

AUGUST 26, 2003 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 26, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. at the South Walton Courthouse Annex.

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

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

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item #6. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

1. EAL Approval	
General Fund	\$ 291,359.76
County Transportation	\$ 490,009.62
Fine & Forfeiture	\$ 45,943.41
Section 8 Housing	\$ 175.27
N.W. Mosquito Control	\$ 2,539.67
W. Co. Library	\$ 10,167.48
Recreation Plat Fee	\$ -
Solid Waste Enterprise	\$ 18,133.20
Mossy Head VFD	\$ 2,137.93
Glendale VFD	\$ 48.06
Darlington VFD	\$ 606.15
Liberty VFD	\$ 108.59
Red Bay VFD	\$ 239.25
Local Option Gas Tax	\$ 147,267.00

Chairman Jones called to order the Public Hearing concerning a stipulated settlement agreement with the Florida Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Tom Blackshear, County Planner, asked for consideration in approving a settlement agreement between Walton County and the DCA. In order to avoid an administrative hearing proceeding there is an opportunity to enter into an agreement adopting language correcting the deficiencies. Two public hearings will be held for this adoption. One public hearing has been scheduled on September 11 and one has been scheduled during the first week of October before the Board to consider this issue. Commissioner Pauls suggested a change in the language of the agreement. No public comments voiced.

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

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, presented a proposal from an individual to sell approximately 184.61 acres of property, adjacent to the current county clay pits located in the Rock Hill area, to Walton County. Mr. Barry recommended that a Phase I environmental audit with wetlands delineation and an appraisal be performed on the subject site. Mr. Barry will present his recommendation at a later date.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the Phase I study and appraisal on the proposed property. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry presented information regarding the monitoring at the landfill. He presented a letter from the Florida Department of Environment Protection, which notes excess landfill gas. The letter requires that a formal investigation to detail the limits of

gas mitigation and a gas remediation plan be submitted. He stated that Public Works would be performing additional testing to determine the problem. Mr. Barry advised that this has not presented any problems at this point.

Mr. Barry presented a request for bid approval for improvements on Girl Scout Road. Five bids were received and the low bid is within the budget. He recommended that the Board authorize Walton County to enter into a contract with IC Contractors, Inc., for the improvements and paving of Girl Scout Road, approximately 1.7 miles, in the amount of \$497,518.58.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve the low bid, \$ 497,518.58, for the improvements of Girl Scout Road. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry presented a recommendation relating to roadway improvements in the Daughette Subdivision. Three responsive bids were received for the project. Mr. Barry recommended awarding the bid to Glenn T. Warren & Company, not to exceed the amount of \$1,430,120.10.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve and award the bid to Glen T. Warren & Company, Inc., not to exceed the amount \$1,430,120.10. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. Mr. Barry stated that he would keep the commissioners updated.

Mr. Barry presented information relating to a county maintained road in District 4. Kathy Lane, in Lake Sharon Estates, was left off the current county maintained list. Mr. Barry requested that the Board allow the EOC and Public Works to add this road to the list of roads maintained by the Zone 2 crew.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to allow Kathy Lane to be added to the list of county maintained roads. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry presented information regarding a citizen complaint in District 4 concerning Eastern Street. Mr. Barry stated that he has met with Mr. Holthouser, who has agreed to give the county a right of entry for the county to perform the work that is needed. Mr. Barry recommended performing the work due to the amount of run-off from the county road. Mr. Holthouser has agreed to obtain all necessary permits. The project was estimated to cost under \$5,000.00. Public Works recommended that the county proceed with an agreement with Mr. Holthouser. Attorney Vorbeck asked that the agreement state that there is an easement and also that the county would be held harmless.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve for Mr. Barry and Attorney Vorbeck to prepare the necessary documents to perform the work. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Don Crim read a memorandum from 2001 regarding the county accepting a road for paving. He questioned when a policy would be written to address the issue. Mr. Barry stated that he has a draft policy that he would present at the next meeting.

Mr. Marvin Collier, Construction Manager, presented a proposal submitted by Hatch Mott MacDonald, for the Walton County Courthouse parking lot design. This is a one level parking lot, which will provide 96 parking spaces, and has been approved by the City of DeFuniak Springs. The cost of this design work is \$15,875.00. Mr. Collier recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the proposal and an amendment to their contract. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Collier requested approval to transfer funds for the temporary jail structure. Mr. Imfeld requested that \$78,280.00 be moved out of the Contingencies Fund to the Sheriff's budget to provide the necessary building and salaries for correctional officers for the month of September. There will be additional monies placed in the budget for 2004, but will not cause any increase in the ad valorem. There will be a two-year contract for the facility through the Sheriff's Office. The facility will hold 50 inmates and should facilitate their needs through the construction period.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$78,280.00 from contingencies to the Sheriff's Budget. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barrett Foster addressed the Board. Mr. Foster had previously presented a resolution supporting business owners along US Highway 98 that have been affected by the construction. He requested the opportunity to meet with staff to address the issues before the resolution is adopted. The Board asked that Mr. Foster contact the administration office to schedule an appropriate time to meet.

Mr. Ken Little presented the list of members whose terms are expiring on various boards. Mr. Little recommended the following appointments: Mr. Scott Brannon be appointed to the Coastal Dune Lake Advisory Board and Ms. Gayle Warrick be appointed to the Design Review Board. Commissioner Rees requested to address this issue at a later date for further review of additional individuals who voiced some interest.

Commissioner Cuchens stated that he would like to proceed with appointing those individuals who have volunteered to serve.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to appoint Mr. Scott Brannon to the Coastal Dune Lake Advisory Board.

Commissioner Pauls questioned if there would be any conflict with Mr. Brannon being a candidate for Walton County Commissioner if he were appointed to serve on the Advisory Board. There is not a policy that states that a person cannot serve on both boards. Chairman Jones called for a vote on the motion that was on the floor. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to appoint Ms. Gayle Warrick to the Design Review Board. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to appoint Clayton Adkinson to the Planning Commission Board.

Chairman Jones explained that Mr. Albert Paris' term does not expire until October and at that time there would be a number of expirees. Commissioner Pauls voiced concern with a possible conflict of interest because of Mr. Adkinson representing the Cities and the Inlet Beach Water Board. Attorney Vorbeck stated that he would need to state his conflict and move on. A vote was called for the motion on the floor. Ayes 4, Naves 1. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Naye.

Mr. Little will appear back before the Board regarding the remaining vacancies. Commissioner Rees requested that Mr. Little issue a public announcement regarding the vacancies. It was decided that a resume would be requested from all volunteers.

Chairman Jones called to order the Public Hearing regarding the Annual Rate Resolution Fire Protection Assessment.

Ms. Heather Encinosa, Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, addressed the Board and reviewed the proposed rates. The rates are the same as last year at \$25.00 per residential parcel and \$82.00 for non-residential. She requested that the Board consider adoption of the annual rate resolution that would set the rates for 2004.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were made concerning the matter. Commissioner Pauls stated that there is a challenge to assess the needs of the fire districts.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve the Annual Rate Resolution Fire Protection Assessments (2003-58). Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Chairman Jones called to order the public hearing to consider the Final Assessment Resolution for Capital Improvement Assessments in the Imperial Lakes Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU).

Ms. Encinosa presented the Imperial Lakes MSBU. She reviewed three issues that she stated needed to be considered. The preliminary rates will be collected over a seven-year period. This will provide assessment on the property owners' tax bill. Ms. Encinosa stated that notices have been sent out to each property owner and advertised accordingly.

Chairman Jones opened the floor to public comments. Mr. Tim Roberts, President of the Imperial Lakes Homeowners Association, addressed the Board. He stated that they have performed a survey explaining the rates for both, seven-year and

ten-year, payment schedule. Four property owners were in favor of the 7-year payment plan and 24 property owners were in favor for the 10-year plan.

Ms. Cynthia Good stated that she is in favor of the 7-year schedule. She explained that she has already paid her homeowner's fees for this year and will be taxed again in November. Mr. Roberts explained that some of the property owners chose to pay the fees in installments and still owe payments. Mr. Roberts stated that a total of \$37,000 has been collected and will be applied to the project. The homeowners association will no longer collect the capital improvement funds, starting with their next calendar year.

Chairman Jones recommended proceeding with the ten-year payment plan.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls, to adopt a resolution (2003-60), approving the 10-year payment plan for the Imperial Lakes MSBU. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

The Commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Herman Crishon spoke about the lack of minorities working for the county. He stated that only 19 minorities work for the county out of 416 total employees. He also questioned about raises for people with Class A Driver's License.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resource Director, addressed the issues voiced by Mr. Crishon stating that the county has made progress in hiring minorities. The county now has 24 minorities. He stated that it is difficult in placing minorities in certain positions due to the lack of availability. He advised that there have been positions posted in which the county has received no applications from minorities. Mr. Mattison stated that they would continue improving in time.

Mr. Mattison presented information relating to the Compensation Plan Policy. One concern relates to the CDL, or commercial driver's license, and the ability to operate county equipment. He requested to put this portion of the policy in effect to allow employees being hired to take the county exam, given by the county instructor, in order to begin operating the county equipment. The test given will ensure they are qualified to meet the county's need.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve implementing the CDL portion of the policy. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Chairman Jones requested a change to the language in the policy. He also questioned about the minimum and maximum time between anniversary and step increases for the county employees. Further discussion was held regarding the eligibility of pay increases. Mr. Mattison stated that the language would be reviewed further.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, presented a request from the Liberty Fire District, which has recently passed a special act, making them an independent fire district. They requested the release of any unexpended money for budget year 2002-2003 that the county is holding on their behalf. They also requested that the budgeted funds for budget year 2003-2004 be released after the new budget year.

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

Mr. Bell presented a proposed agreement between Walton County and the Department of Community Affairs, to support the county's emergency management

program. They are projected to receive \$105,806.00. Mr. Bell recommended approval of the agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve the agreement between Walton County and the DCA. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Bell presented a proposed agreement between Walton County and Sprint for the maintenance of the Walton County 911 database. Mr. Bell stated that this has been budgeted for and therefore recommended approval. Attorney Kira Coley addressed the Board to explain the system. Mr. Bell stated that the new system would also accept and log calls from cell phones. He also reviewed the costs of the new system.

Vice-Chairman Pauls questioned the contract in regards to the charges. Mr. Bell stated that the contract was for a five-year period in terms of charges. Mrs. Coley stated that the Public Service Commission governs much of this.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve the agreement between Walton County and Sprint. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Lyle Seigler, Florida Department of Transportation, informed the Board that the DOT has approved a Project Development and Environment Study to evaluate State Road 30 (U.S. 98) and alternative corridors from County Road 30F (Airport Road) in Okaloosa County to County Road 30A West in Walton County. Mr. Greg Allen will be serving as the DOT project manager. Mr. Allen stated that the project should last approximately 16 months. He requested that the Board provide three names to serve on a committee; one being a commissioner and two from the community. He stated that he

would like to have the names by September 5th. These names are in addition to the names presented at the TPO Meeting. It was agreed upon to provide the three names at the September 9th BCC Meeting.

Commissioner Rees spoke about Walton County's birthday, December 18, 1924. He spoke about the vision of the county and that of Vision 20/20. He spoke about not missing any opportunities in the future while looking back over past history.

Commissioner Pridgen presented a lease agreement between the school board and the county for property at Gaskin. The school board recommended changes that Legal Services has reviewed and approved.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve the lease agreement with the Walton County School Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls presented a resolution for lease of the old Blue Mt. Beach site from DEP.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to adopt a resolution (2003-62), approving a lease with DEP for the Old Blue Mt. Beach site. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls presented a resolution regarding the 10-acre site adjacent to Helen McCall Park. The site is on the State's disposal list and it would be beneficial to enlarge the existing park.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve the resolution (2003-60) regarding the 10-acre site. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls presented information regarding the 30A bike path. He stated that he previously requested monies for mowing equipment for District 5/Zone 3 and wanted assurance that the equipment has been purchased. He further expressed the need to maintain the county rights of way. He felt that a crew of 4 to 6 people would be beneficial in maintaining the bike paths. Mr. Barry stated that one of the items has been purchased and a second piece of equipment was ordered, but is not the proper equipment. Mr. Pauls stated that this issue is important and wants to ensure that it is being taken care of. He requested a schedule from Mr. Barry showing how it would be maintained.

Chairman Jones commented on the issue relating to the changes in the Future Land Use Elements being made by Kimley-Horn and Associates. He stated that if changes were going to be done outside the scope of the contract that the public needs to know about it. Commissioner Cuchens agreed and feels that this is the most appropriate time to make the changes. Commissioner Pauls felt that the current process has been helpful and stated that additional time should be given if that is what is needed. Commissioner Rees commented on the delay in getting the information. He felt that additional time is needed to review it in more thoroughly.

Commissioner Pauls announced that he has been elected as Chairman of the Transportation Planning Organization. TPO staff recommended to place all 5 commissioners on the TPO, however, that was denied by the TPO. The TPO did agree to add an additional commissioner and a councilperson from DeFuniak Springs, which would double Walton County's representation on the TPO. Mr. Pauls encouraged citizens to attend the meetings to give additional input. Commissioner Rees commented on the increase of the Walton County population who has attended the meetings. He

feels that representation of a third commissioner and of a city council member on the TPO would have a positive affect on the county.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to appoint Commissioner Cuchens to serve in the third seat on the TPO. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls requested that Mr. Underwood contact Sheriff Ralph Johnson regarding his desire to serve on the Technical Review Committee as previously appointed.

Mr. Underwood stated that Escambia County has submitted an application for the procurement and location of the USS Oriskany to be used in a reef project in local waters. He requested that the Board approve a resolution endorsing the application.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve a resolution (2003-63), endorsing Escambia County's request. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

The Commissioner recessed briefly.

Mrs. Jennifer Christensen, Planning Coordinator, presented the following final plats with recommendation for approval on each one: Cerulean Landing at Watercolor, a 33-lot single-family residential subdivision, Sand Hill at Watercolor, a 22-lot single-family residential subdivision, Vermillion Point at Watercolor, a 24-lot single-family residential subdivision, Long Leaf Park at Watercolor, a 24-lot single-family residential subdivision, Wiregrass Meadows at Watercolor, a 35-lot single-family residential subdivision, and Oak Grove at Watercolor, a 76-lot single-family residential subdivision. There were no public comments concerning any of the final plats previously listed.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the above listed final plats for recording. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Christensen presented the final plat for Mere Ridge at Watercolor, Phase 2, a 4-lot single-family residential subdivision. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve the final plat for Mere Ridge at Watercolor, Phase 2, for recording. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Christensen presented the final plat for Watersound Beach, Phase 3, a 66-lot single-family residential subdivision. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the final plat for Watersound Beach, Phase 3, for recording. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Christensen presented the final plat for Heritage Dunes, a 30-lot single-family residential subdivision. Staff recommended approval.

Mr. Bryan Bruns asked for clarification of the plat. The Board stated that the plat would be provided to him to review.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve the final plat for Heritage Dunes for recording. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Christensen presented the final plat for Saint Tropez, a 31-lot single-family residential subdivision. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve the final plat for Saint Tropez for recording. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Christensen presented the final plat for Brandon Oaks, a 12-lot single-family residential subdivision. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the final plat for Brandon Oaks for recording. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

The Board recognized former Commissioner Miles who was present in the audience.

Mr. Dewey Wilson, President and General Manager of Florida Community Services, presented a proposal for the installation of sewer in the Inlet Beach area.

Mr. Phillip Jones, Engineer, Preble-Rish, Inc., gave an overview of all related costs involved for the installation of a low-pressure system for Inlet Beach. The estimated total costs are \$1.7 million. Commissioner Rees questioned the number of customers in the area. There are 350 existing customers.

Mr. Mark Galvin spoke about the financial structure of the project. Bonds would be issued on parity for existing bonds through Regional Utilities. Commissioner Pauls questioned about the range and rates of the cost of interest. The estimated interest rates would be approximately 5%.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would also offer the same incentive of the tap fees being \$2,000 and finance them for individuals over a 20-year period on their monthly bill. The

individuals will be billed at \$12-\$15 per month. He further explained that all new development would be required to put in low gravity systems.

Mrs. Melissa Pilcher presented a request for payment from DEP for the grant reimbursement in the amount of \$274,248.51. The payment will be the 6th and final request.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve the final payment request for the grant reimbursement, \$274,248.51. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Bond Counsel Mark Mustian, Nabors, Giblin, and Nickerson, and George R. Miller have reviewed the legal documents that the county has given to Regional Utilities. The franchise states that Regional Utilities is entitled to serve all of the area in the southern part of the county, in which there is not another provider currently providing water and sewage. Although there is water being provided by Inlet Beach Water Association, Inc., in a portion in the community, there is no franchise. Therefore, Regional Utilities is authorized to provide service. Mr. Wilson stated that he would hold a bond validation hearing through the courts.

Attorney Clayton Adkinson, representing Inlet Beach, stated that they do not agree with the installation of sewer. He commented that they have an engineer who is developing plans for a sewer system. He stated that there are issues that need to be clarified to the residents of Inlet Beach. He questioned the requirement to hook-up to sewer within one year after sewer is made available. Attorney Miller stated that there is a Florida Statute that states hook-up is required within a year if a sewer system is provided, but the statute isn't strictly adhered to.

Mr. Charles Peters, Engineer for Inlet Beach, updated the commissioners on the progress that has been made at Inlet Beach. He stated that he feels the issues are being solved. In the fall of 2000 he commenced discussions with Mr. Wilson and came to an agreement in March 2001 that was approved by the Board. Mr. Peters reviewed the provisions of the agreement. They have entered into agreements with some individuals that have connected to the Seacrest Plant under the contract. Mr. Peters stated that the intent of the Inlet Beach Water Board is to place three empty steel casings to accommodate future expansion. Mr. Peters stated that they have recently held meetings with developers and engineers regarding their proposal. He stated that the end of August is their deadline for hearing from those who are interested.

The Commissioners introduced Senator Clary and voiced their appreciation for his leadership on behalf of the Small County Coalition and presented him with an award. Commissioner Cuchens, on behalf of the West Florida Regional Planning Council, presented an award to Senator Clary for his efforts in supporting the Planning Council.

Senator Clary thanked the Board for their recognition. He stated that his goal is to represent the small counties. He commented that next year's budget cycle will again be a tough year. He voiced appreciation on behalf of Ron Book and those who keep him informed as to the needs of the county. The commissioners also recognized Lil Czeck, Executive Director, West Florida Regional Planning Council.

Mr. Peters continued his presentation. He submitted and reviewed a summary of existing and proposed developments for the Inlet Beach sewer system. He stated that they are looking to accommodate the development needs of the community. He felt that

they are on the verge of satisfying the developers. Mr. Peters encouraged the Board to allow additional time to resolve the issue.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Ken Goldberg, representing the South Inlet Beach Homeowners Association, commented that there is an existing sewer facility. He questioned why this issue is being addressed at this time. He stated that the South Inlet Beach Homeowners would not object as long as they can continue to run by their sewer services. He stated that it is the mandate to hook up that creates the problems. He proposed that the south neighborhood be allowed to continue being served under the current contract with the existing system.

Commissioner Rees commented on the conditions to hook-up. Mr. Wilson stated that they have never required anyone to hook up. However, the Health Department does require one to hook up if their septic system fails and they would not receive the benefit of the \$2,000 fee.

Mr. Goldberg was asked to clarify the group that he represents. Ms. Betty Letcher, President of the South Inlet Beach, stated that Mr. Goldberg was hired by several individuals in the neighborhood. She stated that they are in the process of amending the existing neighborhood plan to become separate from North Inlet Beach.

Chairman Jones questioned the difference in being required to hook-up to a Regional Utilities sewer line or an Inlet Beach sewer line. Mr. Adkinson stated that the force main lines are not accessible to each lot owner. Therefore they are not required to hook-up. Mr. Peters explained that in order for each lot to be accessible, they would have to put in their own pumping station. Mr. Adkinson stated that a survey was sent out to 355 property owners to determine if they were interested in a sewer system. The survey

showed that 87% of the people do not want sewer. Again, Mr. Adkinson questioned why this issue is being heard. Commissioner Rees commented that the reason the issue is being addressed again is to allow Regional Utilities to pursue the recommendations and to allow Inlet Beach to inform the Board of what they are doing.

The Board questioned what part of the population was given the survey. Mr. Bob Mitchell, President of the Inlet Beach Water System, stated that the survey taken was 100% of the water system customers. He stated that the Board should consider the demand for sewer.

Mr. Biff Trudeau, owner of Spicy Noodle Restaurant, spoke in favor of installation of a sewer system. He stated that the people on the south side of Highway 98 are opposed to sewer being installed, because they are opposed to development. He commented that Inlet Beach Water System has done very little to show that they are going to install sewer. Mr. Trudeau requested that the Board allow Regional Utilities to move forward. Mr. Peters stated that he has been directed to work on a Master Plan for a sewer development.

Mr. Ron Reeser, Developer of Eagle's Landing, stated that he requested sewer, but has not yet seen anything. He stated that Regional Utilities is in the sewer business and should be allowed to proceed.

Mr. Gary Wise, Developer of the Cottages at Inlet Beach, explained his experience through the development of his property. He was sent a letter that he would receive sewer connection with 19 taps from Inlet Beach Water System. He has been given the opportunity to share costs to develop a system. Mr. Wise questioned how long it would take to install the lines. Mr. Wilson stated that some of the lines have already

been installed and would take about four months to finalize the bonding and 13 months for the entire process.

Mr. Carl Key stated that they purchased property on the south side of Inlet Beach about nine years ago. He proposed to build a small development, however, he could not go forward due to the lack of sewer. Mr. Key stated that he is in favor of Regional Utilities.

Ms. Catherine Capral, property owner in Inlet Beach, is interested in hooking up to sewer at the \$2,000.00 price. She voiced concern that not everyone received a survey.

Mr. Larry Davis, Inlet Beach property owner, felt that the Inlet Beach Water Board is using the lack of sewer as a way to control development. He asked the commissioners to put an end to this.

Mr. Buster Windruff, homeowner and developer, voiced concern with Inlet Beach's proposal to connect to sewer lines. He stated that people are being controlled by the lack of sewer.

Ms. Jan Hallmark stated that she has owned property in Inlet Beach for many years. She stated that she cannot afford to build on her property if she cannot use it to its full potential. Ms. Hallmark stated that she is in favor of the Inlet Beach Water System.

Mr. Ernest Brown addressed the Board questioning why Inlet Beach is considered as two areas. Mr. Brown stated that he gave Regional Utilities the opportunity to run the water system when he served on the Board. Mr. Brown stated that the members own the water system and further recommended that the commissioners read the by-laws of the Inlet Beach Water System.

Commissioner Rees commented that it is the Board's responsibility to move the county forward and provide quality services for all of the residents of Walton County.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to direct Regional Utilities to move forward in bringing sewer to all of Inlet Beach. Commissioner Rees stated that sewer is better for the environment and health. Commissioner Pauls stated that he believes this is in the best interest of the community as a whole. He also stated that he is willing to work with neighborhoods regarding their plans. Commissioner Rees stated the importance of continuing to work with existing contractors. A vote was called for the motion on the floor. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

There were no additional public comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court