

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MAY 28, 2009

SPECIAL MEETING

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

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, E.M.S. Director Shane McGuffin, E-911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, G.I.S. Coordinator Scott Warner, Assistant Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, and Solid Waste Director Joe Danford.

Chairman Peters called the special meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., E.T.

ALTERNATIVE REVENUE SOURCES

Chairman Peters discussed Alternative Revenue Sources, stating that this would reduce ad valorem taxes. Chief Administrator Butler discussed that there is a July 1, 2009 deadline, and requested permission to advertise in the paper to meet this deadline. Commissioner Traylor motioned to start the process for advertising. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion for discussion. After further discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner Traylor withdrew motion and Commissioner Yeager withdrew the second.

Chief Administrator Butler gave a power point presentation on Alternative Revenue Sources as follows:

Option #1 - Levy the Local Government Infrastructure Surtax. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

Option #2 - Levy an Additional 0.5% Small County Surtax. Chief Administrator Butler discussed that currently, the County levies 0.5% Small County Surtax to support the Hospital, stating that the tax can be levied at a maximum of 1%, and its use is unlimited. Chairman Peters passed the Chair to Commissioner Yeager, and motioned to start the process on Option #2. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0). Chairman Yeager passed Chair back to Commissioner Peters.

Option #3 - Adopt the Additional Elms Five Cents Gas Tax (on gasoline, not diesel). No action was taken by the Board.

Option #4 - Solid Waste Special Assessment. Chief Administrator Butler stated that this option is not available this year however, a tipping fee is still available for this year for residential use. He stated that a solid waste management assessment is a charge levied on property benefited by the provision of Solid Waste Management Services. Commissioner Yeager discussed that the County needs to look at charging tipping fees,

stating that the Ad Valorem Tax system is broke and unfair. He requested Solid Waste Director Danford bring a tipping fee recommendation back to the Board. The Board had no objection.

Option #5 - Standard Franchise: Franchise Agreement with Electric Utilities. Chief Administrator Butler stated that a franchise fee is a charge imposed upon a utility for the privilege of using the County right-of-way for the conduct of the utilities business and constitutes fair rental for the use of such right-of-way. Commissioner Traylor discussed that the Board needs to pursue this franchise agreement. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

Option #6 - Occupational License Tax. Chief Administrator Butler discussed that this is a County tax on the privilege of engaging in or managing any business, professional or occupation within the County.

Option #1 - Levy the Local Government Infrastructure Surtax. Chief Administrator recommended that the Board review Option #1 the Levy of Local Government Infrastructure Surtax. After discussion by members of the Board, Chairman Peters passed the Chair to Commissioner Yeager. Commissioner Peters motioned to start the process on Option #1. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion for discussion, and recommended that County Attorney McFarland review the Bond issue. After further discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner Traylor withdrew the second. Clerk Norris reported that all the gas taxes are already pledged in the Bond documents, stating that only excess that is over the requirement can be used in the Road Department Budget. Commissioner Peters stated his motion stands to start the process on Option #1. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0). Chairman Yeager returned the Chair to Commissioner Peters.

Option #5 - Standard Franchise: Franchise Agreement with Electric Utilities. Chairman Peters discussed Option #5 relating to Franchise Agreements with Electric Utilities. Commissioner Traylor motioned to start the process on Option #5. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

Option #7 - Communication Service Tax. Chief Administrator Butler stated that a county may, by ordinance, levy a local Communications Services Tax. The tax is placed on local, long distance, and cable services. Non-charter Counties may levy the tax at a rate of up to 1.6%. No action was taken by the Board.

Option #8 - M.S.B.U./M.S.T.U. Options. County Attorney McFarland discussed that this has to be done in advance (this option not available for this year), because studies have to be done prior to implementation of these fees. No action was taken by the Board.

There being no further discussion, and upon motion by Commissioner Yeager, the meeting did then adjourn at 11:52 a.m., E.T.

**NATHAN PETERS,
CHAIRMAN**

JR.

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**