

JULY 29, 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 Joanna Bryan, and Warren J. Yeager, Jr. <Commissioner Carmen L. McLemore was absent.>

Others present were: County Attorney Jeremy Novak, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Sherry Herring, Deputy Clerk Leanna Roberts, 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, G.I.S. Coordinator Scott Warner, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Houston Whitfield, I.T. Director Dennis Barfield, Sr., Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, and T.D.C. Executive Director Jennifer Jenkins.

Chairman Smiley called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., E.T.

BRITISH PETROLEUM (B.P.) SPECIAL COUNCIL REPORT

County Attorney Novak discussed the B.P. Litigation update and introduced Ron Jones and Brantley Frye from Beasley Allen Law Firm. Ron Jones of Beasley Allen Law Firm appeared before the Board to give an update regarding the B.P. Litigation; stating that a suit has been filed and will they proceed with the process.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT (T.D.C.) – SPONSORSHIP POLICY REVIEW

County Attorney Novak discussed the T.D.C. Sponsorship Policy and recommended Board approval to pay the Tupelo Honey Festival, the Kids Win Fishing Tournament, and the Plain Air invoices, stating under the current T.D.C. policy that was recently adopted there is a window of time (45 days) in which the vendor is able to submit their packets on the back end for payment, and some of these events have submitted their packets after the 45 days. He recommended not amending the T.D.C. policy but suspending the T.D.C. policy and allowing the Clerk's Office to pay the sponsorship reimbursements. Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (T.D.C.) – BUDGET AMENDMENT

County Attorney Novak discussed left-over B.P. Funding and a recommendation by T.D.C. to approve the spending plan made by TDC Director Jenkins at a previous meeting). Commissioner Bryan motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0). Upon recommendation by Clerk Norris, Commissioner Yeager motioned to set a

Supplemental Budget Hearing to take care of this matter. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

EASEMENT APPROVAL

County Attorney Novak discussed a piece of property located on Wentletrap Avenue (Conley H. & Ethel Juanita Kennison) in Beacon Hill and presented a right-of-way easement to the Board for approval. Commissioner Bryan motioned to approve this easement. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

2013-2014 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the proposed 2013-2014 revenue additions; (1) Tipping Fees \$68,750.00, (2) E.M.S. Dry Run Fees \$10,000.00, (3) E.M.S. Sacred Heart Contract \$70,000.00, (4) E.M.S. Mileage Fee increase \$5,000.00, (5) Culvert Fees \$700.00, (6) Building Department Fee increase of \$25,000.00, (7) Third-Party E.M.S. Collections \$1,000.00, and (8) Beach Driving Permit increase \$20,000.00. He then discussed the proposed 2013-2014 expense reductions; (1) move offices from the Wewahitchka Courthouse; a savings of \$20,000.00 and (2) Infrastructure Reserve reduction \$150,000.00, and recommended approval of the revenue additions and expense reductions. After discussion, Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion for discussion. After further discussion the motion then passed unanimously (4-0). Commissioner Yeager discussed his concerns regarding raises for the employees; stating the Board needs to consider employee raises. Upon discussion by Chairman Smiley, Chief Administrator Butler stated the Board will have to give a pay raise to all Union Employees regardless of their salary. Chief Administrator Butler reported the number for a three (3) percent increase for all County employees would be \$207,962.64. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Yeager, Deputy Administrator Lowry stated the increase in health care for this fiscal year will be approximately six (6) to seven (7) percent. Upon inquiry by Chief Administrator Butler, Clerk Finance Officer Herring stated the changes that were proposed and voted on at the last meeting are in Proposal #3. Chairman Smiley discussed his concerns regarding giving a percentage verses providing a set dollar amount to employees for a pay increase. Commissioner Yeager discussed working with the Clerk's Office to bring a recommendation to the Board regarding a set dollar amount. Upon discussion by Chief Administrator Butler; Commissioner Yeager motioned to allow Chief Administrator Butler to work with the Clerk's Office to set a dollar amount for pay raises from the \$207,963.00 amount. Chief Administrator Butler reported that this proposed raise would be for fulltime Union and Non-Union County Employees. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, Commissioner Yeager amended his motion to add the \$207,963.00 to the budget and to allow Chief Administrator Butler to work with the Clerk's Office on pay increases. The motion then passed unanimously (4-0).

RESOLUTIONS – FEES

Upon discussion by Clerk Norris, Commissioner McDaniel motioned to adopt the following proposed resolutions. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0), as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-12

WHEREAS, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida, anticipates additional revenue in the General Fund for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year that was not included in the proposed budget dated 07/23/2013; and

WHEREAS, said additional revenue will be used to reduce Ad Valorem Tax revenue in Fiscal Year 2013-2014;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

That the 2013-2014 proposed budget be increased, as follows:

GENERAL FUND

REVENUE:

00129-00000 Beach Driving Permits	\$ 20,000.00
00143-40000 Tipping Fees-Garbage	\$ 68,750.00

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, this 29th day of July, 2013.

(End)

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-13

WHEREAS, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida, anticipates additional revenue in the General Fund for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year that was not included in the proposed budget dated 07/23/2013; and

WHEREAS, said additional revenue will be used to reduce Ad Valorem Tax revenue in Fiscal Year 2013-2014;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

That the 2013-2014 proposed budgets be increased, as follows:

GENERAL FUND

REVENUE:

00122-00000 Building Permit Fees	\$ 25,000.00
00142-60000 Ambulance Fees	\$ 16,000.00
00142-60002 Ambulance Contract	\$ 70,000.00

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, this 29th day of July, 2013.

(End)

MEDICAID

Clerk Norris discussed information received from the Small County Coalition; stating that the estimated amount for Medicaid will increase by \$1,531.00. Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve this increase to the proposed budget. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (D.R.A.)

Clerk Norris discussed the proposed decrease to the D.R.A. based on the millage rate in Proposal #3, which could be reduced by \$12,759.00. Commissioner Yeager motioned to approve this decrease in the proposed budget. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

MILLAGE RATE

Clerk Norris discussed for the Board's consideration to set the Tentative Millage Rate and the date and time for the First Public Hearing. Commissioner Bryan stated that she is not in favor of raising the Millage Rate, and requested the Board review the County Jail Budget. She reported that the female inmates are being housed at the Bay County Jail and discussed farming the male inmates to Bay County as well. After discussion by Commissioner Yeager, County Jail Administrator Hammond stated that his office can compile the figures and bring to the Board for review regarding this matter. After discussion by County Jail Administrator Hammond, Commissioner Yeager discussed the reduction in inmates staying in the Jail. Commissioner Bryan stated that she would like to work with County Jail Administrator Hammond and Chief Administrator Butler on compiling the numbers. After discussion, Chief Administrator Butler reported that various departments have submitted changes in their budget numbers mainly due to insurance coverage. Upon inquiry by Chief Administrator Butler, Deputy Administrator Lanier requested approval from the Board regarding a change to the T.D.C. Budget, stating that this is a wash and it is not Ad Valorem. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Yeager concerning Cash to be Carried Forward; Clerk Norris reported that for the first three months of the new fiscal year approximately \$1,000,000.00 or higher is used to run the County. Commissioner McDaniel discussed the possibility of using some of the B.P. funds to subsidize the proposed budget. Clerk Norris discussed that she will work with Chief Administrator Butler regarding the Cash to be Carried Forward.

HEALTHCARE WORKSHOP

County Attorney Novak reported that a workshop will be held on July 30th at 6:00 p.m., C.T. at the Honeyville Community Center to discuss healthcare services.

The meeting did then recess at 10:56 a.m., E.T.

The meeting did then reconvene at 11:15 a.m., E.T.

2013-2014 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Clerk Norris stated that with the adjustments made to Budget Proposal #3, the millage rate is currently set at 6.5608 for the County-Wide Tentative Millage Rate. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Yeager, Clerk Finance Officer Herring reported that this is a millage rate decrease, in the amount of .8189. Commissioner Yeager discussed eliminating roadside pick-up to save the County \$300,000.00, and discussed the need to consider increasing the Bed Tax. Chief Administrator Butler stated that he will present numbers to the Board for review regarding mandatory garbage. After discussion, Commissioner McDaniel motioned to approve the Tentative Millage Rate at 6.5608. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

DEPENDENT SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICTS

Upon recommendation by Clerk Norris, Commissioner McDaniel motioned to set the Tentative Millage Rate for the Dependent Special Fire Control Districts, with St. Joe Fire Control District at .4 mills, Tupelo Fire Control District, Howard Creek Fire Control District, and Overstreet Fire Control District at .5 mills each. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

Upon recommendation by Clerk Norris, Commissioner Yeager motioned to hold the First Public Hearing on September 10th at 5:01 p.m., E.T. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

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

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Yeager, second by Commissioner McDaniel, and unanimous (4-0) vote, the meeting did then adjourn at 11:24 a.m., E.T.

**TYNALIN SMILEY
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:
REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**