

## JANUARY 14, 2003 – WORKSHOP & REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held Workshop on Tuesday, January 14, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. at the South Walton Courthouse Annex. The Workshop was also followed by an Executive Session at 2:00 p.m. and a Regular Meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m.

The following Board members were present: Larry Jones, Chair, Tim Pauls, Vice-Chair, Commissioner Lane Rees, Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, and Commissioner Ro Cuchens. Mr. Michael Underwood, County Administrator, and Attorney Gary Vorbeck, Director of Legal Services, were also present.

Vice-Chairman Pauls called the meeting to order. Attorney Vorbeck introduced Mr. Ken Moneghan with Florida Association of Counties Trust. Mr. Moneghan introduced Attorney Larry Matthews, Bozeman, Jenkins & Matthews, who was present to explain liability issues.

Mr. Matthews discussed liability issues with the commissioners, both personal and group liability. He briefly explained ways to prevent lawsuits, lower legal costs, and reduce premiums. Mr. Matthews spoke about litigation issues and proper ways for commissioners to handle problems. He addressed actions of the commissioners when acting as a Board versus when they act individually. He stated that the commissioners basically have immunity when acting as a Board, but not as an individual.

Mr. Matthews directed the commissioners to always seek advise from counsel or the HR Director when dealing with personnel matters. He also advised the commissioners to direct individuals to speak with the Directors or Division Heads and not to make final decisions on their own.

Commissioner Jones arrived.

Commissioner Rees questioned Mr. Matthews regarding the best way to respond to individuals who have made slanderous comments or written articles. Mr. Matthews stated that the best way to respond is to make any necessary responses while convened as a Board and not on an individual basis.

Mr. Matthews stated that dealing with road issues is what brings about the most number of claims. He stated that the county needs to assure that they are following procedure, turn any complaints over to staff and allow them to handle them and to follow up on each complaint.

Attorney Vorbeck stated that they are attempting to educate staff in order to reduce the county's liability. Mr. Matthews stated that by keeping past experiences low the premiums will remain lower.

There being no further discussion, the Board recessed until 2:00 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Chairman Jones reconvened the meeting as noticed by publication in the DeFuniak Springs Herald Breeze on January 9, 2003.

Attorney David A. Theriaque requested, pursuant to Section 286.011(8) of the Florida Statutes, that the Walton County Board of County Commissioners adjourn to executive session so that he, attorney of record for Walton County in the Walton County, Florida, v. Okaloosa County, Florida, case numbers 02-227-CAS and 2002-CA-000860, may receive the County Commission's advice regarding the strategy to be used in the case and the type of expenses to be incurred.

Attorney Theriaque identified each person who would be present in the executive session and each commissioner present stated their name. Chairman Jones recessed this portion of the meeting and excused all individuals from the room who were not part of the Executive Session.

Chairman Jones reconvened the public portion of the meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to direct Attorney Theriaque to contact Okaloosa County regarding an alternative resolution for a binding decision on the matter of Destin Commons and the lawsuit with Okaloosa County. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

There being no further discussion this portion of the meeting was adjourned.

**WORKSHOP: BASKERVILLE-DONOVAN (MOSSY HEAD INDUSTRIAL PARK MASTER PLANNING)**

Mr. Rod Kendig, Baskerville-Donovan, appeared before the Board along with the other members of their team.

Mr. Mark Waterhouse gave an overview of the master plan for the Mossy Head Industrial Park. He spoke about the primary criteria, which is a location to place the companies. He stated that sites need to be prepared and buildings need to be available rapidly.

Mr. Waterhouse also spoke about the major aspects of the plan, which include: Goals-philosophies; Market Analysis; Planning & Engineering Analysis; Conceptual Development Plan; Financial Analysis and the Implementation Plan.

In closing, Mr. Waterhouse stated that there is a need for competition and state of the art communication technology. Most importantly, he stated that the project needs to

be done correctly the first time. Mr. Kendig estimated a period of 8-12 months for phase I of the project.

Mr. Underwood questioned the possibility of entering into an ongoing contract with Baskerville-Donovan to prevent time delays while bidding out portions of the project. He explained that the RFP process is lengthy and the ongoing contract could prevent time delays. Commissioner Pauls stated that he would like to see the market study before making a determination as to whether the market is looking for a mixed use versus an industrial park. He also requested to look at land uses for adjoining properties.

Discussion was held regarding the development of the park and the values of surrounding properties. Mr. Kendig stated that criteria for the park should be developed and explained that the standards of the park will determine how the surrounding property values are affected.

There being no further discussion, the workshop was recessed at 3:45 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING:**

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Rees led with prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag. Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, was also present for the meeting.

Judge William F. Stone appeared before the commissioners regarding the configuration of the boardroom in the South Walton Courthouse Annex. He explained that a more convenient set up is needed when the room is being used as a courtroom. Judge Stone presented several suggestions to improve it. The commissioners asked Mr. Collier to assist with any changes that would help the Judges.

Chairman Jones opened the meeting by thanking those who participated in the Town Hall Meeting recently held at Mossy Head. He further commented on the success of the meeting and the number of people who attended.

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

1. EAL Approval	
General Fund	\$ 1,029,216.83
County Transportation	\$ 290,478.38
Fine & Forfeiture	\$ 706,177.24
Section 8 Housing	\$ 126,007.96
N.W. Mosquito Control	\$ 764.73
W. Co. Library	\$ 45,944.22
Recreation Plat Fee	\$ 28.46
Solid Waste Enterprise	\$ 343,554.73
Mossy Head VFD	\$ 13,399.13
Glendale VFD	\$ 441.53
Darlington VFD	\$ 1,769.41
Liberty VFD	\$ 1,726.96
Red Bay VFD	\$ 1,260.85
Local Option Gas Tax	\$ 5,745.66
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 125,272.81
SHIP	\$ 18,790.27
Tourist Dev. Council	\$ 202,864.18
Mott Sign Grant	\$ -
Debt Service Hospital	
Spec. Law Enforcement	\$ -
Driftwood Debt Serv.	\$ 873.50

2. Approval of Minutes:
  - December 03, 2002-Land Use Hearing
  - December 10, 2002-Executive Session
  - December 10, 2002-Regular Meeting
  - December 20, 2002-Regular Meeting
  - January 07, 2003-Executive Session
3. Records Disposition Request

4. Surplus Equipment Request
5. Adoption of Resolution to Amend Budget

Mr. Ken Little, Citizens Service Director, appeared before the commissioners and explained that the ADA Committee has recommended adding Mr. Marvin Collier to the committee.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to accept the recommendation and appoint Mr. Collier to serve on the ADA Committee. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Little explained that he was recently appointed to the Transportation Disadvantaged Board. However, the Board has requested that a commissioner be appointed.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to appoint Commissioner Cuchens to serve on the Transportation Disadvantaged Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resources Director, presented information regarding the hiring of a Public Information Officer. Mr. Mattison stated that the selection process has been completed and staff unanimously recommends hiring Ms. Deborah Thatcher. Ms. Thatcher currently resides in Niceville, Florida, but is willing to relocate to Walton County.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept staff's recommendation to hire Ms. Thatcher to fill the position of Public Information Officer. Commissioner Cuchens stated that he would like to see a Walton County resident hired to fill the position. Mr. Mattison explained that Ms. Thatcher has 20 years experience and

far out weighed the other candidates for the position. Ms. Thatcher will be on a six-month probationary period. Mr. Mattison stated that 40 applicants were submitted and 12 of those were from Walton County. He also stated that there are no residency requirements in the policy. He did state that 90 percent of all new hires are from Walton County. Chairman Jones called for a vote on the motion. Ayes 3, Nays 2. Rees Aye, Pridgen Naye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Naye, Pauls Aye.

Chairman Jones called to order the advertised public hearing to consider public input on how to utilize Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funds. Capt. Danny Glidewell from the Walton County Sheriff's Department appeared before the Board to answer questions regarding the grant. He stated that the grant is in the amount of \$16,000.00. No one voiced any comments. Capt. Glidewell stated the names of those individuals who serve on the advisory board for this grant.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, appeared before the commissioners and requested approval to purchase the paving machine that the county has been leasing over the past six months. Mr. Barry explained that Public Works should save enough money on the paving of the parking lots for the new jail to more than pay for the paving machine. The money paid toward the lease will be applied to the cost of the purchase with a remaining balance of \$108,905.00.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept the recommendation of staff and approve the purchase of the paving machine from Cowin Equipment Company in the amount of \$108, 905.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry explained that Nelson Bridge over Alaqua Creek, and near the Eglin Air Force Base Reservation is in need of replacement. Public Works has been dealing with Eglin AFB over the past few months to obtain permission to use several roads that are physically located on the reservation as a detour route while the bridge is being replaced. Mr. Barry stated that he has obtained an agreement from Eglin AFB to use the roads for a period of 90 days and requested the Board sign the agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve for the Chairman to sign an agreement with Eglin AFB to utilize several roads while Nelson Bridge is being replaced. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry presented information relating to the two responsive bids received for the improvements and extension of the bike path on CR 30A: Bullard Construction - \$2,133,549.00 and C.W. Roberts - \$2,440,508.00. Mr. Barry stated that several items were removed from the bid to reduce the costs and recommended awarding the bid to Bullard Construction, low bid.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to award the low bid to Bullard Construction and allow Mr. Barry to begin negotiations not to exceed an amount of \$1,881,849.42 for the 30A bike path. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry requested approval to advertise for and purchase a GPS System for an estimated cost of \$61,000.00, and a Robotic Total Survey Station with an estimated cost of \$35,000.00. The equipment is necessary to completely interface with the county's GPS system. Mr. Barry stated that funding will come from the Public Works budget.



Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Rees to approve to advertise for and buy the GPS equipment as requested. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry reminded the commissioners that previous Boards had agreed to provide assistance to private citizens by placing county-owned dumpsters on their property for the purpose of cleaning up. Mr. Barry asked if they would like to continue with this policy. He further explained that there are private businesses that provide this service and therefore questioned if the county is competing with private industry. Mr. Barry recommended discontinuing the practice of placing dumpsters on private property.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen to continue providing this service to the public.

Commissioner Pauls questioned what the public purpose is. He further suggested that this service be provided to residents based on hardship cases or in the event of a house fire. Commissioner Rees stated that he supports providing a dumpster in the event of indigency or house fires. Mr. Barry stated that Walton County has only four dumpsters available for this service and there is currently a backlog of four months.

The motion was amended to restrict providing dumpsters to only to those individuals who have had a house fire, the indigent, or those who have been issued a code violation. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Ms. Ingle voiced her appreciation to Mr. Barry for the outstanding presentation he made to the Kiwanis Club. She stated that he presented his information in a very professional manner.

Mrs. Jennifer Christensen, Planning Technician, presented the final plat for Summers Edge Third Addition. BRS Joint Ventures is developing a 7 lot mixed use subdivision. Staff recommended approval. Mrs. Christensen explained that the project is not yet complete, but the developer has agreed to escrow 110% of the completion costs.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to accept staff's recommendation and approve Summers Edge Third Addition final plat for recording. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Christensen presented Hidden Highlands final plat for approval. Beta Builders, Inc. is developing a 34 lot single-family subdivision. There is a letter of credit on file pending final completion of the project. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to accept staff's recommendation and approve Hidden Highlands final plat for recording. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Christensen explained that Santa Rosa Place Apartments, scheduled on the agenda, was continued pending additional information.

Mr. Underwood presented information regarding the Geographic Information Services Contract (GIS). He stated that the county has considered expanding the existing contract with SAIC. Mr. Brent McBroom, SAIC, has been working with the county since the implementation of the Local Flood Mitigation Strategy Program. Several extensions have been granted to the contract amounting to approximately \$30,000.00 over the past three years. Mr. Underwood stated that the county is looking at a way to expand the service to make it more available to the public through a web site and additional

information for the county's use. He spoke with Mr. McBroom on ways to enhance the current services. Mr. McBroom shared ways that the program could be enhanced, but stated that additional costs would be about \$100,000.00. Mr. McBroom presented an updated contract for review.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, stated that he reviewed the contract as submitted by SAIC and stated that there are a number of new items listed in the contract, which are beyond the current scope of work. Because the additional items amount to more than \$25,000.00 in services, he recommended adhering to policy and advertise for RFP's.

Attorney Vorbeck stated that there is no engineering, architectural, or surveying services involved, but this involves all county departments. He stated that consideration should be given to what is needed for all county departments.

Mr. Underwood stated that staff recommended using the services of the Small County Technical Assistance Group to help determine the county's needs regarding the outcome that is trying to be achieved. Mr. Mike Lane stated that Growth Management wants assurance that Walton County has a current Future Land Use Map. Mr. Underwood stated that SAIC cannot provide what the county needs for \$30,000.00.

Mr. Brent McBroom explained that his firm originally acquired this contract through a grant. The contract has since been extended annually at the same cost. He explained that his firm could not provide all of the services the county is needing for that amount of funding. Mr. McBroom stated that SAIC has saved the county money by providing resources that was performed by other contractors. He felt that they have saved the county money by using the resources available to them. He stated that a time and

materials contract is needed in order to finish creating the two land use plans, the web site, and complete a countywide GIS system with a maximum expenditure of up to \$100,000.00. He explained that when the maximum is reached then an evaluation would be performed. Mr. McBroom stated that all county departments need to be included to assure they are receiving the services they need.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen to direct staff to advertise for RFP's to secure a firm to perform an assessment on the county's GIS program to determine the county's needs and to extend a time and materials contract with SAIC until an assessment is performed.

Mr. McBroom stated that if the county contracts with a new firm, the work already performed would have to be recreated, which would be costly to the county. He further stated that their contract has expired and there are no funds remaining in the budget for them to perform any further work.

Chairman Jones called for a vote on the motion to advertise for RFP's. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Underwood advised the Board that a public hearing would be held on January 15, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. for the U.S. Highway 331 to Mac Bayou Master Plan.

Due to changes that occurred with the Planning Commission, the Grayton Grand project could not be heard until February 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Underwood stated that the project would be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on February 18<sup>th</sup> if they felt that would allow enough time for the attorneys to prepare their case. The Commissioners agreed to leave it on the February 18<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Mr. Collier explained that there were no plans included for signage when the South Walton Courthouse Annex was drafted. He stated that he is attempting to provide signage that matches the Tourist Development Council's design. There is funding in the contingency budget. Mr. Collier stated that a sign is also needed for the South Walton Sheriff's Annex.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve the purchase of necessary signage for the South Walton Courthouse Annex and Sheriff's Department. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Ms. Kris Titus, Executive Director of the South Walton Tourist Development Council, appeared before the Board and requested the appointment of Jeanne Dailey, Newman Dailey Resort Properties, to the Tourist Development Council Board. Ms. Dailey will replace Mr. Jim Meeker who has resigned.

Commissioner Rees recused himself on this issue stating that Newman Dailey Resort Properties is one of his clients.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve the appointment of Jeannie Dailey to the Tourist Development Council Board. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Titus presented information regarding the Kellog donation of 10 acres. She stated that an environmental study, title search, and survey have been completed and reviewed by Legal Services. She also presented the restrictions covenant.

Attorney Mary Kraemer stated that Ms. Kellog approached her regarding the donation of property for the purpose of a wildlife nature preserve. The property that Ms.

Kellog is donating is located north of Nursery Road and west of Nellie Drive. The restriction states that the property is to be maintained as a wildlife preserve with nature trails and that the Audubon Society be provided access for their bird watching activities.

Ms. Kellog appeared before the Board and stated that she is concerned with the youth of today and wants to see this property preserved. She felt that the Audubon Society would do an excellent job taking care of the property.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve accepting the donation of a deed for a 10-acre parcel from Ms. Kellog. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Ms. Kira Honse, Staff Attorney, appeared before the commissioners to present the Beach Activities Ordinance along with Mr. Ken Wilde, Beach Activities Coordinator. Ms. Honse related to the commissioners the history of the ordinance. She explained that she consolidated various ordinances that currently exist as well as implementing additional language. Chairman Jones opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Don Crim addressed the commissioners regarding the ordinance asking for clarification of several issues as well as definitions.

Mrs. Kris Titus stated that the Tourist Development Council has reviewed the beach ordinance. She stated that the tourism industry is supportive with staff's efforts regarding a beach ordinance. The Tourist Development Council encourages the commissioners to move forward with the adoption of the ordinance.

Mr. David Kramer offered several recommended changes to further clarify the ordinance and also requested clarification regarding bonfires on the beach. He requested

that the requirement for “surf leash” be removed. He also requested to allow chumming for sharks after dark and to change the distance to 500 feet for idle speed.

Ms. Linda Eyer spoke about problems with renters leaving their beach permits behind for the next individual who rents. Mr. Wilde advised that they are addressing the issue.

Ms. Lorna Patrick, US Fish and Wildlife Service, commended Walton County for the beach ordinance. She spoke about it being a good policy to use containers for fires on the beach to mitigate many of the negative affects. The US Fish and Wildlife also recommends that no equipment be allowed on the beach overnight to help protect nesting sea turtles. She also recommended that the county apply for an incidental take permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service when allowing permitted vehicles to drive on the beach.

Mr. Dan Thomasek expressed his appreciation for the ordinance.

Ms. Bonnie Covell of Grayton Beach stated that clarification is needed regarding the boundary line for driving on the beach at the Grayton Beach entrance. She felt that the distance of 1470 feet stated in the ordinance is incorrect and allows travel onto private property. The commissioners directed staff to measure the distance for accuracy.

Mr. Richard Fowlkes addressed the commissioners on behalf of the sea turtle watch groups. He stated that items left on the beaches will cause the sea turtles to become disoriented and go the wrong way. The group would like to see the ordinance adopted with language that would require people to remove all personal items from the beach at night.

Ms Mary Nelson requested that a vote be deferred until further amendments can be made.

Ms. Julie Hilton presented a handout and requested clarification of section 2. She further requested language be added that protects the private property owner. Mr. Vorbeck stated that this ordinance is not for the purpose of affecting anyone's property rights.

Mr. Tom Blackshear recommended several changes to the ordinance and asked that another hearing be held before final adoption of the ordinance.

Ms. Sharon Logue-Higgins commended staff for the work on the ordinance. She requested clarification regarding bonfires on the beach and if the property owner must be notified first. Mr. Wilde stated that written permission must be granted if a fire is going to be on private property. Ms. Higgins also spoke about the unsafe conditions relating to the deep trenches that are being dug on the beaches. She stated that not only are the sea turtles falling in the holes, but it is also causing problems for those walking on the beaches.

Ms. Suzzane Harris, President of the Board of Directors for Edgewater Beach Condominiums, thanked staff and the commissioners for the proposed ordinance. She voiced her opposition to chumming for sharks. She also spoke about problems that exist with a parasail business that currently operates next to their condominiums.

Ms. Patty Warren stated that she is adamantly opposed to more restrictions being placed on private property owners who own beachfront property.

Mr. Frank Hall stated that he is opposed to the \$100.00 permit fee for bonfires. He stated that he is a responsible property owner who cleans up after himself and enjoys



entertaining family and friends with bonfires. Mr. Hall requested that the \$25.00 fee be retained.

Ms. Anita Page, First Vice-President of the South Walton Community Council, stated that they did not approve of the ordinance because of the wording relating to obstructions being left on the beach. She stated that they have concern with the amount of items being left on the beach, which is an obstruction to sea turtles.

Commissioner Pauls stated that discussion was held regarding going to a “clean beach policy”. He also spoke about ways to enforce the ordinance and stated that he spoke with the Sheriff’s Office about enforcement. Commissioner Pauls stated that it is the intent of the ordinance to be more turtle friendly and protective. Ms. Page stated that the SWCC would like to see language placed in the ordinance that would require people to remove personal items from the beach at night during the turtle-nesting season, which is from May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Wilde stated that it is his intent to have better coordination with the turtle watch groups. He also stated that various methods for enforcement were discussed such as posting signs, beach patrols, education enhancement for the public and assistance from rental managers.

Ms. Sharon Denelfill commented that more items are being left on the beach every year. She stated that it is also becoming more dangerous to people.

Ms. Sharon Maxwell stated that she would like to see wording put back in the ordinance to prevent equipment from being left on the beach from sunset to sunrise.

Chairman Jones closed the public hearing relating to the Beach Activities Ordinance. The commissioners agreed that further review and revisions are necessary before adopting the ordinance.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Chairman Jones called the meeting back to order to hear presentations from the three firms selected for interviews for the Comprehensive Plan updates.

Mr. L. Solin, Solin & Associates, presented information relating to his firm and stated that they are aware of the inconsistencies between the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan. He stated they are familiar with the various areas of the county and the differences between the north and south portions of the county. Mr. Solin spoke about some of the inconsistencies between the plans.

Mr. Solin explained the experience his firm has and the experience and education of those individuals working on the project. He stated that Hartman & Associates is working with them on this project as well as Tipton & Associates, Ortel, Hoffman, Fernandez & Cole and Planning Partnerships, Inc.

Commissioner Pauls questioned Mr. Solin regarding the drafting of an EAR Report. Mr. Solin recommended combining an EAR Report at the same time while working on the Comp Plan amendments.

Larue Planning and Management Services is the second firm selected to present information about their company. Mr. Tony Arrant, Consultant for Larue Planning and Management Services, stated that he is a part of a multi-firm team who will be working on the Comp Plan revisions if selected. Mr. Arrant gave a brief explanation of his

experience and the experience of the other team members. He also told about his firm's experience with other governmental agencies.

Mr. Donald Murry spoke about his team's experience with Comp Plans. Mr. Murry stated that their firm only serves governmental entities to prevent any conflicts of interest. Mr. Murry spoke about the importance of communicating with staff and the public. In closing, Mr. Murry spoke about the team's strengths and their service benefits.

Mr. Jon Sewell, AICP with Kimely-Horn and Associates, addressed the commissioners with an overview of his firm. He stated that they have over 50 years experience in writing Comp Plans. He introduced Ms. Wendy Gray, AICP, who has over 20 years of comprehensive planning experience. Mr. Tom Pelham, AICP, will also be working on the team. Mr. Sewell stated that their firm is located in Tallahassee and has the proven ability to work with the Department of Community Affairs.

Ms. Gray addressed the commissioners and told about her experience stating that she has over 10 years experience as the Director of the Leon County Planning Department. She feels the experience will enable her to provide beneficial service to Walton County. Mr. Pelham spoke about his experience with Comp Plans.

Mr. Sewell stated that they would work as team members with Walton County staff in order to receive their input. He stated that public input is also important. Their estimated timeframe for completion is one year. Mr. Sewell spoke about GIS integration with the Comp Plan. He stated that they have staff in Tallahassee with the necessary experience relating to GIS systems. Mr. Sewell closed by assuring the commissioners that his firm has more experience than the other firms and felt that they can serve Walton County better.

The commissioners ranked each firm and presented them to Mr. Underwood to be tallied.

Commissioner Rees commented that he attended the installation of the new President for the University of West Florida.

Commissioner Pridgen and Commissioner Pauls did not present any items for discussion.

Commissioner Cuchens advised that Mr. Raymond Boland had contacted him regarding TR Spence Road, which was added to the county's maintained road list in error. Mr. Boland requested the road be removed from the list. Commissioner Cuchens stated that he is not aware any opposition from other residents on the road. The commissioners concurred with removing the road from the maintenance list.

Chairman Jones announced that Kimley-Horn and Associates was the number one ranked firm, Solin & Associates was second and Larue Planning and Management Services was ranked third.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to accept the ranking and allow staff to begin negotiations with Kimley-Horn and Associates. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Chairman Jones stated that Mr. Collier has been reviewing the ongoing projects to determine if there is a better way to address the county's need for space. He reminded the Board that it was previously agreed upon to renovate the old hospital in order to allow the court facilities to continue operating while the courthouse was being worked on.

Mr. Collier advised that the courthouse construction project could proceed without interruptions to the courts if a decision is made not to relocate. He explained that

citizens have voiced concern with relocating the court facilities to the old hospital. He stated that he transferred \$100,000.00 from the old hospital renovation budget to use for additional noise control while the courthouse renovations are taking place. Mr. Collier further explained what other changes could occur to relocate other county offices into buildings near the courthouse so that more county offices could be strategically located near the courthouse.

Mr. Collier considered the pros and cons of using the old hospital as an assisted living facility. He stated that the costs would be about the same to construct the facility at the current site versus a new site.

Mr. J. B. Hillard, resident of Bay Avenue, spoke in opposition to the proposed location of the new jail facility. He requested that other alternatives be considered as well as the impact it would have on the City of DeFuniak Springs if it is constructed at the current location.

Ms. Bonnie Bonner, resident of College Avenue, thanked the commissioners for reconsidering the use of the old hospital. She requested that the commissioners consider using it for an assisted living facility.

Ms. Mary Lynn Devlon thanked the commissioners for not renovating the old hospital into county offices.

Mr. Allen Powdermaker stated that he appreciates the commissioners reconsidering the use of the old hospital. He further recommended that staff reconsider other alternatives. Mr. Powdermaker also stated that the county should not be in the business of providing assisted living facilities. Mr. Powdermaker voiced concern regarding the cost to construct a new jail. He felt that the issue should be studied more to

determine the operating costs and to see if a boot camp type of facility would provide better service to the inmates regarding their rehabilitation.

Mr. Collier recommended proceeding with construction of the courthouse if the county is not going to relocate to the old hospital. He further recommended proceeding with the jail project.

Mr. Underwood asked the commissioners if they wish to stop with renovations at the old hospital. The Board agreed to not proceed with the old hospital at this time.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he agrees with the consolidation of county personnel. He felt that plans should proceed with construction of the new courthouse using the sound barriers that Mr. Collier spoke about. Commissioner Pauls stated that additional information is needed regarding the use of the old hospital.

Mr. Paul Donofro, Donofro and Associates, stated that his construction documents for the old hospital are 92.5% complete. He explained that the plans would be substantially different if an assisted living facility were to be designed.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to stop work at the old hospital and continue looking at the possibility of using it as an assisted living facility while moving forward with the plans for the courthouse addition. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Brian Kellenberger, Watkins Constructors, stated that they, along with 2WR Holmes-Wilkins, have decided to proceed with bidding the jail project to determine the costs of construction. He advised that they have worked to determine the detailed costs for the project and are presently at a cost of \$13.5 million for the base project, which does not include additional parking, impound yard and maintenance facility.

Mr. Hillard again stated that an impact study is needed for the jail. He voiced concerns regarding the impact on people and property values. Commissioner Rees commented that some local businesses have requested that the jail remain in its current location.

Ms. Bonner stated that future growth of the jail needs to be considered and questioned if the jail should be placed on a larger parcel to accommodate the need for future expansion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry D. Jones, Chairman

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