

FEBRUARY 14, 2006-REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom A of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Chairman Scott Brannon, Vice-Chairman Kenneth Pridgen, Commissioner Larry Jones, Commissioner Cindy Meadows, and Commissioner Rosier Cuchens. Mr. Ronnie Bell, County Administrator, and Attorney David Hallman, Legal Services Director, were also present.

Commissioner Pridgen led with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Chairman Brannon called the meeting to order.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Meadows, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the items below. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

1. EAL Approval	
General Fund	\$ 2,068,012.15
County Transportation	\$ 1,454,959.21
SHIP	\$ 26.00
Fine & Forfeiture	\$ 1,139,967.00
Debt Service Hospital	\$ -
Mosq. Control State	\$ 800.00
Mott Sign Grant	\$ -
Section 8 Housing	\$ 121,468.39
Tourist Dev. Council	\$ 376,155.78
N.W. Mosquito Control	\$ 1,530.09
W. Co. Library	\$ 20,629.62
Tax Deed Surplus Trust	\$ -
Recreation Plat Fee	\$ 18,918.57
Public Safety- 911	\$ 31,057.51
Solid Waste Enterprise	\$ 9,334.70

Mossy Head VFD	\$	-
Glendale VFD	\$	10,812.88
Darlington VFD	\$	-
Red Bay VFD	\$	-
Sidewalk Fund	\$	-
Local Option Gas Tax	\$	-
Special Law Enf. Trust	\$	-
Driftwood Debt Service	\$	4,594.40
Criminal Justice Ed		
Fund	\$	-
Bldg Dept/Enterp. Fund	\$	34,699.35
Capital Projects Fund	\$	13,888.81
Imperial Lakes MSBU	\$	253.12
Totals		\$4,708,372.12

2. Approve Minutes of January 13, 2006-Special Meeting
3. Contract Extension for Mack Bayou Corridor Study

Mr. J.B. Hilliard, Chairman of the College Avenue Complex Committee, addressed the Board to report on the actions taken at a public meeting held December 8, 2005. The committee voted to recommend the Gillis property, old hospital property, and the College Avenue Government Complex be designated and utilized as a senior center. Mr. Hilliard requested that the Board accept the committee's recommendation and direct them to establish a pilot plan of operations and activities for the facility. The plan will be brought back to the Board for consideration.

The general consensus of the Board was to direct the committee to proceed with their plan to utilize the aforementioned properties to establish a senior center. The Board requested that the committee bring back more detailed information regarding the site plan and concept.

Ms. Ruth Diarcman made public comments.

Mr. Gene Ryan felt that the Warren Building would be better utilized by the Council on Aging. He proposed that the Board direct the Parks and Recreation

Department to proceed with erecting the building originally planned for Wee Care Park and provisions be made to accommodate the senior citizens.

Chairman Brannon called to order the advertised public hearing to consider a resolution to use the uniform method of collecting non-advalorem special assessments within the United Fire District.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to adopt the proposed assessment resolution (2006-11). Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mr. John Johnson, Public Works Director, addressed the Board and presented a power point program reviewing Public Works' mission strategy for 2006. The Division's mission is to provide the best county road system possible with available resources.

Commissioner Meadows referenced Attachment "A" and requested that additional information be incorporated in the three year cost comparison between in-house construction and outside contracting. She would like to know the actual time it took to complete the projects using private consultant versus in-house. Mr. Johnson agreed to attain that information.

Commissioner Pridgen suggested that the right-of-way acquisition and clearing be completed prior to design efforts. Mr. Johnson concurred with Mr. Pridgen's suggestion.

Chairman Brannon added that Public Works needs to work on surveying and obtaining legal descriptions for roads to identify actual locations of right-of-ways.

Commissioner Meadows also recommended they propose an aggressive strategy to contend utility relocations. Mr. Johnson said they recognized there was a problem and

they would be working with Legal Services to rectify the issue. Attorney Hallman pointed out that he and the Assistant Public Works Director planned to meet with the Department of Transportation to review strategies used by other agencies.

Mr. Johnson requested the Board's authorization to implement a 90-day temporary policy to allow construction crew foreman to drive county vehicles to and from their home to their worksite. The affected crews include the bridge, stabilization, asphalt, drainage and clearing crews. Mr. Johnson reported the proposal would allow for greater efficiency of operations by permitting the foreman to report directly to the jobsite rather than having to report to the central office first thing in the morning and at the end of the work day.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the request for authorization to implement a policy for a 90-day trial period to allow construction crew foreman to utilize county vehicles. After the 90 day period, a review analysis will be performed and brought back to the Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mr. Johnson introduced the new Assistant County Engineer, Mr. Aaron Warren.

Mr. Warren addressed the Board and presented a request for approval of a proposed Walton County Driveway Policy.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Meadows, to approve the Driveway Policy as presented. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mr. Ryan Douglas, Staff Engineer, presented a proposed agreement between Coastal Materials and Walton County concerning the Hammock Point project in Choctaw.

Commissioner Jones commented on the language of page 2 of the agreement regarding Coastal Materials' responsibility to sod an additional 8,667 square yards of the right-of-way on Hammock Point Road. He felt that the language should be reviewed by Legal Services and clarified if necessary.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the agreement with Legal Services' review of the language in question. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mr. Douglas submitted a memo requesting that the Board declare the erosion condition on Pompano Street an issue that requires emergency action. The original erosion caused by Hurricane Dennis has recently accelerated due to storm water runoff. The memo reported that the project was reimbursable by FEMA.

Mr. Brad Pickel advised that there was an existing contract with Chandler Construction for dune restoration; he recommended that the contract be expanded to include the Pompano Street project. He also requested incorporating additional restoration of a section along Scenic Gulf Drive and the Miramar Beach access. He reported that he had contacted Mr. David Wilson, with Chandler Construction, and they were willing to honor their existing price.

Per Commissioner Meadows's request, Mr. Bill Imfeld, Finance Director, addressed the FEMA reimbursement, stating that he felt confident about it.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the request to declare the erosion condition on Pompano Street an issue that requires emergency action, as well as authorize amending the existing contract with Chandler Construction to incorporate the additional work for Pompano Street, Scenic Gulf Drive and the Miramar Beach access. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mr. Jim Breitenfeld, Interim Economic Development Council Director, addressed the Board to introduce Mr. Bob Smith. Mr. Smith was selected by the EDC to fill the vacant Executive Director position. Mr. Breitenfeld requested that the Board authorize the release of previously appropriated funds for the current fiscal year to the EDC.

Mr. Albert Paris, President for the EDC, and Mr. James McHenry, President Elect, were also present to answer questions.

Mr. Bob Smith addressed the Board to become acquainted with the commissioners.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the request to release the previously appropriated funds to the EDC and authorize them to proceed. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Chairman Brannon announced the agenda was being altered to allow Ms. Pat Blackshear, Planning and Growth Management Director, to go forward and present her items, on account of her having to travel to Orlando to appear at a conference.

Ms. Blackshear acknowledged that Mr. Richard Bryan was scheduled to speak about weekend environmental violations. She stated that staff was in the process of

implementing a plan to assign a Code Enforcement officer to take calls on Saturdays and Sundays.

Ms. Blackshear requested that the request for final plat approval for Whispering Lake Subdivision be continued until the next BCC meeting.

(Commissioner Jones stepped out at 5:05)

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Meadows, to approve continuing the request for final plat approval for Whispering Lake Subdivision until 5:00 p.m., February 28, at the South Walton Courthouse Annex. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Ms. Blackshear presented a request for final plat approval of Driftwood Estates Phase II, a 245 single-family lot subdivision located north of Shipwreck Road. She notified the Board that the plat had been erroneously advertised as being 246 lots; however, the staff report correctly stated 245. She advised although the infrastructure was not completely finished, the applicant requested the Board's approval without a letter of credit. She clarified that the plat would not be recorded until Mr. Jim Harman, Development Order Inspector, completed the final inspection and recommended approval of the infrastructure.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Meadows, Ms. Blackshear, and Attorney Hallman.

Motion by Commissioner Meadows to continue the request for final plat approval of Driftwood Estates Phase II until the Regular Meeting scheduled for February 28. The motion died for lack of second.

(Commissioner Jones returned at 5:10 p.m.)

There was no one present to represent the applicant.

Mr. Allen Ficarra spoke in support of continuing the request for final plat approval until the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the final plat of Driftwood Estates Phase II without the letter of credit contingent upon Legal Services' review of the Mylar. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Naye.

Ms. Blackshear presented a proposed ordinance amending Section 3 of the Walton County Land Development Code to provide for clear guidelines for development, consistent with generally accepted traffic engineering methodology and procedures, to evaluate Transportation Concurrency on roadways within the County's Concurrency Management System; providing for within the Concurrency Management System a method whereby the impacts of development on transportation facilities can be mitigated by the cooperative efforts of the public and private sectors, to be known as the Proportionate Fair Share Program, as required by and in a manner consistent with Chapter 163.3180(16), F.S.

Mr. Ben Chandler and Mr. Greg Graham addressed the Board to answer any questions.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Commissioner Meadows, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to adopt the proposed ordinance as presented (#2006-02). Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Ms. Blackshear requested a continuance for the proposed extension of the Crest Bay Cottages Development Order.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to continue the request until after 5:00 p.m., February 28, at the South Walton Courthouse Annex. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mrs. Blackshear requested that the proposed ordinance amending Section 5.05.01(H) of the Land Development Code, Placement of Utilities Underground, be continued until February 28, 2006.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to continue the proposed ordinance until after 5:00 p.m., February 28, at the South Walton Courthouse Annex. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Ms. Blackshear submitted information she obtained at a recent workshop she attended with the staff of the Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Planning Organization. The purpose of the meeting was to define criteria for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP). She spoke about TRIP projects proposed to install passing lanes on U.S. Highway 331 and an infrastructure project to realign the intersection of SR 20, Black Creek Boulevard and SR 81. She stated that once the application for the four laning of Highway 331 was complete, the Board can adopt a resolution to request the project be incorporated into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Ms. Blackshear requested the Board's authorization to prepare and submit grant applications to pursue the funding for these projects.

Mr. David Kramer requested additional information regarding the concept to realign the intersection, pointing out that he owned property on both corners of the intersection. He requested that he be included in discussions pertaining to the project.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve Ms. Blackshear's request for authorization to prepare and submit grant applications. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mr. Richard Bryan stated that Ms. Blackshear addressed his concern regarding weekend environmental violations during her discussions. He spoke about proactive measures to prevent development from occurring without permits. He stated that the Lake Powell Community Alliance was willing to assist the county in any way they could.

Mr. Hallman gave a summary explanation of the issue Mr. Wayland Davis was scheduled to discuss, Tri-Village Fire Department Property. In 1992, the BCC conveyed to the Trustees of the Choctaw Beach Community Center the property where the current Tri-Village fire station is located. That transfer limited the use of the property to recreational uses, which after 30 years may, by operation of the Marketable Record Title Act, be extinguished. On February 18, 1976, the Trustees conveyed that property to the Tri-Village Fire District. He stated he had been advised that some Choctaw residents were concerned regarding the potential sale of the property. The only way to prevent this would be to file a notice on the property records no later than Friday, February 17, 2006. He stated that if the Board's direction was to file a notice, he could hold discussions with the residents and bring back information to the Board.

Mr. Wayland Davis addressed the Board as representative for the residents of the Choctaw Beach Community. He introduced and turned the floor over to the community's legal council, Attorney Burt Moore.

Attorney Moore, on behalf of the Choctaw Beach homeowners, requested that the Board enforce the restriction of the use of the property to recreational as stated on the original deed.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Pridgen, to authorize Legal Services to file the notice on the property records before Friday, February 17. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

The Board took a brief recess.

Mr. Bell advised that he would be meeting with Ms. Leanne Ingle, Freeport High School, and Mr. David Pert, Paxtonian Yearbook Staff, to discuss the 2006 Miss Walton County Pageant. He said he would bring information back to the Board at the next BCC meeting.

Attorney Hallman requested the items placed on the agenda by Mr. Dan Arner and Mr. Terry Anderson be continued until the next meeting. He said they both had agreed to meet with him to discuss the items and would come back to the Board if they were unable to find a solution.

Mr. Les Hallman addressed the Board and presented a proposal for joint Walton County/South Walton Fire District 9-1-1 communications. The purpose of the proposal was to establish a secondary 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Walton County. The secondary PSAP would be geographically located in South Walton and staffed by communications personnel from the South Walton Fire District. It would be

the primary answering point for all 9-1-1 originating within the SWFD's jurisdiction. The SWFD felt a secondary PSAP would make the system more efficient and effective since the fire district provides fire, rescue, and EMS to the area. Mr. Hallman also spoke in regards to the opposition expressed by the Sheriff's Office. Concluding his discussion, Mr. Hallman made the following requests to the Board: 1.) authorize the placement of a secondary PSAP in the SWFD Communication Center; 2.) approve the one time funding request of \$50,000 to assist in the purchase of the 9-1-1 equipment; 3.) approve the annual and on-going funding of phone charges associated with the PSAP, estimated at \$16,800; and 4.) continue exploration of the need for a primary PSAP in South Walton. He advised per FS 365.171, both budget requests were allowed to be funded by the current \$.50 per month phone charge assessed by Walton County on all phone users. A handout regarding the requests was submitted into the record per Mr. Hallman.

Captain Danny Glidewell, Walton County Sheriff's Office, addressed the Board and expressed opposition to the proposal. The Sheriff's Office position was that the proposal had the potential of decreasing the efficiency of the system and could create an unnecessary burden on the taxpayers of South Walton. The Sheriff's Office recommendation was that the South Walton Fire District be designated a transfer point like the Sheriff's South Walton Sub-Station and that the only secondary PSAP remain at the North Walton Sheriff's Office. Captain Glidewell submitted a handout regarding the recommendations into the record.

Discussion was held regarding the process currently utilized to handle 9-1-1 calls, and the differences in the system if the Board accepted the SWFD's proposal.

Mr. Bell informed that any major renovations to the facility would require the State's approval due to it being a state owned backup facility.

The following EOC staff was present and made statements: Ms. Christine Bell, Emergency Management Coordinator, Mr. Ed Baltzley, Emergency Response Division Director, and Ms. Dawn Nicholson, 911 Coordinator for Walton County.

The following citizens also spoke: Ms. Bonnie McQuiston, representing the Walton County Taxpayers Association, Ms. Louis Bailey, and Mr. Bob Hudson.

Sheriff Ralph Johnson also addressed the Board and reiterated the Sheriff's Office position of opposing the proposal presented by the South Walton Fire District. He assured the Board they were willing to make any improvements to the current system the Board felt was needed.

Commissioner Jones suggested the Board approve in concept Mr. Hallman's request for authorization that a secondary PSAP be placed at the South Walton Fire District Communications Center. He stated issues regarding protocol, procedures and the State 9-1-1 Plan could be identified and addressed and the Fire District could come back to the Board for final approval.

Commissioner Meadows stated she was very dismayed at the situation that had evolved between the South Walton Fire District and the Sheriff's Office. She stated that the most important thing was to provide the best service possible. She said that denying the proposal would be unconstitutional.

Further discussion ensued.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to allow the existing 9-1-1 System to remain operating in its current manner. Ayes 3, Nays 2. Jones Nay, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Nay.

The discussion regarding Pest Control and Termite Control Services, listed under Mr. Rick Millard, Construction Management, was pulled from the agenda.

Mr. Ed Baltzley modified his original request and requested approval to organize a public committee to compose a priority list for the placement of five defibrillators EMS currently has available. The request was motivated by a letter received from Mr. Jacob Spaid, Choctaw Community Center, Inc., asking that one of the electric-shock machines be placed in the community center. Mr. Baltzley's request also included approval to seek a grant for funding to place defibrillators at the remaining centers.

Mr. Bell stated there were certain issues regarding commitments and the maintenance of the defibrillators that needed review before approving the placement of the machines in specific locations.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to authorize the organization of a public committee to compose a priority list for the location of five defibrillators currently available, also to seek a grant to purchase additional defibrillators for the remaining centers. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mr. Ken Little, Citizens Services Director, requested the Board's approval of the appointment of Mr. Bill Smith to the Design Review Board, Mr. Charlie Simmons to the Affordable Housing Committee, and the reappointment of Mr. Bruce Ward and Ms. Sue Rushing to the Affordable Housing Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve the proposed appointments and reappointments to the Design Review and Affordable Housing Committee as requested by Mr. Little. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resource Director, presented for its first hearing a proposed revision to BCC Personnel Policy 6.4, Standards for Conduct and Ethics, Use of Government Property. The proposed revision would incorporate additional language pertaining to the use of county issued credit cards. Mr. Mattison stated he would bring the policy back to the Board for adoption at the next meeting.

Mr. Sonny Mares, Interim Director of Administration for the TDC, requested Mr. Don McQuade, Chief Executive Officer, Hilton Sandestin Beach and Golf Resort, be appointed to serve on the Tourist Development Council, in the “Owner/Operator” category, through November 2007.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Jones, to approve the appointment of Mr. Don McQuade to the Tourist Development Council as requested by Mr. Mares. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Ms. Renee Bradley, Planning Technician, announced there were 70 acres remaining of the 80 allotted for small scale amendments. The Planning Department recommended that 35 acres be placed in a “lottery” for public requests, and staff be allowed to use the remaining 35 acres to rectify errors and make corrections to the Future Land Use Map.

The Board ensued discussion.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Jones, to authorize the concept presented by Ms. Bradley. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Ms. Bradley requested direction from the Board regarding height limitations for the northern portion of the county.

The following citizens made public comments: Mr. Ed Bradley, Ms. Debbie Holmes, Ms. Dari Bradley, Mr. Wayland Davis, and Mr. Allen Ficarra.

It was the general consensus of the Board to direct the Planning staff to obtain input from each commissioner before an ordinance is drafted. They also directed Attorney Hallman to render a legal opinion prior to the ordinance being drafted.

Commissioner Meadows requested staff advise the public they are encouraged to provide their input as the proposed ordinance is being drafted.

Ms. Renee Bradley recommended the Board continue the discussion regarding the proposed Frangista Beach 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition Right-of-Way Agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to continue the Frangista Beach 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition Right-of-Way Agreement until the next BCC meeting on February 28. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Per Ms. Blackshear, Attorney Hallman requested approval from the Board to advertise a notice to notify the public the temporary armoring permits would expire April 30.

Commissioner Cuchens advised he had been contacted by citizens who were still awaiting sand to be delivered and were concerned the permits would expire before completion.

Attorney Hallman reiterated that Walton County's authority to issue permits would cease as of April 30.

Mr. Gerry Demers, Deputy Building Official, clarified the expiration date has been the same since the permits were issued.

Motion by Commissioner Meadows, second by Commissioner Jones, to allow staff to notify the public via advertisement that the temporary armoring permits will expire April 30. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Attorney Hallman requested authorization to allow staff to conduct a community meeting with all involved parties to work out the details regarding the Incidental Take Permit.

Mr. Bell submitted a copy of an e-mail received from Mr. and Mrs. Key in support of the county handling the US Fish and Wildlife seawall permits.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Meadows, to grant authorization for staff to conduct a community meeting with all parties involved with the incidental take permit. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

For clarification purposes, Commissioner Cuchens stated for the record he abstained from voting on the motion that was made in regards to emergency seawalls.

Commissioner Meadows stated that a commissioner should abstain from

discussion and complete a voting conflict form prior to a vote being taken. She asked Commissioner Cuchens to clarify for the record why she heard him vote if he abstained from the issue.

Discussion ensued as to whether Commissioner Cuchens previously filled out and submitted a voting conflict form.

Commissioner Cuchens affirmed for the record that he abstained from the vote taken regarding the emergency seawalls.

The following citizens addressed the Board to make public comments regarding the Incidental Take Permit: Mr. Emmett Hildreth and Ms. Cindy Morgan.

Attorney Hallman gave a brief update on the progress of three projects proposed for the Mossy Head Industrial Park, stating he would bring back detailed information at a later date.

Attorney Hallman proposed to grant Gordon and Cheri Lowe a 24-foot easement on Railroad Avenue in exchange for Mr. and Mrs. Lowe granting a drainage easement to the County.

Motion by Commissioner Cuchens, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve entering into agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Lowe to grant them a 24-foot easement on Railroad Avenue in exchange for a drainage easement. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mr. Bell presented a request from the City of Paxton for financial assistance, in the amount of \$38,000, for six cement poles and lighting for three ball fields located in Paxton. Funding for the lighting was not included in the FRDAP Grant of \$200,000 the

City of Paxton was awarded in 2002. Mr. Bell stated that Commissioner Meadows and Chairman Brannon were willing to contribute \$19,000 each from Recreation Plat Fees.

Motion by Commissioner Meadows, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the City of Paxton's request for funding, in the amount of \$38,000. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mr. Bell requested that the Regular BCC Meeting scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> be changed to Monday, March 27, due to the 2006 Florida Association of Counties Legislative Day in Tallahassee being held on Wednesday, March 29.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Meadows, to approve changing the date of the Regular Meeting to March 27. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mr. Bell presented a summary of a proposed Consent Agreement between Walton County and the Environmental Protection Agency concerning the Old Blue Mountain road project. Walton County was found in non compliance by the Army Corps of Engineers in regards to wetland infractions of less than an acre. In the agreement, Walton County agrees to a cash payment of \$28,750 for 25% of the fine. The remaining 75% is allowable as a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) for a value of 80% of actual costs. Upon agreement to enter into a Consent Agreement, the EPA will instruct the ACOE to release the Stop Work Order and process the permits for the Old Blue Mountain road project.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to enter into a Consent Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Mr. Bell informed that the Department of Transportation was conducting a traffic improvement study for the intersection of Miramar Beach Drive and Ponce de Leon Street as previously requested by the Board.

Mr. Bell requested authorization to contact the Florida Division Emergency Management to inform them that the Local Mitigation Strategy Committee was in the process of updating the Local Mitigation Strategy Plan.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Meadows, to authorize Mr. Bell to contact the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Commissioner Pridgen presented a recommendation for a Hurricane Recovery Study to be conducted for all departments involved with hurricane preparedness. The concept of the study is for each department to study their role and involvement in hurricane preparedness, safety and evacuation. The outcome of the study would be for each department to develop a "Hurricane Recovery Policy and Procedure Manual" with guidelines defining particular department's role.

Chairman Brannon suggested that a policy be incorporated into the study to designate an area in the north county to store fuel for emergency situations. Commissioner Pridgen agreed with the suggestion.

The majority of the Board voiced support of Mr. Pridgen's recommendation.

Commissioner Pridgen also requested the Board's approval to appoint a 9-member "U.S. Highway 331 Citizen Advocacy Committee", wherein each commissioner, municipality, and the School Board would be asked to appoint one citizen as a member.

Mr. Bell stated that upon the Board's approval, he would prepare a letter to send to the municipalities and School Board advising them of the Board's action.

Motion by Commissioner Meadows, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the appointment of a 9-member "U.S. Highway 331 citizen Advocacy Committee". Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Commissioner Cuchens turned the floor over to Ms. Cindy Morgan to address the Board to speak about a situation at Point Washington.

Ms. Morgan expressed concern regarding the closing of an entrance at Eden State Garden. She stated that the citizens of Point Washington were advised that the entrance was closed due to lack of funds to maintain the road. She requested that the county assume maintenance of the road.

Chairman Brannon said that the road could be added to the District 1 road maintenance list if the Board felt it would be appropriate.

Mr. Bell stated he was informed by the manager of Eden State Gardens that the entrance was closed because there were plans to open a different entrance adjacent to the current location. Mr. Bell said he would review the issue and contact the manager for clarification.

Further discussion was held.

Ms. Lorraine Morgan also addressed the Board to speak on the issue.

Commissioner Meadows reported on the status of the progress at Shore Drive Neighborhood Park. She proposed that the name of the park be changed to "Hagen Family Park". There was no opposition voiced.

Commissioner Meadows also gave a brief update on Cessna Landing and Helen McCall Park.

Commissioner Cuchens requested the Board's approval to apply for a grant to construct an equestrian center in Walton County.

Mr. Bell said if the Board supported the request, the OMB Office could move forward with attempting to obtain grant funding.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to approve the request and allow the OMB Office to attempt to obtain funding sources. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen Aye, and Meadows Aye.

Chairman Brannon reported on the status of the Morrison Springs Park. He stated Ms. Janice McDonald with the Northwest Florida Water Management District had expressed an interest in meeting with the commissioners at the site to discuss the opportunity for a Florida Forever Capital Improvement Grant.

There were no further public comments.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Brannon Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pridgen

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Brannon, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court

