

AUGUST 14, 2001 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center.

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, and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

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

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Patti Yates, Finance Supervisor, presented the Expenditure Approval List consisting of the following bills for payment for weeks ending August 3, August 10, and August 17.

General Fund	\$ 529,401.74
County Transportation Trust	777,451.00
N.W. Mosquito Control	42,476.22
Walton DeFuniak Library	21,661.52
Recreational Plat Fee	130,198.80
Solid Waste Enterprises	267,282.82
Mossy Head VFD	5,001.45
Glendale VFD	5,211.33
Darlington VFD	151.22
Liberty VFD	6,098.03
Tourist Development Council	105,901.12
Section 8 Housing	14,264.71
Multi-purpose Trust Fund	58,525.00
Red Bay VFD	168.75
Fine & Forfeiture	573,792.43
Criminal Justice	10,080.70
Special Law Enforcement	24,836.93

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to approve payment of bills as presented on the Expenditure Approval List. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye.

Mrs. Yates also requested approval to submit payment to CarlanKillam in the amount of \$16,337.50 for professional services rendered through June 2, 2001 for the courthouse addition/renovations.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve payment to CarlanKillam in the amount of \$16,337.50. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye.

Mrs. Angie Biddle presented a payment request to Leavins-Hughes Well Drilling in the amount of \$20,100.00 for well installation from the drought relief program.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve payment to Leavins/Hughes Well Drilling in the amount of \$20,100.00. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye.

Mrs. Yates presented a pre-approval request from Bay Medical Center for a patient under the Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA), E. Frankhauser, who is being treated for cancer.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to approve payment in the amount of \$2,187.93 to Bay Medical Center for E. Frankhauser. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve payment to Blue Cross/Blue Shield in the amount of \$149,733.89 for the August premiums. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, presented information from the bid opening for bid #01-009, (3) one-ton trucks for Public Works. The following three bids were submitted: Santa Fe Ford - \$91,264.10, Orville Beckford Ford - \$88,404.00, and Gator Ford - \$84,982.00. Mr. Imfeld recommended awarding the bid to Gator Ford, low bidder. He also requested to waive the 90-day delivery.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to accept the recommendation and award bid #01-009 to Gator Ford in the amount of \$84,982.00 and waive the 90-day delivery. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to adopt a resolution (2001-47) amending the budget to receive unanticipated budget revenue in the amount of \$38,125.00 for funds awarded to the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye.

Commissioner Ryan arrived.

Mr. Imfeld presented a budget amendment request as follows: \$868,753.00 into the Capital Project Fund and expenditures in the amount of \$811,918.00 into GEC-Parking Other Current and \$56,835 into GEC-Professional Services. He also requested to roll forward unexpended funds in the amount of \$350,000.00 from fiscal year 2000 into the GEC; \$400,512.00 into the Coastal Branch Library; transfer \$7,597.00 from Library to cover the costs of change order for the security system for the Coastal Branch Library; \$100,000.00 unanticipated revenue from Article V Trust Fund Grant for Courthouse Construction Project; \$1,230.00 unanticipated revenue from the Sprint Easement Rights

for the GEC miscellaneous; and \$7,081.00 transfer from Library to cover the costs of the lighting change for the Coastal Branch Library.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt a resolution (2001-48) amending the budget for unanticipated expenditures and that the revenues be amended to cover the expenditures. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, appeared before the Board and presented the results from the openings of RFQ's for house demolition. Bids were received from Cross Environmental in the amount of \$3,500.00 per house and Ammons Dozer & Trucking in the amount of \$3-6,000.00 per house. Mrs. Biddle explained that a committee was selected to review the bids and make a recommendation. The committee requested an addendum to the bid requesting a price per square foot from each contractor. Ammons Dozer presented a square foot price of \$2.75 and no charge for outbuildings. Cross Environmental submitted a square footage price of \$2.50, however, they will also charge by the square foot for all outbuildings. The committee recommended awarding the bid to Ammons Dozer & Trucking.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to accept the recommendation of the committee and award the bid qualifications to Ammons Dozer & Trucking for a period of one year beginning immediately. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Mr. Imfeld agreed with the committee recommendation due to the time requirements for demolition.

Mrs. Biddle presented the results from the bid openings for abandonment of water wells. The following three bids were submitted: Hughes Well Drilling, Leavins Hughes

Well Drilling, and Kelly Environmental. The committee recommended awarding the bid to the low bidder, Leavins Hughes at a cost of \$685.00 per well.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept the committee recommendation and award the bid to Leavins Hughes Well Drilling at a cost of \$685.00 per well. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Biddle presented the two bids received for the Septic Tank abandonments. Windham Septic Service submitted a bid in the amount of \$650.00 per tank and B & H Contractors \$1,000.00 per tank. Upon review, the committee recommended awarding the bid to Windham Septic Service, low bidder.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to accept the committee recommendation and award the septic tank abandonment bid to Windham Septic Service for a one-year period. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Mrs. Biddle explained the procedure used to abandon and fill wells and septic tanks and stated that all permitting is done through the health department.

Mrs. Biddle presented the appraisal reports for four properties, which could possibly be acquired through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program/Hurricane Georges contract. The four properties are as follows:

Guy O'Steen: ½ of Lot 13, Block 1 and Lot 4, Block 2, Cedar Log Lake, \$70,000

Guy O'Steen: ½ of Lot 13, Block 1 and Lot 5, Block 2, Cedar Log Lake, \$58,000

Rita E. Byrd: 96 Tall Pine Street/Bunker Creek, \$35,000

Glen George: Lot 1&2, Block 1 and Lots 7-9, Block 4, Cedar Log Lake, \$85,000

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to accept the appraisal on all four properties as part of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, River buy-out program. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Biddle presented the paperwork and requested the Chairman's signature for the Legislative appropriations for the funds received in the amount of \$225,000.00 for the courthouse addition.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the Chairman's signature on the appropriation forms. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Jack Arthur, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board and spoke about the Parks and Recreation Department. He explained that permits need to be obtained for the Wee Care Park and requested authorization to proceed. He also requested that the remaining funds from the Wee Care Park Grant be transferred into the Parks/Recreation fund to cover the cost of the permits.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve for Mr. Arthur to proceed with the permitting process for the Wee Care Park and approve transferring of the funds as requested. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Vice-Chairman Rees requested Mr. Arthur to become involved with the Dune Lake Task Force and to review their recommendations.

Brief discussion was held regarding the noise ordinance. Attorney Vorbeck advised that he has been working on the issue and will report back to the Board when he

receives the information he has requested. He also suggested discussing the issue with other counties to help determine if it would be beneficial to Walton County to hire a consultant. Commissioner Pauls stated that this issue needs to be pursued as quickly as possible.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, presented a Local Agency Program Agreement (LAPA) from the Department of Transportation for the Brown Road Bridge replacement. The county has received \$263,295.00 from the State for the replacement, which must be completed by December 2002.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to adopt a resolution (2001-49) authorizing the execution of the LAPA for the project known as the Brown Road Bridge over Big Swamp Creek. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Barry advised the Commissioners that the Covell land tract has been placed on hold pending the Landfill Mitigation Plan. Mr. Barry requested to discuss this issue later in the day. The Board agreed.

Mr. Barry explained that the DOT allows the county to request projects to be moved forward when they are classified under the Outreach Program. He advised that he is preparing a request to the State to move the planned replacement of three bridges from 2003/04 to the 2002 program. Mr. Barry stated that the deadline for the request is August 31st. The request would include the Folks Creek Bridge on George Montgomery Road (2004), Slough Bridge on Currington Road, and the Bruce Creek Bridge on Walton Bridge Road.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to authorize Mr. Barry to request the bridges be moved forward to 2002. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn and will be presented again during the August 28th meeting.

Mr. Barry explained the urgent need for a brush cutter in District 3. The current brush cutter is non-operational and he therefore requested to accelerate the purchase and buy a new brush cutter.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve Mr. Barry's request and authorize the purchase of a new brush cutter for District 3, transferring funds from next year's budget to this current year's budget. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Barry stated that a possible location has been identified to establish a wetlands remediation area near Collinsworth Road. The owner of the land, Mid-Bay Timber Company, has recently sold the property to a private individual. Mr. Barry stated that he is in the process of contacting the individual and will report back to the Board as soon as possible.

Mr. Barry presented the bid tabulations for the 2001 road improvement program for the paving of CR2 as follows: C.W. Roberts, \$1,280,600.00; APAC, \$1,003,944.06; and Anderson Columbia, \$909,754.00.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to award the low bid to Anderson Columbia for the paving of CR2. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Barry presented information on the FACT Meeting that he attended and stated that the meeting was very informative. He stated that the county is eligible for the

SCRAP Program and also stated that he received a CD regarding sign regulations, which will save the county money.

Discussion was held regarding the 30A Traffic study. Commissioner Pauls stated that duplicate studies do not need to be performed. Mr. Barry will update the commissioners on this issue at their next meeting.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, updated the commissioners on Tropical Storm Barry. He stated that all of the procedures went well. Mr. Bell will begin debriefing the individuals who were involved. Mr. Bell thanked the media for their coverage of the storm and the individuals who donated food for those working. There was an estimated \$620,000.00 in damage reported from the storm in Walton County. The commissioners commended county staff for their labors.

Mr. Bell presented information regarding animal control shelters. He presented drawings of a proposed building consisting of 400 square feet. The buildings would be located in Districts 2, 3, and 5 as temporary shelters or satellite facilities. The estimated cost of each building would be \$30.00 per square foot.

Mr. Bell also presented information regarding a central animal control facility to handle the present needs. The proposed building could house 94-130 dogs and 60-80 cats and is designed to allow the animals to go outside at certain times. The building was designed using the Humane Society Guidelines of 24 square foot per animal. The estimated cost of the facility is \$156,000.00.

Discussion followed regarding RFP's for animal control services. Mr. Bell presented a public notice to provide animal control services and the requirements to provide a facility, which covers housing and staffing.

Commissioner Pauls suggested moving forward with the plans to obtain proposals to construct a facility allowing an entity or contractor to operate and manage the Walton County Animal Control Facility. It was the general consensus to move forward this with issue.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees to allow Mr. Bell to proceed with obtaining RFP's and to allow Mr. Bell to work with Preble-Rish to design the animal control shelter. Commissioner Pauls suggested making separate motions as not to delay either issue.

Vice-Chairman Rees amended his motion, seconded by Commissioner Ryan to allow Mr. Bell to proceed expeditiously on design and construction of the building, using Preble-Rish, and advertise for RFP's for the following options: an entity or contractor shall provide a sufficient number of certified animal control officers to enforce the Walton County Animal Control Ordinance; an entity or contractor can submit a proposal to operate and manage the Walton County Animal Control Facility, with this facility being provided by the Board of County Commissioners. The County will furnish the facilities, utilities, and maintenance of the facilities. The entity or contractor will provide the staffing for the operations of the facility; or any entity or contractor can submit an alternate not listed above.

Commissioner Ryan stated that accommodations need to be made to house large animals also. Chairman Walker suggested contracting out to local residents for the boarding of large animals. Commissioner Pauls requested Mr. Bell to present his recommendation as to the location of a facility. Vice-Chairman Rees suggested that the building be designed for future expansion needs.

Commissioner Jones questioned if the proposal would allow other services to be provided at the facility such as spaying and neutering. Mr. Bell stated that this issue would be addressed in the agreement.

Ms. Diana Armbruster addressed the commissioners and stated that she has knowledge of 18 available grants. She gave the information to Mr. Bell for his review. She also suggested enforcing citations, which would pay for the costs of animal control. Ms. Armbruster stated that people are paying three times for animal control services through the Sheriff, the City and the County.

Ms. Linda Morse asked the Board to consider the problems associated to the current facility and the financial issues. She stated that according to documents she received, the Humane Society is operating \$12,000.00 in the negative during the first six months of the year. She stated that in her opinion, it appears that the Humane Society is stockpiling supplies. She requested a full financial audit of the Humane Society due to the support of taxpayer's money.

Vice-Chairman Rees suggested allowing Mr. Charles McMillian, Facilities Manager, to schedule construction for the satellite building and allow Mr. Bell to work with Preble-Rish for design of the main facility.

Mr. Jerry Flever questioned the Commissioners on the use of the satellite buildings. Mr. Bell stated that they would be used as temporary shelters until the animals could be transported to the main facility. They could also be used during storms.

Chairman Walker called for a vote to proceed. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Discussion followed regarding Ms. Morse' request for an audit, the cost and time. Mr. Imfeld agreed that the numbers in the Humane Society's report does not always match and recommended an independent audit. He estimated a cost of \$5-7,000.00 for an audit. Commissioner Ryan reminded the Board that the county has a contract with the Humane Society for a set dollar amount and how they handle internal funds is their decision. Attorney Vorbeck stated that if the county provides for service in the contract then an audit request is in order. Chairman Walker requested Mr. Vorbeck research the issue and present it at a later date.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to obtain an audit according to the parameters of the contract. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. No money is to be spent on an audit at this time.

The Board agreed that the construction of the satellite facilities should be contracted out due Mr. McMillian's heavy workload and relocation of the courthouse.

Ms. Armbruster stated that if the satellite facilities were located on an evacuation route then they could also be used to house individuals with pets in the event of a storm. She said that FEMA funds could also be obtained.

Mr. Bell requested approval of a change order for the South Walton Sheriff's Sub Station. Relocation of a security box is needed for an additional cost of \$550.00. Mr. Bell recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve the change order request in the amount of \$550.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Pam Tedesco and Mr. Butler, Walton County Chamber Foundation, presented a check in the amount of \$99.00 to Walton County for their 99-year property lease in the Governmental Education Center.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resource Director, stated that he is currently collecting information regarding the county's group health insurance. He reported a rate increase of 11% for this year from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which is covered in the budget. Mr. Mattison stated that he would explore other options and report back to the Board. He advised that he has spoken with other individuals who recently sent out RFP's and they advised him that they cannot compete with BC/BS. He stated that only 17% of the county employees are participating with the insurance coverage.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of retaining a Labor Law Specialist for the commissioners. He stated that he has the funds in his budget. The commissioners stated that it is at his discretion as long as he has the funds. The Commissioners also stated that they have no objections to allowing the other constitutional officers to use the services of a Labor Law Specialist.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept Mr. Ken Little's recommendation and appoint Mr. Joel Paul, Jr. to the Local Housing Partnership (SHIP) Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Little presented a request for approval of the Certification of Substantial Completion of the Coastal Branch Library. The Architect and the Project Manager, Brian Kellenberger, have signed the certificate. Mr. Little stated that the certificate is needed in order to file for the third reimbursement payment in the amount of \$500,000.00 State Aid

to Libraries Construction Grant. The facility was inspected by Dan Owens, Project Manager for the grant, Mr. Little, Mr. Charles McMillian, Facilities Manager, and Mr. Billy Bearden, Building Official, and found to be acceptable.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the Certification of Substantial Completion of the Coastal Branch Library.

Commissioner Ryan stated that Mr. McMillian had voiced concern with the lack of monitoring of the A/C system. Attorney Vorbeck questioned if the building is to the point of occupancy. Mr. Kellenberger advised that they have addressed the issues of concern on the initial punch list. He stated that he would forward an updated copy, which has been signed off on. He advised that all of the items on the list have been accomplished. The only remaining items in question are the blinds, tile, and dehumidification.

Vice-Chairman Rees amended his motion to approve the certificate and to include the punch list consisting of the remaining three items.

Mr. Kellenberger stated that the building is ready to be turned over to the owner; however, he is awaiting the final permit on the lift station, which should be issued this week. The commissioners agreed that the retainer check to Watkins Constructors would be held until the permit has been received and the building is completely finished, Mr. Kellenberger agreed.

Chairman Walker called for a vote on the issue. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Mr. Kellenberger advised that all issues should be settled by the end of August.

The Commissioners recessed and reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Michael Bomar, Chuck Drake, and David Duff, Hartman & Associates, appeared before the commissioners to present information regarding the Landfill Remediation Plan that was continued from the June 12th meeting.

Mr. Bomar explained the proposed approved plan. He stated that it is a similar system to that used at the Wright Landfill in Okaloosa County. He presented a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) granting approval of the plan. Hartman & Associates presented a slide presentation explaining the plan and operational costs. He stated that the plan consists of six wells and three aeration boxes. The operating costs consists of electricity, monitoring and maintenance costs. He further explained that by using this procedure it would keep the existing lined leachate pond available for Class I landfill use. The system, as designed, has auto fail-safe switches, status lights, environmental grad pumps, and flexible well tubing. Mr. Bomar presented the specifications and a sealed bid for the costs.

Mr. Barry questioned the maintenance frequency. Mr. Bomar stated that low maintenance is required and felt that the aerator boxes would last approximately 20 years.

Mr. Michael Kennedy, DEP, stated that the plan is approved and should work.

Mr. Gregory Preble, Preble-Rish, stated that he appeared at the last meeting with concerns regarding the decision the Board was making. He stated that his previous proposal was estimated at \$250,000.00; however, a change has occurred in the plans and he would now have to relocate the percolation ponds to the 40-acre site. Mr. Preble read his proposal into the record and presented a current price of \$170,431.25. He stated that the project would take approximately 12 weeks to complete. His proposal outlined the work as required by the DEP for the Remedial Action Plan. He stated that county staff

would be required to maintain the system at an average annual operating cost of \$17,591.00. Mr. Preble explained that multiple ponds would be constructed as part of the system.

Commissioner Pauls questioned the removal of iron debris. Mr. Preble explained that iron is disposed of in large deposits that could be picked up and removed to the landfill.

Chairman Walker requested for Mr. Barry, Mr. Imfeld, Mr. Underwood and Mr. Vorbeck to step out and review both proposals and come back with a recommendation later in the evening.

Commissioner Pauls questioned the possibility of a legal suit being filed against the county by one of the firms if not selected. Both firms stated that they would not file suit. In addition, both firms agreed that their system would be constructed to be operational.

Mrs. Kriss Titus, Executive Director of the South Walton Tourist Development Council, presented a recommendation for approval of a bid award for the Santa Clara Beach Access landscape plan to Fisher Brown, Dune Doctors.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to award the Santa Clara Beach Access landscape plan to Fisher Brown, Dune Doctors in the amount of \$37,623.85. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Titus presented information regarding the TDC's Contingency Reserve. She stated that funds need to continue being placed into the reserve account in the event of a major disaster. She felt that the current contingency would not be sufficient to cover their

needs after a disaster. Mrs. Titus presented a Marketing/Beach Improvement 2001/2002 Contingency Reserve Cost Analysis for post hurricane conditions.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to grant confirmation of the TDC budget as presented. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Titus presented their proposed media plan expenditure report for the period from October 2001 through September 2002. She explained that tourism has grown by only 1% nationwide this year. However, tourism in south Walton is up 7% compared to other areas. Further explanation was given on media strategies and the amount of funds spent on advertising. Mrs. Titus stated that the TDC has been working with the Audubon Magazine. A contest will take place in the near future in the photography category and all photos will remain in Walton County. Vice-Chairman Rees commended the TDC staff for their work.

Mr. Brad Pickles presented a bound report on the State of the Beaches of Walton County for 2001. The first phase of the study is an engineering analysis. He stated that ongoing monitoring would continue. He announced that he would be speaking at nationals. Walton County was the first to be noticed for working across the county line with Okaloosa County. Mr. Pickles spoke about the 13 Blue Wave Beaches.

Commissioner Pauls questioned if Mr. Pickles has had an opportunity to review the condition of the beaches after Tropical Storm Barry. Brad stated that the beaches survived well. He stated that the width of the beach is the concern and the flow of the natural waves would push the sand back up on the beach.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to accept the beach report as presented by Mr. Brad Pickles of the TDC. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls requested approval to hold a public hearing to consider an ordinance providing for public sewer for proposed new homes south of the Bay and Intercoastal Waterway. He stated that if it were approved then mandatory connections would be required for areas south of the Bay.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to advertise for a public hearing to consider an ordinance providing for public sewer for areas south of the Bay. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Areas north of the Bay were discussed, however, there are currently no systems to hook up to.

Commissioner Pauls reported that he attended the Disadvantaged Transportation Conference in Orlando and would discuss the information if the Board desired.

Mr. Underwood reported back to the Board on the committee's recommendation regarding the Landfill Remedial Action Plan. He stated that the committee could not speculate on future costs of the system. They spoke with Mr. Kennedy, who stated that one system does not appear to be better than the other. The committee recommended the plan designed by Preble-Rish in the amount of \$170,000.00. Hartman & Associates cost projections for their plan was \$219,500.00.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to accept staff's recommendation for the Landfill Remedial Action Plan as proposed by Preble-Rish with a completion date within 12 weeks.

Commissioner Ryan requested the motion be amended to allow the purchase of all necessary equipment to be bought through the county's Purchasing Department to save additional monies. Mr. Preble stated that it would not change he proposed price. The motion died for the lack of a second. Mr. Kennedy stated that he would work with the county to complete the project in a timely manner.

Chairman Walker called for a vote. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye.

Chairman Walker requested staff to look at the possibility of a landfill expansion at an alternative site.

Attorney Vorbeck reported on the title search of the old hospital that was conducted. The title shows that it is vested in the trustees of the Walton County hospital and their successors in office. He contacted the Department of State in Tallahassee regarding the status of corporation, which is dissolved. He also spoke to the Bond Counsel asking them to research the situation when the bond was entered into and the money was borrowed. The Commissioners stated that there are no successors in office because the corporation is dissolved. Discussion was held regarding how to obtain a title and the taxes the county paid on the property over the years. Mr. Vorbeck stated that he is awaiting information from the Bond Attorney and will pursue obtaining a title if the Board directs him to.

Commissioner Pauls questioned the issue of ongoing indigent care that was addressed in the lease. Chairman Walker stated that the indigent care issue relates to Healthmark Hospital. Mr. Vorbeck stated that he would follow up on the indigent care issue. Commissioner Pauls questioned the advantage of placing the hospital in the

county's name. The commissioners agreed for Mr. Vorbeck to continue researching the issue.

Mr. Vorbeck updated the Board on the status of the Catherine Cole Taylor Arts Center. He stated that he is awaiting additional information regarding the by-laws and will discuss this issue at the next meeting.

Attorney Vorbeck stated that the county was served notice regarding the Inlet Beach case and recommended retaining Attorney David Theriaque to represent the county.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve to retain Attorney Theriaque to represent the county in the Inlet Beach case. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Vorbeck advised that he and Commissioner Ryan attended a hearing for the Treasure Island Marina case. He stated that he is awaiting the Judge's decision.

Mr. Vorbeck stated that he was presented with a draft of the Order regarding Grayton Corners. Vice-Chairman Rees pointed out several corrections that need to be made. He also stated that he disagrees with the statement that says the only evidence provided to the Board was by the applicant. Mr. Vorbeck stated that he will make the corrections and requested approval for the Chairman to sign the order contingent upon the changes being made.

Motion by Commissioner Jones to approve changes to the final order as stated and authorize the Chairman's signature. Mr. Walker stepped down from the Chair position and seconded the motion. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Mr. Walker accepted the Chair back.

Mr. Underwood requested the Board adopt a resolution (2001-50) establishing the preliminary assessment rate, set a public hearing for the final rate, and approve advertising of the public hearing.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to adopt the MSBU Preliminary Rate Resolution (2001-50). Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve payment to Attorney David Holder in the amount of \$387.50 for services performed. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Naye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. The payment appeared on the EAL at the last meeting and was postponed. Mr. Underwood researched the invoice and found it in order.

Commissioner Pauls questioned where staff and board members should go for legal advice. Chairman Walker stated that they need to address their concerns with Mr. Vorbeck. The Commissioners agreed that outside legal counsel may need to be retained to represent the various boards.

Mr. Underwood presented a letter from Okaloosa Walton Community College regarding the property in the Governmental Education Center. They would like to proceed with the purchase of property for their future facilities. The Board discussed adding a reverter clause in the contract stating that the land would revert to the county in the event that construction has not begun within ten years. The college is requesting to purchase the property at a price of \$361.66 per acre, the amount the county paid, to obtain the land from the State.

Chairman Walker stated that the plan was conceptual and not meant to be the permanent site for the college. He also stated that they need to show their intent to construct a college. Commissioner Pauls stated the importance of constructing a college in the Governmental Education Center.

Chairman Walker stated that the Cabinet designated the land to the county not to the College, as stated in their letter. Commissioner Pauls questioned the price per acre due to the improvements that have been made. The Commissioners stated that when the school board purchased their property in the Town Center that they paid additional costs for the improvements. Chairman Walker stated that he is willing to commit to the college if they will agree to construct a facility within ten years. Mr. Underwood advised that the college needs a commitment from the county so they can proceed with a request for legislative funding for construction of the facility. Commissioner Ryan suggested drafting a contract that if legislation dies, then the property would automatically return to the county. Attorney Vorbeck stated that he could draft a contract allowing them to seek legislative funding. The Board directed Attorney Vorbeck to draft a contract requiring substantial construction to begin within five years and require additional payment for infrastructure improvements. The Board will review the contract before final approval.

Mr. Underwood presented a request from DOT for a property donation for the U.S. Highway 98 widening project. The property is located in Section 5, Township 3 South, Range 18 West, lying north of 98. (DOT project #2206441).

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt a resolution (2001-51) donating the right-of-way easement to DOT as requested. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Underwood advised that Preble-Rish Engineering met with DEP representative to negotiate a resolution to a dredge and fill violation on Thompson Road. If approved, the county will be required to pay \$250.00 in administrative costs and create a .25-acre wetland in accordance with Exhibit I of the consent order within 120 days.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve the recommended consent order and authorize the Chairman's signature, allowing the fee to be paid. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Mr. Jack Arthur advised that DEP was very cooperative in this issue and felt that this issue worked out well

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve another consent order for Double Bridge Road. Make payment in the amount of \$1,350.00 in administrative costs and remove the fill material, replant the area in wetland vegetation and create a 30' by 60' wetland area within 180 days. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Underwood requested direction from the Board regarding the relocation of employees currently working in the courthouse. He stated that they would need to be moved by December or January. A committee has looked at several options that would be large enough to house all courthouse staff in one facility.

Mr. Ken Little, Citizen Service Director, presented the information showing the buildings available, along with the proposed renovation costs. The Cowboy Discount Center and the old Food World buildings were considered. Either of these buildings would be large enough to house all courthouse staff and staff from the Courthouse Annex. This would allow both buildings to be vacated and renovated at the same time.

Other options were presented for consideration; however, the committee felt that those buildings would not be suitable. Mr. Little stated that the owner of Cowboy's would provide construction crews to assist Walton County with the renovations.

The size of the old hospital was discussed and it was determined that the building would be sufficient to house all of the courthouse staff including Clerk staff and the Probation Department.

Mr. Freddy Baker, Council on Aging, appeared before the Board to answer questions regarding his proposed plans for an assisted living facility. He stated that he plans to use the Operating Room and ICU for additional living space in the future. Chairman Walker stated that he would like the Board to consider a new building for the assisted living facility to provide first-class accommodations. He explained the poor condition of the current facility and stated that the community would be better served with a new facility.

Commissioner Pauls pointed out that the Council on Aging is a 504 organization, not a 503. He also stated that the proposed costs for renovations seem too low.

Mr. Underwood also reported that the grant is a reoccurring grant and funds can be requested each subsequent year; however, they are not guaranteed.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to proceed with necessary action to relocate courthouse employees to the Cowboy Discount Center.

Vice-Chairman Rees felt that the county should honor their commitment to the Council on Aging if the old hospital is adequate. Commissioner Pauls stated that a thorough investigation has not been made and feels that more information is needed.

Mr. Underwood stated that he had spoken with Ms. Lovejoy from the assisted living facility in Okaloosa County who stated that the break-even point is 50 patients. Mr. Baker stated that he would not be requesting additional funds from the commissioners for this venture.

Mr. Barry suggested having an engineering study performed on the structure and to look at all related costs. Chairman Walker advised Mr. Barry that the study has already been performed.

An amount of \$217,000.00 was presented for renovation costs of the Cowboy Discount Center.

Chairman Walker called for a vote on the motion to relocate to the Cowboy Discount Center. Ayes 2, Nays 3. Pauls Naye, Jones Aye, Walker Naye, Rees Naye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to relocate courthouse staff to the old hospital. Ayes 3, Nays 2. Pauls Aye, Jones Naye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye.

Senator Peaden previously spoke with Ms. Ingle and stated that if the grant funds for the assisted living facility were not used for the old hospital then the funds would be transferred to Washington County. The grant is site specific

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve to advertise for RFP's for architectural services to design a 50-bed assisted living facility with the necessary amenities and for Mr. Underwood to begin looking at property options. Commissioner Pauls stated that a suitable location needs to be determined as

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

Mr. Underwood advised that he would contact Senator Peaden to inform him of the Board's commitment to the construction of a new assisted living facility and to request if the funds could be redirected.

Mr. Underwood advised that Mr. Ron Book, Lobbyist, would be in Walton County on August 27th to meet with member of the staff regarding upcoming legislative issues. He asked the commissioners for their input in order to discuss their concerns with Mr. Book.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to appoint Mrs. Cynthia Murphy to the Redistricting Committee to replace Mrs. Joyce Zaidi who resigned. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Ryan requested the Board take this opportunity to recognize George R. Miller for his years of service to the Board of County Commissioners. He suggested Mr. Underwood and Mr. Vorbeck prepare wording to have a plaque made in his honor. Chairman Walker stated that he would like to hold a reception in the courthouse lobby in his honor. Mr. Ken Little is preparing the plaque.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to hold a reception in honor of Attorney George R. Miller and prepare a plaque for his 30 years of dedicated service. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve amending the minutes of July 10, 2001 – Regular Meeting. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye,

Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. (The amendment pertained to the county purchasing the permits and not David Kramer).

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the minutes of July 24, 2001 – Regular Meeting, contingent upon review by Commissioner Rees. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Vice-Chairman Rees discussed the need for Walton County residents to have Walton County zip codes and phone pre-fixes. He stated that he had a follow-up meeting with the post office regarding this issue. Areas of the county have postal zip codes from surrounding counties, which makes it difficult to be located. Mr. Amil Vukasovic addressed the problems that he faces with not having the correct zip code and pre-fix. Mr. Underwood stated that the county needs to request help on the Federal level. Commissioner Pauls stated that he is working with the post office regarding their request for a site in the Governmental Education Center and at the same time was requesting their assistance to correct the zip code problem.

Commissioner Rees reported on the conferences that he attended. He informed the public that the county does benefit from them and would present additional information regarding the conferences at a later date. Ms. Ingle stated that her staff also attended the conferences and benefited from them as well.

Mr. Wayln Davis welcomed the Commissioners to Choctaw Beach. He stated that they were preparing for student participation at this meeting to involve the youth of the community. He stated that they now have a new Board of Directors for the community center and hope to provide for better community participation. He thanked Commissioner Ryan and the Board for their support after Tropical Storm Barry.

Mr. Vukasovic stated that an attempt was made during last year's budget cycle to obtain funding for an emergency shelter at Choctaw; however, the request was vetoed. He said that they would make another attempt because a shelter is seriously needed.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jones motioned to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Commissioner Ryan 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