

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

REGULAR MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in regular 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: Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Shane McGuffin, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Assistant Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Sheriff Joe Nugent, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, and T.D.C. Director Paula Pickett.

Sheriff Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., E.T.

Planner Richardson opened the meeting with prayer, and Commissioner Traylor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Traylor motioned to approve the following consent agenda items. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

1. Minutes February 5, 2009 Workshop
February 10, 2009 Regular Meeting
2. Agreement (Supplemental) MRD Associates (St. Joseph Peninsula Erosion Control Project * \$117,796.00)
3. BCC Correspondence FL Dept. of Transportation (Stumphole Revetment Project P#422457-15801/C#AOZ68)
4. Budget Amendment Gulf County Mosquito Control FY2008/2009
5. Grant Agreement Emergency Management (State Homeland Security Grant * \$5,500.00)
6. Invoices Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center (01/30/09 * 175.00 * to be paid from Account #21111-31300)

7. Policies Grant Applications for Volunteer Agencies
8. Proposal/Agreement Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Plan (Disaster Resistant Communities Group * \$5,000.00)
9. Purchase Request Pipes for South Long Street (\$1,086.80 * to be paid from District 2 Road Bond Funds)

(End)

SUPPLEMENTAL CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Williams, and unanimous (4-0) vote, the Board approved the following supplemental consent agenda items. Commissioner Yeager abstained due to having a business relationship with Preble-Rish, Inc.

1. Preble-Rish, Inc Engineering Proposal (Segment 4 Cape San Blas Shared Use Path * \$97,685.00)

(End)

UNITED STATES FLAG

Patrick McFarland, from the Local Democratic Party appeared before the Board and presented a certificate and flag to Chairman Nathan Peters, Jr. that was flown over the Capital on January 20, 2009 during the Presidential Inauguration, per the request of Congressman Allen Boyd, in honor of Chairman Peters.

COMMUNITY TRAFFIC SAFETY TEAM (C.T.S.T.)

Grant Writer Kopinsky recommended the reactivation of the C.T.S.T. to enhance grant opportunities for the County. She requested permission to (1) combine it with the Local Transportation Committee, and (2) appoint the following four (4) additional individuals to serve on the Committee: Shane McGuffin E.M.S., Sheriff Joe Nugent Enforcement, Bill Carr Education, and Willie Payne Engineers. Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Williams, and unanimous vote, the Board approved the recommendation.

H.B. 819 S.C.O.P. / S.C.R.A.P. FUNDS

Grant Writer Kopinsky discussed H.B. 819 regarding S.C.O.P. and S.C.R.A.P. funds, stating that some of the language in this Bill requires an extremely high millage rate to be eligible for the programs. She discussed if the County is at the maximum number on Local Option Gas Tax they must have a millage rate of at least 8. If the Local Option Gas Tax is

not at the maximum, the millage rate must be 10. Grant Writer Kopinsky requested that a letter be submitted to members of the Legislature requesting they strike this language from the Bill. After discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve this request. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DISTRICT 2 ROAD BOND FUNDS / SIDEWALKS / WEST RIVER ROAD

Road Department Superintendent Knee requested that the balance of road bond funds from District 2 (approximately \$3,296.87) be used to pay for sidewalks on West River Road. Commissioner Traylor motioned to approve this request. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

INVOICE - G.A.C. / WEWAHITCHKA COURTHOUSE PARKING LOT

Road Department Superintendent Knee stated that, at the last Board meeting, he presented an invoice from GAC, in the amount of \$11,900.00 stating it was for the City of Port St. Joe. He reported that, to clarify the record, the invoice was for the parking lot of the Wewahitchka Courthouse (change order #14).

INVOICE - G.A.C. CITY OF PORT ST. JOE

Upon request by Road Department Superintendent Knee, Commissioner Traylor motioned to approve payment of an invoice from G.A.C. Contractors (change order #17), in the amount of \$13,414.00, for asphalt patching in nine locations for the City of Port St. Joe. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

JARROTT DANIELS CLAY PIT

Road Department Superintendent Knee discussed that the County had to move out of the Jarrott Daniels clay pit last Friday. He stated that they stockpiled approximately 150 loads at the Wetappo Compactor site, and when this clay is gone the County will not have any clay to work with. Road Department Superintendent Knee discussed the possibility of testing the 80 acres (from the St. Joe Company) next to the sludge area property to see if it is suitable for a clay pit. Chairman Peters recommended that testing be performed on this area for clay.

INSURANCE COUNTY BUILDINGS

Human Resources Director Manuel reported that evaluations were performed last week on all of the County buildings, stating that the report should be back by the next Regular Board Meeting.

INSURANCE CHANGES

Human Resources Director Manuel discussed that with the changes to the White House there have also been changes to insurance, stating that there is new coverage language that will affect the County. She also stated that the Child Health Insurance Plan is possibly

going to benefit the County. Human Resources Director Manuel reported that the State did pass an increase of 6.4% in workman's compensation for everyone across the board.

SHERIFF BUREAU OF JUSTICE

Sheriff Nugent reported that he received a letter from the Bureau of Justice regarding grant funds to replace positions that have been lost. He stated that his Department will be applying for the funding which will pay 100% of all salaries and benefits for three years starting March, 2009.

MISSING PERSON MARY THOMAS

Chairman Peters reported that there is a missing person from the City of Port St. Joe, an African American female named Mary Thomas, 56 years old, 5'6" and 150 lbs. He stated that this person has been missing for approximately two weeks and if anyone has any information concerning this person to please contact the Port St. Joe Police Department or the Gulf County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Nugent discussed that they have talked with the family and also have aired it on News Channel 7, News Channel 13, and the radio stations, but have received no responses.

SIGN ORDINANCE

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the sign ordinance presented to the Board by the County Attorney at the last Regular Meeting, stating if the Board approves they will advertise to begin the ordinance process. After discussion by members of the Board, Chief Administrator Butler was instructed to advertise the sign ordinance for public hearing.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that he sent out a memo to all Constitutional Officers regarding IT Personnel, stating that they will be meeting on this issue within the next few weeks.

PUBLIC HEARING M.S.B.U.

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that there will be a Public Hearing on Friday, February 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., E.T. regarding Notice of Intent to Use Uniform Method of Collecting Solid Waste Management Tax Assessments.

HIGHLAND VIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT PROPERTY

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that he and County Attorney McFarland will attend the foreclosure sale on the property adjacent to the Highland View Fire Department, and attempt to secure the property on behalf of the County.

GOVERNANCE SERVICES, LLC

Chief Administrator Butler reported that he and Chairman Peters will meet with Robert S. Bludworth, of Governance Services, LLC, on Friday afternoon, stating that they will report back to the Board. Chairman Peters appointed Commissioner Yeager to attend the meeting if he is unable to attend.

AWARD BID #0809-06 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Garbage Committee met and reviewed the three proposals that were submitted for garbage collection services. Julia Cunningham, Chairman of the Garbage Committee, appeared before the Board and discussed that only 36% of the households in Gulf County pay for garbage collection. She discussed that the Garbage Committee is recommending that the County adopt mandatory garbage pick-up and award the bid to Emerald Waste Services (E.W.S.) at the rate of \$13.27 per month (low bidder). Chief Administrator Butler discussed that this is a great rate for the County, contingent upon going mandatory. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Traylor, Chief Administrator Butler discussed that this will be billed on a yearly basis at the end of each year. Commissioner McLemore discussed that his primary concerns are the senior citizens and forcing everyone into mandatory garbage collection. Julia Cunningham discussed that Emerald Waste is willing to work with senior citizens and also to provide Saturday collection after 12:00 p.m. at the beach and Cape San Blas areas. After discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner Williams motioned to accept the recommendations of the Garbage Committee, contingent upon County Attorney McFarland reviewing the contract and that senior citizens and low income residents be considered as provisions in the contract. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion for discussion. Ricky Ropert appeared before the Board and discussed that he previously worked for Waste Management, and that their biggest problems were at St. Joe Beach and Cape San Blas areas. Rick Payne, of Waste Management, appeared before the Board and discussed that all of the Companies that bid offered the Saturday collection because it was a part of the RFP. He discussed that Waste Management has been servicing Gulf County for sixteen years, and they feel that they are a part of the County. Ralph Mills, of Waste Pro, appeared before the Board and discussed that Saturday collection was a part of the RFP and all vendors included this information. He suggested that all potential candidates should be given an interview like Emerald Waste Services received. Chief Administrator Butler discussed that the committee was unanimous with the idea that this be a mandatory process, and that \$13.27 was the low bid on the mandatory section. Julia Cunningham, Chairman of the Garbage Committee, discussed that the committee met several times and decided that they were going to recommend mandatory pick-up, and the lowest bidder. She discussed that E.W.S. has a local transfer station and that it would create local jobs. Glen Elders, Committee Member, appeared before the Board and discussed that he is one of the five members of the garbage committee, stating that they spent many hours working on this RFP. Chairman Peters discussed that he supports mandatory garbage collection, but at this time our nation is in a recession and this M.S.B.U. will be costly for the citizens of Gulf County. After further discussion by members of the Board, the motion failed 3 to 2 with Chairman Peters, Commissioner Traylor, and Commissioner McLemore voting no. Chief Administrator Butler then recommended that the County continue to use Waste Management at the rate of \$16.25 per month, without mandatory pick-up. Chairman Peters passed the Chair to Vice Chairman McLemore, and motioned to accept the bid from Waste Management, at the rate of \$16.25 per month. Commissioner Traylor seconded the

motion for discussion and, after further discussion by members of the Board, the motion passed unanimously. Chairman McLemore returned the Chair to Commissioner Peters.

ECONOMIC STIMILUS FUNDS

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the he and Chairman Peters will be meeting to discuss the economic stimulus funds for the Port, Gulf-to-Bay Highway, and Gulf Coast Parkway. Commissioner Traylor discussed adding water and sewer for North Florida Head Start to the stimulus funds package.

PUBLIC HEARING P.D.R.B. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board then considered the following recommendations from the February 17, 2009 meeting of the Planning & Development Review Board:

APPROVAL - SMALL SCALE MAP AMENDMENT BUCKHORN DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Pursuant to advertisement to hold a public hearing to consider approval of a Small Scale Map Amendment of Buckhorn Development, LLC (Parcel ID #01359-255R * S35, T3S, R10W * 4.62 Acres), Planner Richardson read the public hearing notice and called for public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner Traylor motioned to approve the Small-Scale Map Amendment, changing the land use from Agricultural to Residential as recommended by the Planning & Development Review Board. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

WATER FACILITY PLAN

Planner Richardson discussed he will be recommending adoption of the water facility plan at the next meeting.

GARBAGE COLLECTION / CODE ENFORCEMENT

Commissioner Williams suggested that the Board consider Code Enforcement for garbage collection, and ask Code Enforcement Officer Mike Aiken to present some recommendations to the Board regarding code enforcement fines. The Board had no objections.

WHITE CITY PARK / HIGHLAND VIEW BOAT RAMP

Commissioner Williams discussed improvements to the White City Park, stating that there are some electrical issues at the park and requested permission to use funds from the local Florida Boating Improvement Program (F.B.I.P.) line item for the electrical and lighting issues at the park. Commissioner McLemore discussed that there is not a light at the Highland View Boat Ramp, and that some of the lights at the White City Park need to be turned off. Commissioner Williams motioned to repair the electrical issues at White City Park and place a light at the Highland View Boat Ramp to be paid from the F.B.I.P. funds. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion for discussion. Building Inspector Collinsworth discussed that there are safety issues regarding the electrical problem, and requested this be handled on an emergency basis. After discussion by members of the Board that this would be included in the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

D.R.I. / CITY OF PORT ST. JOE

Commissioner Williams discussed an advertisement regarding the City of Port St. Joe's intent to re-issue the D.R.I., stating that there is a Public Hearing in March on this issue. He requested that the Board file an official complaint (file an objection to their request), because it will affect the obligations outlined in the existing D.R.I. Commissioner Williams motioned to file an objection regarding this matter. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

GARBAGE COMMITTEE

Commissioner Traylor recommended that the Board submit a letter to the members of the Garbage Committee to thank them for their time and efforts.

OVERSTREET WATER

Commissioner Traylor discussed that Phase I of the Overstreet Water project is complete (the grant portion), and thanked Grant Writer Kopinsky for her work on this project. He also discussed that the City is in negotiations with GAC and Preble-Rish, Inc. on completion of Phase II.

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE

Commissioner Traylor discussed that he attended the 2nd Congressional Regional Healthcare Committee Meeting in Tallahassee, of which Commissioner Williams is the Chairperson. Commissioner Williams reported that Gulf County is second in line for funding for the digital mammography equipment at the Health Department.

PARKS / LIGHTS

Commissioner Yeager recommended (1) that all parks be closed from dusk till dawn, (2) only leave one to two lights on for security purposes, (3) leave only one light on at the boat ramp areas, and (4) to provide lights at night for special events. Upon motion by Commissioner Yeager, second by Commissioner McLemore, and unanimous vote, the Board approved these recommendations.

PARKS / SAFETY

Commissioner Yeager recommended that all new construction by the County (in the parks, etc.) be inspected by the Building Department. Upon motion by Commissioner Yeager, second by Commissioner Traylor, and unanimous vote, the Board approved this recommendation.

D.R.A. MEETING

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Yeager, Chief Administrator Butler discussed that Matt Fleck, of the Port St. Joe Downtown Redevelopment Agency, wants to meet with the Board. Chairman Peters scheduled a Special Meeting for Friday, February 27, 2009 at 10:30 a.m., E.T. to discuss the D.R.A.

F.D.O.T. / SIMMONS BAYOU

Commissioner Yeager discussed that there are concerns about bridge replacements planned by F.D.O.T. on C30 (in the Simmons Bayou area) during the height of the tourist season. He stated that traffic will be re-routed which would hurt 7 to 8 businesses, and that he is working with Larry Kelly from F.D.O.T. on this issue.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

Commissioner Yeager congratulated Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson on receiving his Emergency Management Certification.

BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Yeager stated that three Commissioners will be out of town for the March 10th regular Board meeting, and it will need to be rescheduled or cancelled. Chairman Peters stated he will take care of having this done.

S.H.I.P. REHABILITATION

Chairman Peters presented a letter from Gulf County C.D.C. requesting rehabilitation funds for Bessie Willis at 321 Avenue A Port St. Joe, Florida, in the amount of \$5,500.00. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT / CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA

Chairman Peters discussed that the City of Wewahitchka has been paying approximately \$30,000.00 directly to the Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services, and it needs to be paid through the Clerk's Office beginning October 1, 2009. Chairman Peters passed the Chair to Vice Chairman McLemore and motioned to submit a letter to the City of Wewahitchka to request that the law enforcement funds be submitted directly to the Clerk's Office starting October 1, 2009. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Chairman McLemore returned the Chair back to Commissioner Peters.

TRAVEL REQUEST MOSQUITO CONTROL

Assistant Mosquito Control Director Cothran appeared before the Board and discussed that the State is going to cut \$1.6 million out of the Mosquito Control Budget, and encouraged the Board members to travel to Tallahassee for the Legislative Days. Commissioner Traylor motioned for Assistant Mosquito Control Director Cothran, Mosquito Control Director Danford and anyone from the Board or Administration to travel to Tallahassee on March 17-19, 2009. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

TRAVEL REQUEST DISTRICT 3

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams, Chairman Peters discussed that in order to be reimbursed for travel it must be approved by the Board in advance. Commissioner Williams motioned for the Board to approve for him to travel to Tallahassee for various legislative/committee meetings. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

Emergency Management Director Nelson appeared before the Board and discussed required training and exercises that must be done to receive State grant funding. He discussed that this is taking up more and more time out of everyone's schedule, stating that this year there has to be a Statewide hurricane exercise. Emergency Management Director Nelson requested permission to have both exercises on one day, with Statewide hurricane exercise in the morning and the Continuity of Operations class in the afternoon. He discussed that both are required in his scope of work and that it will only take staff away from their jobs for one day. Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve this request and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Peters voting no.

E.D.C.

Edward Nelson Executive Director of E.D.C., appeared before the Board and thanked the Board for their support to E.D.C. He discussed that they have been extremely busy with a lot of different projects (23 different projects), stating that they have divided their **function into five different areas (1) attraction, (2) retention and expansion, (3) small businesses, (4) project development, and (5) enterprise zone.** Commissioner Williams discussed that the relationship between the E.D.C. and the Board has struggled, and requested that E.D.C. communicate with this Board. Mr. Nelson discussed that he will provide a quarterly report to the Board on the status of the E.D.C. Tom Graney, Chairman of E.D.C., appeared before the Board and discussed the Enterprise Zone issue, stating that Gulf County is allowed to have 20 square miles of Enterprise Zone, and this can be changed every three years with Board approval. He suggested that economic stimulus funds be applied to various road improvements (Gulf-to-Bay Highway, Road 50, etc.) that will stimulate economic development.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, the meeting did then adjourn at 8:05 p.m., E.T.

NATHAN PETERS, JR.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS

CLERK