

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

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

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Becky Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Assistant Administrator Michael Hammond, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Assistant Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Sheriff Joe Nugent, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, Tax Collector Shirley Jenkins, and Veterans Service Officer James Kennedy.

Chairman Peters called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m., E.T.

2009-10 PROPOSED BUDGET

Upon request by Chairman Peters, Clerk Norris made the following report to the Board:

1. The proposed County-wide millage rate based on the tentative budget changes is 6.1505, and each dependent fire district is at .5000, which is a 11.83% decrease over the 2008-09 Aggregate Rolled Back Rate of 6.9758.
2. The maximum County-wide millage rate is 5.7762%, stating that the General Fund is 3.8480 and Fine & Forfeiture is 1.9282.
3. The Board has a Cash Carry Forward amount of \$4,094,210.00 in the General Fund (\$2,869,210.00-Unrestricted/\$1,225,000.00-Restricted).
4. The Dependent Fire Districts' tentative budgets include millage rates of .5000 each, which will require a majority vote of the Board at the Final Public Hearing.
5. The M.S.T.U. voted debt service rates are 7.3310 for the Gulf Front (an increase of 1.3310) and 3.4610 for the Gulf Interior (an increase of 1.1275).

RESOLUTION – SOUTH GULF FIRE DEPARTMENT

Upon presentation by Clerk Norris, Commissioner Yeager motioned to adopt the following resolution allowing South Gulf County Fire Department to carry funds forward from the current year budget. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-25

WHEREAS, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida, anticipates additional cash forward in the St. Joe Fire District Fund for the 2009-2010 fiscal year that was not included in the tentative budget; and

WHEREAS, said additional revenue will be used for a fire station in S. Gulf County Fire District in fiscal year 2009-2010;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

That the 2009-2010 tentative budget be increased as follows:

ST JOE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT FUND

REVENUES:

Balance Brought Forward/Cash:

10698-99000 Balance Brt Forward:Cash\$ 120,000.00

EXPENDITURES:

So Gulf County Fire Department:

32922-62001 Buildings > \$25,000 \$ 120,000.00

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, this the 3rdth day of September, 2009.

(End)

RESOLUTION – OVERSTREET FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Upon presentation by Clerk Norris, Commissioner Traylor motioned to adopt the following resolution allowing Overstreet Fire Control Department to carry funds forward from the current year budget. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-26

WHEREAS, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida, anticipates additional cash forward in the Overstreet Fire District Fund for the 2009-2010 fiscal year that was not included in the tentative budget; and

WHEREAS, said additional revenue will be used for an Operating Supplies in fiscal year 2009-2010;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

That the 2009-2010 tentative budget be increased as follows:

OVERSTREET FIRE DISTRICT FUND

REVENUES:

Balance Brought Forward/Cash:

10898-99000 Balance Brt Forward:Cash\$ 10,000.00

EXPENDITURES:

Overstreet Fire Department:

32622-52000 Operating Supplies \$ 10,000.00

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, this the 3rd day of September, 2009.

(End)

RESOLUTION - GENERAL FUND

Upon presentation by Clerk Norris, Commissioner Traylor motioned to adopt the following resolution to carry funds forward from the current year budget for the Landfill. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-27

WHEREAS, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida, anticipates additional cash forward in the General Fund for the 2009-2010 fiscal year that was not included in the tentative budget; and

WHEREAS, said additional revenue will be used for Equipment, Building & Grounds in fiscal year 2009-2010;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

That the 2009-2010 tentative budget be increased as follows:

GENERAL FUND

REVENUES:

Balance Brought Forward/Cash:

00198-99000 Balance Brt Forward:Cash\$ 125,000.00

EXPENDITURES:

Landfill:

42634-62001 Buildings > \$25,000	\$ 70,000.00
42634-64001 Equipment > \$5,000	\$ 55,000.00

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, this the 3rd day of September, 2009.

(End)

RESOLUTION – GENERAL FUND

Upon presentation by Clerk Norris, Commissioner Traylor motioned to adopt the following resolution to carry funds forward from the current year budget for the County Courthouse. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-28

WHEREAS, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida, anticipates additional cash forward in the General Fund for the 2009-2010 fiscal year that was not included in the tentative budget; and

WHEREAS, said additional revenue will be used for an Emergency Notification System in fiscal year 2009-2010;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

That the 2009-2010 tentative budget be increased as follows:

GENERAL FUND

REVENUES:

Balance Brought Forward/Cash:

00198-99000 Balance Brt Forward:Cash\$ 10,000.00

EXPENDITURES:

County Courthouse:

26219-64001 Equipment > \$5,000 \$ 10,000.00

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, this the 3rdth day of September, 2009.

(End)

RESOLUTION – ADDITIONAL REVENUE GENERAL FUND

Upon presentation by Clerk Norris, Commissioner Traylor motioned to adopt the following

resolution to carry funds forward from the current year budget for the General Fund. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-29

WHEREAS, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida, anticipates additional revenue in the General Fund for the 2009-2010 fiscal year that was not included in the tentative budget; and

WHEREAS, said additional revenue will be used to reduce ad valorem taxes in fiscal year 2009-2010;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

That the 2009-2010 General Fund tentative budget be changed as follows:

GENERAL FUND

REVENUES:

Other General Taxes:

00115-00000 Communications Services Taxes \$ 35,000.00

00111-10000 Current Ad Valorem Taxes (\$ 35,000.00)

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, this the 3rd day of September, 2009.

(End)

HOSPITAL FUND – ½ CENT DISCRETIONARY SALES TAX (#12412-60000)

Clerk Norris reported that there are some changes from the Department of Revenue - Revenue estimates, stating that there is a decrease in the Hospital Fund, in the amount of \$8,141.00. Commissioner Traylor motioned to tentatively approve this recommendation. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FLORIDA (#55151-82000)

Clerk Norris reported that Opportunity Florida has advised the Board that they are waiving the fees for this fiscal year, stating that this will decrease their Budget by \$1,648.00 G/L #55151-82000. Commissioner Traylor motioned to tentatively approve this recommendation. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

½ CENT SALES TAX ESTIMATES – GENERAL FUND

Clerk Norris reported that the ½ Cent Sales Tax State Shared Revenue has reduced, stating that the Ordinary reduced by \$5,383.00, Emergency reduced by \$5,846.00, Fiscally

Constrained reduced by \$3,708.00, and Local Option ½ cent sales tax General Fund reduced by \$4,187.00. Commissioner Yeager motioned to tentatively approve this recommendation. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

MEDICAL EXAMINER (#39927-31000)

Clerk Norris recommended an increase in the Medical Examiner Budget, in the amount of \$220.00 based on the Amended Agreement executed at the August 25, 2009, Board Meeting. Commissioner Traylor motioned to tentatively approve this recommendation. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PROPERTY APPRAISER (#22113-91000)

Clerk Norris reported a change in the Property Appraiser's Budget, stating that his budget was previously decreased by the Department of Revenue, but now the Department of Revenue has revised his budget, which will be an increase in the amount of \$11,640.00. Commissioner Yeager motioned to tentatively approve this increase. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

FIRE TAX – DEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Chairman Peters reported that there have been calls to all Commissioners concerning the fire tax, stating that there is a fire tax in the unincorporated areas.

TRIM NOTICES – PUBLIC COMMENT

Chief Administrator Butler appeared before the Board and reported that they have received a lot of phone calls concerning TRIM notices. He gave a presentation of examples of the TRIM notices homesteaded, non-homesteaded and vacant lots.

The following citizens appeared before the Board concerning their TRIM notices: Mike Alles, Ann Jarosz, Tom Graney, Leonore Kusch, Judith Brown, Gloria Austin, Nancy Smith, Jo Heslin, Penny McLemore, Marshall Nelson, Sharon Griffin, and Mr. Patronis.

CONSOLIDATION – SEARCH & RESCUE (#39126)

Commissioner McLemore stated that the North & South Search & Rescue Groups need to be consolidated, saving the County \$9,000.00. Billy Moore, Assistant Manager South Gulf County Search & Rescue appeared before the Board and recommended for the South end Search & Rescue to consolidate with the Howard Creek Fire Department. Bill Davis, Fire Chief Dalkeith Fire Department, appeared before the Board and recommended that Billy Moore become a team leader and have equipment in the Howard Creek area for the Search & Rescue. After further discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner McLemore motioned to consolidate South Gulf Search & Rescue with the Wewahitchka Search & Rescue. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed 3 to 2, with Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Yeager voting no.

DISCRETIONARY ½ CENT SALES TAX

Commissioner Yeager stated that there is a verbal commitment from the City of Wewahitchka and the City of Port St. Joe regarding the discretionary ½ cent sales tax revenue, and recommended that this be applied to the landfill to help reduce ad valorem

taxes. After further discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner Traylor motioned to tentatively approve this recommendation, contingent upon agreement from the Cities. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting did then Recess at 6:56 p.m., E.T.

The meeting reconvened at 7:07 p.m., E.T.

RESOLUTION – TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE

Clerk Norris advised the Board of the tentative millage rates; then read the proposed resolution by title. Upon motion by Commissioner Yeager, second by Commissioner Traylor and unanimous vote, the Board adopted the tentative 2009-2010 millage rates by resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-30

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR GULF COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida, on September 3, 2009, adopted Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Tentative Millage Rates following a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida, held a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within Gulf County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the *Board of County Commissioners* as \$ 1,977,290,290.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the *Board of County Commissioners* of Gulf County, Florida, that:

1. The FY 2009-2010 current-year proposed aggregate millage rate of 6.1428 is **less than** the rolled-back rate of 6.9758 mills by 11.94%.
2. The current-year proposed aggregate millage rate of 6.1428 consists of the following:
 - a. County-wide proposed operating millage rate 5.7686
 - b. St Joe Fire Zone proposed operating millage rate .5000
 - c. Tupelo Fire Zone proposed operating millage rate .5000
 - d. Overstreet Fire Zone proposed operating millage rate .5000
 - e. Howard Creek Fire Zone proposed operating millage rate .5000
3. The proposed voted debt service millage rates are:
 - a. MSTU Gulf Front 7.3310
 - b. MSTU Interior 3.4610

4. This *resolution* will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED at a public hearing this 3rd Day of September, 2009.

Time Adopted 7:10 PM

(End)

RESOLUTION - TENTATIVE COUNTY BUDGET

Clerk Norris advised the Board of the tentative budget in the amount of \$32,414,014.00, which includes the Dependent Fire Districts and the MSTU's voted debt service. Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Yeager, and unanimous vote, the Board adopted the tentative 2009-2010 budgets by resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-31

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Gulf County, Florida, on September 3, 2009, held a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Gulf County, Florida, set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 in the amount of \$ 32,414,014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Gulf County, Florida, that:

1. The Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Tentative Budget be adopted.
2. This resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED at a public hearing this 3rd Day of September, 2009.

Time Adopted 7:12 PM

(End)

FINAL PUBLIC HEARING

Upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, second by Commissioner Yeager, and unanimous vote, the Board scheduled the final budget public hearing for Monday, September 21, 2009 at 5:01 p.m., E.T.

There being no further business, the meeting did then adjourn at 7:14 p.m., E.T.

NATHAN PETERS, JR.
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK