

WORKSHOP

MARCH 8, 1999

The Board of county Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a regular Workshop on Monday, March 8, 1999, at 8:30 a.m. in the Commission Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following members were present: Chairman Joel Paul, Jr., Vice-Chairman Van Ness Butler, Jr., Commissioner Gene Ryan, Commissioner Randall Infinger, and Commissioner Herman Walker. Ronnie E. Bell, Administrative Supervisor, was also present.

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

Mrs. Suedelle Wilkerson, Finance Supervisor, presented the Expenditure Approval List (EAL) consisting of the following bills:

General Fund	\$ 30,526.31
County Transportation Trust	229,101.37
N. Walton Mosquito Control	1,189.47
Library	3,140.28
Solid Waste Enterprise	868.44
Mossy Head VFD	2,176.65
Glendale VFD	1,130.22
Liberty VFD	20.20
Red Bay VFD	27.94
TDC/AmSouth	57,284.32
Section 8 Housing	18.90
SHIP	5,050.06

The Commissioners approved payment of bills as presented on the EAL and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell reminded the Commissioners of a public information meeting that will be held on April 8, 1999 regarding the widening of U.S. Highway 98.

The Commissioners approved for Mrs. Ingrid Burmeister, Section 8 Housing Director, to attend a Finance Management Seminar in Tampa, Florida, May 3-5, 1999. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. James E. Ray appeared before the Commissioner requesting the Board abolish the Scenic 98 Corridor Standards on CR 30A and U.S. Highway 98 to allow individual business owners the opportunity to design their own businesses. Mr. Ray stated that he strictly followed the guidelines, and even went above and beyond the requirements. Mr. Ray advised the Commissioners of other businesses that are not in compliance and further explained that a member of the Variance Board himself is not in compliance. Mr. Ray requested the Commissioners review the discrepancies. Mrs. Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, stated that the Planning Commission is currently

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reviewing the issue and making changes. The Commissioners took this issue under advisement.

The Commissioners approved for Charles Knight, Courthouse Maintenance employee, to attend a Backflow Preventative Valve Class March 22, 1999, in Destin, at a cost of \$545.00. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Phil Givens, Chairman of the Walton County Fire Board, appeared before the Commissioners and informed them of various activities relating to volunteer fire fighting. Mr. Givens advised that a representative from T & L Communications will be giving a presentation. Mr. Givens also advised the Commissioners that the fire departments are in need of additional Jaws of Life units. Commissioner Infinger requested that Mr. Givens contact the Purchasing Department to obtain an actual cost for the unit.

Mr. Charles Plauche appeared before the Commissioners representing a proposed project, Haven House, a recovery house for rehabilitating alcoholics. Mr. Plauche informed the Commissioners that the organization is purchasing a 10 acre parcel on CR393 and will be applying for permits and wanted to inform the Board of their activities before the process begins. Mr. Plauche stated that the plan will accommodate up to 14 male residents.

Mr. Billy Bearden submitted a letter to the Board regarding Mr. Larry Nelson, Building Inspector. Mr. Bearden stated that although Mr. Nelson has performed his duties in an acceptable manner, he has been unable to pass the Inspector's examination.

The Board approved to advertise for the position of Building Inspector. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bearden also requested authorization to submit an updated contractor's permit fee schedule to bring in line with various surrounding counties.

Mr. Roger Roy, Assistant Chief of Liberty Volunteer Fire Department, presented a map of newly proposed site locations for additional fire hydrants. Mr. Roy explained delays in fire fighting and the need for the additional hydrants. Commissioner Infinger requested for Commissioner Paul to appear before the DeFuniak Springs City Council to request assistance with the installation of additional fire hydrants.

The Commissioners recessed briefly.

Ms. Evelyn Tew addressed the Commissioners and voiced her opposition to the mini warehouses (Signature Properties) approved for construction. Ms.

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Tew will appear again tomorrow during the regular scheduled meeting.

Ms. Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, presented an invoice from Hamm Compactors in the amount of \$11,000.00 for the lease payment on the RACO machine. Commissioner Walker stated that he would like to advertise for a new machine of the same type. No action was taken.

Commissioner Infinger requested authorization to install a street light at the corner of State Road 83 and Juniper Lake Road. The Board approved and placed this item on the consent agenda.

The Board approved for District 4 to repair the fence at the blue storage building and align the double gates with the building entrance. This item was placed on the consent agenda for approval.

Chairman Paul requested to appoint another commissioner to take over the responsibilities of overseeing Public Works. Commissioner Infinger advised that this issue will be addressed during Tuesday's regular meeting.

Commissioner Ryan informed the Board that Mrs. Melissa Beasly, Supervisor of Elections, has requested assistance in painting of the Portland Community Center. Discussion followed regarding the amount of funds expended on various community centers for upkeep and utility bills. The Board directed Commissioner Ryan to obtain a cost estimate from Mrs. Beasly regarding the amount of funds spent at each facility used as a voting precinct.

The Board approved a pay increase for Brooks Davis, RACO Foreman, from \$11.80 to \$14.00 per hour. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved to hire the following as contract laborers for the purpose of part-time relief paramedics: Robert M. Brekoski, Richard F. Mihalich, Marc Stankiewicz, Gerald Stargel. Hire the following as contract laborers as EMT's: Ralph J. Digise, John H. Leonard, Karen L. May, Melanie R. Ortiz, Terry C. Parris, Thomas L. Thompson, and Douglas M. Weathers. The Board placed this item on the consent agenda for approval.

The Board approved to advertise the vacancy of a Janitorial and a Maintenance position in the Courthouse Maintenance Department. This item was placed on the consent agenda for approval.

The Board approved to placed Woodrow Via, District 5, in the correct pay grade and raise his salary from \$8.60 to \$8.95 per hour, effective March 1, 1999. This item was placed on the consent agenda for approval.

Commissioner Ryan advised that Mr. Harold Petty will be transferred

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back to the position of Assistant Foreman, District 4, and requested to change the Construction Project Inspector to a temporary position. The Board agreed to transfer Mr. Petty and approved to advertise for the temporary position of Construction Project Inspector. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved to advertise in-house two vacant Truck Driver positions, District 4, and allow Mr. Larry Nelson to apply for any vacancies within the County. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bruce Ward, Extension Agent, introduced Ms. Kimberly Bruce, 4-H Agent, to the Commissioners and presented an overview of her experience and recommended her, along with the University of Florida, for the position of 4-H Agent for Walton County. The Board approved the recommendation and placed this item on the consent agenda for approval.

The Board approved the Vehicle Utilization Record Form for County Travel. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Commissioners approved a satisfaction of final judgement in the amount of \$779.05 between Walton County Hospital and Jimmy and Shannon Davis. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell presented a draft resolution from Wakulla County regarding Marine Net Fishing, in consideration for the Board's support. The Commissioners were not in favor of supporting the resolution.

Mr. Bell presented a memorandum from Bay County requesting the Commissioners support a Billfish Proclamation. The Commissioners tabled this item pending further review.

Mr. Lloyd Thompson, resident of the Liberty Community, appeared before the Commissioners advising them of continuous problems with Thompson Road washing out. Mr. Thompson stated that he has been in contact with FEMA personnel. Commissioner Infinger advised that he has spoken with the Soil Conservation, however, has not received any assistance. Mr. Infinger stated that the problem needs to be corrected to avoid the continuous wasteful spending of funds correcting the problem. He also stated that training for county employees will soon begin to enable them to learn how to correct water run off problems.

Chief Rine, Tri-Village Fire Department, appeared before the Commissioners and informed them that four companies submitted quotes for the pumper tanker fire truck, of which only one met the required specifications. Mr. Rine stated that KME, Panama City, Florida, submitted a quote in the

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amount of \$277,803.00. Mr. Rine stated that the requested truck is a heavy duty truck and has a larger water tank than normal. The Commissioners tabled further discussion of this item until the County Attorney can be present. The Board scheduled Chief Rine to appear during Tuesday's regular meeting.

Mr. Dennis Smith, member of the Walton County Redistricting Committee, appeared before the Commissioners and presented three proposed plans based on a current population of 38,000 but advised that they will have to wait for the 2001 census to be published.

Commissioner Butler recommended holding a Strategic Planning Workshop. The Board approved to establish a date to facilitate a two day planning workshop regarding the preliminary five year county road project plan. This item was placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Jack Arthur, Preble-Rish Engineering, appeared before the Commissioners and presented the recommendations for the beach renourishment project. Mr. Arthur stated that the following four firms submitted qualifications: Taylor Engineering, Jacksonville, Florida; Coastal Technologies, Destin, Florida; Coastal Planning and Engineering; and G.M. Selby.

The Commissioners approved the ranking of the four firms and instructed Mr. Bell to set a date to conduct interviews on March 15, 1999, at 1:00 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of purchasing fuel jointly between Walton County and the School Board. The Board approved to allow Mr. Jerry Fountain, Purchasing Agent, to work with Mr. Mac Work, Walton County School District, to prepare a proposal regarding the joint purchasing of fuel between Walton County and Walton County School Board and present the proposal to the Commissioners at a later date. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Commissioners recessed until 1:30 p.m.

The Commissioners approved to award bid #99-146, carpet for the Public Defender, to Evans Carpet, DeFuniak Springs, Florida, in the amount of \$5,301.50. This item will be placed on the consent agenda. Mr. Fountain explained that only one bid was received because other vendors did not want to move furniture.

The Board approved the purchase of two foam filled tires for the front end loader at the Landfill, from Howell's Tire, Pensacola, Florida, in the amount of \$1,245.10 each. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved to allow the Purchasing Department to make purchases

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up to \$10,000.00 for pre-approved projects with the Chairman's signature, and be presented to the Board at the next regular scheduled meeting. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved the purchase of an 800 mhz radio from Southern Linc for the Purchasing Department. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Chairman Paul reminded the Commissioners that a contract for legal services need to be drafted. The Commissioners agreed to discuss this issue further during Tuesday's regular meeting.

The Commissioners agreed to direct Mrs. Lynda Robinson, Human Resource Officer, to prepare a job description for the position of Personnel Technician and present to the Board. This item was placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved for Mr. Miner, County Engineer, to attend the Hurricane Conference, June 7-11, 1999, in Tampa, Florida. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved payment in the amount of \$35.00 to the National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Properties for Associate membership. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Discussion was held regarding the four laning of U.S. Highway 98 and the required deeds. The Board approved Chairman Paul's signature on the Department of Transportation's resolutions regarding quit claim deeds for the widening of U.S. Highway 98. This item was placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Clay Saunders, Department of Transportation, appeared before the Commissioners regarding the acquisition of right-of-way in the Scenic Corridor and requested the Commissioners adopt a condemnation relief ordinance granting relief to business owners who are effected by the widening. Attorney Miller will review the proposed condemnation relief ordinance and present a recommendation during Tuesday's meeting.

The Commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Jerry Ogle, President of the Hewitt Point Home Owners Association, addressed a problem relating to the poor condition of the roads in his area. Commissioner Butler stated that the roads in question are not county roads and cannot be maintained by the county. Mr. Ogle advised that the Association has agreed to pay one half the cost for engineering fees to bring the road up to standards.

The Commissioners approved for District 5 to perform emergency

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maintenance on paradise Point Lane. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Ms. Delois Carroll, Business Manager for the Walton County Health Department, informed the Commissioners of a possible site location on U.S. Highway 90 East near the HRS Building. The parcel is 5.60 acres at a cost of \$150,000.00. However, the parcel is split and not feasible for a new Health Department Facility. Ms. Carroll stated that they are still interested in the site located on SR 83 North. The Commissioners will continue reviewing the information and discuss this issue further at a later time.

Ms. Martha Ingle appeared before the Commissioners reporting on the current status of various budgets. The Commissioners directed Ms. Ingle to pay for newly purchased equipment totaling \$236,410.00 from the Local Option Gas Tax. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved an Interdepartmental budget transfer in the amount of \$6,085.00 from General Fund contingencies into Cluster Springs Community Center Repair and Maintenance. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved to adopt a resolution amending \$83,547.00 into General Fund for the River Buy-out Program for Rupert and Mamie Simpler and Ballard and Betty Bowers. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Steve Toepper, Librarian, appeared before the Commissioners and advised that 73% of the grant funds have been received for the Frame Relay. Mr. Toepper also stated that the Clerk will assist with the cost for the wide area network. The Board approved payment to Sprint in the amount of \$14,150.00 for the wide area network system and approved the contract. The Clerk will pay \$11,695.00 of the total cost. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

After reviewing the alternatives with Mr. Mallory, regarding the river buy-out program, Mr. Bell advised the Commissioners that several options are available in solving the situation regarding the boat dock on the Mallory's property. Mr. Bell stated that the County could purchase the property and leave it open to the Bosewells and the public; buy it and lease it to the Bosewells with them being liable; or buy it and deed that portion of property with the boat dock back to the Boswells.

Mrs. Boswell offered to pay \$1,500.00 for the boat dock, saving FEMA that amount and draft separate deeds for that portion of the property where the boat dock lies. The Commissioners agreed to discuss this issue further

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during Tuesday's regular meeting.

Mr. Bell informed the Commissioners that Mr. Doug Gandy, Woodlawn Community, has agreed to place a fire hydrant at the United Volunteer Fire Station, but not at the corner of Coy Burgess Road and U.S. Highway 331 South. The County will pay one half the cost and the City of DeFuniak Springs will pay one half, totalling \$1,500.00 each.

The Board approved to proceed with the installation of one fire hydrant at the United Volunteer Fire Department and pay one half the cost in the amount of \$1,500.00. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell presented information to the Commissioners regarding Santa Rosa County's charge for burying large animals. The Commissioners deferred this item to Attorney Miller for review.

Mr. Bell presented information from Alltel Communications regarding a promotional for county employees. The Commissioners agreed to allow the information to be posted on the bulletin board, however, did not want it distributed with every paycheck.

The Board approved Phillip Anderson as District 2's appointment to the Redistricting committee and Hansel Geoghagan as District 2's appointee to the CDBG Advisory Committee. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved a right-of-entry form for District 4 to remove top soil donated from the Kentucky Fried Chicken construction site. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved a right-of-entry form for District 4 to clean up debris on a lot located on Orange Street, North Oakwood Hills. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell informed the Commissioners of a request by Mr. Dexter Burke, District 5 resident, for emergency maintenance on a private road. The Commissioners agreed to discuss this issue further at a later time.

The Board approved for District 5 to perform emergency repairs on Casa Grande Lane. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell reminded the Commissioners of a public hearing on April 15, 1999, at 5:30 p.m., at Butler Elementary, regarding the purchase of property in South Walton.

Commissioner Walker reminded the Board that a list of roads needs to be drafted with priority and that a right-of-way crew needs to be working ahead of the RACO Crew for efficiency.

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The Board approved for District 3 to purchase two (2) box culverts for Williams Road. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved for Jason Cook to remove lumber from an old washed out bridge on Hub Presley Road, District 3. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Commissioners approved to advertise for bids for the purchase of a beach patrol vehicle to be purchased from Recreational Impact Fees. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Joel Paul, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Dan Bodiford, Clerk