

APRIL 8, 2008-ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a workshop on April 8, 2008 at 3:30 p.m., at the South Walton Courthouse Annex to discuss the policy for accepting roads for county maintenance, funding and general maintenance of county roads.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Larry Jones, Chairman; Commissioner Sara Comander, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Scott Brannon; Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen; and Commissioner Cindy Meadows. Mr. Ronnie Bell, County Administrator; Mr. Mike Burke, Interim County Attorney; and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

Mr. Lyle Seigler, Public Works Director, presented information regarding the budget status and needs for additional paving. He stated that manpower costs would exceed \$1 million and equipment costs would exceed \$5 million. Public Works recommended moving forward with an accelerated paving model. Mr. Seigler stated that current budgeted projects would be completed. The option to advance to the accelerated models was based on the following criteria: reduce maintenance costs, environmental sensitivities, interconnectivity, urbanization, existing right-of-ways and hurricane evaluation routes. All of the roads have been identified in the model and have the required right-of-way. He recommended that funding begin October 1, 2008. He listed the many contingencies to be considered. The passage of the House Bill (683) and Senate Bill (2148) are a major concern. Mr. Ronnie Bell, County Administrator, stated that the House Bill has passed on to the next committee and that the road-to-pave projects have been exempted.

Mr. Seigler discussed the current budget status and the remaining budget needs for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year. The total remaining budget needs is \$6,393,670. He recommended the de-obligation of funds from the remaining projects for the present fiscal year with the intent to fund those projects in the next fiscal year. He suggested beginning work on the accelerated list on October 1, 2008 in increments of \$5 million in six month cycles.

Commissioner Comander voiced concern over the replacement of equipment after the auction. Mr. Bill Imfeld, County Finance Director, stated that approximately \$3 million of heavy equipment was purchased during the last year. Cars, trucks and SUV's were not purchased. He said the equipment to be auctioned is on the three year rotation cycle.

Chairman Jones stated that action would be taken during the regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Seigler stated that a road paving matrix has been created and they will work through that matrix as funds are permitted. A schedule will be provided.

Mr. Bell stated that another issue to consider is private versus public maintained roads. He requested direction from the Board for Public Works and Planning to compile a list of roads and plats that have been accepted by the Board and dedicated to the public, and possibly changing the language on the plats that would clearly identify public and private roads. The Board concurred to allow this request.

There being no further discussion the workshop adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

APPROVED _____
Larry Jones, Chair

ATTEST _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court