

APRIL 8, 2003 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

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.

Commissioner Pauls 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 Rees 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	\$	386,419.17
County Transportation	\$	418,321.27
Fine & Forfeiture	\$	732,888.13
Section 8 Housing	\$	13,197.41
N.W. Mosquito Control	\$	29,358.76
W. Co. Library	\$	22,636.76
Recreation Plat Fee	\$	589.48
Solid Waste Enterprise	\$	109,840.09
Mossy Head VFD	\$	890.35
Glendale VFD	\$	4,979.47
Darlington VFD	\$	1,161.16
Liberty VFD	\$	103.72
Red Bay VFD	\$	800.71
Local Option Gas Tax	\$	34,123.88
Capital Projects Fund	\$	649,507.86

SHIP	\$	-
Tourist Dev. Council	\$	375,414.18
Mott Sign Grant	\$	-
Spec. Law Enforcement	\$	-
Driftwood Debt Serv.	\$	60,600.00

2. Approve Minutes:

March 11, 2003 – Regular Meeting

March 25, 2003 – Regular Meeting

3. Records Disposition Request

Mr. Hilton Galloway, Carr-Riggs & Ingram, LLC, appeared before the Board to present the annual report. He stated that the county has implemented GASB 34, which is a year ahead of schedule. Mr. Galloway stated that the opinion rendered on financial statements was unqualified, which means there are no problems with the financial statements included in the report. Mr. Galloway stated that he received exceptional help from the Clerk's staff as well as the Board's staff. He stated that the county's financial condition is stronger than it has ever been.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, presented a request from the Darlington Volunteer Fire Department to change the district lines between Paxton and Darlington, moving the Darlington Fire District farther to the west to Sandy Ramp Road allowing better coverage. Mr. Bell advised that the Paxton City Council and the Walton County Fire Board unanimously approved the change.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the request to change the Walton County Fire District Map for the Paxton/Darlington service area. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Bell advised the commissioners that the Small Business Administration has approved emergency loans for individuals of the shrimp industry and agricultural businesses for low interest loans. This information was presented for review and no action was taken.

Mr. Bell advised the commissioners that the previous request by Darlington VFD for surplus equipment was turned down because Liberty VFD and United Fire District have requested the equipment.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve to surplus two ambulances because of high mileage and excessive maintenance, and donate them to the Liberty VFD and the United Fire District, both Walton County Fire Departments. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Bell advised that it was recommended by Florida Association of Trust that the language in Dr. Garcia's contract as Medical Director be changed to reflect his status as an official of the county allowing the EMS Medical Director insurance coverage under the Florida Association Counties Trust.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to approve a change to the Medical Director's contract reflecting his status as a county official. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, advised the Board that Mr. M.C. Davis has granted a right-of-way on Rube Hare Road, District 1, for the county to construct and maintain a school bus turn around. Mr. Barry stated that an official survey was performed and recommended acceptance of the dedication of right-of-way.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens to accept the dedication of right-of-way from Mr. M.C. Davis for the purpose of constructing a bus turn around area. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry presented an issue relating to road maintenance on Mt. Valley Road. Commissioner Cuchens advised that Mt. Valley Road is in such poor condition that the residents are unable to traverse the road without getting stuck. He requested that the Public Works Department be allowed to help stabilize the road. Mr. Underwood advised that this issue was previously presented to the Board in 1999. It was previously approved for maintenance as needed. Commissioner Pauls questioned if the work could be done under the county's \$50.00 maintenance policy. Commissioner Cuchens asked if repairs could be made on a one-time emergency basis. Commissioner Cuchens explained that there is an assisted living facility approximately one-half mile down the road that requires access for emergency vehicles.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens to repair Mt. Valley Road on an emergency basis. The motion died for the lack of a second. Mr. Barry stated that he would contact the residents to determine if they are willing to pay the \$50.00 maintenance fee.

Chairman Jones called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the Noise Ordinance. Mr. Eric Zwerling, Noise Consultant, appeared before the commissioners and explained that the ordinance is content neutral, which is the best. It is also written with constructive compliance in mind and not penalties. Consideration is given for facilities that may have to come into compliance.

Commissioner Rees stated that he appreciates the time that Mr. Zwerling spent on drafting this ordinance.

Commissioner Pauls voiced concern regarding some letters he received from individuals. He asked Attorney Rick Peterman to address the Board. Mr. Peterman represents Couch USA and he also spoke on behalf of Attorney John Fishel of Ewell Industries who could not be present. Mr. Peterman stated that his clients concern is that they want to be pro-active with the county and end up with an ordinance that would not cause these businesses to be in violation from the beginning. He stated that they hired a noise consultant to perform their own study. The related information was given to Mr. Zwerling to help provide language for the ordinance. Mr. Peterman's client is concerned with the methodology used for the measurement of sound. Mr. Zwerling spoke about averaging the sound to determine the sound level stating that it is less accurate because too many other noises could be measured at the same time. Mr. Peterman stated that his clients were told that the averaging method would be used to determine the noise level.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he would like to move forward with the noise ordinance. He questioned if Mr. Peterman's clients would be adversely affected if this ordinance were adopted. Mr. Peterman stated that he is unsure at this point that additional information is needed. Mr. Peterman requested additional time to meet with Mr. Zwerling to discuss the issue further.

Mr. Peterman stated that the second concern is the location of where the sound would be measured depending on the property designation. They felt it should be measured at the complainant's property. Mr. Zwerling stated that this was taken from language in a previously proposed code.

Mrs. Karen Cordal, Blue Mt. Beach resident, spoke about noise from construction. She explained the stressful situation her family experienced while a nearby condominium was being constructed. Mrs. Cordal stated that it was a stressful year and is strongly in favor of a noise ordinance.

Mr. Stephen Rapport presented a petition consisting of the names of individuals who are in favor of the noise ordinance. Mr. Rapaport spoke about noise problems at the Red Snapper Bar.

Mrs. Mary Brockett also presented a petition of those in favor of a noise ordinance. She stated that she is in favor of a countywide noise ordinance.

Mr. Lloyd Blue questioned if this ordinance would supercede the Grayton Beach Noise Ordinance. Attorney Vorbeck stated that it would. Mr. Blue questioned the enforceability and associated costs of the ordinance. He stated that the Grayton Beach Noise Ordinance has been effective. Mr. Blue asked that the issue relating to property designations be reviewed. He also felt that the dB level is too low in the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Tom McGee, South Walton Community Council, commented that if the Grayton Beach Noise Ordinance is working well then maybe it should be expanded throughout the entire county. The South Walton Community Council is in favor of having a countywide noise ordinance that will serve the entire county.

Mr. Malcolm Patterson stated that the Grayton Beach Ordinance does work, but felt that property rights need to be examined when they begin to impose on neighbors. He stated that they receive a lot of cooperation from the Sheriff's Department for

enforcement. Mr. Patterson requested that if a countywide ordinance is adopted that it would exclude the Grayton Beach area.

Commissioner Pauls commented that he would like to see an ordinance adopted that works as well as the Grayton Beach Ordinance.

Mr. Richard Whitaker spoke about the federal governments rules on noise.

Mrs. Brockett stated that the Grayton Beach Noise Ordinance is directed at bar related noise.

Commissioner Rees stated that there has been a desire from the commissioners to accommodate the needs of neighbors and businesses. He said that the Grayton Beach Noise Ordinance is too limited. He stated that the commissioners have attempted to move forward with a noise ordinance.

Commissioner Cuchens questioned who would enforce a noise ordinance. Commissioner Pauls commented that enforcement is an issue that needs to be addressed along with the ordinance. He spoke about the method for measuring noise, which he felt should be measured from the complainant's property. Three aspects he felt needing to be addressed are the area, method of enforcement and the costs involved. Commissioner Pauls suggested changing the enforcement language regarding Conservation Residential property. He also requested to hear the concerns of each commissioner regarding the desires of their constituents.

Chairman Jones stated that concerns he has relate to enforcement. He felt that the Grayton Beach Noise Ordinance might work well in other areas of the county. If it were applied to other areas and did not work, it could then be changed.

Mr. Underwood stated that enforcement of the noise ordinance was discussed with Mr. Phillip Green, Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Green addressed the Board and stated that he sees two aspects of enforcement in this ordinance. One aspect is nuisance complaints, which relate to residential complaints and are better handled by the Sheriff's Department. The other aspect is process complaints, which relate to industrial or commercial operations and would be better enforced by Code Enforcement. Chairman Jones commented on the problem with every deputy having to be trained on how to use the dB Meter equipment. Commissioner Pauls asked for a response from the Sheriff's Department to determine if there is a nuisance level that will be responded to in a consistent way.

Commissioner Cuchens asked if this could be a community-based ordinance to handle problems in certain areas. He suggested placing this on a referendum. Mr. Zwerling requested specific guidance from the commissioners.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to continue this public hearing on May 13, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. to further consider the noise ordinance. The public hearing will also be advertised in the Walton Sun. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. The public hearing will be held at the South Walton Courthouse Annex.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Chairman Jones called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the Beach Activities Ordinance. Kira Honse, Staff Attorney, presented the latest draft and reviewed the changes that have been made.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Tom McGee spoke on behalf of Mr. Billy Mancil. It was requested that the original preamble be added back in that recognizes the public's ordinary and customary use of the beaches. Mrs. Julie Hilton stated that she would like to preamble to remain as it is currently written.

Mr. Ed Goodwin objected to the Board taking any position on private property rights.

Mr. Richard Fowlkes felt that the language prohibiting anyone from pumping water from the gulf should be put back in the ordinance. He spoke about a situation he witnessed where water was being pumped from the gulf and the people were causing damage to the dunes from gas leaking onto the beaches.

Mr. Patterson spoke on behalf of the Building Industry Association of Okaloosa-Walton County. He stated that he is opposed to additional regulations being imposed on builders. Mr. Patterson stated that they would be glad to meet with the county to set up a system, but they do not want additional costs imposed for construction. He stated that he has never seen damage to the beaches from the pumps and creating this type of regulation would impose additional building costs for the builders. Mr. Patterson requested that the builders be allowed to pump water from the beach.

Commissioner Rees stated that he spoke with the Tourist Development Council regarding this issue. Counties throughout Florida were contacted and they do not allow water to be pumped from off of the beach because of the damage it causes to vegetation.

Commissioner Pauls questioned if there is another viable method for contractors to obtain water for setting their pilings.

Commissioner Cuchens stated that he has never seen any damage from pumping water from the beach. Mr. Ken Wilde stated that he has seen the damage it has caused. He stated that he has seen damage to the dunes from the water pipes and from the people traversing back and forth to handle the pipes. He stated that Florida Statutes prohibit the trampling of dunes.

Ms. Lorna Patrick, Fish & Wildlife, stated that the adoption of this ordinance would help both the citizens and the endangered species.

Mr. Don Crim questioned if the beach permit expiration date would remain on June 1 of each year for simplicity in checking them to insure they are current rather than sporadically expiring. He also questioned if the speed limit could be changed to 5 mph instead of 15 mph for safety.

Ms. Honse advised the commissioners of one addition to the ordinance regarding Jet Ski operations, which was inadvertently omitted. Previously, commercial Jet Ski operations were not allowed from Top Sail Hill to the Bay County line.

Commissioner Rees voiced concern regarding disturbances to the coastal dune lakes and the outfalls. Mr. Wilde stated that they would pay special attention to these areas.

Chairman Jones closed the public comments portion of the public hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to approve amending the proposed ordinance to include language regarding the prohibition of commercial Jet Ski operations from Top Sail Hill to the Bay County line. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to change the speed limit to 5 mph. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Naye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to change language in the ordinance that “no water shall be pumped from the Gulf of Mexico, except for permitted construction under guidelines set forth by the county. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Naye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to adopt the Beach Activities Ordinance (2003-07) as amended and including a renewal date of June 1 of each year for vehicle beach permits. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Naye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry presented funding options to the commissioners for the accelerated road-paving program. He stated that there are five options and one of the options would add a second road preparation crew. Mr. Barry presented a detailed listing of the funding options. He estimated the pave-out to occur at approximately 400 miles of road. The funding methods vary from using existing funds and using ad valorem taxes and monies from the landfill operations. An alternative would be to borrow a short-term loan along with using the ad valorem and landfill monies. Commissioner Rees stated that he would like to see an aggressive paving program, but not impact the ad valorem tax. Mr. Barry recommended the option that would combine short-term borrowing of \$14 million for 10 years at 4% interest in addition to using \$1 million in ad Valorem and \$1.5 million of landfill revenue committed each year. Commissioner Rees agreed with option B1. Commissioner Pridgen questioned if the current road crews could assist with the road

preparation. Mr. Barry stated that he would need a dedicated crew for road preparation in order to prepare the approximate 50 miles for paving during 2003-2004. Commissioner Pauls voiced his appreciation to Mr. Barry and Mr. Imfeld for the work they have put into researching and preparing this information.

Mr. Imfeld explained that the average interest rate on a 20-year bond would be 4.5%. Local financial institutions would loan the money at 4.0% for a 10-year loan. He stated that they researched various options from various lenders including bonding agencies and commercial lenders in Walton County. The information presented also takes inflation into consideration.

Commissioner Cuchens stated that he would like to see an even more aggressive paving program and questioned if more than 51 miles per year could be paved. Mr. Barry stated that 51 miles is a large amount to undertake. Commissioner Pauls questioned if there is enough management in place to handle the addition personnel. Mr. Barry stated that there is not. The commissioners requested additional time to review the options further while the OMB seeks to secure the necessary funding.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to adopt a resolution (2003-17) to secure funding for the road-paving program and grant approval for Paving Option B1 as presented by staff. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Ken Little, Citizens Service Director, presented a proposed resolution designating April as Public Health Month on behalf of the Walton County Health Department.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt a resolution (2003-18) designating April as Public Health Month in Walton County. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Underwood presented a letter of request from Flagler County regarding noise abatement. Flagler County is asking the State to intervene and request that the Federal Government re-evaluate the noise standards as they relate to its interstate highway system. No action was taken.

Mr. Underwood introduced Mr. Rory Cassedy, Waste Management, regarding trash pick-up. Mr. Cassedy explained that he could reduce the amount of pick-up to reduce the county's cost to \$1,515.50 per week. His company would continue picking up trash south of the Bay on a temporary basis until the commissioners make a final determination. Commissioner Pauls stated that his constituents are in favor of the service and want it continued. Commissioner Pauls stated that he spoke with Mr. Britt Green, Arvida, regarding the need for a 5-10 acre site. He spoke about the need for a facility to serve south Walton residents.

Mr. Underwood explained that an alternative would be to ask an independent firm to provide the service independently for the customers. One firm in Crestview agreed to provide the service for \$18.00 per month, per customer. Dayco has agreed to provide once a week service to the county for an annual amount of \$497,640.00.

Ms. Deborah Thatcher suggested to temporarily use the services of Waste Management, but to bid out the services.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to continue providing the services for countywide trash pick-up for an additional two weeks and ask

staff to provide a recommendation at the next meeting. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Underwood presented a newly proposed fee schedule for the Building Department and Development Orders. He stated that the Building Department has been using the same fee schedule for over 20 years and has requested approval to increase the fees. Mr. Billy Bearden asked the commissioners to review the new fee schedule in order to make a decision at the May 13, 2003 meeting. Commissioner Pauls questioned if the public would be notified as to the increases. Commissioner Cuchens also voiced concern with the amount of increase for some of the fees. Mr. Bearden stated that he attempted to raise the fees two years ago, but it was never approved. The commissioners agreed to advertise the changes for public awareness.

Mr. Underwood reminded the commissioners of a meeting scheduled on April 28 at 5:00 p.m. to review the Comprehensive Plan update. A meeting will also be held on April 30 at 6:00 p.m. to review the Mac Bayou Sector Plan Study.

Mr. Underwood advised the commissioners that the Clerk is in need of additional space at the courthouse and has requested to convert the Boardroom into office space. The board meetings would be held in the courtrooms. The Board concurred.

Mr. Larry Holland, resident of Santa Rosa Beach, addressed the Board regarding the zoning of the family business. Mr. Holland's mother, Ms. Susan O'Keefe, stated that she has been a lifetime resident of Walton County and has had a family business for 20 years, Hogtown Landing and Family Affair Catering. Mr. Holland explained that he is attempting to work the businesses while she is unable to work due to health related problems. Mr. Holland stated that he sent a letter to the Planning Department requesting

to increase the business, but was denied. He felt that he was denied because of his choice of wording. The property classification was recently changed Conservation Residential. Due to the change Mr. Holland's request was denied due to non-conforming use. He was told that he could go through the appeal process for \$450.00. Commissioner Pauls stated that a small-scale amendment might better serve their purpose. If approved, it would bring their business into compliance. Chairman Jones directed them to speak with Mr. Mike Lane. Commissioner Cuchens pointed out that Ms. O'Keefe has been operating the same business for a number of years and the county changed the zoning. She stated that they are requesting the change in order to provide a boat storage facility.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens to waive the \$450.00 fee, due to the hardship, to file for a small-scale amendment. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Commissioner Pauls recommended that Mr. Holland and Ms. O'Keefe seek advice on which action would be best for the correct property classification.

Commissioner Rees stated that Walton County has had a growth rate of 26.5% from 1998-2003, which is the fifth largest increase in the state. Job growth has increased 27.3%, which is second in the state. Growth projections for the next five years are expected to double. Commissioner Rees also stated that TDC has the highest revenue of this five county area. Tourism has increased 7.5% over last year and is up 12.85% this year. He also announced that Criolla's Restaurant, in south Walton, was named to the Golden Spoon Hall of Fame.

Commissioner Rees recommended that the vacancy for the Growth Management Director be filled. The commissioners agreed to review this issue.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen to adopt a resolution (2003-20) designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen to advertise for RFP's for the sheltering of animals in Walton County. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Chairman Jones presented a proposal for animal control. The proposal would include construction of a facility on the Lang property. It would also include the care and sheltering of animals, and the hiring of a veterinarian. The facility is proposed to cost \$118,000.00 or \$231,000.00 for a much better facility. Annual cost for operations was estimated at \$195,497.00. This facility could be in operation in approximately three months.

Commissioner Cuchens presented many questions relating to the proposal regarding hours of operation, quarantine, veterinarian services, and spay and neuter services. Chairman Jones stated that any fees received for services would revert to the county to cover expenses.

Commissioner Cuchens presented a proposal from the Humane Society of Walton County. He read a list of services they have agreed to provide for an annual amount of \$165,000.00 for a turnkey operation.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he agrees with some of Chairman Jones proposals, but requested that additional information be provided. Discussion followed regarding the location of the facility. Commissioner Pauls stated that the McKinnon Pit site is centrally located in the county and would be a good location. He stated that he would like the location to be reconsidered.

Ms. Lynda Morse questioned if Commissioner Cuchens has a conflict of interest regarding the Humane Society. Attorney Vorbeck stated that if he did, he would declare it. She too stated that she would like to see a different location.

Mr. Jerry Kelly, President of the N.W. Florida Dog Hunter's Association, stated that he had his staff perform a survey of Walton County residents. He stated that they found only 10 people who were even aware that animals are being sheltered out of the county. Mr. Kelly felt that the Humane Society of Walton County can handle the job.

Mr. Jerry Fulaytar, CARE, commended Chairman Jones for presenting a solution to the problem. He feels that sheltering should be done in Walton County. He too voiced concern with the location and stated that it should be in the central part of the county. Mr. Fulaytar commented that the county could manage the facility or the management could be contracted out. Mr. Fulaytar stated that the Humane Society of Walton County does not have an adequate facility.

Mr. Johnny Irvine addressed the commissioners and commented that he felt Ms. Patsy Register was doing a good job at the Humane Society and recommended that she be allowed to provide the necessary services.

Ms. Patsy Register explained that a veterinarian does not have to be on staff, but can be contracted for spay and neutering services. A refundable deposit can be collected and \$25.00 of the adoption fee can be returned after treatment. Ms. Register questioned what the Humane Society has done to not warrant any consideration. She felt that their Accountant answered the necessary questions. Ms. Register stated that their facility is adequate and they have room for expansion.

Chairman Jones stated that the Board had concerns regarding the Human Society's audit and their failure to provide the information when questioned. Ms. Register further asked if the concerns she voiced during the February 11th meeting would be addressed that she voiced during the February 11th board meeting.

Mr. Crim stated that the contract with Dr. Anderson is still in affect.

Commissioner Pridgen again stated his motion to advertise for RFP's for sheltering services. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Mr. Bell suggested advertising two RFP's, one for sheltering and one for a turnkey operation. No action was taken.

Commissioner Cuchens requested that improvements be made to the Choctaw Beach Park. He stated that the restrooms, shelter, grills, walkways, and playgrounds all need upgraded.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to authorize improvement to the Choctaw Beach Park in the amount of \$20,000.00 to be taken from the Recreational Plat Fee Fund. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Cuchens requested that Mr. Markey and Mr. Collier figure the cost to build a boardwalk approximately 1000 feet long. The Board concurred.

Commissioner Pauls presented information relating to weight limits on county roads. He advised that it can be done and asked to implement weight limits for appropriate uses. Mr. Barry will meet with each commissioner to discuss this issue further.

Commissioner Pauls presented information relating to Community Directory Signs, which are along Highway 98 to help existing businesses that were adversely affected by the Scenic Corridor Standards. He stated that there is no one appointed to oversee these signs. Some of the signs are in the county's right-of-way and are located in the vision triangle and are a liability to the county. Commissioner Pauls stated that he would like to see the Planning Department and Code Enforcement review this issue. A policy is needed to address this issue and the signs need to be removed if they are in the visibility triangle or have not been approved.

Commissioner Pauls requested approval to proceed with a Land and Water Conservation Fund Program Grant for additional recreational improvements at Helen McCall Park. The grant amount is \$200,000.00 and the property could be used as the match.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to proceed with submission of a grant request for the Helen McCall Park. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls requested the Board support the installation of a flashing light at Highway 331 at the South Walton High School for safety reasons. He stated that the School Board has the necessary funding, but would like a letter of support to the Department of Transportation. Commissioner Rees also commented that a light is needed on Highway 331 at Chat Holley Road. Commissioner Pauls stated that Healthmark Hospital has also requested a flashing light at the entrance to their hospital.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to submit a letter of support for the installation of a flashing light on Highway 331 at the South

Walton High School. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to submit a letter of support for the installation of a flashing light on Highway 331 at Healthmark Hospital. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. Both of the resolutions will be submitted to the Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Rees suggested that the commissioners make a trip to other animal control facilities in surrounding counties.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Eddie James, Director of the Walton County Taxpayers Association, stated that he has formed a committee to review the Sheriff's budget and jail expenditures. Mr. James stated that they prepared a report consisting of expenditures for the jail, which was submitted to each commissioner. He requested that the report be made part of the public record. Mr. James stated that he was given estimates for the jail project located on its current site and estimates for a jail located out of town, which also included a work camp. He stated that the committee would like the Board to reconsider the out of town location for the jail expansion.

Commissioner Rees responded to Mr. James' comments stating that three of the four members of the committee had publicly stated positions that the jail should be located north of town and questioned if this committee was objective.

Commissioner Cuchens questioned if the county could advertise for a new site design proposal for off-site. Commissioner Pauls questioned if the county can legally go out for another bid. He commented that bids were previously advertised and a consultant

selected. Attorney Vorbeck stated that additional bids can be advertised, but the current architect will have to be paid. He advised that the county has to abide by Florida Statute 287.055.

Mrs. Casey Cuchens stated that she met with county staff regarding animal control concerns that were previously voiced. Mrs. Cuchens advised that she has requested information from Dr. Anderson who replied that he will only answer questions for an hourly compensation. She stated that there has been disposition of 34 animals, but Dr. Anderson has not accounted for them. Attorney Vorbeck explained that the county can ask again for the information from Dr. Anderson, they can cancel the contract, or ignore the situation.

Commissioner Pauls suggested discussing the issue further with Mr. Bell. Mrs. Cuchens stated that she will address the issue further with at the next meeting with Mr. Bell present.

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

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court