

AUGUST 28, 2001 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 28, 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, and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

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

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

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

General Fund	\$273,523.18
County Transportation Trust	446,014.45
N.W. Mosquito Control	5,444.77
Mosquito Control State	28.80
Walton-DeFuniak Library	30,202.36
Solid Waste Enterprises	90,068.99
Glendale VFD	329.50
Darlington VFD	258.28
Liberty VFD	1,167.80
Special Law Enforcement	853.03
Capital Projects Fund	14,719.89
Tourist Development Council	74,883.54
Section 8 Housing	133,100.41
Multi-Purpose Trust Fund	13,540.46
Recreation Plat Fee	90.90
Mossy Head VFD	229.56
Local Option Gas Tax	20,227.72

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

Mrs. Yates presented an invoice in the amount of \$28,925.33 from Watkins Engineering and Constructors for construction of the library. Final payment will be made upon completion of the final walkthrough.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve payment to Watkins in the amount of \$28,925.33. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Yates presented payment request #9 in the amount of \$289,870.27 for Watkins Engineering.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve payment to Watkins in the amount of \$289,870.27. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Watkins submitted pay request #12 in the amount of \$355,882.58 for infrastructure in the Governmental Education Center.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to approve payment to Watkins in the amount of \$355,882.58. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Yates explained to the Board that the Southern Linc bills for the Emergency Operations Center are no longer being paid by the Sheriff due to the departmental changes that were made. She requested payment approval in the amount of \$549.78. Mrs.

Yates explained that this invoice was not submitted in time to add to the EAL, therefore she presented it separately.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to approve payment in the amount of \$549.78 for monthly phone service from Southern Linc. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Yates presented a payment request in the amount of \$24,254.00 to FCCI for final payment on the worker's compensation insurance for the current fiscal year.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve payment in the amount of \$24,254.00 to FCCI for worker's compensation insurance. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Mr. Imfeld advised the commissioners that an additional payment will be due in the next fiscal year as a result of under reporting salaries by using last year's figures.

Ms. Ingle advised the Commissioners that the Value Adjustment Board Hearings would be held October 10-12. She stated that the Chairman is required to serve in addition to two other board members. Commissioner Ryan and Commissioner Pauls will serve. Attorney Vorbeck will serve as Board Counsel and prepare the final orders.

Ms. Ingle requested the Board appoint a commissioner who could visit the Records Facility Center. She stated that the facility is full and additional space is needed. Commissioner Jones will look into the matter.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, appeared before the commissioners requesting a budget amendment in the amount of \$22,904.83 for SHIP funds received for the First-time Home Buyers Program.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to adopt a resolution (2001-53) amending the budget in the amount of \$22,904.83 for the First-time Home Buyers Program. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, presented the commissioners with an appraisal report for properties to possibly acquire through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The following are properties under the Hurricane Georges contract:

Thomas	1318 Bear Bay Flats Road	\$60,000.00
Jerkins	21082 US 331 North	\$50,000.00
Calhoun	129 Landing Road	\$25,000.00
Johnson	453 Morrison Springs Rd	\$65,000.00

The following is a list of properties under the El Nino contract:

Whitton	18 Howell Bluff Road	\$55,000.00
Wilson	450 Howell Bluff Road	\$130,000.00
Hood	280 Howell Bluff Road	\$50,000.00

The appraisals have been approved by FEMA and DCA and she therefore requested the board approve them and allow her to present an offer to the owners based on the appraisal. Mrs. Biddle explained that the properties cannot be rebuilt unless the elevation is raised to meet certain standards. The house, well and septic tank will be removed. She explained how the property must be used according to guidelines set forth in the grant application. It must be used as open land.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve for Mrs. Biddle to make an offer to the owners according to the appraisal for the parcels under the river buyout program. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Discussion followed regarding the properties and the fact that they will be removed from the tax roll.

Mrs. Biddle advised the Board that the homes could no longer be auctioned as done in the past. Sufficient funds have to be requested on the grant application to cover the expenses of demolition. The question was raised if the homes could be used in the SHIP Program or affordable housing. Mrs. Biddle stated that she would research the matter.

Mr. David Faist contacted Mrs. Biddle requesting to lease the Whitbeck property on Long Road from the county. He stated that he would like to lease it for \$100.00 per year to utilize the property to graze cattle or to harvest hay. Mrs. Biddle stated that the barn currently located on the property would have to be removed.

Attorney Vorbeck suggested advertising for bids for the lease of county property. Chairman Walker stated that it would be too costly to advertise versus the amount of the lease. Commissioner Pauls agreed and also voiced concerns regarding liability. He suggested reviewing a lease agreement before making a decision. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of leasing other properties purchased through the buy-out program. Chairman Walker stated that Mr. Faist has leased that property for a number of years and recommended allowing him to proceed with cutting his hay that is currently on the property. The board directed Attorney Vorbeck and Mr. Underwood to research this issue further.

Mrs. Biddle advised the commissioners that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has awarded Walton County with the following Solid Waste Grant contracts for FY01-02: Litter Control and Prevention Grant-\$12,839.00; Small County Solid Waste Grant - \$50,000.00; Waste Tire Solid Waste Grant - \$5,701.00 and the Solid Waste Recycling & Education Grant - \$78,749.00.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to accept the Solid Waste Grants and approve the Chairman's signature on each grant. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Mrs. Biddle gave an overview of the use of grant monies.

Commissioner Jones requested the Board hold an amnesty day to allow citizens an opportunity to remove waste tires due to the health related dangers with mosquito borne viruses.

Mrs. Biddle advised the Commissioners that Walton County is eligible through new legislation, SB1225, to be allowed to request waivers of the matching requirements under the Small County Outreach Program and County Incentive Program. She advised that she has been instructed by DOT to write a letter to Secretary Prescott, DOT, requesting a waiver of matching funds for the Church Street/Churchill and Chat Holley paving project.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve for Mrs. Biddle to submit a letter requesting to waive the requirements and approve the Chairman's signature on the letter. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld updated the commissioners on the status of the noise ordinance proposals. He received a proposal from Mr. Eric Zwerling, Noise Consultancy, Somerset, New Jersey, in the amount of \$8,000.00. A previous proposal was submitted from another individual for \$32,000.00. Mr. Imfeld stated that he would forward the information to the Legal Services Department for review and a recommendation. Vice-Chairman Rees stated that he would like to proceed as quickly as possible. Mr. Imfeld

stated that he would recommend the low bidder unless the Attorney Vorbeck finds information to the contrary.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, presented an update on the Stormwater Master Plan to the commissioners. Hartman & Associates is in their final review stage and will be presenting a copy of the plan to the county within the next week. Commissioner Pauls stated that the plan has many action items that will need to be addressed.

Mr. Barry explained that he received a request by the FDOT asking the county to enter into an agreement to maintain the right-of-ways on SR 30 from Peach Creek to the Bay County line. DOT is acquiring the right-of-way for multi-lane construction. They agree to perform all of the construction, necessary seeding and sod work, and storm water work. The commissioners requested further clarification. Mr. Barry will research the issue further and report back to the Board.

Mr. Barry presented a list of studies that have been performed on CR 30A along with a synopsis. There is no study that details the location of county right-of-ways. He stated that maps depicting the right-of-ways are not accurate. Mr. Barry stated that the study he is considering would complete the needed information.

Mr. Barry presented information regarding staff's meeting with the new Northwest Florida Director of DEP, Ms. Mary Jane Yaun. He felt that the meeting was very productive. He and Mr. Boulian also met with the permitting officials to discuss the processing of permits for storm water and wetlands in an attempt to make the process run more smoothly. He wants to work closely with DEP to accelerate the process.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, presented the Board with information regarding Sacred Heart's helicopter service. He stated that he met with representatives from Sacred Heart, South Walton Fire District and EMS personnel. He stated that they reviewed the five criteria for the location of the helicopter. They agreed that the helicopter is not a first line response to an emergency. Air space was an issue of concern. Mr. Bell stated that one of the proposed sites, which is located at Mack Bayou, is located in Special Air Traffic rules airspace requiring no clearance for liftoff. The Healthmark facility is located in restricted air space requiring clearance from Eglin. Mr. Settleburg, Airspace Manager for Eglin AFB, appeared before the Board to discuss issues of concern regarding air space. Mr. Settleburg stated that they are concerned with site locations for safety reasons. The 331 site is located in restricted space, which would require special procedures to prevent possible problems. A procedure could be established, however, departure would have to take place to the east and only after coordination has been established with Eglin. The site on the coastline falls in an area with special rules, but has a more relaxed guideline. This site would require departure to the east along the coastline until approval is granted from Eglin to proceed north, which could cause a delay. He recommended the site located along the coastline because Eglin felt they could provide a higher level of safety. He further explained that the 331 site would require phone contact with Eglin unless prior flight plans are established.

Mr. Bell presented his recommendation of the Mack Bayou site.

Chairman Walker voiced concerns with the helicopter services being granted to a single entity. He further stated that he would like to see the services bid out and not even tied to Sacred Heart. He voiced concerns with the destination of patients being

transported by helicopter. Mr. Bell advised that patients being transported are in need of critical care and would be flown to Pensacola.

Commissioner Pauls commended Mr. Bell on his selection of sites and felt that the situation was analyzed objectively. Commissioner Pauls felt that the Mack Bayou site would be a good location. Vice-Chairman Rees also commended Mr. Bell for being objective and felt that his recommendation was founded on the criteria involved.

Commissioner Jones agreed that the services would benefit Walton County; however, he voiced concern with the cost to taxpayers. He also felt that the study was not independent.

Chairman Walker questioned the cost to build the helipad in the north end of the county versus the south end and also stated that the CON was approved contingent upon site location.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve the Mac Bayou site location as recommended by Mr. Bell, based on the information presented. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Naye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Ryan commented on statements previously made. He stated that he is not convinced that flight space would be denied in an emergency situation. He also has concern that if the flight service were located in the south end that it would have to be evacuated in the event of a hurricane. He too had concerns with the cost of construction.

Mr. Bell presented a change order request for the South Walton Governmental Education Center (SWGEC). Watkins Engineers & Constructors has two issues that need to be resolved. The first issue is the conflict at the entrance to the project with the South Walton Utilities Companies 24" water line that was installed and the storm sewer

drainage structures. CarlanKillam has redesigned the storm sewer system to eliminate this conflict. The price to remove the previously installed system and reinstall the new designed system is \$6,788.00.

The second issue is a road elevation difference at the junction of the boulevard entrance and Highway 331. FDOT did not install the road turn out to match the elevation of the boulevard, resulting in a difference of approximately 6". The price to complete this work is \$10,075.00.

Mr. Bell stated that Watkins believes these issues should be considered as contingency items. Mr. Brian Kellenberger, Watkins Engineers, stated that South Walton Utilities should have communicated with them. Commissioner Jones pointed out that DOT previously permitted South Walton Utilities and should have been aware of the situation. He stated that the county should make an attempt to recoup these funds from DOT because of their error.

Chairman Walker stated that the Mr. Bell's duties relating to the SWGEC should be transferred to Mr. Underwood. Commissioner Pauls stated that a transition period is necessary to assure that all aspects are accounted for. Mr. Underwood expressed his willingness to take over the duties and stated that he would work closely with Mr. Kellenberger.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the change order request in the amount of \$6,788.00 for the Governmental Education Center for drainage. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to approve the change order request in the amount of \$10,075.00 for the turnouts at the Governmental

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

Mr. Kellenberger advised that they are running slightly behind on the infrastructure. The rains and the permitting process have both slowed down progress. The library is ready to turn over after the final walk through scheduled for this week. He estimated the project at \$1.63 million, which is a \$127,000.00 savings to the county. The Sheriff's Substation is scheduled to be completed in mid-September at a 5% estimated cost savings. Mr. Kellenberger stated that the GMP for the site work has been approved and he is awaiting the contract.

Mr. Underwood brought to the attention of the Board that problems still exist at the GEC because of no landscaping/irrigation plans for the library. Discussion followed regarding the landscape plans for the entire Governmental Education Center. Mr. Kellenberger stated that costs could run from \$7,500.00 up to \$25,000.00 for landscaping at the library depending on how elaborate the commissioners would like for it to be. To maintain minimal costs would require the use of inmate labor. Mr. Underwood stated that the landscaping of the GEC should be part of the plans and later turned over to a private entity for upkeep.

Chairman Walker requested that Mr. Underwood work with Commissioner Pauls and bring back a recommendation.

Commissioner Pauls stated that a landscape and irrigation plan needs to be developed for the entire GEC.

Mr. Underwood requested approval to spend up to \$25,000.00 for the landscaping at the library and up to \$15,000.00 for irrigation.

Mr. Bell advised that plans originally existed for both landscaping and irrigation, but was removed through all of the site planning.

Commissioner Pauls stated that there is \$127,000.000 in contingencies and recommended using it for landscaping and the irrigation. He stated that it also needs to be used to develop the trail system according to the Settlement Agreement.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve for management to work out a plan and allow expenditures from contingencies up to \$15,000.00 for landscaping and \$15,000.00 for the irrigation and wells. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Bell presented his recommendation to appoint Mr. Harold Bigham as the new 911 Coordinator.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to accept Mr. Bell's recommendation to appoint Mr. Bigham as the 911 Coordinator. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Bell presented the renewal contract between the Walton County EMS and Pensacola Jr. College. The contract allows students to ride on the ambulances for clinical training. Mr. Bell recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the contract renewal between Walton County EMS and Pensacola Jr. College. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Bell and Mr. Vorbeck presented information relating to the draft ordinance for animal control. Mr. Bell explained the areas of the county being considered for the implementation of a leash law. Mr. Vorbeck explained that the leash law would apply to

the unincorporated areas of the county. The cities could opt in if they elect to do so. The rural areas not included would not require animals to be leashed. Rural areas would fall under the nuisance animal guidelines. Mr. Vorbeck stated that the ordinance prohibits nuisance animals throughout the entire county. In the proposed urban areas, an animal would be required to be leashed if taken off the owner's property. An offense in either area would require a written complaint for the Animal Control Officer to respond to the call. The commissioners made several recommended changes.

Mr. Vorbeck stated that "Urban" is defined as depicted on the map in purple as presented by Mr. Bell. Mr. Richard Whitaker questioned if this area is defined as urban, would "urban" then apply to other issues that occur in that area. Mr. Vorbeck stated that it would only apply to the Animal Control Ordinance.

A recommendation was made to change the term "blind seeing eye dog" to "service dog".

Discussion was held regarding the owner being the offender; therefore, in the event an owner had two different animals that were both in offense, the owner would be cited with a second citation.

Mrs. Patsy Register questioned if hunting dogs would still be exempt and if the ordinance applies to rattlesnakes. Chairman Walker requested Mr. Bell to research the National Humane Society Rules for which animals fall under the ordinance. Discussion also followed regarding boarding of horses.

Further changes resulted in changing the definition of animal to dogs and cats, the term "written" complaint being changed to an "identified complainant", blind Seeing Eye

dog to service dog and adding microchip as a form of identification. The commissioners also agreed to remove section 107b.

Vice-Chairman Rees requested that, when drafted, an expert review the ordinance.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to approve advertising for a public hearing to be held to consider adopting the proposed, revised, Animal Control Ordinance on September 24, 2001 at 5:15 p.m. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Bell presented a draft of the proposal for the Animal Control facility for review.

Vice-Chairman Rees questioned Mr. Jerry Fulaytar, CARE, regarding the services they wish to provide at the facility and if they would be willing to operate in a county owned building. Mr. Fulaytar stated that CARE wants to be able to provide necessary services and would be willing to operate in a county owned facility if they were allowed to provide the additional services.

Mr. Bell stated that he and Attorney Vorbeck reviewed the agreement with the Humane Society regarding their finances. It was their recommendation that the county's external auditor conduct an audit.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept the recommendation and approve for an audit to be performed on the Humane Society. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

The commissioners recessed and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Rees advised the commissioners that Mr. Tom McGee, Chairman of the Planning Commission, has resigned his position. Mr. Rees stated that he would appoint another individual during the next board meeting.

Mr. Rees also read documentation that a 5.7% increase is expected on retail sales in Walton County. A 37.8% increase has occurred in new home sales, whereas surrounding counties have seen a decrease.

Commissioner Pauls informed the commissioners that Okaloosa County has granted approval for a major development to be constructed on US Highway 98 near the Okaloosa/Walton County line.

Mr. Robert Lee, Silver Sands Stores, appeared before the Board and stated that the project was approved and may have an adverse affect on neighboring counties. The development is larger than those required to go through the Development of Regional Impact review process and was approved without going through any process. He voiced concerns with the impact of this project on Walton County. Mr. Lee stated that Walton County has 30 days to respond after the order has been signed. He suggested Walton County file an objection or verified complaint. The proposed project is a 600,000 square foot shopping area on a 54.2-acre parcel. He felt that this project would hinder any further development in Walton County due to the lack of infrastructure.

Chairman Walker stated that Walton County needs to determine the necessary steps in addition to contacting the Okaloosa County Planning Department and file an objection within the required time frame. He also suggested sending a letter to the Okaloosa County Chairman of the Board. He requested Ms. Williams to begin the process.

Commissioner Ryan stated that he would contact Mr. Rusty Floyd, Landfill Supervisor, regarding amnesty week for waste tire disposal.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve holding amnesty week, Monday through Saturday for waste tire disposal. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

On behalf of the Florida Division of Forestry, Point Washington & Pine Log State Forests, Chairman Walker announced the public meetings being held by their advisory group. Tuesday September 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the TDC Meeting Room – Public Meeting; Tuesday September 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the TDC Meeting Room – Public Hearing; and Wednesday September 12 at the South Walton Fire District Inlet Beach Station – Public Meeting.

Chairman Walker again brought to the attention of the commissioners the addressing situation in Walton County. He advised that he is attempting to alert the Federal Postal System. They require a petition or referendum by Resolution, which will be addressed later in this meeting.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing to consider Walton County's participation in the 2002 First Time Home Buyers Program through Escambia County.

Mrs. Karyn Norton, Assistant Executive Director of the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority, appeared before the commissioners and presented an overview of the current year's program. Walton County has variable interest rate options with a low rate of 5.80%. The 2001-year produced over \$1 million in loans. Mrs. Norton

requested the Board consider adopting a resolution and entering into an interlocal agreement with Escambia County Housing Finance Authority.

Mr. Ralph Cellon, Jr., Bay County Housing Finance Authority, gave an update on the housing services they have provided throughout the last several years. He presented letters from representatives of businesses who stated they prefer his program. Mr. Cellon requested the Board consider his firm for the housing program and requested they postpone a decision on awarding the contract to Escambia County.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to postpone a decision of award and set a public hearing on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Walton County Courthouse to give additional consideration to the First Time Homebuyers Program and to continue this public hearing on behalf of Escambia County. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Attorney David Theriaque appeared before the commissioners along with Attorney Lisa Walters regarding the Pavilion at Andalusia Avenue. Mr. Theriaque requested to defer this issue for two weeks. He stated that he has been working with Attorney Walters in an attempt to settle this issue. The Byrds, property owners adjacent to the pavilion, have conceptually agreed to the approach that is being taken. The attorney's will continue working with TDC regarding the possible use of funds for this project.

Attorney Walters requested the Board ask TDC to work toward finalizing their plans and to determine if the county could build on the property.

Chairman Walker stated that Attorney Vorbeck needs to work with the attorney who represents TDC. Mr. Vorbeck stated that a survey is needed. Mr. Theriaque stated

that the county has not accepted dedication of the pavilion/property and there has not been any maintenance performed by the county. Mr. Walker also stated that Mr. Brown and Mr. Barry need to look into the situation and the issue of ownership needs to be determined. Mr. Walker stated that TDC should work with Board staff, Attorney Vorbeck, Mr. Underwood, and Attorney Mary Kramer, representing TDC. It was stated that the pavilion was not built to TDC specifications.

Mr. Lloyd Thompson, resident of the Liberty area, appeared before the commissioners regarding McCullough Road. He stated that Thompson Road is a public road and has been publicly maintained. Mr. Thompson stated that he has a petition of 140 signatures opposing the road's closure. All residents of Thompson Road signed the petition, as stated by Mr. Thompson. Only four residents requested the road closure and the county closed it. Mr. Thompson explained how this road became a county road many years ago and he requested the road be reopened. He stated that a public hearing was never held to close the road. The road is important to his ingress and egress due to the three surrounding roads washing out and being impassable at times. Due to medical reasons he requested the road be opened for an alternative route. Mr. Thompson stated that Randall Infinger, former Commissioner, left money in the budget designated for the paving of the road.

Commissioner Jones stated that Mr. Steve Herring contacted him requesting to abandon Thompson Road. Mr. Herring was advised of the process for abandoning a parcel of property and then proceeded forward. Commissioner Jones received and presented a letter of findings from Allen Brown, Right of Way Specialist, and Public Works Director, Ronnie Bell regarding the easement. On advice from Attorney Walker,

Commissioner Jones advised Mr. Herring that he owns the road and could not close it, however, he could go through the abandonment process.

Mr. Herring stated that he has lived on this road for over 40 years and feels the road should be closed. The road is only ¼ mile long and was not designed for public traffic. The road base is only 11' wide and there are no ditches to control the flow of water. He explained that the county has maintained it in the past and has built it up higher than his property causing the road to drain onto his property. Mr. Herring explained the abandonment process he began and the problem he ran into regarding the property location description. Mr. Vorbeck advised him that he could proceed with the abandonment procedures as long as he can provide a physical location description and which two roads McCullough Road lies between. Mr. Herring was directed to contact the Planning Department to begin the abandonment process.

Mr. Dewey Wilson, President and General Manager of Florida Community Services Corporation, advised the Board that they have abandoned five water well sites and requested to sell the surplus land through a bid process with the right to reject any or all bids. He stated that he would present the information during the November 13<sup>th</sup> Commissioner's meeting. Commissioner Pauls pointed out that this would create a lot of record on a piece of property 50X50, which could create a problem if the property exists in a subdivision.

Chairman Walker requested Commissioners Pauls and Rees review the situation and present a recommendation back to the Board. Mr. Wilson reminded the commissioners that the property would be deeded to the county.

Mr. Wilson stated that he has spoken with the Sheriff regarding the need to construct another water storage facility at the South Walton Sheriff's Sub Station. He requested that property be set aside for that purpose.

Mr. Wilson also advised the commissioners that they are installing a low pressure water/sewer system and they are financing the tap fees for existing homes. He presented the agreement and asked the commissioners to review it. No action was necessary at this time.

Mr. Wilson updated the commissioners on the status of providing water for Inlet Beach. He agreed to provide them with water at .90 cent per 1000 gallons and could have them connected for a minimal cost.

Mr. Jason Slusser, YMCA, appeared before the Board and thanked them for their support of the Blue Ridge Conference. Ms. Carrie Barnhill, Walton High School, attended the conference and presented the commissioners with a plaque of appreciation for their support. Ms. Barnhill has attended the conference for three years and asked the Board for their continued support. She stated that it was a great learning opportunity.

Commissioner Ryan stated that Mr. Chuck Lawson has questioned him about the possibility of holding a local conference. Mr. Slusser commented that they have looked at that possibility and a conference could possibly be held at Camp Timpooshee in the future.

The Commissioner recessed briefly.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resource Director, presented the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Group Insurance Contract for renewal. He also stated that he would continue looking at the insurance situation.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the renewal of the BC/BS Group Insurance Contract. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Heather Wellman, Public Information Officer, read the revised wording for the proposed referendum.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt a resolution (2001-52) approving the proposed wording for a straw vote concerning the addressing problem in Walton County. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Ken Little, Citizen Services Director, presented information regarding two subcontracts for the SHIP Program regarding Emergency Repair Service Delivery, overseen by Tri-County Community Services, and the Moderate Rehab and First Time Homebuyer Program, as overseen by USDA Rural Development. These two firms were once again the only firms bidding to provide the services.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve for Tri-County Community Council and USDA Rural Development to continue these services for a three-year period and approve the Chairman's signature on the contract. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Little informed the Board that the Redistricting Committee would meet Thursday. He stated that they have eight plans for consideration and would narrow the selection to two choices for the commissioner's consideration. They discussed the possibility of Walton County residents being counted on the census as Okaloosa County

residents because of the addressing situation. Commissioner Pauls explained that recent numbers show 2500 less individuals than the most recent count in his district alone.

Vice-Chairman Rees recognized Mr. Little's daughter for her participation in the Walton County Jr. Miss earning First Runner-up.

Attorney Vorbeck presented the Order denying the petition by Wex Tex Holdings d/b/a Treasure Island Marina. They have 30 days to appeal the Circuit Court's decision.

Mr. Jack Arthur presented a proposal regarding Quasi Judicial Hearings and staff reports. He read the draft into record and proposed that the Growth Management Director have the authority to select an independent person with sufficient qualifications to produce Competent and Substantial Evidence to review the report of the Planning Staff and prepare a contrary report for consideration by the Planning Commission and the commissioners. Commissioner Ryan felt that these issues should be handled in-house, not in a public forum. Mr. Arthur stated that he has confidence in himself and his staff, but is looking for a way to satisfy the public because they feel they are not being heard.

Mr. Arthur stated that Planning Staff would present both the pros and cons along with their recommendation. He agreed to address this issue further at a later date.

The DeFuniak Springs Junior League All Stars Team appeared before the Board in recognition of their accomplishment at Championship play-offs. Chairman Walker stated how proud he was of them and commended them on their standing. He stated that he looked forward to supporting them again. The commissioners awarded a certificate to each member of the team. The All Star Team also presented the commissioners with a plaque in appreciation of their support.

Vice-Chairman Rees suggested that a transition period between attorneys take place. He also requested an update from Attorney Miller regarding all pending cases. Mr. Miller's last official day with the county is August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2001. He will continue to represent the county in pending legal matters.

Discussion was held regarding the old hospital and the need to appoint the commissioners themselves as the Board of Trustees and begin the process to obtain title to the hospital. Mr. Vorbeck stated that Bond Counsel has no problem with the appointment.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Jones to appoint the Walton County Board of County Commissioners as the Board of Trustees. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. There is no current Board of Trustees due to their term expiring and new appointments never being made.

Mr. Vorbeck stated that he would obtain the deed and the commissioners will meet as a Board of Trustees at the beginning of the next Commissioners Meeting.

Mr. Underwood stated that five proposals were received for architectural services for a detention facility. A review team evaluated the qualifications based on experience, regional presence, and availability, personnel, sub-consultants and work history. The following was their ranking: CRA, JRA, 2WR, CarlanKillam, Elements. Mr. Underwood recommended hearing a presentation from each of the top three ranked firms. The Board agreed.

Mr. Underwood presented a renovation update of the old hospital. He stated that he took into consideration, which staff would be relocating to the old hospital upon completion of the courthouse to provide for one-time renovations. He met with

CarlanKillam and discussed renovations to the basement area to place the EOC Director, Public Works Director, and the Office of Budget and Management/Finance. Growth Management could be placed on the first floor due to its accessibility by the public. The proposed plans are to renovate the second floor for the boardroom, courtroom, commissioners, Administration and legal staff. Mr. Underwood explained that incorporating this project with Watkins other on-going projects, and with CarlanKillam assisting, overhead costs could be eliminated. Commissioner Pauls stated that the proposed boardroom needs to be enlarged. The committee will meet again this week.

Attorney Vorbeck presented information regarding the noise ordinance.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to hire a noise ordinance expert, Mr. Eric Zwerling, New Jersey, in the amount of \$8,000.00 to study and develop a noise ordinance. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. The Board will review the agreement as prepared by legal counsel before entering into a contract with the Mr. Zwerling.

Mr. Underwood stated that he asked Mr. Finley Skocdopole, CarlanKillam Architects, to help in determining the renovation needs of the old hospital for county use.

Mr. Skocdopole explained, in his professional opinion, the best way to refurbish the building for the best use by the county. He presented designs of the first and second floor explaining the needed changes to best accommodate county staff.

Chairman Walker explained that he does not see the need to completely tear out the insides and reconstruct it entirely.

Mr. Skocdopole estimated six months to renovate the building with an estimated cost of \$1.2 million in renovation costs.

Commissioner Ryan stated that he does not agree with moving into the old hospital; however, if it were to become permanent county offices, then it should be done properly to begin with. Commissioner Jones stated that the committee has reviewed other alternatives in addition to the courthouse. Commissioner Pauls stated that he supports long-term expansion and the building should be renovated to provide for long-term use. It could then be used for 10-15 years.

Commissioner Ryan questioned the removal of lead paint, asbestos, and other toxins. Mr. Skocdopole stated that an assessment could be done for \$12,000.00 and an additional \$4 - 5,000.00 to write up the specifications and advertise for contractors to perform the work.

Chairman Walker voiced concern with the amount of taxpayer dollars being spent.

Vice-Chairman Rees agreed that they need to carefully spend taxpayers money, but the end result needs to be considered.

Chairman Walker stated that the building needs to be refurbished to be as nice, as clean, and as functional as the old Warren Building, but it needs to be done conservatively.

Commissioner Ryan reminded the Board that the Judges need to know as quick as possible in order to advise people of their court locations.

Mr. Skocdopole will meet with Brian Kellenberger to discuss the plans.

Mr. Don Crim stated that the taxpayers need to know the total costs for all the projects being considered.

There being no further business, Commissioner Ryan, motioned to adjourn, second by Commissioner Jones. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Herman L. Walker, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts