

MARCH 25, 2003 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Larry Jones, Chair, Tim Pauls, Vice-Chair, 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 Rees was not present due to illness in his family.

Chairman Jones led with prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

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

1. Expenditure Approval List	
General Fund	\$ 734,835.69
County Transportation	\$ 1,154,494.85
Fine & Forfeiture	\$ 50,542.67
Section 8 Housing	\$ 120,469.78
N.W. Mosquito Control	\$ 8,824.58
W. Co. Library	\$ 19,077.62
Recreation Plat Fee	\$ 1,135.98
Solid Waste Enterprise	\$ 136,309.15
Mossy Head VFD	\$ 9,229.67
Glendale VFD	\$ 3,648.09
Darlington VFD	\$ 164.34
Liberty VFD	\$ 3,581.58
Red Bay VFD	\$ 81.14
Local Option Gas Tax	\$ 33,258.39

Capital Projects Fund	\$	3,018.10
SHIP	\$	368.88
Tourist Dev. Council	\$	63,597.81
Mott Sign Grant	\$	-
Driftwood Debt Service	\$	4,652.32

2. Minutes of March 4, 2003-Land Use Hearing  
March 6, 2003-Red Bay Town Meeting

The Division Director Activity Updates were also presented for review.

Mr. Gerald Schippers appeared before the commissioners on behalf of Mr. Al Buford regarding a pending grant application for improvements in the Indian Bay Subdivision. Mr. Barry advised that he spoke with Mrs. Biddle, Grants Coordinator, regarding the application. After research it was determined that this project probably meets the requirements for a CDBG Grant. He stated that they have begun working on this issue.

Mr. Jim McCall, Finance Director for the Walton County School Board, appeared before the Board along with Mr. Coy Yates, Superintendent of Schools, to request support from the commissioners. Mr. McCall presented a resolution adopted by the School Board asking the County Commissioners to support, and to call for a special election on June 10, 2003 to vote on an ad Valorem millage increase for operating expenditures for the School District.

Mr. McCall stated that they are requesting a .50 increase in millage, which amounts to approximately \$2.5 million per year. If approved, the school board has pledged to reduce the millage by .50 in Capital Projects, thereby not creating any tax increase. Mr. McCall said that they are attempting to exert more local control with the same amount of local funding.

Commissioner Pauls clarified that there would not be any net increase, it would be a redistribution of revenue. The estimated cost of the special election was estimated at \$20,000 to \$25,000 and would be paid by the School District. He stated that the school system would feel the effects of legislation recently passed regarding reduction in class sizes and the possible loss of extra-curriculums programs if this is not adopted.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen to adopt a resolution (2003-15) approving to hold a special election on June 10, 2003 to vote on an ad Valorem millage increase for operating expenditures for the School District. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Jennifer Christensen, Planning Technician, presented the South Walton Business Center final plat for approval. Mr. Robert Grantham is proposing the development of a 16-lot commercial/industrial subdivision located on CR 393. Staff felt the right-of-way should be 66 feet and the survey or felt that is should be 60 feet. The developer has agreed to dedicate a 3-foot easement to the county once the plat is on record. She presented a letter from their attorney stating that they are in agreement to provide the easement. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve South Walton Business Center final plat for recording. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Christensen presented Seacrest Beach, Phase 6 final plat. Seacrest Beach, Inc. is developing a 98 lot single-family residential subdivision. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve Seacrest Beach, Phase 6 final plat for recording. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Christensen presented Arrowhead at Burnt Pine East final plat for approval. Intrawest US Holding, Inc. is proposing a 28 lot single-family residential subdivision. Staff recommended approval. The project is located within the Sandestin DRI.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve Arrowhead at Burnt Pine East final plat for recording. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Melissa Pilcher, Regional Utilities, appeared before the Board requesting approval to submit payment request #2 on the DEP wastewater grant. The requested amount is \$195,528.50.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve for Regional Utilities to submit payment request #2 in the amount of \$195,528.50 to DEP. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Ken Little, Citizens Service Director, appeared before the Board requesting a determination for the future use of the building currently being occupied by the Walton County Health Department in south Walton. The health department expects to move into their new building no later than June leaving the building vacant. The lease for the building will expire in May. However, the Miracle Strip American Legion Post has agreed to continue leasing the building to the county on a month-by-month basis. The Board concurred to continue the lease on a month-by-month basis until the health department staff has moved out.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, appeared before the Board and advised that he would defer discussion of the accelerated paving program pending further research. He advised that he is looking into an alternative financing method.

Mr. Barry presented a request on behalf of Chelco regarding an easement on Rockman Lane. The purpose is to locate a power pole on the county's easement. He also requested that the Chairman of the Board be allowed to execute the easements without having to present each one. He explained that any easement request that might be controversial would be presented to the Board. Mr. Vorbeck advised that Chelco offered an amendment to the easement. The amendment states that Chelco would relocate the pole at their expense upon a 30-day written notice by the county. Chairman Jones stated that the county needs to take a comprehensive look at this issue. A clear policy needs to be set. Discussion occurred regarding the legal description on each easement. Mr. Vorbeck stated that a surveyor needs to review each request for accuracy. Commissioner Pauls stated that he approves of the request as long as there is enough right-of-way.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the right-of-way agreement with Chelco contingent upon sufficient right-of-way and that it does not hinder the county in any way. Each future right-of-way request will be reviewed by the Board to determine sufficient space. Chelco will be responsible for the costs. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Mike Judkins appeared before the Board again to find out what decisions have been made regarding the flooding problems on his property. Mr. Barry stated that he has reviewed the issue and performed probe tests in the area. Several tests show that there has been some clay leakage, which slows the percolation. He advised that the clay would

be removed and sand would be added to help the percolation rate. Mr. Barry also stated that he met on site with DEP to review the situation.

Commissioner Pauls advised that he attended the Forest Shore Homeowners Association Meeting where stormwater was their major discussion. He stated that he feels the county can remedy problems on North Holiday Road, but does not feel that it will significantly change the situation on the Judkins property. He stated that the challenge for North Holiday Road area would be to have a comprehensive stormwater plan to cause the water to drain. Mr. Barry stated that grant applications have been submitted, but not yet received. Commissioner Pauls stated that he would be requesting the county to hold a neighborhood meeting in this area to address the stormwater plan and traffic issues.

Chairman Jones questioned if it has yet been determined if the construction met the design criteria as approved by DEP. Mr. Barry stated that it did meet the criteria. Commissioner Cuchens spoke about property that is owned by the county, which is located closer to the bay. He asked if some of the drainage could be cleaned out as a temporary solution. Mr. Barry stated that the county has been working to give the homeowners relief. He stated that they would continue working to clean out the silt.

Mr. Judkins felt that the drainage was installed in the wrong area and he would like to see it corrected. He stated that it might take some fill to correct his problems.

Chairman Jones stated that if it is a problem caused by the county that they would fix it, but he cannot be sure that the county created the entire problem is caused by the county.

Mr. Judkins also voiced concern regarding semis using private driveways as a turn-a-round. He presented pictures of the situation.

Attorney Vorbeck presented the Thompson amended Developer's Agreement. He stated that additional information has recently been provided and stated that further review needs to be taken and therefore requested to continue this issue pending further research. Commissioner Pauls advised that the property is located on Highway 331. The property was given its current designation with a developer's agreement that the designation would be applied only to the current owners. The property would not continue as Heavy Industrial, but would revert back to Rural Village. He stated that the neighbors should be informed as to whether or not the Heavy Industrial designation will be upheld.

Mr. Lloyd Thompson advised the Board that he previously discussed this issue with the Planning Commission prior to purchasing the property and advised that there would not be any problems with his application. He asked that Article V be eliminated from the Developer's Agreement causing the property to revert back to Rural Village. The Board agreed to research this issue further and present it at the next meeting.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, updated the commissioners on the progress of the Tilley Landing project while he was Public Works Director. He stated that Water Management obtained the easement from Mr. Tilley leading to Lost Lakes. The county furnished personnel and equipment, and Water Management reimbursed the county for the materials. Mr. Bell stated that road was to remain open to the public. Chairman Jones asked Mr. Underwood to review the agreement and to contact Water Management.

Mr. Bell advised that RFP's were recently received for the 911 Dispatch Console System located at the Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Bell stated that the equipment is outdated and needs replacing. Funding for the equipment was included in the budget. The recommendation is to award the contract to Xybix System, low bidder, in the amount of \$36,207.01. Additional equipment is also needed, which costs \$8,950.00 for the needed options for a total of \$45,157.03.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept the recommendation and purchase 911-dispatch console equipment from Xybix System, low bidder, for a total amount of \$45,157.03. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Bell advised that he received a letter from Mr. Rand McDaniel, Chief of Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety, requesting the donation of a surplus 1992 Walton County Ambulance. Mr. Bell recommended approval contingent upon no other department within Walton County needing the vehicle. Commissioner Pauls commented that because the vehicle was purchased with Walton County funds the citizens would want to see the equipment used in the county. Mr. Bell stated that the equipment has been surplus because of high mileage.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the donation of a surplus 1992 Ambulance to Okaloosa County contingent upon no other Walton County agency needing it. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Bell presented the Animal Control Report for the past year. He stated that there are some issues of concern relating to sheltering. Mr. Bell recommended advertising

for RFP's. Mr. Bell presented a scope of services and stated that it is only a draft. The services would be a turnkey operation to include sheltering within Walton County and the Animal Control Officers. A separate proposal could be considered for the sheltering aspect only. Chairman Jones stated that he is also looking at a proposal that he would like the Board to review. He stated that he would support a proposal to address the sheltering issue within the county.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens to advertise for RFP's for a turnkey operation in Walton County. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Commissioner Pridgen stated that he would like to review the information Chairman Jones is working on before making any further decision. Commissioner Pauls stated that he would like to review the proposed scope of services further. He stated that he would like to see Walton County build a facility to shelter the animals, but consideration must be given to the costs involved. He stated that he would like to see proposals for various options. It was the general consensus of the Board to defer this issue pending further review.

Mr. Underwood asked Mr. Ken Wilde, Beach Activities Coordinator, to address the issue relating to white sand. Mr. Wilde presented an excerpt from the Land Development Code regarding White Sand Protection Restrictions for zones south of Scenic Highway 98 and south of CR 30A. A problem arose with a bulldozer being on the beach in Miramar without being permitted. He stated that the bulldozer was scraping sand near the water and redistributing it in other areas. Mr. Wilde presented samples he obtained, one from the beach and one from Owl's Head Farm, which are a close match. The sand has not been compared with the muncil color pallet scale. Mr. Wilde explained

that the permit recently issued for the Frangista Beach project allowed 390 cubic yards of sand to be used. Discussion followed regarding DEP's permitting process for white sand. Mr. Wilde stated that Mr. John Martin contacted him regarding the project. He advised Mr. Wilde of a project on Panama City Beach that possibly had white sand available that would match Walton County's sand. He felt that because the sand might be a few hundred dollars more from American Sand, Panama City, that the developer might not purchase it even though it is a better match.

Commissioner Pauls stated that direction was previously given to the County Engineer regarding the type of sand that could be used. However, that basically referred to sand for foundations. He stated that consistency is needed if a standard is adopted regarding the type of sand to be used. Mr. Wilde stated that it may be difficult to locate a matching sand source for beach renourishment. Chairman Jones requested that Commissioner Pauls work with Mr. Wilde to develop a policy.

Mr. Underwood advised the Board that personnel from the landfill sent letters to the waste haulers advising of random load inspections. He explained that the haulers have been mixing yard debris with household waste, which is not allowed according to the contract. He advised that he has drafted and signed a temporary agreement with Waste Management for them to pick up yard debris once per week until the Board directs otherwise. The cost to the county is \$2,350.00 per day for two trucks to pick up debris five days a week for residents of south Walton and some residents in an area from Freeport to Villa Tasso. Mr. Underwood stated that an option would be to continue with this contract, bid the service out, or the county could purchase the necessary equipment to provide the services.

Mr. Rory Cassedy, Waste Management, appeared before the Board to answer questions and stated that the agreement is temporary. Chairman Jones questioned if the regular household pick up could be reduced to one day per week to reduce costs. Commissioner Pauls stated that he spoke with some neighborhood areas and they were in favor of reducing the normal garbage pick up in order to receive pick up for yard debris. Mr. Cassedy stated that he would monitor the situation to see if it would be possible.

Discussion occurred regarding use of the old Blue Mountain Beach site for a disposal site. Pauls voiced concern regarding the lease for that site stating that the Department of Forestry would have to agree to an amended lease prior to using it for that purpose.

Mr. Don Crim commented that the residents in the north portion of the county would also want the same service provided to South Walton. The commissioners advised that the citizens of north Walton County are allowed to dump their debris free of charge at the landfill.

Mr. Cassedy requested to meet with county staff on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the issue further. Mr. Underwood stated that the average cost per customer is 96 cent from Waste Management. DAYCO also presented a proposal at 92 cent per customer. The Board agreed to continue the contract for a period of three weeks pending further review.

Commissioner Pauls advised the Board that some of the right-of-way issues have been resolved and staff is moving forward with the paving of Thompson Road.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve the Sandestin Community Signage. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to appoint Mr. Rod Wilson to the Recreational Impact Fee Committee as a substitute for Mr. Britt Greene. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls also advised the Board that there have been inquiries into possible locations for adult entertainment businesses. He stated that the county needs to develop policy regarding location restrictions for adult businesses. He stated that the people he represents do not want to see adult businesses located in their community.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to enact a moratorium on any type of adult entertainment activity until which time an ordinance can be adopted. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls requested clarification regarding the notification process for minor developments. He questioned if a minor development is required to abide by the notification guidelines.

Commissioner Cuchens introduced Dr. Peter Mills, resident of Santa Rosa Beach, who was present to speak about a program called KIDDS. Dr. Mills addressed the Board regarding the screening program requiring children to receive dental screenings before entering pre-school. He stated that there are hundreds of children in the poverty level that do not receive any assistance for dental care. Dr. Mills stated that currently there are no programs available to provide necessary treatment. He has asked local dentists from Okaloosa County if they would be willing to provide treatment for these children. The dentists agreed to volunteer their services if there was a location away from the private offices to do so. Dr. Mills stated that he is attempting to work out an agreement with Okaloosa Walton Community College to utilize their dental clinic and students in the

Dental Assistant's Program. The Department of Health has agreed to assist in processing any dental insurance, which would be reinvested into the program for supplies and equipment. Dr. Mills stated that his goal is to provide treatment for every underprivileged child in this area. He also stated that he has been invited to Washington D.C. to introduce his program as a national program.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he would like to help Dr. Mills achieve his goals, but questioned who would provide the insurance for the program. Dr. Mills stated that there is Sovereign Immunity Insurance for volunteer dentists according to State Law.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt a resolution (2003-06) supporting Dr. Mills in his efforts on implementing the KIDDS Program. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Cuchens also asked Dr. Mills to explain his history with the film industry. Dr. Mills presented a proposal to form a Walton County Motion Picture/Television Commission to entice movie and television producers to select Walton County as their next project. The purpose of this would be to advertise Walton County and to bring revenue to the area. Chairman Jones requested that Dr. Mills present information back to the Board at a later date regarding who would be on the film commission. Dr. Mills stated that he needs county support because he will be requesting assistance from the State that he cannot receive as an individual. Commissioner Cuchens recommended adopting a Walton County Motion Picture and appointing Dr. Mills as the Chairman. He also stated that he would like to see the Board meetings publicized. Commissioner Pauls suggested that Dr. Mills contact the Chamber of Commerce and the South Walton Tourist Development Council.

Commissioner Cuchens questioned the status of work on CR 3280. Mr. Barry stated that work will begin Friday.

Chairman Jones requested staff to follow up on the Adopt-A-Highway Program.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to adopt a Joint Resolution with the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance to enable them to seek additional funding for surface water quality improvements. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Chairman Jones presented the Commissioners with a plaque from the DeFuniak Springs Little League for their support. He also voiced his appreciation to staff that worked on Saturday to assure that the fields were prepared for opening day. Commissioner Cuchens also voiced his appreciation to those county employees who worked on the Choctaw Beach boat ramp. Commissioner Pauls commented on the excellent work performed on the Helen McCall Ball Park. He stated that the fields and the facilities have been improved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

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

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