

FEBRUARY 26, 2002 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Tim Pauls, Vice-Chairman Larry D. Jones, and Commissioner Herman L. Walker, Chairman Lane Rees and Commissioner Gene Ryan, Mr. Michael Underwood, County Administrator, Attorney Gary Vorbeck, Director of Legal Services, and Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Administrative Supervisor to the Clerk of Courts, were also present.

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

Chairman Rees called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

Chairman Rees mentioned an article in the paper recognizing Walton County's top ten employers and stated that the county would like to continue doing more to enhance economic development.

Chairman Rees presented the consent agenda consisting of the following expenditures on the Expenditure Approval List (EAL) and the minutes of January 02, 2002-Special Meeting, February 12, 2002-Regular Meeting, and February 18, 2002 Special Meeting.

General Fund	930,469.53
County Transportation Trust	168,253.84
Fine & Forfeiture	592,414.95
North Walton Mosquito Control	3,396.73
Walton County Library	14,453.21
Solid Waste Enterprises	199,764.69
Mossy Head VFD	2,167.58

Glendale VFD	860.74
Darlington VFD	104.84
Liberty VFD	90.82
Multi Purpose Trust Fund	1,660.53
Section 8 Housing	128,154.85
Tourist Development Council	109,522.52
Recreation Plat Fee	541.15
Capital Projects Fund	457,739.14

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. William Pennington, Financial Director, presented the Investment Report for quarter ending December 31, 2001 and further advised the commissioners that the Investment Committee is looking at alternative investments because of drops in the basis points with FLIGHT and SBA. The committee recommended long-term investments in the amount of \$30 million between Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch. Mr. Imfeld stated that he concurs with Mr. Pennington and also advised that they have done extensive research and feel the investments are secure.

Commissioner Pauls questioned how much of the \$30 million would be backed by government securities. Mr. Pennington stated that an overwhelming majority would be.

Mr. Pennington advised that \$3 million was transferred from FLIGHT to pooled cash, \$10 million from the General Fund SBA, \$4 million from the County Transportation Trust SBA.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he would like to be better informed before a decision of this magnitude is made in the future. Mr. Imfeld advised the commissioners that this is a decision of the Clerk and the information being presented was solely to make them aware of the investment.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to accept the Investment Report as presented and approve the transfer of \$30 million into investments with Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, presented a request on behalf of the Liberty Volunteer Fire Department to accept funds in the amount of \$1,883.00 from the US Forestry.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Walker to adopt a resolution (2002-11) accepting unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$1,883.00 for the Liberty VFD. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld also presented a request on behalf of the Glendale Volunteer Fire Department to accept fund in the amount of \$8,551.00 from the US Forestry.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Jones to adopt a resolution (2002-12) accepting unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$8,551.00 for the Glendale VFD. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld requested the Board hold a public hearing to consider renewal of the local option gas tax.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Walker to hold a public hearing to consider renewal of the proposed ordinance for the 5-year local option gas tax. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld presented a request on behalf of the Walton County Health Department for payment approval in the amount of \$2,187.93 for a patient who has

elected to have surgery; the patient has a blocked cortdoid artery. The commissioners questioned the residency requirements, stating that this patient has only been a resident of Walton County for approximately two months. They also questioned his continual use of tobacco.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve payment based on advice of counsel according to Florida Statute. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn pending additional information from Attorney Vorbeck.

Mrs. Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, presented a request on behalf of the Tri-Village VFD to submit an application for an EMS Rural Matching Grant. The grant requires a 10% match and will be used for equipment. The total grant amount is \$52,367.00.

Commissioner Pauls questioned if the equipment being purchased is duplicate to that of other departments and asked if the other departments would be receiving the same training. Mr. Bell stated that each station needs to have the equipment.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Walker to approve to apply for the matching grant in the amount of \$52,367.00 for the Tri-Village Fire Department. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Biddle presented a request to apply for the Wireless 9-1-1 Rural County Grant for EMS Services. The amount of the grant is \$250,000.00 and requires no match. The funds would be used to purchase 911 workstations and four trunks along with other equipment.

Commissioner Walker asked Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, to provide an inventory of all equipment at each of the fire departments. Mr. Bell advised that he has an inventory for the five MSBU fire departments and is working with the others to obtain theirs.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Walker to approve to apply for the Wireless 9-1-1 Rural County Grant. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Biddle announced that the Department of Transportation has in excess of \$4 million left over in the County Incentive Grant Program. She advised that she submitted eight applications for additional funding and was granted two of the eight requests. One grant is for \$360,000.00 and one is for \$246,750.00 for paving. Both of these require matching funds.

Chairman Rees recognized Mr. Allen Fannin and Mayor Mickey Marse of Freeport who were present representing the Freeport Little League. Mr. Fannin explained that because of changes in the volunteers who handled their paperwork that a budget request was not submitted for the current budget year. He stated that they have approximately 120 kids in the program and are in need of \$2,500.00. Each of the other little leagues in the county received \$2,500.00.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Walker to direct Mr. Imfeld to locate \$2,500.00 to fund the Freeport Little League. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Charles Boulian, County Engineer, appeared before the commissioners on behalf of Mr. Barry and presented a request from the Tri-Village VFD. Tri-Village has

requested that the Public Works Department assist them by paying for the permits and costs to pave around their parking lots and station on Highway 20. Mr. Barry recommended the Board deny the work at this time due to insufficient funds and place this request in next year's budget. The total costs for the project would exceed \$5,000.00.

Mr. Imfeld stated that budget preparation is nearing and that would be the appropriate time to include this item in the budget. Commissioner Ryan agreed. Discussion was held regarding the length of time it would take to obtain necessary permitting. Mr. Bell stated that Hartman & Associates and Preble-Rish could possibly assist in obtaining the permits, which could take until the next budget year. Mr. Bell will contact Hartman & Associates and Preble-Rish to discuss this issue. No further action was taken.

Mr. Boulian submitted a request for the Board to approve the purchase of necessary repair materials to repair the bridge on Nelson Road over Alaqua Creek. Two bids were received and Mr. Barry recommended the low bid in the amount of \$42,641.49 from Ace Hardware.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to award the low bid to Ace Hardware in the \$42,641.49 for materials to repair the bridge on Nelson Road. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Boulian requested to postpone discussion regarding bid corrections.

Mr. Boulian presented a request for the Board to approve the purchase of a new 60-foot scale for the county landfill because they have failed the state inspection and it is too costly to continue repairing them. He advised that there is only one company in the country that uses cast iron levers for their scales, leading to a longer life and more

accurate readings. Fairbanks Scales submitted the bid for the scale replacement in the amount of \$44,283.00. There is a \$60,000.00 small county recycle grant that could be used for the purchase of scales.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to award the bid to Fairbanks Scales in the amount of \$44,283.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Boulian also informed the commissioners that the conveyor belt at the landfill is worn to the point that it must be replaced. The following three quotes were received:

Davis Dyar Supply Company - \$41,927.43  
Norcon Systems, Inc. - \$44,279.00  
Aggregator Glass Systems, Inc. - \$48,042.00

The Public Works Department recommended approving the purchase of a new steel belt conveyor for the county landfill. There is a \$50,000.00 Small County State Grant that could be used for this purchase.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the purchase of a new conveyor belt in the amount of \$41,927.43 from Davis Dyar, low bid. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Ed Moreau appeared before the Board regarding a previous verbal agreement to assist him with the opening of an easement on East Hewitt, District 5. He advised the commissioners that he has researched the issue further since last appearing before the Board, however, audiocassettes were no longer available. He then went to individuals who were present at the meeting when this was agreed upon. Mr. Moreau read a letter from Mr. Rosier Cuchens, former Commissioner. In the letter, Mr. Cuchens stated that he recalled the Board, in 1996, agreeing to provide and install a clay/sand topcoat over

the base. Mr. Moreau was to secure all necessary permits and paperwork, clear and root rake the easement, and provide a basic sand foundation for the road.

Commissioner Pauls stated that this easement is a part of the grid system. He stated that he is in support of the road, but is unsure if all concerns have been addressed. Mr. Moreau advised that he has obtained permits from both DEP and the CORP and mitigated the road access easement with property he owned. He stated that the sand/clay width was to be 16 feet. Commissioner Pauls stated that the road needs to be a minimum of 22 feet because it will be a collector road. Mr. Moreau advised that a total of 33 feet has been mitigated and he has begun clearing the easement.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to proceed with the work providing the easement base is made a minimum of 18-22' and contingent upon verification of all necessary permitting from the CORP and DEP.

Commissioner Pauls amended the motion to include the contingency of Mr. Barry's review and scheduling and to verify Mr. Moreau's conversation.

Mr. Underwood advised the commissioners of a conversation with Mr. Barry, who does not endorse this width of easement; he wants 50' for it to be done properly.

Commissioner Pauls voiced his desire to fulfill a commitment by a previous Board of County Commissioners. This property is part of the Old Santa Rosa Plantation.

Mr. Underwood asked Mr. Moreau if he could discuss with the property owners the possibility of giving up the necessary right-of-way for the county to construct the corridor. Mr. Moreau advised that a 33' easement already exists and he is unsure that they would be willing to give more.

Attorney Vorbeck stated that there is no legal binding contract that he is aware of and also stated that one commissioner's commitment does not obligate the Board. Commissioner Pauls withdrew his motion and agreed to go with Mr. Moreau to discuss this issue with the neighbors to determine if they are willing to give up additional footage to assure a 50' right-of-way.

Attorney Gary Vorbeck, Legal Services Director, introduced Attorney Jeffrey Sauer who was present to discuss a situation with an easement that was given to the county and later a condominium was constructed on the easement. Mr. Sauer represents the title company regarding this issue.

Attorney Sauer addressed the Board regarding the portion of property in question. He is representing Mr. and Mrs. Wurslin of unit 11, which was constructed around 1985. There is less than 200 square feet of the building that was constructed on the easement. He stated that he is prepared to offer \$5,000.00 on behalf of unit 11 to correct the problem. Mr. Sauer stated that if this issue is not settled, they would have two options to consider. They could then offer the same money to the insured or to bring a declaratory judgment action to determine the rights of the parties involved.

Commissioner Pauls commented that the public used this easement prior to Hurricane Opal to access the beach. Because of damages to the beach, a fence was then erected. Mr. Pauls read a portion of letter from Mr. Jack McGill dated February 14<sup>th</sup> requesting the county open the easement to allow Cybony owners and their guests to traverse the easement in front of units 10 and 11. Attorney Miller wrote a letter suggesting Walton County would relinquish their ownership to that portion of easement taken by units 10 and 11 in return they would relinquish that portion of easement where

the boardwalk would be constructed. Mr. Pauls explained that the problem exists with fractional section 31. The easement runs up to fractional section 31, but not through it. The beach cannot be accessed at this point. This was not acceptable to the owners. He further stated that the offer of \$5,000.00 to the county may correct their problem, but does not correct the county's problem. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of transferring a portion of their property for the portion of county easement encroached upon by their building. Mr. Sauer advised that the exchange would consist of less than 5' from the edge of the Wurslin's building.

The commissioners requested Mr. Sauer return to his clients and discuss a counterproposal. Mr. Sauer agreed and will report back to Attorney Vorbeck and Commissioner Pauls.

Mr. Jack Arthur, Growth Management Director, presented a recommendation regarding the contract with the YMCA to transfer the responsibilities of the county's recreational activities under Pat Markey.

Mr. Markey, Parks and Recreation Director, spoke to the commissioners regarding the transfer and stated that the county gave the YMCA a beginning budget of \$178,000.00. If the transfer were to occur there would be \$89,000.00 remaining with which could be used to enhance the current programs. Mr. Markey stated that he could operate the program more effectively and would like to take it over by April 1. He also said that he would keep the same employees in their current positions with a probationary period. Mr. Markey advised that he would also like to add programs for adults and seniors. Mr. Underwood stated that Vision 20/20 has a different view than Mr. Markey and the commissioners may want to hear their recommendation before making a decision.

Mr. Brian Gilbert, Freeport YMCA Board, advised the commissioners that Freeport is not unhappy with the YMCA. He is favorable of the Y because they offer more than recreation; they also bring moral values with their organization.

Ryan McNay stated that he has participated in the Y's programs for eight years. He questioned if the county were to take over the recreational programs, would the new proposal include programs in south Walton to allow better participation. Mr. Markey advised that he would enhance the programs in south Walton.

Ms. Jennifer Johnson, YMCA Branch Director, stated that the Y has had problems, most likely from the lack of a director. They are committed to making the Y a success and wanted assurance that if the county takes over those programs, they would continue for the sake of the kids. She stated that the Y will respect the decision of the commissioners

Mr. Don Crim questioned if an advisory Board would be developed. Mr. Markey stated that he envisions a Board in each community and an overall Board of Directors.

Ms. Laurie Gilbert, volunteer for the YMCA, voiced concerns with receiving continued funding from the county. She spoke about those children not able to pay to participate and the Y sponsored scholarship program.

Mr. Markey spoke in favor of developing local camps that would allow better participation rather than sending few kids to the Blue Ridge Camp. Mr. Markey assured the commissioners that he could continue to operate the programs for the remainder of this budget cycle on the funds that remain.

Chairman Rees stated that there are organizations that are concerned with this issue and he would like to continue this discussion when they are present.

Commissioner Ryan advised that this issue came up in discussion he had with Mr. Chuck Lawson who related his Board's feelings on the best way to run the program. They felt it would be best to separate from the Emerald Coast YMCA.

Chairman Rees voiced concern with adding too many responsibilities to Mr. Markey in addition to possibly increasing the tax base by adding these programs. He felt that Vision 20/20 should be part of these discussions.

Mr. Underwood stated that he is in full support of Mr. Markey, but wanted everyone aware that another agency is looking at this issue.

Ms. Sara Comander spoke about how passionate she is of the YMCA and volunteer programs. She stated that she was one of the first directors who helped start the program in Walton County with only volunteers and fundraisers to fund the program. She voiced concern with the county running the program stating that she feels volunteers can sometimes run programs such as this better. She also voiced concern regarding the values that the YMCA instills.

Mr. Robert Davenport, Coach, stated that he does not want to see the Christian values, that the YMCA instills, lost by the county taking it over.

Commissioner Jones stated that he wants to see the programs enhanced and agreed to continue using volunteers to keep the programs running.

Again, Mr. Markey recommended terminating services with the YMCA as of April 1, 2002.

Ms. Melissa Rogers stated that she could not support the county running the program because of the values that are instilled by the YMCA. She does not feel the county will instill those same values.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he sees the change only in a manner as to who would be directing the activities, not that those individuals would be employees of the county. He feels that the Board should be mindful of how the funds are being spent and by the county directing the program, it would give the Board more direct control over the expenditures to assure that the funds are being spent on the youth programs. He also stated that he also favors the values of the YMCA.

Chairman Rees asked Mr. Markey to come back before the Board at a later date with additional information and planning as to what programs he intends to oversee and develop and in what areas of the county. Chairman Walker requested to know what the county would get from the YMCA if the monies were to be expended for the next quarter. Discussion was held regarding the most recent contract that expired in October.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to deny the release of any funds to the YMCA for the next two quarters pending clarification on the status of the contract. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Johnson stated that she wants the Board to be aware that the YMCA wants to be supportive of the county and would not stand in their way.

Ms. Meg Nelson and Ms. Johnnie Riley, South Walton Three Arts Alliance, appeared before the Board expressing their thanks for the Board's support in funding of the books to be presented to the Legislators on Legislative Day. She advised that the books have been delivered.

Ms. Nelson stated that each Legislator would receive a copy of the book "The Way We Were" and would know of Walton County. Ms. Nelson informed the Board that

because they have given away a large portion of their books to various organizations, their supply has been depleted and therefore requested assistance in purchasing 2000 additional books at a cost of \$7,469.00. She requested this amount be budgeted for the next budget cycle.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls to approve funding of books in the amount of \$7,469.00 from next year's budget for Three Arts Alliance. Chairman Rees stepped down as Chairman and seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Jones called for a vote. Ayes 2, Nays 3. Pauls Aye, Jones Naye, Walker Naye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye. Motion failed.

Ms. Nelson presented an update on the Catherine Cole Taylor Center for the Arts. She thanked the Board for leasing the land to their organization for the facility. She advised that they are preparing a grant application from the National Endowment of the Arts for design of the arts center and therefore requested a letter of support from the county to pursue the grant.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Jones to provide a letter of support to the Three Arts Alliance for their grant application. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

The Commissioner recessed until 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Arthur came back before the Board to discuss the appointments to the Coastal Dune Lake Task Force. Chairman Rees read the requirements for each position.

Ms. Nancy James presented the following recommendation on behalf of the South Walton Community Council for appointments to the Coastal Dune Lake Task Force. Mr. Geroge Russell, Beverly Kraska, Linda Tarver, David Scruggs, Mike D'Autilia, Meg Nelson and Celest Cobena.

The commissioners requested to postpone making appointments to the Coastal Dune Lake Task Force until they had an opportunity to speak with the individuals.

Mrs. Melissa Pilcher, Regional Utilities, requested approval to submit pay request #6 in the amount of \$688,533.98 for the final payment on the wastewater grant.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to approve for Regional Utilities to submit pay request #6 for final payment. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resources Director, appeared before the Board regarding the Compensation Plan Policy, Position Classification Plan Policy and the Employee Records Policy. Mr. Mattison stated that there is no specific language in the current personnel policy manual to state our practice and procedure regarding Compensation Plan Policy relating to employees and therefore presented a revised policy. He spoke about the positions currently reporting to the commissioners and how those evaluations are performed by the Board and tabulated by Human Resources. Those positions currently being Public Information Officer, County Administrator, and Director of Legal Services. He also spoke about positions that answer directly to the County Administrator and how each position is budgeted at the beginning of a budget cycle. He further spoke about evaluations being performance driven.

The commissioners discussed the need for designing the evaluation form that would allow each commissioner to sign off on an evaluation before it is submitted to the HR Department. The Commissioners will submit their own evaluation on Division Directors. Changes will be made to the Compensation Plan and brought back to the Board before final approval.

Commissioner Ryan requested language be included to allow for incentive raises for exemplary employees.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the Position Classification Plan Policy. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Mattison presented the revised Employee Records Policy relating to file inspection for security reasons. Discussion was also held relating to charging for the amount of time an employee spends assisting a customer with research. Research becomes lengthy and very time consuming.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt the Employee Records Policy. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt a Records Research Policy allowing to charge the requestor for an employee's time for all research over one half hour. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. William Campbell and Mr. Paul Cates appeared before the Board regarding unmarked historical locations in Walton County they would like to see identified. Mr. Cates addressed the Board stating that there are many sites in Walton County that need officially marked and placed on the National Register.

Mr. Campbell spoke about those sites and requested permission to apply for grant funding for the markers. He also advised that these sites could be placed on the National

Register by submitting an application. The Board agreed to write a letter of endorsement for the Historical Society's grant application.

Ms. Gina Smith, Elder Care Services, addressed the commissions regarding the Learning Wheel Buddies Grant, which is a grant for recruiting volunteers to assist in Head Start, Pre-K, and Child Care Centers. She stated that they currently have 17 volunteers and are in need of more.

Mr. Thomas Guthrie, Habitat for Humanity, informed the Board that a resolution is required as part of their application for becoming a "Sponsor" under the Community Contributions Tax Credit Program (CCTCP) of the State of Florida. He explained that Habitat for Humanity homes are built on a house-by-house basis.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt a resolution (2002-13) in support of Habitat for Humanity. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Kris Titus, Executive Director of the South Walton Tourist Development Council, appeared before the Board requesting permission to pursue federal funding for the Beach Nourishment Program. She requested two letters be submitted to Representative Miller for a Committee Study Resolution and one for a General Investigation Appropriation Study. Mrs. Titus agreed to coordinate the grant work with Mrs. Biddle of the Grants Department. Commissioner Pauls stated that this issue did come before the Beach Renourishment Committee and the TDC Board.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the request by TDC authoring them to pursue federal funding for the Beach Nourishment Program. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Karyn Norton, Escambia County Housing Financing Authority, appeared before the commissioners with their quarterly report for the Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bonds. She stated that the program is the same as the previous three years with various options such as the Soft Second Mortgage.

Commissioner Jones requested the Board adopt a resolution stating the county's position for maintaining the county as intact as possible in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District when redistricting is done.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt a resolution (2002-14) requesting to maintain as much of Walton County as possible in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he would be involved with drafting a policy regarding Recreation Impact Fees and how the funds should be spent on a priority basis. He informed the Board of two critical projects, Viscaya and the project at the end of Allen Loop. TDC agreed to take over the maintenance if the projects are built to TDC specifications.

Mr. Tracy Howell, TDC, stated that several of their staff members have evaluated several sites and the Andalusia site is in need of repairs due to its condition. He also advised the commissioners that a developer has approached the TDC requesting to partner with the county for another site in need of repairs, Ramsgate. The TDC has four sites that they are recommending for repairs along with a 5-foot walkway at Watercolor. Mr. Howell stated that it would reduce the costs if they were allowed to place all of these projects out for bid at one time.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to approve expenditure of funds from the Recreational Impact Fees for the five referenced sites. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. (Estimated at \$150,000).

Commissioner Pauls presented a handout and requested to develop RFQ's for a study project north of Highway 98 to the Bay, Highway 331 on the East and Mac Bayou Road to the West.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to approve for staff to develop RFQ's to perform a study project to include the New Town Center. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Ms. Nancy James advised that the South Walton Community Council also supports this study.

Commissioner Pauls spoke about properties along J.D. Miller Road that are privately owned and still classified as Town Center. Those property owners do not feel their property is classified correctly.

Commissioner Pauls spoke about the Public Information Officer's position and felt that it would be more advantageous for this position to report directly to the County Administrator.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to transfer the position of Public Information Officer under the County Administrator. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls updated the Board on the traffic condition at Mac Bayou Road and Highway 98. He advised that traffic has been backing up at that intersection and is a problem. He stated that he has been in contact with DOT and the Sheriff.

Commissioner Pauls advised that he and Mr. Underwood have met with Mr. Rick Holder of the Corp of Engineers regarding the maintenance building in the GEC Center. He stated that they would be able to begin construction on the facility and work on getting the wetlands permitting at the same time.

Commissioner Walker advised that several county officials met with some of the legislative delegation in Tallahassee and felt the meeting was successful regarding legislation presented by Representative Brown.

Mr. Michael Underwood, County Administrator, presented a letter from the Clerk's Office releasing surplus equipment back to the Board (CC #416 and 451).

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Jones to accept surplus property from the Clerk of Courts as stated. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Underwood presented a request from an individual requesting the fees be waived for small fires on the beach. The request is for the purpose of conducting small fires over a period of five days for wedding related events at Gulfrace.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Jones to deny the request to waive the fees for fires on the beach. Ayes 4, Naves 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye.

Mr. Underwood advised that the date for closing on the Mossy Head land exchange has been changed to March 12<sup>th</sup>. An opportunity will be provided at the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to adopt a resolution that will allow the Board to proceed with the property exchange and to close on the St. Joe property.

Chairman Rees advised that the agenda for the March 5<sup>th</sup> Land Use Meeting is full and suggested that a motion be offered at that meeting to continue the Grayton Grand and Barbarosa Subdivision projects. Attorney Vorbeck advised that he would speak with the attorney's involved with those projects advising them of the situation.

Attorney Vorbeck presented the Florida Statutes regarding the Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA).

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Pauls to deny the request made earlier for medical treatment under HCRA. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye.

Commissioner Walker spoke briefly about a newspaper article regarding jail construction and the misrepresentation it offered. The article was inaccurate.

Ms. Nancy James, SWCC, invited the commissioner to their meeting, which will be held Thursday.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lane Rees, Chairman

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