

JULY 15, 2013

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

SPECIAL MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in a special meeting with the following members present: Chairman Tynalin Smiley, Vice Chairman Ward McDaniel, and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore and Joanna Bryan. <Commissioner Warren J. Yeager, Jr. was absent.>

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Sherry Herring, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael L. Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Deputy Administrator Brett Lowry, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Central Services Director Denise Manuel, E9-1-1 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, G.I.S. Coordinator Scott Warner, Maintenance Supervisor Steve Mork, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Sheriff Mike Harrison, Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Chris Buchanan, and T.D.C. Executive Director Jennifer Jenkins.

Chairman Smiley called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., E.T.

MANDATORY GARBAGE PICKUP

Chief Administrator Butler reported that there are three area Counties that have mandatory garbage pickup (Calhoun, Liberty, and Wakulla). He discussed their mandatory garbage policy and procedures. Chief Administrator Butler reported (1) currently there are 2,512 customers in unincorporated Gulf County with garbage service, (2) there are approximately 6,500 residences in unincorporated Gulf County, which means approximately 4,000 residences are not using garbage service at this time, and (3) between June, 2012 and May, 2013 there were approximately 3,187 tons of garbage removed from Gulf County. He discussed various options: Option #1 would be to contract with Waste Management to begin mandatory garbage pickup and have Waste Management bill customers directly. Chief Administrator Butler stated that with this option the Board would adopt a proposed ordinance. He discussed the cons of Option #1; stating that a large number of residences may not elect garbage service and this will cause potentially higher disposal rates; Option #2 would be to adopt a proposed resolution of intent by January 1st of the year preceding placement on TRIM notices; stated the County will need to conduct a Solid Waste Assessment Study to determine property to be included/excluded in rates for services. He discussed the pros in Option #2 being that it should help keep garbage out of the woods and other areas, and it should help lower the overall garbage fees, and the cons being that some people will have to pay for garbage pickup that have never paid before, and the line item for garbage pickup on the tax bill may be larger than the actual property tax; Option #3 is a proposed referendum for a One Cent Sales Tax to be placed on the ballot (either on the

next regular election or special election) and let the majority of the voters decide. He discussed the pros for this option being; no more garbage bills, visitors would help pay garbage fees, no additional work for County code enforcement, and excess fees collected could be used to pay towards County landfill. <Sheriff Harrison entered the meeting at 10:10 A.M., E.T. and Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Buchanan left the meeting.> After discussion by Chief Administrator Butler, Commissioner McLemore stated he is opposed to mandatory garbage pickup, but is in support of the one cent sales tax option to pay for garbage collection. Commissioner McDaniel discussed his concerns regarding the total number of residents that maintain garbage service. <Maintenance Supervisor Mork entered the meeting at 10:22 a.m., E.T.> After discussion, Commissioner Bryan discussed the possibility of advertising for sealed bids for garbage pickup. Chairman Smiley stated he is in support of the one cent sales tax option. <E9-1-1 Coordinator Guthrie entered the meeting at 10:25 a.m., E.T.> Commissioner McDaniel discussed the municipalities' garbage collection protocol. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Bryan, Chief Administrator Butler reported there would be very little cost in adding this referendum to the regular election ballot, but it would cost approximately \$20,000.00 for a special election. Chairman Smiley called for public comment. Chief Administrator Butler discussed the possible rate reduction for residents if mandatory garbage pickup was adopted. After discussion, Assistant Administrator Hammond stated that the real savings to the County would be to stop roadside debris pickup. Commissioner McLemore discussed allowing the workcrews to handle the roadside debris pickup and to not run the limb truck to save on expense. Patricia Hardman, of Coastal Community Association to the Cape appeared before the Board to discuss her support of mandatory garbage pickup. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Bryan, Chief Administrator Butler discussed the issue regarding vacant homes, stating that with soft mandatory garbage pickup, residents will voluntarily elect this service. After discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner McLemore motioned to kill mandatory garbage and to accept the one cent sales tax referendum on the next regular election. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion for discussion. After further discussion, the motion then passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner Bryan voting no. Upon discussion by Chief Administrator Butler, Chairman Smiley directed Chief Administrator Butler to contact the Cities to get their input regarding the proposed one cent sales tax referendum.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT POLICY – SPONSORSHIP & SPECIAL FUNDING

County Attorney Novak reported that the Board previously approved a recommendation by the T.D.C. regarding policy funding. He discussed the policy for reimbursements regarding specific language as to how an applicant would be reimbursed. County Attorney Novak also discussed the policy amendments to Page 3 (mandatory) and Page 17 (request for funding) and recommended Board approval for these policy amendments. Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Bryan, and unanimous 4-0 vote, the Board approved his recommendation. <Full policy and amendment on file in the Clerks Office.>

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – CITY OF PORT ST. JOE

County Attorney Novak discussed the updates regarding the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Port St. Joe, stating that he is still working with the City Attorney on this matter and will keep the Board updated.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Bryan, and unanimous 4-0 vote, the meeting did then adjourn at 11:00 a.m., E.T.

**TYNALIN SMILEY
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**