

JULY 25, 2000 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on July 25, 2000 at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Chairman Van ness R. Butler, Jr., Vice-Chairman Randall Infinger, Commissioner Joel Paul, Jr., Commissioner Herman Walker, and Commissioner Gene Ryan. Ms. Shirl Williams, Administrative Supervisor, Attorney George R. Miller, Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Administrative Supervisor to the Clerk of Courts, were also present.

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order followed by pledging allegiance to the American Flag and the invocation by Commissioner Paul.

Mrs. Suedelle Wilkerson, Finance Manager, presented the Expenditure Approval List (EAL) consisting of the following bills:

General Fund	\$400,246.45
County Transportation Trust	200,531.90
N. Walton Msq. Control	846.51
Walton-DeFuniak Library	9,460.35
Recreation Plat Fee	1,812.78
Solid Waste	312,168.78
Mossyhead VFD	691.74
Glendale VFD	76.68
Darlington VFD	603.61
Liberty VFD	1,303.50
Red Bay VFD	1,257.88
Tourist Development Council	145,732.60
Section 8 Housing	31,283.69
Criminal Justice Trust Fund	160.00
Multi-Purpose Trust Fund	930.00

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Paul to approve payment of the bills as presented on the EAL. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve payment to APAC in the amount of \$4,780.32 for the purchase of milled asphalt. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Ryan to authorize Tractor & Equipment to repair the engine in the Chipper machine at a cost of \$4,787.27. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve payment to APAC in the amount of \$16,436.60 for completion of paving on Laird Road and Hinote Road, District 4. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye. These funds are to be paid from the District 4 paving monies.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve payment to Bullard Excavating in the amount of \$85,000.00 for paving of Miramar EMS Station, Phillips Drive. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve payment to Bullard Excavating in the amount of \$28,750.00 for paving of the Freeport EMS and Fire Department parking lot, Crest Drive, and Freeport Truss. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve payment to Bullard Excavating in the amount of \$77,700.00 for paving of Gene Hurley

Drive and parking lots. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye. (This job is 70% complete).

Mr. William Imfeld, Finance Director, presented the following information to the Commissioners regarding bids received for the purchase of nine (9) homes from the Cedar Log Lake River buy-out.

House #1 – Ducky Johnson House Movers	\$4,600.00
House #2 – Ducky Johnson House Movers	\$5,100.00
House #3 – Ducky Johnson House Movers	\$2,000.00
House #4 – Scott & Lisa Messer	\$1,052.00
House #5 – Ducky Johnson House Movers	\$3,100.00
House #6 – Ducky Johnson House Movers	\$4,600.00
House #7 – Ducky Johnson House Movers	\$4,600.00
House #8 – Ducky Johnson House Movers	\$4,600.00
House #9 – Johnny Stone	500.00

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Paul, to accept each of the high bids for the purchase of homes at Cedar Log Lake. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Paul to award the low bid to Municipal Supply & Sign in the amount of \$ 3,583.00 for the purchase of sign material for the Landfill. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Paul, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the purchase of a mini cargo van from Triangle Chevrolet, DeFuniak Springs, in the amount of \$19,500.00 for bid #00-35. Triangle Chevrolet was the only responsive bidder. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Mr. Imfeld informed the Board that no bids were received for the library furniture and requested to draft new specifications and advertise for new bids. The Board agreed.

Mr. Imfeld presented information regarding long-distance phone service. Both Excell and Alltel submitted proposals for the Board's consideration. The Commissioner's granted Mr. Imfeld's request for additional time to research the information further.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Infinger to approve the purchase of a 36" HP Design Jet 750C Hewlett Packard Printer in the amount of \$5,893.00 for the Planning Department. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Paul to approve an interdepartmental budget transfer of \$1,061.00 out of General Fund Reserve for Contingencies into Council on Aging to cover salary increases. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Paul to approve an interdepartmental budget transfer of \$810.00 out of General Fund Reserve for Contingencies into Personal Services for the Property Appraiser to cover salaries. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Walker to approve the minutes of June 26, 2000 – Special Workshop; June 26, 2000 – Regular Meeting; July 6, 2000 – Special Workshop; July 11, 2000 –Regular Meeting; July 13 & 14, 2000 – Special Workshop; July 19, 2000 – Special Workshop. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

The Board agreed to hold a special meeting on August 7, 2000 to discuss the possibility of the Tourist Development Council changing to a non-profit status.

Chairman Butler called to order the advertised public hearing regarding budget amendments.

Mr. Imfeld presented the budget requests to the Commissioners.

Motion by Commissioner Paul, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt a resolution (2000-41) amending the budget due to receiving unanticipated budget revenues and expenditures as follows. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye

**General Fund**

Revenue

Amend \$9,144.00 into Miscellaneous Revenue (reimbursement from State for South Walton Health Department Building repairs)

Expenditure

Amend \$9,100.00 into Repairs and Maintenance

Motion by Commissioner Paul, second by Commissioner Infinger to approve the following budget amendment as part of resolution 2000-41 contingent upon adjusting Darlington Volunteer Fire Department's budget and approve the overrun cost for the work on the fire truck. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

**General Fund**

Revenue

Amend \$3,619.00 to Balance Brought Forward (to cover additional costs for the Tanker project-originally budgeted at \$9,500.00)

Expenditure

Amend \$3,619.00 into Aid to Volunteer Fire Departments

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Paul to approve the following budget amendment as part of resolution 2000-41. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

**Darlington Fire District**

Revenue

Amend \$1,500.100 to Balance Brought Forward (to cover anticipated additional Fuel costs)

Expenditure

Amend \$1,500.00 into Operating Supplies.

The Board agreed to research the possibility of applying for reimbursement from FEMA due to additional fuel costs relating to the drought.

The Commissioners recessed briefly.

Commissioner Paul requested authorization to work with Ms. Williams and Attorney Walker regarding the wording in the Land Development Code in reference to citing people for parking/storing semi-trucks on their property. Mr. Paul voiced concerns that people who park their trucks/trailers for long periods may be cited according to the Land Development Code, when they might be parked for repairs.

Commissioner Walker appointed Mr. Jim C. Dorsey to serve on the Library Board.

Commissioner Infinger did not present any topics for discussion.

Commissioner Ryan addressed the issue regarding fire-based EMS services in South Walton. Commissioner Ryan stated that he has researched this issue as to the effectiveness and performance of this type of service.

Commissioner Ryan motioned to adopt a resolution (2000-42) requesting to place a non-binding "straw vote" on the November ballot allowing the residents of South Walton to voice their opinion whether or not to change to a fire-based EMS, contingent upon a contract between the County and S.W. Fire Department defining the scope and the level of service. Commissioner Paul seconded the motion. Attorney Walker read the proposed wording for the Commissioners.

Mr. Les Hallman, South Walton Fire Chief, stated that they would like the question placed on the ballot in order to determine their desires of the residents and also stated that simple language needs to be used. Mr. Hallman presented the following proposed language: Do you support the South Walton Fire District assuming the responsibilities of providing emergency medical care and transport (paramedic/ambulance services) to the areas served by the South Walton Fire District?

Ms. Jackie Malone, United Fire Department, stated that she supports a fire-based EMS and requested the Commissioners place the straw vote on the ballot countywide.

Ms. Lynn Stafford addressed the Commissioners and stated that the people need to be made aware how the new system will be funded because they will not support it if it is funded with ad-valorem taxes.

Chairman Butler called for a vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

The Commissioners agreed that North Walton fire services needs to develop further before considering a fire-based EMS. Commissioner Infinger agreed with Ms. Malone that all county residents should be allowed to vote on the issue even if it takes several years for North Walton to change. The Board agreed to postpone a countywide vote until a later date.

Commissioner Ryan explained further the situation that has transpired at Alaqua Creek Boat Ramp and after further review, requested to rescind Ordinance 2000-20, as adopted July 11, 2000, restricting activities at Alaqua Park. Commissioner Ryan stated that he met with the residents and they stated to him that they are willing to police themselves if they were allowed to continue swimming at Alaqua Park.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Infinger to temporarily rescind Ordinance 2000-20 prohibiting all activities at Alaqua Park except boat launching/retrieval and allow swimming during daylight hours only, contingent upon a self policing of the people and no behavior that is out of order.

Commissioner Paul questioned the legality of the County establishing rules for the park due to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission actually owning the park. Attorney Miller stated that in the past, the Game and Fish Commission gave the County permission to manage the park.

Commissioner Ryan stated that he has another meeting set with the residents on August 14.

Mayor Mickey Marse addressed the Commissioners regarding previous funds that have been spent on the park. Commissioner Paul read previous minutes reflecting that the county does not own the park, therefore should not be maintaining it. Attorney Miller advised that the County does have rights to govern/regulate property they do not own.

Mr. Danny Coleman addressed the Commissioners and stated that there are unsafe conditions at the park and requested the Commissioners develop the park at Portland. Other members of the audience spoke requesting Alaqua Park be left open.

Major Chapman, Walton County Sheriff's Department, addressed the Commissioners and stated that they have been making rounds at Alaqua and would continue working under the direction of the Commissioners to maintain order. However, he did state that no names of any individuals causing the problems have been turned in and therefore they cannot make any arrests.



Mr. Buddy Blanchard, property owner at Alaqua, stated that he has made numerous calls to the Sheriff's Department and further explained the problems that exist. Mr. Blanchard requested the County allow the ordinance to remain in force for the safety of his family and stated that the noise levels are too high. Mr. Blanchard explained the situation when he purchased the property and was not aware of the numerous problems. He also requested the Commissioners consider developing the area at Portland as a swimming area. Mr. Blanchard agreed to lifting the ordinance for the remaining portion of the summer to allow the kids an opportunity to swim.

Chairman Butler called for a vote on the motion to rescind Ordinance 2000-20. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Paul to offer a \$1,000.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) shooting into the boathouse. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Mr. Bell informed the Commissioners that he and Attorney Miller met with Mr. Dunsar of Rosemary Beach regarding the issue of stop signs in their development. Mr. Bell presented a letter from Mr. Jack Authur, Preble-Rish, Consulting Engineers for the County, which stated in his opinion the stop signs do not meet the criteria under the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Mr. Alex Dunser, Rosemary Beach Project Director and Executive Vice President, addressed the Commissioners and voiced his reasons for installing the stop signs. Mr. Dunser stated that his project plans allow for the additional stop signs and sidewalks. Mr. Dunser stated that he does not agree with the four previous arguments

that have been stated; signs impede delivery of service by fire and EMS; 30-A is not an east/west corridor; stop signs endanger pedestrian; and inconvenience. Mr. Dunser asked that the signs be left until a decision can be made later. Commissioner Butler requested Mr. Dunser meet with the Public Works Department to discuss further study of the situation.

Mr. Dick McCherry stated that he feels the signs were installed prematurely and need removed.

Motion by Commissioner Paul, second by Commissioner Walker to allow Mr. Miller and Mr. Bell to meet with Mr. Dunser and upon a decision that the stop signs are not in the best interest of the citizens, then allow the County to remove the stop signs.

Several members of the audience spoke in favor of removing the stop signs and several also spoke against removing them for various reasons, mainly safety issues.

Chairman Butler called for a vote on the motion regarding a final decision on the stop signs. Ayes 4, Naves 1. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Nave, Walker Aye, Paul Aye. The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Bell should use the necessary resource of experts when making his decision.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve payment in the amount of \$450.00 for indigent burial of Mr. Toureen. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye. Mr. Toureen's daughter will execute the necessary paperwork.

The Commissioners recessed for lunch from 12:00 until 1:00 P.M.

Mr. Bell presented a letter from Hartman & Associates regarding the high nitrogen levels at Juniper Lake. Mr. Michael Bomar states in the letter that the readings

are higher than normal and additional testing will be required to determine the reason, at a cost of \$4,400.00. Commissioner Walker stated that he wants the City and the homeowners to resolve the issue between themselves unless it is critical for the County to intervene.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Infinger to approve a request by the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) to allow the County Shop to provide the labor to repair one vehicle truck lift. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye. ARC will provide the parts.

Motion by Commissioner Paul, second by Commissioner Walker to approve a request by the Knox Hill Baptist Church to provide one load of dirt to circumvent water from running off of the county road onto their property, contingent upon an agreement to utilize the church in the event of an emergency. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Walker to approve a refund in the amount of \$1,525.00 to South Walton Utilities for a permit that will not be used. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Mr. Bell explained to the Commissioners that Ms. Martha Lang has offered for sale a 20-acre parcel of property North of the landfill, which could be used for the Humane Society and Sheriff's work camp. Ms. Lang has agreed to accept an acceptable fair price after an appraisal is completed.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Ryan to proceed with obtaining an appraisal on Ms. Lang's parcel and contact the owner of the adjoining

20-acre parcel to determine their interest in selling. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Walker to approve to advertise bids for the purchase of 200 signs for the landfill and purchase 2500 coloring books utilizing the Litter grant monies. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Infinger to advertise for the purchase of an 85 hp tractor and an ATV Turf car utilizing the Small Counties Landfill Grant. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Mr. Bell advised the Board that DEP has directed the Landfill to replace the #8 monitoring well. Mr. Bell contacted five companies of which three submitted a proposal. Mr. Bell recommended awarding the project to Pensacola Testing & Laboratory at \$4,206.75, low bid.

Motion by Commissioner Paul, second by Commissioner Ryan to award the low bid to Pensacola Testing and Laboratory in the amount of \$4,206.75 for closing of the #8 monitoring well at the landfill. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Mr. Bell reminded the Commissioners that the offer to Mr. Schweizer for the purchase of the old Wal-Mart Building is currently \$1,137,500.00, which is the average of the two appraisals.

Attorney Kelvin Wells, representing Mr. Schweizer, presented a counter offer of \$1,250,000.00. Mr. Wells advised the Board of the additional costs that Mr. Schweizer incurred, stating this is the reason for requesting more.

Attorney Miller advised the Commissioner's that the 5% statute has been repealed and now states that if a purchase price above the average of the two appraisals is paid, then a 4/5 vote is required.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Infinger to accept the counter offer of \$1250,000.00 and set a public hearing. Ayes 2, Naves 3. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Naye, Walker Naye, Paul Naye. Motion failed.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Ryan to hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 7, 2000 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor courtroom to negotiate the purchase cost of the Wal-Mart Building. Ayes 4, Naves 1. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Naye, Paul Aye.

Attorney Miller advised the Commissioners that he has had a request from the Postal Service to be located in the Governmental Center. Watkins Construction has advised that there is sufficient room for the 8,000 square foot building requested.

Motion by Commissioner Paul, second by Commissioner Infinger to authorize Mr. Miller to work with representatives from the post office in reference to the building in the Governmental Center. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Commissioner Walker questioned the Board about the purchase of the Warren Building located on College Avenue. Ms. Williams informed the Board that the price has been reduced to \$180,000.00 and is zoned R2, which means the County would have to

apply for a special use permit to house county offices in the building. Mr. Charles McMillian stated that the roof would have to be replaced soon and the interior of the building would have to be renovated to suit the County's needs. The Commissioners voiced concerns with a lack of parking and future expansion. The Commissioners will meet as a group to look at the building later.

Mr. Matt Douglas, scheduled on the agenda, cancelled.

Mr. Charles McMillian appeared before the Commissioners and presented information regarding the repairs at the Agriculture Building. Mr. McMillian stated that he received a proposal to construct an addition onto the building and also re-roof the entire building for an amount of \$160,000.00. The company submitting the proposal is the only firm capable of performing the necessary roof work for safety reasons.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Infinger, to waive the bid procedure and accept the \$160,000.00 proposal and begin work as soon as possible. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Mr. Gordon Jernigan, Escambia County Housing Finance, appeared before the Commissioners with information relating to the housing bond program. Mr. Jernigan stated that First National Bank is participating in the program and has purchased additional bonds for loans. The current interest rate is 6.85% and poses no risk to the county. Mr. Jernigan requested the Board hold a public hearing to consider participation during 2000/01. He will coordinate a date and time later.

Mr. Green, SC Services & Association Inc., appeared before the Board with information relating to the services his company provides in relation to collecting delinquent unpaid traffic fines. The Board deferred this item pending Mr. Miller and Mr.

Bodiford's review. Mr. Green will report back before the Board at their next regular scheduled meeting.

Attorney Walker addressed the Commissioners regarding the Co-Conflict Attorney's salaries being too low for the caseload they carry.

Attorney Dave Thomas, Co-Conflict Attorney, explained how the process developed and how few cases were originally assigned for the original amount of \$50,000.00, which was established during the 1980's. Mr. Thomas explained how the caseload has more than doubled in some areas and the pay has only increased to \$70,000.00, which is divided between two attorneys. He stated that this amount is not enough to cover his secretary and overhead that he pays out of this amount for time spent on the conflict cases. Mr. Thomas advised the Commissioners that he has resigned the position pending another attorney taking over, however he has not been able to find another attorney interested in the position for that amount and stated that he would be willing to remain if the amount was increased to \$47,500.00.

Ms. Billie Merritt, Co-Conflict Attorney, stated that she has contacted nine individual attorneys, none of whom are interested in the position for the rate of pay. Ms. Merritt also presented statistics for how her caseload has more than doubled in the short time she has been Co-Conflict Attorney.

Motion by Commissioner Paul, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve to raise the Co-Conflict contract amount to \$47,500.00 per attorney effective August 1, 2000. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye. Judge Lindsey has funds available to cover the remaining portion of this budget year.

Attorney Miller stated that the contract should be renegotiated during the upcoming contract period.

Mr. Albert Gregory, scheduled on the agenda, could not be present due to conflicting court appearances and requested to postpone the Noble House issue until a later date.

Several members of the audience spoke in opposition to the beach access at the Noble House and stated that they feel the access will not benefit the public.

The Commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Gary Spencer, Grayton Trolley, appeared before the Commissioners and stated that he has not abandoned his contract and requested additional time to regroup in order to get the trolleys in running order again. Mr. Spencer advised the Commissioners that he is working with the condominiums in an attempt to collect \$1.00 on each rental unit that would go toward the trolley service. The Board agreed and Mr. Spencer will appear before the Board again on August 22 at 1:45 P.M.

Mr. Ken Moneghan, Florida Association of Counties Trust, spoke to the Board regarding the insurance that has been considered in legislation called claims bills, which limits the amount of claims that can be paid out per occurrence. The current coverage is \$100,000 per person or \$200,000 per accident if more than one person is involved. Mr. Moneghan explained that our premium would increase approximately \$12,000.00 for the coverage. Attorney Miller stated that if the county is not covered under the claims bill that one incident could result in a payout of over \$1million. The Board agreed and requested the additional funds be placed in the budget to cover the premium.



Ms. Barbara Bonowicz, Director of Governmental Affairs for Mediacom, appeared before the Commissioners and updated them on the newly upgraded service and requested the Board grant an early contract renewal. Attorney Miller advised that a public hearing would have to be held before renewing the contract.

Commissioner Paul requested that an agreement be included in the contract that Commissioner meetings will be filmed and televised even if they are delayed broadcasting.

The Board tabled Rosemary Beach final plat, Phase IV, until August 8, 2000.

Ms. Shari Judkins appeared before the board and presented each Commissioner with her recommended changes for the Community Directory Sign Ordinance. Ms. Judkins stated that too many changes were placed in the proposed ordinance and she is not in favor of the proposed wording. Ms. Judkins stated that if this ordinance is adopted, numerous signs will have to be removed within six months, including CR 30-A, and people have not been made aware of this change. Ms. Judkins requested for a time to be scheduled and advertised that will amend only community directory signs from Mac Bayou to the Okaloosa County line.

Discussion was held on how to grant temporary relief for business owners from Mack Bayou to the Okaloosa County line. The Board agreed for staff to meet with Mr. and Mrs. Judkins to resolve the problem.

Mr. Winfred Hall appeared before the Commissioners regarding the prohibition of firearms in legislation. Mr. Hall requested the Board submit a letter to Legislators opposing any legislation, which would further restrict the use of firearms.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt a resolution (2000-40) opposing any legislation restricting gun control. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Ms. Mary Whitehead, scheduled on the agenda, was not present.

Mr. John Phillips, Archeologist at the University of West Florida, and Bill Anderson, appeared before the Commissioners to present their finding from the archeological survey performed in Walton County. Mr. Phillips began by thanking Mrs. Angie Biddle for her assistance and the Board for contracting with the University.

Mr. Phillips stated that one of their goals was to look at the interior areas of Walton County and promote the cultural resources of archeological sites. Mr. Anderson showed a map depicting sites that were found, which are at least 50 years old and some dating back to pre-historic times. Mr. Anderson stated that there are significant sites that need preserved. Mr. Phillips included a list of historic preservations recommendations for the Board's consideration, including possible funding sources to help fund the additional work. Mr. Phillips stated that the next research cycle begins in August and December and cost from \$10-25,000.00. These grants can also be in-kind service. Commissioner Paul recommended supporting these projects.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve a request by Mr. William Fannin to draw four hours from the sick leave pool. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Ms. Williams advised the Commissioners that Mr. Bruce Ward, County Extension Office, will be introducing Mr. Lawrence Scott Jackson as the Marine/Coastal systems agent at the next board meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Walker to approve a temporary position to assist Mr. Imfeld until the November election. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Paul, second by Commissioner Walker to accept Ms. Williams' recommendation and lift the pay freeze for probationary employees and making the increase retroactive for employees who did not receive their expected raise. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

Attorney Miller addressed the Board regarding Billboard signs and advised the Board that Mr. Bill Salter representing Lamar Outdoor Signs has agreed to ask the Board to delay litigation pending the final outcome of the proposals on the table, which is to pay for the signs or grant authorization to relocate the signs.

Mr. John Duncan, Florida Department of Transportation, stated that there are currently five signs amounting to approximately \$45,000.00 each. Mr. Duncan stated that Florida Statute allows for relocation of the signs and in the event that cannot be accomplished, then the local government is responsible for paying just compensation of the sign. The Scenic Corridor prohibits allowing the signs to be moved. There are 11 additional signs affected from U.S. Highway 331 to the Bay County line at an estimated cost totaling \$700,000.00. Mr. Duncan stated that they have reached a settlement with Salter Sign Company for two signs and D.O.T. is requesting the County to pay \$90,000.00.

Attorney Miller stated that he would ask Mr. Salter to waive the loss of income due to sign removal or either the County must amend the codes to allow for signs.

Attorney Jim Moore, representing Lamar Advertising, stated that D.O.T. has removed two signs and the county rejected allowing the signs to be relocated due to the Land Development Code.

The Board agreed to hold a public hearing on August 8, 2000 Regular Meeting at 5:35 P.M. to consider amending the sign ordinance to allow the signs to be relocated.

Ms. Williams advised the Board that Mr. Bodiford, Clerk of Courts, has requested the Human Resource Department be relocated in order for him to occupy the space. The Board agreed to relocate the entire Human Resource Office.

Attorney Miller advised the Commissioners of a request to close Hunt/Hall Circle. Mr. Miller stated that it is not a county road, has not been maintained and the residents are requesting the road be closed.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Walker to allow Attorney Miller to prepare a disclaimer for the property owners to sign for the closure of Hunt/Hall Circle. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Ryan Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Walker Aye, Paul Aye.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Van Ness R. Butler, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Dan Bodiford, Clerk of Courts

BCC/dc

