

SEPTEMBER 9, 2003-REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. at the South Walton Courthouse Annex.

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

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

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens, 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. Expenditure Approval List	
General Fund	\$ 369,016.80
County Transportation	\$ 2,341,436.96
Fine & Forfeiture	\$ 79,512.56
Section 8 Housing	\$ 506.53
N.W. Mosquito Control	\$ 25,189.10
W. Co. Library	\$ 4,524.91
Recreation Plat Fee	\$ -
Solid Waste Enterprise	\$ 302,951.25
Mossy Head VFD	\$ 769.62
Glendale VFD	\$ 352.63
Darlington VFD	\$ 312.49
Liberty VFD	\$ 783.24
Red Bay VFD	\$ 835.70
Local Option Gas Tax	\$ -
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 6,554.63

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| SHIP | \$ | 3,039.00 |
| Tourist Dev. Council | \$ | 34,431.84 |
| Mott Sign Grant | \$ | - |
| Debt Service Hospital | \$ | - |
| Spec. Law Enforcement | \$ | - |
| Driftwood Debt Service | \$ | - |
2. Approve Minutes of August 25, 2003-Comprehensive Plan Update
August 26, 2003-Regular Meeting
 3. Surplus Equipment Request from the Veteran's Service and Extension Service Offices
 4. Surplus Equipment Request from the Clerk's Office
 5. Amendment to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Agreement for the Alaqua Creek Project
 6. Records Disposition Request from the Clerk's Office

Mr. Underwood addressed the Board concerning a bill passed by the Legislature in regards to expansions to the prison systems. Warden Carl Kirkland, Walton County Correctional Institute, has stated that there is funding for the enhancements. Mr. Underwood briefly discussed Walton County's opportunity to set aside additional land for the expansions.

Representative Don Brown appeared before the Board. He gave a brief presentation in regards to the bill that was recently passed by the Legislature, which appropriates necessary funding for expansions to the prison systems. The bill may provide an opportunity for the Walton County Correction Institute to obtain additional bed units. Mr. Brown recommended that the Board consider allocating land and infrastructure to accommodate construction of an annex.

It was the consensus of the Board to proceed forward with notification that the county does own land adjacent to the existing facility and is willing to negotiate with the State. Mr. Brown stated that he would move immediately to notify the State that land is available.

Dr. Chuck Stevenson, President of the Recreation Board, presented a request for the Board to approve a resolution to allow a transfer of funds into the Recreation Board account.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve a resolution (2003-64) to allow a transfer of funds into the Recreation Board account, in the amount of \$12,190.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Dr. Stevenson reviewed the annual Recreation Board report. He explained each of the expenses and income. Dr. Stevenson also updated the Commissioners on the Board's future plans for the program. The Board commended Dr. Stevenson for his involvement in the program and congratulated the Recreation Board for doing a remarkable job with the program.

Mayor Mickey Marse, Mayor of Freeport, updated the commissioners on the \$200,000.00 grant concerning the pool that is to be built in Freeport. Mr. Marse explained that the grant might not provide sufficient funds to finish the project once it is begun. He asked that the Board agree to assist with extra funding if it is needed, not exceed \$40,000.00. Mr. Marvin Collier, Construction Manager, agreed that the grant would probably not provide enough money to complete the project.

Commissioner Pauls spoke about moving forward with the project and agreeing that the Board should allocate funds without establishing a set amount. It was the general consensus of the Board to support the project. Mayor Marse is to return with specifications and costs for the project.

Chairman Jones called to order the public hearing concerning the proposed Parking Ordinance. Mrs. Kira Coley reviewed the changes that had been made to the language of the ordinance. Discussion was held regarding the effects of the proposed ordinance to the parking and the access of the beaches.

Mr. Ed Lathom spoke about a non-authorized vehicle parked on the public right-of-way. Mrs. Coley stated that state statute prohibits vehicles from being parked on the right-of-way. The proposed ordinance authorizes the Sheriff's Department to ticket the vehicles.

Mr. Don Crim voiced concern pertaining to the ADA enforcement in regards to the ordinance. He also spoke about the Florida State Statute that covers the parking for disabled citizens.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve the Parking Ordinance (2003-15). Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Tom McGee, Chairman of the Beach Safety Education Enhancement Committee, presented a committee recommendation report. Mr. McGee reviewed the committee's recommendations and identified a variety of strategies and suggestions related to Beach Safety Education Enhancement. The overall approach of the committee's recommendations is to influence the county resources to develop a strategic, comprehensive, and coordinated effort, based on the 4C's criteria (Consistency, Conspicuous, Concise, and Consistent). Since the implementation of these recommendations in a timely manner was critically important, the committee asked that the Board: 1.) Establish a working group comprised of appropriate county departments

to coordinate efforts and focus on continual improvement of beach safety education, 2.) Assign specific accountability for the recommendations in this report to the appropriate county department, 3.) Establish specific time frames (to achieve as much progress toward implementation prior to next “season” as possible) and regular reporting of progress to support a timely implementation, and 4.) Develop a measurement process to evaluate beach safety education effectiveness.

Commissioner Rees expressed his appreciation to the Beach Safety Education Enhancement Committee. Commissioner Pauls stated that it was a privilege to serve as Chairman of the committee. The Board recognized and applauded the members of the committee who were present at the meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to adopt and move forward with the recommendations that have been given by the Beach Safety Education Enhancement Committee. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Chairman Jones announced that a forum on quasi-judicial hearings and proceedings would be held on Monday, September 15, 2003 at the Coastal Branch Library. He encouraged the citizens to attend the meeting.

Chairman Jones called to order the advertised public hearing concerning Mallet Bayou Subdivision. Mrs. Jennifer Christensen, Planning Coordinator, presented the final plat for Mallet Bayou Subdivision, a 17-lot single-family residential subdivision located on Bay Grove Road. Staff’s recommendation was for approval. There were no public comments.

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

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, presented a draft of a County Road Acceptance Policy for review. Mr. Barry stated that he would present a final draft for approval at a later date. Further discussion was held regarding the language of the policy.

Mr. Barry requested permission to add Autumn Lane and Blue Ridge Parkway to the list of roads maintained by Public Works. Both of the roads are presently county-maintained roads but do not appear on the current list.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the request to add Autumn Lane and Blue Ridge Parkway to the list of roads maintained by Public Works. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry presented an additional Landfill purchase offer. Public Works has received an offer to purchase 30 acres of land directly adjacent to the 735-acre Covell tract that was recently purchased. The land is offered at a price of \$1,000.00 per acre for a total purchase price of \$30,000.00. Mr. Barry stated that there are sufficient funds in the landfill reserve account for this purchase. Public Works recommended that the county purchase the land and make it a part of the landfill. Mr. Barry requested that the BCC authorize Purchasing to complete the contract to purchase the land.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the request for purchase of the land subject to a survey and an environmental phase 1

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

Commissioner Cuchens questioned the status of the land that was recently offered to the county adjacent to the Rock Hill Pit. Mr. Barry stated that a phase I environment assessment and an appraisal is being performed.

Mr. Crim questioned when the Autumn Lane and Blue Ridge Parkway would be paved. Mr. Barry stated that all roads would be reevaluated in the fall.

The Commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Ken Little presented a revised list of expiring board and committee appointments. Mr. Little recommended that the Board further review the names and select all appointees at a single meeting. Commissioner Rees stated that vacancies for various boards were announced at several recent meetings. He agreed that more time should be permitted to allow others who are interested in the opportunity to be appointed to different boards and committees. Chairman Jones spoke about the two Planning Commission vacancies. Mr. Jones requested that the at large positions terms be separated to prevent expiring at the same time. The Board agreed that the applicants interested in serving on the Planning Commission would be ranked by each of the commissioners to compile a total score. The two with the highest scores will be appointed to serve on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Little briefly discussed consideration of hiring a Special Master to hear Code Enforcement cases in lieu of the Code Enforcement Board. Commissioner Rees spoke in favor of hiring a Special Master to hear the cases. The estimated cost of the service is

\$1,000.00 per month. Mr. Little stated that he would provide additional information to the Board concerning the issue.

Mr. David Kramer questioned if hiring a Special Master would require an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. The Board explained that it would cause a change to the Land Development Code.

It was agreed upon that September 30th would be advertised as the cut-off date to submit a resume to serve on the boards and committees.

Mr. Little presented a recommendation for approval of a request for subordination of a State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) loan.

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

Mr. Little presented a request from the Partner's Committee to allow staff to approve subordination of S.H.I.P. Mortgages under certain conditions: 1.) The homeowner is reducing the mortgage interest rate, 2.) The homeowner is reducing monthly mortgage payment, and 3.) The homeowner is not receiving cash out at closing. All three of the conditions must be met in order to allow staff to approve the subordination.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the request to allow staff to approve subordination of S.H.I.P. Mortgages under the conditions listed. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Little announced that it was time for renewal of the Core Contract with the Florida Department of Health. He requested that the Chairman be authorized to sign the contract once it has been reviewed by Legal Services.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees, to authorize the Chairman to sign the Core Contract with the Florida Department of Health once it has been reviewed by Legal Services. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, addressed the Board to request a transfer of funds. Mr. Bell stated that when RFP's were advertised for the new 25,000 square foot building to be constructed behind the existing EOC, they only had a certain amount of money to construct the building and associated parking. He had asked Mr. Collier to determine from the contractor how much would be needed to complete the building and he would review the budgets within the Emergency Response Division and see if funds were available. Mr. Bell stated that he had determined that there are sufficient funds to complete the project. He had spoken with Mr. Barry in regards to the paving of the parking lot and roadways associated with the building and had estimated the cost to be approximately \$15,000.00 for the asphalt. Altogether, the cost of the building, paving of the parking lot and roadways, totals to approximately \$93,000.00. These monies could be transferred from the 911, Emergency Services and EOC budget to complete the project. Mr. Bell recommended the transfer of the funds and that a change order be initiated with the contractor to perform the requested work.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve the transfer of funds and a changer order with the contractor. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Bell stated that the building should be completed within six months from the day that it was started. Mr. Bell stated that the project began last week.

Mr. Bell presented a response to the RFP's for the erection of the Mossy Head EMS station. Previously, the Board received an EMS grant to construct an EMS station in the Mossy Head area. Mr. Bell recommended awarding the contract to National Tank, Inc., low bid, for the erection of the Mossy Head EMS station, in the amount of \$48,480.00. Further discussion was held regarding the exact location of the building.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to award the contract to National Tank, Inc., low bid, in the amount of \$48,480.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resources Director, addressed the Board concerning an employee Drivers' License Policy. This issue was for discussion only. Mr. Mattison stated that he would bring a policy to the Board for consideration at a later date.

Mr. Mattison spoke about the contribution of sick days. He stated that there have been numerous requests from employees to donate sick days to other employees who have exhausted their leave. Mr. Mattison asked if the Board would like for him to review the issue and bring a policy back to them for consideration. Commissioner Cuchens spoke in favor of such a policy. Mr. Mattison stated that he would present the material in finished form at the next meeting.

Mr. Collier reviewed the 2WR contract status. He also presented and reviewed amendments 4-7 to the contract. He requested that the Board approve the four new amendments to the contract. Further discussion was held regarding the costs of the project.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the changes and amendments as they were presented. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Collier stated that they were prepared to go out for requests for qualifications on the courthouse project. He stated that they were asking for qualifications from general contractors. Mr. Collier explained that there was a selection process and ranking on certain criteria that was in the RFQ's. No action was needed on the matter.

Mr. Collier spoke about the property north of the jail that was purchased by the county. He stated that all of the families had moved out of the houses except for one, but she was expected to be out by the weekend. Mr. Collier stated that the demolition process was a few months away and something had to be done with the abandoned property. Discussion was held in regards to fencing in the property. Alternatives to demolition were also discussed for consideration. It was agreed that Mr. Collier would proceed with RFP's for the demolition process. It was also agreed that the DeFuniak Springs City Fire Department could use the houses for training exercises.

Mr. Underwood presented a request from Greg Allen, Project Manager for the Florida Department of Transportation, for the to Board appoint three individuals to serve on a DOT Committee for the Project Development and Environmental Study of US Highway 98 and Alternate Corridors. The three individuals that had been nominated to

serve were: Commissioner Pauls, Matt Zinke, and Bonnie McQuiston. Mr. Underwood recommended that the Board appoint these persons to serve on the DOT Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve the appointment of Tim Pauls, Matt Zinke, and Bonnie McQuiston to serve on the DOT Committee. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Underwood requested permission to advertise for potential sites that could be used to locate a facility to operate the collection of transferred recycling material, yard debris, and household waste. The proposed site would be between 7 and 10 acres and located south of Highway 20 in Walton County.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls, to allow advertisement for potential sites. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Underwood noted that the Lobbying Contract would be up for termination on October 9, 2003. He requested that the county go out for RFP's for the particular service.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve advertisements for RFP's for lobbying services. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Rees questioned Mr. Mike Lane in regards to the Lighting Ordinance. Mr. Lane stated that the ordinance would be discussed at the next Planning Meeting and brought before the Board in October 2003.

Commissioner Rees presented a list of accomplishments that had been provided to him by each Division Director and Staff. Mr. Rees felt that everyone should be proud of the results and thanked the staff for all their hard work.

Commissioner Rees presented a proclamation designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to adopt a proclamation designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Chairman Jones asked Mr. Gary Hulion, Code Enforcement Coordinator, to inform the Board of the effects of the Noise Ordinance since it was implemented on August 1, 2003. Mr. Hulion gave an update on the Noise Ordinance status. He stated that there were no active complaints at the present time. He stated that they had received two complaints, but both complaints had been withdrawn.

Chairman Jones requested that the Board approve a resolution, amending Resolution 1990-43, to correct an inaccurate legal description of property owned by Mr. Henry Burke.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to adopt a resolution (2003-65), amending Resolution 90-43. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Vice-Chairman Pauls addressed the issue of pedestrian safety for County Road 30-A. He spoke about proposed installation of lighting on the bike path. There would be six sets of pedestrian activated lights that would be located in the pavement of the

crosswalks. The lights were not part of the bike path grant and therefore, have not been ordered.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to allow Public Works to order six sets of lights from Universal Signs and Accessories, not to exceed \$48,000.00. Commissioner Pauls suggested that the money be provided through the Recreational Plat Fee Fund, District 5. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls spoke about commitment to bringing safety and lighting to the new intersections that were a result of the opening of Highway 98. Mr. Pauls stated that they would work with different organizations to bring appropriate lighting and lane markings to the intersections. Commissioner Pauls also spoke about portable lighting that was being used at specific locations to provide parking lot lighting. He noted that the Lighting Ordinance would soon come before the Board for consideration.

Commissioner Pauls addressed the issue of J.D. Miller Road. Mr. Pauls noted to the public that the road was in his top three priorities and had been for about three years. He stated that the county does not have a permit from the Corps of Engineers to pave J.D. Miller Road. Mr. Underwood stated that immediately upon acquiring the permit, Public Works would begin the paving process. Commissioner Pauls stated that he had written a letter to Congressman Boyd addressing the situation.

Commissioner Pauls commended Public Works for their work and efforts in the maintenance of County Road 30-A and various areas. He stated that a preliminary study performed by Mr. Barry showed that Walton County would need four times the manpower to perform routine maintenance. Mr. Pauls proposed that the county add an

additional prisoner crew for maintenance. The cost of the additional crew would be approximately \$50,000.00.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve to move forward and obtain an additional prisoner crew with regards to maintenance in Walton County. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. Public Works was directed to bring back information and recommendations in terms of the most appropriate places for the prisoner crew.

Mr. Bryan Bruns spoke about the comments made by Commissioner Pauls. He stated that the county might want to consider stoplights at the intersections. Mr. Bruns also stated that the proposed Lighting Ordinance is specifically meant for turtle lighting, therefore, the county might want to consider broader lighting issues.

Mr. Lane clarified that the proposed lighting ordinance is titled as the "Turtle Lighting Ordinance". It does pertain strictly to turtles. Commissioner Pauls suggested addressing the issue of lighting as a whole.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court

