

ORIGINAL FILED

RESOLUTION 97-17

WHEREAS, the Florida Public Service Commission is charged with the responsibility of protecting the consumers' service and the public's safety through your regulatory process with the Telecommunications Companies in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, an out of state corporation has purchased St. Joseph Telephone and Telegraph Co., Gulf Telephone Co. and Florida Telephone Co. They have now petitioned the Public Service Commission for approval to consolidate these companies to form GTC, Inc.


WHEREAS, St. Joe Telephone has announced plans to close their Operator Services Office in Port St. Joe and contract with another company to provide operator services in an automated manner.

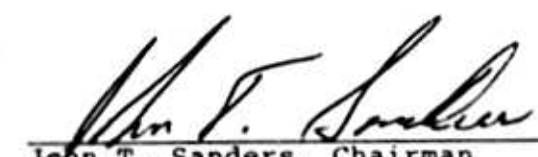
WHEREAS, Port St. Joe is a unique area that for many, many years has been served well by St. Joe Telephone, providing very personal service. To remove this valuable service provided by the operators will terminate an important safety buffer we now have and pay for.

WHEREAS, Port St. Joe is an isolated coastal community subject to severe hurricane risk. Should Port St. Joe be struck by a hurricane severing our toll service to other areas or isolating service, we would have no operator services available, possibly for days, exposing our community to great risk.

ACK _____ NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberty County Board of
AFA _____ County Commissioners, in Special Session, duly assembled, this
AFP _____ 21st day of August, 1997, hereby declares its support for the
Operator Services Office in Port St. Joe to remain open.

- CAF _____
- CMU 1 _____
- CTR _____
- EAG _____
- LEG 1 _____
- LIN _____
- OPC _____
- RCH _____
- SEC 1 _____
- WAC _____
- OTH _____

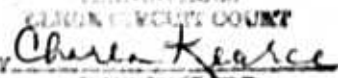
ATTEST:

Vernon Ross, Clerk of the Court


John T. Sanders, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Liberty County

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE
08906 SEP-45

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

FILED IN AND FOR LIBERTY COUNTY
FLORIDA COUNTY THAT THE FOLLOWING WAS FILED
ON THE 21st DAY OF Aug. 1997 AND IS
A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY AS FILED IN MY OFFICE
THIS THE 27th DAY OF Aug. 1997

VERNON ROSS
CLERK OF COURT
BY 
DEPUTY CLERK

STATE OF FLORIDA

Commissioners:
JULIA L. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN
J. TERRY DEASON
SUSAN F. CLARK
DIANE K. KIESLING
JOE GARCIA



GENERAL COUNSEL
ROBERT D. VANDIVER
(850) 411-4288

RECEIVED

SEP 05 1997

Public Service Commission

FPSC - Records/Reporting

September 4, 1997

Mr. John T. Sanders, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Liberty County
Post Office Box 399
Bristol, Florida 32321

970809-TP

Dear Mr. Sanders:

Thank you for sending Resolution 97-17 as adopted by the Liberty County Board of County Commissioners. The Florida Public Service Commission staff will review this material and contact your staff. We will keep you advised as to your options as we go through this process.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Vandiver
General Counsel

RDV:jmb

cc: Chairman Johnson
Commissioner Deason
Commissioner Clark
Commissioner Kiesling
Commissioner Garcia
Bill Talbott
Blanca Bayo

RESOLUTION 97-17

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WHEREAS, an out of state corporation has purchased St. Joseph Telephone and Telegraph Co., Gulf Telephone Co. and Florida Telephone Co. They have now petitioned the Public Service Commission for approval to consolidate these companies to form GTC, Inc.

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WHEREAS, Port St. Joe is a unique area that for many, many years has been served well by St. Joe Telephone, providing very personal service. To remove this valuable service provided by the operators will terminate an important safety buffer we now have and pay for.

WHEREAS, Port St. Joe is an isolated coastal community subject to severe hurricane risk. Should Port St. Joe be struck by a hurricane severing our toll service to other areas or isolating service, we would have no operator services available, possibly for days, exposing our community to great risk.

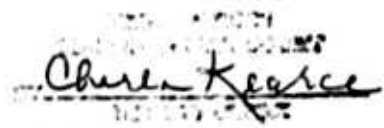
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberty County Board of County Commissioners, in Special Session, duly assembled, this 21st day of August, 1997, hereby declares its support for the Operator Services Office in Port St. Joe to remain open.


John T. Sanders, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Liberty County

ATTEST:


Vernon Ross, Clerk of the Court

LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION 97-17
21st Aug. 1997
27th Aug. 1997


Cheren Keasce



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Agriculture,
Vice Chairman
Banking and Insurance
Commerce and Economic Opportunities
Rules and Calendar
Ways and Means,
Sub. E (Finance and Tax)

SENATOR PAT THOMAS
3rd District

August 26, 1997

The Honorable Nathan Peters, Jr.
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
1000 Fifth Street
Port Saint Joe, Florida 32456

RECEIVED
AUG 28 1997
SEP 05 1997
EPSC - Records/Reporting

Dear Commissioner Peters:

970809-TF

Thank you for your recent letter expressing concern about yet another economic downturn in Gulf County. The loss of jobs at St. Joseph Telephone and Telegraph Company on top of the closing of Box USA and the continued uncertainties at the mill have led to a real crisis.

By copy of this letter, I am asking the Florida Public Service Commission to consider the unique location, the history and the current economic problems of Gulf County in any decisions made regarding the consolidation of St. Joe Telephone, Gulf Telephone and Florida Telephone. The personal services your community has been accustomed to should be considered in any consolidation, as well.

Again, thank you for bringing this issue to my attention.

Sincerely

Pat
Pat Thomas

PT:sam

cc: Public Service Commission

ECTS-967
TPS 3215

REPLY TO:
220 Senate Office Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (904) 487-5004

TONI JENNINGS
President

ROBERTO CASAS
President Pro Tempore

SENATE

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

1000 FIFTH STREET, PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456 • PHONE 904/229-6113 • BENNY C. LISTER, CLERK

DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS • SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAYS AT 6:00 P.M. E.T.

August 19, 1997

State Senator Pat Thomas
220 Senate Office Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: St. Joe Telephone Operators

Dear Senator Thomas:

As you are aware, an out-of-state corporation has purchased St. Joseph Telephone & Telegraph Company, Gulf Telephone Company, and Florida Telephone Company. They have now petitioned the Florida Public Service Commission for approval to consolidate these companies to form GTC, Inc. St. Joe Telephone has announced plans to close their Operator Services Office in Port St. Joe and contract with another company to provide operator services in an automated manner.

Port St. Joe is a unique area that for many, many years has been served well by St. Joe Telephone's provision of very personal service. To remove this valuable service provided by the operators will terminate an important safety buffer we now have and pay for.

Port St. Joe is an isolated coastal community which is subject to severe hurricane risk. Should a hurricane sever our toll service, we would have no operator services available (possibly for days); exposing our community to great risk.

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, I am requesting your intervention in this matter, in an attempt to prevent further economic distress in Gulf County. We would certainly appreciate any assistance you can provide in communicating with the Florida Public Service Commission in order to protect the consumer services and public safety in our community.

Sincerely,



Nathan Peters, Jr., Chairman
Board Of County Commissioners

NPJ:tpm