

**OCTOBER 1, 2012**

**PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**

**COUNTY AND CITY OF PORT ST. JOE JOINT WORKSHOP**

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met jointly with the City of Port St. Joe this date in a joint workshop with the following members present: County Vice Chairman Tan Smiley, and County Commissioners Ward McDaniel and Warren J. Yeager, Jr. <Chairman William C. Williams, III and Commissioner Carmen L. McLemore were absent.>; City Mayor Melvin C. Magidson, Jr., and City Commissioners Bill Kennedy, Bo Patterson, Phil McCroan, and Rex Buzzett.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Deputy Clerk Tracy Tharpe, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Deputy Administrator Brett Lowry, G.I.S. Coordinator Scott Warner, Gulf County Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Sheriff Joe Nugent, City Attorney Thomas Gibson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, City Manager Jim Anderson, City Police Chief David Barnes, and Port St Joe Redevelopment Agency Executive Director Gail Alsobrook.

Acting Chairman Smiley called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m., E.T.

**2012-13 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**

City Manager Anderson noted this to be the first day of the new 2012-13 Fiscal Year Budget and discussed challenges the City and County will face during this fiscal year. County Chief Administrator Butler discussed his concerns regarding various projects, expenses, and working with the City of Port St. Joe to make improvements within the County.

**CITY/COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

County Chief Administrator Butler discussed the possibility of additional revenue regarding the sewer expansion to Beacon Hill and other areas. He recommended both the City and County apply to the State for the same work projects. After further discussion, City Commissioner Kennedy reported the City Sewer Plant has the capacity to serve Beacon Hill and Cap San Blas. After discussion, County Commissioner Yeager discussed the need for the City and County Grant Writers to work together in applying for the same projects.

**SPORTS COMPLEX**

Commissioner Yeager discussed his concerns regarding a need for a Sports Complex for the community and working with the City of Port St. Joe to complete this project. City Mayor Magidson reported the City of Port St. Joe has plans ready for a new Sports Complex, stating the issue is funding. Acting Chairman Smiley discussed his concerns regarding building a new sports complex and the upkeep. City Commissioner Kennedy

discussed staffing and the upkeep of the proposed Sports Complex. City Mayor Magidson discussed the joint use of the sports complex and the possibly of cutting costs by eliminating some of the city parks and using those funds to help maintain the Sports Complex. Upon inquiry by City Mayor Magidson, Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency (PSJRA) Executive Director Alsobrook reported they can look for grants to help with repairs to the parks through the Downtown Redevelopment Agency (D.R.A.). Acting Chairman Smiley discussed his concerns regarding Peters Park, and stated the County is working on a Sports Complex in Honeyville. He reported that once two more fields are added to this complex, the County will be able to host National tournaments. County Commissioner Yeager discussed his concerns regarding funding and working together with the City of Port St. Joe to improve parks within the County. County Commissioner McDaniel discussed the use of T.L. James Park for various events. He also discussed his concerns regarding lodging and family activities within the County when the Sports Complex is in use.

### **CHAMBER/E.D.C. CONTRIBUTION**

County Chief Administrator Butler reported the City of Port St. Joe and the County has contributed \$20,000.00 each to the Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Council Budget.

### **CONSOLIDATION**

Acting Chairman Smiley discussed his concerns regarding financial hardship to the citizens of Gulf County. He discussed consolidating the police departments and building departments in order to save money. Acting Chairman Smiley stated he had spoken to Sheriff Nugent regarding consolidation and noted he is willing to meet with the City Police Department to discuss this issue. City Mayor Magidson reported this issue had been addressed in the past and the conclusion was that there would not be any savings by consolidating the police departments. Acting Chairman Smiley discussed his concerns regarding consolidation and discussed various consolidation projects that are a success within the County Departments. City Mayor Magidson discussed his concerns regarding the cut-backs already made to the City Police Department. After further discussion, City Mayor Magidson stated he will meet with County Commissioner Smiley to discuss consolidation and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

### **LIGHTHOUSE AND KEEPER'S QUARTERS**

County Chief Administrator Butler discussed the Lighthouse and Keeper's Quarters Project and expressed his concerns regarding funding to move the Lighthouse. City Mayor Magidson reported that the exterior buildings need to be moved further away from the coast. County Commissioner Yeager reported the County and the City of Port St. Joe will work together on this project. City Commissioner Buzzett discussed his concerns regarding the Lighthouse being placed within the City, stating it would help with revenue.

### **UTILITY RATES**

Upon inquiry by County Chief Administrator Butler, City Mayor Magidson reported that the utility rates were based on the Rate Study the City had done. He stated the rates are set to help maintain the Plant and pay down the loan. He discussed the possibility of lower rates by adding more customers and/or by paying down the debt. Upon inquiry by County Commissioner Yeager, City Mayor Magidson reported that Rate Study is reviewed annually.

### **RESTORE ACT**

County Chief Administrator Butler reported the Restore Act Committee will meet every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m., E.T. until mid-November. He stated the committee is currently working on criteria to approve projects. City Mayor Magidson discussed his concerns regarding allowing the community to have a voice on this issue. County Commissioner Yeager reported the meetings are open to the public and the meetings are being advertised. After discussion, County Attorney Novak reported there is a time for public comment toward the end of each meeting. He also stated that the concerns regarding the time in which the meetings are held are being addressed with the committee members. After further discussion, County Attorney Novak stated that if a member of the public cannot attend, they can submit their ideas or comments to a non-committee staff member and it will be addressed and the next available meeting.

### **WATER QUALITY REPORT**

City Manager Anderson reported the City Water Plant is meeting all the requirements of D.E.P. He stated the City or Port St. Joe is aware of the issue regarding water distribution and is currently working on upgrades. He also reported the City of Port St. Joe applied for a C.D.B.G. Grant to help fund this project. City Commissioner Buzzett discussed meeting with Northwest Florida Water Management District regarding the water quality issues and stated that a follow-up meeting will be held on October 23, 2012 to discuss this issue further. Upon inquiry by Acting Chairman Smiley, City Mayor Magidson discussed the treatment and chemicals used to treat the surface water. He reported the water is clear coming from the Plant; stating the issue is the seventy (70) year old pipes that the water travels through, which turns the water brown.

### **LANGSTON DRIVE LIGHTING**

City Manager Anderson discussed his concerns regarding Langston Drive and the need to install street lights and a sidewalk. City Mayor Magidson reported that the D.R.A. (Downtown Redevelopment Agency) contributed funds for this project. After discussion regarding safety concerns, County Chief Administrator Butler discussed applying for a grant for more cost effective street lights. Upon inquiry by County Commissioner McDaniel, City Mayor Magidson stated the plans are to install seven (7) street lights on Langston Drive.

### **ROAD PAVING/STRIPING/ROAD BONDS**

City Mayor Magidson discussed the issue regarding striping various roads, and stated that the County and City of Port St. Joe had previously agreed to share the cost (County and City have designated roads that each will pay for the striping). County Chief

Administrator Butler reported the contractor should be arriving this week or next to start on this project. City Manager Anderson discussed Gas Tax and Road Bonds to help pay for road paving. After discussion by County Chief Administrator Butler, County Commissioner Yeager discussed reviewing the current Road Bond.

### **TIPPING FEES**

County Chief Administrator Butler discussed the tipping fee rates, and stated this issue is under review. He reported the County is working with D.E.P. regarding Buckhorn Landfill.

### **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – FIRE TAX**

City Mayor Magidson discussed placing a third of the Fire Tax monies into St. Joe Beaches Fire Department, a third into Highland View Fire Department, and a third into the City of Port St. Joe Fire Department, and to eliminate building a new fire station at WindMark Beach. After further discussion, County Chief Administrator Butler reported the Fire Tax monies are presently allocated to the St. Joe Fire District. County Commissioner Yeager discussed looking into this matter further and bringing a recommendation back to the Board for review.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

G.I.S. Coordinator Warner discussed the cost saving regarding the street lights. Terry Baxley appeared before the Board to discuss the street lights and determining the need for designated street lights. He also discussed working with Progress Energy on mapping out the street lights and discussed verifying billing.

Christy McElroy appeared before the Board to thank the City or Port St. Joe and the County for coming together and holding this workshop.

Pat Harden appeared before the Board to discuss the Constitutional Amendments and discussed her concerns regarding tax monies to pay for previously discussed projects.

There being no further discussion, the meeting did then adjourn at 7:40 p.m. E.T.

**TAN SMILEY  
ACTING CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:  
REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK**