

SEPTEMBER 6, 2016
PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA
BUDGET HEARING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in special budget session with the following members present: Chairman Ward McDaniel, Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, and Commissioners Joanna Bryan, Sandy Quinn, Jr., and Jerry W. Barnes.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Director of Finance & Management Rhonda Woodward, Clerk Budget & Finance Officer Sherry Herring, Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael L. Hammond, Deputy Administrator Kari Summers, Building Official George Knight, Central Services Director Lynn Lanier, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, HR/Risk Management Director Denise Manuel, Assistant Mosquito Control Director Austin Horton, County Planner Brett Lowry, Property Appraiser Mitch Burke, Property Appraiser IT Tech Dennis Barfield, Jr. Assistant Public Works Director Lee Collinsworth, Gulf County RESTORE Act Coordinator Warren Yeager, Jr., Sheriff Mike Harrison, Sheriff's Department Captain Chris Buchanan, and Veterans' Service Officer & S.H.I.P. Administrator Joe Paul.

Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m., E.T.

TENTATIVE 2016-17 OVERVIEW

Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Board gave direction for County Staff to come back to the Board with a balanced budget based on the current millage rate. He reported that the current Millage Rate is 7.2442, stating that with the increased values within the County, an increase of \$458,433.00 is projected. After discussion by Chief Administrator Butler, he reported that the Final Budget Hearing will be held on September 20, 2016 at 5:01 p.m., E.T. Clerk Norris then advised the Board of the following: 1. The Aggregate Proposed Millage Rate is 7.6301, which is 3.49% above the current year aggregate rolled back rate of 7.3731; 2. The Countywide proposed Tentative Millage Rate is 7.2442; 3. The maximum Countywide Millage Rate is 7.2442, unless the Board votes to adopt a lesser rate; 4. The General Fund Cash Carry Forward amount is \$6,593,836 as balance brought forward cash and has been budgeted as a source of funds in the 2016-17 General Fund Budget (unrestricted is \$5,300,000, with the remaining being restricted cash in the General Fund); 5. Key increases over the rolled back rate are: a) Sheriff's Office Budget increase, b) E.M.S. Budget increase, c) increase to insurance contributions, and d) General Fund/Public Work pay and step increase; 6. The Port St. Joe Downtown Redevelopment Agency's obligation this year based on the current millage rate is \$155,348.00. 7. The Dependent Districts proposed tentative budgets include .5000 millage each; 8. Adding this year MSTU voted debt service proposed tentative millage rate a) Gulfside Beachfront is 1.3139, b) Gulfside Interior is 1.1549, and c) Bayside is 1.1052; 9. Any changes to elected officials salaries based on the State Legislators have

been added; and 10. Changes associated with grant and debt services funds have been included in the proposed budget. Clerk Norris noted that any increases the Board provides will have to be offset by equivalent reductions to other specified budgets. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Clerk Budget & Finance Officer Herring reported that the total increase for the Sheriff's Department, including the amount of the insurance contribution, is \$127,645.00, and the E.M.S. increase is \$107,246.00. Commissioner McLemore discussed his concerns regarding being short approximately \$300,000 to a balanced budget; noting that \$234,000 had been identified. Chief Administrator Butler reported that \$319,000 from the proposed budget was cut to get to the current year millage rate. After discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. Bob Locascio, with Gulf County Senior Citizens Association appeared before the Board to thank the Board for their support; discussing the Alzheimer's program. He requested the Board consider providing additional funds to support the Alzheimer's program. The Board took no action. After further discussion, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There were no additional public comment.

RESOLUTION – TENTATIVE 2016-17 MILLAGE RATES

Clerk Norris read the proposed resolution setting forth the tentative millage rates. Commissioner McLemore motioned to adopt the following Resolution. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously, as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR GULF COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Complete Resolution on file with Clerk

(End)

RESOLUTION – TENTATIVE 2016-17 BUDGET

Clerk Norris read the proposed resolution setting forth the tentative 2016-17 budget. Commissioner McLemore motioned to adopt the Tentative 2016-17 Budget Resolution. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. After discussion by Commissioner Bryan, Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed then 4 to 1, with Commissioner Bryan voting no, as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Complete Resolution on file with Clerk

(End)

FINAL BUDGET HEARING

Following discussion by Clerk Norris, Commissioner McLemore motioned to set the Final Budget Hearing for Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 5:01 p.m., E.T. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There being no public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Quinn, and unanimous vote, the meeting did then adjourn at 5:37 p.m., E.T.

**WARD MCDANIEL
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK OF COURT**