

**AUGUST 31, 2016**

**PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**

**EMERGENCY MEETING**

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioner met this date in emergency session at the E.O.C. Building with the following members present: Chairman Ward McDaniel, Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, and Commissioners Sandy Quinn, Jr. and Jerry W. Barnes.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Director of Finance & Management Rhonda Woodward, Payroll & Insurance Clerk Madonna Suit, Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael L. Hammond, Deputy Administrator Kari Summers, Central Services Director Lynn Lanier, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, E9-1-1 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Emergency Management Assistant Rachel Jackson, G.I.S. Coordinator Jessica Susich, Information Technology Assistant Gerald Ake, Assistant Mosquito Control Director Austin Horton, Property Appraiser Mitch Burke, Gulf County Property Appraiser IT Tech Dennis Barfield, Jr., Public Works & Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Assistant Public Works Director Lee Collinworth, Gulf County RESTORE Act Coordinator Warren Yeager, Jr., Sheriff Mike Harrison, Sheriff's Department Captain Chris Buchanan, Sheriff's Department Lieutenant Tim Wood, T.D.C. Deputy Director Towan Kopinsky, and T.D.C. Assistant Kellie Jackson.

**STORM – TROPICAL DEPRESSION #9**

Chairman McDaniel noted the reason for the emergency meeting is due to a disturbance in the Gulf. Emergency Management Director Nelson provided an update to the Board regarding the storm; reporting that Gulf County has been placed under watch and warning. He stated it is anticipated that Gulf County will receive 1 (one) to 3 (three) feet storm surge, including high tide with wave building up that will cause coastal erosion. Emergency Management Director Nelson reported currently Gulf County is under tropical storm warning, flash flood watch, and area for tornados. He then discussed the path predictions, areas of storm surge in neighboring Counties, and wind levels. After discussion by Emergency Management Director Nelson, a gentleman from the audience asked if the County will close the Stumphole. Emergency Management Director Nelson stated that they will play it by ear. Upon request by Emergency Management Director Nelson, Commissioner Barnes motioned to declare a Local State of Emergency. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There was no public comment. Upon inquiry by Chairman McDaniel, Emergency Management Director Nelson stated that the declaration will be in effect for seven (7) days. The motion then passed unanimously (4-0). Emergency Management Director Nelson stated that he would like to activate the E.O.C. today with minimum staffing, working seven (7) to seven, tomorrow go to 24 hours activation, and on Friday schedule seven (7) to seven (7), but play it by ear. He would like to ask the visitors to

monitor the situations and repair accordingly. The Board had no objection. Emergency Management Director Nelson reported that the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park started this morning with evacuations, and the Gulf County School Board will be meeting this afternoon regarding school closures. He recommended to the Government Offices to continue to monitor and possibly close mid-day Thursday. Emergency Management Director Nelson inquired if the Board needs to go ahead and give the Chairman the authority to close County offices. County Attorney Novak stated that the declaration gives the Chairman the authority to make that decision. Sherriff Harrison reported that his department will continue to monitor; the goal being to keep people safe. Port St. Joe Police Chief Herring stated that his department will be available; noting the concerns will be storm water run-off. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Barnes, Public Works Director Cothran reported that 2,500 sand bags will be available to be picked up at the South Gulf County Fire Department. Commissioner Barnes reported that Roberts and Roberts has equipment available in the area, offering assistance if the County needs it. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Emergency Management Director Nelson stated that he does not believe Indian Pass Road will go under water, but there is an alternate route if needed. Public Works Director Cothran reported that Public Works did grade the alternate route (Painted Pony Road) this morning. Chairman McDaniel called for public comment. There was no public comment.

There being no further business the meeting did then adjourn at 10:50 a.m., E.T.

**WARD MCDANIEL  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK OF COURT**