

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2015**  
**PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**  
**BUDGET HEARING**

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in a special budget session with the following members present: Chairman Ward McDaniel, Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, and Commissioners Joanna Bryan and Sandy Quinn, Jr. <District V seat vacant, awaiting Governor's appointment>.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Director of Finance and Management Rhonda Woodward, Clerk Budget & Finance Officer Sherry Herring, Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael L. Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Building Inspector George Knight, Gulf County E.D.C. Director Chris Holley, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Deputy Grant Coordinator Kari Summers, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, County Planner Brett Lowry, Property Appraiser Mitch Burke, Property Appraiser Office IT Tech Dennis Barfield, Jr., Property Appraiser Office Administrator Elaine Maige, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Gulf County RESTORE Act Coordinator Warren Yeager, Jr., Sheriff Mike Harrison, and Sheriff's Department Captain Chris Buchanan.

Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m., E.T.

**TENTATIVE 2015-16 OVERVIEW**

Clerk Norris advised the Board of the following: 1. The Aggregate Proposed Millage Rate is 7.6232, which is 5.64% above the current year aggregate rolled back rate of 7.2163; 2. The current Countywide Tentative Millage Rate is 7.2442; 3. The maximum Countywide Millage Rate is 7.2442, unless the Board votes to adopt a lesser rate; 4. The General Fund Cash Carry Forward amount is \$7,725,222 as balance brought forward cash (unrestricted portion is \$5,527,824 General Fund and \$670,000 Public Works, and the General Fund Restricted Cash is \$1,527,398), which has been budgeted as a source of funds in the 2015-16 General Fund; 5. Reasons for increase over the rolled back rate: a) net increase of transfers out of General Fund for Public Works and the reestablishing the Capital Projects Fund, b) overall increase to expenditures with key increases to Workers Comp insurance premiums, Property Appraiser Budget increase, Sheriff's Office Budget increase, Jail Budget increase, E.M.S. Budget increase, and General Fund/Public Works pay and step increase, and c) Port St. Joe DRA (Downtown Redevelopment Agency) obligation is \$163,306 based on the proposed millage rate; 6. The Dependent Districts proposed tentative budgets include millage rates of .5000 each; 7. Many account codes have changed from the prior proposal and the remaining codes will be updated prior to the final budget adoption. These adjustments are being made for operational consistency and State compliance updates; 8. Changes associated with the updated elected official salary schedules have been included in the proposed budget presented; 9. Any increases

approved by the Board at tonight's Hearing will require equivalent reductions specified by line item. Chairman McDaniel called for comment from the Board. Commissioner McLemore discussed the proposed budget; stating that he is not in favor of increasing the budget. Commissioner Bryan discussed her concerns regarding the Property Appraiser and Senior Citizens Budgets, T.L. James Park, and paying for an insurance consultant. After further discussion, Chairman McDaniel reported that T.D.C. has agreed to pay the City of Port St. Joe and the City of Wewahitchka \$10,000.00 each for parks, to be paid from the 5<sup>th</sup> penny. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan motioned to strike \$10,000.00 from the T. L. James Park in this budget. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner McLemore voting no. Upon inquiry by Clerk Budget & Finance Officer Herring, Chairman McDaniel clarified the total decrease is \$10,150.00. Commissioner Bryan discussed the budget for an insurance consultant. County Attorney Novak reported that the Agent of Record is under contract and up for renewal in May or June of next year. After discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned to split the \$10,150.00 between the Property Appraiser Budget and Senior Citizens Budget (that was stricken from the T.L. James Park). Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Property Appraiser Burke appeared before the Board to discuss his budget and the pending lawsuits. Upon inquiry by Chairman McDaniel, Property Appraiser Burke reported that the two (2) lawsuits are with Neal Land and Timber Company and GT Com. After further discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously (4-0). Senior Citizens Director Russell Scholz appeared before the Board to discuss their budget. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Bryan, Mr. Scholz reported that he is requesting an additional \$16,000.00. Chairman McDaniel called for public. Nancy Brockman, of the Gulf County Library appeared before the Board and reported that the Library budget had been cut by the State and requested the County increase their appropriation if they could find extra funds; noting it would help the library services. She discussed summer programs and other services provided by the Libraries. Chairman McDaniel stated that the next budget meeting will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:01 p.m., E.T. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There was no public comment.

#### **RESOLUTION – TENTATIVE 2015-16 MILLAGE RATES**

Clerk Norris read the proposed resolution setting forth the tentative millage rates. Commissioner McLemore motioned to adopt the Tentative 2015-16 Millage Rate Resolution. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner Bryan voting no, as follows:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-19**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR GULF COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

\*Complete Resolution on file with Clerk\*

(End)

**RESOLUTION – TENTATIVE 2015-16 BUDGET**

Clerk Norris read the proposed resolution setting forth the tentative 2015-16 budget. Commissioner McLemore motioned to adopt the Tentative 2015-16 Budget Resolution. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public. There being no public comment, the motion then passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner Bryan voting no, as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-20**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

\* Complete Resolution on file with Clerk \*

(End)

**FINAL BUDGET HEARING**

Commissioner McLemore motioned to set the Final Budget Hearing for Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 5:01 p.m., E.T. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Quinn, and unanimous 4-0 vote, the meeting did then adjourn at 6:05 p.m., E.T.

**WARD MCDANIEL  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK OF COURT**