

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MARCH 30, 2010

SPECIAL MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in a Special Meeting with the following members present: Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, Vice Chairman Warren J. Yeager, Jr., and Commissioners Billy E. Traylor, Bill Williams and Nathan Peters, Jr.

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Deputy Clerk Tracy Tharpe, Assistant Administrator Michael Hammond, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, E9-1-1 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Assistant Public Works Superintendent Jake Lewis, Assistant Public Works Superintendent Chris Wood, Sheriff Joe Nugent, Sheriff Department Major Bobby Plair, and Veteran's Service Officer James Kennedy.

Chairman McLemore called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., E.T.

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING

Chairman McLemore discussed the Public Works building, stating that it has to be delivered to Gulf County, and the Board needs to decide where to store the building. He recommended that the building be delivered to the Howard Creek site and move forward with the consolidation site, stating that the money is in the budget to move forward with this consolidation project. Commissioner Peters motion to proceed with the consolidation project and erect the building on the Howard Creek site immediately. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion for discussion. Commissioner Peters discussed that this is a 16,000 square foot building and that it can be used for other things. Commissioner Yeager discussed that he felt that the County could negotiate with Cathey Construction and put funds aside in Cash Carry Forward to do the project at a later date, stating that tough times are coming and we need to save. Commissioner Traylor discussed if we have the funds to build this building we do not need to lay off employees, stating that he supports the motion. Commissioner Williams discussed that we do need to stay committed to consolidation, stating that we do not know the fiscal impact for the budget. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams, Chairman McLemore reported that the bid was awarded to Cathey Construction. Brian Cathey appeared before the Board and reported that there would not be a lawsuit, stating that the building has been fabricated and is sitting on the load dock in Alabama ready to come to Gulf County since November. Commissioner Yeager discussed that we need to go ahead and pay for the building, have it delivered, but delay the construction. After further discussion by members of the Board, the motion passed 3 to 2, with Commissioner Yeager and Commissioner Williams voting no. Brian Cathey discussed that there are some issues on site work. Chairman McLemore instructed Mr. Cathey to get with

County Staff on this issue. Commissioner Williams discussed that the County is committed to moving forward. Chairman McLemore discussed that there are some budget shortfall options available.

CORRECTIONS RESOLUTION #2010-05

Commissioner Traylor reported that he and Commissioner Williams received a call from Jackson County, stating that Senator J.D. Alexander wants to cut the Department of Corrections budget. He discussed that D.O.C. is the main workforce in this County. Commissioner Traylor discussed that the resolution needs to include that there be no new construction in Northwest Florida. Commissioner Williams discussed the Senate Ways & Means Committee meeting on March 25th, stating that they are looking at closing some panhandle prisons, and this is an issue for the entire panhandle. After further discussion by members of the Board and Staff, County Attorney McFarland read the proposed resolution opposing SB2700. Commissioner Traylor motioned to oppose SB2700 by Resolution. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. Assistant Administrator Hammond recommended that the number of employees be added to the resolution. The Board had no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION #2010-05

WHEREAS, during the 2010 Legislative Session Senate Bill 2700, Amendment 995040, Section 4 - Criminal Justice and Corrections, is being considered with a proposal to close “3 State prisons” to populate a “Blackwater River Correctional Institution and the institutions to be privatized”; and

WHEREAS, in Gulf County, Florida, the Gulf Correctional Institution is the largest employer in Gulf County providing jobs for over six hundred and forty employees and their families; and

WHEREAS, Gulf County, Florida, has been deemed by the State of Florida as a rural area of critical economic concern; and

WHEREAS, the current unemployment rate in Gulf County exceeds 10%; and

WHEREAS, the economy in Gulf County has been devastated by the loss of the local manufacturing jobs and the real estate market collapse; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners hereby opposes Senate Bill 2700 or any other such amendment related to closure of rural Department of Corrections facilities, or the opening of any further privatized prisons in North Florida.

DULY ADOPTED this 30th day of March, 2010.

(End)

T.D.C. BUILDING – CONTRACT/LEASE

Commissioner Peters discussed the contract that was passed at the last meeting with the City of Port St. Joe and T.D.C. County Attorney McFarland reported that the County is at a disadvantage, stating that the County owns the building but it has been placed on the City's land. Commissioner Peters discussed that he dislikes portions of the lease. County Attorney McFarland reported that it passed 5 and 0 and it is a done deal.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Peters, the meeting did then adjourn at 9:57 a.m., E.T.

**WARREN J. YEAGER, JR
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:
REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**