

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MAY 17, 2007

SPECIAL MEETING

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

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Executive Administrator Towan Kopinsky, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, Sheriff Dalton Upchurch, and Sheriff's Office Major Joe Nugent.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., E.T.

ANIMAL CONTROL / HUMANE SOCIETY

Commissioner McLemore reported that the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society is about to open their new facility, and they have agreed to house and feed the animals picked up by the Animal Control Department free-of-charge until budget session. Gary Gibbs stated that they plan to move into the new facility on Saturday (May 19th), and he thanked the Board for their support. Mr. Gibbs also reiterated that the Humane Society will house and care for the animals for the Board free-of-charge until budget time. County Attorney McFarland stated that the Animal Control animals must be handled separately (according to the County's ordinance) from the Humane Society animals. Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous vote, the Board accepted this proposal from the Humane Society. Ms. Christie discussed that there are several issues that need to be worked out regarding hours of operation, "checking-in" of animals, etc. Deputy Administrator Lanier stated that she will work out the details with the Humane Society and Animal Control Department.

IMMIGRATION / UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS

Upon discussion by Chairman Williams regarding the immigration issues discussed at the last regular meeting, County Attorney McFarland stated that there are federal rules regulating this matter, but getting it enforced is difficult. He further stated that other counties have addressed this by placing work site restrictions on employers through the ordinance process. After further discussion, the Board agreed for County Attorney McFarland to obtain ordinances from other counties and draft one for the Board to consider.

GULF COUNTY BREEZE / PUBLICATIONS

Jamie Lester, of *The Gulf County Breeze*, appeared before the Board and Commissioner McLemore discussed the possibility of publishing all of the County advertisements in *The Gulf County Breeze* instead of in *The Star*. Mr. Lester stated that *The Breeze* is locally owned and operated and is the oldest newspaper in the County. He discussed that they are in the process of moving the main branch of *The Breeze* to Port St. Joe and beginning to publish on a weekly basis. He stated that they would be willing to advertise all items for the County at a fixed monthly rate (instead of per ad). He also stated that they will be able to meet the criteria needed by the County when they begin publishing every week and circulating the newspapers on the South-end of the County. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Traylor regarding refusal to publish ads or letters submitted by the Board, Mr. Lester stated that there would not be a problem in running paid ads. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Deputy Administrator Lanier stated that the current approximate cost is \$2,400.00 per month (excluding the T.D.C. ads). Commissioner McLemore motioned to allow County Attorney McFarland, Chief Administrator Butler & Deputy Administrator Lanier to work Mr. Lester on a proposal for the Board to review, and Commissioner Peters seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion regarding distribution on the South-end of the County and the need to seek R.F.P.'s for advertising, County Attorney McFarland stated the Board should seek R.F.P.'s and the motion passed unanimously. Upon inquiry by Red Stanton regarding home delivery, Deputy Administrator Lanier discussed subscription mail-outs will be available.

SPECIAL PROJECTS PAYMENTS

There were no Special Projects Payment requests at this time. Commissioner Barnes discussed that the W.H.S. Girls' Varsity High School Softball Team won the State Championship last week, and Commissioner Traylor stated they will be attending the Board meeting on Tuesday (May 22nd).

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, the meeting did then adjourn at 11:25 a.m., E.T.

ATTEST:

**BILL WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**