

JANUARY 27, 2004 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. in the South Walton Courthouse Annex.

The following Board members were present: Larry Jones, Chair, Tim Pauls, Vice-Chair, Commissioner Rosier Cuchens, Commissioner Lane Rees, and Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen. Ms. Shirl Williams, Assistant County Administrator, Attorney Gary Vorbeck, Legal Services Director, and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

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

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

1.	EAL Approval	
	General Fund	\$ 653,179.17
	County Transportation	\$ 600,180.38
	SHIP	\$ 25,741.80
	Fine & Forfeiture	\$ -
	Debt Service Hospital	\$ -
	Mosq. Control State	\$ -
	Mott Sign Grant	\$ -
	Section 8 Housing	\$ 489.31
	Tourist Dev. Council	\$ 30,280.64
	N.W. Mosquito Control	\$ 1,370.48
	W. Co. Library	\$ 7,016.00
	Recreation Plat Fee	\$ 9,784.73
	Public Safety- 911	\$ 1,953.23
	Solid Waste Enterprise	\$ 4,568.20

Mossy Head VFD	\$	1,832.02
Glendale VFD	\$	595.51
Darlington VFD	\$	268.58
Liberty VFD	\$	-
Red Bay VFD	\$	2,139.61
Local Option Gas Tax	\$	400.18
Special Law Enf. Trust	\$	-
Driftwood Debt Service	\$	4,706.04
Bldg Dept/Enterp. Fund	\$	251.95
Capital Projects Fund	\$	128,546.12
Imperial Lakes MSBU	\$	-
Totals	\$	1,473,303.95

2. Approve Minutes of December 16, 2003-Regular Meeting
January 06, 2004-Land Use Hearing
January 12, 2004-Comp Plan Meeting
January 15, 2004-Land Use Hearing
3. Records Disposition Request
4. Adopt Resolution for Grant-In-Aid for Child Dependency Grant Program
(Resolution 2004-08)

The division activity updates were presented for review. Commissioner Rees questioned about the Governor Stone and who is assisting with State permits. Mr. Barry commented that the State has not issued the permit yet due to concerns with the water depth. Commissioner Pauls stated that he met with Ms. Vergie Thompson, Friends of Eden, and the park representative about the application. Ms. Thompson was not aware the process was so lengthy. The water depth is a concern and a solution is to move the boat during the winter season when the water is low. He commented that this is a wonderful opportunity for Walton County. Commissioner Rees felt that the county is in support of Governor Stone and wants to assist any way possible.

Chairman Jones called to order the advertised public hearing to consider the final plat for WaterSound Beach Residences at South Bridge and Bridge Lane Phase V. Mrs.

Jennifer Christensen, Planning Coordinator, stated that the proposed project consists of 12 units and is located within the WaterSound PUD. Staff recommended approval. There were not public comments.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to approve WaterSound Beach Residences @ South Bridge & Bridge Lane Phase V final plat for recording. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, presented information regarding the Workfare Agreement between Walton County and OWCC. He explained that the contract expires September 2004 and requested direction from the Board. The Board concurred to renew the contract with OWCC for an additional three-year period.

Mr. Imfeld advised that he met with Mr. Standley regarding the installation of fire hydrants in the city. DeFuniak Springs has advertised for RFP's, however, they are not to be opened until February 20th. Mr. Imfeld will report back to the Board at that time.

Mr. Imfeld advised that he had provided Commissioner Pridgen with the initial information regarding grants. However, he is still researching the issue and will provide a complete report upon completion.

Mr. Imfeld advised that the Bike Path Grant is due January 31st. The Department of Environmental Protection has agreed to extend it until May 31st allowing time for completion of the bike path.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve the Chair's signature on the extension of the bike path grant. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pridgen voiced appreciation toward Ms. Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator for her hard work.

Mr. Rod Kendig, Baskerville-Donovan, Inc., appeared before the Board, along with Mr. Mark Waterhouse, to review the Implementation Plan for the Mossy Head Industrial Park. Mr. Waterhouse spoke about many of the positive attributes of the site and a couple of the unusual and critical design elements. He stated that this is a long-term project and could take up to 20 years to develop. Mr. Waterhouse spoke about the expected expenditure and revenues from the properties. Other benefits are the number of construction jobs, permanent jobs, and additional taxes paid into the school system, hospital and water management district. He recommended breaking the Implementation Plan into two steps due to the access problems. The two critical final design issues are the FDOT access connections and the CSX at grade crossing. There are a number of offsite improvements that are needed. Mr. Waterhouse stated that the next step of the Implementation Plan is authorizing them to begin working with staff to proceed with obtaining the critical permits and approvals. Step 2 would be final design works, final platting, management and operations plan. He stated that the Implementation Plan now includes budgeted items.

Commissioner Pauls voiced concern with the soft cost being higher than the hard cost (land). He asked if it is possible to proceed with a virtual subdivision to proceed with the marketing concept. Commissioner Pauls voiced concern with no prospective tenants. Mr. Waterhouse stated that design costs normally run about \$1,200.00 to 1,500.00 per acre, which is about where this project is. He stated that some of the costs are due to the

unusual design work because of the access. Mr. Waterhouse stated that virtual approach works on a building, but not to sell land.

Commissioner Pauls also asked about sewer and water, which is a critical factor for success of the park. He also voiced concerns with the amount of costs for the Implementation Plan before even having a building. Commissioner Rees stated that there is a need to be cost efficient, but said that economic development is a long-term issue and patience is needed. Commissioner Rees also stated that quality management people need to oversee the park. Flexibility is needed with changing market conditions.

Commissioner Rees motioned to proceed with Phase I of the Implementation Plan. Chairman Jones stepped down as Chair and seconded the motion. He urged caution concerning costs and asked staff to review the issue and report back to the Board. Commissioner Pauls stated that Mr. Imfeld and Mr. Collier need to be involved. He stated that he would like a more independent review of the numbers to ensure this is what the county should do. He voiced reservations with the financial analysis and increase in ad-valorem presented by Baskerville-Donovan. Commissioner Pauls felt that the county would want to be able to give tax incentives to businesses that will locate in the industrial park. He also voiced concerned with the report regarding what type of businesses should be located there. The rail is a great benefit for industry that needs rail service.

Commissioner Rees amended the motion to refer this issue to staff for review and present a recommendation back to the Board in two weeks. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Rees recognized Ms. Barbara Jones, Okaloosa Walton Community College, who was present in the audience.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, requested approval to install an automated tracking program at Public Works to accurately track fuel used in county vehicles. Mr. Barry has the funding, in the amount of \$28,480.00, in his budget to cover the expenditure. He stated that this would better help account for taxpayers' dollar. Additional systems will be added in each zone at a later date. Each additional system is expected to cost about \$6,000.00 per site. Commissioner Pauls felt it is a good idea if it will provide better tracking.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve the purchase of the automated fuel management system from Trak Engineering for a cost of \$28,480.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry stated that the Purchasing Department received bids for Custodial & Grounds Maintenance Service. Human Resource is requesting that the bids be postponed. Mr. Barry stated that he would like to re-bid this at a later date if needed at that time. Mr. Mattison stated that canceling the bids would allow a savings reduction. He stated that they are reorganizing, down sizing the custodial, providing some out-sourcing on the satellite offices and thereby allowing Mr. Barry to absorb some manpower in Parks and other areas that are needed.

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

Mr. Barry requested to add the following roads to the county maintained road list: Carroll Road, Spears Road and Springs Loop, District 2.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve adding the requested roads to the county-maintained road list. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry presented a request to install a light at Bob Sikes and Woodyard Road. He requested approval to contact CHELCO regarding the installation.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve for Mr. Barry to contact CHELCO regarding the installation of a street light at the proposed location. Commissioner Pauls stated that several requests have been made and criteria needs to be set to follow due to the number of requests being received. He asked Mr. Barry to develop a set of standards to follow. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry stated that he has been waiting on a permit to realign the intersection at CR 3280 and Highway 331. The Department of Environmental Protection has stated that the county would be required to place one acre of land into conservation parcel.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to approve the request to place the necessary land in conservation for the purpose of realigning the intersection as stated. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Dan Arner, County Engineer, presented information regarding right-of-way issues. He stated that he would like to meet individually with each board member to further discuss the issue. The commissioners stressed the urgency of this issue. Commissioner Pauls commented that the developers, as well as applicants, need to know that this will create a change to the LDC and will require time.

Mr. Arner presented information on Pompano Street. He stated that both Hurricane Opal, in 1995, and Hurricane Geroqe, destroyed the road in 1998. Mr. Arner presented several options for repairs. Commissioner Pauls voiced concern with vacating the roadway and stated that it needs fixed correctly.

Ms. Betty Letcher, Homeowners Association, stated that the neighbors have not been notified of this issue. Mr. Larry Davis stated that he was contacted and has had an opportunity to work on this issue regarding safety as well as other issues. He wants assurance that Ms. Parker's needs are going to be addressed. Commissioner Rees wants to make sure that the needs of the neighbors are met and recommended that this issue be brought back to the Board on February 24th.

Mr. Arner stated that sections of CR 30A are approaching concurrency. Some denials have been made relating to proposed developments because of the lack of concurrency. He recommended a comprehensive transportation study be performed for CR 30A. Commissioner Pauls stated that timing is a matter in this issue and it needs to be given high importance. Mr. Arner recommended a study on the entire length of CR 30A. Mr. Arner did not recommend the county funding this, however he did recommend proceeding with developing a scope of work. Commissioner Pauls agreed with developing the scope of work. Commissioner Cuchens questioned how many studies have been done on 30A. Commissioner Pridgen felt that people need to be made aware of the issues before making any changes. Mr. Arner stated that there have been three separate planning studies on CR 30A, but not detailed traffic concurrency studies. The Board concurred with developing a scope of work.

Mr. Arner presented a request from Arvida to reduce the speed limit from 45 to 35 on that portion of CR 30A between Deer Lake and Camp Creek Lake. He also recommended that it be made a no passing zone for safety.

Mr. Walter McClenny stated that traffic moves sensibly on that road and no one travels in excessive speeds. He felt the county should be concerned with keeping the traffic moving. Mr. McClenny is opposed with reducing the speed.

Commissioner Pauls motioned to approve the reduction in speed as requested. The motion died for the lack of second.

Mr. Nick Cassello, ARVIDA, cautioned the Board against any delay in reducing the speed. The traffic engineer for ARVIDA will not support the current conditions. Their recommendation was to reduce the speed. He stated that they have done their part in improving the visual triangle distance and encouraged the board to proceed with the speed reduction.

Ms. Beverly Kraska questioned where the proposed location is that the speed would reduce. Commissioner Pauls recommended coming back to the board with an aerial showing the proposed site. Mr. Arner will bring this issue back to the Board. Chairman Jones spoke about the need to have the Sheriff informed to help provide better enforcement.

Mr. Arner spoke about the stop signs at Rosemary Beach and stated that they do not meet warrants. He presented several alternatives for consideration and recommended alternative three. He also recommended that any changes put in place should be warranted. He stated that some of the requirements for 4-way stop signs rely on traffic counts, minimum volumes, and number of accidents. He stated that unwarranted stop

signs are ignored, thereby reducing intersection safety. Alternative three is to install pedestrian activated push buttons at the intersection according to MUTCD.

Mr. Jim Bagby, Rosemary Beach Development, stated that it was a previous board approved that the stop signs be installed. He spoke about the location. Their priority is safety, stating that only two traffic accidents have occurred. Mr. Bagby gave an overview of the development over the years. Beginning in February there will be increased activities on the north side of Highway 30-A creating more pedestrian traffic. By 2005, 90% of the town will be built out. He spoke about safety concerns with the recommendation of pedestrian activated lights. A secondary concern is the cost of modification to the signage and he therefore asked the county to pay for any change implemented. Mr. Bagby reiterated his comments regarding safety that the current stop signs provide. He felt that there are other ways to address the issue without compromising safety.

Commissioner Pauls questioned how Mr. Bagby's analysis was performed relating to the warrants. Mr. Bagby stated that his conclusions were based upon the 120,000 square feet and the number of houses being built out.

Mr. Jim Delmara, President of the Board of Directors at Rosemary Beach, spoke about the future occupancy, which will be five times the commercial occupancy than the present. He stated that they are well pleased with the current stop signs, however, they are aware of the concerns being addressed. Mr. Delmara felt that recommendation three will not be adequate to meet their safety needs. He proposed to install a fully signalized pedestrian and vehicular activated system that would replace the stop signs. He felt that anything less would compromise safety.

Commissioner Cuchens questioned Mr. Bagby about their recommendation. Mr. Bagby explained the differences as proposed by the county versus a regular traffic light system. Mr. Arner stated that it would cost approx \$150,000.00 to put full signals at each intersection. Chairman Jones felt that a signal is needed that would stop traffic at least at one location.

Ms. Katherine Beal, Director of the planned Academy, stated that a signal is needed that will stop traffic. She spoke about the number of students that will be traversing 30A and stated that safety is a necessity.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens to accept staff's recommendation to implement alternative #3. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Mr. Doodle Harris stressed how important it is to look at their main intersection. He spoke about Seacrest, adjacent to Rosemary, who will have about 600 homes on the north side. Somerset, west of Seacrest, will also have a number of homes being constructed. He felt that one set of stop signs are needed. He does not agree on the second stop sign. He asked that a compromise be made with Rosemary to keep the main stop sign and remove the second one. He stated that they would be asking for a flashing light at Seacrest. Commissioner Rees stated that most major developments have their stop signs at the main intersection. Mr. Harris also commented that he is in favor of 35 mph.

Mr. Delmara stated that they would support anything that would keep a stop sign in the town center. He also said that protection is needed for East Water Street due to the number of workers crossing there.

Mr. Nathan Moses, Housekeeping/Maintenance Facility, stated that he is in favor of keeping the stop signs for safety of his staff and others. He also commented on the inaccuracy of county's traffic counts.

The cost of Alternative #3 is about \$20,000 per intersection. (2 intersections)

Commissioner Cuchens stated that the lights recommended by staff are safer. Mr. Arner felt that Alternative #3 is safer than Alternative #4 because of not meeting warrants. He also stated that Alternative #3 is safer than what is currently in place.

Mr. Bagby stated that the proposed alternative by staff does not stop traffic. They do not want to meet warrants by increasing the risks. He stated that they are asking the county to approve something now that they would not have to come back before the Board later.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he has been serving as the TPO Chairman and recently attended a meeting regarding traffic issues. He spoke about what is warranted and what is not. He stated that the lack of future planning is of concern. He stated that he supports fully signalized intersections. Commissioner Cuchens stated that this intersection does not meet a fully signalized intersection at this time, and feels that Rosemary should assist with the cost. Commissioner Pauls stated that this is not an issue of cost because of the amount of revenues brought into the county by the various developments.

Mr. David Brewer felt that it is best to keep traffic flowing unless there is a need to stop. He also felt that the county's traffic count was inaccurate.

Chairman Jones supports a fully signalized intersection in the town square, or at least, a pedestrian activated signal. Chairman Jones' goal would be to have only one

location to stop to provide for pedestrian crossing. Commissioner Rees felt the goal is to make sure there is movement on 30A while maintaining safety, which a light would allow.

Motion by Commissioner Rees to install a fully signalized intersection light (pedestrian/vehicle activated) at the Town Center and a pedestrian activated stop sign at Water Street. Second by Commissioner Pauls. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Charles Peters, Engineer for the City of Paxton, stated that the City is attempting to provide water to neighboring areas. The lines have become overloaded and now have a lack of pressure. He stated that there is a need to upgrade the system, but said it is cost prohibitive to borrow the money. Mr. Bob Jones is working with the City to help with a source of funding through a CDBG funding grant.

Mr. Bob Jones, Jones-Phillips, appeared before the Board asking the county to apply to upgrade the Paxton water supply outside the city limits for those county residents being served by the water service. The application deadline is April 1st. It would also require that Paxton obtain matching funds to submit toward the project. The upgrade would provide adequate pressure, in addition to allowing for fire protection. The cost to the county would consist of time putting the application together. He stated that he would be glad to develop an application for the county. Also, he requested that they be allowed to utilize the administrative costs if they prepare the application. Commissioner Pauls asked Mr. Imfeld if his staff has the ability to perform the duties in-house.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Rees to pursue the CDBG grant in-house, if time allows, otherwise allow Mr. Bob Jones to prepare and submit the application. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. Mr. Bob Jones stated that the State is holding a conference next week and that someone would need to attend. Commissioner Cuchens stated that he would be in favor of asking for assistance in order to make this a successful grant.

Mrs. Kris Titus, Executive Director of the South Walton Tourist Development Council, requested authorization for TDC staff to work with Purchasing and Legal Services in preparing bid packages to rebuild three beach accesses. The accesses are Ray's Multi Mountain, Hickory Street and Gulf Lake Beaches Estates.

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

Mrs. Titus requested the Board modify the Inlet Beach Porous Groin Project to delay installation until November 1, 2004 and allow TDC staff to work with Legal Services to amend the contract based on permitting delays.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Pridgen to accept TDC's recommendation to delay the project. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Titus requested authorization to work with the Mr. Vorbeck for help in obtaining legal council for beach nourishment. This is for the purpose of selection and hiring legal counsel to assist Walton County in administrative and legal matters pertaining to Beach Nourishment. Attorney Vorbeck also recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the request. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. The Tourist Development Council will fund this from the Beach Nourishment Fund.

Mrs. Titus requested approval of amendment #2 to the FDEP Recovery Grant Agreement. The purpose of the amendment is to extend the length of the agreement from February 2004 to August 15, 2005.

Motion Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve an amendment requesting an extension. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mrs. Titus advised that she received only one responsive bid in the amount of \$35,995.00 for replacement signage. Commissioner Pauls advised that this will bring the TDC into compliance with chapter 13 of the Scenic Corridor Standards.

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

Mrs. Titus asked the Board to schedule a public hearing to discuss the ordinance for vending for the beach nourishment project. The Board agreed for staff to proceed with advertising. Commissioner Pauls commented that he attended most of the meetings regarding beach renourishment. This is an important issue for many individuals regarding private property rights.

Mr. Randall Infinger, representing the Walton County Fair Association, asked for approval to submit a grant application in the amount of \$50,000 for repairs at the Walton County Fair Grounds.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen to adopt a resolution (2004-09) granting support for a grant funding application for the fair grounds. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Rees and Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Infinger and his board for the excellent work they did on the Walton County Fair this past fall.

Katherine McCurley, Outback Mini Storage, addressed the Scenic Corridor Signage issue. She stated that she previously had a sign on Highway 98, which she was made to move in preparation of the construction. She stated that she was given a community directory sign and it was removed, which resulted in a major reduction of business. She requested that the Board direct the Code Enforcement Board to honor Chapter 13 for pre-existing signs. She stated that businesses have also been cited for having merchandise outside of their business.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resources Director, presented information regarding Group Life Insurance. He has continued reviewing the best insurance possible for employees. He stated that he is pleased with results of the RFP's received and will report back at a later time.

Mr. Mattison advised that health care costs continue to rise. He stated that he is continuing to look for alternatives to utilize all facilities in the county.

Mr. Mattison advised that the County Administrator, Mr. Underwood, has resigned and asked for direction from the Board. Commissioner Pauls asked the Board to send a letter to Mr. Underwood for his service to the county.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to appoint Mr. Ronnie Bell to serve as Interim County Administrator, in addition, that Ms. Williams

assume a greater role during this time. Commissioner Pauls amended the motion to accept Mr. Underwood's resignation, second by Commissioner Pridgen. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Mike Lane, Growth Management Director, presented information regarding an easement agreement for Heritage Dunes Subdivision. He advised that the developers previously paid a 5% fee to go toward recreation. Since then, they have acquired additional property on the north side and have decided to dedicate 5% of the new development and are now requesting a refund of the original fee that was paid. Mr. Ken Shannon showed a map and explained what is being accomplished relating to the trail.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen to accept the easement by the Village at Seagrove Developers, L.L.C. and refund the 5% Recreation Plat Fee. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Ms. Shirl Williams presented the Recycling Center proposals for south Walton for review. This issue will be discussed at a later date.

Ms. Williams stated that the issues relating to the old hospital needs to be pursued further. Bond council has submitted a letter regarding the old bond issue. The City of DeFuniak Springs has submitted a letter in favor of a park at that location. Commissioner Pauls stated that staff would continue looking at plans for the site and related costs. Discussion followed regarding the feasibility of using the property as a Veteran's facility.

Mr. Marvin Collier, Construction Manager, presented a cost of \$175-\$200,000 to completely demolish and remove the remaining debris at the old hospital. Mr. Infinger said the materials could be placed at the Fairgrounds if allowed by DEP and permitted properly.

Mr. Bell advised that the Animal Control Advisory Committee met to visit the proposed shelter sites. He explained the concerns the committee had with each site. The group further presented a criteria of what is needed to house an animal control facility. Mr. Bell asked if the Board is receptive to receiving proposals for new sites. He stated that the committee is meeting again next week. They want a facility that will provide cost efficiency. He commended the group for working well together. Chairman Jones stated that they need to move quickly. Commissioner Pauls stated that location is one of the most important aspects. He further asked to limit the time for advertising to 30 days in an attempt to expedite the matter. Commissioner Cuchens commented on the cost of obtaining the perfect parcel. Mr. Bell spoke about the possibility of a donation of property.

Mr. Bell reminded the Board that he previously asked for support of a CERT council. He advised that the State has notified him of available grant funding. The deadline to apply for funding is February 6th. There is no required match for the \$35,000.00.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to authorize Mr. Bell to apply for grant funding in the amount of \$35,000.00 to assist in the development of a CERT Council.

Mr. Bell stated that he had advised the fire departments about the old building at Legion Park. Mossy Head has responded positively and has agreed to remove it Mr. Bell asked for approval for the Mossy Head VFD to proceed with removal of the building.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve for Mossy Head VFD to remove the building. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Bell requested approval to enter into an agreement allowing EMT and Paramedic student from Gulf Coast Community College to ride on county ambulances as third riders. Mr. Bell requested approval of the agreement upon review by Legal Services.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the agreement upon review by Legal Services. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Bell requested authorization to attend a Florida Emergency Preparedness Conference. The Board agreed for Mr. Bell's attendance at the conference.

Attorney Coley presented information regarding the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance and the required distance from churches and schools for selling alcohol. Commissioner Rees stated that 1000 feet would be more reasonable. Commissioner Pauls felt that the state requirement is clear. An alternative would be to leave the language for 1320 feet and provide an alternative that exempts restaurants that generate the majority of their revenue from non-alcoholic beverages. Ms. Christensen stated that there are several businesses that fall in this category. She advised that there is one coming before the Board in the near future to request an exemption.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls to change the language to 500 feet from schools and churches. The motion died for lack of a second

Motion by Commissioner Rees to change the language to 1000 feet from schools and churches. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Lloyd Blue, restaurant owner, commented that the State monitors monthly for compliance. He felt that there could be exceptions where there are limited sales.

This issue will be brought back before the Board for further consideration.

Attorney Vorbeck presented information regarding a requested name change on Farmer's Subdivision, an unrecorded subdivision. He requested direction from the Board for drafting a resolution amending the name to Hammock Subdivision.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen to direct Legal Services to prepare a resolution amending the name of Farmer's Subdivision to Hammock Subdivision for the Chair's signature. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Attorney Coley presented the amended version of rules for meeting procedures. She explained the changes that were made to address the commissioner's concerns.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve the changes and adopt the Meeting Procedures dated January 20, 2004. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls stated that he has ridden the bike path and viewed the improvements that are needed. He explained that the county has a work program that could be developed. He recommended proceeding with that in order to prepare a plan of work for review. The Board concurred.

Commissioner Pauls requested to proceed with engineering work on Big Redfish Lake and Eastern Lake bridges that are to be paid from Recreation Funds.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Cuchens to move forward with engineering work on the bridges. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pauls advised that there is a section of the bike path where U.S. Highway 98 was designed as Rural. Because of the design, there are no sidewalks or lights. He stated that there is a berm that could be used as a multi-use trail. He requested that staff contact DOT asking for approval to put a multi-use path on top of the berm. This would create a trail connection from county line to county line. The Board concurred.

Commissioner Pauls presented discussion regarding the Mack Bayou Study and the possibility of extending the Chat Holley Corridor to CR395. This will be an important connector to keep people off of U.S. Highway 98. He felt that East Point Washington Road could be used, however, there is one small section that would require right of way. He asked that staff be allowed to begin negotiations for a study. Commissioner Rees asked Russ Barry to look into the need of a light at Highway 395.

Commissioner Pauls postponed discussion of the Scenic Gulf Drive ROW Improvement Project.

Commissioner Pauls asked for the Board's consideration in removing J.W. Hollington Road from the current paving list by paying the bid bond and to reallocate the funding to the repair and widening of the collector roads between CR 30A and U.S. Highway 98. He agreed that the road is in need of improvement, but felt the funds could be better utilized in other areas. He suggested using limerock to improve the road.

Ms. Dee Coleman appeared before the Board and stated that she has been a resident of J.W. Hollington Road for ten years. There has been a tremendous amount of growth. She stated that the county grades the road repeatedly, however, due to the amount of traffic it stays in disrepair. Many people who live on the road are handicap and there are problems with fire departments getting down the road. She asked for reconsideration.

Commissioner Rees stated that the Board made a commitment to the people of that area and was opposed to delaying the paving of this road. He questioned if there is an alternative to the funding issue or if the county should borrow an additional \$1 million.

Mr. Gerald Rigdon stated that he gave 27 acres to the county to provide sufficient right-of-way and asked that the county not divert the funds from this project. He stated that it is a safety issue.

Mr. Sidney Hollington spoke about the amount of traffic on that road and the safety issues. He stated that the road is very much in need of repair.

Mr. Barry and Mr. Cliff Knauer, stated that they met with CHELCO to determine which poles have to be moved. Tommy McBroom stated that they need one more copy of the plan. Mr. Knauer stated that the project was awarded to C.W. Roberts, who is eager to begin the project. He stated that they held a meeting with all the key players and it will cost about \$250,000. The poles have not been moved and the engineering has not been done. Mr. Rigdon suggested moving the right of way to the west side of the road or to the west of the poles.

Discussion followed about the number of projects that have been bid out and not ready due to problems with rights-of-way, poles, or in some cases, Mediacom's cable.

Commissioner Pauls asked Administration to set a workshop to address this issue. Commissioner Cuchens asked how long it would take to design CR 83. Mr. Knauer stated that the design is complete. Design has not been done for CR 393, CR 395, or CR 283.

Mr. Imfeld stated that they have made a rough estimate and have determined that there is about \$2 million remaining in the County Transportation's 2003 year end budget. He stated that this could be a possible source of funding for Commissioner Pauls additional roads.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to proceed with holding a public hearing to consider a budget amendment providing funds for improving connectors between CR30A and Highway 98. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to reappoint Ms. Cecilia Jones to the Walton County School Readiness Coalition's Board of Directors for a four-year term. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Chairman Jones left, due to an appointment, and turned the Chair over to Vice-Chairman Pauls.

Commissioner Pauls presented the idea regarding the need to move Parks and Recreation out from under Public Works. This issue will be discussed at a later time.

Commissioner Pauls provided a map showing CR 393. He pointed out an area where there is the possibility of putting together 70 acres of Infill. He stated that a policy needs to be established that is clear. The policy needs to determine how the county will

handle Infill. He requested that Mike Lane address the issue and provide direction back to the Board at a later date. The Board concurred.

Commissioner Pauls requested approval to use Recreational Fee Funds for required signage as per the terms of the grant applications for both the Garfield access addition and Stallworth Preserve, not to exceed \$3,000.00.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$3,000.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Cuchens asked staff for a State vendor's list.

Commissioner Pridgen requested that the Clerk's Office allow staff to be provided with training on the sound system. Commissioner Pauls also requested that an additional speaker be added to the foyer for overflow crowds. Mr. Collier advised the commissioners that he has obtained one bid and is awaiting one more before installing a new system.

Commissioner Rees stated that a Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled on February 5th at 6:00 p.m. at Euchee Valley. Mr. Little will handle the publicity for the meeting.

There being no public comments, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court