

**PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2008**

**REGULAR MEETING**

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

Others present were: County Attorney Tim McFarland, Clerk of Circuit Court Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kayla Duke, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, Planner David Richardson, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Building Inspector George Knight, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Gulf County EMS Director Shane McGuffin, Dalkeith Fire Department Chief Bill Davis, TDC Director Paula Pickett, Veteran's Service Officer James Kennedy, Major Bobby Plair, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

Sheriff Joe Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., E.T.

Planner David Richardson opened the meeting with prayer, and Commissioner Peters led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous vote, the following consent agenda was approved:

1. Minutes September 9, 2008 Regular Meeting  
- September 9, 2008 Special Meeting
2. Agreement FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (St. Joseph Peninsula  
Beach Restoration Project / Amendment #2  
  
- FL Dept. of Health (Gulf County Health Department)
3. Budget Amendment Gulf County Mosquito Control FY2007/2008  
- Gulf County Sheriff's Department
4. Health Insurance H.S.A. Account
5. Inventory Overstreet Fire Department (Transfer 1997 Ford 350 Brush  
Truck Tag #150468 / VIN #FDKF37F2VEA47779 to  
Wetappo Creek Fire Dept.)  
  
- Overstreet Fire Department (Transfer 1993 2,000 gallon Pumper  
Freightliner Fire Truck Tag #127696 / VIN  
#1FUWJLBB4NL481019 to Wetappo  
Creek Fire Department)

- Supervisor of Elections (Junk #30-49, #30-59)
6. Invoice - Agency for Health Care Administration - Medicaid (July, 2008 \*  
\$5,637.22 \* to be paid from Account #52264-34100)
    - G.A.C Contractors - Lake Grove Road Change Order #9 (Invoice  
#5826 \* \$279,333.00 \* to be paid from Account #40641-  
53000)
    - M.R.D. Associates Sea Turtle and Shoreline Bird Monitoring Program  
Project #08-210.9 (Invoice #1159 \* \$5,025.24 \* to be  
paid from Account #25837-34000)
    - M.R.D. Associates St Joseph Peninsula Construction Services  
Project #08-210.8 (Invoice #1160 \* \$105,927.06  
\* to be paid from Account #25837-34000)
    - Preble-Rish, Inc. FDOT Stumphole Rock Enhancement Project  
(Invoice #65824 \* \$26,447.00 \* to be paid from Account  
#40249-31000)
    - Preble-Rish, Inc. Route 30A Stormwater Pipe Crossing (Invoice  
#77066 \* \$1,870.00 \* to be paid from Account #26937-  
31000)
  7. Permit Fees Waive (Cape San Blas - Replacement of damaged structures  
from Gustav and Ike)
  8. Purchase Request Dalkeith Fire Department 7 sets of bunker gear  
from NAFCO (\$9,994.50 \* to be paid from 2007-2008  
Fire Dept. Budget)
  9. Road Limited Maintenance Request (East River Road)
  10. Resolution Amended Resolution No. 2008-11

(END)

### **PUBLIC HEARING/PDRB RECOMMENDATIONS**

Pursuant to advertisement to hold a public hearing to consider Final Subdivision Plat approval for Seaside Farms Phase II - Waterfront Group, LLC - Parcel ID#01095-001R - 1,650 acres in Sections 23, 26, 27, 34 of Township 6 South, Range 9 West, Gulf County, Florida, a 30 Unit Subdivision Subject to all Federal, State and Local Development Regulations, stated and unstated, located at Howard Creek. County Attorney Tim McFarland read the public hearing and called for public comment. Commissioner McLemore asked Planner David Richardson if there were any stipulations or agreements with the land owner(s) concerning road maintenance in that subdivision. Planner Richardson stated that these are private roads and the owner will have to maintain them. Discussion followed with concerns of the County's policy of accepting private roads.

County Attorney McFarland informed the Board that the policy currently states that the County will not accept private roads, although it can be changed, it will not affect this subdivision, as it will go through under the existing rules and regulations. Commissioner Peters motioned to deny Final Subdivision Plat approval, and with Commissioner McLemore's second, the motion to deny passed 4-1 (Commissioner Williams opposed).

Pursuant to advertisement to hold a public hearing to consider Final Minor Subdivision Plat approval of Bayside Subdivision Parcel ID#06268-720R 3.68 Acres in Section 7, Township 9 South, Range 11 West, Gulf County, Florida, a 3 Unit Subdivision Subject to all Federal, State and Local Development Regulations, stated and unstated, located at Cape San Blas. County Attorney McFarland called for public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

County Attorney Tim McFarland announced a public hearing to consider approval of an ordinance amending the Gulf County Comprehensive Plan. County Attorney McFarland read the ordinance and called for public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner Barnes motioned to approve the following ordinance. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **ORDINANCE 2008-18**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA BY AND THROUGH PROCEDURES REQUIRED FOR SMALL-SCALE MAP AMENDMENTS PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY UNDER STATES STATUES SECTION 163.3187, SPECIFICALLY CHANGING A PORTION PARCEL ID#02975-000R, #02978-000R, #02977-000R, 10.0 ACRES OF LAND LYING AND BEING PART OF SECTIONS 17, 19, 20, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA FROM AGRICULTURAL TO MIXED COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

<Complete Copy on File in Clerk's Office>

### **BUDGET AMENDMENT #5/ST. JOSEPH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

Clerk of Circuit Court Rebecca Norris presented budget amendment #5 for the Board's consideration to reduce the FY2007-2008 budget by expenditures that were to be funded through loan proceeds. These expenditures were included in the original 2007-2008 budget for South Gulf County Fire Department. Commissioner Barnes motioned to approve budget amendment #5. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reduce the FY2007-2008 Budget by expenditures that were to be funded through loan proceeds. These expenditures were included in the original 2007-2008 budget for South Gulf Fire Department.

# Budget Amendment

## #5

### ST JOSEPH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT SOUTH GULF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

	Original Budget	Increase	Decrease	Amended Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>				
<b>Debt Proceeds:</b>				
10683-00000 Debt Proceeds	\$539,359	\$ 0.00	\$539,359	\$ 0.00
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>SOUTH GULF VFD:</b>				
32922-61000 Land	\$200,000	\$ 0.00	\$ 200,000	\$ 0.00
32922-62001 Buildings>\$25000	\$327,000	\$ 0.00	\$327,000	\$ 0.00
32922-62100 Impr to Buildings	\$5,000	\$ 0.00	\$5,000	\$ 0.00
32922-64001 Equipment>\$5,000	\$328,000	\$ 0.00	\$7,359	\$ 320,641

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET HEARING**

Clerk Norris informed the Board that a supplemental budget hearing needs to be scheduled, and recommended that the Board schedule the meeting for October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 5:30 p.m., E.T. Commissioner Peters motioned to do so. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **FINAL BUDGET HEARING**

Clerk Norris reminded the Board that the final budget hearing is set for Monday, September 29, 2008 at 5:01 p.m., E.T.

#### **G.A.C. INVOICES/OVERSTREET WATER SYSTEM PROJECT**

Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky presented Invoice #5756 from G.A.C., in the amount of \$287,597.74 for the Overstreet Water System project, and the final invoice for retainage, in the amount of \$63,281.66. Commissioner Peters motioned to approve payment of the invoices. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **PREBLE-RISH, INC. INVOICES/LAKE GROVE ROAD PROJECT/HWY 22A**

Grant Writer Kopinsky presented Invoice #65827 from Preble Rish, Inc., in the amount of \$11,443.20 for the Lake Grove Road Project/Hwy 22A. Commissioner Peters motioned to approve payment of the invoice, contingent upon Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee's approval. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **RETFERFORD CONTRACTING INVOICES/WHITE CITY BOAT RAMP**

Grant Writer Kopinsky presented Invoice #2648-97 from Retherford Contracting, in the amount of \$9,425.00 for the White City Boat Ramp Project. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve payment of the invoice. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **NORTHWEST FLORIDA CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier informed the Board that she received a letter from Sharon Gaskin, of Northwest Florida Child Development, requesting that the Board send a

letter of support in their effort to obtain funding for the relocation and construction of a new early child development and family center located in Port St. Joe. Commissioner Peters motioned to approve the request. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **BID LISTS**

Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier informed the Board and the public that there are several places where bid information is listed, such as the County website, the local newspaper, Construction Data Fax, and Florida Bid Reporting and stated that she is also looking into the possibility of reporting bids to Demand Star. Deputy Administrator Lanier further stated that due to the increasingly large list of vendors, this will be the avenue for vendors to obtain County bid and RFP information, in lieu of a bid list.

### **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS INVENTORY/JUNK ITEM #15-13**

Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier requested the Board's permission to junk an old HP Computer, Item #15-13. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **VETERAN'S TOWN HALL MEETING**

Veteran's Service Officer James Kennedy informed the Board of the Veteran's Town Hall Meeting, to be held on October 2, 2008 at 4:00 p.m., E.T. at the VFW post in Highland View, and invited the Commissioners to attend. VSO Kennedy stated that this will be an opportunity for Veteran's to discuss local concerns and issues important to Gulf County. He further stated that State Representative Jimmy Patronis, along with Congressman Boyd, and a representative from Senator Nelson's Office will be present.

### **BID#0708-37/LOAN/MOSQUITO CONTROL BUILDING**

Solid Waste Director Joe Danford requested that the Board table Bid #0708-37 until there has been more time to review the results. Commissioner Peters motioned to do so. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **INSURANCE/PROPERTY/CASUALTY LINE**

Human Resource Director Denise Manuel informed the Board that several companies have been bidding on the property/casualty line insurance, and there has been some competition, which will work in the County's favor. She further stated that the Insurance Committee has not had opportunity to review all of the bids, as the last one was received today, but the insurance must be in place by October 1, 2008. She then requested the Board's direction. Commissioner Williams motioned to award the bid, contingent upon the Insurance Committee's recommendation. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **COUNTY DENTAL INSURANCE/JAMES AND CONNIE JENSEN**

Sheriff Joe Nugent presented a request from Sheriff's Department employees James and Connie Jensen, requesting that the Board pay both employee premiums toward the family dental insurance premium, effective October 1, 2008. Human Resource Director Manuel stated that this has been done in the past when both husband and wife work for the County. Commissioner Peters motioned to approve this request. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **CASH CARRY FORWARD/SHERIFF'S BUDGET**

Sheriff Joe Nugent approached the Board concerning possible unspent funds from this year's budget, and requested that the Board allow him to carry it forward into the 2008-09 budget. After discussion, Commissioner Williams stated that he feels the Sheriff's department should be rewarded for being a good steward, and not penalized by having to return these funds to the Board (to be placed back in the general fund), and motioned to approve the Sheriff's request. Chairman Traylor passed the chair to Commissioner Peters and seconded the motion for discussion. Sheriff Nugent stated that he could spend the money this fiscal year, but he doesn't want to risk going over budget. Commissioner Williams stated that Sheriff Nugent can spend the money this budget year without the Board's knowledge, but if the Board allows him to carry it forward, it will be beneficial in the case of an emergency to have those funds available. The motion then failed 1-4, with Chairman Peters, and Commissioners Barnes, McLemore, and Traylor voting no. Chairman Peters returned the chair to Commissioner Traylor.

### **JUDICIAL CORRECTION SERVICES (JCS)/PROBATION SERVICES**

Chief Administrator Butler recommended that the Board renew their contract with JCS for probation services, stating that Judge Witten and Judge Smiley agree with this recommendation, and would support adding to the contract a pre-trial release program. Richard Stewart approached the Board and discussed the pre-trial release process. Chief Administrator Butler further informed the Board that the probation fee would increase from \$40.00 to \$45.00. Commissioner Peters motioned to renew the contract with JCS for a period of three years. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **PROBATION FEES**

Commissioner Peters motioned to increase County Court Probation fees to \$45.00, effective October 1, 2008, with no additional increase throughout this three year contract. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **IOLA ROAD PROJECT/AWARD BID#0708-36**

Chief Administrator Butler informed the Board that GAC was the low bidder for the Iola Road Project, and recommended that the Board award the bid to GAC, contingent upon negotiating a change in the Scope of Work to get the contract down to the amount of the grant award. Commissioner McLemore motioned to do so. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **LOCAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Chief Administrator Butler presented the following recommendations for the Housing Assistance Planning Committee.

Tom Watson  
Kyle Adkison  
Lois Byrd  
Amy Rogers  
Natalie Shoaf  
Ann Jarosz  
Randy Raffield

Chief Administrator Butler stated that there are still 2-3 vacancies that need to be filled, but this will at least get the committee up and running. Commissioner Peters motioned to accept this recommendation. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **LOBBYIST RFP/BID#0708-35**

Chief Administrator Butler informed the Board that the information concerning this RFP was placed in the Information Pack, pages 5-21. He further stated that two bids were received and recommended that the Board award the bid to Harrison, Rivard and Bennet, Chtd. Upon Commissioner McLemore's inquiry, Chief Administrator Butler confirmed that this was in the 2008-09 budget. Commissioner McLemore motioned to do so.

Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **CITY OF PORT ST. JOE/REIMBURSEMENT/ROAD BOND**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed a reimbursement request from the City of Port St. Joe, in the amount of \$256,642.50 for road paving expenditures. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve the reimbursement request, contingent upon proof that the City has paid the contractor. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **COURTHOUSE FACILITIES SPENDING PLAN**

Chief Administrator Butler recommended that the Board request the Court Administrator's Office to allow an amendment to the Small County Courthouse Facility grant spending plan to include Courthouse renovation and repair. Commissioner Peters motioned to do so. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner McLemore inquired about the time-line for the completion of the Courthouse renovations. Chief Administrator stated that possibly the end of winter. Commissioner Peters confirmed this as priority #1. Clerk Norris thanked the Board.

### **BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT**

Chief Administrator Butler informed the Board of the importance in getting the Primary Beach Access Points completed so that DEP money can be requested and used to pay the contractors, instead of County funds. Commissioner Barnes motioned to make this a priority. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **GARBAGE COLLECTION CONTRACT**

Chief Administrator Butler informed the Board that the ten year contract for garbage collection will be up for renewal soon and an RFP will need to be advertised in December. He recommended that the Board appoint members to serve on a committee, who will create the RFP specifications for a garbage collection contract, at the next regular meeting.

### **ANIMAL CONTROL PROPOSED ORDINANCE/REVISIONS**

County Attorney Tim McFarland informed the Board that he has met with the Animal Control Committee and made several changes to the animal control ordinance and, with the Board's permission, the revised proposed ordinance will be advertised in The Star. Attorney McFarland gave an outline of proposed changes/revisions. Commissioner McLemore motioned to advertise the proposed ordinance. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

County Attorney McFarland informed the Board of a need for an Interlocal Agreement with both cities to allow the Gulf County Animal Control Officers to enforce County ordinances within the City limits. After discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned for County Attorney McFarland to construct an Interlocal Agreement to this effect. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Board then decided that possible fees for service will be determined at a later date.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**

Gulf County Planner David Richardson advised the Board that the Capital Improvement Schedule needs to be finalized and submitted to the State.

### **VFW EVENT**

Commissioner Williams discussed the Veteran's Town Hall Meeting, to be held at the VFW Post and the importance of the Board attending to show their support. He further stated that he is going to request a Federal appropriation on \$200,000.00 for Veteran's Memorial Park and the State for a direct appropriation of \$200,000.00, as well. Commissioner Williams motioned that the Board send a letter of support for those appropriations, and that the funds be in the form of a CEBR. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **DONNIE WAYNE BRAKE PARK DEDICATION/ADVERTISEMENT**

Commissioner Williams requested that the Board schedule the Donnie Wayne Brake dedication for October 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m., E.T. and motioned that the Board advertise this in The Star. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **TOWN HALL MEETING/ADVERTISEMENT**

Commissioner Williams stated that there was an advertisement posted in the paper that announced a Town Hall meeting set for October 13, 2008, but stated that he would be unavailable this date because of a political debate, and motioned to re-advertise the notice and set the meeting for October 20<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **INVOICE/BAILEY&SONS DIVERSIFIED/ROAD BOND PROJECT/BID#0607-11**

Commissioner Williams presented an Invoice from Bailey & Sons Diversified, in the amount of \$28,619.26, for the Road Bond Project and motioned to approve the invoice, contingent upon the engineer's review and approval. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **FOUR DAY WORK WEEK**

Commissioner Williams requested that Chief Administrator Butler update the Board on the effectiveness of the four day work week and inquired about the Administrator's Office going to a four day work week as well. Chief Administrator Butler stated that all the employees have been very happy with the new schedule and it has not interfered with completing regular responsibilities, and recommended that the Administrative Staff, located in the Administration Building, go to a four day work week on a trial basis for ninety days. Commissioner Williams motioned to do so. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed 4-1, with Commissioner Peters opposing.

### **LANDFILL/ENFORCEMENT OF RULES**

Commissioner Williams informed the Board that there are a lot of people who are uncertain about the rules pertaining to the landfill, and stated the need to be clear and the need to enforce the rules. Dennis Sculley approached the Board and stated that the rules prohibit salvaging, but there are County employees who are allowed to salvage, while the public is restricted from doing so. Solid Waste Director Joe Danford discussed the definition of salvaging, and stated that DEP clearly forbids it. He further stated that if someone sees an item close by and it is easily accessible, that he has no objection to them getting it, but no one will be permitted to climb on the garbage piles throughout the landfill to salvage, as this is very dangerous.

### **WHITE CITY PARK**

Commissioner Williams discussed items at White City Park that need to be junked, and stated that he needs someone to come out and look at these items. Commissioner Williams discussed advertising for bid to remove all the junked items at White City Park shed. Clerk Norris stated that before items can be sold or auctioned off, an inventory of each item must be made. Commissioner Williams motioned to junk these items. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **APOLLO STREET**

Commissioner Peters thanked G.A.C. for the completion of Apollo Street. Commissioner Peters inquired about the stop sign and stripping. Andrew Rowell, GAC, stated that he would take care of these items.

### **GULF COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Commissioner Peter discussed the Gulf County Library extension, and stated that the front window is not protected by the steel beam as is the Courthouse, and inquired about the cost of installation. Chief Administrator Butler stated that the County may have an extra one that will fit; he will check into it.

### **AMERICUS AVENUE DITCH PROJECT/BID#0708-01**

Commissioner Peters inquired of Commissioner Williams, concerning the Americus Avenue Ditch Project, and whether there was a set date for completion of the street ends. Commissioner Williams stated that there has not been a date set as of yet, but it should be completed in a couple of weeks.

### **HAVEN ROAD/MAINTENANCE**

Commissioner Barnes stated that Haven Road is in need of some very limited maintenance and motioned to go out for bid to complete it. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **RESOLUTION #2008-38 /GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE**

Chief Administrator Butler informed the Board of a proposed resolution in the information packet that would propose a constitutional amendment to require State Legislators to operate under the same Sunshine Laws which Counties and Municipalities operate. Chairman Traylor passed the Chair to Commissioner Peters and motioned to adopt the following resolution. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed 4-1 (Commissioner Williams opposed). Chairman Peters returned the Chair to Commissioner Traylor.

## **RESOLUTION 2008-38**

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON THE 23 DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2008.

WHEREAS, Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine Law enacted in 1967 established a right of access to most meetings of boards, commissions and other governing bodies of state and local governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, Governor Charlie Crist recently proclaimed March 16-22, 2008 as Sunshine Week for the citizens of the State of Florida and stated "The role of Florida's government is to serve the people of Florida, and open government gives the people the tools they need to hold their elected officials accountable"; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2007, Governor Crist issued Executive Order 01-107, creating the Commission on Open Government Reform to review, evaluate, and issue recommendations regarding Florida's public records and public meeting laws; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Open Government will compile its findings and present a final report to the Governor, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2008 to include specific recommendations including proposed legislation, rule changes and modifications, if any, to Article I, Section 24, of the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, our counties and municipalities live by this law and insure that government business is conducted in the open for all people to see; and

WHEREAS, all Florida government is better served when all elected officials live in the Sunshine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County.

Section 1. That all counties in Florida urge the Commission on Open Government to propose, and the Governor to support a constitutional amendment that requires state legislators to operate under the same Sunshine Laws under which county officials operate.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be provided to the Chair of the Commission on Open Government, Florida Governor Charlie Crist, and all counties in Florida.

(END)

### **RICH'S IGA/LEASE AGREEMENT**

Chairman Traylor inquired of County Attorney McFarland concerning a lease agreement

with Rich's IGA. County Attorney McFarland stated that the County is not in a position to abate taxes, and recommended that the Board enter into a lease agreement with the same terms and amount of money as previously set. County Attorney McFarland stated that Mr. Rich is asking that the lease agreement price be the same amount as his taxes each year, which is \$1,269.78 per year. He further stated that he would bring a proposed lease to the next regular meeting for the Boards consideration.

### **APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL/RAFFIELD'S FISHERIES, INC.**

Janice Watson, of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, approached the Board, as well as, Council Attorney Ed Blanton. Mr. Blanton discussed the history of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council's U.S. Economic Development Administration grant of 1985, for the purpose of helping Raffield's Fisheries build their processing plant. Mr. Blanton discussed past litigation and the fire at Raffield's. He further discussed the agreement between Gulf County and ARPC, whereby Gulf County would collect rent money from Raffield's under an escalating lease payment agreement over a 5 year period, with a lease option plan to purchase a freezer which was the object of the debt. The freezer was deeded to the County, leased to Raffield's, and ARPC being the administrator, stated Mr. Blanton. Mr. Blanton then stated that ARPC was approached by Gulf County prior to the end of the 5-year lease period, requesting an extension of terms, due to economic hardships. ARPC agreed to extend the term to 2004. Mr. Blanton stated that Raffield's Fisheries are very delinquent and the Federal Government has informed them (ARPC) that they are going to begin collection efforts. Mr. Blanton and Ms. Watson proposed to recommend to ARPC that Gulf County submit the money currently on hand to ARPC and they will establish and administer a revolving loan fund earmarked for Gulf County businesses (as it was originally intended). Chairman Traylor passed the Chair to Commissioner Peters and motioned to (1) proceed with ARPC's recommendation to submit the approximate \$200,000.00 on hand to ARPC, making a principal debt reduction, and transmit monthly the entire amount received from Raffield's to ARPC (instead of splitting it with the County), and (2) appoint Chief Administrator Butler and County Attorney McFarland to represent the Board in this matter. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed 4-0, with Commissioner Barnes abstaining.

Ms. Watson thanked the Board for their letter of condolences when she lost her son in an auto accident last year.

### **DALKEITH FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Dalkeith Fire Department Chief Bill Davis requested the Board's permission to purchase seven new complete sets of bunker gear, stating that the funds are in the budget. Commissioner Peters stated that the Board had already approved this request, in the Consent Agenda.

### **BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT**

TDC Director Paula Pickett approached the Board and discussed the importance of completing the Beach Access Points and submitting the documents previously approved in the Consent Agenda, stating that this will increase the State's reimbursement cost share up to 54.65%.

### **PET FRIENDLY BEACHES/TDC**

TDC Director Pickett discussed the Pet Friendly Community Beaches strategies, stating that TDC has taken proactive steps in this area.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT/GREEN LODGING**

TDC Director Paula Picket discussed issues with garbage on Cape San Blas. She discussed that the State is pushing "Green Lodging", stating that there are strong tax incentives for Hotel providers. TDC has discussed contracting with a non-profit organization for recycling.

**BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT**

TDC Director Picket gave an update of the progress of this project and recent storm events.

**LETTERS TO GOVERNOR AND DEP/STUMPHOLE PERMIT**

Chief Administrator Butler requested that the Board grant permission for Chairman Traylor to sign a letter to the Governor, in support of expediting the permit process for the Stumphole project and a letter to the Secretary of the DEP, of the same effect. Commissioner Peters motioned to allow Chairman Traylor to sign these letters. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner Peters, the meeting did then adjourn at 7:33 p.m., E.T.

**BILLY E. TRAYLOR  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK**