

**JULY 21, 2014**

**PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in special session with the following members present: Chairman Ward McDaniel, Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, and Commissioners Joanna Bryan, Tan Smiley, and Warren J. Yeager, Jr.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Sherry Herring, Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael L. Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Deputy Administrator Brett Lowry, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Central Services Director Denise Manuel, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, E9-1-1 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, Deputy Grant Coordinator Kari Summers, Information Technology Dennis Barfield, Sr., Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Property Appraiser Mitch Burke, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Sheriff Mike Harrison, and T.D.C. Executive Director Jennifer Jenkins.

Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., E.T.

**BUDGET**

Chief Administrator Butler presented the Board with a power-point presentation regarding various options to decrease the FY 2014-15 Budget. <Commissioner Tan Smiley entered the meeting at 2:09 p.m., E.T.>

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

After discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for a Payroll System (Account #26219-34000) by \$35,000.00. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously. Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for Live Streaming of Meetings (Account #26219-34000) by \$10,000.00. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously. Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for Equipment for the Board Room (Account #26219-64001) by \$15,000.00. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC WORKS CONSOLIDATED SERVICES/FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE**

Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for the purchase of an Excavator (Account #281513-64001) by \$204,000.00. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public

comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Bryan voting no. Commissioner Yeager motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for a Fueling System (Account #281513-63000) by \$120,000.00. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Commissioner Smiley motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for a new Truck for the Building Department (Account #B3424-64001) by \$25,000.00. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **EMS DEPARTMENT –GULF COUNTY**

Commissioner Yeager motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for an E.M.S. Ambulance (Account #51626-64001) by \$50,000.00. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **LIBRARIES - PUBLIC**

Commissioner Yeager motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget to the Gulf County Library (Account #62271-34100) by \$27,515.00, a 25% reduction. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **HUMANE SOCIETY**

Commissioner Yeager motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget to the St. Joseph Humane Society (Account #43262-82000) by \$12,150.00, a 25% reduction. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion for discussion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. Sandy Christy, of the St. Joseph Humane Society appeared before the Board to discuss her concerns regarding the Humane Society and the proposed reduction. Commissioner Yeager motioned to remove the clock to allow Ms. Christy additional time to speak. After discussion, Commissioner Yeager withdrew his motion and Commissioner Smiley withdrew his second. Chairman McDaniel stated that the St. Joseph Humane Society would remain as is.

### **MENTAL HEALTH/SR. CITIZENS/TRANSPORTATION/GULF ARC**

Upon discussion by Deputy Administrator Lanier regarding a reduction, in the amount of \$8,500.00 (25%) for the proposed FY 2014-15 Senior Citizens (Account #51363-82003); the Board agreed to take no action toward reducing this budget. Following discussion, Commissioner Smiley motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for Aid to Transportation Disadvantaged - Veterans and Non-Sponsored Transportation (Account #51363-82005) by \$4,654.00, a 25% reduction. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously. Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for the Agency for Retarded Citizens (Account #51363-82002) by \$1,763.00, a 25% reduction. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion.

Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

#### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT-COUNTY**

Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for the Gulf County Health Department (Account #42562-81000) by \$14,874.00, a 25% reduction. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

#### **PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Commissioner Smiley motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for T. L. James Park Funding (Account #57172-81001, Aid to Government Agencies/Wewa) by \$3,418.00, a 25% reduction. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner McLemore voting no.

#### **CLERK TO BOARD**

After discussion by Clerk Norris regarding the increase in her budget request (raises for employees and mandated retirement costs), Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget from Clerk to Board by \$6,248.00 (for employee raises). Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

#### **THE PORT AUTHORITY LOAN/INDUSTRIAL PARK EDA FUNDS**

Upon discussion by Chief Administrator Butler, County Attorney Novak discussed the financial request by The Port Authority from the Board. After discussion by members of the Board, Port Authority Attorney Thomas Gibson appeared before the Board to discuss The Port Authority's expenses and projects. After further discussion, Commissioner Yeager motioned to loan The Port Authority \$60,000.00 per year for two (2) years at an interest rate of three (3) percent, using the Industrial Park Funds, and to place the old Arizona Chemical site as collateral, contingent upon County Attorney review. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. After discussion by members of the Board, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. Christy McElroy, of Port St. Joe appeared before the Board to discuss her concerns regarding the Port and requested the Board schedule a special meeting to discuss this topic further. There being no further discussion, the motion then passed unanimously.

#### **COURTHOUSE COMPLEX UTILITIES**

As recommended by Deputy Administrator Lanier, Commissioner Smiley motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget from Courthouse Complex Utilities (Account #25219-43000) by \$24,000.00. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICE**

Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget from Veterans Service (Account #29153-Payroll) by \$11,893.00 (for additional work hours). Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

Deputy Administrator Lanier noted the Supervisor of Elections roof project will be completed in the current fiscal year. Commissioner Yeager motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget from Gulf County Courthouse (Account #26219-46100, Repair & Maintenance:Buildings/Grounds) for the Supervisor of Elections roof project by \$50,000.00. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC WORKS CONSOLIDATED SERVICES/DETENTION & CORRECTIONS**

Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for Work Crew Vans and Trailers from Public Works: Detention and Corrections (Account #281523-64001 \* \$56,000.00 & Account #281523-64000 \* \$4,000.00) by \$60,000.00. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC WORKS CONSOLIDATED SERVICES/STORMWATER MGMT**

Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for the purchase of Stormwater Pipe by \$24,000.00 from the Stormwater Management-Physical Environment budget (Account #281538-53000, Road Materials & Supplies). Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/PROFESSIONAL LITIGATION SERVICE**

Following discussion concerning the reduction in current Lobbyist' contract, Commissioner Yeager motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for the Lobbyist (Account #21111-31200) by \$20,000.00. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS**

Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for Gulf County Supervisor of Elections Raises (Account #24019-91000) by \$1,950.00. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously. Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for additional work hours for the Supervisor of Elections (Account #24019-91000) by \$1,690.00. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. Supervisor of Elections Chief Deputy Gene McCroan appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed budget request. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan withdrew her second. Commissioner McLemore withdrew his motion.

### **TAX COLLECTOR**

After discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for Tax Collector employee raises (Account #22213-91000) by \$2,970.00. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Harrison appeared before the Board to discuss the Gulf County Sheriff's Office budget request; noting he had requested a new investigator position, with related insurance benefits and employee associated costs, and \$100,000.00 again this year for new vehicles/patrol cars. Following discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 Insurance line-item budget (Account #31021-23000) by \$9,888.00. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously. Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the Sheriff's proposed FY 2014-15 budget for the new Investigator position (Account #31021-91000) by \$61,886.00. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously. Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the Sheriff's proposed FY 2014-15 budget (Account #31021-91000) for vehicle replacements by \$40,000.00. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **PROPERTY APPRAISER**

After discussion, Property Appraiser Burke withdrew his request. Commissioner McLemore motioned to reduce the proposed FY 2014-15 budget for new Property Appraiser Positions (Account #22113-91000) by \$69,012.00. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Gulf County Property Appraiser Burke appeared before the Board to discuss the needed positions. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously. Commissioner Bryan motioned to reduce the Property Appraiser's proposed FY 2014-15 Insurance line-item budget for the new positions (Account #22113-23000) by \$17,776.00. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **CASH CARRY FORWARD/EXPENDITURE FREEZES**

County staff discussed possible items that could increase the Cash Carry Forward for FY2014-15. Deputy Administrator Lanier discussed the Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA) obligation; stating although mandated, there is currently no hospital eligible to receive these funds. Based on that, Commissioner Yeager motioned to increase Cash Carry Forward by \$50,420.00. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

Commissioner Yeager motioned to allow the County Attorney to begin the process of using \$70,000.00 of the Sacred Heart Health System (SHHS) ½ Cent Local Surtax by \$70,000.00 in order to payback the County for ambulance runs, thereby increasing Cash Carry Forward (Account #00198-99000). Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bryan motioned to approve the recommended adjustments to the original revenues estimates by increasing Cash Carry Forward (Account #00198-99000) by \$103,554.00. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

Commissioner Yeager motioned to increase Cash Carry Forward (Account #00198-99000) by freezing FY2013-14 expenditures in the County Jail budget (Org. #S3123), in the amount of \$100,000.00. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

#### **BUDGETED REVENUE ADJUSTMENTS**

Commissioner McLemore motioned to transfer \$200,000.00 from Secondary Road and Bridge Fund (Budget Transfer Out, Account #41181-91000) to the Public Works Consolidated Services Fund (Interfund Transfer In, Account #104381-92000). Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

#### **FIVE-CENT GAS TAX/SECOND LOCAL OPTION**

Commissioner Yeager motioned to begin the process of imposing an additional Five-Cent Gas Tax (second local option), increasing revenue in the Public Works Consolidated Services Fund (Account #104312-42000). Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. Tom Semmes, of Wewahitchka appeared before the Board to inquire about the dollar amount. Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that the County's portion from the Five-Cent Gas Tax is estimated to be \$112,628.00 for ¾ of the year. Mr. Semmes stated that if the Cities are going to receive a portion of this proposed gas tax then the County should go back to the budget and remove funding (Aid to other Governments/City of Wewa). After discussion, the motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner McLemore voting no. County Attorney Novak discussed funds and adoption of the proposed ordinance.

#### **AMBULANCE CONTRACT FEES**

Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve an increase in the Ambulance Contract Fees (Account #00142-60002), from the ½ Cent Local Surtax to fund E.M.S., in the amount of \$70,000.00. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **DISPOSITION OF FIXED ASSETS/SALE OF PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT**

Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve the sale of a compactor, limb trucks, and a Dozier; increasing revenue in the amount of \$300,000.00 (Account #104364-00000). Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Following discussion, Commissioner Yeager motioned to allow staff to review the ambulance service budget and bring a recommendation back to the Board. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **LANDFILL CLOSURE**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the possible savings due to the landfill closure. Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve employee attrition from Public Works. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion for discussion. Commissioner McLemore discussed Chief Administrator Butler already having the authority to implement this through existing policy. After discussion, Commissioner Yeager withdrew his motion.

The meeting did then recess at 4:34 p.m., E.T.

The meeting reconvened at 5:10 p.m., E.T.

### **PROPERTY APPRAISER**

Following discussion by Clerk Norris, Commissioner Bryan motioned to clarify that the reduction amount from the Gulf County Property Appraiser's Insurance Line-Item (Account #22113-23000) is \$19,776.00 (an additional \$2,000.00 from the previous motion). Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion then passed unanimously.

### **MILLAGE RECAP**

Clerk Finance Officer Herring stated that the proposed millage rate decreased from Proposal #1; resulting in a current proposed rate of 6.8198. She reported this is an increase of .02590 mills from last year's budget.

### **REDISTRICTING**

Following discussion, County Attorney Novak noted attending the School Board Meeting to discuss redistricting and Attorney Spellman's recommendation.

### **SPECIAL MEETING**

After discussion, Commissioner Smiley motioned to hold a special budget meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2014 at 3:00 p.m., E.T. After discussion, Commissioner Smiley withdrew his motion and Chairman McDaniel scheduled a special budget meeting for Thursday, July 24, 2014 at 3:00 p.m., E.T.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 5:21 p.m., E.T.

**WARD MCDANIEL  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK**