

FEBRUARY 10, 2004 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom B of the Walton County Courthouse.

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

Commissioner Rees led with prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Jones 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, Nayes 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

1. EAL Approval	
General Fund	\$ 415,018.00
County Transportation	\$ 258,781.50
SHIP	\$ -
Fine & Forfeiture	\$ 782,965.00
Debt Service Hospital	\$ -
Mosq. Control State	\$ -
Mott Sign Grant	\$ -
Section 8 Housing	\$ 132,889.31
Tourist Dev. Council	\$ 94,661.25
N.W. Mosquito Control	\$ 2,609.93
W. Co. Library	\$ 5,717.01
Recreation Plat Fee	\$ 180,787.00
Public Safety- 911	\$ 1,209.66
Solid Waste Enterprise	\$ 450,554.08

Mossy Head VFD	\$	4,779.96
Glendale VFD	\$	404.82
Darlington VFD	\$	459.98
Liberty VFD	\$	-
Red Bay VFD	\$	247.96
Local Option Gas Tax	\$	-
Special Law Enf. Trust	\$	-
Driftwood Debt Service	\$	-
Bldg Dept/Enterp. Fund	\$	34,112.65
Capital Projects Fund	\$	-
Imperial Lakes MSBU	\$	-
Totals	\$	2,365,198.11

2. Approve Minutes of January 13, 2004-Regular Meeting
January 27, 2004-Regular Meeting
3. Records Disposition Request
4. Surplus Equipment Request
5. Two Budget Amendment Requests

Chairman Jones called to order the advertised public hearing to consider final plat approval on Village at Blue Mountain Beach and Seanest Village.

Mrs. Jennifer Christensen, Planning Coordinator, presented the final plat for Village at Blue Mountain Beach, a 28 detached condominium unit. The proposed development is located off of CR 30A between Rolling Dunes Phase 3 and Ventana Dunes. Staff recommended approval. There were no public comments offered and the public hearing was closed.

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

Mrs. Jennifer Christensen, Planning Coordinator, presented the final plat for Seanest Village. Emerald Venture Florida, LLC is proposing a 34-lot single-family

subdivision located east of the intersection of Eastern Lake Road and CR 30A. Staff recommended approval. There were no public comments and the public hearing was closed.

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

Ms. Rebecca Filipowicz, Chronic Disease Health Promotion & Education Region I Coordinator, appeared before the Board on behalf of the Walton County Health Department. Ms. Filipowicz requested approval of a program called STEP UP Florida, a statewide walk to focus on physical activity for a healthier way of living. The event will be held Saturday, February 21st on CR 30A. She invited the commissioners to participate in the event.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens to authorize the use of CR 30A for the Step Up relay event to be held on February 21st. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Ken Little, Citizens Service Director, appeared before the Board along with representatives from each of the libraries. Mr. Little requested the Board adopt a resolution proclaiming the month of February 2004 as Library Appreciation Month.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens to adopt a resolution (2004-12) proclaiming the month of February 2004 as Library Appreciation Month. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Chairman Jones voiced his appreciation to each of the Librarians for the work they do. Commissioner Rees also commented on the various age groups who are currently using the library.

Commissioner Pridgen requested to step down from the Tri-County Community Council Board and requested to appoint Commissioner Cuchens in his place.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Rees to approve the appointment of Commissioner Cuchens to the Tri-County Community Council Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, presented a request regarding the reduction of speed on CR 30A as presented at a previous meeting. Mr. Barry displayed a map showing the area. He explained that the lane does not provide enough length to warrant a passing zone. The recommendation is that the speed limit be reduced from 45 mph to 35 mph in the subject area in order to avoid the placement of a stop sign. The engineering department further recommends double yellow striping the area to enhance safety. The commissioners voiced concern with a stop sign being installed. Mr. Barry stated that he would attempt to get an agreement that a stop sign would not be installed.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen to approve reducing the speed from 45 mph to 35 mph in the area between Deer Lake and Camp Creek Lake and to double yellow stripe the road. Commissioner Pauls voiced concern not allowing a stop sign in the event it becomes warranted. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. The Board agreed that Arvida would be required to obtain authorization from the county before installing a stop sign.

Mr. Barry presented the scope of services for the traffic on CR 30A. Mr. Arner has prepared the recommendation to advertise for RFQ's for a transportation study. He advised that a detailed analysis of the roadway addressing the level of service, recommended transportation improvements, and possible mitigation strategies have never been performed for that portion of roadway. Chairman Jones agreed, but felt that a scope of services should be defined. Commissioner Pauls agreed, but voiced concern regarding the way the scope of service is written. He asked if this issue is being addressed to solve concurrency or traffic flow problems. Chairman Jones suggested discussing this issue further before advertising for RFQ's. Commissioner Pauls felt that focus should be placed on intersections in order to correct the flow. He further stated that discussion regarding concurrency and mitigation should be part of the study. Commissioner Rees agreed that the most important issue is the flow. The Board will provide feedback to Mr. Barry. Commissioner Cuchens asked that other areas along CR 30A also be included for concurrency counts.

Mr. Barry presented proposed lighting criteria for street light standards. Mr. Barry stated that the main concern for lighting is warranting conditions. There are no hard rules that the State goes by for lighting rules. He recommended that the Board review the information and comment back to him. Commissioner Pauls commented on the need for turtle friendly lighting or shields to avoid non-compliant lighting.

Mr. Barry stated that he now has all of the necessary permits for paving of J.D. Miller Road. Three bids were previously submitted with C.W. Roberts presenting the low bid. Mr. Barry stated that C.W. Roberts would still honor their bid. He recommended awarding the contract to C.W. Roberts.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to award the low bid to C.W. Roberts for paving of J.D. Miller Road. Commissioner Pauls commented on the higher bid prices from contractors and the possibilities of it being from additional problems that have to be worked out, such as utilities poles that have to be relocated. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Barry stated that he continues receiving requests from various community centers for assistance with minor repairs or upgrades. He stated that the improvements are in the public's interest, but need to be individually evaluated. He requested to set aside \$10,000.00 per year for the repairs. He stated that he would review each request and present reports to the commissioners regarding the work that is being done.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pridgen to allow the Public Works Department to make necessary upgrades at various community centers with the stipulation that the commissioners will be updated as to the work being performed. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Chairman Jones called to order the advertised public hearing to consider a budget amendment to pay for repair and widening of several connector roads between CR 30A and U.S. Highway 98. Mr. Imfeld advised that an advertising error had occurred and requested to postpone the public hearing until the next board meeting. The Board concurred.

Mr. Imfeld advised that the county has received final payment in the amount of \$139,000.00 from the FRDAP bike path grant.

Mr. Imfeld also advised that his department has been working with the City of Paxton, at the direction of the Board, in regards to a CDBG grant for water and fire

hydrants. Staff has begun the polling process to determine eligibility. He stated that he would report back at the next meeting with any additional information.

Mr. Tom Powell, Walton County Economic Development Council, presented a resolution regarding the issuance of an Industrial Development Revenue Bond to finance a manufacturing facility in Freeport. Science International Inc. is proposing to build a 40,000 square foot facility and employ about 100 employees. He spoke about their ability to borrow and the criteria for being cost effective. The adoption of this resolution would allow Science International to secure financing and open business in Walton County. Attorney Vorbeck advised that bond council needs to review this issue.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt a resolution (2004-17) regarding the issuance of an Industrial Development Revenue Bond, relating to Science International, contingent upon review and approval of Bond Attorney, David Tucker. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

The Board welcomed Judge Wells to Walton County and his position as Circuit Judge.

Ms. Ingle requested the Board adopt a resolution in recognition of those Walton County National Guard troops who have served in Iraq. Chairman Jones read a proposed resolution recognizing those men and women who have recently returned home from serving, and those continuing to serve.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to adopt a resolution (2004-13) expressing appreciation to Walton County's military men and

women for serving to protect our freedom. 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 asked that rules be set and followed. Mr. Bell stated that he spoke with Mr. Mattison regarding this issue. The concern comes from the policy previously set in 2002 regarding the requirement for a high school diploma or GED. Mr. Bell read the previous motion removing the requirement. He further said that he has asked Mr. Mattison to review the job descriptions that were changed based on that motion and present that information at the next meeting.

Mr. Vorbeck advised that information was previously submitted to the commissioners regarding the Contractor's Licensing Board. He requested to proceed with advertising of the changes that have been made.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pauls to proceed with advertising of the changes made regarding the Contractor's Licensing Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Rees spoke about the public workshop he attended regarding the Strategic Intermodal System. He commented that the meeting was positive and that Highway 331 was on the list. He commended Commissioner Pauls on the relationship he is building regarding transportation issues for our district. He stated that it important to continue to encourage funding from the emerging areas. Commissioner Pauls stated that he attended the workshops in Chipley and Orlando as a representative of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO. He stated that he has been very critical because Florida's great northwest has been left out. He felt that funds have decreased, thereby not being able to meet the

infrastructure needs. Commissioner Pauls stated that this program will reprioritize the spending with less money. He also said that the State has forgotten Northwest Florida and its military presence. There is a need to be vigilant in representing the needs of this area. He stated that he is for planning, but said that comments made at the Orlando meeting were that there is \$34 billion of unfunded infrastructure in the State of Florida. Commissioner Rees stated that focus should be on our community.

Commissioner Rees spoke about the current ordinances relating to alcohol at various parks. He questioned if there should be a countywide ordinance for all parks. Chairman Jones stated that he supports a countywide ordinance. Commissioner Rees suggested allowing Legal Services to work on an ordinance for all of the parks. Commissioner Pauls felt that one ordinance does not apply to all parks. He further suggested waiting for a recommendation from the new Parks/Recreation Director. Ms. Williams will address this with the new director.

Ms. Ingle advised that she, along with some of her staff, met with Legal Services, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Imfeld, regarding Article V. Ms. Cindy Reddick, Chief Deputy Clerk, appeared before the Board to give an overview of the changes being implemented. Florida voters have voted to amend Article V making the State primarily responsible for funding the Courts System, State Attorneys and Public Defenders. It will be funded by service charges and filing fees. Ms. Reddick stated that it would also require counties to pay for reasonable and necessary salaries, costs and expenses of the State Courts System to meet local requirements. A list was also provided to the commissioners showing all remittances to the Board for FY 2003 from fines, civil filing fees and service charges. Effective July 1, 2004, those fees will be retained by the Clerk and one-third of the fees

collected would be sent to the State. She also gave an overview of the funds that will continue to be collected by the Clerk and remitted to the Board. Commissioner Pauls questioned about those fees that will no longer be collected by the Clerk staff. Ms. Ingle explained that the fees collected could continue to be received by the Finance Department but the other employees are court related employees and it is a matter of cost accounting. Discussion followed regarding those fees collected by non-comptroller employees that will not be sent to the State. Ms. Ingle further explained some of the items that the county will no longer have to fund in the Circuit Judge's budget.

Mr. Bell presented information regarding the demolition of the old hospital on behalf of Mr. Collier. He stated that the county is not yet ready to proceed with demolition. He stated that he would like to meet with the residents to discuss the issue further.

Mr. Bell presented the courthouse renovation bids for review.

Mr. Bell advised that he met with Mr. Bobby Beasley, Supervisor of Elections, regarding the ADA requirements for polling places. Mr. Beasley has requested that repairs be made at various locations to bring the sites into compliance. Mr. Bell stated that a plan is being developed for a time frame to make the necessary repairs, as well as the cost involved. Mr. Bell requested to move forward with the minor repairs in order to be ready for the presidential election.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Pridgen to proceed with the necessary minor repairs to bring the polling places into compliance. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. Commissioner

Pauls spoke about the requirements for small contractors in order to provide the opportunity for better contractor participation.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Chairman Jones called the meeting back to order to hear presentations from the top three ranked firms who submitted their proposal for Lobbyist.

Ms. Sarah Bleakley, Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, (NGN) gave an overview of her lawfirm and their past performance. She reviewed NGN's record of recent legislative experience and their success in obtaining appropriations. She stated that she would communicate on a weekly basis with the commissioners. Ms. Bleakley introduced Mr. John Thrasher, former Republican Speaker, who would work with NGN.

Speaker John Thrasher addressed the commissioners and introduced the members of his lobbyists who would be assisting him. He spoke about his experience and some of the counties he has represented. Ms. Bleakley and Mr. Thrasher both would be Walton County's point of contact. Mr. Thrasher also explained the connections he has on a Federal level that would be beneficial in lobbying. Mr. Thrasher stated that he has also represented Duval, and Clay Counties.

Mr. Larry Williams and Randy Miller appeared before the Board representing Katz, Kutter, Alderman & Bryant. Mr. Williams gave a brief overview of their qualifications and their team members. He stated that they have the largest law firm in Tallahassee, represent a wide variety of legislative clients, and have the largest number of lobbyist. He spoke about his firm's qualifications and why he felt his firm is better qualified. He stated that his firm would communicate with the commissioners in any manner requested.

Mr. Ron Book appeared before the Board and gave an overview of his firm. He stated that he is in a joint venture with the Pennington firm and currently represent the county. He introduced members of the Pennington Firm who also help represent Walton County. He spoke about their accomplishments on behalf of the county in the past four years.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Cuchens to request that the remaining three firms submitting RFQ's for Lobbyist Services also be allowed to give their presentation. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye. Commissioner Rees commented that he felt staff had followed the proper procedures for selecting the three top ranked firms. Commissioner Pridgen stated that because of the importance of this issue he would like to hear from all the firms.

Mr. Bell presented information regarding multi-family solid waste pick-up. The annual cost would is estimated at \$516,637.50 by Waste Management. He stated that Mr. Rob Shelton had previously requested the county provide pick-up for multi-family units. Mr. Rory Cassidy, Waste Management Systems, stated that there would be a 1% discount for consolidating the billing if the county proceeds with this. This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Mr. Bell presented an estimated cost for the design, permitting, and construction of CR 83, CR 395, CR 283, and CR 393. He stated that Mr. Imfeld, Finance Director, has determined that there are enough funds, after the proposed budget amendment, to proceed. Mr. Bell stated that engineering designs have already been completed on CR 83 at this time, including the bike path, and he therefore requested to move forward with the widening and resurfacing of CR 83.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to proceed with the widening and resurfacing of CR 83.

Mr. Lloyd Blue appeared before the Board on behalf of the Grayton Homeowners Association. He thanked the Board for making CR 83 and the bike path a priority. Commissioner Pauls stated that bike path would be a part on all four roads. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Commissioner Pridgen and Commissioner Cuchens did not present any items for discussion.

Commissioner Pauls postponed discussion of the Scenic Gulf Drive project until a later date.

Commissioner Pauls presented information regarding the Bannerman property acquisition. The property consists of 8.3 acres. He stated that the property owner has asked if a Trust for Public Land purchase could be done. The Trust for Public Land is now asking if the county would take it if it were a successful purchase. He stated that this would protect the coastal dune lake outfall and would be an asset to the county. He recommended moving forward with a grant application. The commissioners will address this issue at the next board meeting pending a visit to the property. Commissioner Pauls stated that the property is difficult to develop because of the V-zone and Coastal Construction Zone. Mr. Lloyd Blue, Vice-Chair of the Coastal Dune Lake Task Force, stated that they would add this issue to their agenda for discussion and present a recommendation back to the Board at the next meeting. Commissioner Rees recommended including all of the outfalls for discussion.

There being no public comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court