motioned to receive sealed bids for completion of the Americus Avenue Ditch project. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **HONEYVILLE SEWER SYSTEM**

Upon discussion by Commissioner McLemore regarding a sewer system for the Honeyville Storm Shelter, Chief Administrator Butler reported that the County has applied for Emergency Management funding to assist with this project. After discussion about a sewer system vs. a septic tank, Health Department Administrator Kent reported that a meeting was held today and he believes he has a solution that will work out (he will give the proposal to the engineers). The Board tabled this issue until the next meeting, and Chairman Williams stated he will also discuss the funding issue with Congressman Boyd.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS PAYMENTS**

Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous vote, the Board approved the following Special Projects payments.

Dist. 1	Lowe's Home Center - Honeyville Park	\$ 162.12
	Wewa Search & Rescue - Donation	\$ 250.00

Dist. 2

Wewa Search & Rescue - Donation

\$ 250.00

(End of Special Projects)

### **2007-08 BUDGET CUTS / HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Health Department Administrator Kent discussed the proposed budget reductions for 2007-08, stating that he will have to lay-off 3 people. He requested that the Board review and implement all possible revenue sources to help support the County budget.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Peters regarding West Nile Virus, Health Department Administrator Kent discussed that some birds have shown signs. He stated that the public is encouraged to remain cautious and following the recommendations to protect themselves.

### **STONEMILL CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Upon request by Ryan Martin of Stonemill Creek Fire Department, Commissioner Traylor motioned to allow the fire department to purchase brush gear, in the amount of \$3,610.00, from the current year budget (funds are available). After discussion, Commissioner Traylor motioned to allow the fire department to carry excess funds forward in the 2007-08 budget, Commissioner Peters seconded the motion. Clerk Executive Administrator Kopinsky stated that the funds would have to be carried forward by resolution at the next budget hearing, and that the fire department should notify Clerk Finance Officer Hand of the amount to be carried forward. The motion then passed unanimously. Commissioner Traylor discussed several incidents in which the fire departments have worked jointly, and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

### **DALKEITH FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Bill Davis, of the Dalkeith Fire Department, discussed a recent house fire in Dalkeith, and thanked the Wewahitchka Fire Department for their assistance.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Traylor, and unanimous vote, the meeting did then adjourn at 7:19 p.m., E.T.

**BILL WILLIAMS  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK**