

WORKSHOP

MARCH 24, 1997

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in regular workshop session on Monday, March 24, 1997 at 8:30 a.m., in the Commission 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. The County Administrator, Ronnie Bell, County Attorney, George R. Miller and Clerk of Court, Dan Bodiford, were also present.

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

Nancy James, President of Friends of the Coastal Branch Library, presented a resolution adopted by the Friends of the Coastal Branch Library pledging a minimum of \$250,000 to place toward the construction and equipment of the new library to be located in the New Town Center. The Board was provided a copy of the resolution passed on January 9, 1996 where the Board of Commissioners pledged an amount not to exceed \$250,000 (including in-kind services) to be placed toward the construction of the new library. Ms. James presented a proposed resolution applying for a state matching grant in the amount of \$500,000 to the Board for review. The Board recommended changes to the resolution. This item will be tabled for discussion at tomorrow's regular meeting.

The Board agreed to allow Southeastern Soil Scientist to conduct a soil analysis on the proposed South Walton Library site as recommended by Preble-Rish. The cost is approximately \$3500. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Laverne Camacho, representing the South Walton Fire Department, appeared before the Board to request the old District 3 office building be donated and moved to South Walton to be utilized by the Fire Department. The Board agreed to abandon the building and declare as surplus to donate to the South Walton Fire Department. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Bobby Ammons, Assistant Public Works Director, advised of a request from the Walton County Correctional Institution for seventy metal signs from the county sign shop for their perimeter alert system. The cost is \$12.00 per sign. The Board agreed to divide the cost by the five districts. This

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item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Ammons advised of an invoice, previously approved, from Young's Construction in the amount of \$34,776 for grinding debris at the landfill. Mr. Ammons stated that the work has been completed and payment can be released.

Mr. Ammons advised that the cost of renting a lowboy to haul concrete slabs from the landfill to the construction site of the old Jolly Bay Bridge was \$520. Mr. Ammons stated that there are seventy useable slabs remaining.

Melinda Watson, representing the Humane Society, appeared before the Board to advise of a problem which occurred last Friday. Patsy Register, Animal Control Officer, presented three signed affidavit of complaints regarding two dogs owned by Dusty and Janice Burke being on Galilean Academy property during school hours and frightening the children. Ms. Register stated that Mr. Burke was notified of the problem and asked to restrain his dogs on his own property. Mr. Burke responded that Galilean Academy should erect a fence to keep his dogs off the property. The dogs were impounded and Mr. Burke became outraged when he was told to pay the release fee of a third offense. Ms. Register stated that Mrs. Burke, an attorney, threatened to file a law suit against the Humane Society. Attorney Miller advised Ms. Register to direct Mrs. Burke to his office. The Board directed Ms. Register to contact the Humane Society Board of Directors and suggest a higher fee schedule to present at tomorrow's regular meeting. The Board voiced their approval with the way in which Ms. Register handled the situation with Mr. Burke.

Earl Godsey, resident of Bruce, appeared before the Board to discuss the zip coding system. The Board agreed to direct Attorney Miller to prepare a resolution requesting the United States Postal Service review and conform all zip codes within Walton County. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Porter left the meeting.

Malcolm Patterson, Executive Director of the South Walton Tourist Development Council, presented the low bid of \$17,500 from Gary Smith Ford for a beach truck. Mr. Patterson stated that this price is lower than the state contract price. The Board agreed to accept the low bid from Gary Smith Ford and place this item on the consent agenda. Mr. Patterson stated that the truck to be replaced has a high trade-in value of approximately \$12,500. Mr. Patterson stated that his department wishes to replace the beach vehicles

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before maintenance becomes too costly. Commissioner Infinger suggested that vehicles be utilized within the county departments if needed rather than sold at the auction. Mr. Patterson will bring the vehicle for inspection tomorrow.

Mr. Patterson presented the artificial reef bid contract for Chairman Young's signature.

Sheriff Quinn McMillian advised of approximately 33 acres for sell by Louisiana Pacific located on Highway 83. The property has a big metal building on it which could be utilized for storing cars or a helicopter hanger. The Board agreed to allow Sheriff McMillian to pursue purchasing the property. The funds will be budgeted in the upcoming fiscal year. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to allow Sheriff McMillian to apply for the drug grant from the State in the amount of \$72,238. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board recessed briefly.

Dr. Jim Thompson, representing Healthmark, appeared before the Board to request a one year extension on the previous six month extension of the lease at the Hospital. Dr. Thompson explained that the banks he had been dealing with concerning a loan were no longer interested because the government has mentioned reducing medicare payments to the extent of one hundred thirty-nine billion dollars over the next five years. As a result, financing is being sought using a loan guarantee by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The loan application consists of a great deal of paperwork and research as well as funds to be spent providing the information. The newly elected commissioners stated that they would like to review the original lease agreement with Healthmark before granting another extension. Dr. Thompson requested that the Board extend the previous six month extension for one year and consider waiving the yearly rent fee so that the funds could be placed toward the loan application. The Board agreed to grant Healthmark an extension of the six month lease extension until May 1, 1997 to allow the Board an opportunity to review the original lease agreement. This item will be placed on the agenda for April 8, 1997 to consider granting a one year lease extension. The temporary extension will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell presented the plans for constructing a two story building on the county owned property located adjacent to the Section 8 Housing

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Department. The cost to construct the building using county labor is approximately \$178,000. The Board discussed housing the Public Defender's Office in the building. Mr. Bell advised that the current facility which is being rented to house the Public Defender is dilapidated and needs major repairs. The Board discussed renting or purchasing space "down town" on Baldwin Avenue. Tom Powell, representing the Economic Development Council, stated that the Enterprise Zone Plan is to revitalize the "down town" area to attract visitors such as placing retail stores in those vacant buildings on Baldwin Avenue. The Board directed Mr. Bell to obtain the purchase price on the Le Sa Pa (old Moore Furniture) building.

Commissioner Porter returned.

Chairman Young presented a letter from Virginia Pridgen regarding possible contamination caused by fuel and county equipment on her property. The property, located in Gaskin, was utilized for many years as the District 2 yard for storing District 2 equipment and diesel pumps. Chairman Young stated that he felt the county had no obligation to clean up the contamination because it was the choice of the District 2 Commissioner at that time, Sam Pridgen, to use his property as the District 2 yard. Commissioner Porter stated that the county has in the past had a responsibility to clean up contamination in the county regardless as to who owned the property or what it was being used for. Ronnie Hudson, Public Works Director, stated that the State may clean up any possible contamination. The Board directed Mr. Bell, Attorney Miller and Chairman Young to meet with Mrs. Pridgen to discuss the matter and any possible solutions.

Tom Powell presented an Economic Development report and update on ongoing projects in Walton County.

Attorney Miller reviewed the contract with Blue Ridge International Products Company. The County is responsible for constructing and maintaining the road leading to the Company and responsible for providing an audit. The Board agreed to review the contract.

The Board agreed to advertise to abandon two roads located in District 2: Sarah Lane and Gill Road. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Paul advised that he would like to advertise for bids to repair Sandy Creek Bridge located in District 1. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

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Vice-Chairman Butler advised that the Freeport Town Planner's Society is requesting the \$1500 which the Board pledged to donate on April 30, 1996.

The Board agreed to grant the Council on Aging's request that the County provide a dumpster at area residents' homes that are being repaired under the Florida Fix Program. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to waive the bid procedure and purchase a Ford Taurus from Orville Beckford Ford for the state contract price of \$15,295 to be utilized by Ronnie Bell, County Administrator. The funds will be taken from General Fund contingencies. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to approve the lowest quote from Burgess Paint and Body in the amount of \$1,650 to paint the Walton County Bookmobile. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to appoint Dan Bodiford, Clerk of Courts, to serve on the First Judicial Circuit Conflict Committee for 1997. Mr. Bodiford accepted the appointment. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to accept a check in the amount of \$281 to satisfy a judgement placed on the estate of Daisy Rushing by the County Hospital. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to approve a request from Wayne Peacock, First Judicial Circuit Court Administrator, to support State Bill 722 and House Bill 505-144-97. Both bills would generate revenue to support Article V expenses. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised that the Board and members of the road department have received an invitation to attend a seminar on paving during April. The seminar is being sponsored by Superfos Construction, Inc. located in Dothan, Alabama. The Board agreed to attend the seminar on April 11, 1997.

Mr. Bell presented a proposed job description for the position of Personnel Director for the Board's review.

Mr. Bell presented a revised copy of the Walton County Personnel Policies. The Board agreed to schedule a workshop on April 2, 1997 beginning at 1:00 p.m. to discuss further revisions.

The Board agreed to allow Pauline Wamble and Dale Edwards to attend a Section 8 Housing seminar in Washington D.C. on April 10 and 11, 1997. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to allow Mike Barker and Ronnie Bell to attend the Hurricane Conference in Tampa on June 2 through June 6, 1997. This item will

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be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to allow Vice-Chairman Butler to authorize the issuance of temporary beach vehicle permits as necessary. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised that the result of the referendum placed on the November ballot regarding the nudity ordinance passed. The Board needs to schedule a public hearing to adopt a new nudity ordinance.

The Board agreed to approve payment of a bill from the Florida Workers Compensation Joint Underwriting Association (FWCJUA) in the amount of \$1736 for the Mossy Head/Oakwood Hills Volunteer Fire Department. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to allow Commissioner Infinger to cut underbrush on Tri-County/Head Start property as requested. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

William A. Young, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Dan Bodiford, Clerk