

## DECEMBER 28, 2000 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, December 28, 2000, at 8:30 a.m., in the Commissioner's Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Tim Pauls, Commissioner Larry D. Jones, Chairman Herman L. Walker, Vice-Chairman Lane Rees and Commissioner Gene Ryan. Ms. Shirl Williams, Administrative Supervisor, Mr. George Ralph Miller, County Attorney, and Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Administrative Supervisor to the Clerk of Courts, were also present.

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

Mrs. Suedelle Wilkerson, Finance Manager, presented the Expenditure Approval List for review. The following bills were submitted for payment:

General Fund	\$580,046.50
County Transportation Trust	151,136.97
N.W. Mosquito Control	651.99
Walton DeFuniak Library	10,112.20
Recreation Plat Fee	1,064.31
Solid Waste	121,338.41
Mossy Head VFD	140.14
Darlington VFD	2,865.38
Glendale VFD	8,870.89
Liberty VFD	427.87
Red Bay VFD	63.16
Driftwood Debt Service	819.20
Capital Projects Funds	8,941.54
Multi-Purpose Trust Fund	53,500.00
Tourist Development Council	93,491.16
Section 8 Housing	133,014.33
Residential Construction Mitigation	10,000.00

Vice-Chairman Rees questioned Mrs. Wilkerson regarding the \$2,500.00 donation for Grit & Grace made by the Tourist Development Council (TDC) and also questioned TDC's limitation for expenditures. Mrs. Wilkerson stated that she is not aware of any policy setting a limit. Ms. Shirl Williams reported that all items between \$500.00 and \$3,000.00 require her approval, however this expenditure was not presented to her. The Board requested Ms. Williams to get clarification as to what expenditures are allowed and the amounts. Mrs. Wilkerson requested that TDC present Purchase Orders on all items to be purchased.

Mr. William Imfeld, Finance Director, recommended holding a meeting with the TDC to review the accounting issues and recommended that a TDC representative be present at the Commissioner's Meetings to answer any questions that may arise from the EAL.

Chairman Walker voiced his objection to TDC funding an additional \$2,500.00 to Grit & Grace above the \$1,000.00 already funded during the budget process.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve payment of bills as presented on the EAL. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Naye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

The Board directed Ms. Williams to contact TDC to resolve the purchasing issue and to establish the proper procedures to follow.

Mr. Imfeld updated the Board on the "No Bids" for the purchase of Communication Equipment for the Fire Board radios. Mr. Imfeld explained that lack of ability to provide computer back up, inability to re-program and the inability to perform off-premises programming were reasons stipulated. Upon solicitation, two area entities

responded, one funded by the Sheriff's Department thru the Emergency Operations Center which is for the repeater in the amount of \$9,258.00. Mr. Imfeld reported that S&K Communications submitted a bid in the amount of \$33,695.00 and Ft. Walton Communications submitted a bid in the amount of \$35,545.00 for the radios and chargers.

Mr. Imfeld recommended that the bid be awarded to S&K Communications in the amount of \$33,695.00 & \$9,258.00 for the repeater to ensure compatibility between all twelve Fire Departments.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept Mr. Imfeld's recommendation and approve the purchase of Communication Equipment for the Fire Board to S&K Communications in the amount of \$33,695.00 & \$9,258.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the purchase of sixty trash bag holders for SWTDC from Dano Enterprises in the amount of \$3,769.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld supplied the Board with information regarding the transfer of BCC #2788, 1989 Chevy Celebrity Station Wagon, to the Darlington/Gaskin Volunteer Fire Department. He explained that Mr. Ron Prokop, Fire Chief, was involved in an accident while responding to an emergency assistance call in Alabama that resulted in minor injuries to him and extensive damage to the vehicle he was driving.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Public Works Director, introduced Mr. Michael Bomar, Hartman & Associates, Inc., to present information regarding a possible storm water grant for Walton County. The purpose of the grant is to monitor harmful algae blooms in the Choctawhatchee Bay and Coastal Dune Lakes. Mr. Bomar reported that there is no

county match required and Hartman & Associates would work with the County to submit the grant application at no cost. Mr. Bomar showed exhibits of the water quality for Alaqua Creek and Eastern Lake explaining the harmful effects of the algae blooms, which resulted in the death of a number of dolphins last summer. Mr. Bomar reported that the total statewide grant is \$2.7 million and is paid \$150,000.00 per year for three years (\$450,000.00).

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to allow Hartman & Associates to proceed with the grant application for storm water. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Ayes, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve final payment to Floridian Construction in the amount of \$6,095.00 for construction of the dune crossovers at Sandtrap Road and Wall Street. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the purchase of 24 14" x50' steel pilings from Skyline Steel in the amount of \$21,900.00 to construct bridges on Christian Life Center Road and Two Bridge Road. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Ayes, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the purchase of materials in the amount of \$5,861.46 to construct a headwall form system at the county yard. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. (This form can be utilized for all bridges throughout the County).

Mr. Bell reported that Mr. Kenny Griffin, Real Estate Specialist for the United States Postal Service, has selected the vacant 3.5-acre site for the new Santa Rosa Beach Post Office.

The Board scheduled a workshop on Thursday, January 11, 2001, at 9:00 a.m., in the Commissioner's Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse, to discuss the proposed buildings to be located within the Governmental/Education Center.

Mr. Bell informed the Board of the incentive grant awarded to Walton County from the Department of Transportation for the resurfacing of Chat Holley Road and for paving a portion of Church Street and Churchill Bayou Road (D5) in the amount of \$446,582.00 (which represents the County match of 65% with the project totaling \$687,049.00). Commissioner Pauls expressed his concerns regarding the right-of-ways on Chat Holley Road.

Mrs. Wanda J. Smith, Finance Officer, Walton County Sheriff's Office, presented the public officials bond for Sheriff-Elect, Mr. Ralph L. Johnson in the amount of \$10,000.00 requiring the Board's signatures.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve the Board's signature on the Public Officials Bond for Sheriff-Elect, Mr. Ralph L. Johnson, in the amount of \$10,000.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to adopt Resolution (2000-78) amending unanticipated revenues into the Sheriff's budget in the amount of \$10,000.00 for fiscal year 2000/2001. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones

Aye, walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. (This revenue is a donation from Mr. Dennis O'Neal).

Mr. Matt Douglass, Emergency Medical Services Director, requested approval to advertise for bids for the purchase of one replacement ambulance for EMS. Mr. Douglas advised that the purchase has been budgeted.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve advertisements for bids for one ambulance for EMS. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to request a lifetime membership in the amount of \$250.00 with the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Vice Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt a resolution (2000-79) supporting the efforts of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance in an attempt to obtain funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 to create a greenhouse at Okaloosa-Walton Community College in Niceville. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Vice-Chairman Rees requested Ms. Williams to look into the matter of needed improvements to the Andalusia Street beach access. Mr. Rees stated that he would request TDC to take over maintenance of the access in the future. Ms. Williams advised that Mr. Charles McMillian, Maintenance Supervisor, is working this project into his schedule.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to request an additional seat on the MPO Board due to three Walton County district's being part of the

MPO area. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Ms. Williams will submit a letter of request.

Chairman Walker requested to postpone approval of the November 28, 2000 minutes pending additional changes.

Commissioner Jones and Ryan did not present any items for discussion.

Commissioner Pauls presented information regarding the need for a traffic light at U.S. Highway 98 and Shore Drive at the entrance to Bayside at the Emerald Coast Emporium. Mr. Pauls stated that DOT has agreed to the need for a traffic signal, however they will not fund the estimated \$130,000.00 due to it being a private intersection. Attorney Miller will meet with Commissioner Pauls in an attempt to locate a funding source for the placement of a traffic signal.

Commissioner Pauls addressed the status of Scenic Highway 30-A and requested to proceed with applying for the Florida Scenic Highways Program.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to approve applying to the State for the Florida Scenic Highways Program designating CR 30-A as a scenic corridor in an attempt to obtain additional funding. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Commissioner Pauls will present additional information at a later date regarding legislation relating to this issue.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to approve for Mr. Brad Pickles, TDC and the Commissioners to attend the Coastal Erosion Beach Preservation Conference February 7-9, 2001 in Orlando. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Attorney Jonathan Walker presented information regarding the clean up of the old District 2 yard owned by former Commissioner Sam Pridgen. Mr. Walker stated that the county qualified for financial assistance with the clean up under the State Petroleum Liability Restoration Program. According to Ms. Nancy Harper, DEP, the county is responsible for a \$15,000.00 deductible. Chairman Walker stated that it was Mr. Pridgen's choice to place the tanks on his property and requested the Board authorize Mr. Bobby George, Curt Miller Oil, to perform an assessment on the property. Questions arose regarding the possibility of nearby underground tanks causing the contamination.

Attorney Walker presented a letter from the City of DeFuniak Springs requesting to requesting too modify the current Health Department lease. The City is in need of the additional space and requests to utilize that portion of property located in the northwest corner behind the Health Department. Attorney Walker advised that Dr. Susan Turner has is in agreement with the modification. Chairman Walker requested Ms. Williams and Attorney Miller work with Attorney Walker to further clarify the City's request.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised final public hearing to consider the Smith Abandonment.

Attorney Samuel Peek, representing Mr. John Smith, appeared before the Board and presented a description location. Mr. Peek stated that the request has been submitted for safety reasons. In the past, a previous Board of County Commissioners granted approval for Mr. Smith to gate the easement because of youth in the area using it as a motorbike path causing potential hazards. Since then, Mr. Smith was required to remove the gate creating a liability.

Commissioner Ryan recommended placing the gate back in place and not abandoning the easement upon the recommendation of the County Engineer.

Ms. Nancy James, South Walton Community Council, asked the Board to reconsider the County Engineer's recommendation to deny any abandonment requests until a determination can be made whether or not to utilize the property in question for storm water management.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to close the public hearing. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to direct the Public Works Department to determine the need for blocking the alleyway and to take the necessary steps to perform the task. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

The Commissioners recessed briefly.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the purchase of the old Wal-Mart building.

Attorney Kelvin Wells, representing Mr. Todd Schweizer, owner, appeared before the Board and presented a history regarding appraisals and previous discussion considering the purchase of the building. Mr. Wells stated that a recent study was performed to determine the costs of renovations to the courthouse, parking facility and other county buildings versus the cost of purchasing the old Wal-Mart.

Mr. Bell stated that the previous board held a public hearing and agreed to the average cost between the two appraisals that were conducted.

Mr. Donald Shumpert addressed the Commissioners voicing his opposition to the purchase of the Wal-Mart building due to safety issues. Mr. Shumpert also stated that it would remove the parcel from the tax rolls.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan, to close the public hearing. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Rees requested that a 5-year needs assessment be conducted to determine the most economical manner for expansion in order to make an informed decision. The Board agreed to discuss this issue further during the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Ryan pointed out that the old Wal-Mart building has easy access, a large amount of parking and would alleviate over crowding at the courthouse. Mr. Ryan felt that utilizing the Wal-Mart building would be more feasible than locating a portion of county offices in the Warren building.

Commissioner Rees requested Mr. Bell to provide cost estimates to renovate the Wal-Mart building in the same manner that was done in Milton.

The Board agreed to continue this public hearing until January 23, 2000 at 11:00 a.m. to address this issue further.

Ms. Williams presented a list consisting of the following ten holidays for the year 2001: Monday, January 15-Martin Luther King Day; Monday, May 28-Memorial Day; Wednesday, July 4-Independence Day; Monday, September 3-Labor Day; Monday, November 12-Veteran's Day; Thursday & Friday, November 22, 23-Thanksgiving; Monday & Tuesday, December 24, 25-Christmas; and Tuesday, January 1, 2002-New Year's Day.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the proposed holidays for the year 2001. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Williams asked the Commissioners to appointment a new member to the Contractor's Competency Board to replace Ms. Sara Comander who resigned. The Board deferred this item until the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to nominate Mr. Ed Seymour, Abbott Resort, to the Workfare Development Board to replace Mr. James McHenry in the capacity of Sr. Management Representative of a non-profit organization. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to nominate Ms. JoAnn Petty to fill the District 3 position on the Library Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Rees to nominate Mr. Tom Terrell to fill the District 3 position on the Board of Adjustments. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to appoint Mr. Jake Ingram to a one-year term and Ms. Judith Williams to a two-year term on the Design Review Board as Design Professionals. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to appoint James E. Ray to a two-year term on the Design Review Board as an effected property owner. Ayes 3, Nays 2. Pauls Naye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Naye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to appoint Mr. Frank Kovach to a one-year term on the Design Review Board as an effected property owner. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to appoint Mr. Paul Smith to a three-year term on the Design Review Board as an effected property owner. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to appoint Mr. Jim Anders to a three-year term on the Design Review Board as a real estate professional. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to appoint Ms. Susan Horn to a two-year term on the Design Review Board as a general citizen. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to reinstate the Design Review Board and proceed with allowing the above members to begin serving effective December 28, 2000. Ayes 4, Nayes 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye.

Ms. Williams stated that an alternate needs to be appointed to serve on the Code Enforcement Board. Discussion was held regarding the process to remove an individual from that board. Chairman Walker asked Attorney Miller to review the correct procedure and report back to the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to appoint Mr. Ed Lathem to serve as an alternate on the Code Enforcement Board. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Williams presented abandonment requests for Stephen E. Joyce, W. Todd Schweizer, Gerald C. Salvo and Carl Dixon, and Alex Trum. The Planning Commission has recommended approval of the abandonment's.

Commissioner Ryan voiced concern with abandoning any property pending the recommendation of an engineer. The Commissioners agreed to hold a public hearing on March 27, 2000 beginning at 1:30 p.m. concerning the abandonments.

Ms. Williams presented a proposed copy of the E911 Addressing Ordinance on behalf of Capt. Pagels, Emergency Management. The purpose is to fine-tune the ordinance requiring residents to place their 911 addresses in view for emergency personnel. The Board agreed to hold a public hearing on March 27, 2000 at 2:30 p.m.

Commissioner Pauls explained that some residents within Walton County have addresses that relate to surrounding counties and stated that he would like to see all of Walton County residents be given addresses that pertain to Walton County. Vice-Chairman Rees requested Attorney Miller also look into the matter of charges for toll calls within Walton County.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve a request by Dan Bodiford, Clerk of Courts, and accept CC#497, IBM Laser Printer, as surplus equipment. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Williams requested approval for the Chairman's signature on a contract amendment to the current purchase agreement with St. Joe Timberland extending our option an additional six months to buy the Liberty County property. Ms. Williams

advised that the purchase price decreased from \$861,300.00 to \$775,800.00 due to a change in the appraised value.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the Chairman's signature on the amended contract with St. Joe Timberland. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Ms. Williams stated that she would attempt to have a representative here from the Division of Forestry to explain the process.

Ms. Williams presented information relating to the impact of raising all full-time employees to \$7.00 per hour, which affects seven employees for a total annual amount of \$5,387.00. Only full-time employees will start at \$7.00; probationary employees could be less than that until they become full-time. Ms. Williams advised that once an individual begins at the \$7.00 per hour wage that they would not be moved into the next pay step until they catch up with what the next step should be. The Board requested that Mr. Mattison, Human Resource Director, look for incentives for employees to obtain a GED.

Ms. Williams reminded the Board that a public workshop would be held on January 30, 2000 regarding private road grading at 9:30 a.m.

The Commissioners agreed to implement a 9:30 p.m. cut off time for the evening meetings due to the length the meetings have been lately. Chairman Walker stated that this is not to imply that the Board does not want to listen to the public, however to serve them better by listening to their concerns at a more reasonable hour.

Attorney Miller presented information regarding Oyster Lake. He stated that a property owner on the south side has constructed a fence up on county right-of-way connecting it to the bridge.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to request Mr. Hembry, property owner, to remove the fence. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

The Board recessed for lunch.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing regarding affordable housing.

Ms. Paul Ryan, White Oak Real Estate Corporation, appeared before the Board and stated that she is attempting to obtain state funding for a housing project in South Walton. Ms. Ryan requested the Board's support, which would allow her to submit her applications for the multi-family housing bond program. She stated that the success ratio is very small due to limited funds. She explained that the project is located at U.S. Highway 98 and Veteran's Road. The property is divided into 20-acre sections with 160 units (Bayside @ Town Center) on one side of the street and 140 units (Corral Club) adjacent. Information was provided relating to the proposed units, resident profile, target market and provided programs in the developments. Ms. Ryan presented financial analysis information relating to the median income for Walton County residents and rental amounts. She also presented information regarding a market rate development versus an affordable development. The bond is \$7 million at a rate of 6.8% versus a market rate of 9-10% interest. The lower interest rate would allow additional amenities to be constructed into the project. Ms. Ryan presented a proposed site plan for Bayside @ Town Center and stated that she has received preliminary approval from the Planning Commission and requested the Board's approval in order to submit her application for funding requests.

Mr. Mark Mustian, Bond Attorney for Neighbors, Giblin & Nikerson, stated that he has represented Walton County in the past and would be happy to do so again in the event the county decides to proceed with this application process. He stated that the application request is for fund allocation for this region (Escambia County). Mr. Mustian stated that he is not aware of any down sides for the county and that there are no county funds at risk. Attorney Miller questioned if any conflict would arise with Escambia County single-family housing project. He advised that there would not be any conflict.

Mr. Phil Harloff, Raymond James, also appeared before the Board to answer questions.

Mrs. C.J. Pipkins, Escambia County Housing Authority, explained that the requested funds work in the same manner as a lottery. Walton County currently has eight lenders requesting funds in the amount of \$5.8 million. Mrs. Pipkins explained that if Ms. Ryan's projects were selected to receive the funds then it would decrease the amount for Escambia County Housing Authority for Walton County. Ms. Pipkins stated that she is not voicing her opinion for or against the multi-family housing project. Ms. Ryan stated that they would be willing to give up one of the projects if both of them were chosen.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to close the public hearing. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he is concerned about the availability of affordable housing and the needs to be addressed county wide. He stated that the ordinance needs to be revised and the Affordable Housing Board should be reappointed.

Ms. Ryan requested the Board take action approving for her to submit her applications to the state for multi-family housing funding. No action was taken.

Ms. Annette Stewart, Tri-County, appeared before the Board regarding the operations of Sunshine Express and requested to renew their grant. She explained that funds are received from the Department of Transportation and must filter through a county agency in order for them to be able to receive it. Ms. Inez Cassidy explained the current route and bus stops. The County receives 1% of the funds for auditing expenses.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to authorize the Chairman's signature on the agreement to allow funds to pass through the county for the operation of the Sunshine Express. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Attorney Chris Cadenhead, representing D/H Oil (Lucky 13 Truck Stop), appeared before the Commissioners along with Mr. Fred Harris, Bond Attorney, and Mr. Wayne Montgomery. D/H Oil is requesting approval from Walton County to borrow funds from Vanguard Bank as an additional advance on the first mortgage, escrow the Bond/Mortgage and cancel the Lease/Sublease Agreements for capital improvements. Mr. Cadenhead stated that they would place \$625,000.00 in Redi Bank, who holds the bonds, which is cash for the liability thereby releasing the Lease/Sublease. The total amount being requested to be borrowed is \$2.6 million, which includes the amount to be placed in escrow. The only liability to the county is to continue paying the 4-cent per gallon. Attorney Miller will review the escrow agreement.

Mr. Tom Powell, Walton County Economic Development Council, addressed the Commissioners stating that many of these concerns have already been addressed to assure that Walton County was protected from the beginning.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to grant the request of D/H Oil adopting a resolution authorizing the execution of the escrow agreement, which authorizes the termination and release of the Lease/Sublease and execution of the indemnification escrow agreement subject to final review of Attorney Miller. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Naye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Russ Aldrich presented a request for final plat approval of Royal Seasta, Phase II. Attorney Miller stated that the plat is in order pending the signature of the Planning Department.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to grant final plat approval for Royal Seasta, Phase II. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Attorney Miller stated that Attorney Rick Peterman requested to move discussion of the Treasure Island Marina application to January 9, 2001. The application is subject to litigation, however, the Judkin's did not file the verified complaint. Mr. Ron Whitfield, resident near the proposed site, submitted a letter stating that he does not have any problem with the project.

Mrs. Judkin's asked the Commissioners to proceed with a making a decision if they have had sufficient time to review. Mrs. Lois Bailey presented signatures disapproving of the project.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept Attorney Miller's recommendation to grant Attorney Peterman's request to defer this issue to the January 9, 2001 meeting. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Naye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Susan Paladini appeared before the Board requesting a moratorium be placed on the New Town Polygon due to what she feels are inconsistencies. Attorney Miller advised the Commissioners that he had spoken with Mr. David Guest and he stated that he is unaware of anything the county is doing wrong. Ms. Paladini stated that setbacks have been changed, and that sidewalks, bike paths, trails and greenways have not been laid out. She requested that the remaining portion of the town be constructed consistent with the settlement agreement. Attorney Miller stated that construction is proceeding according to the site plans. The Board advised Ms. Paladini that this issue will be discussed further on January 11th during a special workshop.

Mr. Tom Powell, Walton County Economic Development Council, appeared before the Commissioners with a proposal for Florida Great Northwest, who is a Regional Economic Development Corporation. Several corporations and businesses are attempting to bring Florida Great Northwest to DeFuniak Springs. Mr. Powell explained some of the benefits of having them locate in Walton County. He reminded the Board that he recently requested \$10,000.00 for membership dues with their organization for the year 2001. He stated the importance of membership and the importance of bringing them to Walton County. Mr. Powell requested the Board grant a \$400,000.00 interest free loan to Florida Great Northwest for a 15-year period. The DeFuniak Winery has agreed to donate property.

Attorney Miller advised that county government cannot loan monies to a non-profit organization unless it can be determined that there is a public purpose.

Mr. Richard Whitaker spoke in opposition to EDC not abiding to the Sunshine Law and is against the county loaning funds because of the fact that EDC's books are not open to the public.

Vice-Chairman Rees voiced his support of the Economic Development Council and stated that the Board needs to look at the current status of other available buildings.

Mr. Michael Milton, North Florida Insurance Services, Inc., appeared before the Board requesting the renewal of the county's dental plan with Guardian Life Insurance Company. Mr. Milton advised that there is currently no rate change.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the renewal of the dental contract with Guardian Life Insurance Company at the same group rate. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Attorney Miller presented the Mediacom Franchise for renewal. He advised that the recommended changes have been made and presented an overview of the service they provide for the new commissioners. (Ordinance #00-32)

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve renewal of the franchise agreement between Walton County and Mediacom. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Miller presented a request on behalf of Ms. Kathy Brice who is requesting the Board approve a modification of a note and mortgage. Ms. Brice is wanting to deed ½ acre to her daughter, Lora Allen. The contractor is requesting a release form in order to build a house on that ½ acre and needs approval from the Board. The property is located

on Whitfield Road in the Portland area and has a total debt of \$25,000.00. Chairman Walker requested staff visit the property to obtain an estimated appraisal. Ms. Williams and Attorney Walker will visit the site.

Attorney Miller advised that the deed for the Sheriff's property located in South Walton has been received and recorded in the Clerk's Office. Chairman Walker requested that certificates of appreciation be sent to all of the individuals involved in obtaining the land.

Attorney Miller presented an update to the Commissioners regarding current pending litigation.

Vice-Chairman Rees questioned the status of the countywide noise ordinance. Attorney Miller will provide a sample ordinance for their review.

Mrs. Shari Judkins requested a copy of the letters regarding Treasure Island Marina that were addressed earlier in the meeting.

Chairman Walker addressed an issue relating to employee raises and step increases from step 12 to step 14 that have recently been given. Mr. Walker stated that one of the raises resulted in a 37.6% increase and feels that this is in violation of the Analytica Study. He understood that there is a 10% cap on all pay grades in step 14 and above, otherwise he would not have supported it.

Ms. Williams explained that when she chose not to apply the 10% on pay grade 14, there were only five employees that were affected. She stated that it was her understanding that the Board adopted the pay scale with minimums and maximums and did not place the 10% cap on any pay grade.

Commissioner Ryan reminded the Board that the Analytica Study was not performed with the idea of giving raises. It was designed to develop a program as a way of hiring people at a qualified level equitable for everyone.

Further discussion was held regarding the pay increases and the 10% cap.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to request Mr. Mattison, Human Resource Director, to review the tapes from the meetings with Analytica and Mr. Herb Marlow and make a recommendation back to the Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Herman L. Walker, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts