

MAY 22, 2012

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in a special budget meeting with the following members present: Chairman William C. Williams, III, Vice Chairman Tan Smiley, and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore, Ward McDaniel, and Warren Yeager, Jr.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Deputy Administrator Brett Lowry, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, E.D.C./Chamber Director Barry Sellers, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Sheriff Joe Nugent, Sheriff's Office Major Bobby Plair, Tax Collector Shirley Jenkins, and Veterans' Service Officer James Kennedy.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m., E.T.

BUDGET

Chief Administrator Butler stated the Budget Committee needs direction from the Board, and then gave a power point presentation on the budget. Chief Administrator Butler discussed the Board options for revenue as follows: (1) increase tipping fees, (2) Five Cent Local Option Gas Tax, (3) Mexico Beach payments for E.M.S., (4) E.M.S. dry run fees, (5) increase funding received for E.M.S./less Ad Valorem required, (6) increase E.M.S. fees, (7) increase Building Department fees, and (8) MSBU or MSTU for landfill or garbage. He reported on the budget increases as follows: (1) decrease coverage for Property/Casualty insurance by establishing a minimum value to be covered, (2) utility increases estimated at 10%, (3) Medicaid, (4) retirement, and (5) I.T. Department. Chief Administrator Butler discussed possible budget decrease opportunities as follows: (1) discuss with the City of Port Sty. Joe on the current and future Downtown Redevelopment Area for the possibility of delaying collections of this fee, (2) not to do any work for the schools (weekend crews), (3) discontinue Coastal Fitness program, (4) E.D.C., (5) Public Works attrition losses, (6) stop picking up debris from R.O.W., (7) use T.D.C. funds to cover parks & recreation repairs/additions, (8) decrease outside agencies by 6% each, (9) decrease local contribution to Library, (10) decrease Ad Valorem dollars for Clerk Admin/BOCC HR-RM/Building Department Admin costs by

replacing with S.H.I.P. funding, (11) use S.H.I.P. and T.D.C. funding for audit, (12) cut the City of Wewahitchka for T.L. James Park under parks & recreation, (13) Life Management decrease, (14) turn the commodity program over to a not for profit organization, (15) County Courthouse renovations, (16) unemployment, (17) discontinue use of message board signs, (18) decrease coverage for Property/Casualty insurance by establishing a minimum value to be covered, (19) decrease number of polling places to one per district for the next election, (20) fuel decreases, (21) Honeyville Community Center, and (22) restrict radio \$12.50 surcharge fund to repeater and tower repairs only. Mr. Butler reported on the recurring revenue (\$314,250.00), possible decreases (\$696,115.00), and required increases (\$210,381.00), stating the budget increase, if the Board adopts all of the above suggestions, would be \$799,984.00. Chief Administrator Butler discussed the savings for the St. Joe Fire Control District would be to decrease the St. Joe Fire Control District to .25 mills and cut the Fireman's Association appropriation. <County Attorney Novak entered the meeting at 5:23 p.m., E.T.> Chairman Williams commended the budget committee for their hard work over the past several years, stating they have cut approximately 40%. Commissioner Yeager discussed there are several things on this list that will work and the Board needs to go item by item to give the committee more direction. Commissioner McDaniel thanked the Budget Committee members for their hard work and stated he does not want to see a tax increase. Commissioner McDaniel recommended cutting the Tupelo Fire District from .5 mills to .4 mills and to leave Overstreet and Howard Creek at .5 mills. Commissioner McLemore discussed the need to look at each line item, but noted the need for additional time to review. Commissioner Smiley discussed the need to look at the line items and to do what is right for the people. Commissioner McLemore stated that their job as Commissioner's is to help the people. Commissioner McDaniel discussed he is not for placing any more on the tax payers. Commissioner Yeager discussed mandatory garbage and the possibility of whomever provides the service handle the yard debris pick-up as well. Chairman Williams discussed the devastation of the property values to the businesses, stating it is his objective not to raise the millage. Commissioner McLemore stated that it is early to make a motion to not raise the millage. Discussion followed. Chairman Williams stated that he is not going to raise the millage. Commissioner Yeager stated that he is not raising the millage. Chief Administrator Butler discussed other areas of concern such as (selling equipment to purchase equipment, not replacing work crew vans, Supervisor of Elections Office roof, pay raises, Wewahitchka Courthouse elevator, and Insurance coverage). Chairman Williams recommended a 2% budget freeze in this fiscal year. Upon inquiry by Sheriff Nugent concerning the 2% freeze in the budget, Chairman Williams confirmed that the freeze will be from this point forward to the end of the fiscal year. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve the 2% freeze on the current budget. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Chairman Williams

requested to go through each line item. Commissioner McLemore stated the Board needs more time to go through the line items. Commissioner Yeager recommended Chairman Williams schedule a Budget Workshop. Chairman Williams requested for Chief Administrator Butler to schedule a Special Budget Meeting.

Chairman Williams called for public comment. There was no public comment.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McDaniel, the meeting did then adjourn at 5:57 p.m., E.T.

WILLIAM C. WILLIAMS, III
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:
REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK