

MARCH 26, 2002 – REGULAR MEETING

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

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

Chairman Rees called the meeting to order and recognized former Commissioner, Bob Anderson. He also announced that the Mossy Head land exchange would occur on Wednesday, April 3, 2002 at Okaloosa Walton Community College.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following items. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

1. Expenditure Approval List	
General Fund	\$1,328,538.10
County Transportation Trust	602,637.36
Fine & Forfeiture	37,136.92
N. W. Mosquito Control	22,032.13
W. Co. Library	6,997.77
Solid Waste Enterprise	85,027.72
Mossy Head VFD	10,806.97
Glendale VFD	466.94
Darlington VFD	654.34
Liberty VFD	1,193.44

Driftwood Debt Services	530.00
Multi Purpose Trust	40.00
Section 8 Housing	13,265.21
Tourist Development Council	164,682.60
Recreation Plat Fee	1,163.38
Red Bay VFD	70.00
Local Option Gas Tax	20,441.64
Criminal Justice Ed	10,048.73
Special Law Enforcement Trust	1,904.50
Capital Projects Fund	602,421.60

2. Approve Minutes: March 5, 2002-Regular Meeting
March 12, 2002-Regular Meeting
March 18, 2002 –Workshop
March 18, 2002 – Special Meeting
3. Eucheanna Community Request for Assistance
4. Hurley Drive Paving Recommendation
5. Right of Way Easement for Chelco
6. Approval of Flood Mitigation Agreements between
Walton County and the Homeowners who are
Participating in the Elevation Projects
7. County Incentive Grant Program Contracts for the
Resurfacing of Boy Scout Road and CR1883
8. Approval to Apply for FEMA Fire Act Grants
9. Approval to Resubmit Application for Development
of the Alaqua Creek Park to the Florida Boating
Improvement Program
10. Approval to Submit Certificate of Participation in the 2002
Byrne State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance
Formula Grant
11. Approve Emergency Management Coordinator to be added to the
County Credit Card Account

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, appeared before the Board requesting approval to accept unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$2,880.00 into Children's Home Shutter Grant.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to accept unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$2,880.00 into Children's Home Shutter Grant.

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

Ms. Jennifer Schinstein, Walton County Sheriff's Department, appeared before the Board requesting the contract between Walton County and the Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers be rescinded in order to develop a Walton County Crime Stoppers program. Grant funding will also be transferred to Walton County. She stated that Sheriff Johnson is also in support of the program. Jennifer stated that she is attempting to develop a board comprised of local citizens.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to rescind the contract with the Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers allowing Walton County to administer the program and to request the Office of the Attorney General to transfer the funds for Walton County to administer. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Naye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Commissioner Pauls felt that there would be a greater benefit to coordinate between Okaloosa and Walton County. Commissioner Walker felt that more information was needed before making a decision.

The Board directed Jennifer to work with Ms. Shirl Williams, Assistant County Administrator, to obtain the necessary letter of support.

Chairman Rees called to order the advertised public hearing regarding the proposed ordinance extending the Local Option Gas Tax for an additional five years. The current ordinance expires August 31, 2002. Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, presented the proposed ordinance. No one voiced any public comments.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt an Ordinance (2002-06) renewing the Local Option Gas Tax for an additional five years. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls presented a check in the amount of \$349.41 from Mr. Ricky Rookis for the Sidewalk Fund.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, appeared before the commissioners and presented the proposed reorganization of the road crews. Mr. Barry stated that within the past few years the Public Works Division of the BCC was reorganized to provide centralized management of all of the public works and transportation needs of Walton County. The Division was organized to oversee and guide all of the road and bridge maintenance and repair in the county, as well as control of the North Walton mosquito program, landfill operations, utilities coordination, fleet management, and construction management for the county.

Discussion was held regarding a newly proposed hotline that might be established to better assist the public with concerns, questions, and complaints.

Mr. Barry said that the road crews are still organized around the five county commissioner districts. The re-districting that was done as a result of the latest census has changed the political boundaries of the districts without changing the boundaries of the five road crews. Mr. Barry presented three alternatives for addressing the situation; leave it as it is, realign the districts, or reorganize the five districts.

The reorganization could be instituted to maximize the efficiency and coordination of all of the current Public Works crews. This would complete the centralization of the Public Works Division and allow the Director to manage total assets to the maximum benefit of all of the residents of the county. He further discussed the advantages and disadvantages to each alternative.

Mr. Barry's recommendation was to approve the reorganization plan and allow the implementation to proceed immediately.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept staff's recommendation and approve the reorganization as presented. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Barry presented the commissioners with an up date regarding in-house paving. He advised that the Purchasing Department is collecting bids and the Human Resource Department is accepting performing the preliminary work for the application process. Mr. Barry is compiling a list of anticipated costs for operating the crew and will present it back to the Board at a later date. Commissioner Walker wants assurance that it will be cost efficient to operate an in-house paving crew.

Mr. Don Crim stated that the county had this department in the past and was dissolved because it was too costly. He further questioned if the county would buy asphalt in bulk for cost effectiveness. The Board advised that this issue is still being researched.

Mr. Barry stated that he has received numerous requests from residents along Black Creek Boulevard to reduce the speed limit. He stated that increased traffic along that road is becoming more dangerous. Commissioner Jones voiced concern with the damage being caused by truck traffic. If an alternate route is created, it too will be damaged. Commissioner Pauls suggested establishing a truck route or imposing weight limits to prevent further damage. Mr. Barry advised that the Public Works Department is performing work on CR 3280 and they are tracking the costs on a daily basis. The Sheriff's Department recommends a speed limit of 35 mph on that portion of Black Creek

Boulevard from the intersection of CR 3280 north to CR 20. Mr. Barry advised that, if approved, he would advertise the proposed change for a period of two weeks before making the necessary changes.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve lowering the speed limit along Black Creek Boulevard to 35 mph and research the possibility of setting weight limits. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Barry presented information regarding the selection of a software vendor. He explained that the software would help schedule work, control inventory, provide automated fleet management, and provide project level costs. The software will also track capital investments and infrastructure for requirements of the GASBY 34, which will take effect this fall.

Mr. Barry presented two bids for the software: HTE - \$116,422.50 and MAXIMO - \$136,300.00. He stated that HTE has two major advantages; first, it is totally compatible with the current accounting system and it is less expensive to set-up, install, and train the users. He stated that HTE also provided a cost proposal to upgrade the software system currently in use in the accounting department. The upgrade is needed regardless of the purchase of the other software. The total cost to both install the new software and upgrade the current accounting software by HTE is \$148,141.25.

Mr. Barry requested approval to proceed with negotiations. Ms. Ingle commended the committee for their work in locating the proper software. Mr. Imfeld advised that the software will interact, but the platform for the hardware also has to be upgraded.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to award the bid to HTE in the amount of \$248,141.25 for the software and hardware upgrade. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Richard Whitaker addressed the commissioners regarding bridge repairs in District 2 that he states have exceeded the \$10,000.00 spending limit and questioned at what level would the Board would be notified and have to approve expenditures as a project. Mr. Whitaker also questioned why the bridge was posted. Commissioner Walker stated that Mr. Whitaker's comments are incorrect, the bridge is not posted, and it is private property that is posted.

Mr. Bob Register questioned what public purpose the bridge serves. Mr. Barry explained that the bridge is a county bridge and is in need of repairs. Commissioner Walker also stated that the property owner needs access to his property to transport timber in and out if needed.

Mr. Crim questioned if the county is going to hold the annual paper drive for the local schools. Mr. Barry stated that he discussed this issue with Mr. Rusty Floyd, Landfill Supervisor, who stated that there are enough supplies left from last year that could be used.

Mr. Jack Arthur appeared before the Board requesting the commissioner's nominations for the Recreation Board. The commissioners nominated the following individuals: District 1 – Dr. Chuck Stevenson and Billy Buzzette; District 2 – Kirk Zessin and Dr. Curt Anderson; District 3 – Mike Standley and Mrs. Corrine Porter; District 4 – Jean Arrandt and Randall Infinger; District 5 – Gus Andrews and Tracy Howell.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to accept the nominations as presented for the Walton County Recreational Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Bell presented a request on behalf of the Liberty Volunteer Fire Department to pursue establishing their fire district as an independent fire district. Currently, they are an MSBU (dependent) fire district and would require approval by the Florida Legislature. Personnel from the fire department listed several reasons for their request.

Mr. Bell recommended supporting Liberty Volunteer Fire District in their efforts while they research the possibility of creating an independent fire district to serve the residents within their district.

Commissioner Pauls questioned how this would affect the other fire districts. Mr. Bell stated that numerous statutes have to be followed to become independent and felt that other departments would possibly follow suit.

Commissioner Ryan voiced concern with coordination between fire departments. Mr. Bell assured that each fire department would still operate under the Mutual Aid Agreement where they assist each other.

Commissioner Walker wants to assure that the citizens receive the best possible protection. He commented that the county would be better served if they could move toward a fire-based EMS.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to support Liberty Volunteer Fire Department's initiative to proceed with researching the possibility of becoming an independent fire department. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, and Mr. Ed Baltzley appeared before the commissioners requesting the Board adopt a resolution approving the Comprehensive Emergency Plan (CEMP). The plan was developed by Emergency Management personnel over the last several months and meets the compliance criteria of Florida Administrative Code 9G-6. The CEMP covers the different types of events that may affect Walton County and actions needed to protect property and life of the citizens and visitors of Walton County. Mr. Bell recommended approval of the resolution adopting the Walton County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Commissioner Pauls questioned if the CEMP has been looked at as to how it coordinates with the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Bell said that Mr. Arthur was contacted relating to areas that dealt with Growth Management. Commissioner Walker spoke about the need for coordination with the Sheriff's Department for evacuation. Mr. Bell advised that other entities in the county have plans in place, not part of the CEMP Plan, and do coordinate evacuations with Emergency Management.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt a resolution (2002-19) approving the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Bell updated the Board on the progress of Animal Control Services. As of March 1, 2002 a total of 227 calls have been received and a total of 59 animals being impounded.

Mr. Bell informed the commissioners that all 911 lines went down yesterday and they immediately enacted their emergency plan. He thanked the media for their

assistance in reporting on the problem and issuing the additional phone numbers to call for an emergency.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Commissioner Pauls requested approval to waive the bid procedure in order to proceed with construction on four beach accesses due to the upcoming turtle season. Two accesses will be reconstructed and two will be new construction.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to waive the bid procedure and obtain verbal quotes for construction on four beach accesses. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Pauls presented the cost proposal for the District 5 Building by Watkins Construction Company. The estimate includes construction of the building pad, isolated column footings, monolithic slab on grade, supply and erection of a 40' x 120' pre-engineered metal building. The cost is \$260,000.00 with indirect cost at approximately \$40,000.00. Mr. Imfeld advised that funds are available in Fund 02 that could be used for this purpose.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to approve construction of the District 5 Zone Building. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Underwood advised that Mr. Arthur has requested a change to the floor plans for the Planning Department at the Courthouse Annex in the GEC Center to better accommodate his staff. The change consists of fewer walls and will not result in additional costs to the county.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to approve the recommended change by Mr. Arthur at the GEC Center's Planning Department. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Underwood also advised the board that no consideration was made for a security system at the GEC Center and recommended allowing CarlanKillam to design the system. CarlanKillam's estimated costs would be \$1,1720.00.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve for CarlanKillam to design the security system and for Watkins Constructors to proceed with installation at the Courthouse Annex in the GEC Center. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Walker stated that a centralized alarm system is needed throughout the county for better communications with 911. The commissioners directed staff to prepare information for standardization throughout the county providing for all security systems to be designed with consistency for better communications with 911.

Mr. Underwood presented information from Mr. Dalton Parker regarding the louvers at the GEC Courthouse Annex. Mr. Parker stated that larger louvers are needed to provide for adequate airflow. The additional cost will be \$7,729.68. CarlanKillam was notified of the required change. Mr. Brian Kellenberger advised that if this would have been included in the initial cost, it would have cost the same.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to approve the change as requested to install larger louvers at a cost of \$7,729.68. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Commissioner Walker

requested a memorandum be sent to Carlan Killam notifying them of the improper change.

Mr. Kellenberger, Watkins Constructors, informed the commissioners that the Chamber of Commerce has requested to use a different color of roofing in the GEC Center than the green. The commissioners discussed the color scheme and if it was a requirement of the GEC Center. Mr. Kellenberger agreed to bring color charts back for review.

Commissioner Pauls informed the Board that they cannot determine the demarcation of the wetlands and they need to be reflagged. Mr. Kellenberger stated that he is attempting to secure a source that will flag it and Emerald Coast Land Surveying has agreed to perform the survey for \$2,500.00.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to include the GEC trails as part of the scope of work for Watkins Constructors for an amount up to \$130,000.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Kellenberger also advised that he has not received a change order for the landscaping/irrigation changes either. The commissioners agreed to research this issue further.

Mr. Underwood presented the proposed county logos for review. The commissioners reviewed the logos and recommended several changes. The logo will be sent back for changes and reviewed again at a later date.

The commissioners recessed for lunch.

Mr. Underwood advised that representatives from 2WR were unable to be present and would therefore present the information at the next meeting regarding the detention facility.

Commissioner Pauls questioned Lt. Eddie Farris of the Walton County Sheriff's Department regarding the traffic flow at CR 393 and Highway 98. Lt. Farris advised the commissioners that they are working to keep traffic flowing.

Mr. Brian Hess, representing the Majestic Sun Condominiums, stated that there has been a name change on the agreement because the developer has turned control over to the homeowners association. Mr. Hess requested approval of a right-of-way agreement for the construction of certain improvements on the right-of-way of Old Business 98 in front of the Majestic Sun Condominium located at 1160 Old Highway 98 East, Destin, Florida which improvements will include the installation of a bike path, signage and various plantings.

Commissioner Pauls questioned Mr. Hess regarding a memorandum submitted by the County Engineer that outlined several concerns. Mr. Hess requested the Board grant approval of the agreement with the stipulations that these issues are worked out.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the right-of-way agreement for the Majestic Sun Condominiums subject to the requested changes by the applicant regarding the name change for the parties involved and contingent upon the issues being addressed as voiced by the County Engineer. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Ryan presented a request on behalf of the Christmas Reflections Committee to store their equipment in the old hospital. They recently relocated and are

operating with limited space. Mr. Underwood requested that this issue be discussed later in the meeting when the architect is present.

Commissioner Jones commented on Walton County's taxes as compared to other counties in the state. He stated that Walton County is number 14 on the list as having the lowest ad-valorem tax rate in the state. Walton County is one of two counties in the top 14 that have less than 100,000 in population. There are 35 counties with less than 75,000 people and only one county whose tax is lower.

Commissioner Walker commented on the need to give special recognition to Representative Don Brown for getting special legislation (HB1285) passed through the House and Senate with the amendment granting counties an exemption from the requirements of obtaining permits from DEP for paving roads already in existence before January 1, 2002. He stated that this would save the county a lot of money in the long-term. Mr. Underwood will prepare the necessary recognition for Representative Brown.

Commissioner Walker addressed the ownership issue regarding the 10-acre parcel on Walton Road and the YMCA. He reviewed the agreement and stated that the Y does not own the property. The agreement stipulates that the land would be deeded to the Y upon eight annual payments of \$7,500.00 for equipment to be placed in the Children's Wee Care Park in lieu of payment for the property. Attorney Vorbeck will review the agreement and report back to the Board.

Chairman Rees advised the Board that the Florida Association of Counties will hold their Legislative Conference in Sandestin December 4th through the 6th.

Chairman Rees also presented numbers given in the Northwest Daily News for projected growth in Florida. Walton County is projected to have an 87% increase by the year 2030 increasing the population to 79,000.

Chairman Rees announced the intent of the West Florida Regional Planning Council to develop a West Florida Planning Council made up of the three MPO's. Commissioner Pauls question what authority they would have.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the concept of the West Florida Planning Council with the Chairman or designee to serve as the third member. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Chairman Rees presented a request from Ms. Susan Churuti, Chair of the City, County, and Local Government Law Section, for support of a Proclamation proclaiming the month of May as Civility Month.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to adopt the proclamation declaring the month of May as Civility Month. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Attorney Gary Vorbeck, Legal Services Director, stated that he would address the deed to Okaloosa Walton Community College, for the GEC Center, at the next meeting. Brief discussion was held regarding proposed language "comparable". The commissioners stated that the intent relates to the size of the building. They want assurance that the facility itself will be permanent and of substantial size.

Mr. Underwood reported on available properties surrounding the courthouse and jail facility for parking. He stated that he has contacted the various owners and the block

to the north of the jail and to the east of the courthouse is for sale. There is only one parcel in the north block that the owner is not ready to sale. The commissioners discussed the necessary steps to obtain the properties.

Mr. Underwood introduced Mr. Mike Varner, Southern Earth Sciences, who performed the asbestos survey on the old hospital. Mr. Varner reported to the commissioners on his survey and the location of asbestos in the hospital. There are various forms of asbestos throughout the old hospital in the form of pipe insulation, floor tiles, and linoleum. Other forms found, yet not as severe, were lead based paint, lead lined walls and doors, lighting, thermostats, and stored chemicals. There are also two underground storage fuel tanks that are out of compliance. Mr. Varner presented an estimated cost of \$40,000 - \$50,000 for removal of the non-friable materials and an estimated \$110,000 - \$190,000 for removal of the friable materials. These materials must be removed whether the building is renovated or demolished.

The Board directed Ms. Williams to contact the county's fuel contractor to have the fuel tanks pumped out.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Walker to proceed with advertising for bids for asbestos removal at the old hospital and approve an amendment to Mr. Varner's contract. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Jones to proceed with the rehabilitation of the old hospital, accepting architectural drawings and schematic plans as they are presented. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye.

Discussion followed regarding the bids for the asbestos removal and to make it asbestos free. The bids will be separated by type of materials to be removed. Commissioner Ryan questioned if any other tests were performed to determine if other contaminants are present. Mr. Varner stated that he did not perform other tests.

Mr. Paul Donofro, Donofro & Associates, Inc., Marianna, Florida, stated that he received the signed contract with the county and has developed the initial floor plans. Mr. Donofro said he is ready to meet with Mr. Underwood to review the schematic plans in order to assure that the maximum space is being utilized.

Mr. Underwood questioned the possibility of the Christmas Reflections Committee using the hospital for storage. Mr. Varner recommended not using it due to the asbestos unless they were to use the basement area at the southwest end. If that area is not sufficient to meet their needs, then they can discuss with Mr. Charles McMillan, the possibility of using space at the Rushing property.

Discussion was held regarding a timeline for staff to move into the old hospital, which will take approximately one year for completion.

There being no public comments or further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Lane Rees, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court