

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MAY 3, 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 Billy E. Traylor, Bill Williams, and Nathan Peters, Jr.

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, Building Inspector George Knight, Chamber of Commerce Director Sandra Chafin, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, E9-1-1 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's Office Major Bobby Plair, Port Authority Director Tommy Pitts, and Chief of Police David Barnes.

Chairman McLemore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., E.T.

DEEP WATER HORIZON (OIL SPILL UPDATE)

Emergency Management Director Nelson recognized the following persons attending this meeting: Franklin County Commissioner Smokie Parrish, Franklin County E.O.C. Representative's Dave McClain and Pamela Brownell.

Chairman McLemore reported that we will join a conference call with the State Emergency Operations Center. Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the State will give an update on the oil spill status, the priorities, and rules of engagement. The State reported on the status of the oil spill, stating we are under a coastal watch. The state reported that British Petroleum (B.P.) will reimburse the counties for damage, but they are unsure whether it will be direct payment or through F.E.M.A.

The State E.O.C. discussed six priorities as follows: (1) health effects of the spill, (2) procedures for fisheries and fishermen (must comply with Federal guidelines), (3) procedures for beach closure, (4) the location parameters (B.P. will be responsible for

the clean-up release forms; stating that Florida will have multiple incidents and warned not to sign release forms too quickly), (5) establish a field line, and (6) volunteer information and forms.

Upon inquiry by Chairman McLemore concerning hiring a contractor for clean-up, State Emergency Operations Center Representative reported that everything must go through the State E.O.C. and B.P. to be eligible for reimbursement. Chairman McLemore inquired as to who decides when the work begins, and the State Emergency Operations Representative reported that everything must go through the Unified Command. Smokie Parrish, Franklin County Commissioner appeared before the Board and discussed a meeting which was held in Escambia County concerning the oil spill, stating that they have never had this type of problem before and that we are all in this together. He reported that individual counties must go through State E.O.C. (if this process is not followed, reimbursement will be denied), and that the Coast Guard will be handling boom deployment. Mr. Parrish discussed that the beaches need to be cleaned prior to the oil coming ashore, stating that once the oil hits the beaches you have to be hazmat certified to remove any debris. Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the booming will not be 100%, stating that there will still be some oil to go over the boom and under the boom, due to the currents and wave action. Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that his office has been working on getting an action plan together. Commissioner Traylor reported that Gulf County is planning for the worst case scenario. Upon inquiry by Chairman McLemore, Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that Matt Durden with AshBritt, is the debris removal contractor for the County. Matt Durden appeared before the Board and reported that they have over 75 miles of soft and hard boom available, stating that no one has ever responded to a disaster of this nature. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams, Mr. Durden reported that he will be available on sight. Emergency Management Director Nelson recommended approval of a Contingency Planning Committee, stating that he would like to add Matt Durden, Tommy Pitts, and Ed Nelson. Commissioner Williams requested that a representative from Sacred Heart Hospital be added to the list. Chairman McLemore requested to add Mark Moore to the committee. Commissioner Peters requested to add Danny Tankersley to the list. Commissioner Traylor requested to add Andrew Rowell to the list.

Bob Jones of Southeastern Fisheries Commission appeared before the Board and discussed that they will be working with all agencies.

Chris Doolin of the Small County Coalition appeared before the Board and reported that Florida has the one of the best Emergency Operations Systems, stating that they will

expand the executive order if necessary. He informed the Board to ask questions and keep the local people involved and informed.

After further discussion, Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve the recommended Contingency Planning Committee, with additions. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Chairman McLemore called for public comment.

Eugene Raffield of Raffield Fisheries appeared before the Board and reported that the committee needs to look at St. Joseph Bay and the booms needed, stating that the booms have to be anchored on both sides. Mr. Raffield discussed the need for an inventory assessment of what Gulf County and the City of Port St. Joe may have available for use in this issue.

Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that he would like the unified command plan and then meet with the Contingency Planning Committee. Chairman McLemore reported that the committee needs to meet as soon as possible. Commissioner Williams requested that someone from the School Board be placed on the committee.

Chuck Guilford appeared before the Board and requested that Mexico Beach have a representative on this committee. Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that Chris Hubbard is on the committee, stating that Kimberly Picket from the Mexico Beach T.D.C. be placed on the Committee.

Pat Hardman appeared before the Board and requested a representative from the Cape area be placed on the committee. Commissioner Yeager suggested that all businesses document from last year compared to this year, stating that there will be reimbursement.

Chairman McLemore reported that we have to work close with British Petroleum (B.P.) on this issue. Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the U.S. Coast Guard must approve a plan.

Clara Landry, Manager of Port St. Joe Marina appeared before the Board and reported that she will work closely with the County on this issue.

LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

After further discussion, Emergency Management Director Nelson recommended that the Board adopt a local State of Emergency Proclamation. Commissioner Yeager

motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Williams requested that they work through the local Department of Health with the special needs people.

The meeting did then recess at 10:23 a.m., E.T.

The meeting did then reconvene at 10:42 a.m., E.T.

Present after break: Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, Vice Chairman Warren J. Yeager, Jr., Commissioners Billy E. Traylor, Bill Williams, and Nathan Peters, Jr., County Attorney Timothy J. McFarland, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, 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, E9-1-1 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Assistant Public Works Director Bobby Knee, and Sheriff's Office Major Bobby Plair.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Chief Administrator Butler reported that he received a call from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, stating that they had received a call concerning the Byrd Parker Drive project, and other projects in Gulf County. He recommended having County Staff or someone on contract to coordinate with Environmental agencies before, during, and after all projects. Commissioner Yeager discussed that there needs to be an environmental person to work with the different agencies. After further discussion, Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve this recommendation and for Chief Administrator Butler to bring it back before the Board. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT

Chairman McLemore reported that the County lost three more employees, stating that this puts the Public Works Department in a critical staffing position. Upon inquiry by Chairman McLemore, Assistant Public Works Director Bobby Knee reported there are currently thirty-seven (37) employees in the Public Works Department. Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran reported that he currently has two (2) sprayers in Mosquito Control. Public Works Director Joe Danford reported that he lost one (1) employee at the Landfill. Chairman McLemore recommended temporarily hiring five (5) employees until September. Upon inquiry by Chairman McLemore, Chief Administrator Don Butler reported that if a position last less than six (6) months, you are not required to pay retirement. Chairman McLemore stated that there is money in the budget, and two (2)

sprayers, one (1) landfill spotter and two (2) laborers/truck drivers are needed. Chief Administrator Butler agreed that these positions were lost and discussed the Union's line of progression process. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Yeager, Chief Administrator Butler reported that the County will get four (4) temporary employees for Public Works through the Workforce Board who will pay 95% of the cost. Upon inquiry and clarity, Mr. Butler agreed that the Board is replacing the four (4) right now with those four (4) through September and that it is temporary. Commissioner Traylor agreed that the Board is replacing those four (4) through the Workforce Development, but stated that this still leaves the County four or five employees short in their daily workforce. Commissioner Traylor further stated that the money is in the budget, and we need to hire more people to get the work done. Chairman McLemore stated that he is not opposed to hiring temporary employees to get through the boom, and to run the day to day operations. Commissioner Williams voiced his concerns that this is counter-intuitive to what the Board is trying to do through consolidation; laying off people then hiring temporary employees to get the work done. Commissioner Williams stated that you don't hire more people to get it done; you stop providing the service. Commissioner Williams further stated that he does not object to hiring temporaries through Workforce Development where they pay 95% of the cost, or using Federal Stimulus money. Commissioner Yeager expressed concerns over having to lay off employees then turning around and hiring temporary help. Commissioner Yeager stated that the Board is in the process of getting five (5) employees (1 for the office and 4 for Public Works) through Workforce Development, and now we're considering hiring five (5) additional temporary employees, for a total of ten (10). Assistant Public Works Director Knee discussed some of the current projects and duties, stating that he will get to what he can with what employees we have available. Commissioner Peters stated that the Board previously planned to hire four (4) temporary sprayers, even when there were thirty-nine (39) employees, but since that time they have had three or four (3-4) recent dismissals and they need to be replaced, even if it's temporary. Commissioner Yeager stated that he would support it only if the Board committed to it being temporary through the summer months for grass cutting and mosquito spraying. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams concerning the Board's position should the Constitutional Officers need temporary help, Chairman McLemore, Commissioner Peters and Commissioner Yeager responded that if those Officers lost employees and had funds in their budgets to hire temporary help, they would not object. Commissioner Williams stated that the positions recently lost due to termination were in Corrections and at the scales (Landfill) and inquired as to whether these temporary people will go to Public Works.

Commissioner Traylor motioned to hire five (5) temporary employees. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion for discussion. After further discussion by members of the Board, the motion then passed 3 to 2, with Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Yeager voting no due to the possibility that the temporary employment could extend beyond September 2010.

Upon inquiry by Chief Administrator Butler about the hiring process, whether to advertise or hire on an emergency basis, Chairman McLemore stated that the County is under a State of Emergency and directed Chief Administrator Butler to hire someone.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Yeager, the meeting did then adjourn at 11:07 a.m., E.T.

**CARMEN L. MCLEMORE
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:
REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**