

## **PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**

**OCTOBER 29, 2007**

### **SPECIAL MEETING**

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

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Becky Norris, Clerk Executive Administrator Towan Kopinsky, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Building Inspector George Knight, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, Grant Writer Loretta Costin, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Planner David Richardson, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, T.D.C. Director Paula Pickett, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., E.T.

#### **ST. JOSEPH PENINSULA BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECT**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the beach re-nourishment project at St. Joseph Peninsula, stating that a lawsuit was filed and is holding up commencement of this project. Laurel Eiler, of the Beach Advisory Committee, appeared before the Board to discuss the possibility of negotiating with the property owner/litigator to purchase his parcel of property so the project can proceed (since the bid came in lower than expected, there are additional funds that could be used for this purchase and the property would be used for additional public beach access). Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Ms. Eiler reported that the individual paid \$650,000.00 for the property in 2004, but it is now on the Tax Roll for \$208,000.00. Chief Administrator Butler reported that he submitted a letter to D.E.P. inquiring about the permit status if the litigator withdrew, and stated that he received an email stating that D.E.P. will issue the permit to proceed with the project if this issue is settled. County Attorney McFarland stated that the timeframe for challenging the County's permit has already passed, but other lawsuits can be filed later based on the outcome of the Supreme Court hearing regarding riparian rights. Laurel Eiler stated that she inquired to F.D.E.P. regarding what the status of the County's project would be if they began the project and the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the "Save Our Beaches" Group, and she was told by Michael Barnett (head of the Division of Beaches and Shores) that the project can be completed unless the Supreme Court specifically states that it must be stopped. Commissioner McLemore then motioned to allow negotiation with the property owner to purchase the property, and Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. It passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner Peters voting no.

#### **EMERGENCY PERMITS - CAPE SAN BLAS / LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY**

Chief Administrator Butler discussed that the Board approved emergency permits for Richard & Laurel Eiler (Parcel I.D. #06268-167R) and Patrick & Sue Hilton (Parcel I.D. #06268-166R) for installation of sand bags and a seawall due to severe erosion issues. He requested that the Board issue a Local State of Emergency regarding this matter, with an effective date of October 23, 2007. Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimous (4-0) vote, the Board approved this request. Chief Administrator Butler then discussed requests for additional emergency permits in this area for Michael Paulsson (Parcel I.D. #06268-151R) and Card Properties/Allen Bryan (Parcel I.D. #06269-975R). Upon motion by Commissioner Peters, second by Commissioner McLemore, and unanimous (4-0) vote, the Board approved these additional emergency permits for construction of seawalls and placement of sand bags.

### **DONNIE WAYNE BRAKE PARK - HIGHLAND VIEW**

After discussion by Chairman Williams regarding the Donnie Wayne Brake Memorial Park project, and upon request by Grant Writer Costin, Commissioner Peters motioned to advertise to receive sealed bids for fencing for the Park. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

### **HONEYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER - INVOICES**

Deputy Administrator Lanier discussed the Board's agreement to purchase a walk-in freezer for Honeyville Community Center (in the amount of \$8,873.00), stating that there is an additional \$300.00 freight charge that she was unaware of. Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous (4-0) vote, the Board agreed to pay Emerson Heating & Cooling at total of \$9,173.00, which includes the freight charge. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore, Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that the freezer has been delivered to Emerson Heating & Cooling, and they will install it as soon as the contractors are ready.

### **ALTERNATIVE REVENUE**

Chief Administrator Butler gave a PowerPoint presentation, detailing the following suggestions from the Budget/Alternative Revenue Committee to generate additional revenue sources for Gulf County (to alleviate some of the burden placed on property taxpayers).

- 1) Infrastructure Surtax - Proceeds must be used for infrastructure (i.e.-landfill), and would be limited to one-half cent. Must be approved by BCC Ordinance and by County-Wide referendum, pursuant to Section 212.055(2), Florida Statutes.
- 2) Elms Five Cents Gas Tax - Proceeds must be used for road/bridge maintenance, and would be limited to 4 Cents (County has already levied 1 Cent). Must be approved by BCC Ordinance before July 1st and must be shared with the Cities), pursuant to Section 336.025(1)(b), Florida Statutes.

- 3) Solid Waste Special Assessment - Proceeds must be used for Solid Waste Services, with the assessment being the cost of services, less the portion of the budget that is funded with the assessment and revenue collected. Must be approved by BCC Ordinance, pursuant to Home Rule Authority granted in Sections 1-2, Article VIII, Florida Constitution.
- 4) Franchise Fees on Utilities - County would enter into a standard franchise agreement with the company, and the agreement would be adopted by BCC Ordinance.
- 5) Occupational License Tax - County would implement an Occupational License, with the revenue to be shared with the Cities, pursuant to Section 305.032, Florida Statutes.
- 6) Communications Services Tax - Tax would be levied on local, long distance and cable services, at a rate of up to 1.6%. Must be approved by BCC Ordinance, pursuant to Section 2.2, Florida Statutes.
- 7) Public Service Tax - Tax would be levied on electricity, natural gas and petroleum, not to exceed 10%. Must be adopted by BCC Ordinance with D.O.R. to be notified a minimum of 120 days before the effective date, pursuant to Section 166.231-236, Florida Statutes.
- 8) M.S.B.U./M.S.T.U. Options:
  - Corrections
  - Landfill
  - Medicaid/Medicare/Special Programs
  - Courthouse Facilities
  - E.M.S.
  - E.S.U. (Jaws-of-Life)
  - Search & Rescue
  - Mosquito Control
  - Animal Control
  - Waste Management
  - Parks & Recreation

Commissioner McLemore requested that Chief Administrator Butler meet with the Cities regarding the proposed Sludge ordinance, because the County should be charging a fee for sludge brought into the County to generate additional revenue. Chairman Williams discussed that the Committee should also be given the authority to look at the additional revenues versus how the County now operates. After discussion, Commissioner Barnes motioned to give the Committee this authority. Chairman Williams passed the Chair to Vice Chairman Barnes and seconded the motion. The motion then failed 2 to 2, with Commissioners McLemore and Peters voting no. After further discussion, Chief Administrator Butler requested that another meeting be held for the Board to vote on which

mechanisms they want to put into place, to allow County Attorney McFarland time to prepare the public hearing notices, ordinances, etc. Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous (4-0) vote, the Board scheduled a special meeting on Friday, November 9, 2007 at 10:00 a.m., E.T. regarding additional revenue sources, with the meeting notice to be advertised in the newspaper.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 4:34 p.m., E.T.

**BILL WILLIAMS  
CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS  
CLERK**