

FEBRUARY 27, 2001 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room 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, Attorney George R. Miller and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

Vice-Chairman Rees read the 23rd Psalms following the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Patti Yates, Finance Supervisor, presented the Expenditure Approval List consisting of the following bills for payment:

General Fund	\$1,121,989.38
County Transportation Trust Fund	132,904.53
N.W. Mosquito Control	912.31
Walton-DeFuniak Library	8,285.94
Solid Waste Enterprise	2,820.05
Mossy Head VFD	2,083.33
Glendale VFD	93.82
Darlington VFD	1,718.95
Liberty VFD	112.68
Red Bay VFD	930.26
Local Option Gas Tax	20,026.68
Driftwood Debt Service	347.03
Capital Projects Fund	152,755.30
Tourist Development Council	202,892.03
Section 8 Housing	124,990.00
Multi-purpose Trust	25,027.00

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve payment of bills as presented on the Expenditure Approval List. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve two payments to Waste Management in the amount of \$96,984.20 for hauling of waste tires and \$93,550.80 for residential services. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, presented bid information relating to the remounting of two ambulance chassis. Bids were received from Stat-Line Ind. Inc., in the amount of \$57,000.00 and from Excellence in the amount of \$60,084.15. Both bids met the specifications, however, Stat-Line did not submit a performance bond as requested. In addition, Excellence offered a dual compressor, which will be required to meet upcoming standards in 2003. Excellence also provides an extended warranty.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept Mr. Imfeld's recommendation and award the bid to Excellence in the amount of \$60,084.15 because of the extended warranty and the dual compressor.

Mr. Allen Acaph of Stat-Line addressed the Board and stated that his company does not put dual compressors on. He also stated that he feels the bid process is placed in jeopardy when a higher bid is awarded and said that the bid specifications were not clearly defined.

Mr. Zeb Overstreet of Excellence also addressed the Board regarding his company's performance and the type of ambulances he has built.

Mr. Imfeld advised that he did contact Stat-Line regarding the bid bond and they advised that they would submit it upon award of the bid.

Chairman Walker called for a vote to award the bid to Excellence. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld advised the Board that he received three no-bids for the Elevation Scraper for Public Works/Landfill (bid 01-003). Beard Equipment submitted a bid of \$157,186.00 and Thompson CAT submitted a bid amount of \$164,300.00. Mr. Imfeld stated that both bids met the specifications and recommended awarding the bid to the low bidder, Beard Equipment.

Mr. John Edwards, Thompson Tractor, appeared before the Board to stress the resale value and the hourly operational cost. Mr. Imfeld stated that this equipment is being purchased to be used until it has to be replaced not for resale.

Mr. Jim Berry, Sales Representative for Beard Equipment, presented information that shows his brand of equipment has better fuel consumption than CAT. He reminded the Commissioners that the county previously purchased equipment from him, which has served well and has had only one service call performed on it.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to approve to award bid 01-003, Elevation Scraper, to the low bidder, Beard Equipment. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld presented bid results of bid 01-004, Tractor/Backhoe for the County Maintenance Department. J.D. Swearingen submitted the low bid of the six vendors submitting bids. The bid amount for the tractor with the backhoe was \$19,615.00.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept Mr. Imfeld's recommendation and award bid 01-004 to J.D. Swearingen in the amount of \$19,615.00 for the purchase of a tractor/backhoe. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld requested approval to purchase a passenger van off of state contract or to be allowed to advertise for bids. The van is needed to pull the tractor. The Commissioners agreed.

The proposal for legal advertising has been submitted to three newspapers for their responses. The proposals will be opened on March 5 and presented during the Board meeting on March 13.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt resolution (2001-11) amending the budget in the amount of \$66,991.00 to reimburse the State from the Fine & Forfeiture Fund for the purchase of the distribution center building due to the county withdrawing the grant. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Mrs. Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, advised the Board that the State has been notified and it will not be held against the county because of the withdrawal.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt a resolution (2001-12) amending the budget in the amount of \$1,229.70 for monies received from Sprint for easement rights and landscaping reimbursement at the Government and Education Center. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Biddle advised the Board that the county has acquired two additional houses that need to be demolished. Due to time constraints, DCA has suggested that the contract with the demolition contractor be amended to include these two houses.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to amend the current house demolition contract with Ammons Dozier Service to include these two houses. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Biddle also advised the Commissioners that two situations remain from Hurricane Alberto. Two homes were purchased and 90 days were given to relocate the homes and clean the lots. Mrs. Biddle advised that Mr. Ducky Johnson bought one of them, moved it, and has not yet cleaned the lot. The Board agreed that Mr. Johnson needs to be responsible according to the agreement or the county can submit a bill to him for the cost to have it cleaned. The lots must be cleaned before the contract can be closed out.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to notify Mr. Johnson allowing him seven (7) days to get the property cleaned up, if he does not, then the county will pursue other remedies. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Attorney Miller will prepare notice to Mr. Johnson.

Mrs. Biddle explained that Ms. Lisa Messer, who also purchased a house through the program, has made attempts but has not yet removed the house from the property.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to notify Ms. Messer of the need to remove the house from the property and allow her 14 days to have it removed. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Biddle presented amendment #2 to the Legislative Appropriation Contracts from the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. The amendment addresses the prohibition of using these funds for the purpose of lobbying and the audit requirements.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the amendments to the Legislative Appropriation Contracts. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Public Works Director, presented information relating to the Rosemary Beach Traffic Study, the speakers list and minutes from the February 10th Public Forum. Vice-Chairman Rees commented that the study was to cover the entire CR30A, not only the Rosemary Beach area.

Mr. Jack Arthur, Preble-Rish, addressed the Commissioners and again stated that according to the study the stop signs are not warranted. He stated that there are currently 11 sidewalks, 7 of which are not controlled and some not even at intersections. He stated that uncontrolled crossing is dangerous to pedestrians and commented that a compromise is in order. Traffic control signals could be installed that will require vehicular traffic to stop only when pedestrians are present. Mr. Arthur also recommended a barrier rail to keep people from crossing at places other than crosswalks. He presented a three-page depiction of possible solutions and stated that he favored page 2.

Commissioner Ryan addressed the problem of speeding vehicles. He stated that children will not always cross at a crosswalk and he wants to resolve this problem correctly to prevent someone from being hit.

Mr. Alex Dunser and Mr. Richard Gibbs of Rosemary Beach addressed the Commissioners and stated that they have met with Attorney Miller to discuss a compromise. Their goal is to slow traffic by providing traffic calming devices. He stated that three things are present that increase the speed of traffic through the area. Mr. Dunser stated that they have held regular meetings to discuss the situation, performed traffic studies, and requested a meeting with the Board and a mediator to resolve the problem. He felt that the public forum was good, but brought no resolution. Mr. Dunser advised that he has plans to reduce the number of cross walks from 11 to 9 and to enhance the remaining ones with signals. In closing, he stated that he objects to the plan presented today and that the barrier is inconsistent with the development plans and felt that physical changes need to be made that will cause people to slow down.

Vice-Chairman Rees questioned Mr. Dunser about a hedge as a physical barrier. Mr. Dunser stated that it would not be practical because the streets lead to the boardwalks that lead to the beaches at each of those intersections.

Comparison was made with Seaside and WaterColors and the number of crossings they have. Commissioner Pauls did not feel that this was a good comparison.

Chairman Walker questioned Attorney Miller as to the Board's legal right to change the development order. He also questioned if they are responsible to adopt the recommendation of the traffic study. Attorney Miller advised that Board that they are covered under the sovereign immunity as long as their decision is based on safety. He also stated that the same study should be used for all developments to provide fairness and equal protection for everyone.

Mr. Bob Dobies commented on pedestrian crossings at Seaside, which has high commercial density that should also be considered.

Mr. Dick McCherry commented that three studies have been performed and suggested following the expert's recommendation.

Mr. Arthur stated that he is representing the county and looking out for their best interest and recommended signalized crosswalks. The cost is approximately \$35,000.00 per signal. Mr. Bell also recommended two signalized crosswalks and no stop signs (picture 2).

Commissioner Pauls stated that more detail needs to be addressed regarding the barrier. Mr. Bell stated that he would like to discuss these plans further with Rosemary Beach along with the costs. Commissioner Pauls questioned if these same concerns would be addressed with Seaside and WaterColors. Mr. Bell stated that he would look into it. Mr. Dunser stated that he wants to change the material of the crosswalk and also felt that stop signs are more important than a signal.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he would like to have more information from other developments that will be affected and would also like to obtain more information regarding traffic calming solutions. Commissioner Rees reminded the Board that it was advertised for them to attend the public forum at TDC. He requested for Mr. Bell and Attorney Miller to consider applying the proposal to the entire 30A roadway and what the impact would be including costs. He wants to encourage a win/win situation between the developers, county, and the public. Commissioner Rees stated that the Sheriff needs to be involved to address the issues of speeding and running stop signs. He also requested Mr. Dunser make the stop in the center of Rosemary Beach pedestrian activated.

Commissioner Jones stated that whatever method is used, it needs to be consistent on all of CR30A. Commissioner Ryan stated that emphasis should be placed on speed through all developments on CR30A.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to direct Mr. Bell to review recommendation #2 as presented by Preble-Rish along with traffic calming devices and look at the impact along CR30A including costs for the entire road.

Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Dr. Richburg, Okaloosa Walton Community College, along with Mr. Bob Arnold, Chairman of the Encroachment Committee for Eglin AFB, appeared before the Board on behalf of the Strategic Partnership Initiative. Dr. Richburg stated that they held a meeting to promote regional planning at which time former Commissioner Joel Paul Jr. represented the Board. Commissioner Rees has been attending since his election. He requested the Commissioners participation in a Regional Planning Conference in Niceville on April 18, 2001 as a joint sponsor at a cost of \$2,000.00.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to sponsor the Strategic Partnership Initiative in the amount of \$2,000.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Vice-Chairman Rees presented suggestions regarding the organizational structure. He began by thanking Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resource Director, and Mr. Ken Little, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, for their assistance in working with him. Commissioner Rees presented four reasons for implementing this structure. 1) Strategic and vision directed-public information, environmental impact and economic development 2) Effectiveness and efficiency 3) Adaptable and flexibility and 4) Citizen participation.

He presented an overview of the structure and who would report directly to the Board and those departments answering to the County Administrator. He requested that this structure be reviewed and then address personnel and division heads at a later time. Discussion was held regarding the requirements to hold a public hearing to consider an ordinance to adopt a County Administrator form of government.

Commissioner Ryan requested another meeting to discuss this issue further. He felt that this is a good plan and stated that some of this is already in place it just needs additional implementation. He also felt that it would be beneficial to encourage staff participation. He further commented that Public Works was never implemented and staffed as originally designed and Mr. Bell was not given the authority to direct his department as needed.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt the first level in concept consisting of Legal Services, Lobbyist, Public Information, County Administrator, Tourist Development Council and Economic Development, not including individuals. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

The second level of the organizational structure consists of Financial and Administrative Services Division, Growth Management, Citizen Services, Public Works/Transportation, Emergency Response, and Human Resources.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls, to adopt the second level concept of the organizational structure. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

The Commissioners reiterated that no individuals were discussed for the placement in any position. They also agreed to hold a special meeting on Monday March

12th at 9:00 a.m. to discuss this issue further and to determine if this form of government will be enforced by ordinance.

Vice-Chairman Rees stated that they would give further consideration as to who will serve in these positions.

Mr. John Gahagan and Mr. Bob Dean representing Habitat for Humanity appeared before the Board to request the county grant an exemption on property taxes for six one-half acre lots for the year 2000. An exemption was previously approved for the upcoming year 2001. The amount of exemption requested is approximately \$3,800.00, which represents about 10% of their annual budget that can be put toward their construction projects.

Mr. Gahagan explained that the parties who live in the homes after they are built pay rent until the home is signed over to them, and then they are responsible for paying the taxes.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the request for Habitat For Humanity and grant the tax exemption request for the year 2000. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Attorney Miller advised the Board that he has reviewed the development agreement for the Mill Outlet and is comfortable with the language contained therein. The agreement will contain a restrictive covenant on Government Lot 11 that will run with the land prohibiting any use other than General Business without approval of the Board. There are presently 44 parking spaces and Mr. Little stated that it is in compliance with county requirements. Mr. Miller suggested adding the addendum stating that the

county agreed and adding a place for the Chairman of the Board's signature on the agreement.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the Mill Outlet with the addendum. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

The Commissioners recessed at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 12:45 p.m. Commissioner Ryan was not present due to a prior scheduled meeting.

Vice-Chairman Rees presented information regarding Waterfronts Florida. He stated that he received notification from the Florida Coastal Management Program a new initiative called Waterfronts Florida. This program is to provide assistance to waterfront communities to revitalize a new interest in waterfronts. Commissioner Jones stated that he reviewed the information and gave consideration to what waterfront properties would apply. Properties in Freeport may qualify and agreed to pass the information to Commissioner Ryan who represents District 4.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the following minutes: January 11, 2001-Workshop, January 19, 2001-Workshop, January 23, 2001-Regular Meeting, January 30, 2001-Workshop, and February 1, 2001-Workshop. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye.

Commissioner Jones stated that he and the Architect have met with the constitutional officers regarding the courthouse expansion. They were notified that they need to make final changes to the plans now so that they can move forward. Chairman Walker suggested looking at relocating people to facilitate construction. Discussion was held regarding room in the new facility to accommodate the State Attorney's Office. He

stated that they could be relocated to the HUD Building. Chairman Walker also mentioned that Mr. McHenry has offered to sell his building at the appraised value. The Board agreed to allow Chairman Walker to continue communications with Mr. McHenry. Commissioner Jones reminded the Board that other building space would become available upon completion of the courthouse.

Commissioners Jones requested for consideration to move the Planning Commission recommendation to a separate nightly meeting due to the length of the regular meetings. Vice-Chairman Rees pointed out that through proper structure, staff would be allowed to handle more items, which will remove some items from the agenda. Commissioner Pauls and Ms. Nancy James of the South Walton Community Council both agreed that Planning Commission recommendations should be on a separate night.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to hold a separate meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. to primarily consider the Planning Commission recommendations. The meetings will be held at the Tourist Development Council and is not exclusive to Planning Commission recommendations only. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye. Ms. Williams will determine when this will begin.

Mr. Bell presented a land transfer request for the Foreman Family Trust. They would like to deed Walton County five acres adjacent to the McKinnon Pit in exchange for a 66 foot easement between Lot 16 in Santa Rosa Plantation Subdivision of Section 26, Township 2 South, Range 20 West and Lot 1, of Santa Rosa Plantation Subdivision of Section 35, Township 2 South, Range 20 West, lying North of Highway 98. Mr. Bell explained that the county previously had an appraisal on a parcel of land owned by

Foreman Family Trust in an attempt to purchase the 10-acre parcel. Mr. Jack Rhodes appeared before the Commissioners on behalf of Foreman Family Trust. He explained that an abandonment request has been advertised and a scheduled public hearing at 2:00 p.m. today. He pointed out the following two concerns, the county getting something for the abandonment and the drainage issue. He explained that the county has no intentions of using the easement for drainage. Mr. Rhodes stated that the five-acre parcel would benefit the county because it is adjacent to the District 1 yard. Commissioner Pauls stated that he would like to see the county acquire the entire 10-acre parcel.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to advertise for a public hearing on March 27, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. to consider approving the exchange of an easement with the modification to include the entire 10-acre parcel. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye. Attorney Miller asked Mr. Rhodes to request a continuance of the 2:00 public hearing regarding the abandonment request.

Mr. Tracy Howell, employee of the South Walton TDC, requested approval of a change order in the amount of \$11, 229.75 to the original contract for the Miramar storm water modification project. The modification is to retrofit the lights at the park as requested by the US Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve the change order to the original contract in the amount of \$11,229.75. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye.

Mr. Howell also presented information regarding beaches that will be addressed at a later time.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the Fields abandonment petition.

Mr. Jack Rhodes requested the abandonment be withdrawn. The Board agreed.

Mr. Bell presented an offer from The Timber Company for the county to purchase 730 acres adjacent to the landfill for \$950.00 per acre. Mr. Bell explained that they previously requested \$1,200.00 per acre in addition to timber rights, which the county rejected. The Timber Company has now prepared a new offer of the \$950.00 per acre with no timber rights. Mr. Rusty Floyd, Landfill Supervisor, and Mr. Bell both recommended accepting the offer and explained that the property will be needed for future landfill expansion. Mr. Bell stated that timber could be cleared in the future and sold to recoup some of the costs. He also explained that funds have been set aside from the Small County Surtax for this purpose.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to proceed with the necessary steps to purchase the 730 acres from The Timber Company and attempt to negotiate with the property owner who owns the parcel of land in the center of the 730 acres for an amount up to \$950.00 per acre. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the Griffin abandonment. Mr. Jack Rhodes requested to table this request pending additional information. There being no public comment the Board agreed.

Commissioner Ryan arrived.

Mr. Bell presented a proposal from Mr. Fredrick B. Tooke, County Surveyor, to provide the county with complete surveying services, including right-of-way mapping

and wetlands identification on all of the road projects. Mr. Bell advised that these services were not bid under the competitive bid process; however, he did recommend the services.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to develop a scope of work to advertise for qualifications for county surveying services. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Discussion was held regarding past surveying services.

Attorney Miller asked Mr. Tooke to respond to the Santa Rosa Plantation. The plat is satisfactory as proposed. The roads/easements are not depicted on the plat and Attorney Miller advised that Commissioners that according to Florida Statute 177 the road must be depicted on the plat otherwise they are considered as abandoned.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the Foreman Family Trust abandonment request. Mr. Jack Rhodes requested to table this issue until March 27 at 3:15 p.m. The Board agreed.

Mr. Bell presented a list containing roads considered for paving and requested approval to proceed with 2000/2001 paving and resurfacing. The list contained CDBG Roads, roads on the DOT Small County Outreach Program, DOT County Incentive Grant, Emergency Management/DCA Grant, and the proposed 2000/01 resurfacing plan. This is the first year paving schedule of a 5-year plan.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept Mr. Bell's recommendation and approve the road-paving list. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Commissioner Jones requested that roads in District 4 be considered the next time.

The Commissioners recessed briefly.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the Sugar Dunes Abandonment petition.

Mr. John Thacker, representing Sugar Dunes Owners Association, advised that they were unable to meet the notice requirements and therefore requested this issue be tabled for a later date. This issue has been presented to the Planning Commission who denied the abandonment request. The abandonment request is for an easement north of Sugar Dunes Condominiums, which was granted to the US Government, later it was surrendered to Walton County. He advised that the surrounding condominiums are no longer opposed to the abandonment. Mr. Thacker stated that he does not feel the county will need it. He explained that there is a utility line that goes through their easement, which Chelco has agreed to relocate. Sugar Dunes Owners Association would like the abandonment in order to develop the easement. Mr. Thacker explained that a portion of their parking lot and fence is situated on the easement.

Mr. Billy McConnell, Regional Utilities, submitted letters of opposition to the abandonment due to them having sewer lines across that area. He stated that if the easement were developed then they would not be able to get to their sewer lines.

Mr. Walt Jackson also addressed the Commissioners in opposition to the abandonment and stated that the easement should be used for parking or for access.

Ms. Nancy James stated again that no abandonments should occur unless there is a public interest.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to deny the abandonment request of Sugar Dunes Owners Association.

Chairman Walker questioned if any previous Board approved for them to construct their fence or parking lot on the easement and requested staff to look into the situation and report back to the Board. Commissioner Pauls stated that it might be a benefit to allow certain uses on the easement without abandonment. The Board agreed that this abandonment request is not under the development order guidelines and can be brought back before the Board again within the year.

Chairman Walker called for the vote to deny the abandonment request. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. C. J. Pipkins, Escambia County Housing Finance Authority, appeared before the Board to present a quarterly update on the First Time Home Buyers Program. Mrs. Pipkins advised that Walton County has already processed 19 loans totaling \$1.34 million for the 2000-year program. She presented the new brochures showing the new interest rate of 5.8%. There are eight lenders now in Walton County, which is an increase, and funding in the amount of \$5.1 million has been designated to Walton County. Mrs. Pipkins further explained the program for the benefit of the newly elected Commissioners.

Mr. Dewey Wilson, Regional Utilities, appeared before the Board to request an extension of their franchise area for their sewer and water system. He is expecting to install approximately 45-50 miles of sewer lines, pumping stations, fire hydrants, and support equipment. Mr. Wilson explained that it is a requirement of the bond indenture that the term of indebtedness be extended to a term of 30 years for the bonds.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve an extension of the franchise area for the new indebtedness, which will expire April 2031. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls requested staff to look into the 380 Committee mandate.

Mr. Wilson also requested approval of their monthly draw from the grant in the amount of \$325,000.00 for material/labor.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve a payment request in the amount of \$325,000.00 for Regional Utilities monthly draw. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Susan Valley, property owner at Inlet Beach, addressed the Board regarding concerns with water service and problems getting necessary equipment to have their water turned on. Commissioner Ryan stated that the problem does need to be resolved.

Mr. Bell presented a Joint Participation Agreement between the Department of Transportation and Walton County for installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of US Highway 98 and Poinciana Boulevard. Individuals whom comprise the Poinciana Boulevard Signal Group (PBSG) will contribute \$65,000.00 into an escrow account toward the signal.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the Joint Participation Agreement with the Department of Transportation for installation of a traffic signal at US Highway 98 and Poinciana Boulevard. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve a Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement for the signal at Poinciana Boulevard. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to add Poinciana Boulevard to the county maintained road list due to it being inadvertently omitted. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Bell presented information from Ingram Signalization regarding the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of US Highway 98 and South Shore Drive. The projected cost is \$130,000.00. Mr. Bell recommended proceeding with the project.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve for Mr. Bell to proceed with the installation of the signal at US Highway 98 and South Shore Drive. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Bell advised that he would notify the Commissioners when a time and date has been set to tour the Holmes County Prison.

Mr. Bell explained to the Commissioners that both the Sheriff's Department and Commissioners are spending an extremely large amount of funds for radio installation. He stated that the Commissioners alone spent \$35,000.00 last year and suggested hiring a technician. The Board agreed.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve payment to Bullard Excavating in the amount of \$14,524.55 for resurfacing of the parking lot at the Warren Building. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve for repairs to be made to the District 2 chipper engine in the amount of \$4,545.00 to Tractor & Equipment. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve payment to Specialty Materials in the amount of \$7,789.50 for eight (8) loads of lime for Cook Road. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve payment to Couch Concrete in the amount of \$11,240.00 for hauling of recycled concrete. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Vice-Chairman Rees suggested giving Mr. Bell the authority, during the organizational meeting, to approve these types of bills.

Mr. Russ Aldrich presented Avalon Dunes A Condominium for final plat approval. Attorney Miller advised that the plat is in order and ready for approval.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve Avalon Dunes A Condominium for final plat approval. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Aldrich presented Club Estates at Sandestin for final plat approval. Attorney Miller stated that the plat is in order.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve Club Estates at Sandestin for final plat approval. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Tom Powell, Walton County Economic Development Council, appeared before the Commissioners requesting support for granting a limited ad valorem tax exemption to Preferred Homes Corporation to encourage them to build a manufacturing facility in the Freeport Industrial Park in Walton County. Mr. Powell stated that he is asking the county to relinquish \$11,000.00 in ad valorem tax for potential net gain of \$184,000.00. The firm will be purchasing their own property in the industrial park. Mr. Powell stated that he attempting to close the deal with the new owner of the business and feels that this is needed to do so. Mr. Powell stated that he feels the tenure of the business is good. Commissioner Pauls stated that he couldn't see any down sides to the deal. Mr. Powell explained that other businesses do not receive these benefits because they do not meet the qualifications.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept application for request of ad valorem tax exemption for Preferred Homes Corporation. Mr. Powell advised that he has added a clause that states their building must be substantially complete by December 2001. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Mr. Powell stated that he would submit the application as soon as possible.

Mr. Ken Little, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, presented the contract for Lobbying services. He advised the Commissioner Rees was successful in negotiations and arrived at a price. The contract price includes all Tallahassee expenses with the exception of required travel to Walton County or Washington D.C. The Commissioners discussed changing the term of the contract to two years with an effective date of February 2001. Mr. Little requested to allow the contract to run for 2 year and 7 months

to prevent it from expiring during the legislative session. The Board requested to change the contract to limit expenses for trips to Walton County to out-of-pocket expenses only and for overnight trips only.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the contract with Pennington Law Firm for Lobbyist Services with the stated amendments to travel expenses. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. The Boards commended Vice-Chairman Rees for his negotiation efforts with Mr. Book.

Mr. Dale Anderson, Walton County Humane Society, advised the Commissioners that he met with Paxton officials and presented several options for animal control services. Paxton stated that they want the same service as the City of Freeport.

Mayor Hayward Thomas of Paxton stated that Paxton pays a large amount of taxes each year and should be represented as well as everyone else in the county. He wants the service provided at no cost.

Mrs. Patsy Register explained what type of services the other municipalities receive and the costs. She also explained that the animals delivered by the City of DeFuniak Springs are held for an allotted number of days and if claimed by the owner, then the city is not charged. Mr. Anderson stated that Paxton could adopt and operate by the county's ordinance, but the Humane Society might have to request additional funds.

After lengthy discussion, the Commissioners agreed to take this issue under advisement and allow Paxton time to choose if they would like to pay for the service. Commissioner Ryan suggested funding each of the municipalities \$1,000.00 and they

each pay for the charges over and above that amount. Attorney's Miller and Davis will meet with City Manager Mike Standley to discuss this issue further.

Commissioner Pauls addressed the need for a Parks/Recreation Director. He stated that this position would also have some responsibility for administering of funds. Mr. Pauls stated that he would work with Mr. Gary Mattison to develop a job description and re-advertise the position.

Commissioner Pauls commented on the need for a Beach Activities Director under the Parks/Recreation Division. He stated that he has been working on coordinating all the people who work with beach related activities from the various county departments. This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting while Commissioner Pauls proceeds with communications regarding this issue.

Commissioner Pauls presented a request from Tang-O'Mar for one-time road maintenance under the maintenance policy for \$25.00. They also stated that the road is private and requested that it be removed from the county maintained road list.

Commissioner Pauls advised the Board that he has been working with Tracy Howell of the TDC to identify the 13 county beach accesses that are not recognized or maintained by the TDC and would present them to the Board at a later date.

Mrs. Suedelle Wilkerson, Sheriff's Department Finance Office, appeared before the Board to request a resolution be adopted amending \$100,000.00 into the Sheriff's budget for a donation received from the Pennington Foundation. The Board requested that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Pennington. Mrs. Wilkerson stated that the funds could be used for repairs.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to adopt a resolution (2001-13) amending \$100,000.00 into the Sheriff's budget and submit a letter of appreciation. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Ryan informed the Board of several items discussed during the first general meeting of the Florida Great North West Inc. Items discussed included hiring of an Executive Director and other staff members, and forming of advisory boards. He advised that a delegation traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to meet with site consultants, as well as plans to attend various trade shows. Commissioner Ryan also advised that they are trying to support economic development in the I-10 corridor.

Ms. Williams presented a letter that was submitted by Mike and Shari Judkins requesting that it be part of the record. The letter requested Attorney Miller recuse himself from the Treasure Island Marina case. Chairman Walker and Commissioner Ryan stated that they respectfully disagree. Attorney Miller stated that a notice of appeal has been filed. The Commissioners discussed obtaining an additional legal opinion to that of Attorney Miller. Attorney Miller stated that he has always represented the county to the best of his ability and will continue to do so. He stated that he does not have a problem representing the county on this case. Vice-Chairman Rees stated that he just wants to see the county win and questioned if Attorney Miller would need additional help to do so. Attorney Miller stated that he could handle it. Commissioner Ryan stated that it should be left to Attorney Miller to ask for help if he feels he needs it. Attorney Miller requested time to receive and review the brief before making a decision. The Board agreed to make the Judkin's letter part of the record. (Attachment A)

Ms. Williams presented a list with the following proposed meeting locations: May 8 -Red Bay Community Center, June 10-Paxton City Hall, August 14-Choctaw Beach Community Center, September 11-Freeport City Hall, November 13-Mossy Head Community Center.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the tentative schedule for meetings to be held at various locations throughout the county. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

The Board agreed to hold a public hearing on April 24, 2001 at 11:45 a.m. to consider an abandonment being presented by the Planning Commission.

Ms. Jackie Malone appeared before the Commissioners to present the SHIP budget proposal for the West Florida Regional Planning Council. Ms. Malone stated that the priorities of SHIP are to conserve the existing housing stock by eliminating sub-standard housing through rehabilitation. She gave an overview of the number of people assisted on the various programs that West Florida Regional Planning Council oversees. Ms. Malone advised that Walton County must adopt a new 3-year Assisted Living Plan for the period July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2004, in order to receive the \$363,741.00 for each of the three years. Ms. Malone recommended participation.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt a resolution (2001-14) participating in the State Housing Initiative Partnership. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Attorney Miller presented an agreement for the Chairman's signature between the County and Mr. John Smith of Villa Tasso, allowing him to block an alley as previously approved by the Board.

Attorney Miller presented an Interlocal Agreement between Walton County and the City of DeFuniak Springs for the Library. Mr. Miller reviewed the agreement and the areas of concerns. Some of the concerns pertained to the dispensation of property/equipment and budget concerns. Vice-Chairman Rees recommended adopting an agreement that involves all municipalities of Walton County. Commissioner Pauls stated that he would like to see a recommendation for alternative wording for each of the items of concern. Chairman Walker gave a brief history of the Library Board and its development over the years. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of the county operating the library and paying the City a certain amount for the facility. The Commissioners took this item under advisement.

Attorney Miller presented a proposed Matrix for maintenance and acceptance of roads for the Commissioners review.

Attorney Miller presented an update on pending county cases. Discussion was held regarding three SHIP foreclosures. Mr. Miller stated that he is holding a letter to Lee Perry of Affordable Homes until he is directed to satisfy it. Discussion followed regarding the Bear Creek DRI, build out date and the \$250,000.00 contribution to affordable housing. Vice-Chairman Rees stated that it should not be a full satisfaction. The Board directed Attorney Miller to write a letter not giving a clear bill of health.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for public comment. Ms. Nancy James, South Walton Community Council informed the Board that the Housing Coalition will be holding a meeting and invited the Commissioners to attend. She also stated that they are planning to form a Board for the Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization.

Ms. DelaAngela Mayho thanked the Board and commented on the urgency of economic development. She also commented on the need to place the South Walton Fire Department back under the Board. Ms. Mayho stated that she would like to see the county develop a 5-year strategic plan/goals along with a 5-year road plan.

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Rees motioned to adjourn at 5:45 p.m., second by Commissioner Jones. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

APPROVED: _____
Herman L. Walker, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts