

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

**JANUARY 8, 2008**

### **SPECIAL MEETING**

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in special session with the following members present: Chairman Bill Williams, Vice Chairman Jerry W. Barnes, and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore and Billy E. Taylor. <Commissioner Nathan Peters, Jr. was absent.>

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Becky Norris, Clerk Executive Administrator Towan Kopinsky, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Grant Writer Loretta Costin, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Shane McGuffin, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Jail Transition Coordinator Denny Durben, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Assistant Road Department Superintendent Chris Wood, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, Veterans' Service Officer James Kennedy and Sheriff's Office Major Bobby Plair.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m., E.T., and relinquished the Chair to Commissioner Billy E. Traylor (2008 Chairman).

#### **HONEYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER/STORM SHELTER (BID #0607-13)**

Chairman Traylor discussed that there is some discrepancy regarding the final payment/liquidated damages regarding the Honeyville Storm Shelter Project. Commissioner McLemore discussed a wet spot in the ceiling tile from a leak in the roof, and Contractor Brian Cathey stated that this could be from condensation, but they will find the problem and correct it. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Building Official Collinsworth stated that based on the listed of items required to be done by the contractor, everything they are responsible for is complete. Commissioner McLemore stated that he has a problem with the project being completed after the deadline, and Mr. Cathey discussed issues that held up the project (delay in getting the shop drawings, items not included in the drawings, requirement for a threshold inspector, etc.). After further discussion, Chairman Traylor requested that Chief Administrator Butler meet with the Contractor to determine exact timeframes on the delays. He then scheduled a special meeting for Monday, January 14, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., E.T. to discuss this issue. Commissioner Williams requested that documentation be ready for the Board's review, and Mr. Cathey requested that the threshold inspector also be requested to attend.

Commissioner Williams then inquired about the F.E.M.A. funding requested for the Honeyville Storm Shelter, and Grant Writer Costin stated that Bobby Pickels, of Congressman Boyd's Office, called this morning and reported that the County will receive

25% (State Share), and his office will work with F.E.M.A. to get the 75% Federal Share.

## **BUDGET**

Chairman Traylor discussed the current budget crisis, property valuations, etc. Upon his inquiry, Chief Administrator Butler reported that he has been holding meetings with the Property Appraiser, and if the Property Tax Amendment passes on January 29<sup>th</sup>, the County would lose approximately \$400,000,000.00 (or more) from the tax roll. Chief Administrator Butler stated that this would amount to a loss of \$1.8 million in tax dollars for the County. Chairman Traylor then discussed the need to reduce costs and/or come up with alternative revenue options for various departments in the County, and assigned the following individual task to each Commissioner (to present recommendations by March 1<sup>st</sup>).

District 1 Property Tax Assessments  
District 3 Parks & Recreation  
District 4 Landfill Operations  
District 5 Mosquito Control

Chairman Traylor stated that beginning on Monday, January 14, 2008, the Board will hold a special meeting every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m., E.T. to discuss budget issues and obtain reports from each Commissioner. Commissioner Williams also requested that reports be received from the Budget/Alternative Revenue Committee. Chairman Traylor stated that all aspects of the budget must be considered.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 5:13 p.m., E.T.

**BILLY E. TRAYLOR**  
**CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS**  
**CLERK**