

DECEMBER 20, 2002 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Friday, December 20, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse. This meeting was rescheduled from the 24th due to the holidays.

The following Board members were present: Larry Jones, Chair, Commissioner Lane Rees, Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, and Commissioner Ro Cuchens. Mr. Michael Underwood, County Administrator, Attorney Gary Vorbeck, Director of Legal Services and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

Commissioner Pridgen led with prayer following the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve the consent agenda as presented consisting of the following items. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

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| General Fund | \$ 1,045,930.56 |
| County Transportation | \$ 471,555.24 |
| Fine & Forfeiture | \$ 47,116.48 |
| Section 8 Housing | \$ 13,549.14 |
| N.W. Mosquito Control | \$ 2,815.51 |
| W. Co. Library | \$ 24,230.39 |
| Recreation Plat Fee | \$ 168.00 |
| Solid Waste Enterprise | \$ 134,012.75 |
| Mossy Head VFD | \$ 2,432.60 |
| Glendale VFD | \$ 955.52 |
| Darlington VFD | \$ 98,784.61 |
| Liberty VFD | \$ 2,534.71 |
| Red Bay VFD | \$ 144.16 |
| Local Option Gas Tax | \$ 33,277.09 |
| Capital Projects Fund | \$ 61,221.98 |
| SHIP | \$ 20.34 |

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| Tourist Dev. Council | \$ 172,817.84 |
| Mott Sign Grant | \$ - |
| Spec. Law Enforcement | \$ - |
| Driftwood Debt Serv. | \$ 607.88 |

Attorney Lloyd Blue, representing restaurants and businesses in the Grayton Beach area, requested a variance to the Grayton Beach Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance and requested that the hours of service be extended from 12:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. for New Year's.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve the extended hours of service for alcoholic beverages in Grayton Beach. Ayes 3, Nays 1. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Naye, Cuchens Aye. Commissioner Rees commented that he has received several calls supporting the Red Bar because of their cooperation in the community.

Chairman Jones called to order the advertised public hearing to consider an abandonment request on behalf of Mr. Joseph Johnson. Attorney Vorbeck explained that Mr. Johnson is requesting the county vacate a right of way in exchange for beachfront property. Attorney Coffield explained that the property is located in Santa Rosa Dunes. Her client owns lot 1 and recently purchased lot 2, which is gulf front property. Mr. Johnson is willing to exchange that portion of beach in exchange for an easement that runs north and south and is adjacent to the east boundary line of lots 1 and 2.

Ms. Coffield presented and reviewed the following documents: Special Warranty Deed, Exhibit A; Quitclaim Deed, Exhibit B; Easement, Exhibit C; Resolution, Exhibit D; and the Establishment of Escrow Agreement. She stated that Mr. Johnson is also requesting authorization to place a gate across that portion of easement he is deeding to the county to prevent the public from using it as a beach access. The gate would not be

locked and would provide access for emergency personnel to the beach. She further explained that the escrow agreement would allow time to complete the necessary transactions and that she would act as the escrow agent until all documentation has been completed and turned over to the county.

Commissioner Rees questioned Mr. Barry about the possible use of the road. Mr. Barry, Public Works Director, stated that he is in support of the abandonment. Mr. Ken Wilde, Beach Activities Coordinator, also agreed that he is in favor of the exchange.

Commissioner Cuchens stated that when he visited the site and took measurements, that portion of beachfront property was only 15-feet. Ms. Coffield stated that the width varies depending on the wind and waves and any erosion that occurs from storms. Commissioner Cuchens did not feel the exchange would be a great benefit to the county. Mr. Underwood questioned if this would put an undo burden on the county to maintain this portion of beach.

Judge Tom McGee, speaking on behalf of the South Walton Community Council, stated that they are in favor of the exchange and feel that this is very beneficial to the county.

Commissioner Cuchens questioned language in the Special Warranty Deed regarding the prohibition of any audio device on this portion of beach. Ms. Coffield stated that this language was taken from the county's current beach ordinance. Mr. Cuchens again stated that the useable portion on the beachfront parcel being donated to the county is very small. Ms. Coffield stated that when the survey was performed on December 9, 2002 there was 30-feet of beachfront property. Commissioner Cuchens

stated that he is not in favor of any abandonment. Commissioner Rees stated that he sees this as an exchange, not an abandonment.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens to deny the Johnson abandonment request. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen to adopt a resolution (2002-63) approving the Johnson abandonment request, establishment of Escrow, Special Warranty Deed, Quit Claim Deed, and Easement Agreement. Approval is contingent upon all documents being executed and being presented to Ms. Coffield, the Chairman's signature, advertisement for abandonment, and all title issues being clear. Ayes 3, Nays 1. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Naye.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for additional public comments. Judge Tom McGee commented on the excellent job performed by Mr. Russ Barry and his staff on the Camp Creek Bridge replacement. He praised them for the outstanding job they did in such a timely manner and for the amount of money saved by performing this project in-house rather than contracting it out. The commissioners concurred.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court