

DECEMBER 9, 2008 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at 4:00 p.m., in Courtroom A of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Sara Comander, Chairman; Commissioner Scott Brannon, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Larry Jones, Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, and Commissioner Cecilia Jones. Mr. Ronnie Bell, County Administrator; Mr. Mike Burke, County Attorney; and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

Commissioner Pridgen led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Comander called the meeting to order.

Mr. Gary Mattison introduced Mr. David Murray, Marketing Manager, and Mr. Tom Connely, County Executive for the Florida League of Cities. Mr. Connely presented a check for \$137,095 as a return premium for the 2006-2007 year.

Motion by Commissioner L. Jones, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

1. Approve Expenditure Approval List (EAL)

General Fund	\$ 995,599.18
County Transportation	\$ 83,039.34
SHIP	\$ 6,060.00
Fine & Forfeiture	\$ 1,048.01
Mosq. Control State	\$ 398.05
Section 8 Housing	\$ 333.78
Tourist Dev. Council	\$ 854,308.00
N.W. Mosquito Control	\$ 1,425.18
W. Co. Library	\$ 10,889.49
Recreation Plat Fee	\$ 2,006.25
Tax Deed Surplus Trust	\$ 16,165.21
Public Safety- 911	\$ 14,420.31

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Solid Waste Enterprise	\$ 1,254,547.77
Bldg Dept/Enterp. Fund	\$ 1,705.50
Imperial Lakes MSBU	\$ 2,765.91
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 555,796.23
Totals	\$ 3,800,508.21

2. Approve Minutes of November 25, 2008 Regular Meeting
3. Approve Resolution (**2008-107**) to amend the budget to roll forward revenues and expenditures for the Freeport park Project from fiscal year 2007-2008 into fiscal year 2008-2009 in the amount of \$220,574.00
4. Approve CHELCO Right-of-Way Easement

Mr. Hugh Williams, Lochner Engineering, and Ms. Rosemary Woods, PBS&J, presented a PD&E Study presentation for the County Road 388 Extension Project. Mr. Williams announced that the Florida Department of Transportation has begun a project development environment study for a new roadway, West Bay Parkway, to connect US 98 in Walton County with S.R. 79 in Bay County. The study will evaluate the improvements along or near the existing CR 388 corridor in Bay County between SR 79 and 77. The total length of the project is about 24 miles, and the purpose of the study is to determine the best location or alignment for the project, the best design, and the effect the project will have on the natural, physical, and social environment. The first segment will evaluate alternative alignments and different roadways. The two types of roadways are controlled access and limited access. The second segment will start at SR 79 in Bay County and proceed eastward to S.R. 77, along or near the existing alignment. Benefits of the project include improving mobility and interconnectivity in the region, enhancing traveler safety, providing better access to the Bay County International Airport, improving hurricane evacuation and emergency response capabilities, promoting economic development, and increasing capacity in relieving anticipated congestion along the US 98 corridor. The project start date was on November 14, 2008 and has a proposed

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four year schedule. During the project newsletters will be prepared and updated and also available on the website.

Chairman Comander questioned if the completion of the project could be before the four year schedule. Mr. Williams stated that out of the total 48 month schedule, about 20 months are review.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, County Administrator, presented a request from Mr. Bobby Beasley, Supervisor of Elections, for reimbursement of \$8,302 for a vault door and the legal settlement of a copier lawsuit.

Motion by Commissioner L. Jones, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve a total reimbursement of \$8,302 to Mr. Bobby Beasley, Supervisor of Elections, for the purchase of a vault door and settlement of a copier lawsuit. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Ms. Leigh Morrison, Life Enrichment Senior Center, presented a quarterly update to the Board. She stated that there are currently a total of 145 members enrolled. A total of 190 people signed in at the center in July, 193 in August, and 315 in September. The group traveled together on three different occasions in July and two occasions in September. She stated that the weekly programs have continued and a total amount of \$2,826.10 has been collected and deposited from the center.

Mr. Mark Stroop, representative of Ms. Karen Hutcheson, presented information to the Board regarding property on Blue Mountain Road. He stated that Ms. Hutcheson owns all the property surrounding the end of the road. Mr. Stroop briefly discussed the history of the culdesac abandonment and presented a proposal to the Board.

Attorney Miller stated that Ms. Hutcheson has been paying taxes on the property since 1990 and the culdesac was abandoned in 1970. He stated they have complied with provisions 125.35 where the county has the right to offer a private land sale to adjoining land owners if it is less than \$15,000. The culdesac would improve the current condition of the road and the public in general.

Chairman Comander questioned if 45 feet is enough room for garbage trucks to turn around. Attorney Miller stated that they turn around now and after the improvements it should be much better.

Chairman Comander asked for public comment.

Mr. William Pratt and Mr. George Thompson, Residents of Blue Mountain Beach Road, spoke in opposition of the turn around at the end of Blue Mountain Road.

Discussion continued regarding the abandonment of the culdesac and Ms. Hutcheson's property.

Mr. Alan Osborne stated that there could have been either a complete or partial abandonment of the plat. He stated that the plat recorded on the mortgage is the effective plat.

Mr. Richard Folks, President of Blue Mountain Beach Community Association, stated that any such sale or abandonment would not benefit the public and the county should not exchange the property for a turnaround. He stated that the culdesac and abandonment should be dealt with separately.

Commissioner L. Jones questioned Mr. Folk if it would be better if Ms. Hutcheson took out everything and only had a deadend street. Mr. Folk stated that the road is a dead end now and that would be appropriate. Mr. Folk stated that it is the

county's responsibility to build the turnaround because they abandoned the property. Commissioner L. Jones questioned if the presented proposal would further decrease or increase the property values. Mr. Folk answered that the turn around would help repair the problem, no matter who constructs it.

Attorney Burke suggested meeting with the Blue Mountain Beach community to discuss what has happened and try to get a resolution on what they are seeking and understand the process. Attorney Burke stated that they will set a date and send out notices to everyone of the meeting.

Mr. Danny Glidewell, Department of Corrections, stated that the DOC is required to have an inspection to determine if they are in compliance with the Florida Law Jail Standards. The inspection has been completed and this is the second year to receive 100% compliance. Some employees recognized in preparing for the inspection were Lieutenant James Hall and Lieutenant Bill Price. Ms. Becky Reynolds, Kitchen Manager, was also recognized for the kitchen compliance.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, County Administrator, presented a request from Citizen Services for approval for the SHIP Coordinator to apply to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for \$500,000 in Impact Fee Proviso Grant funds, and approval to increase SHIP First Time Homebuyer grant limit from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for the purpose of expending Impact Fee Proviso Grant funds that may be received.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Brannon, to approve application for the Impact Fee Proviso Grant funds and increase SHIP First Time Homebuyer grant limit from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Mr. Bell presented a request from the Public Works Department for a Developer's Agreement on Sawmill Court on Sue Lane off of County Road 183S below Argyle, to place a sign and landscaping in the county right of way.

Motion by Commissioner Brannon, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve a Developers Agreement on Sawmill Court to place a sign and landscaping on the county right-of-way. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Mr. Bell requested execution/approval of right-of-way acceptance, security agreement for Escada B – dedication of Via Largo Street, and acceptance of the deed.

Motion by Commissioner L. Jones, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the acceptance of right-of-way, security agreement, and deed for Escada B. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Mr. Bell requested approval of the Lake Jackson Bike Path Permits mitigation plan, to include a conservation easement on county property. In the permitting process with the regulatory agencies a mitigation plan is needed, which would include a conservation easement on 1.64 acres of wetlands.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Brannon, to approve the Lake Jackson Bike Path Permit mitigation plan to include a conservation easement. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Commissioner Brannon briefly exited the meeting.

Mr. Bell presented a request from the Administration Department for approval of an agreement for services with the South Walton Athletic Foundation (SWAF) for Management of Helen McCall Park. Mr. Bell stated they would recommend approval

with three conditions: add attachment A, to identify the fields and the amenities they will manage; add attachment B, a listing of the organizations that will make up the SWAF to ensure all entities and groups utilize the fields; and number 9 on page 3, change the language to state “replacement of facilities and equipment owned by the county” and remove co-owned and SWAF.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner C. Jones, to approve an agreement for services with the SWAF for management of Helen McCall Park contingent upon suggested changes and attachments.

Mr. Osborne stated the seasons should be defined and fields should be used for the different seasons. He also stated that the reliable party for the batting cages should also be defined. Mr. Bell stated that the SWAF would inspect the parks taken over, and any deficiencies would be resolved before the agreement would go into effect.

Commissioner L. Jones questioned what happens if there is a conflict on usage of the field. Mr. Dave Lovell stated they hope to avoid conflicts, but if a conflict arose the county could over rule the SWAF decision. Commissioner L. Jones questioned the turnover procedures and if the inspection should be done before the agreement is accepted. Mr. Bell stated any deficiencies would be resolved before the agreement comes into effect.

Chairman Comander called for the vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Comander Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Mr. Bell requested approval of a renewal of agreement with Heffley & Associates, Inc. for state Lobbying Services, for the amount of \$5,000/month or \$60,000/annually. He stated that the price did not increase from last year.

Motion by Commissioner L. Jones, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve renewal of an agreement with Heffley & Associates, Inc. for state Lobbying Services, for the amount of \$5,000/month or \$60,000/annually. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Comander Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Mr. Bell requested maintenance and ownership of streets within Creekside Subdivision: Creekside Drive, Edgewood Drive, Memorial Place, Florida Place, Heron Court, Quail Court, Sunshine Place, West Fisherman's Run, East Fisherman's Run, Waterview Court, Oak Place, Waterview Place, and all streets as recorded in Plat Book 7, Page 21 in Creekside Subdivision.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner C. Jones, to approve maintenance and ownership of the named streets within Creekside Subdivision. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Comander Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Mr. Bell requested to amend a current lease for the District 4 Commission Office to include the remainder of the square footage of the building to accommodate the relocation of the District 1 Commission Office. Mr. Bell stated that Commissioner Brannon's office is located on 331 South and that property is in the process of being acquired for the widening of Hwy 331 and his office will have to be relocated. The rent would be approximately \$1,300/month and would include use of the 1.25 acres the building is on.

Mr. Osborne commented that Commissioner Brannon's office should be relocated within his district. He stated that the citizens should have access to the Commissioner in their district. Mr. Bell clarified that it is not a requirement for the Commissioner's office to be located within their district.

Motion by Commissioner L. Jones, second by Commissioner C. Jones, to approve amending a current lease for the District 4 Commission Office to include the remainder of the square footage of the building to accommodate the relocation of the District 1 Commission Office. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Comander Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Attorney W.C. Henry, County Attorney, requested direction from the Board to schedule and advertise two public hearings to consider a Resolution to expand the County Seat of Walton County to include the sites of the new Jail and the new Sheriff's Office outside the corporate limits of DeFuniak Springs. Attorney Henry stated that the statutes allow you to expand the county seat and has no effect on the boundaries or unincorporated areas of the county.

Motion by Commissioner L. Jones, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve scheduling a public hearing to consider a resolution to expand the County Seat of Walton County to include the sites of the new Jail and the new Sheriff's Office outside the corporate limits of DeFuniak Springs. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Comander Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Attorney Henry requested adoption of Resolution **(2008-108)** acknowledging the reverter of Lots 8-10, Block 29 Oakwood Hills Subdivision Unit 1 to the heirs of Robert and Claire Berglund and to authorize the Chairman to execute a quit claim deed to said heirs. Three lots were deeded to the Mossy Head Volunteer Fire Department (MHVFD) and there was a reverter clause stating if the land was not used for the purpose of fire apparatus, then it automatically reverts to the Berglund's or their heirs. Both Mr. and

Mrs. Berglund are deceased and the land has never and will never be used for fire apparatus.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner C. Jones, to adopt Resolution **(2008-108)** acknowledging the reversion of Lots 8-10 of Oakwood Hills Subdivision Unit 1 and a quit claim deed back to the heirs of Mr. and Mrs. Berglund. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Attorney Burke requested the BCC to convene the Auditor Selection Committee to prepare Requests for Proposal for the selection of an auditor solely for the sheriff's 2007-2008 audit and follow the procedures set forth in FS section 218.391.

Motion by Commissioner L. Jones, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the Auditor Selection Committee to prepare for the selection of an auditor for the sheriff's 2007-08 audit. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Commissioner Brannon requested adoption of Resolution **(2008-109)** recognizing December 9, 2008 as Mike Helton Day. Mr. Mike Helton was a Freeport councilman and served over 30 years on the council.

Motion by Commissioner Brannon, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to adopt Resolution **(2008-109)** as presented. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Commissioner Pridgen had no items to present.

Commissioner L. Jones had no items to present.

Commissioner C. Jones had no items to present.

Chairman Comander had no items to present.

Chairman Comander asked for additional public comment.

Mr. Osborne questioned if the bill for attorney fees that was approved in September had been sent to the San Destin Owners Association (SOA), and stated that he had also requested the notes that Commissioner Meadows had taken regarding the Driftwood Agreement. Attorney Burke stated that they did send the bill for the attorney fees to the SOA and Attorney Miller has been asked to provide a copy of the agreement to the Board but has declined. Brief discussion ensued regarding the agreement and responsible parties. Mr. Osborne requested that the public be able to read the agreement being done on county property in Driftwood.

The meeting recessed at 5:40 p.m. and reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Pat Blackshear, Planning and Development Director, requested that the Board accept a 200 foot conservation easement for use as a buffer from the Azland borrow pit and Rock Hill Road. This condition was on the Azland borrow pit application by the Board of Adjustment and that requirement has been met.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Brannon, to approve a 200 foot conservation easement for use as a buffer from the Azland borrow pit and Rock Hill Road. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Chairman Comander asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

Ms. Blackshear requested that the Board accept a proportionate fair share agreement for exchange of right-of-way along Rock Hill Road and Ed Brownfield Road for proportional fair share payment.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Brannon, to approve a proportionate fair share agreement for exchange of right-of-way along Rock Hill Road and Ed Brownfield Road. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Ms. Blackshear requested collection of the Alligator Pointe Subdivision letter of credit. The letter of credit is due to expire on January 1, 2009 and the Board is the beneficiary of this letter of credit from Wachovia Bank in the amount of \$285,123.75. The plat has not been filed at the Clerk of Courts due to recreation and 911 addressing fees not being paid. Since the agenda submittal time they received a request from the developer to abandon his project and receive his letter of credit back. Attorney Burke stated that this plat was approved by the Board but has never been picked up by the developer to be recorded. He recommended that the Board not act on the collection of the letter of credit and allow it to expire and direct staff to advertise a public hearing to revoke approval of the plat at the next meeting. He stated that it is in the Board's best interest to have a quasi judicial hearing to revoke the plat. Ms. Blackshear stated that a field inspection was completed to be sure the site did not have erosion control issues or other problems. The inspection reflected that there were no issues on the site.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner C. Jones, to approve no collection on the letter of credit and schedule a public hearing for revocation of the approval of the Alligator Pointe Subdivision.

Brief discussion ensued regarding letter of credit difficulties and liabilities.

Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Motion by Commissioner L. Jones, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the Sandy Dunes LLC letter requesting withdrawal of the development order. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye.

Ms. Blackshear requested permission to advertise an ordinance regulating the size of dock structures built on a coastal dune lake. Ms. Blackshear recognized Ms. Marsha Anderson, Dune Lakes Advisor Committee Chairman. Ms. Anderson stated that this may become an issue in the future and they would like to address it before there is no say so. Commissioner L. Jones questioned the regulations on size. Mr. Billy McKee stated that to get a permit on an outstanding Florida water body there is a limit of 500 square feet, and any coastal dune lake, except Lake Powell, has a limit of 1,000 square feet. He stated that the coastal dune lakes are important, unique, rare, and valuable to this county.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Brannon, to approve advertising an ordinance to regulate the size of dock structures built on a coastal dune lake. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Ms. Blackshear requested that the Board adopt the document titled A Management Plan for Walton County's Coastal Dune Lakes as the guiding document for the Coastal Dune Lake Advisory Board. Ms. Sarah Kalinoski, Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance, stated that it has been developed in coordination with key stake holders who have prioritized issues around the Coastal Dune Lakes and the management plan. The plan is basically a document to guide future activities on the lakes as far as scientific research. Ms. Blackshear stated that upon approval all the recommendations and supporting documentation will be reflected in the EAR amendments.

Motion by Commissioner C. Jones, second by Commissioner Brannon, to approve A Management Plan for Walton County's Coastal Dune Lakes as the guiding document for the Coastal Dune Lake Advisory Board. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Ms. Blackshear requested adoption of Ordinance **(2008-38)** amending Walton County Land Development Code section 5.04.03h to allow the County Engineer discretion to waive the construction of sidewalks and/or a contribution to the sidewalk fund for sidewalks in rural areas. The Board asked staff to address the waiver of sidewalks in rural areas where no sidewalks are in existence and none are planned within the foreseeable future.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Brannon, to adopt Ordinance **(2008-38)** as presented.

Mr. Kevin Chilcutt spoke in favor of the presented ordinance.

Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

The Quasi Judicial hearing was called to order and Attorney Burke administered the oath to those intending on speaking.

SSA 2008-17 Ms. Jennifer Christensen presented a request from HSH Properties, LLLP for a small scale amendment to change up to 9.185 acres from large scale agriculture to NBNPA/mixed use residential, or any less dense or intense category. The parcel is located north of the Choctawhatchee Bay on the north side of S.R. 20, near the junction of Black Creek Boulevard. Staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

Chairman Comander asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner C. Jones, to approve SSA 2008-17 as presented. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Ms. Sara Burgess presented a request from South Haven Town homes, LLC for a one-year extension of an already approved major development order for Slattery Industrial Site Master Plan and Phase I, issued January 10, 2008. The development order approved a 40,480 square foot, 2 phase, 40 unit warehouse and office space industrial complex on 5.75 acres with a future land use of light industrial. Phase I consists of 19 warehouse/office space units totaling 21,252 square feet. The site is located on the west side of C.R. 393, south of Edgewood Terrace.

Chairman Comander asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Brannon, to approve a one-year extension for Slattery Industrial Site Master Plan and Phase I. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Ms. Blackshear presented a plat application request submitted by Daryl Burgis, PLS, for a replat of portions of Highland Parks at Blue Mountain Beach, Phase I, consisting of common areas and preservation areas contained in 1.053 +/- acres as approved by development orders 04-000-00014, 05-001-00036, and 07-013-00038. The site is located at 2918 West C.R. 30A.

Chairman Comander asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Brannon, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve replat of portions of Highland Parks at Blue Mountain Beach Phase I. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Ms. Blackshear stated that the Black Creek Plantation PUD has been continued to the February 10, 2009 meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Brannon, second by Commissioner L. Jones, to approve continuing the Black Creek Plantation PUD to the February 10, 2009 meeting. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye. (**Ex Parte: Comander**)

Ms. Shana Clachee requested approval of the final plat for Trout Branch Industrial Park PUD, a subdivision consisting of 13 industrial lots. The site is located on the north side of S.R. 20 directly across from Cedar Beach Cove.

Chairman Comander asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner L. Jones, to approve the final plat for Trout Branch Industrial Park PUD. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye. (**Ex Parte: Comander**)

Mr. David Thornton, Moore Bass Consulting, requested approval of final plat for Alys Beach Phase III Blocks MM & KK consisting of 20 single-family lots on 4.30 acres with a future land use designation of NPA/Traditional Neighborhood as approved by development order 07-001-00014 issued March 13, 2008. The site is located on the south side of Sea Garden Street off C.R. 30A East.

Chairman Comander asked for public comment.

There was no public comment

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Brannon, to approve the final plat of Alys Beach Phase III Blocks MM & KK. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Ms. Blackshear presented an ordinance amending Chapter 5 of the Walton County Land Development Code to establish a wildlife conservation zone with lighting standards in Walton County. Mr. Billy McKee introduced Mr. Blair Witherington, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Biologist, and Mr. Bob Ernest, Consultant from EAI, and Mr. Erik Martin, Biologist. Dr. Blair Witherington stated that the ordinance is a good compromise and very similar to ordinances that have been passed elsewhere in the state. He stated that light pollution affects other endangered species like the beach mice, shorebirds, and beach tiger beetles as well as the sea turtles. Dr. Witherington discussed the affects that light pollution has on female nesting, hatchlings, and light management techniques. He stated that a light management ordinance does not necessarily mean a dramatic change in lifestyles.

Mr. Ernest stated that armoring has caused harm for the protected species, and an effective ordinance needs to be in place. Boundaries and general standards through a wildlife conservation zone have been developed from county line to county line and the mean high water line landward of 750 feet. The general standards apply to any lighted structure in the wildlife conservation zone which is a light source that cannot be directly visible from the beach and it cannot directly or indirectly illuminate the beach. He briefly discussed the lighting standards for new construction, existing developments, and the

changes made from previous drafts. Mr. Ernest expressed his appreciation of Ms. Julie Hilton's constructive criticism to help prepare a better ordinance.

Chairman Comander asked for public comment.

Ms. Linda Hildreth, Mr. Robert Kamm, Ms. Dawn Moliterno, Mr. James Bennar, Attorney John Connell, Attorney Matthew Gaetz, Mr. Mike Chouri, Ms. Julie Hilton, and Mr. Emmett Hildreth in opposition of the presented ordinance and made some suggested changes.

Ms. Sharon Maxwell and Mr. Richard Folks spoke in favor of the presented ordinance.

Mr. McKee stated that the draft has been changed many times and there are still some concerns and questions.

Brief discussion continued regarding light meter issues.

Chairman Comander closed public comment.

Commissioner L. Jones suggested changing the language on page 6 to state: the beach cannot be lit any brighter than the moonlight. Commissioner Brannon stated that attention is needed with the public safety issues. Ms. Blackshear agreed that lighting is needed on the walkways. Commissioner C. Jones stated that the ordinance needs to be reasonable and find a balance.

Motion by Commissioner Brannon, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve a second public hearing on the wildlife conservation zone with lighting standards in Walton County. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner Brannon, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

APPROVED _____
Sara Comander, Chairman

ATTEST _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts