

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 5, 2009

WORKSHOP

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

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Building Inspector George Knight, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, E-911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Shane McGuffin, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork, Assistant Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Sheriff Joe Nugent, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, Supervisor of Elections Linda Griffin, and Veterans' Service Officer James Kennedy.

Chairman Peters called the workshop to order at 10:03 a.m., E.T.

BUDGET

Chairman Peters discussed that the report being presented in this workshop is from the Budget Committee meetings. Chief Administrator Butler discussed that the County Staff has been working a lot of hours to complete their job duties. Commissioner Traylor discussed the job duties of Chief Administrator Butler and the need for assistance in his every day duties. He suggested that Chairman Peters review this and come back with a solution to help with Chief Administrator Butler's duties. Chief Administrator Butler discussed that Deputy Administrator Lanier knows all of his duties, and stated that the problem is not enough time to complete the work due to constant interruptions/meetings.

Chief Administrator Butler gave a Power Point presentation prepared by the Budget Committee on potential non-recurring costs, options to consider for budget reduction, potential increases, and variable millage rate estimates for 2010, stating that the Board needs to give direction to the Budget Committee regarding which topics to pursue. Chairman Peters discussed that the Board's number one priority is to not lay-off employees and, in order for this not to happen, the Board has to follow the Budget Committee's recommendations. Clerk Norris stated that the Clerk's Office will work in every way they can to assist the Board and Chief Administrator Butler during the Budget process. Chairman Peters discussed that the State is also facing budget cuts and losing a work crew supervisor would be terrible for the County. He stated that a lot of the work being done is with work crews, and supervisors are a must. Commissioner Traylor reported that the Warden will attend the next Board meeting to address the Board on this issue. Chairman Peters discussed that one thing on the list is to privatize the jail, stating he is

against this recommendation because they are doing a great job of maintaining the jail. Commissioner Yeager discussed that the Budget Committee needs some direction on what items the Board would have them pursue further. He further discussed that he is also against privatizing the jail, stating that new improvements need to be stopped and it needs to be maintained as is. He also discussed that he is opposed to (1) building a larger jail and bringing more inmates into the County to generate funds, (2) dog license, and (3) the staff cleaning their own offices. Commissioner Yeager discussed that he agrees with Chairman Peters regarding the Constitutional Officers, stating that the County Budget did not increase due to the Constitutional Officers. He discussed that if the County requires Occupational Licenses there would have to be another person to handle this, and discussed that he is opposed to it. Commissioner McLemore discussed that he (1) disagrees with Chairman Peters and Commissioner Yeager regarding the Constitutional Officers (stating that they have to work together as a team) (2) disagrees with everyone not cleaning their own office, and (3) he is opposed to the dog licenses. Chairman Peters discussed that the Board needs to establish a mutual agreement with the City of Port St. Joe to suspend the sports complex project until the economy improves. Commissioner Traylor discussed that he is in agreement with the other Commissioners on the different issues. He discussed that the fire districts need to pay their own insurance until the economy changes. Commissioner Yeager discussed that the fire district budgets need to be reviewed and levy only what is needed each year. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Williams discussed that he agrees with reviewing the fire districts on a yearly basis. Commissioner McLemore discussed that the issue of closing the Courthouse one day a week needs to be reviewed by the Budget Committee. Chairman Peters discussed that the County is paying the Insurance on eight vehicles for the Health Department, stating that the Health Department needs to pay their own insurance. Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, Human Resources Director Manuel appeared before the Board and discussed that the Health Department has nine vehicles, and the County pays the insurance on eight. She stated that the Health Department purchased the vehicles with their funds and the County insures the vehicles. Clerk Norris reported that the buildings belong to the County, and also all of the equipment they buy becomes County property. Upon inquiry by County Attorney McFarland, Clerk Norris discussed that the only vehicles not on inventory are the ones leased from Division of Forestry, and that the Clerk's Office has titles for each vehicle. Commissioner Yeager discussed that there needs to be policies established for the Board, and the Board needs to follow them. Chairman Peters discussed the potential increase for an IT person for the County. Chief Administrator Butler discussed that this person would be able to work on all equipment phones, computers and install other software. Supervisor of Elections Linda Griffin appeared before the Board and discussed that she cleans her building and will continue to clean the building. She discussed the mandates that Governor Crist is placing on the Counties regarding new elections equipment, stating that it has to be purchased in 2010 and in place by 2012. Supervisor of Elections Griffin also discussed that an IT person would be very beneficial to the County. Patricia Hardman appeared before the Board and discussed that the Board has to change its work habits and produce the highest quality and best results for the County. She stated that the Builders Association supports implementing Occupational Licenses.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, the meeting did

then adjourn at 11:42 a.m., E.T.

NATHAN PETERS, JR.
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK