

JANUARY 30, 2001 – WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a workshop on Tuesday, January 30, 2001 at 9:00 A.M. in the Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Tim Pauls, Commissioner Larry D. Jones, Chairman Herman L. Walker, Vice-Chairman Lane Rees and Commissioner Gene Ryan. Ms. Shirl Williams, Administrative Supervisor, Attorney George R. Miller and Ms. Rhonda Skipper, Administrative Supervisor to the Clerk of Courts, were also present.

Vice-Chairman Rees led with prayer following the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss private roads and a policy that will direct staff on the best way to deal with road issues as they arise.

Attorney Miller presented a draft policy for the Board's consideration listing nine areas of concern. Mr. Miller gave an overview of roads within subdivisions and stated that acceptance of them requires formal action of the Board. Bond issues were discussed briefly and the requirements that roads must be brought up to DOT specifications before the county could accept them. Ms. Williams explained the requirements for developers.

Commissioner Ryan stated that the county needs a policy but it also needs to be flexible enough to encourage increasing development.

Mr. Wayne Sconiers addressed the Commissioners regarding problems that his neighborhood faces at Blue Pond.

Attorney Miller explained the circumstances of emergency road maintenance and how roads are maintained over a four-year period thus becoming a county maintained road that is eventually accepted for routine maintenance.

Mr. Miller also reviewed the issues relating to maintenance of roads within the Oakwood Hills Subdivision. He stated that the roads were once platted but that they do not all exist. As they are constructed, it creates additional roads for the county to maintain. He advised the Board that the residents of Oakwood Hills Subdivision is still being charged a road maintenance fee, however, the county accepted those roads and has to maintain them, not the developer.

Mr. Mark Davis, Walton County School Board, addressed the issue regarding the number of miles busses travel on county roads. Mr. Davis stated many times bus drivers request the county to maintain a private road and over a period of four year it eventually becomes a county maintained road. Mr. Miller continued reviewing items 3-5.

Ms. Amena West questioned the Board regarding the amount of funds being spent on regular maintenance and asked if it would be more beneficial to the county to proceed with paving of the roads. Commissioner Rees stated that a plan needs to be developed that could progress over the years.

Again, Mr. Sconiers addressed problems at Blue Pond regarding right-of-way issues that need to be solved. Mr. Sconiers stated that the roads in his subdivision are private and that residents pay an annual maintenance fee.

Commissioner Rees stated that it might be beneficial to go on a fact-finding mission to review these types of problems.

Vice-Chairman Rees requested Attorney Miller to prepare a decision matrix policy and procedures clarifying which roads are county maintained and which ones are not to allow consistency with maintenance. Mr. Miller will present the list for review by the Commissioners and Road Foreman before a final decision at the last meeting in February.

Commissioner Pauls stated that a criteria needs to be established for consistency. Commissioner Jones agreed that it is imperative to have a policy to follow. Chairman Walker also agreed and stated that the policy should be uniformly enforced.

Chairman Walker questioned if the Board would consider entering into special session to allow staff to initiate proper paper work to apply for small counties appropriations for possible courthouse renovations.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to enter into emergency session. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Jones stated that this action is necessary in recognizing that this is the first step in looking into the renovations of the courthouse. Appropriations in the amount of \$1 million will be applied for if approval is granted. The request can be withdrawn if an alternative method is chosen for additional space; however, the request is due in Tallahassee tomorrow.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to authorize the Chairman's signature on the small counties community budget issue request applying for one million dollars for courthouse expansion. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Vice-Chairman Rees advised the Commissioners that Mr. Ken Little, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, has sent e-mail to four members of the House and Senate. He has also contacted them and has asked that Mrs. Biddle and Mr. Imfeld also contact them. Mr. Rees stated that they need to move expeditiously to fill the position of Lobbyist. Chairman Walker stated that it was his intent at the last meeting to allow Mr. Little or Commissioners to travel to Tallahassee to meet with Delegation if necessary.

Motion by Commissioner Larry Jones, second by Vice-Chairman Rees to close the special session. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED: _____
Herman L. Walker, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts