

REGULAR WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY

25, 1991

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in a regular workshop session on Monday, February 25, 1991, at 8:00 A.M. in the County Commission Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board Members were present: Chairman Sam Pridgen, Commissioner Gordon Porter, Commissioner Wilson Holley, and Commissioner Robert G. Fleet. The County's Administrative Supervisor, Mr. Ronnie E. Bell, was also present. Vice-Chairman Miles was absent.

Chairman Pridgen opened the workshop for discussions.

Mr. Dec Currie, Purchasing Agent, advised that to repair the County-wide Excavator the cost will be approximately \$120,000.00 with the old excavator bringing a trade-in value of approximately \$25,000.00 - \$30,000.00. Commissioner Holley expressed that he feels the existing excavator should be repaired.

Mrs. Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, advised that the Planning Commission met last week and unanimously recommends that the Board approve the Planned Unit Development (PUD) of Red Fish Lane. In addition, the Planning Commission also recommends that a zoning change request (developmental to industrial) from Mr. Woodrow "Buck" Sconiers be denied.

Mrs. Williams further advised of a Code Enforcement Board Meeting on February 28, 1991, at 6:00 P.M. Mrs. Williams stated that a revision of the County's Nuisance Ordinance may be needed--depending upon the outcome of Thursday evening's meeting.

Commissioner Fleet recommended the appointment of Mr Jim Taylor to replace Mr. Roy Godwin on the Zoning Board of Adjustments and the appointment of Mr. Alan McWilliams to the Industrial Development Authority.

Mrs. Williams advised that a District 4 representative is needed on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Bell advised of the dedication ceremonies of the new Judge Clyde Wells Bridge (Choctawhatchee Bay Bridge) to be conducted at 2:00 P.M., Friday, March 1, 1991.

Mr. Bell further advised that Mr. Charles McMillan, Courthouse Maintenance Supervisor, will have compiled price quotes on the replacement of the Courtroom windows to present at the Board's next regular workshop.

Mr. Bell stated that the Sheriff's Department has requested that an auction be scheduled. Commissioner Porter stated that he can provide the auctioneering services. He recommended the date of April 13, 1991. Mr. Bell will contact the Sheriff to determine if he is agreeable to that date.

Mrs. Delois Carroll, Business Manager of the Walton County Public Health Unit, appeared before the Board to ask that the Board reconsider the Health Department's request for an increase in vital statistics fees. When the Board previously denied the fee increase, they were under the impression that the request was for a \$5.00 increase when, in fact, it was for a \$1.00 increase. The Board thanked Mrs. Carroll for the correct information and stated that they would take it under consideration.

Commissioner Fleet stated that he has visited the area where Ms. Judy Holley Hester's property is located. She has an alternate route into her property other than Chrysler Avenue--which abandonment she has asked to be set aside. A Brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Fleet stated that a gentleman has offered a 30-foot right-of-way along La Grange Road (the right-of-way is approximately one mile in length). In exchange the County would assume the construction/maintenance of two additional roads within the same subdivision. Commissioner Fleet further stated that he has notified the gentleman that he will accept and improve the 30-foot right-of-way on behalf of the County but, according to County policy, the additional roads must be brought up to County specifications before the County will accept them.

Commissioner Holley recommended that each District should have the paving crew and equipment an equal amount of time and that they should finish the specific job within the District before rotating to the next scheduled District. The Board agreed.

General discussion followed regarding certain projects throughout the County which should possibly be County-wide efforts rather than a single district's project (i.e. Little League field improvement, DeFuniak Airport, Prison Road).

The Board agreed to repair the County's excavator.

Commissioner Holley emphasized the need to place experienced operators on County equipment.

Commissioner Holley advised that he will not be present in the regular meeting of March 11 and March 12.

Commissioner Porter stated that there would be individuals present in the regular meeting of February 26 requesting an investigation into the expenditure of grant funds in conjunction with the Mossy Head Community Center. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Martha Ingle, Chief Deputy Clerk, reviewed the letters to the Board and reviewed the items on the agenda of the Regular Meeting of February 26, 1991. General discussion followed.

Mrs. Catherine King, Comptroller, appeared before the Board to advise that she always strives to invest the County's money at the highest interest rate and to borrow money for the County at the lowest interest rate. At times, negotiations between institutions are necessary in order to guarantee the high or low rate. In this manner, sometimes thousands of dollars are saved (when borrowing) or generated (through investing). Written proposals on interest rates do not allow this negotiation process and possibly costs the County unnecessary additional expenditure. The Board agreed that the Comptroller should follow the procedure that best allows the lowest or highest interest rates to be acquired.

Lengthy discussion regarding the Walton Regional Hospital followed.

Commissioner Holley recommended that the current year's budget be revisited in order to determine areas of overspending.

Commissioner Fleet and Commissioner Holley requested information on the new ambulance billing arrangement and how this year's collections compares to last year's.

Lengthy discussion regarding the hospital continued.

Commissioner Porter stated that he will proceed with partitioning a section in the large metal building located at the Walton County Maintenance Complex for storage of some of the Clerk's records. It will be in the same building as the voting machines. Also, the area for storage must be climate-controlled.

Chairman Pridgen adjourned the workshop.

APPROVED: _____

Sam Pridgen, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Catherine King, Clerk