

WORKSHOP

April 5, 1995

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in Workshop Session on Wednesday, April 5, 1995, in the Commission Boardroom in 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 Cuchens, Jr. Administrative Supervisor Ronnie Bell was also present.

This meeting was held to review Engineering Proposals from companies seeking the general engineering services of the Board.

Chairman Porter called the meeting to order.

Maintenance Supervisor Charles McMillian appeared before the Board with an urgent item. He told the Board of the possibility of moving the proposed climate controlled storage building to an area behind the old prison camp.

Mr. McMillian then told the Board of prices he had received from construction companies to finish the interior of the new Property Appraiser's building. He said that he received a low price from Robert Earl McCormick of \$9,838 to stucco and finish the interior. He said that if the Board could act today on accepting this price construction could start as early as Monday, April 10.

Mr. McMillian told the Board that Ponderosa Builders wants the county to inspect repairs to the damaged Farmers Market structure. Administrative Supervisor Ronnie Bell told the Board that the county had received \$24,807 to repair the damaged structure.

Motion by Commissioner Harris, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to enter a Special Session. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Porter Aye, Harris Aye, Pridgen Aye, Moore Aye, Cuchens Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Harris, second by Commissioner Moore, to give Robert Earl McCormick permission to start finishing the interior of the Property Appraiser's building and accept \$9,838 as the cost. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Porter Aye, Harris Aye, Pridgen Aye, Moore Aye, Cuchens Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Harris, second by Commissioner Cuchens, to exit the Special Session. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Porter Aye, Harris Aye, Pridgen Aye, Moore Aye, Cuchens Aye.

The engineering companies represented at the meeting then selected

numbers in a blind draw to determine the order of presentations.

Mr. Robert W. Gehrig, president of Smith and Gillespie Engineers Inc. of Jacksonville, told the Board that his firm had offices in Jacksonville, Gainesville and Tampa. He said that his firm works for the City of DeFuniak Springs. He said that his firm has grant experience with FmHA grants, CDBG grants, and Soil and Water grants. Mr. Gehrig said that the response time to emergency situations would be minimal because his engineers are already on-site with the City of DeFuniak Springs.

Mr. Ralph Rish, Vice-President of Preble-Rish, that his 13 employees would give the county an added benefit--increased one-to-one customer service. He also said that his firm would open an office here in the county if chosen for these services. He also said that his firm has grant application experience with Gulf County and Julian Webb.

Mr. Jack Arthur and Mr. Bob Klein of the Panama City office of Baskerville-Donovan appeared before the Board. Mr. Klein said that the County would use the Panama City office for any work. Mr. Arthur said that the Panama City office was fully staffed and that the Pensacola office would be available for larger problems. Mr. Arthur said that his firm's response time would be within a day. Mr. Arthur said that his firm has a special grant coordinator based in Tallahassee that would assist in any grants available to the county.

Mr. L. L. Peterman and Mr. Randy Van Landingham of Peterman Engineering and Associates told the Board that his firm would like to continue its association with the county. Mr. Peterman said that his firm had specific landfill experience in Jackson County, Geneva County and Holmes County. He said that his firm would not over-engineer projects that would cost the county more than what is needed.

Mr. John Sims, president of Sims Design Consultants of Jacksonville, told the Board that his company was a small company that offered good customer service. He said that his company is becoming heavily involved in the federal grant allocations. He said that the county would have a single person to be held accountable for any problems or questions. He said that if his firm is chosen that an office would be established in the county to provide everyday service. Mr. Sims said that he understand the county has needs and that his firm would help the county get grant money to satisfy these needs.

Mr. Robert Williams of Metric Engineering told the Board that the

Panama City office is just one part of a statewide network. He said that his firm is currently working on the paving of U.S. 331 North to the state line. He said his firm has little grant experience but several employees were being educated on the grant process.

Mr. Pierce Barrett of Barrett Engineering told that Board that his firm's main offices were located in Tallahassee and Fairhope. He said that his firm would open an office here in the county if chosen for these services. He said that he worked previously for a firm that completed all engineering for Seaside.

Mr. David Davis of Polyengineering told the Board that his firm had offices in Fort Walton Beach and Dothan. He said that his firm has completed several projects for Okaloosa County and 40% of his firm's business was in Florida. He said his firm has helped Okaloosa County receive over \$40 million in grants.

Mr. Rick Stokes of Choctaw Engineering told the Board that half of his firm's work is in Walton County already. He said that his firm has completed projects for the Tourist Development Council. He said that several Okaloosa grant applications are pending.

Mr. Christopher Okonkwo and Mr. Kevin Knowles of Spectra Engineering told the Board that the six-year-old firm was strongly committed to client relations. Mr. Knowles said that the firm had grant writing experience in Leon and Gadsden counties.

Mr. Bell read a list of firms who were not present but submitted proposals to the Board: Tom W. Justice and Associates, Carlan and Consultants, Southeast Environmental Engineering Company, Peters Municipal Association and Johnson Creekmore Fabre Construction Engineering.

The Board advised that they will review the proposals and make a short list at the Workshop on Monday.

Approved:_____

Gordon Porter, Chairman

Attest:_____

Catherine King, Clerk