

## PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

JULY 26, 2011

### REGULAR MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in regular session with the following members present: Chairman Warren J. Yeager, Jr., Vice Chairman Bill Williams, and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore, Ward McDaniel, and Tan Smiley.

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Gulf County Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Gulf County E9-1-1 Director Ben Guthrie, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, Planner David Richardson, Public Works Director Bobby Knee, Public Works Director Joe Danford, Sheriff Joe Nugent, Sheriff's Office Captain Ricky Tolbert, and Sheriff's Office Major Bobby Plair.

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

Assistant Administrator Hammond opened the meeting with prayer, and Chairman Yeager led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Commissioner McDaniel, second by Commissioner McLemore, and unanimous vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows with a correction to Budget Amendment #3, stating that it should read decrease Life, Health, and Dental instead of Reserves. Planner Richardson stated that the minutes should reflect that the Beaches Fire Department is purchasing new equipment as they go.

1. Minutes – June 28, 2011 – Regular Meeting  
- July 12, 2011 – Regular Meeting
2. Bid Award #1011-23 (Solar Lights & Installation \* Current Solutions of the Gulf Coast, LLC (lowest bidder) \* \$210,000.00)
3. Budget Amendment #1 (Public Works Consolidated Services Fund \*  
Decrease Stormwater Mgmt – Physical Environment  
\$1,390.00 \* Increase Mosquito Control \$1,390.00 )  
  
Budget Amendment #2 (Tourist Development Fund \* Increase Tourist  
Development \$35,000.00 \* Decrease Reserves  
\$35,000.00)

Budget Amendment #3 (General Fund \* Supervisor of Elections \* Increase  
\$1,200.00 \* Decrease Life, Health, Dental \$1,200.00)

4. Grant Acceptance – Emergency Food & Shelter Phase 29 (\$6,594.00)
5. Invoices – County Attorney Jeremy Novak (July 1, 2011-July 16, 2011 \*  
\$4,627.50 \* to be paid from Account #21314-31100)
  - C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. L.A.P. Bike Path 3 (Application  
No. 1 \* \$50,546.52 \* to be paid from Account  
#40341-53000)
  - Florida Department of Revenue Reimbursement Invoice  
Unemployment Benefits (Board \* \$5,639.75 \* to be paid  
from Account #347511-25000)
  - GAC Contractors – Iola Road Paving Project C.I.G.P. (Invoice  
#26190 \* \$106,260.63 \* to be paid from Account  
#40741-63000)
  - GAC Contractors – Old Bay City Road Paving Project C.I.G.P.  
(Invoice #26191 \* \$61,718.60 \* to be paid from Account  
#40741-63000)
  - IC Contractors, Inc. – Stumphole Revetment Project Phase III  
(D.R.I.) (Application No. 4 \* \$289,800.00 \* to be paid from  
Account #113538-34000)
  - Legal Services of North Florida (April 1, 2011 – June 30, 2011 \* to  
be paid from Account #71015-82000)
6. Resolution #2011-14 (F.D.O.T. S.C.R.A.P. Agreement for resurfacing  
Columbus Street from U.S. Highway 98 to Georgia  
Avenue) as follows:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-14**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD TO ENTER INTO A S.C.R.A.P. JOINT**

**PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT (J.P.A.) WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.**

**WHEREAS**, the Small County Road Assistance Program has been created by Section 339.2816, Florida Statutes, to assist small county governments in resurfacing of county roads; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Transportation (F.D.O.T.) has the authority, under Section 334.044, Florida Statutes, to enter into this Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulf County has certified to the F.D.O.T. that it has met the eligibility requirements of said Section 339.2816, Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has given signature authority for all documents related to this grant to the Chairman, Chief Administrator or Grant Coordinator; and

**WHEREAS**, F.D.O.T. shall reimburse Gulf County for direct costs under Financial Management Number 430933-1-58-01 for costs directly related to resurfacing of Columbus Street from U.S. Highway 98 (S.R. 30) to Georgia Avenue.

**ADOPTED** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2011.

(End)

Resolution #2011-15 (Budget Resolution for unanticipated revenue in the General Fund and the Tupelo Fire Control District for FY 2010-2011) as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-15**

**WHEREAS**, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida, has unanticipated revenue in the General Fund and the Tupelo Fire Control District Fund for fiscal year 2010-2011; and

**WHEREAS**, said revenue is needed to help pay certain expenditures incurred in fiscal year 2010-2011,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

1. The 2010-2011 fiscal year budget be amended as follows:

**General Fund**

	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>
<b>Tax Collector:</b>				
22213-91000 Tax Collector	396,152.00	25,000.00	-	421,152.00
<b>Revenue:</b>				
00141-51000 Tax Collector Fees	120,000.00	25,000.00	-	145,000.00
<b>Wetappo VFD:</b>				
31822-52000 Operating Exp	400.00	857.00	-	1,257.00
<b>Revenue:</b>				
00166-92000 Contributions	0.00	857.00	-	857.00
<b>Emergency Mgmt Local Match:</b>				
39125-34000 BP CG Other Contract	0.00	68,240.00	-	68,240.00
<b>Revenue:</b>				
00169-9000 BP CG Coast Guard	0.00	68,240.00	-	68,240.00
<b>EMPA Grant:</b>				
39325-81000 Aid to OGU	0.00	14,933.00	-	14,933.00
<b>Revenue:</b>				
00131-51000 Fed Disaster Relief	0.00	14,933.00	-	14,933.00
<b>Park &amp; Recreation Facilities:</b>				
57072-63000 Imprv Other Than	0.00	50,000.00	-	50,000.00
<b>Revenue:</b>				
00165-4000 Timber Sales	0.00	72,000.00	-	72,000.00
<b>Park &amp; Recreation BOCC Special Project:</b>				
21072-83004 Other Grants-Dist 4	0.00	22,000.00	-	22,000.00

**Tupelo Fire Control District Fund**

	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>
<b>Dalkeith FD Expenditures:</b>				
31922-52000 Operating Suppl	5,004.00	191.00	-	5,195.00
<b>Revenue:</b>				
10766-92000 Contributions	-	191.00	-	191.00

**THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED** by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners this the 26th day of July, 2011.

(End)

**SUPPLEMENTAL CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Smiley, and 4-0 vote, with Chairman Yeager abstaining due to a business relationship with Preble-Rish, Inc., the Board approved the Supplemental Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Preble-Rish, Inc. - Professional Services Proposal (CR 30-A \* \$693,550.00 \*  
S.C.O.P. funds to widen and resurface CR 30-A from Gulf  
Pines Drive to east of Money Bayou Bridge)

(End)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC HEARING – 2011 SMALL CITIES C.D.B.G.**

Jeffery Winter of Jordan & Associates appeared before the Board and reported that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing for the 2011 Small Cities C.D.B.G. funds for the housing rehabilitation grant application and recommended approval. Chairman Yeager called for public comment. There being no public comment. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the application as presented. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **PROPOSAL – PREBLE-RISH, INC. – S.C.R.A.P. FUNDING**

Grant Writer Kopinsky appeared before the Board and presented a proposal from Preble-Rish, Inc. for the S.C.R.A.P. Project to resurface Columbus Street at St. Joe Beach, and recommended to accept the proposal and proceed with the project. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0, with Chairman Yeager abstaining.

### **BID AWARD #1011-25 – BEACHES RESURFACING PROJECT**

Grant Writer Kopinsky reported that we received bids for the entire 2011 S.C.R.A.P. road surfacing projects at St. Joe Beach, and recommended awarding to C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc (low Bidder), in the amount of \$903,315.55 and to be allowed to negotiate on Columbus Street because the bid was higher than the funding allowed, and for the Chairman to execute the documents. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this recommendation with a caveat that it is reviewed by Chief Administrator Butler. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **CHANGE ORDER #1 – CAPE BIKE PATH PHASE III**

Grant Writer Kopinsky requested approval of change order #1 from C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc for the Cape San Blas Bike Path Phase III, stating that they deleted type B stabilization because it was not necessary and also recommended using the elliptical pipe under the driveways, with the total savings of \$75,517.00. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion. Upon inquiry by Chairman Yeager concerning extending the project with the funds left over, Grant Writer Kopinsky reported that the extra funds will have to be returned because it is Federal Funds. The motion then passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC HEARING – P.D.R.B. RECOMMENDATIONS (JULY 18, 2011)**

The Board then considered the following recommendation from the July 18, 2011 meeting of the Planning & Development Review Board:

### **DEVELOPMENT ORDER - HIBISCUS HORIZON**

Pursuant to advertisement to hold a public hearing to consider approval of a development order for Jay Rish, County Attorney Novak discussed a proposed development order for Jay Rish (Parcel #'s 06268-503R, 06268-509R, 06268-513R, 06268-514R, and 06268-516R), stating that there is pending litigation that is five years old. He reported that the instructions from the District Court of Appeals was for the County to issue what they deem necessary and appropriate in regards to this development. County Attorney Novak reported that the P.D.R.B. voted unanimously to recommend this development order to the Board for approval.

Fred Johnson appeared before the Board and discussed that the recommendation from the P.D.R.B. is a step in the direction, but requested for the Board to reject, stating that when it came down from the District Court there were two issues that had to be addressed (1) the wetlands, and (2) whether or not this particular subdivision had to comply with Gulf County subdivision ordinances. He reported that this document is a step in the right direction, but it only addresses the wetlands, only a portion of the wetlands, stating that it does not address the short comings as far as the subdivision ordinance is concerned. Mr. Johnson reported that this does not meet the mandate of the First District Court of Appeals, stating that this draft development order is premature and inadequate, and requested the Board to reject.

County Attorney Novak encouraged the Board to move forward and accept the conditional development order. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams concerning the comprehensive agreement to be finalized, County Attorney Novak reported that they should reach an agreement within the next two weeks. Commissioner Williams motioned to move forward and accept the P.D.R.B. recommendations contingent upon terms deemed by the Attorney. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (R.V.) MORATORIUM**

County Attorney Novak reported that the P.D.R.B. recommends the permitting of R.V.'s the same as mobile homes as adopted in ordinance #93-11 in order to get electrical service, stating that this requires septic or sewer service, or placement in a State approved R.V. Park as well as meeting the L.D.R. requirements. Assistant Administrator Hammond stated if the Board approves this recommendation from the P.D.R.B. they would need to move forward in lifting the moratorium. Commissioner Williams motioned

to accept the recommendation of the P.D.R.B. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Williams motioned to lift the R.V. Moratorium. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **COUNTY RATING SYSTEM (C.R.S.)**

Planner Richardson reported on a handout concerning the County C.R.S. review, and requested for the Chairman to be present on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to sign documents and meet with the reviewer.

### **E9-1-1 SYSTEM**

E9-1-1 Coordinator Guthrie appeared before the Board and reported that they have recently installed a Voice Over I.P. system, stating that the phone company is giving an analog feed to the recorder, and the County is now going to change out the phone systems to Voice Over I.P. and recommended approval of an upgrade for the E9-1-1 recorder system to be paid from the E9-1-1 budget. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **ADVERTISE – IMPACT FEES – JAIL IMPROVEMENTS**

Jail Administrator Hammond requested permission to advertise to receive sealed bids for impact fee improvements at the Jail. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **POLICY – DECEASED INDIGENT**

County Attorney Novak discussed a proposed deceased indigent policy for the County, stating that there has been an issue and will report back to the Board in two weeks with a recommendation.

### **ADVERTISE – FUNERAL SERVICES – DECEASED INDIGENT**

County Attorney Novak requested permission to advertise to receive sealed bids for funeral services for the deceased indigent, stating that he will bring back before the Board at the next meeting. Commissioner Williams reported that F.A.C. lobbied this in the last Legislative session, and requested that this be handled in the form of cremation. County Attorney Novak reported that Florida Statute is clear for this type policy.

### **S.H.I.P.**

County Attorney Novak gave an update on S.H.I.P., stating that he and Chief Administrator Butler met with the site inspector (Michael Chaney) last week, and he provided some recommendations in regards to strategy, and the County is headed in the right direction.

### **RIFLE CLUB PROPERTY**

County Attorney Novak reported that the Rifle Club property has been closed on and received the funding, stating that he will submit to the Clerk's Office for recording.

### **ODENA BOAT RAMP – LICENSE AGREEMENT**

County Attorney Novak reported that the License Agreement on the Odena Boat ramp has been executed and sent to the St. Joe Company.

### **COUNTY-WIDE VOTING**

County Attorney Novak updated the Board concerning the County-Wide voting issue and Attorney Spellman's report, stating that he received the summary report from Attorney Spellman and he has provided this report to each of the Commissioners today.

### **INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Insurance Committee is accepting proposals for the County Insurance and requested for Chairman Yeager to appoint Commissioner McDaniel to serve as the Board representative on the Insurance Committee.

### **F.E.M.A. APPEAL – HURRICANE GUSTAV**

Chief Administrator Butler reported that the County has received the denial for the First Appeal to the F.E.M.A. damage from Hurricane Gustav, stating that the County has 60 days from July 19<sup>th</sup> to appeal again, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal will take place in Washington, DC. He reported that they denied because we did not demonstrate to them that we were exempt due to the fact that we are located in a COBRA and we did not fit the exemption. Chief Administrator Butler stated if the Board would like to continue with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Appeal there needs to be a committee meeting to discuss.

### **S.H.I.P.**

Chief Administrator Butler reported that they had a good meeting with Michael Chaney, stating that they found out some things that they can and cannot do, and they still have approximately \$360,000.00 of the F.H.O.P. funds that can only be spent certain ways. He reported that there is a new allocation of funds coming in after the County demonstrates that we have settled an issue with a couple lots in Williamsburg and a couple lots in White City. Chief Administrator Butler recommended paying the State of Florida back for the two lots in Williamsburg, in the amount of \$16,500.00 from this budget. County Attorney Novak reported that the Florida Housing Coalition reviewed that strategy and made the recommendation to the County. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST – BEACH PATROL FUND**

Sheriff Nugent appeared before the Board and requested reimbursement from the Beach Patrol Fund, in the amount of \$10,000.00 to purchase a used vehicle for beach patrol. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **NATIONAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**

Commissioner Williams reported that he and Chief Administrator Butler were on a conference call with Meme Drew, the Florida Trustee, regarding the hundred million dollars that has been outlined. He reported that this Board is looking at prioritizing by the end of the week to get the information submitted.

### **POLICY – ALCOHOL**

Commissioner Williams reported that he previously discussed the alcohol policy concerning alcohol in the parks during different events by the T.D.C. or E.D.C. County Attorney Novak reported that the White City Park is the only park in Gulf County which prohibits alcohol, stating that if the County were to elect a policy with regards to T.D.C. or other extensions of County Government they would need to move forward on how they have to comply with State Statutes. He reported that there is an application process that would need to be completed for each event to ensure the proper insurance or riders for specific events. Commissioner Williams recommended for County Attorney Novak to draft a policy in conjunction with T.D.C. to cover these issues. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **TOWN HALL MEETING – HIGHLAND VIEW**

Commissioner Williams reported that he held a Town Hall Meeting in Highland View regarding the homeless issue, and Matt Scoggins has been placed on that Board for local representation.

### **BUDGET**

Commissioner Williams thanked Chairman Yeager for his leadership during this budget cycle of not raising taxes and going back to last year's millage, or to the roll back rate.

### **STONE MILL CREEK PARK**

Commissioner McDaniel reported that he has received some complaints concerning noise coming from the Stone Mill Creek Park, and requested permission to place signs in the Stone Mill Creek Park designating the hours of operation from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Board had no objections.

## **NATIONAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**

Chief Administrator Butler reported the he and Commissioner Williams were on a conference call, stating that there are certain things that they can touch on, and he and Grant Writer Kopinsky have been working on this to determine a number; stating that there is \$16 million in the line item and they have worked up a priority order. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the priority funding and estimated dollar amounts based on Chief Administrator Butler's recommendation. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **PORT AUTHORITY**

Johanna White appeared before the Board and gave an update on The Port Authority, and thanked the Board for the funding of the \$200,000.00, stating that they are using these funds wisely. She reported that 75% of these funds have gone to inquiries that are coming into The Port and 25% on cleaning up some of the areas. Ms. White reported on Parcel A to The Port, stating that they were in a lease agreement with the St. Joe Company but The Port has recently discontinued that lease because they are not generating revenue to pay the lease. Tommy Pitts appeared before the Board and reported that The Port has not received any permits for any properties, stating that there were some rights for the work that had been done which stayed with the property. He reported that there is a possibility that the mill site location and bulkhead are available for consideration of Port developments for specific projects. Mr. Pitts reported on the property located on the inside of the bridge, stating that they put in the bulkhead, cleared the site, put in the access road, and other improvements. He reported that The Port recently acquired the old Arizona Chemical site and have received a number of inquiries concerning this property. Chairman Yeager reported that District 3 F.D.O.T. is very much in support of The Port. Mr. Pitts reported that the District 3 F.D.O.T. Chipley Office has been very supportive for the Port, stating that they have received some funding from them in the form of grants and have also supported in a Marketing and Feasibility Study. Commissioner Williams complemented Mr. Pitts and Ms. White for their leadership on The Port Authority.

## **APALACHICOLA / CHATTAHOOCHEE / FLINT RIVERS**

David McClain appeared before the Board and discussed the issues with the A.C.F., stating that there are six counties bordering the river, and there is a particular status under eastern water law regarding the river. He reported that they formed a group called the ACF Stakeholders, stating that the purpose of this group is to seek equitable waters of the basin. Mr. McClain reported that those waters are still in jeopardy, stating that over the next 12 months for three particular functional reasons (1) the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals reviewing the Judge's ruling that stopped Atlanta from taking water out of Lake Lanier for water supply (was going to in 2012) has been overruled, (2) Corp of Engineers is developing an update for their water control manual which tells the dam

operators when and how much to release, and (3) N.O.A.A. are reporting that La Nina is going away and El Nino is returning and we will return to drought. Mr. McClain reported that they would like to give the Corp of Engineers the Stakeholders target so we get an equitable distribution of water. He reported that he will continue to report to the Board, stating that he will come back for budget review when the line item comes up. Commissioner Williams reported that Mr. McClain previously addressed the Board with a \$5,000.00 line item for support, and the County needs to review this during the budget.

Chairman Yeager called for public comment.

Jenny Ford appeared before the Board and discussed that John Ford was recently terminated after receiving a letter of suspension for three days with pay, stating that he then received a certified letter in the mail terminating his employment. She reported that the Board and Dr. Pablo have been misinformed, that John did have a certified E.M.T. on the truck and they were told that the individual was not a certified E.M.T. Ms. Ford presented the Board with a copy of the papers that were mailed to Mr. Ford, stating that Chaney McArdle's certification is in the packet. She reported that Gulf County paid for Chaney McArdle to attend E.M.T. schooling and one of the qualifications was to work with Gulf County E.M.S. for two years after completing school.

County Attorney Novak reported that the Board just received information concerning current or past personnel with the County, stating that the Board adopted a policy in regards to personnel discussion in December, 2004, which specifically lays out your procedures and policies that you will follow in regards to disciplinary action and personnel. He reported that there is a policy in place and if disciplinary or personnel issues are going to be discussed there needs to be a special meeting called which is properly noticed.

Chief Administrator Butler reported that there is a lot of turmoil over this issue, and requested to explain what happened in this situation. He reported that Gulf County E.M.S. Director Whitfield came to him on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup> with a copy of Chaney McArdle's application with a note attached to the top, stating that we have apparently used someone over the weekend that was not a County employee on the ambulance. Chief Administrator Butler reported that Mr. Whitfield informed him that he had completed the schooling and he is an E.M.T., stating that Mr. Whitfield explained to him that we had a non-County employee on the ambulance and we need to figure out what to do. Chief Administrator Butler inquired as what we need to do, stating that Mr. Whitfield informed him that he needed to talk with Dr. Pablo, and the answer from Dr. Pablo was that this is not right and you cannot use a non-County employee on an

ambulance system; stating that he is the E.M.S. Medical Director and they work under his protocols and there is a great liability for the County and Dr. Pablo. He reported that he, E.M.S. Director Whitfield, and County Attorney Novak met to discuss this issue, stating that the direction of the Medical Director was that you cannot run an ambulance system without a Medical Director, and Dr. Pablo stated that he does not like this and he (John Ford) cannot work under my license. Chief Administrator reported under the advice of County Attorney Novak he mailed the termination certified mail to Mr. Ford.

Upon inquiry by Chairman Yeager concerning scheduling a special meeting, County Attorney Novak reported that the County policy states that the Chief Administrator will place on the agenda and staff, professionals, and employees will be noticed to properly prepare. He advised the Board not to comment on personnel matters.

Kelli Ford appeared before the Board and read a letter from Jessica Ford Parker (John's daughter) concerning her support for her father in this issue. <Commissioner Williams motioned to allow an additional three minutes to speak. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.> Ms. Ford reported that John Ford is the best and requested for the Board to correct this problem.

John Grantland appeared before the Board and stated that he has heard a lot tonight about policies and procedures and all of a sudden they need to be followed, stating that he wants to make sure the Board understands at the next meeting that whatever policies are produced to make sure the employees understand and have seen them. Mr. Grantland stated that John Ford is a great man and has touched a lot of people. Upon inquiry by Mr. Grantland concerning the special meeting, County Attorney Novak reported that this meeting is open to the public.

Charles Stephens appeared before the Board and reported that he has known Mr. Ford for many years, stating that John Ford saved his life on the second of July, and that John Ford is an asset to this County.

Angel Burkett appeared before the Board and reported that John Ford has come to her home on three different occasions because she has a severe asthmatic child, and for this to happen to someone of his character is wrong.

Charles Gathers appeared before the Board and reported that he volunteered on the fire department with John Ford, and he does not understand how someone can love volunteering as much as John, stating that if the information is not given the correct way you can be persuaded just because of the information given.

Dianna Eple, Supervisor of E.S.U. Team in Mexico Beach appeared before the Board representing Mexico Beach, stating that Mexico Beach was one of the first areas to have a First Responder team established, and if it was not for John Ford there would not be any First Responders in Mexico Beach, St. Joe Beach, Overstreet, White City and Cape San Blas. She reported that there are a lot of people walking around today because of John Ford establishing the First Responder Teams in this County. Ms. Eple reported that she is a Paramedic today because of John's love for E.M.S. and for all the time that he has put in by giving up hours without his family and friends to put this County first.

Chairman Yeager instructed the Clerk to schedule a special meeting for Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 5:00 p.m., E.T.

John Rich appeared before the Board and reported that this County has a State of the Art E.M.S. facility and vehicles, stating that rules are made and broken and John Ford has been in this community his entire life and he has been with this County E.M.S. for years. He reported that he recently had an incident and had to call 911 and John Ford and Donnie McArdle responded to his home. <Commissioner Williams motioned to allow an additional three minutes to speak. Commissioner Smiley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.> Mr. Rich reported that he was transported to Bay Medical and was treated with professionalism by Mr. Ford and Mr. McArdle during this incident.

Brenda Burkett appeared before the Board and inquired as to Houston Whitfield running the ambulance service. Chairman Yeager requested Ms. Burkett not to get personal on this issue.

County Attorney Novak reported that a couple of the public comments have been centered around rules and regulations, and reminded the Board that the policy put in place was not only to protect the Commission and County, but also to protect the employee, stating that it gives them the opportunity to show up, to have adequate counsel and to have proper due process.

Larry Rich appeared before the Board and reported that John Ford is his hero because he saved his father, stating that he has spoken to all the commissioners and sent thank you emails for responding. He reported that everyone makes mistakes including this doctor which is his supervisor, and requested that he be informed and come to the special meeting to get this resolved and put John Ford back to work.

Carlos Comacho appeared before the Board and reported that John Ford has received him into this community and allowed him to volunteer for this community, stating that he thinks that there is a lack of communication concerning this issue.

Commissioner McLemore requested for Chairman Yeager to schedule this meeting for tomorrow. Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that there has to be 24 hour notice in scheduling a meeting. County Attorney Novak reported that he will be out of state on a hearing tomorrow and will be unable to attend. Chairman Yeager reported that the meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 5:00 p.m., E.T. Chairman Yeager thanked the public for their comments on this issue, stating that they were all made with respect.

Debra Barnes appeared before the Board and reported that she thinks a lot of injustice has been done, stating that she makes a mistake and Tom Gibson (her employer) does not fire her for one mistake, and she thinks it is time to make a change.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 7:42 p.m., E.T.

**WARREN J. YEAGER, JR.  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:  
REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK**