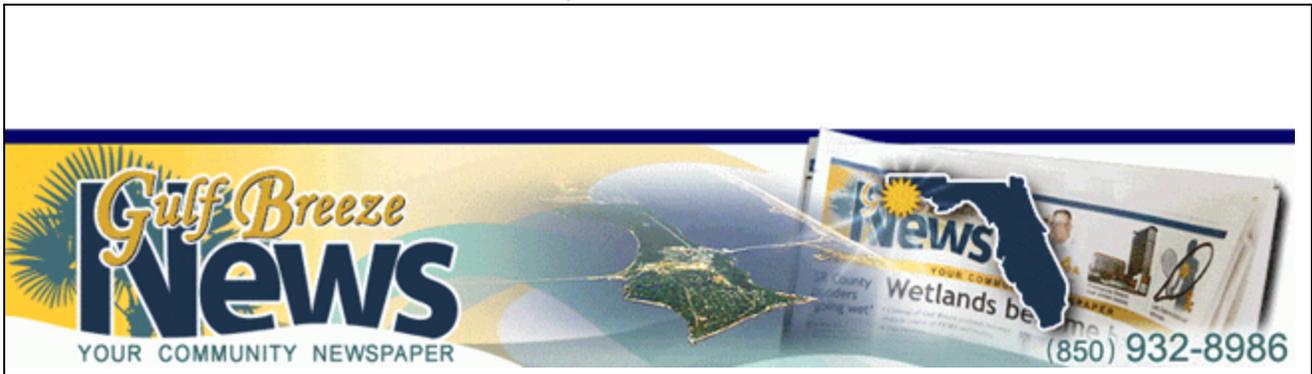


Contact Us      Subscribe      Get News Updates      Print Edition       RSS Feed



General    Dining & Entertainment    Health    Automotive    Home    Real Estate    Classifieds

Business      September 11, 2008

Archives:



Special Section  
Archive

News

**Front Page**

Community

Island News

Entertainment

News

Sports

Faith

Obituaries

Calendar of

Events

Seniors

Business

Opinion

Legals

People

Archives

Submit a Letter

to the Editor

## Private jail discussion sparks impact fee talks

BY PAM BRANNON [Gulf Breeze News news@gulfbreezenews.com](mailto:news@gulfbreezenews.com)

It appears that Santa Rosa County will be getting a private jail to complement the existing county jail.

But the discussion surrounding a proposed private jail project also sparked a request for special workshops and investigation into the impact fees being charged by local utilities, especially water companies, within the county.

Commissioners last week approved granting some incentives in tax breaks and providing some infrastructure to a company called GEO, which builds large private prisons. The project called Project Justice would be a 2,000-bed prison on 125 acres adjacent to 160 acres owned by the county just north of the county's industrial park and near the current county jail.

Commissioner Don Salter, chairman of the county's economic development committee, has been working with the City of Milton to get tax breaks for tap fees and impact fees for this project for several weeks.

Some commissioners were concerned that the

**FAIR PLAY**  
THE FINEST SPORTS EQUIPMENT  
**SPORTS**  
850-934-6015

NEW & USED  
Sports & Fitness  
Equipment

Click here  
for deals!

41 Fair Point Dr.  
Gulf Breeze  
934-6015

Click a  
for large

Hor  
351  
346  
347  
358

Lot  
311  
329  
329  
334  
369  
311  
342

LOUISIANA  
SELL YOUR HOME

Multi-Lingual  
Services and Support  
Chavez, Dora, Inc.  
Call: 954-344-1111  
Fax: 954-344-1111

GOLF THE  
  
Emerald Coast  
GOLF TRAIL  
Click Here

FL, GA, SC  
41,000 Acres!  
Hardwoods, ri  
pine, pe  
For maps, pictures, and  
[www.streg](http://www.streg.com)  
St. Regis Paper Com

**Contact Us Advertising**

- Advertiser
- Index
- Classified Order
- Ad Rates
- Subscribe

**Links**



City of Gulf Breeze Splash Magazine

Copyright © 2005-2008  
The Gulf Breeze News  
All Rights Reserved

Newspaper web site content management software and services

DMCA Notices

proposed new jail would not take prisoners away from Sheriff Wendell Hall's jail.

County Attorney Tom Dannheiser said prisoners in the private jail would be different than Hall's.

Salter explained, "I have already talked with Sheriff Hall about this, and he assures me these are different prisoners than he handles. He handles prisoners that are pre-trial holds. These prisoners would be already sentenced inmates. This facility will be about a half-mile down the road from the county jail."

Commissioners approved what would be needed to move Project Justice ahead.

But during the discussion, Commissioner Gordon Goodin said this is an example of how suddenly utilities and the City of Milton can cut tap fees if they feel it is justified.

"We had some utilities stand right here before us a few months ago and say to us that they charge what the market bears, not necessarily the actual fees it takes to operate and hook somebody up," Goodin said. "I think that is a problem for economic development. I think the time is perfect for these utilities where we grant franchises to justify their impact or tap fees.

"There are three utilities I know of within the county right now that cannot sell their taps right now. Economic development in those areas is down. They are using their reserves to pay their employees. So all those fees must have brought in some extra money for some time. I think we need to hold some discussions and some workshops on that, and soon."

Barrons Realty Group, Inc.  
Vacation Rentals  
Click Here

The Villas at Gulf Breeze  
Conveniently located in the heart of Gulf Breeze behind Cancun's Restaurant

real estate auction  
612 Grand St. E. Destin, FL  
williamsauction.com

CAR EMP  
www.Car Steel Covers and