

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

JULY 24, 2007

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

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

Others present were: Clerk Becky Norris, Clerk Executive Administrator Towan Kopinsky, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Building Inspector George Knight, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, G.I.S. Director Larry Davis, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Shane McGuffin, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Assistant Road Department Superintendent Chris Wood, T.D.C. Director Paula Pickett, Union Steward Doug Kelly, Veterans' Service Officer James Kennedy, and Sheriff's Office Major Joe Nugent.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m., E.T.

2007-08 PROPOSED BUDGET

Chief Administrator Butler gave a power point presentation prepared by the budget committee, stating that if the Board adopts them as presented it would be a loss of 4 employees in the Maintenance Department, 8 employees in the Public Works Department, and 6 employees in the Road Department. Chairman Williams discussed that the Board has to reduce the current budget by \$4.3 million to reach 91% of the rolled-back rate or \$3.3 million if they decide to take the Statutory exemption method.

OUTSIDE ENTITIES / HEALTH DEPARTMENT (#42562-81000)

Evelyn Youngs and Marie Clark of the Gulf County Health Department and discussed the services they provide and the areas where they will have to reduce services (decrease the extended hours schedule, etc.). After discussion by members of the Board, Mrs. Clark requested that the Board not reduce this budget more than the 50% that has already been cut over the current year budget.

STATE REVENUE SHARING

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that the amount of State Revenue Sharing received will also be reduced because the State Revenues are expected to be lower. Commissioner Traylor stated that Representative Patronis is in a bad situation (he got elected during a bad financial time), but he is doing everything he can to help Gulf County.

OUTSIDE ENTITIES / GULF COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (#27152-31000)

Chamber Director Sandra Chafin appeared before the Board to discuss that they understand the budget situation that the County is experiencing, and thanked the Board for their funding assistance in the past.

SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (#51363-34500)

Bill Lyles (Acting Executive Director and President of the Board of Directors for the Senior Citizens Association) and Larry Broome (Lead Case Director) appeared before the Board to discuss the services provided by the Association to the elderly in Gulf County. Chairman Williams discussed the impact to the senior citizens, and Mr. Bloome stated that any funds cut will be an issue because there is already a waiting list for those who cannot currently be served.

GENERAL FUND - RESERVES (#99984)

Commissioner Peters discussed emergency situations such as hurricanes, and motioned to tentatively budget \$500,000.00 in Cash to be Carried Forward (#96000) and \$585,485.00 in Reserve for Contingencies (#95000). Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion for discussion and, after discussion, the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

BCC - PROFESSIONAL LITIGATION SERVICES (#21111-31200)

Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Traylor, and unanimous (4-0) vote, the Board agreed to tentatively budget \$40,000.00 in BCC Professional Litigation Services.

ST. JOSEPH BAY HUMANE SOCIETY (#43262-82000)

Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Traylor, and unanimous (4-0) vote, the Board agreed to tentatively budget a total of \$19,000.00 for the Humane Society.

ANIMAL CONTROL (#43062)

Commissioner Peters motioned to tentatively increase the Animal Control budget by the \$35,000.00 that was previously deducted. After discussion by Chairman Williams regarding the possibility of working something out with the Sheriff's Office regarding animal control,

Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

UTILITIES - HONEYVILLE STORM SHELTER (#31325)

Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner McLemore, and unanimous (4-0) vote, the Board agreed to tentatively budget \$30,000.00 in the Honeyville Community Emergency Center budget for utilities, etc. for the Storm Shelter.

OUT-OF-COUNTY TRAVEL (#40000)

Commissioner Peters discussed the necessity of training for various departments, and motioned to add 50% of the out-of-county travel and per diem that was reduced back to each department. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

COMMUNICATIONS / CELL PHONES (#41000)

Commissioner Peters discussed the need for cell phones for various employees within the County, and motioned to tentatively budget \$5,000.00 in Communications for cell phones for "key" employees. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion for discussion and, after further discussion, the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDS

Commissioner Peters discussed the Board's Special Projects funds and the various organizations that these funds have assisted, and the possibility of budgeting \$2,000.00 for each district's Special Projects (\$10,000.00 total). After discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner Traylor motioned to table this issue. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES / UTILITIES (#57072)

After discussion by members of the Board regarding closing all parks at sundown and minimal lighting for public safety measures, Commissioner Traylor motioned to table this issue. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

CORRECTIONAL FACILITY / JAIL (#31123)

After discussion, Commissioner Traylor motioned that due to the current budget restrictions, the Board not fund the \$1.7 million required to meet Model Jail Standards at this time. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed 3 to 1, with Chairman Williams voting no.

SCENARIO A-3

Upon inquiry by Chief Administrator Butler regarding adoption of Scenario A-3, Commissioner McLemore motioned not to approve this scenario and to use the balanced budget presented by the Clerk. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed 3 to 1, with Chairman Williams voting no.

The meeting did then recess at 3:35 p.m., E.T.

The meeting reconvened at 3:58 p.m., E.T.

2007-08 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Clerk Norris reported that the tentative budget packet she presented does not include funding for parks, etc. or the items the Board changed today, but the amounts can be taken from the Reserves that were set aside. Clerk Norris stated that the Cash to be Carried Forward should not be spent because it is intended to be carried forward to the next fiscal year. She further discussed that if the Board decides to use the Super Majority option to stay at the current rolled-back rate, that vote will not be needed today.

BUDGET MEETING

The Board then scheduled a special budget meeting for Wednesday, July 25, 2007 at 5:00 p.m., E.T.

There being no further business, the meeting did then adjourn at 4:03 p.m., E.T.

**BILL WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**