

DECEMBER 9, 2003 – WORKSHOP/REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 09, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom A of the Walton County Courthouse following a scheduled workshop.

The following Board members were present: Vice-Chairman Tim Pauls, Commissioner Lane Rees, Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, and Commissioner Rosier Cuchens.

The following individuals were present from the Florida Department of Emergency Management: Mr. Frank Koutnic, Mr. Dennis Smith, Ms. Marcia Chericose, and Mr. Quinton Williams.

Mr. Bell opened the Sr. Leadership Workshop and introduced Mr. Jimmy Helms, State Emergency Management Coordinator, who gave a brief overview of his work experience and background. The main function of this program is to ensure that the county receives the necessary help during an emergency.

Mr. Helms introduced Mr. Frank Koutnic. Mr. Koutnic spoke about emergency events and obtaining funding during an emergency. The following three topics were covered: 1) Roles and responsibilities, 2) Florida prepares and 3) Citizen Corps.

1) Roles and responsibilities – Mr. Koutnic explained about the Division of Emergency Management. Their mission statement is to ensure that Florida is prepared to respond to emergencies, recover from them and mitigate their impact. (Commissioner Cuchens arrived). Mr. Koutnic spoke about potential hazards. He encouraged the elected officials to be familiar with Florida Statute Chapter 252.38 covering the powers of a

political subdivisions. This chapter also covers the declaration of a local state of emergency.

Mr. Koutnic spoke about the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), the Homeland Security Department, and the decision that almost dismantled FEMA. He showed a presentation depicting the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee that houses the Emergency Coordination functions. Mr. Koutnic spoke about the Disaster Response Pyramid and those officials responsible for responding in a time of emergency and those agencies involved in reacting.

Mr. Koutnic also told about coordination during the emergency, stating that all of the other agencies fall under their umbrella. The operation center is continually open and covers all 67 counties. They consist of seven functional areas throughout the State with Mr. Jimmy Helms being over Region I. The State Warning Point is the communications point throughout the state. He emphasized the need for a completely functional emergency operations center within the county, a place to respond from during an emergency. He stated that it is important to have an Emergency Coordinating Officer. Mr. Koutnic stated that Walton County's emergency plan is in line with the State plan.

Commissioner Pauls asked if the State Emergency Management has any interface with the Department of Transportation because of the need to four-lane highway 331 in Walton County to improve emergency evacuation time. Mr. Koutnic stated that they do interface with DOT and they can submit it on the five-year capital outlay plan. Another issue to address is sufficient shelters to house people rather than them having to remain on the road for a lengthy period of time during a storm.

2) Florida prepares- Mr. Dennis Smith stated that the Federal Disaster Program is the only one that goes from the courthouse to the Whitehouse. He spoke about disaster financial assistance, which is usually provided at a 75/25 ratio. There are three types of assistance: public assistance to help rebuild infrastructure; individual assistance to help individuals; and the small business administration. He also spoke about the community rating system.

Mr. Smith spoke about public assistance. About \$150,000 in losses would have to be sustained in Walton County to be included in a Presidential Disaster Declaration. In order for Florida to be declared eligible, the State would had to sustain \$1.11 per capita to be eligible. Each county would have to sustain \$2.77 per capita to be included in the request. The per capita is based on the last census taken.

The threshold for Federal assistance (under the Stafford Act as amended) uses the estimated number of homes that are destroyed or receives major damage. The small Business Administration Disaster Program provides assistance under a Presidential Declaration. Only 25 homes with 40% uninsured loss or five impacted businesses in one county can qualify for the SBA loans.

The Community Rating System-There are 206 communities in Florida. The Rating System rewards communities for sound floodplain management. It also reduces the National Flood Insurance programs (NFIP) insurance premiums. Mr. Smith assured the county that they would do all they can to help citizens in a time of need.

Mr. Koutnic stated that if a county does not meet their per capita, then they would probably never be declared again. He stated that they are working to do all they can to take care of this. Florida is the second most active State in the nation when being

declared under Presidential Declarations. He spoke about the 12.5% State match and stated that it is no longer guaranteed. When the county faces a disaster under the Presidential Declaration, the county needs to generate some power to insure that the county is guaranteed the 12.5% of the same share. The automatic State fund must now be requested, it is no longer automatic.

He advised not to piggyback on another communities contract during a catastrophic disaster, but to maintain a stand-alone contract for debris management. Mr. Koutnic said they would help all they can during the long-term recovery.

Mr. Quinton Williams spoke about Florida Prepares and the necessary action to take during an emergency. He stated that local community partners, such as churches, schools, and the private sector, need to be involved. He also spoke about the benefits of partnerships and what can be done in an emergency to survive. He addressed the Department of Emergency Management's role in preparing Florida communities. He stated that they would be providing training in February for electronic applications.

Mr. Bell asked Mr. Williams to speak about the shelter deficits. Mr. Koutnic stated that shelter deficits are based on a regional deficit. Mr. Bell stated that Region I is at a deficit.

3) Citizen corps-Ms. Chericose spoke about the Citizen Corps Program where local people have the opportunity to help. This program falls under the USA Freedom Corps. She explained the mission of the Citizen Corps and the four programs under the Citizen Corps Programs and their purpose, which is to assist local citizens. The Citizen Corps Council is to bring everyone together for organization purposes. She spoke about the need to be ready and to have trained citizens. Ms. Chericose spoke about the funding

for 2003. There will be additional funding for 2004 for the Citizen Corps. In order to help, the county needs to form Citizen Corps organizations. There being no further questions, the commissioners recessed until 4:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

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

Chairman Jones spoke about Zachary Pennywell, a 12 year old, who assisted in the rescue of a young lady who was being attacked by two bulldogs. The Governor of Florida awarded him with recognition for his courageous act. The commissioners presented an award to be given to Zachary for his bravery.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees 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. EAL Approval

General Fund	\$ 488,330.19
County Transportation	\$ 64,640.81
Fine & Forfeiture	\$ -
Section 8 Housing	\$ 1,458.83
N.W. Mosquito Control	\$ 525.56
W. Co. Library	\$ 7,777.01
Recreation Plat Fee	\$ 1,150.00
Solid Waste Enterprise	\$ 347,522.23
Mossy Head VFD	\$ 1,104.50
Gelendale VFD	\$ 345.47
Darlington VFD	\$ 664.45
Liberty VFD	\$ -
Red Bay VFD	\$ 308.36
Local Option Gas Tax	\$ -
Capital Projects Fund	\$ -
SHIP	\$ 750.00

Tourist Dev. Council	\$	7,555.70
Mott Sign Grant	\$	-
Debt Service Hospital	\$	-
Spec. Law Enforcement	\$	-
Driftwood Debt Service	\$	204.88
Bldg Dept/Enterp. Fund	\$	5,866.46
Imperial Lakes MSBU	\$	36.71
Public Safety- 911	\$	5,745.71
Totals	\$	933,986.87

2. Approve Minutes of November 04, 2003-Executive Session
November 11, 2003-Land Use Hearing
3. Records Disposition Request
4. Grant Contract between FL Communities Trust and
Walton County for Stallworth Lake Preserve Reimbursement

Mrs. Jennifer Christensen, Planning Coordinator, presented the final plat for Watersound Beach Phase 4, a 49-lot single-family lot subdivision. The plat was recommend for approval. There was no public comments voiced.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve Watersound Beach Phase 4 final plat for recording. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Christensen presented the final plat for Rosemary Beach Phase 7B with the recommendation to approve. The plat consists of a 4-lot subdivision. There were no public comments.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve Rosemary Beach Phase 7B. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Christensen presented Dalton Place at Seagrove final plat for approval. The plat consists of an 8-lot single-family subdivision. However, she explained that staff can not give a clear cut recommendation. She explained that about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the subdivision needs

to be rezoned. The subdivision went through a public hearing process after which staff realized that there were additional issues that needed to be considered.

Attorney Lisa Minshew appeared before the Board representing the owners. She stated that the subdivision was submitted under a major development order. The owners complied with all the provisions of the code and also submitted a survey. There is not any provision in the application process for the V-zone to be on a site plan. The process went through entire process. The final development order was issued March 5, 2002. The owners proceeded with their development and have spent about \$150,000. She stated that up to now the county has never enforced the provision in the comp plan that does not allow building in the V-zone. The FEMA rule allows building in a V-zone, just at a certain height. She stated that they are not being treated fairly in accordance with those surrounding properties in the V-zone. She asked that approval be granted and allow recording of the plat.

Commissioner Pauls questioned if she had researched back to 1996; she stated that she had not. He agreed that she has a valid case, but felt that the Board might be construed to be voting against the comp plan by approving the project. However, in his opinion, the plat should be approved. He stated that the facts support approval.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve the Dalton Place at Seagrove final plat for recording. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls stated that the V-zone, 100-year flood plain, and the A-zone needs to be addressed.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, requested to postpone discussion of the Batson Road issue until next meeting pending some additional changes.

Mr. Barry presented a recommendation to set aside 4.243 acres in a conservation easement for J. D. Miller Road. Mr. Rick Holden, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, agreed to immediately issue the necessary permits for JD Miller Road if the county will set this property aside. Commissioner Pauls stated that this would be the main access road to the GEC Center from J.D. Miller Road.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to approve the recommendation and authorize the Chair's signature on the easement agreement. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry presented information about Sunrise Road, District 3. He stated that they need to obtain right of way known as old Sunshine Road. The right of way to be obtained is on the south side. He recommended abandoning the old road; accept the new road at which time he would draft the formal deed for recording.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to approve to proceed with the abandonment of the old portion of Sunrise Road, accept the new road and draft a formal deed for recording. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry addressed the issue relating to Thompson Road. As a condition for paving the road, negotiations have been held with the residents in order to access the 33 feet currently owned by the residents. The county has agreed to request that they abandon 25 of the 33 feet. The county would then abandon the remaining 8 feet.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve the abandonment proposal and to proceed with the paving of Thompson Road. Commissioner Pauls stated that this is a result of the way the subdivision was platted. He stated that the county needs to be aware not to allow platted subdivisions to plat into the county easements in the future. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry stated that he previously requested to negotiate a contract for an additional prison crew for grounds maintenance in south Walton. The contract is for the amount of \$47, 177.00. Mr. Barry recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Pridgen to approve the Chair's signature on the contract for an additional prison crew. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. Commissioner Pauls stated that he would not want this contract to preclude the prison crew from being allowed to work in the north portion of the county. Mr. Barry stated that it would not preclude that.

Mr. Barry recognized Mr. Bill Imfeld, Finance Director, who received an email from Sun Trust Bank regarding the \$6 million loan. Mr. Imfeld advised that the second part of that loan for \$8 million is dated for January and is in need of approval in order to proceed with the second phase of the loan. The interest rate could go up $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a point if the county does not go forward now. Commissioner Rees asked if it has been communicated as to where the \$6 million have been spent in relation to the projects it was designated for.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen to allow the Chair's signature on the loan documents in order to proceed with borrowing the second

portion of the loan in the amount of \$8 million. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Rees commented on road safety. He spoke about the aging population of drivers and the need for larger and adequate signage. He also provided Mr. Barry an article from USA Today pertaining to a model road safety plan endorsed by AAA.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, requested authorization to apply for two EMS matching grants. One 75/25 matching grant and an EMS Rural 90/10 Matching Grant. He stated that the funds are within his budget and recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens to authorize Mr. Bell to proceed with applying for the EMS matching grants. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Chief Hallman, South Walton Fire District, appeared before the Board and displayed one of the new life paks. He told about its portable size and the increased ability to save lives by 90%. He explained how easy they are to use and that the American Heart Association is trying to make these available to every citizen through EMS personnel, and eventually in all public buildings. The AED's are now under \$2,000 each. Mr. Hallman stated that they have been successful in obtaining a \$60,000 in grant funding to purchase 37 AED's. Fifteen of them will be placed in county buildings. There will be trained personnel in each location that will be able to properly use the equipment. The lif paks can also be used on the beaches and are currently in the beach patrol vehicles.

Mr. Ken Little, Citizens Services Director, appeared before the Board regarding the expiring Board and committee members. He presented three nominations for the Library Advisory Board.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept the appointment of Robin Hollington to the Library Advisory Board in place of Barbara McLellan. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. Mrs. McLellan has served two terms and cannot be reappointed.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to accept the appointment of Bets Haynes to the Library Advisory Board in place of Mae Lee Brown. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. Ms. Brown did not desire reappointment.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to accept the appointment of Ms. Joyce Szilvasy to the Library Advisory Board in place of Mr. Don LaPehn. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. Mr. LaPehn has also served two terms.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve the reappointment of Mr. Paul Smith to the Design Review Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Little explained that Escambia County Housing Authority was the only firm who submitted a bid for the Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bond.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to accept the bid by Escambia County Housing Authority and to advertise for a public hearing on

December 16, 2003. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls thanked Mr. Little for his work as the Public Information Officer. He asked Mr. Little to clarify the bike path issue to ensure people that it is being paid for with grant funding, not ad valorem monies.

Mr. Dewey Wilson, President and General Manager of Florida Community Services, updated the Board on the bond issue, the expansion project is moving forward. He stated that they would be receiving \$6 million for expansion, and \$2.4 million for refinancing. He explained that they were rated as A or better by three different companies. By receiving this rating it opened the bonds through other investment companies, which will provide a better interest rate. The current rate is at 4.75% for the bonds and the county has no liability.

Mr. Wilson spoke about the consumptive use permits. Future water is of concern and they are currently applying to increase their consumptive use permit to 1.5 million gallons for average daily useage. He explained that Water Management does not take into consideration PUD and DRI's, they base it on actual consumptive use. This permit is for five years, but will exceed that in two years. He stated that they would immediately begin long-range planning. Mr. Wilson stated that the county might want to create a long-range water authority for the future. He felt that there should be plenty of water, there just needs to be good planning. Commissioner Pauls stated that he would support water authority in Walton County. Supplying all communtites should be part of the strategic plan for the future. He also asked about water capacity for the vacant lots of subdivisions that were unrecorded or recorded prior to 1992. Mr. Wilson stated that his company

currently serves about 8,400 and has development agreements for about 4,000 residential connections. He stated that there is potential for an additional 20,000 units in south Walton in the next year.

Mr. Wilson spoke briefly about water and sewer for carriage houses. He spoke about the fairness of being charged the impact fees relating to the size of the homes. Commissioner Pauls stated that this needs to be coordinated with language in the comprehensive plan. Commissioner Cuchens thanked Mr. Wilson for the outstanding job he has done.

Chief Roger Roy, Liberty Volunteer Fire Department, stated that his elected board chose to establish impact fees in the amount of \$75.00 per residence and 20 cent per square foot for commercial establishments. He requested that the Building Department be allowed to collect the fees and deposit it into the fire department's account. Chief Roy gave statistics for the increases in his fire district and the amount of funding that could have been collected. Attorney Vorbeck advised the Board on setting precedence. Mr. Imfeld stated that this creates an internal control problem with too many people handling monies. Mr. Underwood advised that the Building Department is not set up to collect the fees. Ms. Ingle stated that it would be more convenient for citizens to pay the fees at the Building Department and then the Clerk's Office would receipt it and deposit it into the proper account. Chairman Jones directed staff to resolve the matter in the best manner possible.

Mr. Marvin Collier, Construction Manager, advised the Board that the surplus property in question is located at 206 Live Oak Avenue, not 106 Live Oak Avenue. The

property was once used by United Way. However, the property is in disrepair and he therefore recommended the property be surplus and disposed of in an "as is" condition.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to accept the recommendation and approve surplus the property located at 206 Live Oak Avenue for disposal. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Herman Chrishon appeared before the Board regarding employment issues. He spoke about the courier position and stated that the rules are not being followed. He felt that the buddy system was used in hiring for that position. He asked that the rules be applied the same for the hiring of all positions. Commissioner Pauls agreed that rules should be followed and requested that the Human Resource Office look into the situation.

The Board directed Mr. Mattison to review the GED policy and provide clarification of the policy.

A request was presented by Mr. Lloyd Blue who is requesting a variance to the Grayton Beach Alcohol Beverage Ordinance for the holidays for extended hours.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve Mr. Blue's request granting a variance extending the hours of alcohol sales during the holiday seasons as done in previous years. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Naye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Attorney Gary Vorbeck, Legal Services, addressed the information that he previously submitted to the commissioners regarding the Black Creek mediation. Chairman Jones reviewed the settlement agreement stating that the county's insurance will pay no more than \$80,000 as compensation towards attorneys' fees and costs. The

county would agree to reclassify the property on Highway 3280 to “Business Park” and the remaining property to single family use at 4 units per acre. The agreement would also allow the plaintiff to continue the sand mining and land clearing debris activity for a period of five years in that certain portion of property outlined in the agreement. Chairman Jones felt that this is a reasonable settlement. Commissioner Rees asked Gary to speak about the pros and cons of the agreement. Mr. Vorbeck stated that they are seeking approximately \$1 million in damages and attorney fees. Commissioner Pauls stated that this is not the first mediation. He felt that it is difficult in finding an acceptable settlement and what the public would want. The best action would be to find an end result. If successful in the litigation then the county would end up with a large hole at the site. Based on this proposed settlement, it is an acceptable land use and would bring closure. Commissioner Pauls stated that he will support the agreement and move on. Chairman Jones also stated that he supports the settlement. Commissioner Cuchens asked if a time limit could be placed on this and if a legal description could be given so they will not continue digging a larger hole. Commissioner Pauls stated that a survey would be needed. Attorney Vorbeck stated that a survey would be done.

Attorney Mark, McClellan, representing Mr. Faulkner a nearby neighbor, voiced concerns with the definition of “Business Park.” He stated that there are several items that are not addressed in the agreement. He asked if the park is not rezoned as a business park, does that make the agreement null and void or just item number 2 of the agreement. He voiced concern with the type of land clearing and further questioned if there will be a construction process. Mr. Vorbeck stated that it is his understanding that they currently have a clearing permit and that the settlement agreement would not waive any state or

federal laws. Mr. McClellan further asked if Black Creek would be required to obtain all permits from DEP. The only allowable use will be residential with 4 units per acres on the additional property. Attorney Minshew expects that there would be some fill pursuant to review by county staff. The owners are residential developers and it would be in their best interest to develop it.

Mr. Bradley Johnson, resident, felt the agreement should be much stronger. Code enforcement closed the pit and he is opposed to the settlement. Commissioner Cuchens agreed and asked what the plaintiff gets for operating out of compliance. Gary stated that the county is not assessing any penalties. If it goes to court and the county loses they will have no penalties. If the county wins then Black Creek would be assessed. Mr. Johnson felt that the code enforcement is not needed if the county will not enforce its decision. Commissioner Cuchens stated that he spoke with several residents in the area and he has not heard anyone who is willing to take the risks. Mr. Johnson stated that there is no one overseeing the property. Commissioner Rees agreed to go forward with the survey. Commissioner Pauls stated that the language in the agreement needs to be clarified stating that there are no waivers of state or federal permits, that the applicant must follow all development order requirements, and they will clean it up. He stated that it should be clearly defined so all parties are aware of their responsibilities. Mr. Pauls stated that he would like to be consistent with code enforcement to ensure codes are being enforced equally.

Commissioner Cuchens stated that the Chair has done an excellent job in mediating this issue. He feels that the plaintiff is getting off easy without having to pay any fines. He further stated that he was not in favor of paying any amount. He said that

the area should be clearly defined, and that they should be given a set amount of time to begin residential construction. Mr. Vorbeck stated that the development order stipulates the time frame. Discussion followed about removing number 1 of agreement. Commissioner Cuchens felt that this is showing a good faith effort to the citizens.

Commissioner Cuchens asked Mr. Johnson if the residents would be happier removing paragraph 1. Mr. Johnson felt that they would. This settlement agreement was court ordered. Mr. Johnson asked if it would be part of the agreement to change the land use. He was advised that it would have to go through the process.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens to direct council to proceed with drafting a settlement agreement outlining items 2, 3, and 4 including a survey of the disturbed area, including a clause regarding permits, and removing number 1. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Michael Underwood, County Administrator, did not present any issues for discussion.

Commissioner Rees recognized Mayor Marse, City of Freeport, and Mr. Tom Powell, Walton County EDC, on the growth resulting from the Freeport Industrial Park. He also commented on Walton County, with a population under 75,000, being the second in the state with lowest milage rate . His goal would be to have the lowest milage next year for our population size.

Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, District 2, did not present any items for discussion.

Chairman Jones advised that Mr. Tom Powell, Economic Development Council, has requested him to represent the Walton County Board of Commissioners in Bay County where they will be discussing land use changes for the regional airport. Mr. Powell felt that it would be helpful by showing our support. The commissioners concurred for Chairman Jones to represent the county. Commissioner Pauls stated that the Regional airport would be tremendous asset to Walton County.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Commissioner Tim Pauls, District 5, spoke about the Planning Commission controversy and who serves on that board. He stated that it should not be a political position. Citizens feel that they are being heard by people who are not directly affected. Therefore, he recommended using two Planning Commissions. He suggested that the quasi-judicial issues be heard by a hearing officer. Other, non quasi-judicial, matters would still be heard by the Planning Commission. He felt this would make the process more efficient for the applicant. Commissioner Rees stated that he would be comfortable with discussing the possibility of a hearing officer. Attorney Vorbeck stated that the Florida Statutes outline the guidelines of a hearing officer. Commissioner Pauls recommended drafting an ordinance. The Board concurred and directed staff to draft the ordinance.

Commissioner Pauls stated that a recommendation would be coming from the Impact Fee Committee. The county must find a way to address the infrastructure needs from Highway 20 south, especially from the intercoastal waterway and south. Mr. Imfeld's office has worked on the proposed concepts and a way to lower the millage rate based on projected growth. The lower milage rate could be picked up as an MSBU in

south Walton as a way to fund and supplement Public Works. The board could make priority decisions and prioritize spending. He presented a proposed name of “South Walton Infrastructure & Improvement Board” for the group.

Commissioner Pauls spoke about public comments that have been made regarding Walton County’s relationship with the State Parks and Forestry Department. He feels that the relationship has been good. He stated that it is better to work with them because of the need for their cooperation. He encouraged to Board to continue working with them.

Mrs. Lynda Robinson Human Resource Department, commented in response to Mr. Crishon’s statement. She explained that they are continually working on changing and upgrading many of the job descriptions. Mrs. Robinson stated that a high school diploma was not required for the courier position as discussed by Mr. Crishon. She stated that they are continually striving to improve the HR Department on a daily basis and to follow the Board’s guidelines. The minority ratio is increasing in the county.

Chairman Jones recognized Mr. Hewlett’s letter for the record.

There were no additional public comments. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court