

JULY 8, 2003-REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 08, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. at the South Walton Courthouse Annex.

The following Board members were present: Chairman Larry Jones, Vice-Chair Tim Pauls, Commissioner Lane Rees, Commissioner Ro Cuchens, and Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen. Mr. Mike Underwood, County Administrator, Mr. Gary Vorbeck, Legal Services Director, and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court, were also present.

Chairman Jones led with prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Jones called the meeting to order. The Board welcomed home Mr. Ken Shannon, Planning Department, who recently spent time overseas, serving our country.

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

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| 1. Expenditure Approval List | |
| General Fund | \$ 817,593.69 |
| County Transportation | \$ 764,242.12 |
| Fine & Forfeiture | \$ 726,253.38 |
| Section 8 Housing | \$ 628.63 |
| Mosquito Control State | \$ 7,291.33 |
| N.W. Mosquito Control | \$ 20,396.97 |
| W. Co. Library | \$ 13,638.09 |
| Recreation Plat Fee | \$ - |
| Solid Waste Enterprise | \$ 267,861.62 |
| Mossy Head VFD | \$ 5,611.25 |
| Glendale VFD | \$ 837.80 |
| Darlington VFD | \$ 233.46 |
| Liberty VFD | \$ 1,998.04 |
| Red Bay VFD | \$ 57,387.05 |
| Local Option Gas Tax | \$ - |

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| Capital Projects Fund | \$ | - |
| SHIP | \$ | 19,305.00 |
| Tourist Dev. Council | \$ | 158,024.69 |
| Mott Sign Grant | \$ | - |
| Debt Service Hospital | \$ | - |
| Spec. Law Enforcement | \$ | - |
| Criminal Justice Ed Fund | | |
| Driftwood Debt Service | \$ | - |

2. Minutes of June 24, 2003-Regular Meeting
3. Florida DOC Interagency/Public Works Agreement
4. Florida DEP Agreement for the Urban Stormwater Retrofit Project for Holiday Shores
5. Resolution (2003-48) to Amend the Budget for Receipt of Forestry Grant Revenues
6. Resolution (2003-47) to Fund Emergency Equipment for the Beach

Mr. Mike Lane, Planning Director, advised the Board that the final plats that were to be presented require the signature of the County Surveyor. However, he has been in the hospital and has not been able to review them. Mr. Lane stated that the Board had the option to either approve the plats contingent upon the signature of the County Surveyor or to take no action in the matter at this time.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to move forward with the approval of the plats contingent upon the County Surveyor's review and approval of the plats. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Lane presented the final plat for Cottages of Laurel Grove, Phase I, for approval. Intrawest Sandestin proposes a 9-lot single-family residential subdivision. Mr. Lane stated that there is a Letter of Credit on file and all pertinent parties have signed the

plat. Planning Staff recommended approval subject to final approval by the County Surveyor.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the final plat of Cottages of Laurel Grove, Phase I, for recording, contingent upon final approval and signature of the County Surveyor. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Lane presented the Sandy Creek at Watercolor final plat for approval. St. Joe/Arvida proposes a 19-lot single-family residential subdivision. Mr. Lane stated that there is a Letter of Credit on file and all pertinent parties have signed the plat. Planning Staff recommended approval subject to final approval by the County Surveyor.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve Sandy Creek at Watercolor final plat for recording, contingent upon final approval and signature of the County Surveyor. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Lane presented the final plat for Escada II for approval. Centurion III, Inc., proposes a replat of Escada Lots 107-118, Block A and a portion of adjoining common area. Mr. Lane stated that the security was complete and all pertinent parties have signed the Plat. Planning Staff recommended approval subject to final approval by the County Surveyor.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve Escada II final plat for recording, contingent upon final approval and signature of the County Surveyor. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, addressed the Board concerning a resolution for the \$14 million Accelerated Road Paving loan. Ms. Holli Benson explained that the loan would occur in two separate transactions. Walton County will borrow \$6 million immediately and then \$8 million will be borrowed following the first of the year. The interest rate of both loans will be 3.09% and will be secured by the pledge of revenue of Walton County gas taxes. There will be no penalty for prepayment of the loans. Ms. Benson reviewed a section of the language in the resolution and the closing costs of the two loans.

Mr. Alan Powdermaker, Citizen's Budget & Finance Committee, expressed concern with the amount of money that was funded in the upcoming budget for interest expense. Mr. Imfeld explained that the price was not locked in at the time the budget was prepared, but would be adjusted to reflect the correct amount. Mr. Powdermaker suggested that the money be borrowed directly from Walton County in order to save cost on interest expenses. Mr. Imfeld stated that considerable portions of the reserves are restricted as to what they can be used for. He recommended that the county move forward with the approved loan. Further discussion was held. Commissioner Rees reminded the public that the Road Paving Program was a priority item in the Strategic Plan.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to adopt a resolution, (2003-43), to move forward with the approved loan. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls stated that the comments Mr. Powdermaker made should be evaluated to ensure that the county does not spend more money than what is necessary.

The Board directed Financial Services to determine if it is possible for the county to fund these projects.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt a resolution, (2003-45), amending the budget to accept \$6 million. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Imfeld presented a request from the Recreation Board to amend the current budget to add additional revenues, in the amount of \$17,303.00, to assist in enhancing their program.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to adopt a resolution, (2003-44), accepting \$17,303.00 into the Recreation Board's current budget. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Chairman Jones recognized Mr. Bill McRae, Paxton City Council, and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Mr. Dewey Wilson, President and General Manager of Florida Community Services, submitted a request for reimbursement of the sewer grant in the amount of \$245,137.00.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve the request from Florida Community Services to submit a request for reimbursement of the sewer grant in the amount of \$245,137.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Wilson stated that a Master Plan of the utility system was recently completed. He offered a public presentation of the rate study. It was agreed upon that Mr. Wilson would set a date and publish advertisement of the presentation.

Mr. Ken Little, Citizens Services Director, requested approval of the Section 8 Program Annual Plan and the signature of the Chair on the certification document.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve the Chairman's signature on the Section 8 Program Annual Plan. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Little reviewed the appointment of three new members to the Competency Board at the last meeting. He recommended that Mr. Aaron Bradshaw and Ms. Colleen Friesen be appointed to the Competency Board as additional Lay Persons.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to accept the recommendation for Mr. Aaron Bradshaw and Ms. Colleen Friesen to serve on the Competency Board as Lay Persons. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Little addressed the Board concerning a proposed Strategic Plan. He stated that if adopted, review is recommended by the County Administrator and Division Heads every six months, and each year by the BCC. It was consensus of the Board that the Strategic Plan would be reviewed and considered at the next meeting.

Mr. Little requested the Board's approval to extend the use of the Farmer's Market to sell produce to those on the WIC Program on Tuesday afternoons, as well as on Friday afternoons.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to extend the use of the Farmer's Market to sell produce on Tuesday afternoons, as well as on Friday afternoons. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Little stated that a second blood drive would be held in honor of Mrs. Melissa Beasley on August 28, 2003. He requested permission to utilize the parking lot of the College Avenue Governmental Center to locate a mobile unit for the blood drive.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Lane Rees, to allow the parking lot of the College Avenue Government Center to be used for the blood drive, in honor of Mrs. Melissa Beasley, on August 28, 2003. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, requested that his first item on the agenda, wetlands discussion with Dan Arner, Engineer, be deferred for additional time to gather information.

Mr. Barry stated that Waste Management has agreed to build a waste site in the south Walton area if the county will provide the land. If so, they have agreed to pick up yard debris at no additional cost. Mr. Barry presented a chart of the amounts of yard debris collected during the month of April. He reviewed three alternatives to providing these services: 1.) curtail the provision of the yard trash collection services, 2.) provide weekly yard debris service using commercial contractors, and 3.) provide weekly yard trash pickup using Public Works crews specifically hired and equipped for this purpose. Public works recommended that the county continue with the Waste Management weekly collection for at least 90 days until Public Works hires and trains the staff, purchases the equipment, establishes the routes and schedules, and assumes the responsibility for the collection of yard debris. Mr. Underwood reviewed other alternatives. Commissioner Pauls spoke in opposition to the option of Public Works performing the yard debris pickup service. Further discussion was held regarding this matter.

Mr. Rory Cassidy, Waste Management, stated that a facility in south Walton would provide a recycling center/transfer station, as well as, eliminate the garbage trucks on Highway 331. Mr. Cassidy suggested that the Board allow Waste Management to continue to work with Mr. Underwood regarding recycling and garbage for the south Walton area until the county is able to enter into a new contract. Further discussion was held regarding the yard debris pickup.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve a 90-day contract with a 5-year term with Waste Management and also move forward with pursuit of the property for a recycling center/transfer station. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Discussion was held regarding entering into an agreement with Dayco for yard debris pickup. Mr. Barry stated that he would contact Mr. Day in regards to the trash pickup in the north Walton area and return before the Board.

Mr. Don Crim questioned who would own the property if it was purchased and who would be responsible for maintaining the land. The Board stated that if the property is purchased, that will be included in the contracts and negotiations.

Mr. Barry presented a request from Chelco for an easement on county owned land along Nowling Road. The purpose of the easement is to provide a power pole on county property to support electrical distribution along that road. Mr. Barry stated that sufficient right-of-way exists and the legal description is accurate as to the location. He recommended that the BCC approve the easement for Chelco electric.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to authorize the Chairman to sign the right-of-way request. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry stated that he had recently submitted a budget request for Mosquito Control for the north Walton area. It is required that a copy of the request, signed by the Chairman, be sent to the Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control in Tallahassee, Florida. Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resources Director, stated that they are currently looking for an additional temporary employee for Mosquito Control. Commissioner Cuchens expressed concern regarding the lack of personnel for Mosquito Control. Further discussion was held regarding the evaluation of success for Mosquito Control.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve the Chairman's signature on a proposed budget request for Mosquito Control to be sent to the Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

The Board recessed briefly.

Mr. Ross Hamilton addressed the Board representing the Wetlands Work Group. He stated that the Wetlands Work Group is willing to continue serving the BCC in an advisory role on wetlands issues in Walton County. He gave an overview of the Wetlands Study Project final report and recommendations. Mr. Hamilton complimented the BCC and Staff. He read and presented a proclamation extending appreciation to Ms. Erica Teats for her leadership of the workgroup. The Board expressed their appreciation to the Wetlands Work Group.

Ms. Celeste Cobina questioned the time frame for the recommendations to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Underwood stated that the wetlands issue would be discussed and incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan at the Comprehensive Plan Update Meeting on a later date. Ms. Cobina expressed concern with portions of the language in the Final Report. She requested that the Board take action to direct staff to allow a study to be performed by Florida Natural Areas Inventory. No action was taken. The Board requested that Ms. Cobina present her recommendation to change the language in written form. Mr. Hamilton agreed with Ms. Cobina, but stated that he would like to proceed with the Wetlands Work Group recommendations.

Mr. Lloyd Blue, Wetlands Work Group Task Force, addressed the Board. Mr. Blue spoke about the program presented by the Corps of Engineer for determination of a litigation plan for St. Joe. He suggested that all elements that will benefit from new and detailed information be placed on hold. Further discussion was held regarding the scheduled dates for future meetings. Mr. Mike Lane was directed to work with PBS&J regarding the schedule.

Mr. Mattison addressed the Board concerning a Walton County Uniform Usage and Return Policy. He addressed the wearing of uniforms, the proper use of uniforms, and the procedure for return of uniforms bought by the County. Mr. Mattison presented a Walton County property issue/return status form that employees will sign for all uniforms issued. Mr. Mattison addressed the issue of a proposal for the use of shorts during the summer months. The Division Directors have denied the request because of liability of insurance. Human Resources recommended that the Board deny the request to allow the

use of shorts during the summer months. Mr. Mattison requested that the Board approve the Uniform Usage Policy, including the return form.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve Policy 30, Uniform Usage and Return Policy. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Further discussion was held regarding the proposed use of shorts. Commissioner Rees suggested taking more time to review the issue.

Attorney Vorbeck addressed the issue of the Imperial Lakes Assessment Program. He stated that policy direction is needed as soon as possible because of the limit on time for adoption of a resolution. Ms. Shirl Williams, Assistant County Administrator, reviewed the three payment options: 1.) current assessment program as presented in the GSG report with financing and assessments collected over 10 years, 2.) pay-as-you-go over 5 years, and 3.) pay-as-you-go funds over a 10-year time period, which necessitates internal sub benefit areas. She stated that the homeowners prefer option #3.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve option #3, pay-as-you-go funds over a 10-year time period. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Attorney Vorbeck reviewed a request by the Palms of Dune Allen to enter into an agreement to dedicate an easement to the county. The Palms of Dune Allen requests approval of design of the boardwalk located on the eastern edge of the property. Attorney Vorbeck recommended that the Board not enter into an agreement with the Palms of Dune Allen. Further discussion was held regarding a change in the language of the agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the suggested language in order to facilitate the letter to the Palms of Dune Allen regarding the purchase of property for the Palms of Dune Allen. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Ms. Kira Honse, Staff Attorney, reviewed the option agreement for sale and purchase of the Garfield Access Addition. Ms. Honse noted that additional language has been placed in the agreement by the county. She requested that the Board approve the option agreement to go forward and purchase the property.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve the option agreement for sale and purchase of the Garfield Access Addition. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Underwood stated that S&S Ferry Service requested that their agenda item be continued until a further date.

Mr. Marvin Collier, Construction Manager, requested the Board's approval to accept bids for the engineering of an EMS station that will be located in Mossyhead. Funding will be provided through the EMS budget.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the request to accept bids for engineering of an EMS station. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Cuchens questioned the status of the Portland Community Center. Mr. Collier stated that contracts were out and construction would begin soon. Commissioner Rees questioned the status of Lakewood Park. Mr. McRae stated that the progress was going very well.

Commissioner Rees requested that Ms. Shirley Ziegler, President of the American Association of Retired Persons, be appointed as a representative to the Old Hospital Advisory Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to appoint Ms. Shirley Ziegler to the Old Hospital Advisory Committee. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pridgen presented a request from the Tri-County Community Council, Inc., for a letter of support for Community Transportation for Walton County.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support for Tri-County Community Council, Inc., for Community Transportation for Walton County. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Chairman Jones presented a request from the Small County Coalition for a resolution of support regarding “No Reduction in the Current Tariff on Imported Citrus Products”.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to adopt a resolution, (2003-46), of support for the Small County Coalition regarding “No Reduction in the Current Tariff on Imported Citrus Products”. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Cuchens questioned if any studies have been performed to 3-lane Highway 30A. Commissioner Pauls stated that the task force group discussed the issue and felt that 30A should remain a 2-lane road. Commissioner Cuchens expressed concern about specific congested areas. Mr. Barry stated that several studies have been

performed and copies will be provided to the BCC for review. Commissioner Pauls spoke about the need for other transportation modes.

Commissioner Pauls presented a request for funding by the "Friends of Eden", in the amount of \$10,000, for startup and operational cost and the outfitting of the schooner, Governor Stone, to U.S. Coast Guard standards. He suggested that the source of funding be the District 5 Recreational Impact Funds, as he feels this is an appropriate use for these types of funds. Further discussion was held in regards to the use of this type of funding. Ms. Mary Damroth, Vice-President of "Friends of Eden", gave the Board an update on Governor Stone.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve the request to fund \$10,000.00 to the Friends of Eden Gardens State Park, Inc., to aid in startup, operational costs and outfitting of the schooner to U.S. Coast Guard standards. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Rees recognized Commissioner Pauls as the new Chairman of the Transportation Planning Organization. Mr. McRae, gave an update on Lakewood Park in Paxton, Florida. He suggested a rededication of the park upon completion of the upgrade.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court