

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

**AUGUST 31, 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., Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore and Commissioners Billy E. Traylor, Bill Williams, and Warren Yeager.

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Inspector George Knight, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, Planner David Richardson, and Major Bobby Plair.

Chairman Peters called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., E.T.

#### **CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY**

Chairman Peters reported that the St. Joseph Bay Historical Society open the Cape San Blas Lighthouse in September, 2008, stating that visitors have visited in record numbers, and the County does not have insurance to cover any accidents which might occur. He reported that the County has tried continuously to contact the St. Joseph Bay Historical Society to come and meet with the Board to resolve this issue. Commissioner Yeager reported that he, Human Resource Director Manuel, and Chief Administrator Butler met with the St. Joseph Bay Historical Society concerning this issue, stating that there are also concerns regarding the agreement. He reported that the County has liability insurance coverage, stating that when they hold special events it requires special insurance coverage. Human Resource Director Manuel reported that they met with the Lighthouse Committee, stating that they understand the Boards concerns, and they understand the possibility of closing the Lighthouse. She reported that there are issues with the County insurance coverage and agreement with the Air Force Base, stating that there is not a signed contract for the Lighthouse. Human Resource Director Manuel reported that there are special events in the County throughout the year, and they are not covered under the regular insurance, stating that they require special event coverage insurance. Chairman Peters passed the Chair to Vice Chairman McLemore, and motioned to suspend the Cape San Blas Lighthouse tours until the insurance coverage is settled. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. Commissioner Yeager reported that the property around the Lighthouse belongs to Eglin Air Force, and the Lighthouse and Keepers Quarters belongs to the Coast Guard. County Attorney McFarland reported that the County has a relationship with the Air Force, but not with the Coast Guard. After further discussion, by members of the Board the motion then passed unanimously. Chairman McLemore returned the Chair to Commissioner Peters. Commissioner Yeager reported that he will continue to work with Human Resource Director Manuel and the St. Joseph Bay Historical Society, and requested that Commissioner Williams work with T.D.C. concerning this issue.

#### **JAIL FEMALE INMATES**

Assistant Administrator Hammond reported that the Jail lost a female Correctional Officer,

stating that it has become very hard due to the hiring freeze to maintain a female Correctional Officer 24 hours per day. He reported that he has met with the Bay County Jail regarding this issue, and the charge will be \$41.00 per day to house Gulf County female inmates, stating that this will be 5 female inmates per day. Assistant Administrator Hammond reported that this will include in house medical, stating that this will pay for itself through attrition. After further discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner McLemore motioned to proceed with Bay County Jail housing Gulf County female inmates. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**JAIL ADVERTISE FOR SEALED BIDS PLUMBING**

Assistant Administrator Hammond reported that the holding cell in the booking room does not have plumbing fixtures, and requested permission to advertise to receive sealed bids to install plumbing fixtures in this holding cell, stating that the funds are available in the Budget from Impact Fees. Commissioner Traylor motioned to approve this request and advertise to receive sealed bids. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY**

Chairman Peters suggested that Commissioner Yeager work with the St. Joseph Bay Historical Society, and Commissioner Williams work with T.D.C. concerning the insurance issue at the Lighthouse and report to the Board at the next meeting.

There being no further discussion, and upon motion by Commissioner Yeager, the meeting did then adjourn at 11:28 a.m., E.T.

**NATHAN PETERS, JR.  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

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