

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

**NOVEMBER 8, 2010**

### **SPECIAL MEETING**

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in a special meeting with the following members present: Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, Vice Chairman Warren L. Yeager, Jr., and Commissioners Billy E. Traylor and Nathan Peters, Jr. <Commissioner Bill Williams was absent.>

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, Planner David Richardson, Sheriff Joe Nugent, and Sheriff's Office Major Bobby Plair.

Chairman McLemore called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., E.T.

### **COUNTY AUDIT PROTEST**

County Attorney McFarland reported that the purpose of this meeting is for a bid protest hearing concerning the Auditor Selection process, stating that the firm which was ranked number one in the process was not selected by the Board and they have filed a complaint. He reported that there are some concerns both by the unsuccessful bidder and by the County about the Auditor Selection process, regarding the criteria used in this process, stating that after review, the best results for the Board would be to reject all bids and make this available for bid with new criteria. County Attorney McFarland discussed that the bid protest would be withdrawn in the event that the County decided to reject all bids and rebid. County Attorney McFarland recommended to reject all bids and to rebid the process. Upon inquiry by Chairman McLemore, County Attorney McFarland reported that there were problems before the bid was ever sent out, stating that there were problems with the way the criteria is ranked and this needs to be looked at carefully, with more input from the Board. Commissioner Yeager stated that he is disappointed at having to do this, stating that there needs to be more input from the Board and the Board did not state in the public meeting the reason for turning down the number one ranked firm by the committee. He stated that there needs to be more input from the Board on making sure Florida Statute is followed, and that he will support this under the condition that there are 5 or 6 lead staff members (Don Butler, Michael Hammond, County Attorney and Staff) to serve on this committee. Commissioner Yeager motioned to reject all bids and rebid with new criteria set forth under Florida

Statute, with six County Staff members appointed by Chief Administrator Butler. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Chief Administrator Butler reported that County Attorney McFarland announced at the last Board meeting that he had been appointed as the new County Judge by the Governor, and that there needs to be some continuity between County Attorney McFarland and the new attorney, stating that there are is no criteria set forth nor any statutory requirement for selecting a County Attorney. He reported that they posted a notice on the County website and mailed a letter to any/all Attorney's which operate out of Gulf County for their qualifications, not proposals. Chairman McLemore discussed that the Board needs to stay away from the hiring and recommended to give Chief Administrator Butler the authority to hire the new County Attorney. Commissioner Traylor motioned to give Chief Administrator Butler the authority to make the decision and hire the new County Attorney. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Yeager, and unanimous (4-0) vote, the meeting did then adjourn at 5:07 p.m., E.T.

**CARMEN L. MCLEMORE  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:  
REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK**