

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

APRIL 22, 2008

SPECIAL MEETING

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

Other present were: County Attorney Tim McFarland, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Clerk of Circuit Court Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Planner David Richardson, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Veterans Service Officer James Kennedy, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

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

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Chairman Traylor began by discussing that the current budget is insufficient to support new employees or equipment at the Mosquito Control Department. As a result he has requested that Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran propose a plan that would be affordable and adequately serve the purpose of Mosquito Control. Upon Chairman Traylor's request, Cothran addressed the public and discussed the history and current state of the Mosquito Control Department and feasible solutions to better equip Mosquito Control employees to do their job. Cothran discussed that due to the drought in 2007 and spring rains in 2008 there is an unusually abundant amount of mosquitoes. He discussed that limited money and man power is a problem as well as dated equipment, which needs constant repairs. Cothran discussed the need to use larvacide to treat areas where there is stagnant water around the County. Cothran discussed the need to continue the chicken program in order to produce detection for possible viral uprisings and to assure that the DOA can be informed should it become a public safety issue. Cothran presented to the Board a strategy that he and Solid Waste Director Joe Danford had devised:

1. Attempt to regain control over the adult mosquito population.
2. Spray during the optimal times and not over-use chemicals.
3. Have employees drive their County trucks home and spray around the areas they live. Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, seconded by Commissioner Peters and unanimous vote, the Board agreed to allow Mosquito Control employees to drive their County vehicles home, including Cothran.
4. Move employees to spray locations closest to where they live.
5. Target specific areas, such as parks and places where there are large gatherings.
6. Reduce the duties of licensed sprayers by reducing the number of traps that have to

be checked.

7. Reduce the number of hours employees work per day so that they can spray more at night and reduce the amount of overtime. If employees do work over time they can continue to give them comp time. Commissioner McLemore motioned to continue to allow comp time. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
8. Use non-licensed employees such as Department Supervisors to check the traps if needed.
9. Educate the public through television, local news papers, and presentations to civic clubs.
10. Contingent upon the Board's approval, using neighborhood watch groups or volunteers to hand out literature regarding Mosquito Control.
11. Use concrete to fill areas to allow Mosquito Control to get to ditches that are currently not accessible, but are breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
12. Use Adaptco Technology that records the route and automatically turns off when nearing bee farms and homes that cannot be sprayed. Cothran stated that the estimate for this equipment would be around \$30,000.00

Chairman Traylor discussed the gravity of the mosquito situation and thanked Cothran for his efforts. Commissioner Barnes inquired about the speed that the trucks go in relation to how many chemicals are sprayed. Commissioner McLemore stated that he gets a lot of complaints from the public but he gets a lot of "thank you's" too. Traylor stated that it has been the same with his district.

COURTHOUSE AIR CONDITIONER

Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork approached the Board to discuss that four out of six compressors in the Courthouse are down. Chairman Traylor stated that repair of the Courthouse air conditioning was in the budget but had been taken out due to budget cuts. According to Mork, it will be close to \$50,000.00 to repair.

Chief Administrator Don Butler discussed that the whole unit will have to be replaced once a bid is awarded. Commissioner Williams inquired where the money would come from to do this. Butler stated that no one has money in their budgets that can be shifted but the Courthouse has to have air conditioning. Commissioner Williams motioned to advertise for bids for Courthouse air conditioning. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

County Attorney Tim McFarland stated that money will have to be borrowed and they will be looking at a substantial annual payment to pay back these loans. McFarland inquired if the Board wishes for him to include the \$50,000.00 dollars in the requests for loans. Commissioner Peters motioned to do so. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business and upon motion by Chairman Traylor the meeting did then adjourn at 5:29 p.m., E.T.

BILLY E. TRAYLOR

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**