

## **PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**

**CTOBER 18, 2007** □

### **EMERGENCY MEETING**

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

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Becky Norris, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Building Inspector George Knight, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Grant Writer Loretta Costin, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Shane McGuffin, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Planner David Richardson, Sheriff Joe Nugent, Sheriff's Office Major Bobby Plair, and Sheriff's Office Captain Ricky Tolbert.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m., E.T.

### **BUDGET**

Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Property Appraiser made adjustments to the Tax Roll (approximately \$40,000,000.00 in reductions), which will cause a shortfall of \$187,000.00 to the Board's 2007-08 budget. He stated that the Board does have the option (by Florida Statute) of increasing the millage rate to cover this shortfall. County Attorney McFarland stated that Chapter 200 of the Florida Statutes gives the Board the option of increasing the millage rate because the Property Appraiser's adjustments exceeded 1%. He stated that the Board can either raise the millage rate to accommodate the reduction or they can reduce their budget by \$187,000.00. Clerk Norris stated that the Board is limited on the millage rate increase to only what is necessary to keep the same tax dollars that they budgeted for 2007-08. She stated that the Board would need to increase the millage rate by .0694 (a total of 4.5862). After discussion regarding the late notification of these reductions and the Value Adjustment Board hearing, County Attorney McFarland stated that these reductions were made by the Property Appraiser's Office, not by the Value Adjustment Board. After discussion by members of the Board that this has not happened to the Board in over 20 years and that the reductions were in the amount of \$41,468,000.00, Commissioner Peters motioned to request that Property Appraiser Colbert provide the Board with a written list detailing these reductions. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After further discussion by members of the Board regarding not being notified of this sooner, Tom Graney appeared before the Board to inquire about last year's millage rate. Clerk Norris reported that the millage rate was 4.6371 last year. He stated that even with the increase, the rate is below last year's rate.

County Attorney McFarland then read a proposed resolution for consideration by the Board. Commissioner Traylor motioned to adopt the following resolution increasing their County-Wide millage rate to 4.5862, and Commissioner Peters seconded the motion. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-47BA RESOLUTION  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OF GULF COUNTY,  
FLORIDA, ADJUSTING THE AD VALOREM  
MILLAGE PURSUANT TO F.S. 200.065(6) FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008; AND PROVIDING  
FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Gulf County Tax Appraiser notified the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners pursuant to F.S. 200.065(6) of an aggregate change in the tax assessment roll from that previously certified tax role on October 17, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the notification provided by the Gulf County Tax Appraiser indicated a more than 1% variance with the taxable value shown on the roll extended; and

**WHEREAS**, without an adjustment to the Gulf County Board of County Commissioner's adopted millage rate for FY 2007-2008, the County would experience a revenue shortfall; and

**WHEREAS**, F.S. 200.065(6) permits the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners to administratively adjust its adopted millage rate without a public hearing in these circumstances.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the People of Gulf County, Florida, as follows:

1. Gulf County, Florida, does hereby administratively adjust its millage rate to be 4.5862, an increase of .0694 mills.
2. The adjusted millage rate shall be properly conveyed to the Gulf County Property Appraiser.

**THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2007.

(End of Resolution)

After further discussion that the millage rate is still lower than last year's rate and the amount of reductions that the Board had to make to reach their 2007-08 budget,

Commissioner Peters motioned for the Chairman to submit a letter to the Property Appraiser to express the Board's concerns with the lack of prior communications in this matter and to request a written breakdown of the reductions he made. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 4:35 p.m., E.T.

**BILL WILLIAMS  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK**