

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

**MARCH 4, 2009**

### **SPECIAL MEETING**

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

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Assistant Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, and Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee.

Chairman Peters called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., E.T.

#### **SOUTH GULF COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Upon discussion by Chief Administrator Butler, Commissioner Traylor motioned to approve the process to purchase a parcel of land, in the amount of \$145,000.00, for the South Gulf County Fire Department to be paid from the South Gulf County Fire Department's Budget. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

#### **PLANNING PROCESS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed developers coming into the County and the different incentives available within the County and the Cities. He also discussed combining these incentives in one location (a "One Stop Shop"). After discussion by Chairman Peters, Commissioner Traylor motioned to proceed with the "One Stop Shop" Project. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion for discussion, after discussion, the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

#### **GULF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE / WARDEN TIFT**

G.C.I. Warden Randy Tift appeared before the Board to discuss department standings with budgeting and resources within Gulf County. He reported that the G.C.I. Facility is located on 365 acres, which houses 3,300-3,400 inmates, and employs up to 681 staff members. He also reported that approximately 180 inmates work within the communities of Gulf and Bay County daily. He discussed employee's salaries, using local vendors, and various other projects which assist in the economic needs of Gulf County, which are not limited to the Honeyville Park Projects, School Systems, and Courthouses within Gulf County, City of Port St. Joe, and City of Wewahitchka. He also discussed savings the County receives by using inmate labor (work crews). Warden Tift discussed G.C.I.'s participation in the bicycle project for Christmas and supporting United Way and the torch run for the Special

Olympics. He also discussed the budget cuts and stated that his goal is to keep the work crews operational. Warden Tift thanked the County for supporting and assisting G.C.I. by providing vehicles, gas, and equipment for the work crews. Warden Tift discussed the possibility of a Contract Squad where the County is responsible for the expenses (estimate cost is \$55,000.00 per year, per squad for the first year), stating that this alternative is available if the public works are pulled by Legislation.

#### **GULF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE / “PAWS IN PRISON”**

G.C.I. Warden Randy Tift appeared before the Board to discuss the “DAWGS” Program, stating that the dogs would be picked up from the Humane Society and taken to Gulf Forestry Camp for training, which would help increase their chances of adoption. He reported that he has spoken to Chief Administrator Butler and the Humane Society regarding this program and has provided a Memorandum of Agreement to the County for review. After discussion, Warden Tift recommended that the Board approve the “DAWGS” Program. Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, Deputy Administrator Lanier discussed the proposed Memorandum of Agreement and the staff’s concerns regarding this agreement. Chairman Peters discussed the need to review the agreement before making a decision. Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, Chief Administrator Butler discussed his concerns regarding funding this program. Commissioner Traylor reported that he met with the Humane Society and they stated that they would fund this project. Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Williams, and unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement regarding the “DAWGS” Program, contingent upon meeting an agreement with the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society that they will fund the program.

#### **GULF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE / WARDEN TIFT**

Commissioner Traylor thanked Warden Tift and his staff for all of their support within the County, and stated that the Board is in support of G.C.I. Commissioner Williams also expressed his appreciation for the work and support of G.C.I. Chairman Peters thanked Warden Tift, and discussed the need for this institution to be in Gulf County. He also discussed the need for the Work crews to remain, and appreciated Warden Tift's support in this matter. He further discussed his concerns regarding the Contract Squad. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams, Warden Tift stated that the Board would notify him of the need for a Contract Squad, and a Memorandum of Agreement would be provided for approval. Warden Tift discussed the hiring freeze and salary budget for Gulf Correctional Institute.

#### **MANDATORY GARBAGE COLLECTION**

Chairman Peters discussed the Board's decision regarding the M.S.B.U. at the last regular meeting, and reported that the County can still have mandatory garbage collection in certain areas. County Attorney McFarland discussed an ordinance requiring mandatory

garbage collection in the areas of concern, stating that complaints are being made at Cape San Blas, Indian Pass, and St. Joe Beach. Chairman Peters discussed citizens concerns in the Cape San Blas, Indian Pass, and St. Joe Beach areas and requested that Commissioner Yeager conduct a study in these areas and provide a recommendation for the Board to review. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Traylor, Chairman Peters stated that this study would include St Joe Beach. Commissioner Williams discussed his support in this study and holding a Town Hall Meeting regarding this issue.

### **UNFUNDED MANDATE RESOLUTION**

Upon discussion by Chief Administrator Butler, Commissioner Traylor motioned to adopt an Unfunded Mandate Resolution, as follows. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

### **RESOLUTION 2009-06**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida is concerned about the economy of Gulf County and the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gulf County Commission has had cuts of approximately \$2 million the past two (2) years to its operating budget; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulf County cannot continue to provide the same or enhanced level of service with continued cuts to funding; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulf County, like other counties, cities, and school districts across Florida, are concerned that the State Legislature will shift additional cost and cuts to local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens support a reduction in the millage, taxes, and associated cost with services, but still demand the same or increased level of service; and

**WHEREAS**, all counties across Florida are experiencing a reduction in property values, tax revenues, other revenue sources, and higher unemployment rates; and

**WHEREAS**, all local governments struggle to provide and fund the services required and expected by the public; and

**WHEREAS**, any additional cost shifts due to TABOR or State cost shifts would drastically reduce Gulf County's ability to provide services to its citizens and visitors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida, does hereby request the Honorable Governor Charlie Crist and the Florida Legislature to NOT support legislation that would shift expenditures and the cost of programs to local government to assist the State of Florida in overcoming its budget shortfall. Also, we would request that the State review expenditures and program costs that have been shifted to the local government and ensure that unfunded mandates have not

already been placed upon local government.

**DULY ADOPTED** this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009.  
(End)

**PLANNING PROCESS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORT AUTHORITY**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed a resolution recommended by the St. Joe Port Authority for the Board to review. Upon discussion by Chairman Peters, County Attorney McFarland read the proposed resolution. Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, seconded by Commissioner Williams, and a unanimous 3-0 vote, the Board adopted the following resolution.

**RESOLUTION 2009- 07**

**WHEREAS**, the Port St. Joe Port Authority has acquired through purchase and lease the real estate necessary for construction of a viable Port; and

**WHEREAS**, construction of facilities necessary for the operation of the Port has commenced on the property; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulf County is located in a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern; and

**WHEREAS**, an operating Port creates an economic development engine which can provide for stability in the economy, well paying jobs, and other economic benefits which will be felt throughout the County and region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Port Authority has signed contracts with customers and the rate of inquiries has increased in pace with the current development activity of the Port; and

**WHEREAS**, the Port has applied to various State and Federal Agencies for assistance and support of the various Port development efforts;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, as follows:

1. The County Commission is in complete support of the Port St. Joe Port Authority as a future driver of the local economy and completely supports the actions and efforts of the Port Authority as they move forward in the process of making the Port of Port St. Joe a viable, operational Florida seaport.
2. The County Commission formally requests that any and all assistance from the State of Florida and the United States of America whether such assistance takes the form of funding, permitting, or any other form of

assistance, be made available to the Port St. Joe Port Authority.

3. That a copy of this Resolution be provided to all elected officials representing Gulf County within the Florida executive and legislative branches.

**ADOPTED** this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009.

(End)

**SALE OF VEHICLES / (BID #0809-10)**

Upon recommendation by Emergency Management Director Nelson, Commissioner Williams motioned to award Bid Number #0809-10 to Patrick Carpenter (only bidder), in the amount of \$1,050.00, for a 1994 Ford Crown Victoria (Vin# 2FALP71W3RX149009). Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor the meeting did then adjourn at 10:40 a.m., E.T.

**NATHAN PETERS, JR.  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK**