

MAY 13, 2003 – WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Workshop on Tuesday, May 13, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. followed by a Regular Meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the South Walton Courthouse Annex.

The following Board members were present: 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 in the absence of Chairman Jones.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, appeared before the Board to give an update on the status of the road paving issue. He explained the criteria for selecting roads to be paved. The five criteria are safety, hurricane evacuation routes, traffic volume, maintenance costs, and economic improvements.

Mr. Barry presented the list of eight roads currently ready for paving. He further explained that bids have been drafted for advertisements and are being reviewed by the Legal Services Division. Mr. Barry stated that the accelerated paving program would begin in July and that several of the roads on the list are combined and will be bid as one project. The estimated time for completion of the accelerated plan will be approximately 15 months and will complete 41.57 miles of paving in addition to the 8.64 miles currently in progress. He explained that delays could occur if the county is confronted with right-of-way issues.

Mr. Barry also presented a listing of roads on the 2005-2010 paving list and stated that they would be periodically monitored throughout time for increased priorities that might arise. He advised the Board that there are funds committed until 2005 for the roads on the current list. At the completion of the road-paving program in 2010 approximately 200 miles of unpaved roads will remain.

Commissioner Rees questioned where the roads in Inlet Beach would be added on the list. Mr. Barry stated that those roads have not been added to the list, but would be looking to see if any priorities have changed.

There were 52 miles of roads paved last year including roads that were overlaid. An estimated 51 miles are planned for this year. Commissioner Cuchens commented that he would like to see it more accelerated. Commissioner Pauls suggested an alternative plan to increase the number of roads to be paved. Mr. Barry explained that it is an 18-month process to obtain the necessary right-of-way for paving.

Vice-Chairman Pauls opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Stu Olmstead spoke about road improvements in the Daugeette Subdivision and questioned if there would be any delays in paving caused by right-of-way issues on Ricker Avenue.

Mr. J. D. Brown, developer in Gulf Shore Manor, requested assistance from the Board for cutting in the roads in Gulf Shore Manor. He stated that it was platted in 1928 and some of the roads have been accepted some have not due to wetland issues. The commissioners requested that Public Works research this issue further.

Mr. Mike Judkins questioned the progress of North Holiday Road. Mr. Barry stated that he would be in contact with Mr. Judkins tomorrow.

Mr. Don Crim questioned what happened to the previous road-paving list prior to Mr. Barry's tenure. He also spoke about the need for a policy for accepting roads. Commissioner Pauls agreed that a policy is needed. Mr. Barry stated that he is working on a policy and paving guidelines.

The commissioners recessed.

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

Commissioner Pauls requested to remove item 7 from the consent agenda pending further discussion.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item 7. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

1. EAL Approval	
General Fund	\$ 784,404.14
County Transportation	\$ 1,045,587.67
Fine & Forfeiture	\$ 682,478.31
Section 8 Housing	\$ 140,354.03
N.W. Mosquito Control	\$ 4,620.11
W. Co. Library	\$ 20,457.76
Recreation Plat Fee	\$ 380.74
Solid Waste Enterprise	\$ 155,605.92
Mossy Head VFD	\$ 1,237.71
Glendale VFD	\$ 233.58
Darlington VFD	\$ 3,864.88
Liberty VFD	\$ 1,324.65
Red Bay VFD	\$ 360.75
Local Option Gas Tax	\$ 61,357.00
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 353.87
SHIP	\$ 9,680.00
Tourist Dev. Council	\$ 304,614.02
Mott Sign Grant	\$ -

Debt Service Hospital		
Spec. Law Enforcement	\$	-
Driftwood Debt Service	\$	120,286.65

2. Approve Minutes of April 08, 2003-Regular Meeting
 April 22, 2003-Regular Meeting
 April 28, 2003-Special Meeting
3. Records Disposition Requests from the Clerk's Office
4. Equipment Disposal Requests from OMB
5. Resolutions to Recognize Unexpected Revenues (2003-30)
6. Surplus Equipment from the EOC
7. Agreement for Traffic Signal at Tops'l Beach Drive (Removed)
8. Surplus Equipment from the Clerk's Office
9. Contract for Child Support Enforcement

Commissioner Pauls spoke about the grant funding for the traffic signal at Tops'l Beach Drive. He stated that there are certain requirements and criteria that must be met prior to the installation of a light. He stated that there is a study being performed through the Transportation Planning Organization for this portion of highway. Commissioner Pauls stated that he is not opposed to proceeding, but stated that the situation might be beyond Walton County's control

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve the grant application for the Tops'l Beach Drive traffic signal.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to amend the motion to allow the Chair to sign the grant allowing the necessary funding to perform the studies at no cost to Walton County. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Imfeld presented a request to amend the Criminal Justice Education Fund and the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund in the amount of \$20,000.00. There were no public comments.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Captain Danny Glidewell, Walton County Sheriff's Department, presented a request for the Chair to sign the Certificate of Participation in the Byrne Grant. He also requested the Board accept unanticipated funds into the budget in the amount of \$42,865.00 for the DUI Enforcement Grant.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve the Chair's signature on the Certificate of Participation for the Byrne Grant. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen to adopt a resolution (2003-32) approving a budget amendment in the amount of \$42,865.00 for unanticipated grant revenues for the DUI Enforcement Grant. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Sheriff Johnson appeared before the Board regarding the traffic problems in south Walton. He requested additional personnel to patrol the area. He informed the commissioners of a traffic grant that would help, but it is a declining grant over the years. The grant begins at 100%, but declines 25% each year and he would submit a request for eight officers, but feels that he may only be approved for four of the eight. The grant will not be awarded until August. Sheriff Johnson asked the commissioners if they would like to proceed with hiring of four officers. Discussion was held regarding funding for the positions and the need to fill the positions as soon as possible.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to support the Sheriff in submitting the grant application. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of utilizing the School Resource Officers to fill the positions during the summer months. Sheriff Johnson advised that they would not be available because they would be attending additional training during the summer. Chairman Jones asked the Sheriff to prepare a report showing how many officers are needed to provide the additional patrol. Commissioner Pauls also commented on the responsibility of White Construction to provide traffic control during construction, as well as other contractors. Sheriff Johnson will report back at the next meeting along with Mr. Imfeld reporting on the budget aspect.

Mr. Imfeld requested a budget amendment for unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the Small County Technical Assistance Grant. The monies will be used for the Planning Department to obtain software.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to adopt a resolution (2003-23) amending the budget in the amount of \$7,500.00 for unanticipated revenues from the Small County Technical Assistance Grant. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen to adopt a resolution (2003-24) amending the budget for unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$7,500.00 for Wee Care Park. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt a resolution (2003-28) recognizing the week of May 18-24, 2003 as Emergency Medical

Services Week. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt a resolution (2003-27) recognizing the week of May 18-24, 2003 as Hurricane Awareness Week. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, appeared before the Board regarding the construction of one of the metal buildings located at the Emergency Operations Center. He stated that he would like to see the building erected at the EOC Office to be shared by EOC and EMS.

Mr. Marvin Collier, Construction Manager, explained that the foundation of the building has been redesigned for a cost savings. Mr. Collier stated that the building could be built to house EOC Staff and EMS for an amount of \$608,350.00. This amount is now within the budget. He further stated that bids were received for this project.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve the request to construct the building as stated. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Rees announced that he would be visiting additional animal control facilities with Mr. Bell.

Mr. Ken Little, Citizens Service Director, announced that Walton County has been named as a finalist for the All American City Award. He advised that a delegation will travel to Washington D.C. to represent Walton County. He stated that corporate funding would be provided to assist with the costs in sending 20 individuals to Washington D.C., which is estimated at \$21,000.00.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to proceed with funding not to exceed \$21,000.00 for sending delegation to Washington D.C. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Little advised that two commissioners from Walton County need appointed to serve as alternates on the Transportation Planning Organization.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to appoint Commissioner Cuchens and Commissioner Pridgen to serve as alternates on the TPO. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Little also advised the commissioners of vacancies on the Competency Board and presented names of those individuals interested in serving. Mr. Little will address this at the next meeting after further review.

Mr. Pat Markey, Parks and Recreation Manager, presented a recommendation for usage and reservations of the Wee Care Park. He presented a sample scheduling for those facilities. He explained that the park would not be closed to the public for someone to reserve a facility at the park. The Board agreed to reserve only one building per day while the other buildings remain open to the public. Legal Services will review the Facility Usage Agreement further. Further discussion occurred regarding the need for additional water fountains at the Wee Care Park.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to allow the necessary expenditures not to exceed \$1,000.00 for the installation of additional water lines. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Mike Judkins appeared before the commissioners requesting that the fees he paid for filing an appeal be returned. He stated that there are no designated fees for this

type of appeal. Mr. Judkins stated that he was charged \$450.00 for each of the two appeals he filed, which is the fee charged for a development review fee, not an appeal of this nature. Attorney Vorbeck stated that the fee charged was correct for this type of complaint.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen to deny Mr. Judkins' request for a refund. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Naye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Freddy Bishop requested assistance from the commissioners for the purchase of a parcel of property adjacent to the Portland Community Center. Mr. Bishop explained that the community gave a portion of their property when the Site C-6 Road was constructed. There is approximately 105' of property along the highway that makes up about 3.5 acres. Staff will review this issue further.

Chairman Jones called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the noise ordinance. Mr. Richard Fowlkes, Blue Mt. Beach Community Association, addressed the commissioners in favor of a noise ordinance.

Mr. Lloyd Blue, Chair of the Walton County Property Association, stated that they are not in favor of a countywide noise ordinance. He addressed three basic types of noise: amplified noise, construction noise, and industrial noise, which he felt could be addressed individually. Mr. Blue asked the commissioners not to impose an ordinance on everyone. He suggested rewriting an ordinance that would address those problems or only certain areas. He asked that Grayton Beach be left out of this ordinance.

Mr. Nathan Anderson spoke in favor of an ordinance and voiced concerns regarding the noise begin created from the concrete plants.

Attorney Rick Peterman, representing Couch USA, voiced concern with language changes that occurred to the ordinance. He spoke about how the ordinance applies to the land use categories and how the measurement is taken. He is opposed to language providing for the methodology for measuring sound.

Mr. Stan Stokes also spoke about the measurement of sound and recommended using LEQ equipment. He explained that this type of equipment measures the level of sound not bursts of noise.

Mr. David Kramer questioned why the Sheriff has not responded to the complaints. He stated that the ordinance should deal with the problem and not the entire county.

Ms. Joan Veenoo, Pt. Washington resident, thanked the Board for their work on the noise ordinance. She felt that it is good to regulate society.

Ms. Pam Rappaport stated that she has requested assistance from the Sheriff, but they would not assist her with noise complaints. She said that they told her they would not enforce any Florida Statute regarding nuisance or noise until the county adopts a noise ordinance.

Mr. Mark Dorriety, owner of Snapper Heads, stated that he is trying to be a good neighbor and asked the commissioners not to restrict the hours of operation for business owners.

Mrs. Mary Brockett spoke in favor of the noise ordinance. She feels that it creates harmony in the community. Mrs. Brockett felt that the ordinance should only apply to south Walton.

Attorney John Fischell, representing Ewell Industries, stated that language in the previous draft allowed for the averaging of sound, but has been changed. He stated that his client has spent money to make his facility more quiet. He too spoke about the measurement of noise in a Conservation Residential area, which he feels is an unfair method.

The developer of Adagio's appeared before the commissioners regarding the noise ordinance. He asked that language be changed to allow for construction to begin earlier than stated in section 11C. He stated that concrete companies need to begin very early in the mornings.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed and the commissioners recessed briefly.

The meeting was called back to order and Commissioner Pauls presented an e-mail he received from Mr. Mike Turner who requested that the ordinance also apply to aircraft.

Commissioner Rees asked Mr. Phillip Green, Code Enforcement Officer, to address the related costs for implementing the noise ordinance. Mr. Green advised that he met with the Sheriff's Department and the Sheriff has agreed to work with the county and enforce the noise ordinance. He also stated that county staff feels that this is an enforceable ordinance. Mr. Green again spoke about dealing with noise as a two-prong approach. Code Enforcement will handle the noise from industrial/commercial and the Sheriff would handle the nuisance complaints. The Sheriff's Department would receive all calls and forward Code Enforcement their calls. Mr. Green presented a preliminary

budget. The total initial cost is estimated at \$67,600.00 for a one-year period. Annual reoccurring costs amount to \$33,900.00.

Commissioner Pauls stated that there needs to be consistency regarding the location for measurement. He recommended the measurement be taken from the affected persons property. He also stated that paragraph 11C regarding construction should be more clear. Thirdly, he recommended approval of the noise ordinance south of the Bay and excluding Grayton Beach. Discussion occurred regarding times allowed for construction work to occur for single-family dwellings.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to adopt the Noise Ordinance (2003-09) to apply to all areas south of the Bay, excluding the Grayton Beach area as currently defined in its current ordinance. The ordinance will also stipulate that the measurement of sound will be taken from the complainant's property. The language in Section 11C will also be amended. The noise ordinance will have an effective date of August 1, 2003. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry presented a traffic signal maintenance agreement from the Department of Transportation for the light to be located on U.S. 331 at the south Walton High School.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the maintenance agreement with DOT. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry advised that Mr. Robert McDonald has granted an easement on his property along Laird Road for the county to construct and maintain a drainage structure. Mr. Barry recommended accepting the easement.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Rees to accept the easement from Mr. McDonald. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry requested the Board adopt a resolution for the designing of the new segment on U.S. Highway 331 from Highway 98 north to the bridge. He advised that the DOT intends to designate this section of highway as rural, which carries a high speed limit, limited access, raised median, and no pedestrian or bicycle facilities. The Walton County Engineer and Chipley DOT disagrees with that designation. The requested resolution would designate the section as suburban.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens to adopt a resolution (2003-25) requesting that portion of Highway 331 from Highway 98 to the Bay Bridge be designated and designed as suburban. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. Commissioner Pauls commented on the design of the road and the need for proper designation for the correct amenities. He commented that the portion north of the bay should also be designed as suburban with proper lighting and signage.

Mr. Barry presented information about right-of-ways relating to paving projects. He stated that Public Works does not currently pay if people are unwilling to give the right-of-way to accommodate the traffic. He explained that there is a current situation on Chat Holley Road regarding the lack of right-of-way. A policy amendment may be needed to deal with the issue. The county does not want to take property by condemnation.

Chairman Jones called to order the advertised public hearing regarding a proposed fee schedule for the Planning Department. Discussion pertaining to the Building Department fees was postponed.

Mr. Mike Lane presented the proposed fee schedule and explained the justification for the increases. Based on the current projections the county would take in \$283,920.00 in revenues. Comparisons were made with Bay and Okaloosa Counties. Commissioner Cuchens questioned why some of the categories were increased so greatly. Chairman Jones stated that they county needs to look at why they are raising the fees and what the applicant would receive in return, such as quicker or better service.

Mr. David Kramer asked why an increase is needed if Growth Management did not even spend last year's budget. He was opposed to raising fees that would be passed on to homeowners.

Mr. Clayton McHenry, Electrical Contractor, questioned the commissioners about monies being returned to the budget and why an increase is needed. He also requested that an inspector be housed in south Walton.

Commissioner Cuchens suggested that this issue be researched further. Commissioner Pauls agreed and stated that a fee structure needs to be drafted that is reasonable. The Board agreed to communicate individually with Mr. Lane. This public hearing will be re-advertised and considered at a later date.

Mr. Johnny Irvine appeared before the Board on behalf of the Humane Society of Walton County. He presented a petition with over 2360 signatures of individuals in favor of returning animal control and the sheltering of animals back to Walton County. Commissioner Pridgen agreed that the sheltering of animals needs to be brought back to

Walton County. Commissioner Rees stated that he would be visiting other animal control facilities in nearby counties. Mr. Irvine asked the commissioners to advertise for RFP's for animal control services.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Cuchens to advertise for RFP's for animal control and sheltering and a separate RFP for sheltering only.

Commissioner Pauls asked the Board to consider appointing a Walton County Animal Advisory Committee who would be responsible for serving as an advisory body to the Board, assist with policy, shelter programs, and the development of long-range plans. They could also assist with any draft revisions to Animal Control Ordinances or Resolutions. Chairman Jones questioned that possibility of appointing the committee and having them to review the proposals.

Mrs. Casey Cuchens asked the Board to consider allowing the Humane Society of Walton County to provide animal control and sheltering of animals. She stated that they are willing to work under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners.

Mrs. Patsy Register, Humane Society of Walton County, stated that they are the only facility in the county and said that they provide a public service to the people of Walton County. Mrs. Register requested the Board provided emergency funding in the amount of \$25,000.00 to help prevent them from closing their business.

Mrs. Sheree Hernandez stated that the Humane Society is doing a good job and asked the commissioners to support them.

Mrs. Cindy Murphy, President of the Humane Society, stated that the majority of animals being picked up are being euthanized and asked for help in saving them.

Mr. David Kramer spoke in favor of the Humane Society and asked the Board to give them the requested funding to help them remain open.

Mrs. Sandra Jenkins commented that the Board had previously taken money back from the Humane Society for the purpose of building holding pens at the various district offices. She suggested researching the issue to find out why the pens have not been constructed.

Mr. Kent Windstrom also spoke about animal control services and felt that the Humane Society provides better service.

Ms. Lynda Morse spoke on behalf of Dr. Anderson and the service he provides. She spoke about the number of animals sent to Chipley versus the number of pets returned to their owners. She stated that Dr. Anderson's facility is open longer hours for adoption than the Humane Society. Ms. Morse stated that the Dr. Anderson is a licensed Vet and works hard to adopt out the animals. She also spoke about the enforcement of having ones' pets spayed or neutered stating that Walton County's ordinance does not contain written language for enforcing it.

Commissioner Rees questioned if the motion would consider the county providing their own facility. Mr. Bell stated that the RFP's previously provided specified that the service would be in Walton County. Discussion continued regarding the RFP's for services. Attorney Vorbeck advised the Board that it should be clearly stated that the RFP's being requested may be for consideration and informational purposes only.

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

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve funding in the amount of \$25,000.00 to assist the Humane Society of Walton County. Ayes 2, Nays 3. Rees Naye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Naye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Naye. Motion failed.

Attorney Vorbeck presented information regarding the bond issue for Lucky 13 Truck Stop. He presented a letter from Miller, Canfield, P.L.C., who advised against the request by Lucky 13, but not excluding other options. Mr. Imfeld stated that the Grants Department is working to find alternative funding for Lucky 13. Mr. Imfeld has agreed to meet with Lucky 13 next week to discuss other funding options.

Attorney George R. Miller requested that the Board not take action to preclude this avenue of funding. He felt that this is a refunding issue not a new bond issue. The commissioners agreed to keep this option open. Mr. Miller stated that his client is trying to secure the free enterprise zone designation for the industrial park in addition to the Lucky 13 site.

Attorney Vorbeck presented information regarding the Watkins' bankruptcy case. He stated that the county has been working to terminate the contracts, which are currently in court. Mr. Vorbeck presented an agreement that is needed to obtain a court order approving the termination of contracts between Walton County and Watkins.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve for the Chairman to sign the stipulated agreement releasing Watkins from the contracts with Walton County. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Attorney Vorbeck presented a request to add J. Michael Rutland, Architect, to the 2WR contract for the jail project. Mr. Rutland is the licensed Architect.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to approve amending the 2WR contract. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Naye, Pauls Aye.

Attorney Vorbeck stated that he obtained a legal opinion regarding the mineral rights on the Covell tract. Attorney Allen Ramey has advised that the clause in the contract regarding mineral rights will not have any affect on Walton County's use of the property.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve for the Chair to sign the contract for purchase for the Covell property recognizing that the mineral rights clause will not preclude Walton County from using the property in the manner in which the county intends. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Imfeld and Mr. Pennington appeared before the Board requesting guidance for disseminating public information. They explained that a request has been made for information; however, the requestor has asked that the information be formatted in a particular manner. Mr. Vorbeck advised that Florida Statute only requires that the information be provided; it does not have to be a different format than the county uses. The commissioners agreed that staff is doing an excellent job and stated that it would be too costly to reformat information.

Ms. Williams advised that review of the Strategic Plan would be on May 27, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. at the Walton County Courthouse. She also announced that a public hearing would be held on June 3, 2003 to consider a moratorium on Adult Business.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to adopt a Proclamation designating May as National Bike Month. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Rees spoke about beach safety and commended the Tourist Development Council and Mr. Ken Wilde, Beach Activities Coordinator, South Walton Fire Department, and the Sheriff's Department, for their work relating to beach safety. He advised that work is currently being done to increase the number of beach flagpoles. Commissioner Rees commented that the various departments are working to add additional flagpoles. Mr. Wilde has also met with various condo associations to make sure they are flying flags that are consistent with the ones flown by TDC and South Walton Fire District.

Commissioner Pauls asked that Mr. Wilde work on a written protocol for beach safety. The protocol would enhance communications between the various departments for better safety.

Ms. Kris Titus, Executive Director of the South Walton Tourist Development Council, requested the Board award the proposal for engineering/architecture services for the TDC. Three proposals were received and the TDC is recommending Wilson-Miller.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept the TDC's recommendation to award Wilson-Miller with the proposal for engineering/

architecture services. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pridgen did not present any items for discussion.

Chairman Jones asked that Vice-Chairman Pauls be allowed to attend the test on the voting machines for the special election that will be held in June for the school board. The Board concurred.

Commissioner Cuchens, along with Marvin Collier, Construction Manager, presented a handout showing the requested repairs to be made at the roadside park on Highway 331 South. The repairs amount to \$29,970.00, including construction of a pier/boardwalk. Commissioner Cuchens stated that there is only \$22,000.00 remaining in the Recreation Fund and requested that District's 1 and 5 help assist with funding from their budgets.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to approve for repairs and construction of a pier at the roadside park on Highway 331 South and to authorize a budget amendment to provide the remaining funds from District's 1 and 5. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls presented information regarding the Palms of Dune Allen requesting the Board submit a letter allowing the Palms of Dune Allen to continue pursuing the purchase of property from the Bureau of Land Management, which is located south of them. There is an agreement that will contain covenants and conditions that will continually provide public access to that portion of beach.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to authorize the Chair's signature on a letter allowing the Palms of Dune Allen to pursue the purchase of

property from the Bureau of Land Management subject to the conditions and covenants. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. The letter is to inform the BLM that the county agrees with this purchase.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve the appointment of Cary McWhorter, Architect, to the Design Review Board in place of Judith Williams. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls requested the Board consider a letter of support for the regional airport proposed to be located in Bay County. He felt that Walton County should review the sector plan, which includes the 4,000 acres for the airport. He requested that the Planning Department review the sector plan in relation to the effect it will have on Walton County.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to submit a letter of support for the airport with a recommendation that the airport have a regional name. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Discussion was held regarding a policy for web site links. Ms. Williams will work on a draft policy stipulating which links will be allowed on the county's website. The Board agreed to allow the Walton County Chamber of Commerce, Florida's Great Northwest, Walton County Economic Development Council, and Grit and Grace to remain as links on the county's website.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve the Chair's signature on the grant application requesting reimbursement in the amount of

\$450,000.00 for the purchase of the Stallworth property. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve the renewal for the District 5 Commissioner's Office including an increase for the common area. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

There were no public comments voiced.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court