

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

JUNE 12, 2008

EMERGENCY MEETING

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

Others present were: County Attorney Tim McFarland, Clerk of Circuit Court Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kayla Duke, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, and Planner David Richardson

Chairman Traylor called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., E.T.

AMERICUS AVENUE DITCH PROJECT

Attorney McFarland informed the Board that he had discussed with St. Joe Natural Gas Company Attorney, Charles Costin, issues relating to the relocation of gas lines on the Americus Avenue Ditch Project. Attorney McFarland stated that Mr. Costin informed him that St. Joe Natural Gas never received a request to relocate the gas lines, and such a request needed to be in writing. McFarland stated that Chief Administrator Butler had prepared a letter for the Board's consideration. McFarland informed the Board that Teedy Nobles and Jeff Hinote of Preble-Rish, Inc. were in attendance today and suggested the Board here from them regarding discussions they had with the gas company. Mr. Nobles informed the Board that during the beginning of the design stage of the project, surveyors were requested to locate all the utilities. He stated that St. Joe Natural Gas Company's response was that they did not have the time or personnel to do the locates, and instead gave them printouts of where the lines would be. Nobles stated that the plan was for the contractor (Bailey and Sons, Diversified) to call for a locate of the lines and St. Joe Natural Gas would come out and locate them at that time. Nobles continued, stating that this project would, at times, require the relocation of lines, and the gas company was there most of the time. Upon inquiry from Chairman Traylor, Jeff Hinote reported that the depth of the lines varied and not all line locations were correct. Attorney McFarland reported that a two-inch feeder line has been requested to be moved and the contractor does not have the expertise to do this. McFarland stated that Mr. Costin informed him that the gas company has recently contracted with someone to jack-bore this particular road. Brooke Wooten appeared before the Board and stated that his company has been relocating the lines that the gas company should have been responsible for and incurring expenses for that; and the gas company is now trying to charge for the lines that were accidentally cut in the process. Wooten explained that there have been delays in the project due to relocating lines and is not sure when the job will resume. Attorney McFarland stated that this is a time-sensitive issue, but the Board's contract is with the Engineers, not St. Joe Natural Gas Co., and they do not have to get involved in this unless it affects the bottom line. Upon inquiry by Attorney

McFarland, Mr. Wooten presented an invoice for more than \$11,000.00 for relocating gas lines. Mr. Wooten stated that they are not in an adversarial position with the gas company and would continue to move the lines to finish the project. Commissioner Williams stated that the Board should formally request a letter, and support the contractors. Attorney McFarland stated that it would be appropriate for the contractors to work this out themselves. Commissioner Williams motioned to send a letter to St. Joe Natural Gas Co., Inc. formally requesting the relocation of the gas lines. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. Upon inquiry by Chairman Traylor, Attorney McFarland stated that the contractors would resume work on Wednesday of next week.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner Barnes, the meeting did then adjourn at 2:49 p.m. E.T.

BILLY E. TRAYLOR
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK