

WORKSHOP

March 27, 1995

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in Workshop Session at 8:30 a.m. in the Commission Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Chairman Gordon Porter, Vice-Chairman Sam Pridgen, Commissioner Johnnie Moore, Commissioner Charles E. Harris, and Commissioner Rosier E. Cuchens, Jr. Administrative Supervisor Ronnie E. Bell was also present.

Chairman Porter called the meeting to order.

Mr. Don Brown and Jim Cashdollar appeared before the Board to request that Capitol American Life Choices group insurance plan be placed on the county's payroll deduction program. This item was placed on the consent agenda.

Ms. Betty Jordan of Sims Design Consultants of Jacksonville appeared before the Board to make a presentation of their engineering services. Mr. John Sims, president of that company told the Board of its 24-hour service and affordable pricing. Ms. Jordan said that this consulting firm was an expert at obtaining grants for small counties and cities like Walton County.

Mr. Bob Klein of the Baskerville Donovan consultants appeared before the Board. Mr. Klein said that his firm works for Bay County in waste disposal and other areas. He said that the 100-person staff would serve Walton County well.

Administrative Supervisor Ronnie Bell said that the Board should set up a meeting date to listen to presentations from the engineering firms. Mr. Bell also said the Board should develop a short list of the 16 applicants for the engineering services.

Mr. Bruce M. Pease appeared before the Board to present the expenses of the Mossy Head Volunteer Fire Department. He said that a representative of the Mossy Head Volunteer Fire Department will make quarterly statements to the Board similar to the one today. He also requested that the Board approve two bills for payment that are more than the previously established \$500 limit. These two bills are as follows: \$5,998 to Coggins Insurance Agency

for complete insurance coverage and \$2,500 to the Village of Lima for truck payment. This item was placed on the consent agenda.

Ms. Terry Joseph of the Northwest Florida Regional Planning Council appeared before the Board to acknowledge receipt of the Board's letter requesting help with the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. She told the Board that the application for this grant was due May 5. She also told the Board that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds had been released for Northwest Florida. She said that all of the \$2 million of this money was distributed to only Wakulla and Leon counties.

Mr. Bell said that the county's application for this money was forwarded to the Department of Community Affairs and then forwarded to the federal level.

Mr. Porter said that the county needs to contact Sen. Connie Mack, Sen. Bob Graham, and Rep. Joe Scarborough to see why these funds for Northwest Florida were distributed to only two counties.

Mr. Bell said the a Public Hearing about this Hazard Mitigation Program should be held quickly to make the May 5 deadline. The Board agreed to schedule a Public Hearing about the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program at the Red Bay Volunteer Fire Department/Community Center to discuss this program.

At this time (9:00 a.m.), Mr. Bell unsealed the bids for six trucks.

- A) 1 1992 MACK EM7-300 WITH TRI-AXLE
SERIAL #2M2P264C2NC011075-BCC 1492
- B) 1 1993 MACK EM7-300 WITH TRI-AXLE
SERIAL #1M2P264C8PM012346-BCC 1615
- C) 1 1993 MACK 3M7-300 WITH TRI-AXLE
SERIAL #1M2P264C6PM012345-BCC 1616
- D) 1 1994 FORD L8000 WITH TRI-AXLE
SERIAL #1FDZU82E8RVA41443-BCC 1855
- E) 1 1994 FORD L8000 WITH TRI-AXLE
SERIAL #1FDZU82E1RVA41445-BCC 1856
- F) 1 1994 FORD L8000 WITH TRI-AXLE
SERIAL #1FDZU82E0RVA41663-BCC 1857

The following were the only bids on these trucks. All of these bids were from Acour Heavy Equipment.

- A) \$46,500
- B) \$52,500
- C) \$52,500
- D) \$52,500
- E) \$52,500
- F) \$52,500

Mr. Bell then unsealed the bid proposals for Bid No. 95-104, one new pickup truck 4 x 2. The bids received for Bid No. 95-104 are as follows:

Cook Whitehead Ford of Panama City	\$13,173
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Orville-Beckford Ford of Pensacola	\$13,100
Hub City Ford of Crestview	\$13,276.03
Triangle Chevrolet Buick of DeFuniak	\$13,502.52

Mr. Bell then unsealed the bids for Bid No. 95-105, one vertical hydraulic baler. The following bids were received:

Consolidated Feed and Supply of DeFuniak	\$ 8,874.12
Bruce Mooney and Associates of Pennsylvania	\$ 6,950.00
Fleetco of Pensacola	\$ 7,465.00
All South Machinery and Supply of Dothan	\$11,511.00

Mr. Bell then unsealed the bids for Bid No. 94-120, one new skid steer loader. The bids received for Bid No. 94-120 are as follows:

Beard and Equipment Co. of Pensacola	\$27,900.00
All South Machinery and Supply of Dothan	\$29,046.00

Mr. Bell then opened the bids for Bid No. 95-106, one new brush chipper. The bids received for Bid No. 95-106 are as follows:

All South Machinery and Supply of Dothan	NO BID
Consolidated Feed and Supply of DeFuniak	NO BID

The Board placed the rebidding of this item, Bid No. 95-106, on the consent agenda.

Mr. Ben Hammet appeared before the Board and presented it with an amended proposed Sea Turtle ordinance. He also presented the Board with a letter from Sandra L. MacPherson, Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator for the Fish and Wildlife Service. In this letter, Ms. MacPherson acknowledges the need for a sea turtle ordinance that would combat certain bright lights near the beach.

Ms. Lorna Patrick of the Panama City office of the Fish and Wildlife Service said that her office tries to balance safety concerns of a dark beach with the wildlife concerns of illuminating this beach with bright lights. She said that low-pressure sodium lights are ideal near the beach because they provide light and have minimal impact on the sea turtles. She said that in the proposed ordinance the first lights targeted would be bright spot lights. These spot lights would be retrofitted within one year of adoption of this ordinance. All other lights would have to be changed within 3 years. Ms. Patrick said another solution to the safety question would be installing motion sensors on bright lights used to illuminate the beaches.

Mr. Tom Patton told the Board that heavy traffic areas would make motion sensors impractical. Mr. Van Ness Butler said that he was concerned

initially with the window tinting requirement of the proposed ordinance but was comfortable with it now.

The Board decided to schedule a Public Hearing concerning this Sea Turtle Ordinance for April 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the TDC offices.

Mr. Bell alerted the Board to the availability for purchase of a lot at the corner of 7th Street and Sloss Ave. in DeFuniak Springs. The lot is in close proximity to the Courthouse and is directly adjacent to the Department of Housing and Urban Development building. Mr. Bell said that the lot's dimensions are 75 feet by 150 feet. The asking price is \$20,000. Mr. Bell said that the lot is currently zoned R2 and that a zoning change would be required if a parking lot or office building are placed there. The Board said to pursue the purchase of this lot and obtain a current appraisal.

Mr. Bell presented a letter to the Board from Mr. James Thompson of Healthmark that says he will not be able to attend the March 28 meeting to discuss the hospital. He said that he will meet with the Board at a mutually agreeable time. The Board agreed to schedule an emergency meeting to discuss the hospital at Mr. Thompson's convenience. This item was placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell presented a letter from Sandra Kuhn requesting the Board adopt a Resolution declaring April 3-7 as Public Health Week. This item was placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell presented a request from Stan Tait, president of the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, to adopt a Resolution that supports the efforts of Save America's Beaches. This item was placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell told the Board that the committee to review the county's dental insurance had been formed and would report to the Board within the next few weeks.

Commissioner Harris reminded the Board of the upcoming training session at the EOC building at which AT&T would provide underground cable training for the Board and county workers. This training session is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29 at 11:00 a.m. The Board placed notice of this meeting on the consent agenda.

The Board was then alerted to the opposition to the night closing of Gulf Dunes Park. Mr. Malcolm Patterson of the Tourist Development Council told the Board that a couple of houses surrounding the park had been burglarized. Mr. Patterson told the Board that only part of the parking lot

to the park can be fenced.

Commissioner Cuchens told the Board that a scheduled meeting with one person concerning this issue turned into a meeting with many area residents. These residents were opposed to any gate. They wanted the park left as it was.

Mr. Van Ness Butler told the Board that a long-range solution to these vandalism problems along the beach is to maintain an active beach patrol.

Commissioner Cuchens said that he wanted to proceed with caution in this matter because he doesn't want the county's residents to perceive that the Board is closing the beach.

In the meantime, Chairman Porter, Mr. Bell, and Mr. Cuchens will look into the idea of an active beach patrol.

Mr. Patterson alerted the Board to the apparent attempt of the Department of Community Affairs to rewrite the entire Trust Plan at the administrative level. Mr. Patterson said that he feels that the work accomplished in the 18-month Trust process is being dismantled now.

Chief Deputy Clerk Martha Ingle presented the Board with an agreement from the Florida Department of Transportation concerning maintenance of the traffic light at Silver Sands Factory Stores. This item was placed on the consent agenda.

Ms. Ingle presented the Board with a request from Flora Brown for extended leave without pay for three days each in April, May, June, and July. This request was placed on the consent agenda.

Assistant Administrative Supervisor Shirl Williams told the Board that she recently received a deed from Dana Matthews, representing Thompson Plantation, to swap for the 5% recreation fund fee. The Board said the lot that the deed described was at the end of a private road and was not suitable for any county park. The Board decided to keep the recreation fee and not accept the deed for the proposed park.

Ms. Williams passed out copies of the proposed competency board ordinance, which was styled from an existing Escambia County ordinance. Ms. Williams told the Board that a request from Ms. Netha Cosson was received to serve on the Board.

Ms. Williams told the Board of a request from Lee DePauw for a pay raise from \$7.21 an hour to \$8.00 an hour. Ms. Williams told the Board that the salary range for Mr. DePauw's position was up to \$9.00 an hour.

Commissioner Harris said that he wants the Board to review the

automatic cost of living raise for county workers. Mr. Harris said that he favors giving employees small raises every few months to keep employees motivated.

Commissioner Cuchens suggested that Mr. Bell and County Attorney George R. Miller review employee evaluations and its ties to pay increases. The Board withheld Mr. DePauw's raise until this matter can be researched further.

Mr. Ronnie Hudson told the Board that he looked into two sizes of excavators as he was directed. Mr. Hudson said that the Board should purchase the same model excavator as they have now. Mr. Hudson said that a larger one was impractical. Mr. Hudson recommended the 320L excavator. Mr. Hudson also said that he is looking for a second-hand compactor to purchase. Mr. Hudson said that this purchase may not be necessary because the present compactor can be fixed at a much lower cost than previously stated.

Mr. Bell told the Board of a conflict about the upcoming county auction. Mr. Bell said that the scheduled opening of bids days before the auction made those bids available for public inspection. That fact would compromise the bidding for the same items at the auction, Mr. Bell said. The Board said it will consult with County Attorney George R. Miller about this.

Mr. Steve Hall appeared before the Board about the Edgewater project DRI dispute. Mr. Hall said that the original 1982 development order was revived based on the legal position of the Department of Community Affairs. That legal position says that a development order is similar to a restrictive covenant and runs with the land. Mr. Hall said that the proposed development is ignoring codes except for stormwater drainage.

Assistant Administrative Supervisor Shirl Williams told the Board that she has the same question about the project.

Mr. Bell told the Board that it should make a short list of engineering applicants and invite these firms to a special meeting to hear their presentations. The Board set a meeting to review the engineering firms' presentations for April 5 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: _____

Gordon Porter, Chairman

Attest: _____

Catherine King, Clerk