

MARCH 27, 2001 – REGULAR MEETING

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

Commissioner Rees led with prayer following the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve payment to Watkins Engineers in the amount of \$90,891.79 for payment request #4 for the Sheriff's Annex. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to approve payment #9 in the amount of \$273,079.18 to Watkins Engineers for the South Walton Library. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve payment #7 in the amount of \$1,027,053.24 to Watkins Engineers for Infra-Structure in the Governmental/Education Center. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Yates presented an invoice from Twin Cities Hospital regarding the Health Care Responsibility Act for indigent care. Discussion followed regarding qualifications for indigency. Vice-Chairman Rees requested Ms. Ingle to report back to the Board on the guidelines for claiming indigency.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve payment to Twin Cities Hospital in the amount of \$26,954.34 contingent upon review by Mr. Imfeld and a follow-up on the matter of how indigency is based. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Yates presented the Expenditure Approval List consisting of the following bills for payment:

General Fund	\$ 609,651.77
County Transportation Trust	90,423.27
Mosquito Control State	2,754.00
North Walton Mosquito Control	622.06
Walton-DeFuniak Library	2,617.60
Recreation Plat Fee	28.00
Solid Waste Enterprise	1,685.54
Mossy Head VFD	10,381.15
Glendale VFD	187.74
Darlington VFD	30,591.63
Liberty VFD	1,085.52
Red Bay VFD	1,681.12
Criminal Justice Education Fund	8,907.00
Driftwood Debt Services	140.74
Tourist Development Council	367,929.93
Section 8 Housing	152,724.86

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the Expenditure Approval List as presented. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve payment to Southeastern Products in the amount of \$3,080.00 for road materials, District 5. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, presented information regarding exempt overtime accrued by employees under the previous Clerk's administration. Ms. Ingle advised that she counseled with Attorney Mark Davis regarding the issue. She gave a brief history of the situation and stated that a former employee has filed a complaint with the Department of Labor. The employees have each reviewed their time sheet to determine what portion of the overtime hours were spent in a non-exempt capacity. Ms. Ingle requested a budget amendment in the amount of \$55,400.84 for payment of exempt overtime accrued by personnel in order to satisfy the matter.

Discussion followed regarding a policy to clarify exempt overtime for both clerk and board employees. Attorney Davis advised that the Department of Labor would proceed with a claim against the county if the employees were not paid. He also stated that because these employees performed work outside of their supervisory duties, they were entitled to pay.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resource Director, advised that there are exempt board employees who also have comp time. He advised that he is working on a policy and would be meeting with individual employees to review their job descriptions.

Ms. Ingle advised that two previous terminated employees were paid for their exempt overtime setting precedence. Chairman Walker requested verification of hours worked, along with the duties performed.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve Ms. Ingle's request to pay the employees for their overtime and move forward with new policy.

Commissioner Jones requested further documentation of work duties performed.

Ms. Nita Marlow, Human Resource Officer for the Clerk's Office, stated that the affected employees made the determination as to the percentage of hours worked as non-exempt to prevent possible future claims from them.

Chairman Walker called for the vote. Ayes 3, Nays 2. Pauls Aye, Jones Naye, Walker Naye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve a budget amendment from General Funds to pay the overtime. 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 a data server for the Warren Building from Dell Computers in the amount of \$3,895.00 from State Contract. 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 five (5) Dell computers totaling \$6,050.85 for the Warren Building (State Contract price). Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the purchase of furniture from The HON Company in the amount of \$8,200.00 for the

District 5 Commissioner's Office. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, addressed the Commissioners regarding possible grants that are available. She advised that applications are being accepted for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program for persons with insurance. The program reimburses 75% and there is no cost to the county. Mrs. Biddle requested approval to apply for the program and advertise for applicants to the program.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve to apply for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program and advertise for applicants. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Biddle explained to the Commissioners that the county was previously turned down for a Florida Boating Improvement Grant for improvements at the Bayside Park on US 331 South because of lack of proof of site control. The State has encouraged the county to reapply with the proper documentation.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve to reapply for the Florida Boating Improvement Grant. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Tressia Tousignant, District 5 Administrative Assistant, presented information regarding the Artificial Reef Grant. The grant is a \$25,000.00 reimbursable grant at no cost to the county. One of five quotes was returned with a bid price of \$24,000.00 from Construction Services Inc. Ms. Tousignant advised that Mr. Malcom Patterson would be volunteering his services to the project and further requested approval

to proceed. She will contact Attorney Walker regarding the contract with Construction Services Inc.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve to move forward with the Artificial Reef Grant project. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Jack Arthur, Preble-Rish, appeared before the Board regarding the bids submitted for the ten (10) CDBG roads. There are 10 roads, however two of them were combined into one project, therefore, only nine project bids. Mr. Arthur recommended awarding the bids to four different contractors. **Bullard** received the recommendation for the following roads: Two Bridges Road, Holly Tree Lane, Bell Dawson, Coy Ellis, and Windy Hill. **Roads Inc.** received the bid recommendation for Caty Hole and **C.W. Roberts** received the bid recommendation for Indian Woman and Howard/Magnolia Roads. **Gum Creek** was recommended for Huckaba. Huckaba and Indian Woman Road was recommended to the second low bidder due to the advantages of the alternate bid.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept the recommendation of Mr. Arthur and Mr. Ronnie Bell and award the bids as stated. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, presented information relating to spending authority levels of other counties. After review, he recommended Walton County Administrative Supervisor be granted spending authority up to \$25,000.00, Division Heads up to \$10,000.00 and Department Heads up to \$3,000.00.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to accept Mr. Imfeld's recommendation to authorize the level of spending as stated.

Ms. Lana Barley, South Walton Tourist Development Council, questioned why the TDC's Executive Director would not have the same authority as the Administrative Supervisor when they have been placed in the same level of authority under the Board. Vice-Chairman Rees requested to amend the motion to raise the level for TDC to \$15,000.00. After further discussion, the amended motion was withdrawn. Mr. Imfeld reiterated that he would like to see only the Administrative Supervisor at the \$25,000.00 level until it could be determined why other counties have such a broad range of spending authority. He stated that he would readdress this issue again in two weeks. Chairman Walker called for a vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Vice-Chairman Rees gave an overview on the status of county contracts. He advised the Commissioners that the total number of 774 contracts has been reduced by 367. He commended Mrs. Dori Cordle for her work in reviewing and pulling the closed contracts. Staff will continue to review the contracts for Mrs. Cordle to continue closing the expired ones.

Mr. Phil Givens, Fire Board Chief, addressed the Commissioners regarding the control burn adjacent to Bob Sikes Road. He met with Mr. Bell and Commissioner Ryan along with Chief Coley of the DeFuniak Springs Fire Department and feels that they have reached an agreement.

Chief Coley presented pictures of the proposed burn site and requested approval to close that portion of Bob Sikes between the Wal-Mart entrance and the apartment complex to the west of the structure. The road would need to be completely closed during the hottest portion of the burn.

Commissioner Ryan stated that one lane would remain open until the hottest part of the burn and vehicles would be parked in a manner to minimize damage to the shoulders of the road.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to close one lane of traffic on Bob Sikes on April 14th to allow for a controlled burn with closure of both lanes during the hottest part of the burn and contingent upon obtaining a hold harmless agreement with the City of DeFuniak. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Chief Coley advised that the property owner would be responsible for the remainder of the clean up.

Ms. Shirl Williams presented Mr. Bell's information relating to the Public Works Department. A letter from Brian Kellenberger, Watkins Engineers and Constructors, was submitted concerning a change at the Sheriff's Substation. The detention fixtures used in the holding cells had to be changed causing an increase of \$1,762.18. Mr. Bell recommended approval.

Mr. Kellenberger addressed the reasons for the changes. Mr. Imfeld stated that previous decreases would help balance out this difference. The Commissioners requested this error be pointed out to the architect.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the change order request for an additional amount of \$1,762.18. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Williams presented a letter from Watkins regarding the lighting issue at the Coastal Branch Library that was previously discussed. Mr. Kellenberger advised that he met with the architect, engineer and the electrical subcontractor to attempt to decrease the

costs. The architect and engineer have concluded the electrical subcontractors estimate is acceptable. They also agreed that the specified fixture is a better value than the value engineered fixture. It is now too late to value engineer the light fixtures. Mr. Kellenberger recommended proceeding with the specified fixtures. Mr. Imfeld recommended taking the necessary funds from the Library's current operating supplies budget.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the specified lighting at an additional cost of \$6,350.00, which is to be paid from the Library's current operating supplies budget. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Bell submitted a request on behalf of residents that Seagrove Village Drive be added back to the county's maintained road list, which was inadvertently omitted. The road was originally named Linda Drive and accepted for maintenance in 1986 and has since been renamed.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to accept Mr. Bell's recommendation and add Seagrove Village Drive to the county's maintained road. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Williams presented a letter from Mr. Jack Rhodes on behalf of the Forman Family Trust for review.

Information was submitted to the Commissioners regarding a request to lower the speed limit on CR30-A, between Watercolors and CR283. The Board deferred action on this item pending the CR30-A traffic study.

Ms. Meg Stevenson addressed the issue of speed and stated that there is a lack of enforcement in that area.

A letter from Jonathan Berry of Barefoot Beach Service was submitted concerning the beach access east of Edgewater. The county previously approved to construct a lime rock road from Mr. Berry's parking lot to the end of the property to give emergency vehicles and TDC vehicles access to the beach on the west end. Mr. Berry is currently requesting the county to widen the current roadway to allow pedestrians and vehicles safer access.

Commissioner Pauls advised that Ms. Tousignant has researched the issue and stated that the work previously performed by the county was on private property. Therefore, he recommended denying the request for the additional improvements. She also advised that beach patrol officers have been denied access. Chairman Walker asked the attorney's to look into remedies of the denial of access.

Vice-Chairman Rees advised that he has looked into the most economical way to provide temporary office space for the District 1 Office. To purchase a trailer would cost \$23,000.00 whereas he could lease one for \$3,000.00 per year. Mr. Imfeld is checking into the layout of the building lease to assure compatibility for their needs.

Vice-Chairman Rees advised the Board that he received a complaint from Mr. Larry Coe regarding low flying aircraft from Eglin, which is disturbing his cattle. The Board suggested Mr. Coe file a complaint with Eglin.

Mr. Imfeld addressed the issue of purchasing a larger fuel tank and stated that after review, it would not be economical to the county.

The Commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Rusty Floyd, Landfill Supervisor, informed the Board that he would be sponsoring newspaper recycling week again this year for the elementary schools and requested authorization to order promotional give-away items.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the purchase of promotional items using grant monies for recycling week. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Vice-Chairman Rees reminded the Commissioners that appointments need to be made to the Redistricting Committee. He appointed Cindy McClary and Kelly Buzzett. Chairman Walker asked that each Commissioner give their appointees names to Ms. Williams.

Vice-Chairman Rees stated that he has met with the committee for Fire-based EMS along with Mr. Imfeld and Mr. Bell. Mr. Imfeld has been able to review the South Walton Fire District Budget and EMS in order to review data. Attorney Walker has prepared a draft contract and requested to hold a joint meeting on April 16th between the County Commissioners and the South Walton Fire District Board to finalize their recommendations. Ms. Williams will finalize a date and location for the meeting. Commissioner Rees stated that a cost savings of \$178,000.00 is being estimated that could be used to enhance services in north Walton County. Mr. Imfeld stated that the savings is reflected from personnel and operational costs.

A letter from Mrs. Kris Titus was presented requesting approval for Ms. Barley to sign purchase orders and payment requests due to Mrs. Titus' frequent travel.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to grant approval for Ms. Barley as an authorized signature for TDC. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Chairman Walker requested additional time for the Commissioners to review the minutes before approval.

Commissioner Jones deferred further discussion of EMS for a later date; however, he wants assurance that this issue will be resolved as quickly as possible.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept Commissioner Jones' appointment of Mr. Robert LaFavre to the Library Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Ryan brought to the attention of the Board a problem with developers not submitting revised plans for review in a timely manner. The Planning Department has requested approval to establish policy requiring revisions be submitted one week prior to board meetings. Commissioner Pauls stated that the entire policy needs to be reviewed.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt a policy requiring revised plans to be submitted to the Planning Department a minimum of one week prior to board meetings and to review the entire policy with instructions to the Planning Department to review the plans upon submittal. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Ryan informed the Board that his son's squadron has adopted a refugee camp in Bosnia and is collecting articles of clothing. Therefore, he requested

approval to utilize space at the old hospital to store the clothing until it can be shipped to Bosnia.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, seconds by Vice-Chairman Rees to allow Commissioner Ryan to work with Ms. Williams to locate space at the old hospital. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls voiced concerns relating to a building located on Highway 98, formally Dalton Carpet's, now Far East Imports. He stated that it is a 28,000 square foot building that does not have adequate parking. The business is located at the entrance to Gulf Pines, which creates a problem with egress and ingress. A problem exists with regulating the type of new establishments at various locations. He voiced concerns with a tee-shirt shop that would create a potential for high traffic, and a need for parking beyond what is provided.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to authorize Commissioner Pauls to work with Public Works to inquire into the possibility of blocking the entrance into Gulf Pines to resolve safety issues and present a recommendation back to the Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls also voiced concerns with other non-conforming buildings. Ms. Williams stated that the term "change of use" should be better defined.

Commissioner Pauls requested authorization to seek assistance with the placement of a temporary signal at the intersection of U.S. Highway 98 and Mac Bayou due to safety concerns. Chairman Walker wanted assurance that the county would not incur any liability if the temporary light does not work out. Commissioner Pauls will look into the matter further.

Commissioner Pauls suggested a separate section be added to the minutes for action items to assure that items are being followed through with. Ms. Williams agreed for county staff to incorporate this as part of the agenda.

Chairman Walker advised that Representative Donald Brown is requesting the Board express their concerns by letter regarding the high-speed rail that was voted on during the last election. Mr. Walker read a letter from Washington County Board of County Commissioners stating their concerns. The Board agreed to write a letter of opposition to the high-speed rail voicing concerns relating to funding and other priorities. Ms. Williams stated that she would have Mr. Little prepare a letter for the Chairman's signature. Commissioner Ryan stated that the MPO is also in opposition to using transportation funds for this project.

Attorney Walker advised the Board that the Sheriff has requested to turn the Anti-drug abuse funds over to the City of DeFuniak Springs. He advised the Board that these are the revenues that required \$41,000.00 of matching funds from the Sheriff. This was a grant that the Board recently denied due to a lack of matching funds. Attorney Walker recommended proceeding with the request.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to accept Attorney Walker's recommendation to allow the City of DeFuniak Springs to be the recipient of the Anti-drug abuse funds for drug enforcement, with the county being the conduit for the revenues and contingent upon the city recognizing the fact that they must provide the matching funds. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Williams presented a request from Sheriff Johnson requesting to use three (3) offices at the old hospital. An agreement would be drawn up which would also address the pro-rated share of utilities. The Commissioners questioned if maintenance fees would also be included in the pro-rated expenses.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the Sheriff's request contingent upon an agreement being drafted with all necessary pro-rated charges included. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Mr. Imfeld added that liability and any additional costs associated with use of the hospital would be charged to the Sheriff.

The Board agreed to defer appointments to the Contractor's Competency Board until the next meeting.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept the following surplus equipment from the Clerk's Office for disposal: CC#'s 524 and 525, IBM 300 GL Personal Computers. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Williams presented, for the Chairman's signature, a form from the Walton County Humane Society designating Tammy Gooldrup as an agent for the purpose of enforcing animal control laws. Chairman Walker voiced concerns with responsibility of the Board appointing persons to other agencies. Attorney Walker presented Florida Statute 828.03 and the Attorney General's opinion regarding appointments. After further questions and discussion, the Board deferred this issue pending further review. Ms. Williams agreed to meet with the Humane Society's attorney.

The Commissioners recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the petition for abandonment by Stephen E. Joyce. Mr. Joyce is requesting the abandonment of a minor encroachment of A/C slab and building into a thirty-foot county drainage easement on Walton Way. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Attorney Thori Ward, representing Mr. Joyce, appeared before the Board and explained that the corners of the house and the A/C pad are located in the easement, therefore the reason for requesting the abandonment. Attorney Ward requested the abandonment of the smallest amount possible in order to correct the problem, which is about 2% of the easement. She further explained that no survey was performed on this property and that the County Engineer recommended approval contingent upon relocating the A/C pad in the future.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt a resolution (01-19) granting the abandonment request by Stephen Joyce on that portion of the house, not including the A/C pad, and allow the A/C pad to be moved at a later date at the owner's expense, upon direction by the county. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the petition for abandonment by W. Todd Schweizer who is requesting to realign the road along the property line and to abandon the existing road. The site is located at Coyote West, off of CR 83A, south of FL 20. The Planning Commission recommended approval contingent upon the developer paying all cost of relocating the road and being built to county standards prior to acceptance by the county.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt a resolution (01-18) approving the Schweizer abandonment. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Williams presented a memorandum from Mr. Imfeld regarding his review of a request by Sheriff Johnson to provide funding for a bill from Motorola in the amount of \$8,250.00 and a proposed agreement for 911 equipment. Mr. Imfeld's memo explained that the Sheriff has ample funds available within the existing budget.

Ms. Williams advised the Board that Mr. Bell contacted Universal Steel Structures regarding the possibility of them taking the two steel buildings back that was purchased as the regional distribution center. Mr. Bell was advised that the buildings were constructed specifically for the county and they could not be sent back. The Board questioned the possibility of dividing the buildings into several smaller buildings that would better benefit the county. Commissioner Ryan asked that Mr. Bell prepare a closer estimate of what it would actually cost to construct the buildings for their intended use. He also suggested using them for the YMCA. He advised that the YMCA would consider raising necessary funds to construct the building for their use. Discussion followed regarding other groups such as Grit & Grace that might be interested. Commissioner Ryan will prepare cost estimates to present back at a later date.

Mr. Imfeld advised that the buildings were paid for half by the Sheriff and half with funds donated by Mr. Pennington. However, the Sheriff has stated that he does not want the buildings. The Board requested the Sheriff present that in writing.

Ms. Williams presented a letter from Johnny Reohm advising of an available building for sale on Baldwin Avenue. No action was taken.

Mr. Dewey Wilson, Regional Utilities, appeared before the Board and advised them that he and Inlet Beach Water Systems has reached an agreement along with their attorneys.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the agreement between Regional Utilities and Inlet Beach Water System.

Commissioner Ryan voiced his concerns stating that the contract only addresses the issue of sewer. He advised that a consent order was obtained with the caveat that Inlet Beach will seek an alternative water source between now and 2002. He stated that water could again be the question at that time. He stated that he has been assured that anyone requesting a tap permit would not be denied. Attorney Adkinson stated that he does not foresee any problems and is aware that they will have to seek an alternative water supply. Mr. Wilson stated that he is willing to work with Inlet Beach. Mr. Adkinson stated that sewer would be provided also as long as sewer capacity and lines are available. He stated that it would not be financially feasible to run sewer lines for a lengthy distance for one or two customers.

Mr. Wilson stated that he can assist Inlet Beach with developing a master plan. He also advised that Board that he considered the possibility of condemnation as previously requested by Board, however, it is a lengthy process and very costly.

Ms. Valarie Simmons addressed the Commissioner regarding consistently rising costs of tap fees and how Inlet Beach fees are higher than Regional Utilities. She also voiced concern with an application fee that will be charged to Inlet Beach customers.

Mr. Paul Craig Roberts stated that he requested 10 meters and was told that he was only allowed two. He also disagreed with the alternate methods they are looking into for obtaining water.

Chairman Walker stepped out and turned the chair over the Vice-Chairman Rees.

Attorney Walker presented a handout regarding condemnation and the costs involved. He stated that Senate Bill 2062 is currently pending and that it would remove local county jurisdiction from private water utilities.

Commissioner Ryan amended the motion to include the requirement for Inlet Beach to move forward with Regional Utilities in developing a master plan within 6 months. Mr. Wilson stated that the master plan would provide details on how to plan their community for sewer and financing detail. Attorney Adkinson stated that the majority of residents in Inlet Beach are opposed to sewer, but would provide it to those who want it. Commissioner Ryan voiced concern with possible delays by Inlet Beach.

Vice-Chairman Rees called for a vote on the motion to approve the agreement between Regional Utilities and Inlet Beach Water System including the requirement for Inlet Beach to move forward with Regional Utilities in developing a master plan for sewer and water for Inlet Beach within 6 months. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Wilson presented pay request #4 in the amount of \$270,500.84. 75% of this will be reimbursed by DEP, the remaining 25% has been matched by Florida Community Services Corp. This phase of the project is approximately 70% complete.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to approve pay request #4 in the amount of \$270,500.84 for the wastewater grant. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the Wellfield Operations Facilities Lease between Florida Community Services Corp. and South Walton Utility Company. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Chairman Walker returned but did not resume the Chair position.

Vice-Chairman Rees called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the petition for abandonment by Gerald C. Salvo and Carl Dixon who are requesting the abandonment of the 66 foot roadway and utility easement that runs along the southern part of lot 62 and the northern part of lot 73, beginning at Wall Street on the west and ending at the property line on the east side of lots 62 and 73. The Planning Commission recommended denial of the request.

Ms. Valarie Simmons addressed the Commissioners in opposition to the abandonment. She stated that Palm Street is being opened and paved and the abandonment would hinder traffic flow.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation and deny the Salvo/Dixon abandonment request. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Pam Tedesco, Walton County Chamber Foundation, appeared before the Commissioners along with their attorney, Paul Lydolph, regarding the lease agreement for the Governmental/Education Center. Ms. Tedesco advised that the clause regarding

“No alcohol” has been added and the recommended changes have been made. Commissioner Walker requested time to review the amendments. She also gave an update on the status of their construction plans. The Board agreed to review the agreement and readdress it at the next meeting.

Attorney Walker presented proposals from Attorneys David Theriaque and Kenneth Goldberg offering to provide service to Walton County for the Treasure Island Marina case.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to proceed with retaining Attorney David Theriaque as legal representative. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resource Director, presented information relating to Mr. Charles J. Boulian, P.E. for the position of County Engineer. Mr. Mattison advised that he met with Mr. Boulian along with Mr. Bell, Mr. Arthur of Preble-Rish, and Ken Little. It was their consensus to offer him the position at a range of \$60,000 to \$65,000.00 annually due to his extensive experience. Mr. Mattison stated that two other candidates withdrew their applications due to the salary range.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to offer Mr. Charles Boulian the position of County Engineer with a beginning annual salary of \$60,000 to \$65,000.00, and a possible salary increase upon completion of a six month probation. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Mattison presented a draft policy of 6.41: Communications. Vice-Chairman Rees suggested adding reasonable and personal use of the telephone with the Commissioners discretion and deleting the last sentence under section C.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve policy 6.41- Communications Policy as amended. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the revisions to policy 1.0: Interviewing and Selection of Candidates. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Mattison presented policy 2.0 regarding the affirmative action plan update. The Board agreed to state in the policy that the Board would approve positions of Division Director.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to approve policy 2.0: Equal Employment Opportunity as amended and change the heading to Announcing and Filling of Vacant Positions. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Mattison presented policy 3.0: Conditions of Employment. He recommended removing this portion due to previous amendments that have been made. The Board agreed.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve revisions to policy 3.4: Employment of Relatives, to site the correct Florida Statute. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve revising policy 8.40 from Personnel to Human Resources and policy 8.41.1.a. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve a change under Position Vacancy Interview from Personnel Committee to Interview Committee. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Vice-Chairman Rees called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the Foreman Family Trust Land Exchange.

Mr. Jack Rhodes appeared on behalf of the Foreman Family Trust who desires to deed to Walton County Parcel I.D. #10-1N-18-08000-009-000, which consists of approximately 10 acres located adjacent to Walton County's McKinnon Bridge Clay Pit. The Trust shall also prepare the Warranty Deed conveying the parcel to the County in consideration for the abandonment of that 66 foot easement lying between Lot 16 in Santa Rosa Plantation Company's Subdivision of Section 26, Township 2 South, Range 20 West and Lot 1 of Santa Rosa Plantation Company's Subdivision of Section 35, Township 2 South, Range 20 West, lying North of Highway 98, including that 33' easement lying North of Highway 98 of the West 200 feet of Lot 16, in Section 26, Township 2 South, Range 20 West. The Planning Commission recommended approval with the exception of the drainage ditch and subject to the fifteen foot Chelco easement.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Walker to approve the abandonment as a consideration for an exchange of property. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. (See attachment A; letter dated March 12, 2001 as prepared by Jack Rhodes, Consultant)

Vice-Chairman Rees called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the petition for abandonment by Jack Rhodes on behalf of Michael W. Griffin who is

requesting the abandonment of that portion of the easement reserved for North Waters Street adjacent to the south boundary of Lot 12, Block 23, Map of Santa Rosa.

Mr. Rhodes, representing Mr. Griffin, requested to table this issue pending further review.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve to table this issue until May 1, 2001. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

There being no public comments Commissioner Ryan motioned to adjourn at 3:35 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

Attachment A