

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

AUGUST 12, 2008

SPECIAL MEETING

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

Others present were: County Attorney Tim McFarland, Deputy Clerk Kayla Duke, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Planner David Richardson, Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, G.I.S. Director Scott Warriner, Veteran's Service Officer James Kennedy, and Major Bobby Plair.

Chairman Traylor called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., E.T.

INSURANCE PROTEST/BID#0708-23

Upon Chairman Traylor's inquiry, Attorney Tim McFarland confirmed that the County currently has a contract with Lassiter-Ware, Insurance, and stated that the purpose of this meeting is to hear PRIA's protest to this contract, and determine if Lassiter-Ware intentionally misrepresented themselves in their Broker of Record for Insurance proposal. PRIA representative Paul Dawson approached the Board and discussed his disappointment in the County's decision to award Bid#0708-23 to Lassiter-Ware Insurance. Mr. Dawson stated that Gulf County has been in contract with PRIA for ten years now, but did not receive a copy of the RFP, and only had nine days to prepare the proposal that was sent in. He further stated that he does not feel that Lassiter-Ware is as qualified as PRIA, and discussed various areas where his company feels that Lassiter-Ware does not meet all of the qualifications outlined in the bid. He informed the Board that the contract with Lassiter-Ware can be canceled, according to the bid specifications. Upon Chairman Traylor's inquiry, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel stated that she was under the impression that the bid was sent to all of the current carriers, so she did not follow up to confirm. Lassiter-Ware Insurance representative Doug Childers, approached the Board and discussed what Lassiter-Ware has accomplished since he has been under contract with Gulf County. Mr. Childers discussed accounts that he currently handles, and assured the Board of his capability. He informed the Board that since July 7, he has already been

able to save the County \$227,000.00. Upon Chairman Traylor's inquiry, Mr. Childers stated that he meets all the requirements in the RFP, and the only thing he does not do is write benefits insurance. Commissioner Peters inquired if the County will be forced to pay \$50,000.00 to Lassiter-Ware Insurance for quotes received. Ms. Manuel explained that the \$50,000.00 is a flat rate, and will not increase due to storms or increasing premiums. Commissioner Williams stated that he does not feel it is an issue of qualifications, but that PRIA did not have appropriate notification to prepare a bid. Commissioner Williams motioned that the Board reject the contract and either rebid or award the contract to PRIA. Commissioner Peters seconded for discussion, stating that the Board does not typically get involved in the bid awards, and usually just accepts the recommendations of the committee involved in the bid. He further stated that the Insurance Committee was very thorough in the awarding process and since the Board has obligated itself to Lassiter-Ware for one year, he does not want to risk the possibility of a lawsuit. Commissioner Peters then withdrew his second, and the motion failed. Attorney McFarland informed the Board that a motion must be made to award or deny the protest. Commissioner Peters motioned to deny the protest. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed 4-1, with Commissioner Williams opposing.

There being no further business, the meeting did then adjourn at 8:58 a.m., E.T.

**BILLY E. TRAYLOR
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**