

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

APRIL 22, 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, Vice Chairman Nathan Peters, Jr., and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore, Bill Williams, and Jerry W. Barnes.

Other present were: County Attorney Tim McFarland, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Clerk of Circuit Court Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Chamber of Commerce Director Sandra Chafin, Planner David Richardson, 911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Building Department Official Lee Collinsworth, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, T.D.C. Director Paula Pickett, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

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

Commissioner Barnes opened the meeting with prayer and Commissioner Peters led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Peters motioned to accept the following Consent Agenda items. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion for discussion. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams, regarding the City of Wewahitchka Building Department contract on pages 13-16, and how that might affect the County's ISO rating, Building Official Lee Collinsworth stated that it would not. Chairman Traylor stated that the contract would need to be reviewed annually. County Attorney McFarland stated that the contract can be terminated should the need arise. Following discussion, the motion to accept the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

1. Minutes - April 8, 2008 - Special Meeting
- April 8, 2008 - Regular Meeting
2. Agreement - City of Wewahitchka (Building Official Services) (Complete copy on file in the Clerk's Office)
3. Employee Appreciation Picnic (5/23/08)
4. Invoice - A&R Fence - Donnie Wayne Brake Park (Bid #0708-06 * \$5,072.99 *
Account #26472-63000 * Ratification Only)

- Agency for Health Care Administration - Medicaid (February, 2008 *

\$385.00 * Account #52264-34100)

- Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC - 2006-07 Audit (#20083003 * Bid #0607-32 * \$5,011.00 * Account #21111-32000)

- Fred Fox Enterprises - Overstreet Water System C.D.B.G. (#4-#19 * Bid #0506-21(A) * \$26,128.00 * Account #27550-31000)

- G.A.C. Contractors - Cape San Blas Shared-Use (Bike) Path (Bid #0607-22 * #5502 * \$148,379.13 * Account #40341-34000)

- Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center (04/02/08 * \$175.00 * Account #21111-31300)

- Preble-Rish, Inc. - C.R. 22A/Lake Grove Road S.C.O.P. (#65638 * \$5,721.60 * Account #65638 * \$5,721.60 * Account #40641-31000)

- Preble-Rish, Inc. - Cape Shared-Use/Bike Path Phase III (#65646 * \$19,120.00 * Account # 40341-31000)

- Preble-Rish, Inc. - Cape Bike Path Phase II (#65549 * \$9,351.00 * Account #40341-31000)

- St. Joe Hardware - Road Bond District 3 Interest Funds (#303797 * \$116.40 / #303827 * \$29.10 * Account #41441-63000)

- St. Joe Rent-All, Nursery and Supply - Road Bond District 3 Interest Funds (#91630 * \$54.95 * Account #41441-63000)

- Taunton Truss - Donnie Wayne Brake Park (#3529 * \$960.00 * Account #26472-63000)

5. Lease Amendment #1 - Eglin Air Force Base (Cape San Blas Lighthouse Complex)

6. S.H.I.P. - Purchase Assistance (Mark Herring - \$17,000.00 / James Monroe - \$17,000.00)

- Rehabilitation Assistance (James Purswell, Jr. - \$5,500.00)

7. Agreement - City of Port St. Joe (Computer Equipment used for L.U.C.A. Grant)

(End of Consent Agenda)

PETER'S FAMILY

Chairman Traylor brought to the attention of the public that Commissioner Peter's sister

passed away this week and expressed condolences on behalf of the Board for his loss.

OPPORTUNITY FLORIDA

Executive Director of Opportunity Florida Rick Marcum appeared before the Board and gave an update on the current status of said program. Marcum informed the Board that the Rural Issues Working Group has requested that Opportunity Florida (and specifically he) prepare a CD that will identify all the “players” that the rural communities have to deal with in regards to economic development, tourism, etc. Marcum stated that he will have this completed once they get their last report from the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. He further discussed that at their last Catalyst Project Meeting the MOA was approved and will be presented to the Board sometime in May for the Boards consideration and approval. Marcum discussed that the Rural State Summit will be this summer and he expects that there will be a good turn out from the public.

RESOLUTION 2008-02

Marcum discussed a grant rewarded to Opportunity Florida to market a free website for military veterans and their families. Marcum requested that the Board adopt a Resolution in support of the website, and add to existing policy that all job opportunities of Gulf County be posted on the website. Commissioner Barnes motioned to adopt the following Resolution. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2008-02

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GULF COUNTY seek to recognize and honor the sacrifice and *dedication* of the men and women of our country's military; and

WHEREAS, THE WORKFORCE BOARDS that serve the 16 counties that comprise the regional economic development organization known as Florida's Great Northwest have joined together to address the needs of the region's military related labor component; and

WHEREAS, ON FEBRUARY 1, 2006 U.S. SECRETARY OF LABOR, Elaine Chao announced Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) as a major component of President Bush's Competitiveness Agenda. Through the WIRED Initiative, the U.S. Department of Labor via the Employment and Training Administration will invest \$195 million in thirteen regional economies, including Northwest Florida. The WIRED Initiative is meant to empower certain geographic regions to implement ground-breaking strategies that will result in their workforce investment system becoming a key component of the area's economic development strategy. The 100% match built into the WIRED Northwest Florida program turns a \$15 million grant into a \$30 million initiative; and

WHEREAS, the WIRED Northwest Florida has awarded a grant to Opportunity Florida, a non-profit rural economic development organization representing the 8 rural counties that are a part of the 16 member counties of Florida's Great Northwest to market the website, MyFloridaMilitary.com; and

WHEREAS, the website, MyFloridaMilitary.com has been established to give employers a free site to post available employment opportunities and also is free to qualified individuals to utilize the services provided by the site, including the free posting of their resumes; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that retaining and recruiting a skilled and disciplined labor force will enhance the economic diversity and better allow established businesses to grow and prosper, while simultaneously appealing to other businesses located outside the region a desire to relocate to the northwest Florida region; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County recognize that continued economic growth will enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Gulf County, that they will add to existing policy that all job opportunities of Gulf County also be posted on the website, MyFloridaMilitary.com and that as a practice, those managing persons with hiring responsibility for Gulf County, will also review and consider military-related persons whose resumes are posted on MyFloridaMilitary.com; and furthermore let the record indicate that the Board of County Commissioners encourages all businesses doing business with the County do likewise. (end)

COURTHOUSE REPAIRS

Chairman Traylor informed the Board that he had visited the Courthouse and was appalled by the condition of the inside of the building. Clerk of Circuit Court Becky Norris expressed her appreciation and stated that it is not only her office, but the entire Courthouse that is in need of maintenance due to flood damage and years of deterioration. Chief Administrator Don Butler and Chairman Traylor agreed upon the need to make Courthouse repairs a priority.

CATHEY CONTRUCTION/FINAL PAY REQUEST/BID #0607-07

Upon recommendation by Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the final payment to Cathey Construction for the Courthouse Roof Project in the amount of \$8,762.61. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

INVOICE PREBLE-RISH, INC. #65523/STUMPHOLE PROJECT

Upon recommendation by Lanier, Commissioner Barnes motioned to pay Invoice #65523 in the amount of \$5,289.50 to Preble-Rish, Inc. for the Stumphole Project to be paid from Grant Funds. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

INVOICE PREBLE-RISH, INC. #65628/STUMPHOLE PROJECT

Upon recommendation by Lanier, Commissioner Barnes motioned to pay Invoice #65628 in the amount of \$21,158.00 to Preble-Rish, Inc. for the Stumphole Project. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

INVOICE PREBLE-RISH, INC. #65536/HONEYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Upon Lanier's recommendation, Commissioner Williams motioned to pay Invoice #65536 to Preble-Rish, Inc. in the amount of \$2,963.25 for the payout of the Honeyville Community

Center. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING/P.D.R.B. RECOMMENDATIONS

County Attorney Tim McFarland opened for a public hearing regarding Variance Request from Salty Ventures LLC - Parcel ID #06269-985R, which proposes to allow the stairs to encroach into a side setback next to a pedestrian access easement. County Attorney McFarland read the public notice and upon call for public comment, none was received. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the Variance request. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

INVOICE CDC

Chief Administrator Don Butler presented an Invoice to the Board in the amount of \$15,050.00 representing the 10% administrative fees for several purchase assistance, large and small rehab loans. Commissioner Peters motioned to approve the payment contingent upon Butler confirming that the numbers are correct. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

AMERICUS AVENUE DITCH PIPE INTALLATION BID#0708-01/CHANGE ORDER #1

Upon recommendation by Butler, Commissioner Williams motioned to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$5,369.74 to Bailey&Sons Diversified, Inc, in order to tap into the main trunk line of the ditch, due to land and pipe elevation at Canal Street. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

UNITED WAY/RON SHARP

Butler brought to the Board's attention that Ron Sharp, of United Way, was present at the meeting. Sharp approached the Board and stated that they have had a very successful campaign, with a 44% increase of funds. Sharp reported that they are still finalizing the numbers but between fourteen different agencies, he estimates that they will be able to contribute \$44,000.00 back into the County. Sharp called for Chamber of Commerce Director Sandra Chafin, Larry Broome, and Bill Byrd, all members of their Executive Committee, to come forward. Sharpe presented plaques to each Commissioner, and Butler recognizing their efforts to help the community. Sharpe presented two certificates to Sandra Chafin and thanked her and the Board for all their help in making their campaign a success.

AGENT OF RECORD/INSURANCE

Human Resources Director Denise Manuel requested permission from the Board to go out for RFP's for an insurance broker of record for all other lines of insurance to assure that they are making optimum use of their funds. Commissioner Williams motion to allow Manuel to do so. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH FAIR

Denise Manuel brought to the attention of the Board that the Employee Health Fair will be

held on May 8th at the Senor Citizens Building.

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION FEE

Sheriff Joe Nugent requested permission for the Board to allow County Attorney Tim McFarland examine an Ordinance that charges an accident investigation fee that can be billed to the driver's insurance, and is then paid back into a fund that provides personal equipment for the Fire Department, EMS, and the Sheriff's Office. McFarland discussed that he has heard of this plan and it has been a tremendous benefit to other counties. The Board agreed that McFarland should look into it.

BUDGET REQUEST

Nugent discussed the problem of losing employees to the City because of budget cuts and inadequate funds. McFarland discussed investigating for possible ways to put more money into his Nugent's budget.

SLUDGE COMMITTEE

Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran appeared before the Board on behalf of Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, and the Sludge Committee. Cothran discussed a Biological analysis that was done at five locations on Highway 22 and reported that the results were favorable. Commissioner McLemore discussed that, while this is good news, they have received two new permits issued by DEP for haulers to Wetappo. He further stated that it is not fair for Gulf County to have to accept everybody's sludge and discussed the possibility of sending a letter to the DEP contesting these permits. Commissioner Williams discussed reinvestigating the policy to regulate sludge. Attorney McFarland suggested that the Board motion to send a letter to the DEP requesting that they not issue any more permits until there is an ordinance in place, and to further motion to allow McFarland to re-advertise the ordinance. Commissioner McLemore motioned to send said letter to the DEP. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner McLemore motioned for County Attorney McFarland to re-advertise the ordinance concerning sludge control. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT/BID #0405-10

TDC Director Paula Pickett appeared to update the Board on the progress of the Beach Renourishment Project and to remind homeowners to remove sand fencing to enable workers to get in closer proximity to their property.

WINDOLF CONTRUCTION/WELCOME CENTER

Upon recommendation by Ms. Pickett, Commissioner Williams motioned to pay an invoice from Windolf Construction in the amount of \$26,636.80 for work done on the Welcome Center. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

SURVEY/WELCOME CENTER

Ms. Pickett thanked Robert Nations for a survey that he provided that saved them two weeks of waiting to obtain their Certificate of Completion from the Building Department.

Chairman Traylor stated that the Board would send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Nations.

WELCOME CENTER

Ms. Pickett informed the Board that the Welcome Center will be officially open for business as of April 28th, 2008, and invited everyone to stop by and tour the facility.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tom Graney reported to the Board that the EDC is working with Rick Marcum, of Opportunity Florida. He further stated that the two newest members of the EDC are Andrew Rowell and Ralph Rish. Graney stated that they would like to come back to the Board in the form of a workshop once the entire EDC structure is finalized.

BALLGAME

Commissioner Williams reported to the Board that the Port St. Joe girls' softball team had won their game against Wewahitchka 7-2.

IMPACT FEE COMMITTEE

Commissioner Williams reported on the progress of the Impact Fee Committee that the Board moved to have established in the previous April 8th, 2008 meeting. Williams reported that one representative has been appointed from each district. Upon motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Peters, the Board approved the following representatives:

- Tony Justice - District 1
- Charlie Pettis - District 2
- Steve Newman - District 3
- Sandra Chafin - District 4
- Pat Hardman - District 5

HIGHLAND VIEW SEWER SYSTEM

Commissioner Williams discussed that the latest delay was based upon the DEP denial of their initial request to utilize funds that were marked for St. Joe Beach. Williams reported that a change in the scope of work had to be done, but they now have a MOU with the DEP that protects the money and insures that it will go back into St. Joe Beach. Commissioner Williams motioned to advertise for a public meeting wherein either the Mayor or Mr. Charlie Weston will attend, as well as other representatives from the City, and the Engineers to answer questions from the public. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

HIGHLAND VIEW PARKS/EMPLOYEE PICNIC

Chairman Traylor and Commissioner Williams discussed the progress of the Highland View Park Project. Williams stated that there has been public concern because the maintenance crews have not been out in weeks and expressed that he would like to have the official groundbreaking ceremony for the Highland View Park on May 23rd, 2008 at the Employee Picnic.

REDFISH ROAD/HIGHLAND VIEW

Commissioner Williams discussed the problem of having log trucks on Redfish Road that are too heavy. Williams motioned to have a weight limit sign posted in order to stop truck traffic on that road. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Commissioner Williams brought to the attention of the Board that he serves as Chairman to the Florida Association of Counties Worker's Compensation Transition Committee and stated that they are working on the budget for worker's compensation. Williams motioned for HR Director Manuel and himself to travel to Tallahassee to look into a pilot program for worker's comp. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Commissioner McLemore discussed the numbers for mandatory garbage collection and stated that he is not pleased with the projected cost. Chairman Traylor agreed.

OAK GROVE WATER BILLS

Commissioner Barnes stated that he had been receiving calls regarding the Oak Grove Water Bills that continue to show a charge for the bond payment. Commissioner Barnes assured the public that the debt had been paid off, and the City of Port St. Joe plans to modify their billing to reflect a service charge.

OVERSTREET WATER HOOK-UPS

Chairman Traylor discussed a meeting that was held concerning the Overstreet Water Hook-ups in which over 100 members of the public attended. Chairman Traylor stated the meeting was very helpful, as some members of the public were not certain if they qualified, but it would be beneficial to post notices stating that if anyone has any questions concerning whether or not they qualify or how to sign up, they can call Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky at 229-6111. Chief Administrator Don Butler discussed the need to find at least 71 residents who qualify because the grant money will reduce if not enough people sign up.

HONEYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER/STORM SHELTER

Commissioner Peters discussed a false and uninformed editorial published in *The Star* newspaper Thursday, April 17th, 2008, concerning the Honeyville Storm Shelter. Commissioner Peters stated that the Board does not need to address every article, however feels a need to address this particular editorial because it could cause confusion among an unsuspecting public, regarding the Honeyville Community Storm Shelter. The article claimed that the project would be funded in part by a FEMA grant that had not yet been approved and that the Honeyville Shelter should not be considered a storm shelter because the structure was not built in accordance with FEMA requirements. Commissioner Peters stated that the Board had not budgeted for a grant (it was an afterthought), but actually budgeted a loan for this project. Commissioner Peters referenced letters the Board received from Preble-Rish and the Architect Charles Gaskin, stating that the code used for construction of the EOC Building was the same as the code that was used for the

Honeyville Community Storm Shelter, and the building is capable of withstanding gusts of wind exceeding 172 mph and sustained winds of 150 mph. Commissioner McLemore stated that he watched the building project from start to finish, and he would rather be there in the case of a storm than any other building in the County. Upon Commissioner Peter's request, County Attorney McFarland read a letter from Robert H. Pierce, Executive Director of the American Red Cross Association stating that, upon surveying the shelter, they determined it to be an adequate Hurricane Risk Shelter. Chairman Traylor requested that Michael Hammond, of Preble-Rish, Inc, read a letter from the Project Engineer Bill Kennedy. Hammond discussed that the building not only meets, but exceeds the requirements. Commissioner McLemore discussed additional efforts that were made by the contractor, Cathey Construction, to make the Honeyville Storm Shelter secure. Chairman Traylor discussed that the article was an offense to all of the companies involved and stated that if anyone has any questions regarding any business of the Board that concerns budgeting or Board Minutes, they can contact the Clerk's Office and request that information. Traylor stated that the article contained false information and was nothing more than a poor excuse, or attempt, to discredit the Board. Commissioner Williams requested that Butler give a quick report of the budget for the shelter. Don presented the information as follows:

Total Building Cost - \$900,000.00
Loan - \$400,000.00
City of Port St. Joe - \$350,000.00
St. Joe Company - \$250,000.00
Timber Sales - \$17,000.00
Grant Money - \$84,000.00

Commissioner Peters discussed criticism from *The Star* and stated that critiques can be good if you have correct information.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA CHANGE ORDER #11/ROAD BOND

Upon recommendation by Michael Hammond, of Preble-Rish, Inc, Commissioner Barnes motioned to approve Change Order #11, a decrease of \$4,270.80, for the City of Wewahitchka's portion of the Road Bond. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TURTLE SEASON

Sheriff Joe Nugent inquired of the Board about Turtle Season and the regulations regarding that.

BLOOD DRIVE

Denise Manuel reminded the Board of the Blood Drive on May 8th, 2008 at the Public Library.

LEGISLATION REPORT

Commissioner Williams gave an update on fiscally constrained counties Amendment #1, stating that Mr. Butler will continue to follow this bill as it moves through the Legislature.

Williams also discussed EMS Direct Pay, SB 1012, which is in its second hearing. The bill provides for EMS to access payment directly from Insurance companies.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 7:11 p.m., E.T.

BILLY E. TRAYLOR
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK