

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

JULY 10, 2007

REGULAR MEETING

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

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Becky Norris, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, E.D.C. Director Alan McNair, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Grant Writer Loretta Costin, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Shane McGuffin, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Assistant Road Department Superintendent Chris Wood, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, T.D.C. Director Paula Pickett, and Sheriff's Office Major Joe Nugent.

Major Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., E.T.

Vice Chairman Barnes opened the meeting with prayer, and Chairman Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous vote, the Board approved the following Consent Agenda items after removal of Page 41 (a portion of Item #2).

1. Minutes - June 19, 2007 - Special Meeting
 - June 25, 2007 - Special Budget Meeting
 - June 26, 2007 - Regular Meeting
 - June 28, 2007 - Special Budget Meeting

2. ****DELETE**** *Direct Purchase Payment - United Structures of America (Honeyville Community Center * Bid #0607-13 * #25703 * \$105,387.00 * to be paid from Account #27172-62000)*

Direct Purchase Requisition - Rexel Southern Electric (Honeyville Community Center * Bid #0607-13 * \$28,277.97 * will be paid from Account #27152-62000)

3. Grant Award/Agreement - Florida Department of Environmental

Protection - F.R.D.A.P. #F8074 * Donnie Wayne
Brake Memorial Park in Highland View *
\$200,000.00)

4. Inventory - Supervisor of Elections (Junk #30-45, #30-57, Brother Typewriter & Royal Shredder)
5. Invoice - Agency for Healthcare Administration - Medicaid (April, 2007 * \$7,381.20 / May, 2007 * \$5,832.88 * to be paid from Account #52264-34100)
 - Bay Medical Center - H.C.R.A. (#0704300440 * \$1,346.60 * to be paid from Account #51462-31500)
 - Cathey Construction & Development - Courthouse Roof (#7 * \$45,958.17 * to be paid from Account #C2113-62100)
 - Cathey Construction & Development - Honeyville Storm Shelter (#3 * \$67,291.98 * to be paid from Account #27152-62000)
 - County Attorney Timothy McFarland (June, 2007 * \$8,791.50 * to be paid from Account #21314_31100)
 - Preble-Rish, Inc. - Courthouse Roof (#65216 * \$6,581.00 * to be paid from Account #26219-62100)
 - Preble-Rish, Inc. - Five Points Permit Renewal (#75286 * \$2,715.38 * to be paid from Account #42634-31000)
6. Purchase Request - South Gulf County Fire Department (to purchase Four Powerheart A.E.D.'s (Cardiac Science Corp. * \$5,800.00 Total)
7. Road Paving Request - Pave Pet Patch Road, South Ganley Road, and the left side of Robert's Cemetery Road with Priority Road Bond Funds (located in District 1)
8. S.H.I.P. - Purchase Assistance - Cheryl Y. Pryor (\$25,000.00)
S.H.I.P. - Subordination Agreement - Michael Linton/Nationstar
9. Tax Certificate Cancellation (Parcel #03797-001R * \$1,239.44 * to be paid from Account #00187-97000)
10. Tax Roll Recapitulation for 2006

(End of Consent Agenda)

AUDITOR SERVICES (BID #0607-32)

Upon request by Clerk Norris for a Board designee and upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous vote, the Board appointed Commissioner Traylor to serve as their representative on the Audit Review Committee.

CAPITAL AREA COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY / APPOINTMENT

After discussion by Deputy Administrator Lanier and upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous vote, the Board re-appointed Charles Givens as Gulf County's Representative to serve on the Capital Area Community Action Agency committee.

HONEYVILLE STORM SHELTER (BID #0607-13)

Deputy Administrator Lanier discussed the Direct Purchase Payment that was removed from the Consent Agenda (Page 41), stating that a revised payment request has been received from United Structures of America for the Honeyville Storm Shelter, in the amount of \$103,787.00. Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous vote, the Board approved payment of this invoice.

N.A.C.O. CONFERENCE

Deputy Administrator Lanier discussed the NACo Conference and "freezing" of expenditures by the Board, stating that they can receive reimbursement for the airfare and one-half of the registration fee. After discussion regarding the importance of at least one Gulf County representative attending this meeting, Commissioner Traylor motioned for Commissioner Peters to attend the 2007 NACo Conference, and to cancel the others. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

GULF COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Deputy Administrator Lanier reported on individuals who have expressed an interest in serving on the local Gulf County Transportation Committee that Steve Norris has agreed to Chair (Chief Administrator Butler, Wewahitchka City Manager Don Minchew, Port St. Joe City Manager Lee Vincent, Cathy Valentine, Sonny Chafin & Tim Stein). Upon inquiry, Grant Writer Costin discussed that this should be a stand alone committee under the Strategic Planning Committee (transportation is included in the County's Strategic Plan). After discussion by members of the Board and Steve Norris, Commissioner Traylor discussed the possibility of Andrew Rowell serving on this committee. Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Traylor, and unanimous vote, the Board appointed Steve Norris, Chief Administrator Butler, Wewahitchka City Manager Don Minchew, Port St. Joe City Manager Lee Vincent, Cathy Valentine, Sonny Chafin, Tim Stein and Andrew Rowell to serve on this committee.

BID #0607-31 / SALE OF VAN

Road Department Superintendent Knee reported that no bids were received for the 1981 Ford Van (Item #210-23) advertised for sale. After discussion by Chairman Williams about individuals that are interested but did not see the notice in time to submit a bid, Commissioner Traylor motioned to re-advertise for bids to sell this van. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

GULF COUNTY WELCOME CENTER

T.D.C. Director Pickett discussed the County's "freeze" on expenditures, requesting that the T.D.C. be allowed to proceed with the paperwork for the loan, obtain a letter from the County Attorney regarding the County's Tax-Free Status and continue with renovation of the Welcome Center (to be re-paid with Tourist Development Tax funds). Commissioner Peters motioned to approve this request, and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed 4 to 1, with Chairman Williams voting no.

BUILDING PERMIT / IMPACT FEES - GULF COUNTY WELCOME CENTER

Upon request by T.D.C. Director Pickett, Commissioner McLemore motioned to waive the building permit fees and impact fees for renovation of the Welcome Center. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REJECT BIDS #0607-23 / BEACH RE-NOURISHMENT PROJECT

Upon discussion by T.D.C. Director Pickett, Commissioner Peters motioned to reject the bids received for the St. Joseph Peninsula Erosion Control Project, and re-advertise with amended specifications (extended completion time). Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

E.A.R. / COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Planner Richard presented copies of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (E.A.R.), and discussed that this and other Comp Plan issues will be discussed at the special meeting on July 24th at 5:00 p.m., E.T.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT / T.A.F.B.

Planner Richardson discussed a proposed mutual aid agreement with Tyndall Air Force Base with a hold-harmless agreement, and requested permission for the Chairman to execute the agreement. Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous vote, the Board approved this request.

MOSQUITO CONTROL / CHEMICALS

Upon request by Mosquito Control Director Cothran, Commissioner Peters motioned to approve the purchase of chemicals for mosquito control, in the amount of \$1,828.20. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEM - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Director Nelson requested permission to advertise to receive sealed bids for an audio/video system for Emergency Management (to be purchased with D.R.I. funds). Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous vote, the Board approved this request.

DISASTER RECOVERY SUMMIT / TRAVEL

Emergency Management Director Nelson discussed the Disaster Recovery Summit to be held on July 25th in Daytona, requesting that he, Solid Waste Director Danford and Grant Writer Costin be allowed to attend. Commissioner Traylor motioned to approve this request. Chairman Williams passed the Chair to Vice Chairman Barnes, and seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner McLemore voting no. Chairman Barnes returned the Chair to Commissioner Williams.

GULF CO. ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS/GULF TRANSPORTATION

Chief Administrator Butler discussed a request from Gulf County Association for Retarded Citizens for the County to waive the building permit fees and impact fees on their new building. Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous vote, the Board approved this request.

DRAINAGE ISSUES / ST. JOE SHORES

Chief Administrator Butler discussed a request from Preble-Rish, Inc. (on behalf of Derrick Gardner of The St. Joe Company) regarding a permit application to repair drainage issues in St. Joe Shores. After discussion, Commissioner Peters motioned to table this request to allow Chairman Williams to meet with Preble-Rish, Inc./The St. Joe Company to discuss these issues. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REJECT BIDS #0607-30 / LEGAL ADVERTISING

After discussion by Chief Administrator Butler and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous vote, the Board agreed to reject the bids received for legal advertising for the County.

GRANT-FUNDED BUDGETS

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the Board's decision to "freeze" all spending in excess of \$1,000.00, and requested that the "freeze" be removed from all budgets that are funded with

grants. Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner McLemore, and unanimous vote, the Board approved this request.

PARKS / FUNDING

Chief Administrator Butler discussed obligations previously incurred at 16th Street Park and Peters Park, requesting that the Board allow payment of the expenses for these parks. Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner Traylor, and unanimous vote, the Board approved this request (to be paid from Parks & Recreation funds).

2007-08 BUDGET

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that the Board agreed to close the Transfer Station in Wewahitchka (Wetappo Landfill), and requested that they approve the remainder of Scenario A-3 that was presented by the Committee. Commissioner Traylor discussed that the Committee also needs to look at how much could be saved by changing to a 4 day-10 hour work week for Union employees and a 4 day-8 hour work week for the Courthouse and Non-Union employees. Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Traylor, and unanimous vote, the Board approved Scenario A-3 and agreed to consider 4 day work weeks.

Commissioner Traylor then discussed the Transfer Station in Wewahitchka, stating that the comment was made that nobody pays to take debris there, but residents do not pay to take debris to Five Points either. Chairman Williams discussed that his issue with closing the transfer station was the costs to the County in having to haul the debris to Five Points Landfill.

VOTER PRECINCTS

Chief Administrator Butler reported that they will be able to reduce the number of precincts for voting from 14 to 8, and County Attorney McFarland discussed the process to be followed to change the precincts (must be done by ordinance). Commissioner McLemore motioned to proceed with reduction of the number of voting precincts, and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Peters, Chief Administrator Butler reported that Supervisor of Elections Griffin has approved these changes. The motion then passed unanimously.

LITIGATION / FLORIDA FREEDOM

County Attorney McFarland discussed the pending lawsuit with *"The Star"*, stating that the Board should refrain from discussing this issue until the matter is resolved.

ENVIRONMENTAL BUILDING PRODUCTS

Upon discussion that this company will need to exceed their 6-minute time limit, Commissioner Peters motioned to extend their time. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed 3 to 2, with Commissioners McLemore and Traylor voting no. Paula

Hamilton and Stan Bates, of Pilock Corporation, appeared before the Board to present a Power Point presentation regarding environmental building products for construction of docks, etc.

SIDEWALK REPAIR

Commissioner Barnes discussed that the County broke the sidewalk on 22nd Street in Port St. Joe, and he requested that the Board pay an \$809.00 invoice for repair of the sidewalk. Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous vote, the Board approved this request.

ROAD REPAIR - COUNTY CLUB ROAD

Commissioner Barnes discussed dips in the County Club Road that need to be repaired, and requested permission to have the engineers evaluate the area and give an estimate on the repairs. Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous vote, the Board approved this request.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Commissioner McLemore discussed the 200 acres in Honeyville for Affordable Housing, and requested permission to proceed with this project. Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Traylor, and unanimous vote, the Board approved this request.

COUNTY ROAD 381A

Commissioner McLemore discussed damage done on 1,100 feet of newly paved C.R. 381A (approximately \$65,000.00), stating that he is working with Clay Smallwood of The St. Joe Company and G.A.C. Contractors and will make a recommendation back to the Board.

SLUDGE / DUMPING FEES

Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, County Attorney McFarland stated that he has not completed the documents regarding the sludge issue.

PARKS / LIGHTING

Commissioner McLemore reported that he has turned off all lighting in the parks in his district, and recommended that lighting in all of the parks be turned off to save money. After discussion regarding meeting with Progress Energy regarding this matter, Chairman Williams requested that County Attorney McFarland check on public safety issues regarding this matter.

DONNIE WAYNE BRAKE MEMORIAL PARK / HIGHLAND VIEW

Chairman Williams reported that a \$200,000.00 F.R.D.A.P. grant was awarded for the Donnie Wayne Brake Memorial Park in Highland View. After discussion by Grant Writer Costin and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous vote, the Board agreed to proceed with bidding of this project as soon as they receive permission to begin from the State.

CITY OF PORT ST. JOE - ANNEXATION / SEWER

Chairman Williams reported that City of Port St. Joe Mayor Magidson has been out of town, but when he returns he will be meeting with him regarding the annexation and Highland View sewer system issues.

WEIGHT LIMIT - SETTLERS RIDGE ROAD

Road Department Superintendent Knee reported that Moses Medina was scheduled to be here tonight to discuss damage being done to Settlers Ridge Road in Overstreet by heavy trucks. After discussion by Commissioner Traylor that the Board needs to place a weight limit on this road, County Attorney McFarland stated that signs need to be posted immediately. After further discussion, Commissioner Traylor motioned to place a 20-ton weight limit on Settlers Ridge Road and C.R. 381A. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DEMOLITION / BURNED HOUSE

Edward Clark appeared before the Board to request demolition of a burned house in Highland View. Chairman Williams discussed that the County has a policy to no longer demolish houses, but there have been exemptions on a case-by-case basis, and stated that he will review this matter and bring it back to the Board.

COUNTY EMPLOYEES / BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Road Department Superintendent Knee inquired as to the status of the budget reductions in regard to employees being laid-off. Chairman Williams discussed that a final decision has not been made, but there are local companies that have agreed to assist in hiring of displaced employees.

2007-08 BUDGET

Russ Scholz appeared before the Board on behalf of the Gulf County Senior Citizens to discuss how important this financing is to the elderly in this County (many people depend upon the meals brought to them by the Senior Citizens Association). Chairman Williams discussed that the Board is having to make many budget cuts that are detrimental to all residents of Gulf County.

IMPACT FEES

Brian Lovett, of Wewahitchka, appeared before the Board to discuss the impact fees (\$1,150.00) for relocating a house from one portion of property in Wewahitchka to another, stating that he is unable to pay this amount and requesting that it be waived. After discussion by members of the Board and Staff, Commissioner Peters motioned to extend Mr. Lovett's speaking time by 3 minutes. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After further discussion, Commissioner Peters motioned to allow Mr. Lovett to pay this impact fee in 12 monthly installments. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

LIGHTING / DOLPHIN STREET

Linda Sanders appeared before the Board to discuss the need for lighting on Dolphin Street in Highland View, stating that people who are walking are in danger of being hit by a car. After discussion, Chairman Williams agreed to meet with Progress Energy regarding this matter and report back to the Board.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 7:25 p.m., E.T.

**BILL WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**