

OCTOBER 14, 2003-REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom B of the Walton County Courthouse.

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

1. Expenditure Approval List	
General Fund	\$ 1,148,127.36
County Transportation	\$ 659,950.58
Fine & Forfeiture	\$ 397,927.01
Section 8 Housing	\$ 20,383.08
N.W. Mosquito Control	\$ 9,294.90
W. Co. Library	\$ 27,790.27
Recreation Plat Fee	\$ 80,437.21
Solid Waste Enterprise	\$ 552,633.63
Mossy Head VFD	\$ 26,910.65
Glendale VFD	\$ 19,824.64
Darlington VFD	\$ 17,764.68
Liberty VFD	\$ 118.67
Red Bay VFD	\$ 6,865.37
Local Option Gas Tax	\$ 429,658.98
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 149,897.30

grants into fiscal year 2003-2004. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Ms. Smith presented for approval a resolution to amend the budget to roll forward revenues and expenditures for uncompleted grants from fiscal year 2002-2003 into fiscal year 2003-2004. Ms. Smith reviewed the list of grants to be rolled forward.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to adopt a resolution (2003-77) amending the budget to roll forward revenues and expenditures for uncompleted grants from fiscal year 2002-2003 into fiscal year 2003-2004. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Ms. Smith presented for approval a resolution to amend the budget to roll forward revenues and expenditures for uncompleted paving projects from fiscal year 2002-2003 into fiscal year 2003-2004.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to adopt a resolution (2003-78) amending the budget to roll forward revenues and expenditures for uncompleted paving projects from fiscal year 2002-2003 into fiscal year 2003-2004. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Ms. Smith presented for a approval a resolution amending the budget to roll forward revenues and expenditures for uncompleted construction projects, encumbrances and capital expenditures from fiscal year 200-2003 into fiscal year 2003-2004.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to adopt the resolution (2003-79) amending the budget to roll forward revenues and expenditures for uncompleted construction projects, encumbrances and capital expenditures from fiscal year 2002-2003 into fiscal year 2003-2004.

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

Chairman Jones called to order the public hearing to consider an ordinance establishing a Contractor Competency Board. Mrs. Kira Coley, Staff Attorney, commented that the ordinance was essentially a revision of the current Competency Board that reestablishes the Board, changes the configurations, and confirms that what was previously written was no longer State Statute. Mrs. Coley briefly reviewed the proposed ordinance.

The Board commented on various aspects of the proposed ordinance. Commissioner Pauls questioned the wording of the language. He felt that it should clarify that it pertained to quasi-judicial hearings. Attorney Vorbeck stated that the wording could be changed at the Board's request. Commissioner Pauls further questioned the language pertaining to enforcement proceedings. Mr. Billy Bearden, Building Inspector Supervisor, explained that complaints are not initiated by the Competency Board, but by the consumers. Chairman Jones suggested a change to the language. He suggested that the reference to "building inspector" be instead written as "building official". Mr. Underwood stated that because of the urgency of the matter, the ordinance could be approved as it was submitted and amended at a later date.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve the Ordinance (2003-16) as submitted, with the minor change that was suggested by Chairman Jones and the addition of the language. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Ken Little, Citizens Services Director, presented a list of the expiring board and committee appointments. He began by reviewing the names of proposed replacements for various boards. Mr. Bill Dailey had volunteered to serve on the Code Enforcement Board in place of Mr. Frank Schissler.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to appoint Mr. Bill Daily to serve on the Code Enforcement Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Little noted that there were two expiring vacancies on the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, but were no nominees. Mr. Little stated that he would bring back names of nominees for the two positions.

Mr. Little stated that Mr. John Andrews has volunteered to serve on the Competency Board as a layperson in place of Mr. Glenn Thompson.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to appoint Mr. John Andrews to fill the position of layperson on the Competency Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Little stated that Mr. Robert Johnson had volunteered to serve in place of Mr. Larry Barrett on the Design Review Board.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve the appointment of Mr. Robert Johnson to the Design Review Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Little stated that there were four vacancies on the Planning Commission, pending expiring terms. Mr. Little requested to address the seats of District 2 and District

5 before addressing the two “At Large” seats. He stated that Ms. Sally Merrifield, District 2, desired to be reappointed to the Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to reappoint Ms. Sally Merrifield to the Planning Commission. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Little stated that Mr. Steve Peterson, District 5, also desired to be reappointed to the Planning Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to reappoint Mr. Steve Peterson to the Planning Commission. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Little presented to the Board a list of the applicants for the Planning Commission “At Large” seats. The Board was to rank the applicants from 1 to 9 with 9 being the highest preference for selection.

Discussion was held regarding the “special master” issue. Commissioner Rees stated that he had received an e-mail recommending that the Board consider having a “special master” for Land Use decisions. He felt that if the change were made it would cause the commissioners to re-look at the Planning Board. He thought that it was best to consider this issue before electing two applicants to fill the “At Large” seats. Chairman Jones stated that they would have the option to revisit the appointments at any time if desired. Commissioner Cuchens stated that he would like to move forward. The Board agreed to move forward with electing two applicants to fill the “At Large” seats.

Chairman Jones spoke about considering separating the two positions so they would not both expire at the same time. Mr. Little suggested appointing one of the

applicants to serve a one-year term and the other applicant to serve a two-year term. Commissioner Rees felt that a one-year term was not long enough for the applicant to become familiar with the different procedures.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to elect two at large planning commissioners; one for a one-year term and one for a two-year term. Upon the voting the applicant with the most votes would serve the two-year term and the other applicant with less votes would serve the one-year term. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

It was the general consensus of the Board to rank the applicants from 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest preference for selections. The commissioners took a moment to rank the applicants; the ballots were then submitted to Ms. Shirl Williams, Assistant County Administrator, to total the scores.

Mr. Little presented the names of those who were nominated to serve on the Library Advisory Board and those with expiring terms.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the appointment of Ms. Susie Arnold, District 1, to serve on the Library Advisory Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees, to appoint Ms. Barbara Lawniczak, District 4, to continue serving on the Library Advisory Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Little stated that Ms. Mae Lee Brown and Mr. Don LePehn did not desire reappointment to the Library Advisory Board. He further stated that there were no

nominees at the present time and requested that the Board allow him to bring back names of those who wished to serve on the Advisory Board at a later date.

Mr. Little stated that Mr. Van Ness Butler, Jr. desired to be reappointed to the Tourist Development Council.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve the reappointment of Mr. Van Ness Butler, Jr. to serve on the Tourist Development Council. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Little informed the Board that there was a vacancy on the Code Enforcement Board; Mr. Ed Latham did not desire reappointment to the Board, but there were no nominees at the present time. Mr. Little stated that there also weren't any nominees for the positions of Mr. Paul Smith and Mr. Jim Anders on the Design Review Board, which expire on December 28th.

Chairman Jones announced that the two highest ranked applicants for the Planning Commission "At Large" seats were Mr. Albert Paris and Mr. Van Ness Butler, Jr. with Mr. Paris being the highest ranked and Mr. Butler being the second highest ranked.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to appoint Mr. Albert Paris and Mr. Van Ness Butler to the two "At Large" seats on the Planning Commission. Mr. Paris will serve the two-year term and Mr. Butler will serve the one-year term. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Jones Aye, Rees Naye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye. The two will take office on date of the expiring terms.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, presented a proposed Agreement for Landscape of Right-of-Way at Watersound. St. Joe/Arvida was requesting Walton

County's permission to landscape a portion of the Walton County right-of-way on CR 30-A from Watersound Way to Gulf Bridge Way. Mr. Barry noted that St. Joe/Arvida had agreed to the developer's agreement. He further stated that, because the agreement was not in county format, there were minor changes that he would like to see made to the agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the Agreement for Landscape of Right-of-Way at Watersound with the condition that the agreement is written in county format. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Don Crim questioned if the county currently had a right-of-way policy in effect. Discussion was held in regards to right-of-way issues.

Mr. Barry presented a request for road county maintenance on Shady Pines Drive. Public Works had received a request from citizens living on Shady Pines Drive to accept the road for county maintenance. The road is located in Zone 3, District 1. The County Engineer had inspected the road and found it in adequate condition for acceptance. Mr. Barry recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of the road for county maintenance.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve the request for acceptance of Shady Pines Drive for county maintenance. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Barry presented a request from three handicapped citizens in Districts 1 and 2 for assistance from the county. Mr. Herman Crishon, Mr. Gerald Reeves, and Ms. Juanita Golden, had requested assistance for repair to their driveways, none of which are

on the public right-of-way. The Board had previously declined to provide services to private individuals under similar circumstances. Mr. Barry stated that it was the practice of Public Works to offer the individuals a one-time-private-grading service that is available to all Walton County citizens. This offer is a “work for a fee” service. Mr. Barry requested the Board’s guidance on whether or not to continue the practice.

Chairman Jones questioned what exactly had been requested. Mr. Barry stated that two of the requests included grading and fill and the third request required only grading.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens to continue the practice. Mr. Barry stated that the current practice allows up to one-hour of service, grading only, for a fee of \$50.00. If fill is needed, the citizens could provide the fill and Public Works would provide the equipment and labor needed. Mr. Herman Crishon spoke about his bad experience with this kind of service. Chairman Jones suggested that the Board continue with the current practice, but include the option to waive the fee under certain circumstances.

Commissioner Cuchens amended his motion to continue the practice with the option to waive the fee if the Board decides to under certain circumstances.

Mr. Barry stated that there was now an ADA Committee. He suggested that the future requests be brought before the Committee for decisions on whether or not to waive the fee.

Commissioner Cuchens amended the motion to continue the practice with the option to waive the fee if the ADA Committee decides to. The requests will be brought before the ADA Committee to decide whether or not to waive the fee. Commissioner Pridgen second the motion.

Commissioner Pauls expressed concerns with public funds being spent on private property. He felt that the county should be reimbursed for the cost of time spent and equipment used for the service. Commissioner Pauls stated that he didn't support the motion.

Commissioner Cuchens again amended his motion to continue the practice with the option to reduce the fee based on the decision made by the ADA Committee.

Further discussion was held in regards to expending public funds without public benefits. Commissioner Rees recommended that the motion be tabled until Legal Services could review the issue.

Commissioner Pridgen again second the motion.

Commissioner Pauls felt that the responsibility of setting fees should not be put upon Public Works. Mr. Underwood suggested giving the ADA Committee a budgeted amount of money to pay for the fees.

Commissioner Cuchens amended his motion to continue the practice with the option of a 50% reduction based on the recommendation of need from the ADA Committee. Commissioner Pridgen second the motion. Ayes 3, Nays 2. Jones Aye, Rees Naye, Pauls Naye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Barry presented the draft Road Acceptance Policy. He asked if there were any recommended changes or modifications from the Board. There were no comments from the Board. Mr. Barry recommended that the policy be adopted.

Mr. Crim suggested that the policy specify what would be done with the county maintained road list. He stated that there were several lists up to the year of 2015.

Commissioner Pauls explained that the county maintained road list and the county paving road list are two separate lists.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees, to adopt the Road Acceptance Policy as it was written.

Commissioner Pauls questioned the requirement that Public Works must acquire all rights-of-way prior to making a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Barry stated that each road would be individually evaluated. Further discussion was held.

A vote was called for the motion on the floor. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Barry presented an additional landfill purchase offer. Public Works received an offer to purchase 30 acres of land directly adjacent to the 735 acre Covell Tract that was recently purchased by the county. Mr. Barry stated that Public Works had conducted a boundary survey to confirm the exact limits of the property, and a Phase I environmental survey of the property to determine potential environmental problems. Both of the tasks showed that the land was located where described, and the environmental survey was negative for problems. Public Works recommended that the county purchase the land and make it a part of the Landfill. Public Works requested that the Board authorize Purchasing to complete the contract to purchase the land as described. Public Works also requested that the Board authorize the Finance Director to schedule a public hearing to transfer \$30,000.00 from the Landfill Reserve account to complete the transaction.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve the request to authorize Purchasing to complete the contract to purchase the land as

described and to authorize the Finance Director to schedule a public hearing to transfer \$30,000.00 from the Landfill Reserve account to complete the transaction. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, presented a proposed contract between Tri-County Community Council and Walton County EMS for the transport of the transportation disadvantaged in Walton County. Mr. Bell recommended approval of the contract.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the contract between Tri-County Community Council and Walton County EMS for the transport of the transportation disadvantaged in Walton County. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Bell presented a memo regarding the establishment of the Walton County Beach Safety/Education Committee. Mr. Bell recommended approval to create the committee and to appoint the membership as recommended. He reviewed the list of recommended individuals or groups to comprise the membership of the committee. He also requested that a representative of the BCC, being the District 5 Commissioner, serve on the committee.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve creating the committee and to appoint the membership as recommended. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Bell announced that the Walton County Fire Board unanimously approved to send a letter to Florida House Speaker Byrd, supporting his initiative to review the effects of worker's compensation on first responders. Chief David Jones, Fire Board Chairman,

asked that the County Commission also send a letter to Speaker Byrd endorsing the initiative. Mr. Bell recommended that the Board send a support letter to Speaker Byrd, Representative Adams and Representative Don Brown.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve the request to send a support letter to Speaker Byrd, Representative Adams and Representative Don Brown, with a copy to the senator. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Bell presented a memo updating the commissioners of the 80+ animals that were picked up on September 18, 2003 by the Walton County Animal Control. On October 10th, the County Judge signed a stipulated final judgment to relinquish all rights and control of the dogs to Walton County. The Court also declared that the dogs possessed no commercial value, and Walton County would not auction or otherwise sell the animals, but will dispose of them in a manner deemed necessary. He recommended that the county place the animals with animal welfare groups and let them care for the animals. After the groups have cared for the animals, they could then adopt the animals out. The groups would sign an agreement with Walton County that they would take possession of the animals. They would be responsible for medical care, food, shelter, spay/neuter and disposition of the animals. Mr. Bell further stated that some of the animals might have to be euthanized because of medical problems or social disposition. Mr. Bell stated that if the Board were in agreement with the recommendation, he would move forward with Legal Services to develop an agreement and set up a meeting with rescue groups interested in obtaining the animals.

Mrs. Lynda Morse stated that there were organizations that were willing to take the animals. She was opposed to Mr. Bell meeting with the groups. She recommended that the county move forward with euthanizing the animals that were in pain or suffering.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the recommendation and allow Mr. Bell to move forward with Legal Services to develop an agreement and set up a meeting with rescue groups interested in obtaining the animals.

Commissioner Cuchens felt that every animal should have all possible chances of being adopted out before being euthanized.

A vote was called for the motion on floor. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Wilson Holley addressed the Board concerning regulations on small lots. He commended Mr. Gary Hulion and Mr. Mike Lane for their help and efforts with his matter. Mr. Holley then presented a letter that was written by him to the Board. The letter referred to the currently written Land Development Code. As the code is written, a property owner with one square foot over ½ acre can have any height fence they wish. A property owner with exactly ½ acre cannot have over a 4-foot fence along the roadway. Mr. Holley requested that the Board determine that once a person combines two lots and acquires over the ½ acre requirement, that it satisfies the Land Development Code.

Discussion was held concerning the setback requirements. Mr. Gary Hulion, Code Enforcement Coordinator, presented a portion of the Code in which pertains to fence regulations for small lots. Mr. Holley's citation was to go before the Code Enforcement Board on Thursday, October 16th. Discussion was held in regards to interpretation of the Code. Mr. Mike Lane, Planning Director, read from the LDC

concerning the methodology of determination of the setbacks. Further discussion was held regarding various aspects of the Code. Commissioner Pauls felt like the definition of “front yard” was the issue and recommended that it be made clearer. Mr. Underwood stated that it would be easier to omit the regulations for small lots rather than try to define the meaning of “front yard” in the Code. Commissioner Pauls felt that omitting the regulations would only create additional problems. Commissioner Cuchens questioned if the Board could revisit the issue at a later date. It was the general consensus of the Board to direct Mr. Hulion to remove the issue from the Code Enforcement meeting agenda until it could be revisited.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Rees, to instruct Mr. Hulion to suspend the Code Enforcement Board’s action for a month, allowing the county to develop language to solve the problem. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Crishon addressed the Board concerning the decisions that are made by the county. The commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Dewey Wilson, President/General Manager of Florida Community Services, operating the Regional Utilities system, addressed the Board concerning the utility restrictions and county right-of-ways. Mr. Wilson stated he had met with Sprint, Choctawhatchee Electric, Mr. Underwood, and Mr. Scott Jenkins, County Engineer and that they had come to the conclusion that the county needs to rewrite the Right-of-Way Ordinance for Utilities. He requested that the Board consider appointing a committee to address the issue and make recommendations to the Board. It was the general consensus of the Board to appoint a committee. Mr. Wilson said that before the next Board meeting

he would submit to Mr. Underwood a list of committee candidates for the commissioner's review. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Wilson presented for approval a draft resolution, amending Resolution 2001-22, for the bonds of expansion that they were performing. He reviewed the change that was made to the resolution. Discussion was held in regards to the loan for 8 million dollars that the county planned on borrowing at the first of the upcoming year.

Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls, to approve the resolution (2003-82). Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Marvin Collier, Construction Manager, addressed the Board in regards to a work order from the Supervisor of Elections Office concerning the implementation of the Help America Voting Act (HAVA), which mandates that all polling places meet ADA Code by the first Federal Election, March 9, 2004. The work order stated that at the current time, the county was looking to relocate to different buildings in the community. Mr. Collier presented a list of upgrades needed to bring the new locations up to code, as well as some of the buildings that would continue to be used. Many of the buildings were not owned by the county or were private property. He requested the Board's guidance on the matter.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens to approve for the improvements to be made.

Various comments were made concerning the matter. Commissioner Pauls spoke about the issues to consider if it were approved to upgrade the facilities. He voiced concern whether the county could do the work and if the work could be completed by March 9th. He questioned if the work could be done and would it affect the current

projects in the county. Mr. Collier explained that some of the upgrades were minor improvements. He said that he had estimated the costs of completing all of the projects, which could range from \$100,000.00-\$200,000.00.

The motion died for lack of a second. It was the general consensus of the Board to direct Mr. Collier to bring back further information to the Board for review.

Mr. Collier presented the results from the Animal Control request for proposals. Only one proposal was received in response to the request. The proposal was from Carrie Green Riley, DVM, presently practicing in Crestview. Mr. Collier presented a power point presentation demonstrating the cost comparison of the sub-contracting with Dr. Green Riley, in-house sheltering/animal control and leaving the animal control as it is currently being done. There were two possible locations to bring all animal control operations in-house, to be completely performed by the county; the “Lang” property or the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in DeFuniak Springs. A lengthy discussion was held in regards to the various options.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, to proceed with the construction of the facility at the EOC and make a determination based on information in regards to contracting or hiring a veterinarian. Commissioner Cuchens requested additional time to review the different options.

Commissioner Pauls second the motion.

Commissioner Pridgen amended the motion to proceed with the construction of the facility at the EOC; the operations would be addressed at a later date. Commissioner Pauls second the motion.

Commissioner Cuchens expressed concern with the need for space to accommodate large animals. Further discussion was held.

A vote was called for the motion on the floor. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Naye, and Pridgen Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls to appoint an Animal Control Advisory Board and that a specific time is set to appoint the Board.

Commissioner Rees suggested that Mr. Little request nominations from those willing to serve. He second the motion. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Naye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Collier stated that on several occasions, Southern Company had expressed interest in construction projects in Walton County. He said that Southern Company would like to speak with the Board in regards to what they were doing for other communities. Mr. Collier stated that if the Board was interested a meeting could be arranged. It was the general consensus of the Board for Mr. Collier to arrange a meeting.

Mr. Collier informed the commissioners of the Watkins Engineering & Constructors vendor payment update. Watkins had assured Mr. Collier that the vendors would be paid off within the following two weeks. Discussion was held regarding the issue. The Board directed Mr. Collier to come back to the Board if the vendors were not paid off in two weeks.

Mr. Collier informed the Board of the Courthouse RFQ update. He stated that seven proposals were received. Mr. Collier also updated the commissioners on the Courthouse parking lot and the jail RFQ's. Mr. Collier further updated the commissioners on the temporary jail building.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resource Director, addressed the Board in regards to the second reading of the proposed Drivers' License Policy. Chairman Jones suggested that a change be made to a specific portion of the language. Commissioner Pauls questioned another portion of the language. Mr. Mattison addressed both issues. Mr. Mattison stated that the greatest concern pertains to current employees that would be affected by the policy. Ms. Ingle asked Mr. Mattison if he had talked with the other elected officials in the county that have employees that might drive the county vehicles. Mr. Mattison stated that he had not met with the other officials. Ms. Ingle stated that if the Board decided to approve the policy, it would be incorporated into the Clerk's policy. Further discussion was held concerning the language of the policy.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the Drivers' License policy, allowing staff to correct the language.

Commissioner Pauls questioned if it was clear what would happen to an employee if he/she lost their driving privileges. Mr. Mattison stated that each situation would be dealt with individually. Mr. Barry stated that if the Board chose to approve the policy, a meeting would be held with each driver to explain the policy. Commissioner Cuchens questioned if there were any employees that were currently working with the county that had lost his/her license. Mr. Barry stated that there were a number of employees without a valid driver's license.

A vote was called for the motion on the floor. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Mattison presented to the Board the proposed Policy for Protection of the Privacy of Protected Health Information (HIPAA) for its second reading.

Motion Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve the Policy for Protection of the Privacy of Protected Health Information (HIPAA). Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

For information purposes, Mr. Mattison announced that October was recognized by the county as “National Awareness of Disability Employment Month”. This month allows for citizens to reflect and consider the potential possessed by the millions of Americans with disabilities who currently serve in the workplace, as well as those who are ready and willing to join the workforce.

Mr. Mattison submitted to the Board the analysis of janitorial manpower for the South Walton BCC locations and for countywide locations. He reviewed the costs of each bid proposal, including the costs of performing the services in house. After a lengthy discussion, it was the general consensus of the Board to direct Human Resources to come back with additional information.

Mr. Mattison presented the bid proposals for countywide and South Walton grounds maintenance services. Mr. Barry addressed the Board and briefly discussed the figures of the bid proposals. After discussion was held, the Board decided to address the issue at a later date.

Mr. Lloyd Blue, South Walton Area Mitigation Planning Effort (S.W.A.M.P), addressed the Board in regards to information that had been gathered from several meetings that he, along with Ms. Erica Teets and Mr. Phillip Ellis, had attended. He stated for the record that they had attended the meetings with several agencies, merely as a liaison, to bring information back to the Board. Further discussion was held in regards to scheduling a meeting between the agencies and the Board concerning the information.

It was the general consensus of the Board to move forward with a meeting with the Wetlands Work Group.

Mr. Hulion addressed the Board concerning a request for the usage of temporary signage for special events. In the past, the organizations have gone before the Board to request permission to place their temporary signs. Mr. Hulion proposed that the groups be required to complete an application providing Code Enforcement with an address and telephone number before addressing the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to adopt a sign application process. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Commissioner Pauls inquired about the previously approved signage exemption along Highway 98 with regards to the construction of Hwy 98. Mr. Hulion stated that he would review the information from the meeting and bring that information back to Board.

Mr. Underwood updated the commissioners on the current project with Representative Don Brown. The project was recently approved to move forward with attempts to expand the prison facility.

Mr. Underwood requested that the Board approve a proposed Agreement for Medical Examiner Services between Walton County and Gary D. Cumberland, Chief Medical Examiner, for fiscal year 2003-2004, in the amount of \$142,151.00.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the Agreement for Medical Examiner Services between Walton County and Gary D. Cumberland. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Underwood presented an appraisal conducted on the 10-acres tract north of the existing Helen McCall Park, which the county was making application to purchase from the Division of State Lands. The appraisal showed the Fair Market Value to be \$100,000.00. Mr. Underwood stated that to move forward with the purchase of the property, the Chairman must be authorized to sign a letter to State Lands committing to pay the FMV. Commissioner Pauls suggested that the Board table the issue until a Parks and Recreation Director was able to develop a plan for the property. The Board concurred.

Mr. Underwood presented a proposed resolution approving the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization Voting Membership Reapportionment Plan.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to adopt a resolution (2003-81) approving the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization Voting Membership Reapportionment Plan. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Underwood discussed various options to fill the vacant Walton County Growth Management position. Mr. Underwood suggested that the Board promote within the department. Commissioner Cuchens agreed that the position should be filled from within. Commissioner Pauls was in favor of the position being filled or splitting the department into two separate divisions. The Board requested that Mr. Underwood bring back additional information for further review.

Mr. Underwood informed the Board that the county Public Information Officer position would be taken over by Mr. Little, Citizens Services Director. Further discussion was held pertaining to the matter.

Mr. Underwood noted that the meeting scheduled for November 11th, which is Veteran's Day, needed to be rescheduled. It was agreed upon that the meeting would be held on Thursday, November 6th at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Underwood presented a request from the South Walton Professional Fire Fighters Association to use the Community Center located on County Road 393 and Highway 98 for a haunted house on October 30th-31st.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Rees, to allow the South Walton Professional Fire Fighters Association to use the Community Center on October 30th-31st. Ayes 4, Naves 1. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Naye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Commissioner Rees updated the commissioners on the Strategic Planning Initiative for portions of the Bay and east Walton County. Commissioner Rees also updated the commissioners on the Northwest Grid Way Addition, a group made up of several different organizations. Commissioner Rees stated that he had met with the office of Congressman Jeff Miller for a presentation in terms of the grid way study area, which he felt has significant impact on Walton County. He stated that if the Board was interested, a meeting could be arranged with Eglin for them to present their information. It was the general consensus of the Board to direct staff to schedule a meeting.

Commissioner Pridgen presented for approval a resolution for the BCC to support keeping the Paxton Post Office open for the convenience of the citizens.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Rees, to adopt a resolution (2003-80), supporting the United States Post Office in Paxton, Florida. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Chairman Jones addressed the issue of notice publication. After discussion was held, it was agreed upon that the issue would be further addressed at a later date.

Commissioner Pauls addressed the issue of county survey work needs. Mr. Barry presented information to the Board pertaining to the engineering services in Walton County that start with surveying and a list of affected projects by the impacts of surveying. Public Works felt like the county needed 2-3 total survey crews to meet the day-to-day requests that are received for survey support. The survey crews would be needed until Public Works completed the Dirt Road Paving Program currently scheduled to end in fiscal year 2017. Public Works recommended that they be given the increased staffing levels to hire up to two additional survey crews, consisting of a Party Chief and Survey Technician for each crew. Mr. Barry stated that they were not requesting additional funds. With the Board's support, Public Works would hire one additional crew now and reevaluate the requirement at a later date to see if they were able to fund the additional crew out of savings.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve Public Works' recommendation. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Commissioner Pauls presented his request for approval to pursue Oyster Lake Restoration Grants that would reconnect wetlands.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to move forward with the Oyster Lake Restoration Grants. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Commissioner Pauls presented a request to move forward with engineering estimates for bike path bridges.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to approve the expenditure of funds for engineering for the bike path bridges. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Commissioner Pauls presented the Impact Fee Committee recommendations to include all potential sources of revenue.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to agree that the Impact Fee Committee did not have to commit themselves solely to impact fees as sources of funding for the various unfunded infrastructure and facilities that they were considering. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

Commissioner Pauls requested a clearer determination of quasi-judicial projects and instructions for the Board and their staff. Discussion was held regarding the matter.

Commissioner Pauls requested that the Board support a recommendation that the area of Highway 331, from the Bay to Highway 20, be designated as either a Suburban or Urban area. The current design of the area is designated as Rural area. Commissioner Pauls felt that the area should be designated as Urban. Mr. Barry stated that the area would be classified as Urban once it was completed.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees, to recommend an Urban design on Highway 331 from the Bay to Highway 20. And also to send a resolution (2003-83) to District 3 and any other design entities, including the TPO. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Pauls Aye, Cuchens Aye, and Pridgen Aye.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court