

WORKSHOP

JANUARY 26, 1998

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a regular workshop on January 26, 1998, at 8:30 a.m., in the Commissioner Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Chairman William A. Young, Vice-Chairman Van Ness Butler, Jr., Commissioner Joel Paul, Jr., Commissioner Randall Infinger and Commissioner Gordon Porter. Ronnie E. Bell, Administrative Supervisor, was also present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order followed by pledging allegiance to the American Flag and prayer.

Mr. Tom Powell, Walton County Economic Development Council Director, appeared before the Board and presented a list of accomplishments by the EDC during 1997. Mr. Powell discussed issues relating; to retaining local businesses in Walton County, new business assistance, marketing, and community improvement. Mr. Powell also presented a priority list for the Walton County EDC relating to servicing, marketing, and growth for new businesses.

Vice-Chairman Butler questioned the possibility of land being donated at First American Farms for an industrial park.

Mr. Bell asked if any Commissioner would like to serve on the EDC Board. Commissioner Porter asked Commissioner Infinger to fill the seat on the EDC Board. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Porter requested for Commissioner Paul to take his place on the Jobs and Education Partnership Board. Commissioner Paul stated that he is currently ex-officio member, but could consolidate the two seats. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Ms. Carol Woods, Owner of Vital Visions, Freeport, Florida, gave an overview of her company, manufacturer of recycling systems. She stated that there are requests from Mexico, Norway, Egypt, Australia, along with many other requests for their product. Ms. Woods stated that because of the large number of requests for their product, there is a large backorder. The facility is located on U.S. Highway 20 in Freeport and is currently too small for their operations. Due to regulations they are unable to add the needed space to the current 4000 square feet. Because of the emergency situation to fill the requested orders, Ms. Woods requested approval to add an awning

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to the existing building and place gravel in the loading area to prevent the forklifts from getting stuck, creating delays in shipping.

Mrs. Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, will contact the County Engineer to discuss the situation further and report back to the Board during Tuesday's meeting.

Chris Cadenhead, representing Lucky 13 Truck Stop, appeared before the Board to request a delay in the review of the figures paid to the Department of Revenue until Mr. Richard Lott, Bond Attorney for D/H Oil, can obtain the correct information. The Board agreed to delay discussion until those figures can be presented.

Mr. Matt Douglass, EMS Director, spoke to the Board in reference to the purchase and installation of communication equipment for 911 and EMS at the EOC Building. Mr. Douglass requested the Board to waive the bid procedure and purchase all of the equipment from Motorola to keep in conformity with the guidelines from Florida Division of Communications. Mr. Douglass stated that \$48,790 grant money is currently in the budget for the purchase of this equipment and the cost is \$64,851 for EMS and \$5,335 for the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Douglass stated that matching grant monies have been designated towards the purchase of this equipment and only \$3,000 above grant money would have to be spent from the EMS budget. The Board agreed to vote on this issue during tomorrow's regular scheduled meeting.

Mr. Douglass presented an employee performance evaluation for Greg Strickland, EMS employee, and recommended placing Mr. Strickland as a permanent full-time employee. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Porter informed the Board that a truck owned by F & W Construction lost control and side swiped the crane that is located on the job site at Corbin Gainey Road Bridge and ran into the generator damaging it beyond working condition.

Commissioner Porter stated that Mr. Buddy Lawrence, Division of Forestry, contacted him concerning Mr. Eddie Garrett's health and requested approval to write a letter to Mr. Garrett in appreciation for his years of service to The Division of Forestry. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to allow District 2 to perform maintenance on the parking lot of the St. Joseph A.M.E. Church on an emergency basis. This item

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will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to allow District 5 to perform one-time emergency maintenance on Red Fish Road (the non County maintained portion). This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Vice-Chairman Butler requested the Board waive the bid procedure and purchase limerock for District 5 to stockpile with an approximate cost of \$10,000. The Board agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Infinger requested the Board waive the bid procedure and purchase culverts from Gulf Atlantic Culvert in the amount of \$5,675.85 for District 3. The Board agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Jerry Fountain, Shop Manager/Purchasing Agent, appeared before the Board and requested approval for the County Shop to perform maintenance on Tri-County's vehicles, the oil and tire changes would remain with an outside company. Mr. Fountain stated that Tri-County would purchase the parts and the County would charge an hourly rate of \$20 which would reimburse the County for employees time and would provide additional work to keep the Shop employees busy during slow times when County equipment is not being utilized as often. The Board approved for the Walton County Board of County Commissioners to enter into a one year contract with Tri-County for the County Shop to service Tri-County vehicles at \$20 per hour and Tri-County provide the necessary parts. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain stated that he would like to purchase a brake lave for the County Shop to prevent delays that are being created by the employees having to take parts off, deliver, and pick up at the parts house. Mr. Fountain stated that the Sheriff will possibly pay one-half for the equipment for the Sheriff Department's vehicles to be serviced. The Board approved for Mr. Fountain to advertise for bids for one brake lave. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain requested approval to obtain pricing and information on the placement of a sewer system for the County facilities located on Montgomery Circle. The Board agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda. Mr. Fountain will report back to the Board with the information.

The Board recessed briefly.

Commissioner Infinger presented an employee performance evaluation on Mr. Jerry Fountain for approval. The Board agreed to vote on this during Tuesday's meeting.

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Mr. Steve Hopper, Allen Edmonds Shoe Corporation, appeared before the Board to request a variance to the ordinance to allow the annual tent sale to be held at Silver Sands Factory Outlet Stores. The Commissioners stated that they could not grant the request due to ordinance guidelines. Mrs. Shirl Williams stated that it is against the ordinance and the request could be presented to the Design Review Board. Mr. Hopper agreed to present the request to the Design Review Board.

The Commissioners ranked the top three choices for Hydrogeologists. Ms. Sara Comander, Administrative Assistant to the Clerk, tallied the scores and presented Hartman & Associates, Inc., Tallahassee, Florida as the number one choice, Brown Consulting Group, Inc., Ft. Walton Beach, Florida as number two, and Ensafe, Inc., Pensacola, Florida as number three.

Attorney Miller arrived to answer questions relating to the negotiation process for selecting a Geologist. Commissioner Paul questioned Attorney Miller regarding the legality of reviewing previous rates for geological services to acquire an estimate for comparison. Attorney Miller advised that as long as rates are not questioned during the negotiation process that it would be allowable to have knowledge of previous costs for comparison.

Mr. Tom Powell requested the Board appoint an individual to contact Representative Scarborough regarding the Federally owned property in Mossy Head. The Board agreed to appoint Tom Powell and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. John Sims, DeFuniak Springs resident, appeared before the Board to inform the Commissioners of a plan to develop a committee to organize Christmas lighting and decorations around the Lakeyard and throughout the County. Mr. Sims explained that he is working with the City of DeFuniak, Bureau of Tourism, Chelco, and Gulf Power to organize the task. Mr. Sims explained that he would like to divide the Lakeyard into 26 designated areas and sell each area for \$1,000 to different schools, clubs, and organizations for the purpose of setting up Christmas decorations and lighting. He stated that Walton Correctional Institute is willing to assist in constructing decorations if the material is supplied. Mr. Sims requested \$20,000 and stated that the money will be reimbursed as soon as the cash flow is available. Mr. Sims will be setting up a Board of Directors for the program and stated that the profits will go to needy organizations.

Mr. Sims stated that the money will return to the County from tourists,

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bus tours, trolley rides around the lake, and donations.

Attorney Miller advised Mr. Sims to continue working with the City of DeFuniak Springs in conjunction to road closures around the Lake during the month of December. Mr. Miller suggested designating the loan as a grant to the organization and provide a clause which would allow the loan to be repaid.

Commissioner Infinger requested Mr. Sims to contact Attorney Miller to draft an agreement after he organizes a Board. Mr. Sims will report back to the Commissioners at a later date.

Mr. Bobby Ammons, Assistant Public Works Director, presented a letter from Darrell Smith, Chairman of the Walton County Utilities Coordination Committee, requesting the Board of County Commissioners appoint a task force consisting of a representative from each utility to investigate possible solutions regarding the county's rights-of-way and make recommendations. The Board agreed to appoint Bobby Ammons and Commissioner Paul to serve on the task force. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Butler voiced his concerns regarding the need to appoint a representative from the Southern portion of the County. The Commissioners stated that there will be other representatives from South Walton on the task force. The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Ammons could appoint Mr. Allen Brown, District 5 Road Foreman, once the committee begins to form.

Mr. Ammons stated that M.D. Moody Company has been notified of the damage to the equipment from the accident with F & W Construction and will be sending a representative to assess the damages, and F & W will loan the County the necessary equipment resulting from damages from their truck.

Mr. Bell advised the Board of a letter from the City of DeFuniak Springs regarding the Juniper Lake Sprayfield. The Board agreed to coordinate the testing through the Public Works Department.

Mr. Bell submitted a copy of the proposed Franchise for Bruner Water Services for the Commissioners review.

The Board approved the satisfaction of final judgement on Carl and Rita McKnight in the amount of \$651.80. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved the satisfaction of final judgement on Warner Seigler in the amount of \$51.00. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

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Mr. Bell presented a letter from Mr. David Sella, DeFuniak Springs Postmaster, requesting maintenance on Oakwood Lakes Blvd., Bell Road, W. Raphael, Michaelangelo Road, Howlin Road, Swanee Ave.

Attorney Miller advised that he has written to Mr. Sella requesting a meeting to discuss the problems.

Discussion followed regarding maintenance of non-county maintained roads for buses and postal carriers. Mr. Bell stated that he will also contact Mr. Ron Burgess, Transportation Coordinator for the Walton County School Board.

Mr. Bell informed the Commissioners of a request from Ms. Marjorie Johnson, Portland Community, requesting a land swap for parcel 9 which abuts her property. Ms. Johnson is almost landlocked and would like to swap a portion of her property for parcel 9. Commissioner Porter stated that another resident next to Ms. Johnson is landlocked and might be interested in a land swap also. Commissioner Porter will contact the individuals involved.

Ms. Coe, Librarian, informed the Commissioners of a request from Digital Express regarding installation of telecommunication equipment at the South Walton Library for a period of three years. Mr. Ted Weise, Director of MIS, spoke with a representative from Digital Express and is not in favor of the installation. Mr. Weise stated that there is no benefit to Walton County or the Library and Digital Express is not willing to offer free access to any County office in exchange for the installation. The Board agreed to decline the request from Digital Express. Mr. Bell will contact Mr. John Stottlemire of Digital Express regarding the decision.

Ms. Coe informed the Commissioners that she stepped down from her position of Library Director. The Commissioners commended Ms. Coe for a job well done.

The Board approved to advertise for a public hearing to consider amending Ordinance 95-22, titled: Contractors Competency Board Ordinance. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved to appoint Captain Tom Pagels, Emergency Management Director, and Allen Brown, District 5 Road Foreman, to serve on the Technical Coordinating Committee of the (MPO) Metropolitan Planning Organization. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved for Betty Hunt and Lynda Robinson to attend a Worker's Compensation Workshop on February 5, 1998 in Ft. Walton Beach,

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Florida. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved payment of an invoice to Steven C. Bruce in the amount of \$6,000 for a survey on C.J. Laird Road, in District 1. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved a contract with The Department of Labor and approved to appoint Mrs. Angie Biddle to act as administrator of the workfare project. This item will be placed on the consent agenda. Commissioner Paul abstained from any vote because he is employed by OWCC.

Vice-Chairman Butler stated that South Walton Utility Company would like the Commissioners to visit their facilities and listen to a presentation. Discussion was held regarding the utility companies and the proposed utility ordinance. The Board agreed to visit South Walton Utility Company on February 2, 1998, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00.

Mr. Bell stated that Mary Linton, resident of Walton County, requested Walton County provide a dumpster to tear a house down and clean up the area located at the intersection of U.S. Hwy 90 and Kidd Road. The Commissioners agreed not to loan dumpsters unless in the event of a burn out situation.

Mr. Bell reminded the Board that it is time to consider extending the contract with Kassy Keyes, Lobbyist for Walton County. Ms. Keyes stated that she has structured her services to be provided through the July Legislative sessions and will only bill the County for those services provided. The contract will remain at the same rate as the current contract. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell stated that he will contact the Geologists to set a time to meet with the Commissioners for negotiations.

Mr. Gordon Lawyer, resident of the Juniper Lake Area, requested assurance from the Board that they will be included in the initial testing of the sprayfield. Mr. Lawyer was advised that Mr. Ammons will be taking care of the situation.

Mr. Bell announced to the press that the Commissioners will be taking a tour of the Springhill Landfill on Friday January 30, 1998, at 9:00 a.m. and also meeting with South Walton Utility on February 2, 1998, at 11:00 a.m.

Mrs. Suedelle Wilkerson, Accounting Supervisor, presented the Expenditure Approval List for Board approval. The following items were included on the list for payment approval.

EAL	\$414,445.33
Dept. of Environ. Regulations	100.00

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West Fl. Reg. Planning	3,206.00		
Florida Retirement	29,714.75		
Reliastar		4,645.06	
Howard Johnson's		164.74	
State of Florida	17,774.65		
Sasnett Home Builders	26,400.00		
Commercial Loan Processing Cntr	9,160.67		
Julian Webb & Associates	3,527.37		
Preble-Rish Inc.			75.00
Couch Construction		<u>106,086.76</u>	
TOTAL	\$615,300.33		

This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Commissioners questioned the process of notification from the banking institute regarding the lack of notification on electronic deposits. Mrs. Wilkerson stated that she spoke to a representative at SunTrust Bank and they will make an effort to correct the problem and will start sending copies of deposit slips. The Commissioners also questioned Mr. Weise regarding the current interest rate being received. Mr. Weise stated that all of the accounts are currently above two percent and just five points off the prime interest rate. He stated that when all of the accounts are consolidated then RFP's will be sent out to consider the bank with the highest rate of interest.

Mrs. Shirl Williams stated that the Planning Department received \$33,300 from application fees for development orders during the 1997 budget and is proposing to increase the fees an additional 25%. Mrs. Williams stated that they expect to collect in excess of \$41,000 and requested the Board to set a budget for the position of a Planner. Mrs. Williams stated that the proposed beginning wage would be \$30,000 depending on experience. Vice-Chairman Butler questioned the possibility of raising the fees enough to fund the entire position from fees collected. The Commissioners discussed raising the fees 50% this year and 50% next year. Commissioner Paul stated that he would like to compare Walton County's fees with surrounding counties. Mrs. Williams will research the information and report back to the Board.

Vice-Chairman Butler requested approval to establish a position of Field Assistant with a beginning salary of \$12.00 per hour and advertise the position. The Board agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

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APPROVED: _____

William A. Young, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Dan Bodiford, Clerk