

MAY 18, 2004 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2004 at 3:30 p.m. at the South Walton Courthouse Annex. This meeting was rescheduled from May 25, 2004.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Rosier Cuchens, Commissioner Lane Rees, and Commissioners Kenneth Pridgen. Mr. Ronnie Bell, Interim County Administrator, and Attorney Gary Vorbeck, Legal Services Director, were also present.

Commissioner Rees led with prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag. Commissioner Pridgen, acting Chair, called the meeting to order.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Cuchens to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following items. Ayes 3, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Cuchens Aye.

1. EAL Approval
2. Resolution Amending the Budget for Unanticipated Grant Revenues from Volunteer Fire Assistance Federal Funding
3. Budget Transfer Request
4. Surplus Property Requests

The Division Activity Updates were submitted for review. Commissioner Cuchens questioned why the Library Circulation Services and the Veteran's Services had a large decrease during the month of May. Mr. Bell stated that he would check into the matter.

Mr. Brad Pickle, Tourist Development Council, appeared before the commissioners regarding the Western Walton County beach nourishment project. Mr. Pickle requested to advertise for RFP's for the development of construction documents.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to approve for the Tourist Development Council to advertise for bids for construction documents for the Western Walton County beach nourishment project. Ayes 3, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Cuchens Aye.

Mr. Pickle also presented information relating to the Van Ness Butler Jr. Regional Beach access, also known as the Seaside/Watercolor Beach Access. Phase II is the construction of restroom facilities and parking. He requested to proceed with the bid documents for this project. Commissioner Cuchens questioned Mr. Pickle regarding the signage at that location. Mr. Pickle stated that he would make sure that the proper signage is posted stating that the access is a county access.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees, to proceed with the bid documents for phase II of the Van Ness Butler Jr. Beach Access. Ayes 3, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Cuchens Aye.

Mrs. Lana Barley presented the 2005 TDC Strategic Plan for approval.

Motion by Commissioner Rees to approve to 2005 TDC Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Cuchens requested that the plan be presented back before the Board when all of the commissioners are present to vote on the issue. Commissioner Rees felt that because the Board of County Commissioners had reviewed the plan in a joint meeting with the TDC that it could be voted on. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Attorney Vorbeck presented information relating to Article V. He stated that there have been legislative issues regarding the transfer of responsibilities relating to court costs. The new legislation provided opportunities for the county to adopt ordinances passing levies against misdemeanors, felonies and other cases. Mr. Vorbeck stated that he met with the Clerk's staff and has drafted two ordinances that would levy the proposed fees. One ordinance would impose a \$15.00 surcharge for any traffic infraction or criminal violation. The other ordinance imposes an additional \$65.00 court cost for criminal traffic, misdemeanor and felony cases.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, explained the additional costs the county will have to bear due to the implementation of Article V. He further stated that these ordinances will provide for part of the costs to be passed on to the violators. Mr. Imfeld stated that all monies collected would go to the Walton County Clerk's Office.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Rees to approve to advertise for a public hearing to consider the two proposed ordinances relating to Article V. Ayes 3, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Cuchens Aye.

Mr. Vorbeck advised that Attorney Ramey presented an emergency ordinance relating to the Licensing Board. However, it will have to be presented back at another time when at least 4/5 of the Board is present. The commissioners agreed to reconsider the emergency ordinance at the June 1, 2004 Land Use Hearing.

Commissioner Rees announced that Commissioner Paula Riggs, Okaloosa County, has resigned her position due to health issues. He requested that staff send her a letter of appreciation for her service.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court