

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

**AUGUST 4, 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, Commissioners Nathan Peters, Jr., Jerry W. Barnes, Bill Williams, and Carmen L. McLemore.

Others present were: County Attorney Tim McFarland, Clerk of Circuit Court Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Clerk Human Resource Officer Elaine Bland, Deputy Clerk Kayla Duke, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Planner David Richardson, Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, EMS/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Building Inspector George Knight, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Supervisor of Elections Linda Griffin, Deputy Tax Collector Inell Stutsman, Major Bobby Plair, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

Chairman Traylor called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., E.T.

#### **2008-09 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Clerk Norris advised the Board that the tentative 2008-09 budget is before them, reflecting a current proposed millage rate of 4.9216 which the Board could pass at the final hearing with a majority vote. She further stated that, should the Board wish to adopt the maximum millage rate allowed by law (110% of Rolled-back rate adjusted for change in per capita Florida personal income), it would require a super majority vote of the Board. Clerk Norris reported an approximate \$122 million decrease in assessments this year, stating that the proposed rate of 4.9216 reflects \$304,698.00 additional tax dollars. Chairman Traylor stated that there are several items the Board would like to discuss at this meeting, but he is pleased that no departments went over budget, and he hopes to tentatively accept the proposed budget. Administrator Butler stated that he would presenting some possible additions and deletions to the proposed budget.

#### **STONE MILL CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Upon recommendation by Administrator Butler, Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively increase the Stone Mill Creek Fire Department by \$10,500.00. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Upon recommendation by Administrator Butler, Commissioner McLemore motioned to tentatively increase the Road Department Budget by \$10,000.00 Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and questioned Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee concerning the increase. Commissioner Peters withdrew his second. Chairman Traylor passed the chair to Commissioner Peters and seconded the motion. The motion then failed 2-3, with Commissioners Barnes, Williams, and Peters opposing. Chairman Peters returned the Chair to Commissioner Traylor.

### **SPORTS COMPLEX**

Upon recommendation by Administrator Butler, Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively budget \$300,000.00 of the \$600,000.00 for the sports complex, pursuant to the Windmark Beach Interlocal Agreement with the City. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion for discussion. Commissioner Williams stated that the City will not spend \$600,000.00 this fiscal year and there is no need for the Board to pay such a large amount. Commissioner Williams further stated that he would like to see an itemized budget from the City. Commissioner McLemore agreed, stating that the Board should set up a payment plan for the next three years, and contribute \$200,000.00 per year. Commissioner McLemore withdrew his second. Commissioner Williams then seconded the motion, stating that the final decision can be made when the Board has reviewed the City's itemized budget. The motion then passed unanimously.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Upon recommendation by Administrator Butler, Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively add \$25,000.00 to the Parks and Recreation budget. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed 4-1 with Commissioner Williams opposing.

### **BEACH RAKE AND REPAIRS**

Upon recommendation by Administrator Butler, Commissioner McLemore motioned to tentatively add \$60,000.00 to the budget for a new beach rake and repairs of the current beach rake. Commissioner Williams stated that he would like to table this item until the Board has looked at out-sourcing possibilities and potential contributions from the TDC. Commissioner Barnes stated he would like to leave the item in for now. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **MUNIS SOFTWARE**

Upon recommendation by Administrator Butler, Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively increase the budget by \$60,000.00 to purchase additional modules and make system upgrades to the Munis financial system, in the amount of \$60,000.00. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson discussed the new Emergency Notification System, stating that it was a web based system that can be accessed from anywhere. Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively increase the budget by \$8,500.00. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD**

Upon recommendation by Administrator Butler, Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively add \$7,500.00 to the VAB budget. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **COUNTY COURTHOUSE RADIO EQUIPMENT**

Upon recommendation by Administrator Butler, Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively increase the budget for three repeaters, two consoles, 61 mobile, and 66 portable radios in the amount of \$160,000.00. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE/GRANT**

Administrator Butler presented a request from the Sheriff's Office to tentatively increase the budget by \$75,000.00, to replace grants that the Sheriff's Department budgeted for, but did not receive. Sheriff Joe Nugent discussed the various grants and what the Board covers. Commissioner Peters inquired why there was a \$200,000.00 increase from the original budget. Chairman Traylor inquired concerning the cost of the K-9 Unit. Sheriff Nugent stated that it was covered completely by grants. Commissioner Peters motioned to deny the request. Commissioner McLemore seconded for discussion, stating he does not have any objection to giving the employees a pay raise, but every department is being forced to cut back. Commissioner Williams stated that the Sheriff's Department has lost several employees, and discussed the fact that there is an \$8,000.00 difference in the starting pay. Sheriff Nugent stated that he is down five employees. Chairman Traylor stated that departments cannot budget on grant money. Commissioner Peters withdrew his motion, and Commissioner McLemore withdrew his second. Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively increase the Sheriff's Department budget by \$50,000.00. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **WEWAHITCHKA COURTHOUSE**

Upon recommendation by Administrator Butler, Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively add \$8,000.00 to the budget for a communication building. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **RESERVE FOR CONTINGENCIES**

Upon Administrator Butler's recommendation, Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively increase reserve for contingencies by \$200,000.00. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **CASH TO BE CARRIED FORWARD**

Upon Administrator Butler's recommendation, Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively add \$200,000 to Cash to be Carried Forward. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **WEWAHITCHKA COURTHOUSE**

Administrator Butler recommended that the Board remove \$90,000.00 from the Wewahitchka Courthouse funds. Commissioner McLemore motioned to tentatively do so. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. Commissioner Peters inquired, since the Courthouse was a historical building, if it would be possible to apply for grants instead of funding it from the County budget. Chairman Traylor stated the Board has tried to apply for the grant several times, unsuccessfully. Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky informed the Board that the last grant that was applied for was for architectural work. She further stated that the new grant cycle is approaching, but there is no guarantee. Ms. Kopinsky recommended that the Board direct the funds for the architectural work. Upon Commissioner Williams' inquiry, Ms. Kopinsky informed the Board that she did receive support letters from the judges and Clerk Norris to send in with the application. Administrator Butler stated that the Wewahitchka Courthouse does need a new roof. Commissioner Williams stated that the Board needs to get a hard number of the cost for repairing the roof. The motion then passed unanimously.

### **HONEYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER DEBT SERVICE**

Upon Administrator Butler's recommendation, Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively reduce the Debt Service line item by \$125,000.00, and utilize escrow money to

pay the debt, contingent upon Finance Officer Carla Hand's approval. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **MOSQUITO CONTROL**

Upon Administrator Butler's recommendation, Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively reduce the Mosquito Control budget by \$220,000.00. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. Commissioner McLemore disagreed, stating that it should be \$240,000.00. Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran informed the Board that the chemical companies are expecting a 10% increase in costs. The motion then passed 3-2, with Chairman Traylor and Commissioner McLemore opposing.

### **JAIL**

Upon Administrator Butler's recommendation, Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively reduce the jail budget by \$220,000.00. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **INSURANCE**

Clerk Norris informed the Board that they needed to vote to reduce the budget for insurance, based on their decision to restructure the plan and how much the Board will be contributing on behalf of each employee. Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively reduce the budget by \$500,000.00. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **RESERVES**

Administrator Butler informed the Board that no money has been spent from 2007-08 reserves, and recommended that if the reserves are not spent by the end of this fiscal year, the 2008-09 reserves will be increased by the unspent amount. Commissioner Peters motioned to do so, contingent on that money not being spent. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting then recessed at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

### **MILLAGE RATES**

Clerk Norris stated that it has been a very pleasant budget year, and thanked the budget committee. She further stated that the Board had reduced taxes by \$68,947.00 and the current tentative millage rate is 4.8949 which is an increase of .3087 which equates to approximately \$236,000.00, which is more than 2007-08. Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively set the millage rate at 4.8949. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **DEPENDENT FIRE DISTRICT**

Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively adopt the millage rates for each Dependent Special Fire District at .5000 mills each. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **MSTU/GULF FRONT**

Commissioner Barnes motioned to tentatively adopt the millage rates for the MSTU/Gulf Front at 6 mills. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed 4-1, with Commissioner Peters objecting.

**MSTU/GULF INTERIOR**

Commissioner Barnes motioned to tentatively adopt the millage rate for the MSTU/Gulf Interior at 2.3335. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed 4-1, with Commissioner Peters objecting.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Upon Clerk Norris' recommendation, Commissioner McLemore motioned to set the public hearing for the proposed budget on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 5:01 p.m. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**HUMANE SOCIETY /2007-08 BUDGET**

Human Society representatives Sandy Christy and Gary Gibbs approached the Board and expressed gratitude for the work crews who have been helping at the shelter. Ms. Christy stated that the Humane Society has run out of money, and their census is much higher than expected for this year. Ms. Christy requested the Board's assistance in making it through the budget year. Commissioner McLemore inquired about having Administrator Butler research and find extra money to fund Humane Society. Chairman Traylor discussed problems with vicious dogs in Gulf County, and stated that he is going to call a workshop on Wednesday, August 6, 2008 to discuss this problem and the Humane Society. Commissioner McLemore requested that Chairman Traylor change it to a special meeting. Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier stated that she will bring a report of cases where people have been chased or attacked by vicious dogs. Mr. Gibbs stated that the Humane Society will have a \$2,000.00 shortfall .

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, the meeting did then adjourn at 12:03 a.m., E.T.

**BILLY E. TRAYLOR  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK**