

PRELIMINARY MEETING

APRIL 24, 1989

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in a preliminary session on Monday, April 24, 1989, at 8:00 A.M.

The following Board Members were present: Chairman Sam Pridgen, Vice-Chairman W.F. Miles, Commissioner Wilson Holley, Commissioner Robert G. Fleet, and Commissioner Donald D. Brown. The County's Administrative Supervisor, Mr. Ronnie Bell, was also present.

Chairman Pridgen called the meeting to order stating that this meeting is only to review the agenda for tomorrow's regular session, review the bills ready for approval, and discuss matters of interest to the Commissioners that may require their action during regular session.

Commissioner Fleet asked Mr. Bell if the ordinance prohibiting the docking of boats at public boat ramps has been prepared. Mr. Bell advised that it has been prepared and is at his office. It needs only the Board's approval and a Public Hearing to be held regarding its possible adoption.

Vice-Chairman Miles asked if the North Walton County Mosquito Control District (NWMC) is losing State funds. Mr. Bell answered that Vice-Chairman Miles is correct. Mr. Gordon Williams, NWMC Director is requesting that the County enter into an agreement with the cities of Freeport and Paxton providing that each city pay for its own mosquito spraying. Mr. Bell advised that, last year, the Board approved to provide the spraying service at no charge, because Freeport and Paxton allow the "housing" of the Ambulance Services in each area at no cost to the County. Mr. Bell further advised that the city of DeFuniak Springs pays the County \$1,050.00 per month from April through October for its mosquito spraying. Vice-Chairman Miles suggested charging by population the cities of Freeport and Paxton for the spraying services, just as DeFuniak Springs does. The rest of the population pays through a millage. Vice-Chairman Miles advised that a millage tax should be levied in the cities just as the County pays. Vice-Chairman Miles suggested that this matter of assessing millage should be placed on the ballot at the next city elections.

Mr. Herman Jackson, Parks Supervisor, asked if Commissioner Brown approves of his removing the dumpster at Choctaw Beach Park and placing two "drums" in the park. Commissioner Brown advised the Board that people are using the dumpster (placed there by Environmental Waste Systems [EWS] and paid for by the County) for the disposal of household garbage. Mr. Jackson

stated that he is hauling away over 150 bags of trash per week from that park to the Landfill. Commissioner Brown further advised that if the dumpster is full, people will leave their garbage on the ground around the dumpster. Commissioner Brown stated that there has been evidence confirming that some of the trash is brought over from Okaloosa County. Commissioner Brown further stated that he has removed the dumpster and reverted back to the original system of using two barrels for the trash generated in the park.

Commissioner Brown advised that the County is going to have to deal with the garbage issue in the near future and proposed that the Board contract with the Regional Planning Council to conduct a study. Commissioner Brown suggested that the ultimate solution will be a MSBU (Municipal Service Benefit Unit), a special assessment, for certain areas of the County. In order for the MSBU to be constitutional, there must be a charge made in direct proportion to the services received. The schedule of services and charges is something a consultant can accurately prepare. Also a consultant can establish a procedure by which all persons subject to the ordinance may be assessed: not only those on the tax rolls. Commissioner Brown advised that the Building Department would play a large role in that aspect by reporting all new residences. Vice-Chairman Miles asked what the cost of such a study might be. Commissioner Brown stated that he does not know, but that representatives from the Regional Planning Council will be present at the May 9 meeting and perhaps they can answer that question at that time. Commissioner Fleet advised that it is a place to start. Commissioner Brown stated that if the Regional Planning Council is not satisfactory, then the Board may decide to contract with a regular consultant. However, Commissioner Brown further stated that it is something that must be done. Commissioner Brown advised that the request for proposals on a recycling center have been mailed and when the Board "starts dealing with that issue, then we must deal with how we are going to pay for it." Vice-Chairman Miles stated that those matters may be established without "going through a consultant group." Commissioner Fleet asked if any other Commissioners received a copy of a plan of a recycling program from a company in Colorado. Chairman Pridgen stated that he had received something of that nature. Commissioner Fleet advised that the Colorado company claims that they can "take care of everything" and render the Landfill obsolete and unnecessary. The company would also pay for the construction of the recycling center and purchase the land upon which it would be constructed. Vice-Chairman Miles suggested that the company be

contacted and given the opportunity to submit a proposal. Commissioner Fleet agreed.

Mr. Jackson advised that he needs to hire another Parks employee to work exclusively in the parks of Walton County. Vice-Chairman Miles stated that he would like to cut down the number of parks in each District. He further stated that the tax base of Walton County is not adequate to sustain its number of parks. Mrs. Latilda Scott, Planning Coordinator, advised that there is still plenty of "leeway" in adjusting the number of parks to be included in the Comprehensive Plan. The Board needs to advise her of any changes before the Plan is voted upon. Vice-Chairman Miles asked how much remains in the Parks budget. Mrs. Martha Ingle, Deputy Clerk, advised that there are enough funds to cover only the payroll of the existing park employees. Vice-Chairman Miles asked how much Mr. Jackson will need for maintenance for the remainder of this fiscal year. Mr. Jackson advised that it is impossible to pinpoint a specific dollar amount. Commissioner Fleet agreed to release funds from the Impact Fee account to cover the cost of hiring an additional full-time parks employee. The funds from Impact Fees will be supplied to cover only the remaining months in this fiscal year. Mrs. Ingrid Burmeister, Deputy Clerk, advised that there are adequate funds in the Impact Fee Account to help cover the cost of an additional parks employee. Commissioner Brown asked Mrs. Scott to provide him with a list of all County parks. Mrs. Scott stated that she will provide the list this afternoon. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Brown asked if any further consideration has been given to creating a bridge crew for the County. He advised that he has received a budget for the remainder of 1989 with three alternatives. Vice-Chairman Miles stated that he does not like to keep adding to an already tight budget. If a bridge crew is created another foreman's position will be created. Commissioner Holley advised that, personally, he feels that if a foreman is not performing his job adequately, the Board should address that matter first. Commissioner Holley advised that there is nothing in the Paving Foreman's file to indicate problems, but Commissioner Holley continues to hear comments about Mr. Jordan Alford refusing to do what he is told. Vice-Chairman Miles stated that combining the paving crew and bridge crew would not be very efficient.

Commissioner Fleet advised that Mr. Bell has told him of a bridge that is "barely hanging on" and over which a school bus travels. Commissioner

Fleet stated that that is an emergency situation which needs immediate attention. Mr. Bell advised that the bridge is on Whitfield Road on Mr. Oliver Blount's property. Commissioner Brown suggested that the school bus immediately begin travelling an alternate route. Vice-Chairman Miles suggested erecting a warning sign at the bridge and/or closing the bridge completely.

Mr. Bell advised that Mr. Blount will be appearing before the Board tomorrow to request that the bridge be moved. There is a "blind" curve just before one reaches the bridge. Mr. Blount feels it is a tremendous safety hazard. Commissioner Fleet advised that Mr. Blount wants the road placed back on the section line. Discussion followed concerning the area surrounding the road and the bridge. Mr. Bell advised that Mr. Blount is willing to give land to the County from the center of the road east 40 feet. Mr. Bell further advised that Mr. Blount's two biggest concerns are the school bus travelling over the bridge and his reasonably large investment in clearing the west side of the roadway for farming. Commissioner Fleet advised that he will visit the site today. Commissioner Holley stated that he feels the County needs a centralized Road Paving and Bridge Maintenance and Construction Department. The Board agreed that the quality of paving in the County could be improved by improving the quality of the equipment. Vice-Chairman Miles advised that when a bridge needs to be built, each District can send one employee to the site and have a bridge crew supervisor oversee the construction. Commissioner Brown advised that he believes that is provided for in Mr. Ronnie Hudson's proposal.

Commissioner Fleet suggested that the Board read this morning's Daily News. There is an article regarding the Walton County Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC). Commissioner Fleet stated that the "whole thing appears to be a very unethical manner of handling any sort of public service or office." Commissioner Fleet advised that the former ARC Executive Director's starting salary was \$14,000.00 and, after nine and a half years, his ending salary was approximately \$22,500.00. The current Director's starting salary is \$25,000.00. Commissioner Fleet stated that, according to the qualification sheet that is used to guide salary scales in HRS by the State, to begin with a salary of \$25,000.00 per year, a person should have a Doctorate Degree and/or "X" number of years' experience. Commissioner Fleet further stated that being the parent of a retarded child does not qualify as "on-the-job" training for directing an organization such as ARC. Vice-

Chairman Miles advised that the by-laws of ARC have been violated since 1981. According to the by-laws, the ARC Board of Directors is to be elected from the membership and, since 1981, that has not been done. The Board agreed that they still stand behind the organization's philosophy as a service organization.

Commissioner Brown introduced Mr. Marlin Smith of Pensacola Ford Tractor. Mr. Smith described the procedure for buying equipment off of stated contracts. Mr. Smith advised that any municipality may purchase equipment at the same price as the State purchases their equipment. The equipment may be ordered to the County's specifications and delivered to the dealer handling the State contracts. Purchasing off of State contract prices normally shows a 30% - 40% savings to the County. Mr. Smith further advised that there is no obligation to purchase all equipment from State contracts. The equipment is normally delivered within 60-80 days and the items are of "resaleable" quality. The Board thanked Mr. Smith for the information.

Commissioner Brown advised that he has model ordinances from both Citrus County and Putnam County regarding the funding of each County's solid waste program through a Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU). He further advised that he has two books that may aid in the understanding of assessments, gas taxes, etc.

He offered them to any of the Commissioners who are interested.

Commissioner Brown advised the Board that there are constant violations of the ordinance governing horseback riding in Oakwood Hills. Commissioner Brown further advised that the Board may consider enforcing the Ordinance, because the road cannot be adequately repaired as long as horses are "tearing up" the road. Commissioner Brown stated that the signs prohibiting horseback riding in the area have been moved and he would like to replace the signs. Commissioner Brown wants to know if the Board will "stand behind" him should there be a "fracas." Discussion followed. Commissioner Brown advised that he will investigate the situation before asking the Board to take any action.

Commissioner Brown advised that a Mr. Fred Beerup is requesting that an easement in Villa Tasso be abandoned. It is a street that was never opened and is near one of the large drainage ditches. Mr. Beerup had requested the abandonment previously and no action was ever taken by the Board. Mrs. Ingle advised that subsequent action by the Board provides that no other easements in Villa Tasso will be abandoned without notifying all the residents. Vice-Chairman Miles advised that that action was taken because so many residents

were requesting that accesses to the water be abandoned. Commissioner Brown advised that he will visit the area, inspect it, and make his recommendation to the Board.

Commissioner Brown advised that, to the best of his knowledge, the following roads were denied acceptance for County maintenance on March 29, 1988: Tyner Lane, Agnes Trail, Edgewood Road, and Heidleberg Lane. In the meeting of September 27, 1988, the Eula Farmer Road was accepted as a County road. On October 11, 1988, Hunnicutt Road was accepted for emergency maintenance. Commissioner Brown asked for clarification and confirmation that these representations are true. The Board generally agreed that these representations are correct. Mr. Bell advised that, in a subsequent meeting, Heidleberg Lane was found to be included in the plat of Teelinville. All roads within Teelinville were accepted for County maintenance. Therefore, Heidleberg Lane is already a County road. Discussion continued regarding the roads within the Acres of Eden Subdivision.

Mrs. Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, advised that the Tourist Development Council (TDC) has offered to develop the Grayton Dunes Beach Park and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has offered to give the funds to them that were once deobligated (as requested by the Grants Department). The Board must request that DNR reobligate the funds and designate TDC as representative. The Board agreed.

Commissioner Fleet advised that the TDC has voted to have "their" parks policed on weekends for trash, garbage, etc.

Mr. Bell advised that he has prepared an amendment to Ordinance 87-2 regarding charging .50¢ per used tire brought to the Landfill. Also, the Grants Department is applying for a grant on waste tire disposal. The three grant options are: 1) shredding the tires here, 2) transporting the tires elsewhere for shredding, or 3) paying someone else to pick up the waste tires and transport them to a shredder. The third option is the one being pursued.

Mr. Bell advised that Mrs. Jo Hudson, Walton Regional Hospital Administrator, has informed him that there are six members on the Board of Trustees. The State allows only five members. Mrs. Ruby Rivard's term and Dr. Sherman Johnson's term is about to expire. District 2 has two appointees. Mr. Bell advised that the Board must take some action on the matter. Chairman Pridgen advised that he will ask Dr. Johnson if he wishes to remain on the Board. Vice-Chairman Miles advised that he believes Mrs. Rivard wishes to remain on the Board.

Mr. Bell advised that the Planning Commission is holding a Public Hearing on Thursday night at 6:30 P.M. for the purpose of rezoning the land on which the proposed Correctional Facility will stand. Mr. Bell invited all the Commissioners to be present. Mrs. Williams emphasized that the Public Hearing is not to approve the facility, but just to rezone the property. Commissioner Brown advised that he has an appointee to recommend to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Bell advised that Mrs. Williams recommended that the 18-month time extension be granted to Edgewood Terrace. The development was delayed by DNR's permit issuance.

Mrs. Scott, Planning Coordinator, advised that, in 1985, requirements for the Comprehensive Plan were changed and all Counties and Cities must meet certain criteria. The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is, however, experiencing problems with all plans being submitted: particularly in the analysis stage. Because of this, DCA has added a Concurrency Plan. "Concurrent" means that the needed public facilities are:

1. in place
2. a condition of the development permit
3. under construction
4. contracted for
5. guaranteed by an enforceable development agreement
6. or ensured by a "Concurrency Management System"

The public facilities requiring levels of service in Walton County are:

1. roads
2. sanitary sewers
3. solid waste facilities
4. drainage (stormwater) facilities
5. potable water facilities
6. recreational facilities

Mrs. Scott advised that the Concurrency Management System is something that must be done separate from the Comprehensive Plan.

Mrs. Scott continued to give a brief overview of what is required of Walton County regarding the Comprehensive Plan and the Concurrency Management System. Mrs. Williams advised that the Regional Planning Council has offered to assist in the preparation of the Concurrency Management System - specifically the Capital Improvements element, the Housing element, and the Traffic Circulation element. The Regional Planning Council will provide this

service for \$25,000.00 which is considerably less expensive than a consulting firm would charge. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Fleet suggested that the County will eventually have to extend the .05¢ local option gas tax for at least eight years in order to "float a bond issue" and pave the roads in Walton County. Commissioner Brown advised that there are currently two outstanding bond issues for road improvement. After November, the County will have an additional "income stream" because the earliest bond issue will be "paid out." The latest bond issue will be paid up in 1992. Commissioner Brown further advised that if the County can "bite the bullet" until the bond issues are paid up, the County will have an additional \$500,000.00 to improve road conditions without having to float another bond issue. Vice-Chairman Miles agreed, but also stated that the roads in South Walton County need paving as soon as possible because of the heavy traffic flow. Commissioner Brown suggested that the Board allow the Regional Planning Council to develop a five-year plan for County roads.

Commissioner Brown asked if the other Board members have had an opportunity to review Mr. Hudson's proposal to allow an independent company to haul the clay to the Steel Field Road. The company is able to haul as much as three times more clay as the County trucks. Commissioner Fleet stated that he feels it is more economical to allow another company to haul the clay. After discussion, the Board agreed to take affirmative action on this after determining that the funds are available.

Commissioner Holley suggested that all the Board Members should consider creating a combined Road and Bridge crew.

Mrs. Ingle advised that there is a letter from the Northwest Florida/Big Bend Health Council asking that the Board appoint someone to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Henry Wilkerson's resignation. The Council recommended Mrs. Marion Marsh.

Chairman Pridgen adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED: _____

Sam Pridgen, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Catherine King, Clerk