

JULY 24, 2012

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in a special budget meeting with the following members present: Chairman William C. Williams, III, Vice Chairman Tan Smiley, and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore, Ward McDaniel, and Warren Yeager.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Deputy Administrator Brett Lowry, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, E9-1-1 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Joe Danford, T.D.C. Director Jennifer Jenkins, and Veterans' Service Officer James Kennedy.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m., E.T.

2012-2013 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Chief Administrator Butler stated there had been a lot of work involved in the Clerk's Office preparing Budget Proposal #1 and getting it out to the Staff. Mr. Butler highlighted that \$50,000.00 had been taken out of the budget for courthouse renovations, and noted there was no action taken by the Board on landfill tipping fees, or an additional gas tax. Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Board did impose a 2% freeze on each departmental budget in this current year to roll forward in hopes of giving the employees a pay raise in the upcoming year. He reported the current millage rate today (FY2011-12) is 5.7419, noting if the Board stays with what is proposed it will reduce the millage to 5.6845. Chief Administrator Butler stated if the Board goes with the proposed millage rate it cannot be increased, but can only be reduced. Clerk Norris reported that the Board must have a date for the first public hearing to the Property Appraiser by August 4th, and recommended September 10th for the first Public Hearing on the budget. Commissioner Yeager motioned to set the first Budget Public Hearing for September 10, 2012 at 5:01 p.m., E.T. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Clerk Norris stated the Board needs to set the County-wide Millage rate, noting Chief Administrator Butler presented earlier the current millage rate and the proposed millage rate for the Board's consideration. She reported the St.

Joseph Fire Control District is at .4000 mills, and the other fire districts are at .5000 mills. Clerk Norris reported a decrease in both the proposed Gulf Front and Gulf Interior millage rates for the M.S.T.U. voted debt service; stating the Gulf Front is 6.6995 mills (a decrease of 3.3005), and the Gulf Interior is 3.5014 mills (a decrease of 1.3435). Upon inquiry by Commissioner Yeager, Clerk Norris reported the M.S.T.U. voted debt service will be paid off next year. Commissioner McLemore motioned to keep the same millage rate as the 2011-2012 fiscal year, (5.7419 mills). Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Chief Administrator Butler discussed the need at some time for the Board to address the landfill, stating we are losing \$35.00 per ton and we are losing revenue. Commissioner McLemore stated the County needs to look at a purchase order system. Commissioner Yeager discussed that we need someone to help with procurement and contracts, noting Administration is understaffed. Clerk Norris stated that additional ambulance revenue of \$30,000 has been added to the budget based on projections discussed in previous meetings and will need to be removed should that not come through. Gulf County E.M.S. Director Whitfield reported Bay Medical Center agreed to fund \$36,000 for this service. Clerk Norris reported the Board needs to adopt the fire districts and M.S.T.U. millage rates. Commissioner Yeager motioned to keep the fire districts at their current rates (St. Joseph Fire Control District, .4000, Tupelo Fire Control District, .5000, Howard Creek Fire Control District, .5000, and Overstreet Fire Control District, .5000). Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Yeager motioned to set the voted debt service millage rate for the Gulf Front at 6.6995 and the Gulf Interior at 3.5014, as proposed. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 8:56 a.m., E.T.

WILLIAM C. WILLIAMS, III
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:
REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK