

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

**FEBRUARY 23, 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 J. Yeager, Jr., and Commissioners Bill Williams, and Nathan Peters, Jr. <Commissioner Billy E. Traylor entered the meeting at 4:48 p.m., E.T.>

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, 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, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, E911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Assistant Public Works Director Bobby Knee, Sheriff Joe Nugent, Sheriff's Office Major Bobby Plair, Supervisor of Elections Employee John M. Hanlon, Tax Collector Employee Inell Stutzman, and Work Crew Supervisor Gerald Shearer.

Chairman McLemore called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., E.T.

#### **BUDGET**

Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Budget committee had met on two different occasions, and then gave a power point presentation to show the breakdown for the 3% reduction for all budgets previously approved by the Board. He reported that the Budget committee discussed all employees taking the equivalent of one week without pay to reduce the budget. Chairman McLemore reported that the Property Appraiser informed him that there will be approximately a 24% reduction in the taxable values. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Yeager, Chief Administrator Butler reported that the equivalent to one week pay doesn't state that the employee must go home for one week, but to subtract from the budget the value of one weeks pay from each employee, with each Supervisor/Department and Constitutional Officer to determine whether they will have to furlough employees or make cuts from other line items.. Chairman McLemore reported that they are trying to save all employees, and requested that all Supervisors work with the employees. Chief Administrator Butler reported that with all Board employees and Clerk employees, the savings would be over \$100,000.00 by each employee taking one week without pay. Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Clerk will have to work with the Sheriff's Department, Jail and E.M.S. on reducing these budgets for the equivalent of one weeks pay on their employees. Commissioner Yeager motioned for all budgets to be cut equivalent to one week without pay for every employee.

Commissioner Peters seconded the motion for discussion. Sheriff Nugent reported that the Sheriff's Department receives a monthly draw, and requested permission to reduce

this amount from his budget by the end of the year. The Board had no objection. After further discussion by members of the Board, the motion passed unanimously (4-0). Chairman McLemore recommended that each Commissioner review the suggestion list presented by the Budget committee and make recommendations at the next Budget committee meeting. Commissioner Williams discussed that the overall operations, management structure and interior operations, need to be reviewed. The Board had no objections. <Commissioner Traylor entered the meeting at 4:48 p.m., E.T.>. Chairman McLemore recommended cutting \$300,000.00 from personnel in the County budget. Commissioner Traylor motioned to approve the Chairs recommendation. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion for discussion and directed Chief Administrator Butler and Assistant Administrator Hammond to make the determination on which ones this will be. Chairman McLemore discussed that this will affect everyday life and requested any help that may be available for the employees. Commissioner Peters reported that the County already has Risk Management in place for counseling. Human Resource Director Manuel reported that there is a program through Life Management in Panama City to take care of this issue. Commissioner Williams requested that E.D.C. and Gulf Coast Workforce Board step in and assist. Commissioner Yeager discussed the possibility of an early retirement option for employees. Commissioner Traylor commented on the article in The Star last week, stating that the budget information was reported incorrectly. Commissioner Yeager reported that all Commissioners will have to prepare a work order and wait for staff to work it in. Commissioner Williams discussed that the public needs to be educated and understand that the services will be significantly reduced. Commissioner Peters stated that by reducing the personnel budget by \$300,000.00; employees will be cut and he wants to evaluate the cuts before they are final. Chairman McLemore stated that this gives administration the authority to cut personnel by \$300,000.00, and requested that the Board not get involved. After further discussion by members of the Board the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Yeager, the meeting did then adjourn at 5:08 p.m., E.T.

**CARMEN L. MCLEMORE  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:  
Rebecca L. Norris  
Clerk**