

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

EMERGENCY MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in emergency session with the following members present: Acting Chairman Nathan Peters, Jr., Commissioners Jerry W. Barnes and Bill Williams.

Others present were: County Attorney Tim McFarland, Deputy Clerk Kayla Duke, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Planner David Richardson, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Building Inspector George Knight, Major Bobby Plair, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

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

HURRICANE IKE

Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson stated that according to the National Weather Service Conference, Hurricane Ike is moving slower and intensifying which will increase the storm surge and wave action on Gulf County beaches. EM Director Nelson stated that the damage will be worse at Indian Pass Road, and Painted Pony Road will be opened as a bypass. He further stated that the Stumphole is a major concern, and there is a possibility that the road will have to be closed. EM Director Nelson read a press release, to be advertised upon Board approval. Commissioner Barnes motioned to approve the advertisement. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Upon Chairman Peter's inquiry, Commissioner Barnes stated that VMS is closely monitoring the roads. Administrator Don Butler confirmed this, stating that VMS will be staging equipment at the Stumphole. He further stated that he spoke with Jason Alderman and the County does not have a permit yet for the Stumphole project. Upon Commissioner Williams' inquiry, Administrator Butler stated that if the Board executes the contract with G.A.C., D.O.T. will reimburse the County for their expenditures, but there might be retributions for doing so without DEP approval. Upon Commissioner Barnes' inquiry, Administrator Butler stated that it will take two weeks to get the rocks, and two to three weeks to transport them. Commissioner Williams discussed the need to make a decision while the County is under a declared State of Emergency. County Attorney McFarland stated that the purpose of the emergency bid is to solve an emergency problem, and the Board cannot delay this process. Michael Hammond approached the Board and stated that if the County proceeds with buying the rock, the permit might be executed by the time the rock arrives. Upon Solid Waste Director Joe Danford's inquiry, Attorney McFarland stated that rocks can be placed at the Stumphole now, but there might be ramifications from DEP. Commissioner Williams stated that the Board can justify this because it is being done to protect the citizens. Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier informed the Board that the motion to approve the advertisement was not carried, and inquired if the Board intended to approve the State of Emergency

Declaration in that motion as well. Commissioner Barnes stated that the motion does include approval of a local State of Emergency proclamation. Commissioner Williams stated that his second stands. Warren Yeager approached the Board and stated that there are two different issues the Board is dealing with. Mr. Yeager stated that one issue is whether the County is going to use material that they already have, to fortify the Stumphole and the other is whether or not to continue with the emergency bid, which is the most pressing item. The motion to advertise the Press Release and declare a Local State of Emergency then passed unanimously. Commissioner Williams motioned to (1) cancel the emergency award of the bid to GAC, (2) obtain quotes for the rock, and if it is a sole source, to make an award now, contingent upon that being a sole source item, and (3) go out for bid for the large scale project at the Stumphole. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. Upon Chairman Peters' inquiry, Chief Administrator Butler stated that he would contact Jason Alderman with FDOT concerning the possibility of VMS moving existing rock from the ends of the revetment to the middle to stabilize and protect the Stumphole. Chief Administrator Butler further stated that if VMS could not move the rock, he felt it was worth the risk with DEP for the County to do it. Commissioner Williams stated that DEP should be informed immediately of the Boards actions and intentions. Commissioner Williams amended his motion to include moving the rock tonight, if necessary to protect the Stumphole. The motion then passed 2-1, Chairman Peters opposing.

Upon motion by Commissioner Barnes, the meeting did then adjourn at 4:30 p.m., E.T.

**NATHAN PETERS, JR.
ACTING CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**