

JULY 24, 2001 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 24, 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. Mr. Michael Underwood, County Administrator, Mr. Gary Vorbeck, Director of Legal Services, Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, and Ms. Shirl Williams, Assistant County Administrator, were also present.

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

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed the newly hired staff members.

Judge Lewis R. Lindsey addressed the Board regarding problems associated with renovations of the courthouse. He stated that he spoke with personnel from Watkins Construction Company about the construction. He voiced his concern with the loss of parking during the construction phase. Judge Lindsey explained to the Board that he is expecting a third Judge to be housed here in the near future along with another Judicial Assistant; a third courtroom will be needed. Due to construction, Courtroom B will be non-operational and Judge Lindsey explained that he could not afford to lose that court space. He stated that he visited the old hospital building and felt that it could be converted in a manner that could be used for the courts system with minimal renovation

costs. He stated that the Clerk of Courts offices would also need to relocate with him because of the court files.

Mr. Finley Skocdopole, Architectural Manager, CarlanKillam Consulting Group, Inc., presented the floor plans for the hospital and a recommendation for ways to renovate to make it operational as a court facility in addition to providing needed space for the Clerk's Office. Commissioner Pauls stated that consideration should be given to what uses the hospital would be used for in the future so that renovations could possibly be done accordingly. Mr. Charles McMillian, Maintenance Director, presented a cost of \$18.00 per square foot to make temporary renovations at the old hospital. He stated that the elevator is in working condition.

Commissioner Ryan voiced concern with further fragmenting services and questioned how this move would impact the proposed assisted living facility. He further questioned how long the ALF could be delayed due to their receiving their grant funding. Commissioner Ryan stated that parking would be an impact on the neighborhood and should be considered. He suggested researching the availability of the old Food World building to temporarily house the court facilities.

Chairman Walker stated that the grant funding for the assisted living facility is site specific and must be used within the next budget cycle. He voiced concern that the amount of funding received is not enough to renovate or even begin their operations. Discussion followed regarding the extensive costs of renovations to the hospital for it to be used as an assisted living facility. Commissioner Ryan stated that there may also be ongoing funding and voiced concern with the county continuing to return grant funds.

Mr. Brian Kellenberger, Watkins Constructors and Engineers, stated that the courthouse needs to be evacuated no later than January, however, construction is proposed to begin in September. When construction begins, the 36 parking spaces on the east side will no longer be available for use.

Discussion was held about the floor plan on each floor at the hospital. Mr. McMillian stated that the space being discussed is 9,000 square foot. Adjustments could be made to the walls to make larger areas for the various offices.

Mr. Alex Alford, Clerk's MIS Department, stated that consideration should be given to the timing of the move due to the amount of time it will take to relocate the computer lines and equipment. Discussion followed regarding the best

method for utilizing the grant funds. Commissioner Rees requested that other available properties be identified. Further discussion centered on the location of an assisted living facility, condition of the hospital and renovations needed and grant funding. Attorney Vorbeck stated that he spoke with the attorney at Nabors, Giblin and Nickerson who handled the bond issue for the old hospital. He advised Mr. Vorbeck that the intended use of the hospital by the county would be permitted, however, Mr. Vorbeck would request written documentation of approval.

Further discussion was delayed pending additional requested information from Senator Durell Peaden regarding the grant.

Mrs. Patti Yates, Finance Supervisor, presented the Expenditure Approval List for July 20 and July 27 consisting of the following bills for payment:

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|-----------------------------|------------|
| General Fund | 373,231.96 |
| County Transportation Trust | 605,837.47 |
| N.W. Mosquito Control | 3,302.22 |
| Walton-DeFuniak Library | 29,494.03 |
| Recreation Plat Fee | 4,452.20 |
| Solid Waste | 352,762.39 |
| Mossy Head VFD | 622.14 |
| Darlington VFD | <566.15> |
| Red Bay VFD | 1,465.68 |
| Glendale VFD | 69.15 |
| Liberty VFD | 1,780.47 |
| Tourist Development Council | 62,723.14 |
| Section 8 Housing | 121,140.32 |
| Local Option Gas Tax | 20,257.80 |
| Debt Service Fund/Hospital | 194,777.50 |
| Driftwood Debt Service | 625.00 |
| Capital Funds Project | 567,830.41 |

Commissioner Pauls pointed out the amount of funds being spent on legal fees regarding planning issues. He also questioned the water bills for the parks. Mrs. Yates will look into these amounts.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve payment of bills as presented on the EAL's with the exception of payment to Attorney David Holder (page 30). Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Yates presented an additional payment request for Watkins Constructors in the amount of \$110,187.15 for work on the library. Mr. Imfeld has reviewed the invoice.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to approve payment to Watkins in the amount of \$110,187.15. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Rees questioned Mr. Kellenberger regarding a recent newspaper article regarding Sprint's failure to install necessary lines in the Coastal Branch Library in a timely manner. Mr. Kellenberger explained that he has spoken with Sprint and they have agreed to install the equipment soon.

Mr. William Pennington, Finance Director for the Clerk of Courts, presented the quarterly investment report for period ending June 30, 2001. Mr. Pennington explained that a change was made to the way Portfolio yield information is being reported to more accurately reflect the current earnings. He also advised that he has begun transferring funds to the new bank accounts at AmSouth Bank. The TDC money market account will be closed and transferred to pooled cash to earn greater interest.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resource Director, appeared before the Commissioners and stated that he is in the process of updating the Policy and Procedures Manual. Upon receiving an opinion from Legal Services, Mr. Mattison recommended removing policy 6.90 regarding Just Debts.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve removing policy 6.90 from the Policy and Procedures Manual. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Rees questioned Mr. Mattison regarding established guidelines for promotions. Mr. Mattison advised that he has a set of guidelines and is working to combine them with Analytica's recommendations.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, requested to defer the CR2 paving recommendations until the next board meeting. He stated that he is awaiting a joint planning authorization document from the State. Mr. Barry will prepare a recommendation to present at the next meeting.

Mr. Barry advised the Commissioners that he has located tentative property to be used for the wetlands mitigation process for Collinsworth Road as addressed by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Mr. Barry requested authorization to speak with the owners (Mid Bay Timber Co., Niceville, Florida) to determine if they are interested.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to authorize Mr. Barry to conduct negotiations with Mid Bay Timber or any other land owner who has property that may willing to negotiate. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker

Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Chairman Walker advised that they are meeting with DEP to further discuss the issues relating to Collinsworth Road.

Mr. Barry informed the Board that he is supporting Sacred Heart Hospital by assisting them with hauling dirt. He stated that he is utilizing two trucks and drivers and a loader, which is also loading trucks provided by Sacred Heart. He has an agreement that allows this support to be suspended in the event it begins to hinder the county's work from being performed.

Mr. Barry stated that there are five (5) parks in the county that continue to utilize water supplied from wells. He would like the Board to consider two different alternatives. To bring the wells into compliance an annual testing would need to be conducted at an approximate cost of \$1,500.00 each and a chlorinator would need to be installed on each well, which would create reoccurring monthly charges. Another alternative would be to connect to the potable water lines that already exist in the area for approximately \$1,000.00 per well, a one time expense. The five parks include Juniper Lake, Cat Island, Bay Field, Choctaw Park and Lakewood.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to allow the Public Works Department to proceed with plans for connecting the water system at the five parks to a potable water system. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Barry requested authorization to write a policy on paving of private roads for subsequent use and maintenance by the county. He explained the situation on Pelayo Street where the residents asked the county to issue the permit allowing a private individual to contract with a private entity to pave a section of road that will subsequently

become a county maintained road. Mr. Barry stated that he would like to write the policy and upon adoption by the Board the Public Works Department could obtain the permits, pave the road and have the residents pay for it. The Board agreed for Mr. Barry to draft a policy along with Mr. Jack Arthur's input.

Mr. Barry reminded the Commissioners that Adams Road was scheduled for paving in 1998. The road was not properly prepared for paving until this time. Upon contacting APAC to have it paved they informed Mr. Barry that they could no longer perform the paving at the same price of \$33.00 per ton due to increasing costs. APAC has now agreed to pave the road for \$25,135.66, which is \$44.45 per ton. Mr. Barry felt the increase is in line with other paving vendors.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to allow Mr. Barry to act upon the recommendation from the Legal staff upon review and amendment to the contract with APAC. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Barry advised that the county does not have adequate right-of-way on Sweetwater Lane. The county would have to acquire 18 additional easements in order to widen the road. Mr. Barry did not recommend accepting the road until the easements are obtained. Commissioner Pauls stated that he is not in favor of purchasing additional right-of-way. He also stated that Sweetwater Lane is in better condition than many other roads in the county. Commissioner Pauls stated that the county has routinely maintained the road in excess of ten years. The Board agreed that standards need to be set. Commissioner Ryan recommended to continue maintaining the road and look further at obtaining right-of-way in the future.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to add Sweetwater Lane to the County's maintained road list for routine maintenance. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Vice-Chairman Rees suggested establishing set policy with general parameters regarding the right-of-way.

Mr. Barry stated that he met with the homeowners association for the Daugeette Subdivision and they are currently working with Preble-Rish, who is developing costs for the proposed dredging. Vice-Chairman Rees also stated that he had met with them and they have agreed to continue working with Preble-Rish.

The bike path at Seagrove Villas has been resolved as explained by Mr. Barry. He stated that the path has been installed and the county needs to install parking protection. Mr. Don Crim requested that the bushes near the crosswalk at the Wheelhouse Restaurant be cut back in order that the caution light can be seen.

Mr. Barry stated that he met with Hartman & Associates regarding the Storm Water Master Plan. He reviewed the six items that were reviewed and stated that all items have been completed with the exception of the last item, which is cost estimates for priority capital improvements projects. This should be completed by the middle of August and a draft will then be submitted to each of the Commissioners.

Mr. Barry stated that Katie Hole and Coy Ellis Roads are currently under contract to be paved, but have insufficient right-of way to meet current DEP guidelines. Another problem that exists is that these roads were funded through the CDBG grants, which could present a problem if right-of-way cannot be obtained. Mr. Barry requested to work with Legal staff to prevent loss of the grant. Chairman Walker stated that grant funding does not need to be applied for until right-of-way has already been obtained.

Ms. Williams reported back to the Commissioners after meeting with Senator Durell Peaden. Senator Peaden stated that the grant funding for the assisted living facility is site specific.

The Commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Charles McMillian reported back to the Board regarding handi-cap accessibility to the old hospital. A ramp does exist that goes directly into the kitchen area, however, it would need to be brought up to ADA Standards. Mr. McMillian also stated that under the present conditions, the building might not qualify for an assisted living facility according to certain standards set in the code. Commissioner Pauls questioned the costs the county would acquire over the next 10-15 years to maintain an assisted living facility. Final answers and alternatives need to be obtained regarding the assisted living facility and funding. The Board directed Mr. Underwood to meet with Mr. Freddy Baker, Council on Aging, to discuss his business plans. A decision needs to be made by the next board meeting.

Mr. McMillian advised the Commissioners that the entire north end of the courthouse would have to be closed off thereby eliminating the only handi-cap bathrooms. They therefore recommended relocating the entire courthouse facilities.

Sheriff Johnson appeared back before the Commissioners with some additional information. He presented a letter explaining the difference in pay scale between the Sheriff's Department Correctional Officers and those of the State Correctional Facility. Sheriff Johnson requested to add seven (7) additional positions and a raise of \$2,000.00 across the board. Vice-Chairman Rees questioned if he had begun the process for the pay study to be performed. He stated that he had not and was considering it for the next

budget year. Vice-Chairman Rees also stated that timing of his request is a concern because Mr. Imfeld has not had time to review it. Commissioner Pauls felt that the Sheriff's request was justifiable and that the positions were important and held a great amount of responsibility. Commissioner Walker requested that the information requested be provided for review before granting the request. Commissioner Ryan did not feel the Sheriff was being penalized because the Board has agreed to support him as needed. He further stated that a study is needed to prevent this from occurring again during the next budget cycle.

Commissioner Jones stated that quality is important and the Sheriff may need to evaluate each employee to see how the jobs are being performed. Vice-Chairman Rees added that raises should be considered based upon performance. The Board concurred that the county should pay for a law enforcement study including salaries.

Commissioner Ryan agreed to accept the recommendation of the Budget Director to set the budget as presented. Mr. Imfeld stated that the millage rate needs to be adopted today and further changes would delay the process.

The Commissioners each agreed to give their support to the results of a law enforcement study.

Mr. Imfeld presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2001-2002 in the amount of \$89,269,957.00 (net of interfund transfers for construction projects, aid to Volunteer Fire Departments, and aid to the Library). Of that amount \$49,559,173.00 (net of interfund transfers) pertains to the five following accounts that receive ad valorem taxes: General Fund, CTT, Fine & Forfeiture, Debt Service and North Walton Mosquito Control. The following is the proposed millage rate for fiscal year 2001-2002: General

Fund/CTT/Fine & Forfeiture-5.3150 mills, North Walton Mosquito Control-0.5354, and Debt Service 0.0550. Mr. Imfeld explained the amount of revenues in reserves and the amounts that are earmarked for particular expenditures.

Commissioner Pauls asked if the reduction in millage would still allow enough funds to take care of the road needs. Mr. Imfeld explained that Mr. Barry presented a budget for the roads, which was set in an aggressive manner, that attempts to achieve 120% of the county's best year of paving.

Commissioner Rees requested Mr. Imfeld to provide a document that would be easier to read, separating the budgets. He also requested to see a set of goals from various departments and non-profit agencies regarding how the public will benefit from the money they receive.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to accept the proposed millage rates as presented. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. General Fund/CTT/F&F-5.3150 mills; N. Walton Mosquito Control-0.5354 mills; and Debt Service-0.0550 mills.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt a Resolution (2001-46) amending the budget by rolling forward unspent CDBG grant revenue from prior fiscal years. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Funding was from the Mott Sign Grant in the amount of \$37,785.00 in addition to approximately \$1,452.00 of interest.

Mr. Tom Powell, Economic Development Council, reminded the Board that these funds were from an Economic Development Grant that could only be used for an

economic development project. He stated that these funds could be used to help develop the industrial park.

The Commissioner recessed briefly.

Mr. Imfeld requested the Board set two dates to hold public hearings for adoption of the budget. The Board agreed to hold public hearings on September 17 and 24 at 5:05 p.m.

Mr. Bill Currid appeared before the board to request assistance for the Jr. League who won District Championships. They are currently in St. Augustine and are in need of funds for their meals and lodging.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to donate \$2,500.00 to the DeFuniak Springs Little League for their championship team while in the playoffs.

Vice-Chairman Rees commented that he felt the parents should provide the necessary funding. Commissioner Pauls commended the team and felt that a contingency budget should be established for these kinds of expenditures.

Commissioner Ryan amended his motion to an amount of \$1,250.00. Commissioner Jones seconded the amendment to the motion. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the minutes of the following meetings: June 5, 2001 Regular Meeting; June 12, 2001 Regular Meeting; June 19, 2001 Special Meeting; June 25, 2001 Regular Meeting; July 3, 2001 Regular Meeting; July 10, 2001 Regular Meeting; July 9/12, 2001 Budget Workshop. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Jones stated that at the courthouse expansion team meeting, they discussed parking problems that will occur. After further discussion regarding the problem, Commissioner Jones motioned to obtain three (3) appraisals on the property directly east of the County Jail for purchase consideration. In addition, request of the Soil Conservation Officers to assist in providing a soil assessment on the entire block. Commissioner Pauls seconded the motion. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. The additional parking will be necessary when all of the constitutional officers return to the courthouse upon its completion.

Commissioner Ryan requested the Board consider the need for additional ingress and egress to the areas south of highway 90 that lead to the North American Family Institute and the city's park. Currently, the only access is by crossing the railroad tracks on Gene Hurley Road. In the event of an accident on the rail line Gene Hurley Road would become blocked. An alternate road, Squirrel Haven Road, intersects with Huckaba Road and is accessed from Woodyard Road, could be opened to provide the additional ingress and egress onto Gene Hurley Road. One section of Squirrel Haven Road is at the NW corner of the NAFI property, which is deeded to The Department of Transportation. If the county could gain an easement along that portion, the county could then establish a road over that easement, connecting to Gene Hurley Road. The Public Works Department has located the western corners of the property and a fence is located approximately 30 feet inside of the property line. Commissioner Ryan explained that if the Juvenile Justice Department would grant a 60-foot easement along the western end of their property, the county could move the fence to the east and establish the roadway connection. He

therefore requested authorization to make a request to the Juvenile Justice Department to proceed with establishing a right of way for the road to be connected.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to direct the county's legal staff to contact the Juvenile Justice Department about relocating their fence and granting the county access to connect Squirrel Haven Road with Gene Hurley Road. Commissioners Pauls and Rees both stated that they would like for Mr. Barry to be involved. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls presented the job description for the position of Beach Activities Coordinator. He felt that this position should be placed under the Growth Management Division and therefore motioned to relocate this position. Vice-Chairman Rees seconded the motion. Commissioner Pauls requested the position be located in the District 5 Commissioner's Office for close proximity to the beaches. The Commissioners further discussed the best location for the individual due to the beach related duties. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls indicated that recent changes have occurred with Health Options and that their services are being greatly diminished. He stated that he would like for staff to look into various options for health insurance that would best benefit the county and the employees. Mr. Mattison stated that he would research the matter.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he met with Mr. Tom Blackshear, County Planner, and Mrs. Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, regarding the possibility of obtaining grants to place the future land use maps on the Internet.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing to consider amending Ordinance 95-22 regarding block test requirements for contractors. Attorney

Walker, Legal Services, explained that the Walton County Competency Board reviewed the ordinance with surrounding counties and recommends the change. The change would require contractors pass their exam by 75%. Mrs. Judy Robinson, Building Secretary, stated that the contractors on the Board were concerned because other counties require higher scores and felt that Walton County should hold the same standard. Contractors must also be required to pass the Business Law portion of the test by 75%.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Don Crim asked if those contractors currently holding a license would be required to update theirs. Mrs. Robinson stated that only new applicants would be required. If a license expires it can be renewed by paying an inactive fee. The Commissioners felt that a contractor who allows his permit to become inactive over a period of time should be required to update it to meet the new standard. Attorney Vorbeck recommended bringing to the attention of the Competency Board members the Commissioners desire to add language requiring contractors to pass the exam with 75% in the event their license has lapsed.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to adopt an ordinance amendment (2001-13) changing the requirements of the block test to a passing score of 75%. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Karyn Norton, Escambia County Housing Finance Authority, appeared before the Commissioners to present a quarterly update report on the single family mortgage revenue bonds. Mrs. Norton stated that the program is successful. She presented a handout showing the number of loans and further requested to set a public

hearing for the 2001-02 participation. The Board directed staff to look into setting a date for advertisement of a public hearing.

Mrs. Heather Wellman, Public Information Officer, presented a list of goals she set for her newly created department. Vice-Chairman Rees and Commissioner Pauls both commended her for setting the goals and bringing them to the Board. Ms. Wellman stated that the goals can be accomplished with the help of staff and further stated that she would be working with the fire departments to assist them in accomplishing their goals. Mrs. Wellman will present a comprehensive update at six months.

Ms. Nancy James, President of the South Walton Community Council (SWCC), appeared before the Commissioners to discuss the wetlands issues. Ms. James stated that a news article reports that the system now used to protect Florida's wetlands and regulate development in wetland habitat is heavily flawed. Stronger rules are needed; including improved planning for development that affects wetlands and widespread land conservation and restoration. Ms. James stated that the county needs new, stronger protection of wetlands because the Department of Environmental Protection claims no jurisdiction over isolated wetlands, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has just this year been proscribed from protecting isolated wetlands by the U.S. Supreme Court. On behalf of the SWCC, Ms. James requested the Board take immediate action to remedy the wetlands loopholes that exist. South Walton Community Council is willing to assist in whatever capacity necessary including creating a joint public-private task force. Vice-Chairman Rees stated that a position has been designated for an Environmental Officer and the job description is being developed. This individual would address these issues.

Mr. Lloyd Blue concurred with Ms. James and suggested holding a workshop to discuss the wetlands issues further. He stated that the code is strict against filling wetlands in Walton County without a permit from the Corp and DEP.

Chairman Walker suggested allowing legal staff to research the matter and also discuss it with Mr. Jack Arthur.

Mr. Robert Lee stated that wetlands need to be regulated. He also stated that he would like to see community input.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing to consider amending Ordinance 98-5, Bike Paths. Ms. Tressia Tousignant stated that additional legislation is being developed to further restrict the use of electronic vehicles from bike paths for safety reasons. The legislation would exclude any other type of electronic bike up to 1 HP from being considered a motorized vehicle. Electronic wheelchairs would be exempt from the ordinance. Only one letter of opposition was submitted, that being from a business owner who currently rents motorized bikes.

Ms. Nancy James spoke on behalf of the South Walton Community Council in support of the amended ordinance for bike paths.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to adopt an ordinance (2001-14) amending the Bike Path Ordinance. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing regarding a contract extension for the CDBG contract. There were no public comments.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve requesting an extension to the CDBG grant contract. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Bob Murphy, Vice President of Operation for Baptist Hospital, appeared before the Commissioners and introduced numerous members of his flight team. Mr. Murphy stated that the purpose of him being present was to request a CON for life flight. He gave an overview of their services and the history of life flight. Mr. Murphy stated that they transport patients where they will receive the best service for their need or the hospital of the patients' choice. Corporate Jets, Inc. is the vendor for Baptist Hospital. Mr. Murphy asked the Commissioners not to lose sight of the services they have provided over the past 25 years. He also stated that they would provide job development by hiring qualified paramedics displaced by the South Walton Fire District's transition. He stated that they can provide a system of helicopter service and would centrally locate it in the county for the best possible coverage.

Mr. Pat Schlenker, Vice President of Regional Services at Sacred Heart Hospital, also appeared before the Commissioners to request they be granted approval of a CON for life flight services. Mr. Schlenker stated that they could be operational in approximately 90-120 days. He stated that he would manage the life flight functions from the new hospital location. A recommendation came from South Walton Fire Department to award the CON to Sacred Heart. Paramedics will be provided by the SWFD and they will receive reimbursement from Sacred Heart for their services.

Mr. Mike Stanberry, President/Owner of Aviation-Metro, spoke about the aircraft currently being operated, safety issues, pilot training, and support to the county and backup aircraft that will be provided.

Mr. Schlenker spoke about the reasons for choosing Sacred Heart. He stated that patients would need to be flown to Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast for the success of the hospital. He further asked the county to return their commitment to Sacred Heart by awarding them the CON. He also introduced his team of personnel.

Mr. Murphy stated that if awarded the CON, they would agree to deliver 100% of their patients to Sacred Heart Hospital. Currently they are transported to the hospital of their choice or to the closest one.

Commissioner Ryan stated that he felt Sacred Heart placed a great amount of emphasis on the new hospital when it should have been placed on life flight, whereas Baptist Hospital placed their emphasis strictly on life flight.

Mr. Bell questioned the individuals from both firms regarding the type of helicopter that would be used, how many patients could be transported at one time and to which hospital.

Ms. Linda Morse voiced concern with the amount of traffic in south Walton and the ability to get an ambulance to an accident site.

Mr. Britt Greene, Arvida/St. Joe, a developer in south Walton, stated that he is interested in service being provided to those whom they are developing for. He stressed that importance of making all the components work together and stated that focus should be placed on Sacred Heart.

Mr. Schlenker stated that the helicopter would be placed where it would best serve the people. Both firms stated that they service an area radius of 75-90 miles.

Mr. Murphy asked that the CON be awarded to Baptist Hospital for 18 months until Sacred Heart Hospital is constructed allowing them time to prove themselves.

Chairman Walker stated that he does not see any need to link the life flight with the South Walton Fire District and felt that they should operate separate from the fire district.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve to grant Sacred Heart a Certificate of Need (CON) for five (5) years, subject to being operational within 120 days and leave the location of the helicopter site open at this time pending a determination of need. The county will assist in determining the location within 30 days and the Board will approve contingent upon the location. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye. Mr. Bell stated that Sacred Heart would begin the process of obtaining their license and make their recommendation regarding the location to house the helicopter to the Board for final approval.

The Commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, addressed the Animal Control language revision. He stated that he spoke with the Director of Legal Services, Gary Vorbeck, and it was his determination that Walton County no longer has a leash law. He stated that there are other means to pick up dogs that are off of an owner's property under nuisance animals. Mr. Bell requested direction from the Board if they would like to amend the ordinance or if they would like to consider incorporating language from other counties. Attorney Vorbeck suggested finding an ordinance from another county that has

been successful and incorporating those issues into Walton County's ordinance. The Board also needs to look at the inconsistencies of the ordinance. Chairman Walker suggested looking at an ordinance that would vary throughout the county. Commissioner Pauls and Rees both agreed that their constituents want a leash law. The Board directed Mr. Bell to work with Attorney Vorbeck to draft a new ordinance for review before a public hearing is set.

Mr. Bell questioned the Commissioners of their intent to advertise for proposals for animal control services. He stated that a RFP could be developed depending on the services to be provided. Discussion was held regarding the need to research the facilities needed.

Ms. Linda Morse again stated that a Veterinarian is needed on staff at the Human Society.

Commissioner Rees stated that a recommendation is needed as to where the building should be located.

Commissioner Pauls stated that the county needs to look at what can be done to improve the situation now.

Mr. Bell stated that they would begin working on a draft ordinance containing a leash law, the RFP, and preparing a facility needs assessment.

Mr. Bell presented information for review regarding the organizational history of the fire departments within Walton County. He also stated that he would report back to the Board at a later date regarding the May wildfires.

Mr. Bell advised the Commissioners that he has been working with the MIS Department to develop a needs assessment for the 911 System. He stated that there is

equipment that needs to be purchased immediately to prevent uninterrupted service, which totals \$30, 976.75.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve expenditures in the amount of \$30,976.75 for 911 equipment, contingent upon review by Mr. Imfeld. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Mike Hayes and Diana Schneyder of CarlanKillam Architects presented three color schemes for the South Walton Governmental Education Center. Ms. Schneyder recommended scheme #1. The committee also selected scheme #1.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to accept Ms. Schneyder's recommendation of color scheme #1. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye.

Mr. Vorbeck stated that Attorney Miller met with the City of DeFuniak Springs regarding the fire hydrants and he has not been made aware of the outcome yet. He stated that he would work with the County Administrator to address the issue further.

Ms. Susan Mentzer voiced her concern for the need of fire hydrants.

Mr. Roger Roy stated that he has been to the City and they claim that it is the County's responsibility to provide the hydrants.

Motion by Commissioner Jones to pay for the cost of the fire hydrants. Vice-Chairman Rees suggested continuing to work with the City. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to appoint Commissioner Jones to work with county staff to negotiate with the City and to take the

necessary action to install the fire hydrants. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Members of the audience questioned the Board regarding previous action for the county to pay one-half the cost and to pull the City's permits if they did not comply. The Board advised that staff would address these issues.

Mr. Vorbeck advised that the grant for the assisted living facility is site specific.

Mr. Vorbeck stated that in review of the contract for the Katherine Cole-Taylor Arts Center, he drafted a paragraph for review by the Arts Board regarding termination. Discussion was held regarding the entities who would be located in the Arts Center Building and who would be in control of the Center. The Commissioners wanted it clarified in the lease as to who would be in control. Ms. Meg Stevenson stated that the Board of Directors for the Katherine Cole-Taylor Center for the Arts represents various entities covering a broad area of the arts. She stated that the concept of the Arts Center is to allow any community entity to use the Center upon approval. Mr. Vorbeck stated that according to the lease, the Arts group operates it as they determine for 99 years. He advised that the by-laws of the Arts group could be incorporated into the lease agreement giving the Board of County Commissioners oversight.

Attorney Vorbeck presented information regarding Quasi-Judicial procedures and the laws that govern the hearings. He spoke about various methods used to represent the people during the hearing. Vice-Chairman Rees stated that he feels it is Mr. Underwood's responsibility to look at the updates to the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan to assure the county is in compliance.

Mr. Vorbeck will further address the code enforcement issues and injunctive relief issues at a later date.

Mr. Vorbeck requested to change the dates of the land use hearings through the end of this year. Those meetings are currently being held on the first Tuesday of each month and he requested they be changed to the first Monday night of each month.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to change the Land Use Hearings to the following dates: September 10, October 1, November 5, and December 3. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to have a title search performed on the old hospital to determine if any deed restrictions were placed on it. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Legal staff will review the entire lease in addition to the condition that the last tenant was to leave the building.

There being no further business, Commissioner Ryan motioned to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. 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