

JULY 28, 2015

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

SPECIAL MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in regular session with the following members present: Chairman Ward McDaniel, Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, and Commissioners Joanna Bryan and Sandy Quinn, Jr. <District V seat vacant, awaiting Governor's appointment>.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Finance Officer Sherry Herring, Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael L. Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Building Inspector George Knight, E.D.C. Director Chris Holly, E.D.C. Assistant Director Michelle Childs, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, Deputy Grant Coordinator Kari Summers, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, County Planner Brett Lowry, Preble-Rish, Inc./County Engineer Clay Smallwood, III, Property Appraiser Mitch Burke, Deputy Property Appraiser Dennis Barfield, Jr., Public Works Director Joe Danford, RESTORE Act Coordinator Warren Yeager, Jr., Sheriff's Department Captain Chris Buchanan, Tax Collector Shirley Jenkins, T.D.C. Executive Director Jennifer Jenkins, T.D.C. Deputy Director Towan Kopinsky.

Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 7:59 a.m., E.T.

BUDGET

Chief Administrator Butler discussed Budget Proposal #2; reporting that the County is down to a 2.25% increase. He also reported that the current millage is 7.2442; which is up from 6.9936. Chief Administrator Butler stated that the Board will need to set a tentative millage rate by August 4th. Commissioner McLemore inquired if each Board member has had a chance to review the proposed budget and are in agreement with the mill increase; stating that he is good with the budget and this increase. Commissioner McLemore motioned to cap the increase at a ¼ mill. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. After discussion by members of the Board, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the Chairman requested that the motion be read back. Deputy Clerk Roberts read the motion and second back for the record. After discussion by members of the Board, Clerk Finance Officer Herring requested clarification of the motion as to be set at an increase of a ¼ mill even or is it set at .2506. Commissioner McLemore clarified the motion to cap at .2506. The motion passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner Bryan voting no.

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the St. Joe Fire Control District; recommending that the Board earmark a .10 of a mill for communications. Commissioner McLemore motioned to earmark the .10 mill from the St. Joe Fire Control District for communications. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public

comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously (4-0). Upon inquiry by Clerk Finance Officer Herring, The Board had no objection to leaving the remaining Fire Control Districts at .5000 mill.

After discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned to hold the first tentative budget hearing on September 9th at 5:01 p.m., E.T. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Commissioner McLemore motioned to leave Howard Creek Fire District, Tupelo Fire Control District, and Overstreet Fire Control District at .5000 mill. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Commissioner Bryan discussed the Board Budget under communications for District III; reporting that she would like to reduce this line item to \$900.00 total. Commissioner Bryan motioned to reduce communication for District III (Account #21111-41003) to \$900.00 <reducing the budget by \$300.00>. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner McLemore voting no.

Russell Scholtz, of the Senior Citizens Association appeared before the Board to discuss their budget request; reporting that there has been some changes to their funding. He passed out a handout for the Board to review <copy not provided to the Clerk for the record>; requesting an increase in funding from \$32,000.00 to \$50,000.00. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Bryan, Clerk Finance Officer Herring discussed the \$5,000.00 increase to the Senior Citizens Budget this year due to no longer applying for the (Food and Shelter Grant, previously applied for by Emergency Management on the Senior Citizens Association's behalf) grant. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel discussed reviewing the budget. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Bryan, Mr. Scholz reported that the current funding from the City of Port St. Joe is \$8,000.00.

Melanie Townsend, of the St. Joseph Humane Society appeared before the Board to discuss their budget request; reporting that they are requesting the same amount as requested last year, \$48,600.00. Melinda Burkett, of the St. Joseph Humane Society appeared before the Board to encourage the Board to do a walk-through at the shelter. After discussion, Clerk Finance Officer Herring reported that the amount listed in the proposed budget is what was given last fiscal year, \$48,114.00; not what is currently requested, \$48,600.00. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan motioned to increase the St. Joseph Human Society Budget (Account #43262-82000) by \$486.00. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion for discussion. After further discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner McLemore voting no.

Assistant Administrator Hammond reported that if the Board does not say where to cut, it will have to come from Reserve; stating that every dollar added will have to offset to balance the budget.

Gulf County Health Department Administrator Marsha Lindeman appeared before the Board to discuss their budget request; reporting that she would like to tentatively withdraw the \$20,000.00 increase request and keep last year's funding request.

After discussion, Commissioner Bryan discussed the consultant service for insurance, in the amount of \$19,200.00; stating that the County doesn't need a consultant, but to put the insurance out to bid by the policy. She requested that Staff review this line item further to see if this is something that can be altered before the next board meeting.

Commissioner Bryan discussed the County Probation Budget; reporting there is an increase. Clerk Finance Officer Herring reported that there was an adjustment to staffing and percentage ratios to Probation Budget versus the Jail Budget; stating that monies are still coming in under the revenues received and projected. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Bryan regarding what the overall collection has been for court fees, Clerk Finance Officer Herring reported that she would need to obtain that information for the Clerk's Court System Supervisor. Commissioner Bryan discussed looking at those monies (court fee money) as well; reporting that the Jail Budget has also increased. She discussed her concerns regarding conflict of interest with the same person managing the probation and the Jail. Commissioner Bryan stated that this is an area of the budget that needs to be reviewed.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 8:50 a.m., E.T.

**WARD MCDANIEL
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK OF COURT**