

MAY 22, 2001-REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 22, 2001 at 9:00 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, Attorney George R. Miller and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

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

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Patti Yates, Clerk Finance Supervisor, presented the Expenditure Approval

List consisting of the following bills for payment:

General Fund	\$628,915.79
County Transportation Trust	139,582.97
North Walton Mosquito Control	41.42
Walton-DeFuniak Library	2,886.97
Recreation Plat Fee	1,500.00
Solid Waste Enterprise	115,007.89
Mossy Head VFD	449.77
Glendale VFD	<166.09>
Darlington VFD	<1,184.52>
Liberty VFD	732.20
Red Bay VFD	100.57
Driftwood Debt Services	5,094.69
Capital Projects Fund	7,402.66
Tourist Development Council	281,202.50
Section 8 Housing	529.91
Multi-purpose Trust Fund	7,500.00

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan 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 Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve payment to Watkins Engineers and Constructors in the amount of \$537,976.01. 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 Leavins-Hughes Well Drilling in the amount of \$25,936.00 for the Grants Department. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Yates requested Board approval on payment of the Section 8 rent/utility vouchers for June 1 in the amount of \$120,440.63. Due to the relocating of offices there was not sufficient time to include these on the EAL.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve payment of the Section 8 vouchers in the amount of \$120,440.63. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Attorney Miller brought to the attention of the Commissions two worker's compensation bills that will soon be presented for payment at an approximate cost of \$10,000.00 each.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, appeared before the Board to present the results of the most recent bid openings. Mr. Imfeld explained that a team was formed to conduct an analysis of the information submitted to determine the best buy for the county.

Mr. Imfeld presented bid #01-005, three front-end loaders for District 3 and District 4. He explained that a three-year resale value was considered for the equipment and recommended Beard Equipment for the purchase of a John Deere 744-H Loader. Mr. Imfeld explained that the equipment would be sold or auctioned at the end of a three-year cycle, as agreed upon by previous Board members. Commissioner Rees requested to review this information before a final decision is made due to the new format being used for selection. Mr. Imfeld presented the remaining bid information for review.

Mr. Imfeld presented a resolution to consider a budget amendment in the amount of \$65,000.00 from the Poinciana Signal Group for installation of a temporary and permanent traffic light at Poinciana Boulevard and US Highway 98.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt a resolution (2001-33) amending unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$65,000.00 into the budget. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. The temporary light fixture will become the county's property to be used as necessary.

Mr. Imfeld presented a resolution requesting that \$12,000.00 dollars be transferred from reserves to repair and maintenance for the Mossy Head Volunteer Fire Department. He explained that their pumper truck failed its inspection and is in need of repairs. Commissioner Pauls stated that he wants assurance that all fire equipment in the county meets the required tests.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt a resolution (2001-34) approving budget amendment #5 transferring \$12,000.00 from reserves to repair and maintenance for equipment repairs. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, appeared before the Board and presented information relating to the RFP's for the Workfare Program. Mrs. Biddle stated that only one response was received from Okaloosa-Walton Community College.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to accept the proposal submitted from Okaloosa-Walton Community College for the Workfare Program and extend the contract period to three years. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Biddle informed the Commissioners that the Department of Environmental Protection announced that Walton County is entitled to receive \$102,590.00 from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program. She requested approval to submit the application with the Chairman's signature. No matching funds are required.

Mr. Brad Pickle, Tourist Development Council, stated that the application Mrs. Biddle is referring to is submitted to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and coordinated through the DEP. He advised that the funds are made available because of the offshore drilling programs. The allotment is based on the county's location to the drilling site. The money is proposed to be used for sand fencing and vegetation. Commissioner Pauls questioned if any restrictions are placed on the monies and if specific beaches have been selected. Certain restrictions do apply and 13 Walton County beaches were selected. Commissioner Ryan questioned Mr. Pickle if he is aware of any available funding in the event of an oil spill. Mr. Pickle stated that he would be glad to research the availability of additional funding for oil spills.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve submission of the application for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Ryan questioned Mrs. Biddle regarding her working with the City of Freeport for a swimming pool. She advised that the City would be applying for a grant next year under FRDAP.

Mr. Tracey Howell, TDC, presented a request to replace the siding on the restroom facilities at Cessna Landing and Gulfview Heights. Two bids were received and Wright Associates was the low bidder. Mr. Howell explained that the annual maintenance plan recommends the siding be replaced with fiber-cement siding.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to award the bid to Wright Associates, Inc., low bidder, in the amount of \$11,940.00 for siding replacement. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Howell explained to the Commissioners that Walton County's TDC was approved to participate in the Blue Wave Campaign. He thanked the Board, fire departments, and Sheriff's Department for their participation. He stated that TDC staff attended an awards ceremony in Washington D.C. where they were presented an award. He reviewed the requirements for participation in the program and showed signage that will be used to advertise the program to make the public more aware of the campaign. Walton County had 13 beaches that met the requirements and chosen for the program.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Public Works Director, presented a list of items that have been donated to the Coastal Branch Library. The items each exceed \$500.00 and therefore requested the Board accept the items in order to add them to the county's inventory.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept the donated items and add them to the county's inventory, subject to approval from the Library Board. After further discussion, the Board agreed to withdraw the motion pending discussion of this issue with the Library Board.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve payment to Clark Site Contractors in the amount of \$77, 524.63, partial payment, for construction of the CR 30-A and Scenic Gulf Drive bike path, subject to Mr. Imfeld's review. The total contract amount is \$396,000.00.

Commissioner Pauls questioned if funds have been made available to further oversee this project. Mr. Bell advised that funds are available. Commissioner Pauls also voiced concern regarding vehicular parking on the bike path. Commissioner Jones suggested placing No-Parking signs along the bike path and to request the Sheriff's Department to assist with enforcement. Chairman Walker called for a vote on the motion. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Bell presented a request from CHELCO for exclusive use of the right-of-way around the loop road into the Coastal Branch Library in the S.W. Governmental Education Center to serve the transformer and the lift station. CHELCO also submitted a second request for a 5' easement around the loop road and the main Boulevard for their underground power. Chairman Walker stated that specific language should be included in the agreement stating that they do not have the right to perform major construction or future expansion without approval of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Pauls also stated that language needs to be included to protect wetlands and a repair clause for any damages resulting to landscaping or the finished product.

Attorney Miller also suggested that the deed from the settlement agreement should be reviewed for compliance. Mr. Bell will present this item again at the next meeting for approval upon insertion of appropriate language.

Mr. Bell presented the inmate squad contract for consideration of renewal. The contract currently expires July 2001. Attorney Miller has reviewed the contract and noted that the annual salary of the correctional officer was amended from \$41,000.00 to \$43,861.00, which is paid quarterly.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to renew the contract between Walton County and the Department of Corrections for inmate squad service as amended. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to adopt a resolution (2001-35) recognizing the week of May 20-26, 2001 as Emergency Medical Services Week. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Bell presented a letter regarding the purchase of a PL 200 John Deere Excavator from Regional Utilities in the amount of \$80,000.00. The equipment is a 1999 model and has a small and large bucket. Resale value has been estimated at \$90-95,000.00. Mr. Harold Petty and Mr. Ernie Montgomery inspected the equipment and felt that it would be beneficial to the county and is worth the amount being requested. After further discussion the Board directed Mr. Bell to make an offer of \$60,000.00.

Ms. Nancy James questioned the Commissioners regarding the progress of the bike path at Seagrove. She stated that all work has stopped and the bike path is not

complete. Mr. Bell advised that a parking issue at the Wheelhouse Restaurant must be addressed before the bike path can be completed.

Vice-Chairman Rees stated that he received a letter from Mr. Allen Brown regarding the correct spelling of Caty Road to Katie Road. Mr. Brown sent a letter to each individual that would be affected by the change and there was no opposition voiced. The owner of the property is willing to grant the needed right-of-way to the county upon the correction of the spelling. The right-of-way is necessary for paving of the road, which was selected under a CDBG grant.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to correct the spelling of Caty Road to Katie Road and accept the right-of-way for paving of the road. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Vice-Chairman Rees requested Mr. Bell begin performing post disaster assessments of events such as the fire that occurred in south Walton last week. He requested that in his new role as Director of the Emergency Response Division, he coordinate with the entities involved in a response to assess any improvements that could be made. Mr. Bell advised that he has already begun addressing related issues with various individuals.

Commissioner Pauls commented that he would like to hear from other individuals who attended the Hurricane Conference, what information they obtained, and what information the county could implement to enhance its operation. Chairman Walker directed staff to request this information from each individual whom attended the conference.

Vice-Chairman Rees also suggested preparing a pre-conference assessment to determine which individuals would most benefit from the information that would be presented at the conference. Commissioner Pauls stated that a pre-conference meeting should be held to discuss the topic of discussion at a conference and to determine who should attend. Discussion also followed regarding the need to become more involved with the Small County Coalition.

Chief Lockridge of the Mossy Head Volunteer Fire Department addressed the Board regarding the need to better coordinate emergency response in order to retain sufficient coverage in other areas of the county.

Vice-Chairman Rees agreed that protocol needs to be established regarding conference attendance. He also stated that the Ethics Seminar he attended in Orlando was very informative and much knowledge was gained. Chairman Walker agreed and further commented on the opportunity of meeting other individuals and representatives who may be able to assist with Walton County issues.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the minutes of May 8, 2001. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Ryan requested to add Sweetwater Lane back to the maintained road list. He stated that the road has been maintained for a number of years and was inadvertently omitted from the list. The Board requested this issue be presented to the Public Works Department prior to approval.

Commissioner Pauls updated the Board on the status of the bike path and issues relating to the right-of-way. He commented on the importance of establishing policy

regarding allowed procedures by private individuals and private developments in county right-of-way. He stated that a right-of-way issue pertaining to Indian Woman Road exists. A fence and house is situated on the right-of-way and will have to be dealt with before paving can be completed.

Commissioner Pauls requested an update on the status of the noise ordinance. Ms. Williams stated that she would provide an update later in the meeting.

Chairman Walker questioned the status of Perkins Road. Mr. Bell advised that the base work has been completed and bids for paving have been advertised.

Mr. Bell advised the Board that Mr. Dewey Wilson of Regional Utilities stated that the asking price of \$80,000.00 for the Excavator is a firm price.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the purchase of the John Deere Excavator from Regional Utilities in the amount of \$80,000.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Commissioner Jones reminded the Board to remember not to budget for another one during the upcoming budget process.

The Commissioner recessed briefly.

Commissioner Jones presented an issue regarding fire hydrants in District 3. He advised that the City is upgrading their water lines with no provisions for needed fire hydrants.

Mr. Mike Standley, DeFuniak Springs City Manager, appeared before the Commissioners and explained that the existing water lines on Caswell Road, from Highway 331 North to Bell Drive, are being upgraded under the 2000 Emergency Drought Water Project. The upgrade is being performed to accommodate poor water line

conditions that currently exist. 8" lines are being added, thereby reducing the number of 3" and 4" lines that exist. Mr. Standley stated that the city has no plans to install fire hydrants at the present time, but would address this issue later in the future. He also stated that a major upgrade would occur within 12-24 months under the Northwest Florida Project, which includes 10" water lines from Highway 83 North to Highway 331 North through Sunrise Road, connecting Juniper Village, tying into the line on Highway 331 running from Martin Road to King Lake Boulevard.

Commissioner Jones stated that many citizens in those areas are concerned that water lines are being installed with no provisions for the fire hydrants and stated that this issue needs to be resolved.

Commissioner Ryan questioned Mr. Standley if he has researched the possibility of available grant funding. Mr. Standley stated that city funds are being used. Mr. Standley also stated that other determining factors, such as engineer approval, are necessary to determine adequate water flow before the hydrants could be installed. He advised that only enough hydrants would be installed to meet operational requirements for the purpose of flushing the water lines.

Commissioner Jones felt that it is the city's responsibility to install the fire hydrants in order to supply fire protection to the residents. Commissioner Ryan felt that the city wants the revenue from the residents, but is unwilling to provide the additional service.

Mr. Standley stated that he is willing to discuss this issue further with staff. Commissioner Jones stated that staff has attempted to discuss this issue, however, they

have not been able to get the city to respond. Commissioner Jones stated that the current problem needs to be resolved along with policy for future issues.

The Board appointed Mr. Bell and Commissioner Jones to meet with Mr. Standley to discuss a resolution to the issue and report back to the Board after lunch.

Chief Roger Roy of the Liberty Volunteer Fire Department stated that 13 fire hydrants are needed along the section on Caswell Road to meet ISO standards. Additionally, a total of 36 other fire hydrants would be required for the upcoming upgrades to meet the requirements. He recommended applying for grants for the upcoming installations. Commissioner Ryan stated that the system needs prior designing to include fire hydrants.

Mr. Standley stated that he is opposed to the installation of the fire hydrants because of the fire departments use of them. He stated that the water lines could become contaminated if not used properly. He also questioned the Commissioners if a fire tax assessment could be applied for this area to assist with the costs.

Mr. Roy McLeod, representing himself, cited Florida Statutes, which he feels shows that the responsibility lies on the county to provide fire protection. He stated that using tanker pumpers or installing a fireplug would solve the problem.

Mr. Standley advised that the current upgrade is set for completion in 75 days.

The Commissioners recessed for lunch.

Chairman Walker called the meeting back to order and announced a ribbon cutting ceremony that will be held on Thursday, May 24th at the new College Avenue Governmental Center.

Chairman Walker introduced Commissioner Rees' daughter, Lauren, who was in attendance at the meeting.

Commissioner Jones reported on their discussion regarding fire hydrants. He stated that the city is willing to work with the county and has agreed to a 50/50 split of the total costs involved for fire hydrants and installation, subject to an agreed upon number of fire hydrants yet to be determined. Mr. Bell, Mr. Phil Givens and Mr. Standley will continue working together to determine the number of hydrants to be installed. Mr. Standley agreed.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of installing saddles on the current project to prevent additional costs of adding the fire hydrants at a later time. Mr. Bell stated that the committee would review the situation and report back to the Commissioners. Mr. Standley advised that work needs to continue expeditiously on Caswell Road. Commissioner Pauls stated that he would at least like to see the saddle's installed at appropriate locations to prevent additional costs later.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the conceptual plan for the county to pay 50% of the costs of fire hydrants and installation for the two Kings Lake projects and appoint a committee of Mr. Mike Standley, Mr. Ronnie Bell and Mr. Phil Givens, who will determine an agreed upon number of hydrants and locations. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld appeared back before the Commissioners to further discuss awarding of the bids. He presented the information relating to bid #01-005 and recommended awarding the bid to Beard Equipment Company for the John Deere due to the dependability of the equipment and the best buy for the county. He explained that this

method of analyzing was performed in years past and is not a new system. Chairman Walker stated that he reviewed the county's past method to buy, sell and trade equipment. Vice-Chairman Rees suggested establishing a policy for clarity. Mr. Imfeld reminded the Board that these are the items that were considered for purchase during the past budget process.

Mr. Chuck Tibbets, Tractor & Equipment Company, appeared before the Commissioners to discuss the bid specifications and which company actually met them. He also voiced opposition to the resale value assigned to each company. Mr. Imfeld advised that research was conducted and consistency was used to determine the resale value for each company.

Mr. Ed Eschbach, Coastal Machinery, explained why his equipment should be considered. He stated that his company would provide loaner equipment in the event the purchased equipment broke down and parts could not be obtained quick enough. He also gave an overview of his company and their capabilities.

Mr. Jim Berry, Beard Equipment Company, stated that he appreciates the method that the Purchasing Department is using to determine the best buy for the county. Mr. Berry gave an overview of his equipment.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept staff's recommendation and award bid #01-005 to Beard Equipment for the purchase of three (3) loaders in the amount of \$190,550.00 each based on the best value. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld presented bid #01-006, three (3) graders for District 1 and 2. He stated that the same method was also used to analyze this equipment. Staff recommended awarding the bid #01-006 to Thompson Caterpillar in the amount of \$148,439.00 each.

Mr. Shawn Roundsava addressed the Commissioners regarding the quality and performance of his equipment.

Mr. John Edwards, Thompson Tractor, spoke about the new method being used to analyze bids and the good communications that has been established with the Purchasing Department. He stated that his company has a better maintenance record and can provide better performance.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan to accept staff's recommendation and award bid #01-006 to Thompson Caterpillar in the amount of \$148,439.00 each for three graders. Motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Commissioner Ryan commented that the Board has assigned staff with the responsibility to perform their job and they need to consider staff's recommendation and the work they perform.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to award bid #01-006 to Tractor & Equipment Company, low bidder, for the purchase of three (3) Galion 850 Series C Graders in the amount of \$100,575.00 each. Ayes 3, Naves 2. Pauls Naye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye. The resale value placed on the equipment was not considered when determining this as the low bid.

Commissioner Ryan stated that cost should not be the sole determining factor. Commissioner Jones agreed that performance is important. Chairman Walker voiced concern with not accepting staff's recommendation. Vice-Chairman Rees requested Mr.

Imfeld to prepare policy, expeditiously, regarding the method that will be used to analyze equipment bids for purchase.

Mr. Imfeld presented staff's recommendation to award bid#01-010, District 4 Backhoe, to Thompson Caterpillar in the amount of \$52,824.00 for a Caterpillar 416D. Five bids were submitted and staff felt this equipment would serve the county best.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept staff's recommendation and award bid #01-101, Backhoe, to Thompson Caterpillar in the amount of \$52,824.00. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld presented staff's recommendation to award bid #01-015, Public Works Traffic Roller, to Beard Equipment Company for the purchase of a Bo Mag BW11RH in the amount of \$47,637.00.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept staff's recommendation and award bid #01-015 to Beard Equipment Company in the amount of \$47,637.00 for the purchase of a Bo Mag BW11RH Traffic Roller. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld presented staff's recommendation to award bid #01-013 to JD Swearingen for the purchase of two (2) tractors for District 2 and District 4.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept staff's recommendation and award bid #01-013 to JD Swearingen in the amount of \$74,696.00 each for the purchase of two New Holland TS110 Tractors. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld presented staff's recommendation to award bid #01-007, eleven (11) Tri-Axle Dump Trucks, to Gulf Coast Truck for a total of \$900,342.00 (\$81,850.00 each).

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept staff's recommendation and award bid #01-007, eleven (11) Tri-Axle Dump Trucks, to Gulf Coast Truck for a total of \$900,342.00. 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 revised 911 Addressing Ordinance. Mr. Harold Bigham, Walton County Emergency Operations Center, appeared before the Commissioners and presented the ordinance for review. Commissioner Pauls questioned the process for naming newly created roads. Fees were discussed relating to new developments and Commissioner Pauls felt that the fees should be a sliding scale based on the size of the development. The Commissioners agreed to review the ordinance and submit any recommended changes to Mr. Bigham.

Attorney Jay Scheyd, representing Ms. Lilli Belcher, appeared before the Commissioner regarding her beachfront property at Grayton Beach. Attorney Scheyd explained that Walton County's ordinance 97-13 allows beach traffic to travel across her property and he requested the ordinance be amended prohibiting traffic from driving across her property. Mr. Scheyd explained that she owns that portion of beach front property to the mean high water line. Attorney Miller explained the boundaries of the ordinance to the Commissioners. Amending the ordinance would decrease the length of travel on the beach by 134 feet, which is the width of her property. He also advised that a public hearing would have to be held to amend the ordinance.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve holding a public hearing on June 25, 2001 at 2:15 p.m. to consider the requested amendment Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Don Crim voiced concerns with the continual reduction and has concern that driving on the beach will eventually be banned all together.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing to consider a request by Sacred Heart Hospital for final approval of their proposed hospital.

Mr. Pat Schlenker, Sacred Heart Hospital Projects Officer, presented an update on the progress of the project designs that have occurred since the last meeting. He explained that their \$20 million campaign is well under way.

Chairman Walker passed the chair position to Vice-Chairman Rees and stepped out.

Mr. Schlenker invited the Commissioners to their groundbreaking ceremony that will take place on Thursday, May 24, 2001 with Governor Bush in attendance. He stated that they have a projected completion date of December 2002. The storm water permit is the only outstanding permit, which should be received within the next day.

Mr. Tom McGee, Chairman of the Walton County Planning Commission, advised that the project received unanimous approval from the Planning Commission. The Design Review Board approved the project subject to review of the landscaping and outstanding storm water permit.

Vice-Chairman Rees opened the floor for public comment. No one voiced any comments.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to grant final approval of Sacred Heart's proposed hospital project. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Vice-Chairman Rees called to order the advertised public hearing to discuss the Covell tract land purchase.

Mr. Bell stated that this is the second required public hearing. An additional appraisal has been performed by Martin Brantley of Pensacola for an appraised amount of \$700,000.00 for the 730 +/- acres. The first appraisal obtained by Teal & Waters in 1999 amounted to \$657,000.00.

Mr. Charles Boulian, County Engineer, explained that the landfill is quickly running out of space. He gave an overview of the amount of tons being collected daily and stated that any space currently available will be used within three years. He stated that one option would be to open a Class I Cell to use it for Class III garbage.

Commissioner Walker returned and resumed the chair position.

Mr. Michael Bomar, Hartman and Associates, gave an update on the current contamination at the landfill. He stated that he met yesterday with DEP representatives who discussed capacity, settling velocity, and monitoring issues. He felt that progress is being made as discussion continues. Mr. Bomar stated that Walton County is not meeting the water quality standards at the point of discharge where the lower 40 acres adjoins the landfill site. He spoke about groundwater quality and gave a summary about the discharge of Ammonia, Benzene, and Vinyl Chloride. Mr. Chuck Drake, Hartman and Associates, advised that they are moving forward with communications between Water Management and also DEP.

Mr. Bomar stated that there has been an increase in the amount of disposal and gave alternatives for other methods that could be used to dispose of garbage, some of which could be very costly. Approximately 100-230 usable acres could be obtained from the 730 acres for the purpose of a landfill.

Ms. Linda Morse again questioned why the county wants to purchase the Covell tract and what would be its intended use. Mr. Bell explained that the property adjoins the current landfill and could be used for the much needed space in the future. The large amount of property would provide sufficient buffers from surrounding property owners. Ms. Morse stated that she is opposed to the purchase.

Mrs. Cheryl Zorn presented research she has found on alternative uses. She spoke about chromated copper arsenate (CCA) and asked the Commissioners to consider new technology before making their decision as to the use of the property.

Mr. Peter Schoal questioned why the contamination has not yet been cleaned up if the funds have already been budgeted. Mr. Drake addressed his questions and explained that the process begun in 1992 with the approved plan granted in 1998. He explained the clean up process and stated that it has been an ongoing process.

Vice-Chairman Rees stated that when elected he met with staff regarding the issue and recognized that it has been an ongoing issue. Commissioner Walker stated that the Board is attempting to correct the problem to the best of their ability in a manner they feel that would best serve the county.

Mr. Bob Register addressed the Commissioners voicing his opposition to the purchase.

Mr. Jed Byrd commented on two issues relating to environmental and future growth. He stated that he would like to see the county take action that would not create additional problems for the future. He would like to consider other alternatives researched as well.

Mrs. Jeanette Arnt presented numbers on related costs involved with property purchases, improvements, expansions and other items in this general location of the county, which she felt was an exaggerated amount. Mrs. Arnt voiced concerns with possible contamination of private water wells.

Mr. Rolph Arnt stated that in his opinion the purchase of the property is not a wise decision because of the small amount of useable property. Chairman Walker stated that the benefits of purchasing the property is that it is located adjacent to the current landfill, Walton County gains the timber rights, and it would not greatly impact any residents.

Vice-Chairman Rees stated that he would like to look further at the critical needs of the county for the next 10 to 20 year period, consider the impacts, look at alternative solutions, costs and alternative funding.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to allow staff (including Mr. Boulian) to work with Hartman and Associates to look at the needs of the county for the next 10-20 years and the impact of not acting, along with other alternatives and costs, and allow the public to serve on an advisory committee reporting back to the Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Commissioner Pauls stated that this action needs to be separated from the remedial action plans to prevent any further delays. The Board agreed.

Attorney Miller advised the Board that Commissioner Pauls, Ms. Williams and staff met with Mr. Perry Wooten regarding Holiday Road. Mr. Miller recommended the Board allow him to file a motion before the Board of Adjustment to remand the case to the Code Enforcement Board for an evidentiary hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to allow Attorney Miller to file the requested motion to send this case back to the Code Enforcement Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Attorney Miller will present the case to the Code Enforcement Board.

Attorney Miller presented an update regarding Dr. Ilabaca's case. Planning and Zoning previously approved a development order for his property for a 3-story facility. An adjacent property owner challenged the construction due to his opposition. A brief will be issued later this week.

Attorney Miller advised that he received a letter from Attorney Rob Blue concerning Ventanna Dunes. The county previously approved the subdivision and the roads were dedicated to the county in 1996. Mr. Miller stated that he has spoken with Mr. Boulian who is comfortable with Mr. Jack Arthur, Preble-Rish, making the representation in writing that all roads are up to county specifications. Upon receipt of the letter the roads would then become county roads.

Attorney Miller advised that a favorable environmental assessment report has been received on the Lang property. The Board agreed to identify possible uses for the property.

Attorney Miller stated that he has the proposed contract from the Timber Company. There are changes that need to be made to the contract. The property also

needs to be rezoned from Agriculture to Public Facility and submitted to DCA for approval through a large-scale amendment. Commissioner Pauls suggested moving forward with locating other available property. In addition, he would also like to consider the funding issues involved.

Chairman Walker read a request from Mr. Ken Moneghan who requested to hold a workshop with the Commissioners on June 19, 2001 at 11:00 a.m on the topic of “Tips to Avoid Legal Pitfalls”. The Board agreed.

An announcement was made for Wednesday, May 30, 2001, that Walton Community Development Corporation will hold a workshop with representatives from the Florida Coalition on Housing and the Federal Home Loan Bank, which the Commissioners are invited to attend. The workshop will be held at the Community Church on South Church Street in Santa Rosa Beach.

A special meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 29, 2001 in the Boardroom to consider the Board’s pay scale revisions and to conduct interviews for new positions.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to grant a vehicle beach permit variance to Mrs. Sandra Stroh-Smilnieks for the purpose of delivering photographic equipment to each site for the following dates only: June 9-16; June 26-30 and July 28-August 4, 2001. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to accept the following surplus equipment from the Clerk’s Office for disposal: CC#324, green plat

cabinet and CC#421 Kyocera Laser Printer. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to proceed with the Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study for the proposed detention facility by 2 WR/Holmes Wilkins Architects, Inc. at no cost to the county. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Williams presented the proposed RFQ for architectural services for the new adult local detention facility. She requested the Commissioners review the RFQ for any changes before it is advertised.

Ms. Williams presented a letter from the City of Freeport requesting support from the County for a grant application. The City is applying for a grant to install sidewalks from their city facilities to the medical facility and to the elementary school.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to submit a letter of support for the City of Freeport to apply for grant funding for the installation of sidewalks. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Williams advised the Board that she and Attorney Walker are researching the possible establishment of an ordinance requiring businesses to be registered with the county.

Vice-Chairman Rees raised questions regarding the Redistricting Committee and whether or not they have begun meeting yet. Ms. Williams will look into the matter to assure that they meet in a timely manner.

The Commissioners again discussed the possibility of adopting a resolution opposing off shore oil drilling. They agreed to discuss this issue at the next meeting.

Chairman Walker presented some updated information to the Board regarding a previous report submitted by the Walton County Health Department. He stated that after additional research he found that only 55 cases of aids are being treated in Walton County. Walton County has the lowest number of reported aid cases in the State of Florida, ranking 67th.

There being no further business Vice-Chairman Rees motioned to adjourn at 6:20 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Jones.

APPROVED: _____
Herman L. Walker, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts