

## MARCH 12, 2002 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2002 at 4:00 p.m. following a Special Meeting at 2:30 p.m. regarding jail expansion. The meeting was held at the Mossy Head Community Center.

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 Ms. Martha Ingle, 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.

Mr. Underwood presented an overview of the RFQ process for selecting an architectural firm for the design of new jail facilities. 2WR Holmes Wilkins was chosen as the firm to design the jail and negotiations began. A detention facility review committee was appointed consisting of the following individuals: Sheriff Johnson, Roy Sylvester, Jail Administrator, Chief Ray Burgess, Judge Lindsey, Judge Green, Bill Imfeld, Finance Director, Mike Underwood, County Administrator, Attorney Clayton Adkinson, Jack Behr, Public Defender, Commissioner Herman Walker and Commissioner Tim Pauls. The committee has held several meetings, which were open to the public, and they also visited several jail facilities. Their recommendation was to rehabilitate and construct new facilities at the present site to accommodate housing for up

to 411 inmates. This would include the construction of a new facility adjacent to the current jail, which would contain four modules of cell units above one level of parking under the new housing expansion. Upon completion, inmates would be moved into the new facility and rehabilitation would take place on the current facility to accommodate expansion of the Sheriff's Administration and construction of a records room for storage.

Mr. Mike Rutland, 2WR Architects, stated that his firm met with the committee to gather necessary information for making the best decision for a new detention facility. He thanked the committee, who worked well together and very hard. Mr. Rutland stated that a needs assessment/feasibility study was performed to determine what the needs are and to assure that they would be met for the next 25-50 years.

Mr. Rutland explained that overcrowding is the number one problem that exists in the current facility; in addition, there is no method for lock-down or room for segregation for certain types of offenders, women or juveniles. Issues that the committee considered were cost effectiveness and location. He explained that the committee considered whether to construct off-site or remain on-site. A third alternative was to continue operating the current facility and construct a work camp type facility offsite. He stated that the current facility is out of date and would still require that repairs and upgrades be made, which would be too costly to operate two facilities at different locations. Therefore, the committee recommended building onsite at the current location. The committee's priorities included additional beds, the right kind of beds, and the most cost effective facility to operate over a long time period.

Mr. Rutland showed schematic designs for what the committee recommended. He also showed properties surrounding the courthouse that could be acquired to provide for

future growth. He spoke about the options that the properties could be used for. The proposal is to construct a second floor onto the existing jail providing for 12,000 square feet of administration and records storage. The proposed parking exceeds zoning and city requirements. Recommended properties to purchase included several lots to the east of the current jail, lots to the west of the Sheriff's administration building, and the entire block north of the jail as funding is available.

Mr. Rutland explained the types of renovations that could occur and how a corridor would be constructed connecting the jail with the courthouse for inmate security. He stated that the inmates would be provided visitation with their guests by video camera, preventing the transporting of inmates back and forth throughout the jail. The construction project is estimated to be completed within 27 months.

Related costs were given for a 391-bed facility, which could easily be increased to 411 with additional bedding. The total projected costs presented were \$10,131,875.00 for the new jail facility, a cost of \$21,472.87 per bed.

Mr. Danny Baker questioned if costs were calculated for cost of each bed over the projected life of the new facility and what the estimated revenues would be for each bed. Mr. Rutland stated that these calculations were not made.

Commissioner Walker informed the audience that the county does not intend to house federal prisoners.

Mr. Richard Whitaker questioned how much other related costs would be passed on that were not a part of these totals.

Mr. Vince Pasquello questioned what other options were available and what would be the costs of the land purchases. He also questioned the number of parking spaces in ratio to the number of inmates versus future ratios.

Ms. Linda Franks voiced objections to the number of beds for inmates being brought into the city and felt that construction could be done cheaper out of the city. She stated that juveniles could be transported to other facilities, therefore not requiring them to be housed here. She requested to be shown alternative cost for a facility if constructed outside the city limits.

Mr. Sonny Heath felt that this is an “overkill” in an already crowded area and asked the commissioners to consider building outside the city limits.

Mr. Tom Terrell requested that the other three options be presented for the public to review.

Mr. Bob Register felt that a work camp would do the job for less money.

Sheriff Johnson questioned the Board regarding their intentions on purchasing surrounding properties. He felt that they could provide a better facility outside the city as requested by the citizens.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he served on the committee with no preconceived ideas. He stated that he is concerned with the future of Walton County and also listened to the concerns of those individuals whom also served on the committee. He felt that it was good planning to consolidate the detention facilities. Mr. Pauls also reminded the public that the county cannot purchase any property for more than 10% over the appraisal price. Mr. Pauls stated that there are certain problems with building off-site that must be considered; future expansion must also be considered.

Attorney Clayton Adkinson addressed the commissioners and stated that the comments made by the Sheriff were unfair to the other committee members. The Sheriff was present at the meetings along with his personnel. He explained that it would cost the same amount of money to build this same facility off-site, unless a work camp type facility was constructed.

Ms. Franks stated that she heard this was going to occur no matter what the public's opinion was. She also thanked the commissioners for allowing the public to speak. She felt that it would be safer and less costly to house prisoners outside of the city.

Mr. Baker suggested allowing the public to assist in the site selection process.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to instruct staff to check on the availability of property surrounding the courthouse and ask 2WR to prepare additional details on the various concepts looking at alternative options for location and cost and to clarify the desires of the Sheriff.

Commissioner Walker stated that properties surrounding the courthouse have been made available for purchase. 2WR and the committee has put a lot of research into this process and visited numerous jail facilities. Mr. Walker felt that it is time for a decision in order to move forward and stated that the people, at some point, need to rely on the decision of the elected officials.

Commissioner Ryan stated that the new detention facility design is good, however, he is not in favor of it. He stated that parking has always been an issue and does not feel that a facility with this nature of high security is needed. Mr. Ryan commented on the fact that there are various levels of felons and that the juveniles will not be at this facility for long periods of time. He stated that there are advantages of using

the site north of town near the current State Prison. The city has agreed to run sewer lines to that area and split the costs with the county. This alternative would also provide room for expansion. Mr. Ryan commented on the need for a master plan for projects north of the bay to prevent continual piece milling of projects. He stated that financing also needs to be considered. A facility could be constructed north of town and the old jail could be expanded for additional courthouse space.

Commissioner Jones requested assurance that the land surrounding the courthouse is available and voiced the need to assure that if funds are spent, they are spent to benefit the public.

Commissioner Walker stated that all of the committee meetings were open to the public.

Commissioner Pauls stated that the public is asking for a review of cost estimates for alternative projects and suggested expanding the scope of work to provide additional information.

Mr. Rutland spoke about the alternatives and costs of building the same facility on the site north of town. He stated that there is currently no utilities available for this type of facility and it would cost an estimated \$1 million. He estimated the cost to be \$10,330,000.00 for the same facility off site.

Ms. Sara Comander questioned if there would be jail facilities at the new judicial facility in the south end of the county. Commissioner Pauls responded that a courtroom is being added, but nothing to house inmates.

Chairman Rees called for a vote on the motion. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Chairman Rees called the meeting back to order and presented the consent agenda consisting of the following items:

1. EAL Approval
2. Approve Minutes: Feb. 12, 2002-Regular Meeting (see correction below)
3. Set Public Hearing on an Ordinance Adopting the Florida Building Code and Maps
4. Set Public Hearing on an Ordinance Modifying the Coastal Building Zone
5. Set Public Hearing for Noise Ordinance
6. Closing of Highway 30A for Arts Quest 5K Race on May 5, 9-11.
7. Resolution to Roll Forward Funds for Public Works
8. Resolution to Move Bike Path Grant to Public Works

One amendment was made to reflect a date change on the minutes to February 26, 2002 instead of February 12, 2002. The EAL consists of the following payments:

General Fund	\$269,625.68
County Transportation Trust	254,748.03
N.W. Mosquito Control	1,318.44
Walton County Library	6,420.02
Recreation Plat Fee	4,426.93
Solid Waste Enterprises	206,733.32
Mossy Head VFD	10,064.35
Glendale VFD	1,133.08
Liberty VFD	1,533.98
Red Bay VFD	761.33
Local Option Gas	45,560.16
Section 8 Housing	39,566.54
Tourist Development Council	33,626.55
Mott Sign Grant	903.60
Darlington VFD	174.39
Driftwood Debt Services	175.12
Capital Projects Fund	18,550.00

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

Ms. Meg Nelson appeared before the Board on behalf of the 5K road race and also invited the commissioners to attend a Gala in Tallahassee. She stated that the National Museum for Women in the Arts, located in Washington D.C., is recognizing Florida in 2002. Ms. Nelson has been voted as Regional Co-Director for the Florida committee of the museum. She advised that it is her intention to see that women from the Northwest Florida exhibit their art at the capitol. The Gala is to raise funds for this event.

Ms. Nelson also requested a letter of support for the application process for a state grant on behalf of the Taylor Center for the Arts for the State Division of Cultural Affairs.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve a letter of support for the Taylor Center for the Arts as requested. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Chairman Rees introduced Dr. Bob Richburg who appeared before the commissioners on behalf of the State Partnership Initiative.

Dr. Richburg stated that he previously requested from the commissioners, assistance with a regional planning activity. He advised that Walton County joined with Okaloosa and Santa Rosa County on a regional planning project. Dr. Richburg presented a report from the tri-county conference.

Dr. Richburg stated that the three county region has grown by 32.17% and that Walton County, the most rapidly growing county in northwest Florida, has experienced a growth rate of 50%. He spoke about the critical needs, which is Highway 98 and the four-laning of Highway 20 from Rocky Bayou Bridge to Highway 331 for more connectivity. These are considered as the first tier needs. Dr. Richburg spoke about Solution 2 Level

recommendation, which is a three county regional transportation authority. He stated that a committee would be formed to look at regional transportation needs.

Water issues was another concern discussed, that being surface and storm water, and the goal is to protect and restore local surface waters that are being adversely impacted. The consensus of the group was to obtain a comprehensive regional storm water analysis for the three county area and to look at a storm water utility. He explained that the master planning could be done for as little as \$50,000.00. Potable water is another critical need that Walton County tops the list with. He further explained that saltwater intrusion is a major problem.

Dr. Richburg stated that Walton County is a member of the Regional Utility Authority, who may become a player in the resolution of some of these issues. He also commented on the Multi-county Utility RUA as a possible funding source.

In closing, Dr. Richburg thanked the commissioners for their leadership in sponsoring the conference.

Mrs. Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, appeared before the Board on behalf of Mr. Tom Powell, Economic Development Council. She stated that the Florida Association of Counties has made grant funds available for pilot programs for economic development. Mrs. Biddle advised that the best project to request grant funding for would be the development of the Mossy Head Industrial Park.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to support the Economic Development Council in applying for grant funding from the Florida Association of Counties for the development of the Mossy Head Industrial Park. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls presented a request for the Grants Department to assist the Reef Grant Committee in applying for grants for offshore reefs. He also requested that they also be allowed to assist the City of Freeport with the same type of grants. He stated that grants are usually in the amount of \$25,000.00 with no match required.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to approve the Grants Department to assist the Reef Grant Committee and the City of Freeport with applying for grants. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls requested the Board's support for the Reef Ball Foundation in their grant process. The foundation will determine a GIS on the location of the reefs, which will assist in monitoring the reefs. There would not be any costs to the county.

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

Mr. Bill Reeder, Board of Trustees of the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, appeared before the commissioners along with Ms. Barbara Moss, Executive Director. Ms. Moss spoke about her educational background and presented facts about the museum. She stated that the museum was started over 30 years ago and that many of the artifacts they have are from Walton County. She explained that they offer programs for children and adults and are willing to assist with transportation. They would also like to offer classes in Walton County. Ms. Moss asked for a commissioner to serve on their Board of Trustees to represent Walton County.

Ms. Sara Comander stated that the Walton County Heritage Association is developing a site in Walton County.

The commissioners agreed to address the issue of who would serve on their board at a later date.

Mr. Brad Pickles, Walton County Tourist Development Council, appeared before the Board requesting approval to award the bid for the Personal Watercraft Surveying System. He advised that the TDC has worked with Purchasing through the bid process and was only able to find one source for the equipment. Innerspace Technology presented a price in the amount of \$109,110.00. In addition, he also requested approval to expend up to \$2,000.00 for travel to receive training on the use of the equipment.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve awarding the bid to Innerspace Technology, sole source, in the amount of \$109,110.00 for the purchase of the Personal Watercraft Surveying System for TDC and expenditures up to \$2,000.00 for related travel expenses. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Tracy Howell, TDC, requested approval to purchase two tractors and one tractor loader for beach cleaning. The cost for each tractor is \$30,720.04 and \$34,193.52 for the loader, both of which are state contract prices.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the purchase of two tractors and one loader for a total of \$95,634.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resources Director, presented the proposed expense ordinance as previously discussed. There were no objections voiced.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the newly created Expense Ordinance. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Mattison presented the Compensation Plan Policy for consideration. He requested clarification when evaluating the Director's positions and presented three options. Mr. Mattison presented option C, which would provide for the County Administrator to complete the evaluation, discuss it with each commissioner and then submit the evaluation to the Human Resource Director. He reminded the Board that budgeted amounts are preset.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to accept staff's recommendation and approve the Compensation Plan Policy with option C. Ayes 3, Nays 2. Pauls Naye, Jones Aye, Walker Naye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Russ Barry presented a request on behalf of Walton Academy for assistance with repairing their driveway. Mr. Barry explained that the work could be performed using four employees and one day of labor costing under \$1,000.00. The academy is a public school and would provide a public benefit by allowing school buses access.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the request to assist Walton Academy with repairs to their driveway. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Barry stated that he would provide information at the next meeting relating to the cost of operating an in-house paving crew for short roads versus contracting the jobs out. The costs will include equipment and personnel.

Mr. Barry requested approval to award the bid to Ace Hardware of DeFuniak Springs in the amount of \$34,469.88 for bridge materials for repairs on McKinnon Bridge.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve awarding the bid for McKinnon Bridge materials to Ace Hardware in the amount of \$34,469.88. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Barry informed the commissioners that Hartman & Associates has agreed to provide services to the Tri-Village Fire Department to assist with obtaining necessary permits for the paving of their parking lot. There will be no cost to the county.

Mr. Barry presented a request from CHELCO who requested permission to place a utility pole on a county easement on Hinote Road.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the request by CHELCO. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Barry presented a request to perform additional work on CR2 while the contractor is working in the area. He informed the Board of some drainage problems that need repaired, which would cost approximately \$34,000.00. Another problem exists at the Caney Creek Bridge with the guardrails that must be relocated costing \$13,045.00. He also presented a request to pave Gill Road for a cost of \$22,900.80. If approved, the total contract change would be \$69,945.80.

Motion by Commissioner Walker to approve the contract change as requested.

Mr. Barry further explained the reason for the change order request. He stated that there are locations where the water collects making a dangerous turn at the corner.

Commissioner Walker stressed the need for the change order to correct dangerous problems to prevent accidents. He also assured the Board that it would cost less to pave Gill Road while the contractor is working in the area. Commissioner Ryan stated that he is concerned with staying within the guidelines of DEP. Mr. Barry advised that there are no wetlands in that area and a dredge and fill permit is not necessary; he is currently awaiting the storm water permit.

Commissioner Pauls seconded the motion. The motion was amended to include obtaining a storm water permit and accept the recommendation from staff. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Ryan stated that he would like to move forward with developing the paving crew. Mr. Barry stated that he would like to be able to provide accurate costs before proceeding. Mr. Ryan stated that asphalt costs are going up and feels that the county needs to move forward.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve to proceed with advertising for bids for paving equipment. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Mr. Barry will still present the Board with facts and figures for running a paving crew. Mr. Walker also requested information regarding the price the county obtained for the sale of paving equipment in past years.

Mr. Jack Arthur presented the names of those individuals who were nominated for the Dune Lake Task Force and asked the commissioners to vote.

Ms. Nancy James, South Walton Community Council, reminded the commissioners of their recommendations, which is George Russell, Meg Nelson, Beverly Kraska, David Scruggs, Mike D'Autilla, Judi Rutland, Billy Mancil, and Celeste Cobena.

The commissioners cast their ballots and submitted them to Mr. Underwood for tabulation.

Mr. Chuck Lawson appeared before the Board regarding Vision 20/20 in Walton County. He began by thanking several individuals for their assistance in coordinating and initiating their meetings and planning process. Mr. Lawson stated that this was a combined effort between the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council. During the planning process recreational needs of the county were addressed. He stated that they actually visited with each of the communities to determine their individual needs. The nature of their mission was to identify complexes for each community and what programs would be offered at each location, the uniqueness of each location, and facility requirements. He also presented the number of students enrolled in county schools.

The committee developed a matrix for each community showing the availability of facilities, who would secure funding, who would manage each facility, and who would operate each program. Included in the matrix were priorities, estimated costs and desired time frames for instituting the various programs. Mr. Lawson also discussed the need to construct facilities in certain communities. He spoke about the need to construct facilities to hurricane standard so they could also be utilized as evacuation shelters. He stated that we need to invest in youth up front or we would eventually have to invest in them in the prison system.

Mr. Bear Henley, Okaloosa County Boys Club, complimented Mr. Lawson for his leadership in putting together the 20/20 vision. Mr. Henley reiterated the fact that it was the public who gave their input for the activities they want in their communities. He

commented that the citizens requested other activities above their desire for a swimming pool. He also stressed the need for personal development and values. He spoke about the facilities they will have on CR30A and the estimated cost of \$600,000.00 per year to operate. He stated that approximately 30% of the budget comes from fees, but could never cover the cost of running a facility. The remaining comes from fundraisers.

Dr. Susan Turner also worked with the committee from the aspect of health and stated that health is a part of recreation. Dr. Turner presented facts about heart diseases, diabetes, and overweight problems in children. She also spoke about the need for recreational activities to provide better health for children.

Mr. Bob Dobies spoke about recreation in south Walton and the need to establish plans that would provide an economic benefit to the county.

Mr. Lawson spoke about Dr. Joe Johnson of Paxton and announced that Dr. Johnson was appointed as an advisory to Dr. Thompson, who directly advises President Bush on health related issues. Dr. Johnson is also on the Advisory Council of Florida State Health Sciences. Mr. Lawson spoke about rural health and stated that Walton County is one of two counties being considered as a prototype for a national health program. Mr. Lawson questioned the possibility of a referendum asking the citizens if they would like to pay for recreational services. He stated that citizens want private organizations to run the recreational facilities not government agencies.

Mr. Arthur recommended discontinuing the contract with the YMCA.

Dr. Chuck Stevenson expressed the need to solve this issue and stated that he created a blue print as a starting point. He spoke about problems that exist with the

YMCA regarding staffing, funding and management. He stated that the Y has been through numerous Directors and also felt that the Blue Ridge Camp is too costly.

Dr. Stevenson presented two plans, Plan A being that Walton County cut the funding to the Emerald Coast YMCA and allow the county's Parks Department to oversee the recreational activities until a regular recreational program can be established. He also suggested that the YMCA release the 10 acres on Walton Road and the equipment back to the county until a transition can be accomplished. Plan B, which he does not agree with, provided time for reorganization to occur while providing private funding. Plan B would also allow time to transition to a Walton County YMCA.

Mr. Markey recommended not renewing the contract with the YMCA. He requested that the remaining funds be transferred to the Parks Department to oversee the recreational programs, and a vote to form a Walton County Board to oversee the expenditure of funds. His recommendation was to hire many of the YMCA's current staff to continue running the programs for the county with a six month probationary period. Mr. Markey explained his intentions regarding a Recreational Executive Board. It was suggested to appoint a nominating committee to supply a list of potential names who would serve. Mr. Markey presented a proposed organizational chart. He agreed that it would be better for individual groups to run the programs.

Mr. Dan Perry, Chairman of the Emerald Coast YMCA, requested the Board reconsider their decision to terminate the contract. He also stated that the money given to the YMCA is not the only money, the remaining funds come from fees and the YMCA. He advised that the YMCA based the programs offered on requests from the communities. Administrative costs were 30% for the first year, but has gone down and is

now at 14%. Again, he requested the Board continue their funding. He stated that the Y does not oppose a Walton County YMCA and would assist them any way possible; however, he estimated a two-year transition period would be needed.

Ms. Pat Farris gave an overview of the funding for the Emerald Coast YMCA and expenditures for Walton County.

Mr. Kirk Ike, Vice-President of Operations for the YMCA's Emerald Coast, stated that he is pro-recreation and a win/win situation is needed for all parties in this issue. He felt that Walton County needs to concentrate on upgrading existing facilities. Staff needs to look at developing a master plan and consider what facilities need to be built. He stated that Walton County needs to continue their funding of the YMCA.

Commissioner Walker read a letter for the record from Dr. Joe Johnson who previously served as Chairman on the YMCA Board. In his letter, he requested the county continue their agreement with the Y for this year until a plan can be set in action.

Mr. Henley voiced concern with adult supervision over the children who participate in the activities.

Mr. Gus Andrews questioned who owns the property on Walton Road. After discussion, the commissioners agreed to research this further.

Ms. Carrie Barnhill, Walton High School student, stated that she has participated in the YMCA's programs for four years. She spoke about her participation in the Blue Ridge Conferences and how they have changed her for the better. She requested the Board continue funding the YMCA.

Mr. Davis questioned if Walton County is getting the value for the amount of money being funded.

Ms. Cheryl Zorn stated that she has been involved by coaching soccer for the YMCA and stated that they need help. She felt that local groups could run the programs better.

Ms. Becky Hobbs, Paxton Sports Coordinator, stated that she does not have any complaints with the YMCA and feels that money is not the issue, the kids are, and they need to be considered in this issue.

Mr. Brian Gilbert, Freeport, again stated that he has no problems with the YMCA and feels that most of the problems are coming from the DeFuniak Springs area. Other areas throughout the county are operating without any dissatisfaction. Mr. Gilbert asked the commissioners to visit the Y's functions. He advised the Board that the Y has offered to remove the \$25,000.00 administration fees to be able to continue running the programs. Mr. Gilbert stated that a 20-member board is too many members to work with. Lastly, he suggested allowing each community to make their own decisions as to where the monies would be spent.

Mr. Lawson stated that there are management problems in north Walton that need to be addressed. He also advised the commissioners of a meeting that would be held on Saturday to discuss these concerns. Mr. Lawson stated that Vision 20/20 is opposed to county government running the recreational programs.

Mr. Cornell Burnett, Referee for the YMCA, spoke about the structure of the YMCA and asked about programs for adults. He felt that an attempt should be made to make the programs better.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept the recommendation of Mr. Markey for the county to operate the recreational activities and

allow each commissioner to appoint two members to a 10-member board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls reminded the audience that the Comprehensive Plan defines the guidance for the recreational program. He felt that Mr. Markey has done an exceptional job in the short time he has been on staff. Mr. Pauls also stated that this is not a vote against the YMCA, but it is to provide better services to Walton County citizens, with continual improvements being necessary along the way.

Chairman Rees stated that he has concern and does not want to see the YMCA hurt by this transition.

Commissioner Jones wants to assure the public that the county will only work to make the program better.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Pat Markey advised that he would be speaking to the YMCA and directors of the Boys Club to determine what programs should be offered and to determine which employees want to remain in their positions.

Mr. Dewey Wilson, President and General Manager of Regional Utilities, requested approval to grant a lease to Alltel and Singular for space on Regional Utilities water tank to place cellular antennas.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve lease agreements with Alltel and Singular for space on the water tower. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Chairman Rees read the final tally for the Coastal Dune Lake Task Force. North of the Bay – George Russell; Within ½ mile of Dune Lakes – Lloyd Blue, Mike D’Autillia, Earl Day, Judi Rutland; At Large – Britt Green and Meg Nelson.

Mr. Jack Arthur presented the traffic study report by Tipton & Associates. He stated that there are traffic concurrency issues on US Highway 98 from Scenic Gulf Drive westward to the Okaloosa County line. For consistency in evaluating future and current applications for development orders a policy has been developed to require that all applications in the traffic studies submitted, be reviewed by Tipton Associates for concurrency. A contract for proposal has been solicited from Tipton for the fees. The fees are significant and will be passed on to each applicant. Mr. Arthur stated that it is possible that applications will be denied based on the lack of traffic concurrency based on the Tipton review. To prevent the county from paying the fee, \$5,000.00 would be required in advance by the applicant for proposed projects west of the Scenic Gulf Drive/US Highway 98 intersection. Any unused portion of the fee would be refunded to the applicant. Mr. Arthur stated that his request is to advise the Board of the nature and amount of the fees, to secure Board support of the policy to require review by Tipton and to pass the fees on to the applicant, to secure Board support of the policy to require \$5,000.00 advance payment for development order applications west of Scenic Gulf Drive and to secure authority to sign the contract with Tipton and Associates.

Commissioner Walker questioned how Tipton was selected as the only firm to review the applications. Attorney Vorbeck explained that Tipton is reviewing the developer’s traffic plan. Tipton is the firm who performed the traffic study and in order to maintain consistency of evaluation of proposals it was suggested that the Tipton firm be

the one who review the proposals for the Planning Department. He further explained that it will be costly to do so and stated that Mr. Arthur is requesting to pass those costs to the applicant.

Commissioner Ryan agreed that by using Tipton it would maintain consistency, which is what is needed.

Mr. Arthur explained that this is the same arrangement the county currently has with Preble-Rish for storm water designs. They review it for compliance with the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. Mr. Arthur explained that the reviews are currently being performed in-house, however, they do not have the necessary means to perform to the standard of analysis needed.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept staff's recommendation and adopt a policy requiring review, by Tipton and Associates, of development order applications, passing the fees on to the applicant, to adopt policy requiring \$5,000.00 advance payment from the developer for development order applications for proposed projects west of Scenic Gulf Drive and to grant authority to sign the contract with Tipton and Associates. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Naye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Sandra Preston, Shelter House, appeared before the Board requesting additional monetary assistance for the Walton County Shelter House. Ms. Preston recognized Ms. Ingle who also serves on their Board along with other members from the Shelter House. A handout was presented to each commissioner showing what services have been provided for the North Walton County Shelter and the operation expenses and funding sources. Ms. Preston requested emergency funding in the amount of \$80,000.00

in order to keep the Walton County shelter open. She advised that they would also be requesting additional funding from Okaloosa County for their county's shortfalls. She explained the steps they have already taken to request additional funding. Those individuals from the Shelter House explained the urgency in order to keep women and children safe. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the shortage in their budget. The commissioners questioned their budget expenditures and the amount of funding spent directly in Walton County versus the amount spent in Okaloosa County. Precise figures could not be given.

Commissioner Ryan suggested the Board set up an escrow account and allow a set amount of funds to be disbursed as needed. He then motioned to approve funding for the Shelter House with the caveat that the Shelter House works closely with Mr. Imfeld in setting up their next year's budget.

Commissioner Pauls stated that Shelter House is a worthy cause and feels that Walton County funds should stay in Walton County, not to be mixed with Okaloosa County.

Commissioner Ryan amended his motion to require that the money be spent only in Walton County. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Commissioner Ryan stated that they need to provide better separation between their budget expenditures for Okaloosa County and Walton County. Chairman Rees stated that Walton County could possibly fund a portion, but not the entire amount. The commissioners recommended asking for corporate funding. Chairman Rees spoke about the need to raise the level of awareness in the county at the corporate level. Ms. Preston

advised that they have worked on obtaining corporate funding and would continue to do so.

Mr. Joe McKenzie appeared before the commissioners regarding the denial of a Parasail permit at the Crescent Beach Condominiums. Mr. McKenzie stated that the reason he was denied was because of distance, which is only 25-40 feet within the ½ mile requirement.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to grant a variance to Mr. Joe McKenzie for parasail operations at Crescent Beach. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Underwood advised that renovations need to be made to the old hospital and Donofro & Associates is requesting to advertise for RFQ's for a construction manager to begin immediately.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve to advertise for RFQ's for a construction manager for renovations at the old hospital. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye.

Mr. Underwood presented a memorandum regarding the Mossy Head land exchange. He requested the Board adopt a resolution pursuant to F.S. 125.37, which will authorize the land exchange between Walton County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Commissioner Walker voiced concerns regarding the potential amount for closing costs. In addition, closing on the St. Joe/Liberty County property will also be conducted on March 12, 2002 and he therefore requested approval to proceed with that closing.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the closing with St. Joe for the Liberty County property and adopt a resolution approving the trade with the Forestry including approval to wire funds for the property and closing costs. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Underwood informed the Board that the Florida Association of Counties has requested permission to use Walton County's Lobbyist to help determine legislative priorities.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to authorize Mr. Ron Booke, Lobbyist, to work with the Florida Association of Counties. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

A resident from Rio Rancho Road appeared before the commissioners requesting assistance in maintaining the road. Questions were raised regarding the road being a county maintained road. Chairman Reese requested that Commissioner Jones look into this issue.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to approve to move forward with construction on the District 5 maintenance facility. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls presented a request for a private/public co-operative agreement to pave Goldsby Road and Old Blue Mountain Beach Road. Mr. Underwood stated that an individual contacted him requesting to set up a meeting to discuss this issue further. This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to authorize the hiring of additional permanent office staff due to the workload. Ayes 3, Nays 2. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Naye, Ryan Naye.

Mr. Brian Kellenberger questioned the method of contracting for the D5 maintenance facility. Mr. Underwood suggested amending the existing contract with Watkins Constructors because the facility is in the GEC Center.

Commissioner Jones stated that he supports Commissioner Pauls request for additional staffing. He stated that he is aware that there are various levels of staffing needs throughout the county.

Commissioner Jones advised the public of the dedication ceremony that was held today for the new Mossy Head EMS Station on Highway 1084 near the Mossy Head water tower and District 3 office.

Chairman Rees mentioned that the Haas Publication had a lead story that featured Walton County. He also advised that Hamilton County endorsed the resolution presented by Commissioner Walker regarding the Department of Environmental Protection.

Chairman Rees opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Don Crim commented that he does not want to see the county involved with land swaps in the future because it is too costly to the citizens.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m..

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

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