

WORKSHOP

MAY 12, 1997

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a regular Workshop on Monday, May 12, 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 Randall Infinger and Commissioner Gordon Porter. The Board's Administrative Supervisor, Ronnie Bell, was also present. Commissioner Joel Paul, Jr. and Dan Bodiford, Clerk of Court, were absent.

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

Sara Comander appeared before the Board to advise of the grand opening at the South Walton Courthouse Annex to be held on May 30, 1997 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and invited the Board and public to attend.

Rusty Floyd, Landfill Supervisor, advised that three applications were received from County employees for the position of Landfill Scale Operator. Mr. Floyd recommended Tommy Foxhall for the position at a rate of \$7.00 per hour. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda and include a probationary period of one year.

The Board agreed to advertise in-house for a Landfill Truck Driver to replace Tommy Foxhall. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, advised the Board of a recommendation from the SHIP Committee, that the SHIP budget be amended. The amendment consists of transferring \$5,000 from Housing Rehabilitation and \$5,000 from Rural Development and placing these funds into the First Time Homebuyer line item. The overall budget total will not increase. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Williams advised that someone representing Rosemary Beach Phase II will appear to present the detailed plan. The master plan has previously been approved by the Board.

Bobby Ammons, Assistant Public Works Director, presented quotes for steel pilings to replace bridges located on Boy Scout Road in District 4, Price Road in District 3 and Cook Road in District 2. Skyline Steel Corporation submitted the lowest quote in the amount of \$19,502.40 for all three bridges. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

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Mr. Ammons requested to attend a precast bridge construction seminar in Panama City on May 22, 1997. The seminar is at no cost to the County. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Ammons presented a letter from the Northwest Florida Water Management District requesting assistance from Walton County in maintaining a public access road near Cedar Log Landing. The road will be a designated public road, open to the public year round unless the area floods, in which case, the road would be closed. The letter stated that the District anticipates opening at least one more public access along the Choctawhatchee River in Walton County in the next several years. The Board agreed to support the Northwest Florida Water Management District in providing assistance in maintaining the access road. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Porter read a letter received from Mr. Harry Riley regarding public resources being applied to private roads in District 4. Commissioner Porter responded that the road in question, located off Hinote Road, has been maintained on an emergency basis for many years. Commissioner Porter stated that as to the question of a road located in Lake Tantarra, the individual in charge of maintaining the roads does not do so and several of the residents have discontinued paying the maintenance fee. Commissioner Porter stated that he felt he must provide access for the mail carrier, school buses and emergency vehicles.

Stan Bates, scheduled on the Workshop agenda, withdrew his item for discussion.

Commissioner Porter advised of a situation with a road which cuts through Dorcas and run into Okaloosa County. Commissioner Porter stated that Okaloosa County is paving their portion of the road and he would like to pave the Walton County portion. Commissioner Porter requested that the other Commissioners look at the road and submit their opinion.

Commissioner Porter advised the Board that he was establishing a forming yard at the old District 3 Office for concrete bridge side rails. Commissioner Porter suggested that the other Commissioners look at the site.

The Board agreed to approve the contract with Murphree Bridge Corporation for the Oak Grove Bridge bid and authorize Chairman Young to sign the contract. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Ronnie Bell, Administrative Supervisor, presented a letter from Mary

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Lou Reed, Executive Director of the Jobs and Education Partnership (JEP) Board, advising of three vacancies from Walton County on the JEP Board. Mr. Bell presented a list of nominees to consider.

Mr. Bell presented a letter from Attorney Clayton Adkinson, representing Healthmark, regarding the installation of a sprinkler system in Walton Regional Hospital. Attorney Adkinson is requesting that the cost of the sprinkler system, estimated at \$6200, be deducted from the monthly rental fee of \$8,333. The Board agreed to table this issue for further discussion.

Mr. Bell presented a request from Mr. and Mrs. Plummer of South Walton to be allowed to have pony rides for their child's birthday to be held in Legion Park on May 18, 1997. The Board agreed to table this issue for further discussion.

Mr. Bell presented a proposal from Quality Builders regarding repairs to the Glendale Community Center. Mr. Dewey Miller, Fire Chief of the Glendale Fire Department, requested three estimates to repair the roof of the building. The estimate from Quality Builders was the lowest at \$5,950. Mr. Miller is requesting financial assistance from the Board to complete these repairs. The Glendale facility is utilized for the fire department, voting precinct and community center. The Board agreed to help fund the needed repairs and suggested to request funding from the Supervisor of Elections and Fire Department as well. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised of a request from Chief Miller of the Mossy Head Volunteer Fire Department that Mr. Ben Henley be authorized to search for and obtain grant monies for the Mossy Head Fire Department. Mr. Henley is requesting written authorization to proceed with his search for grant monies. This service will be at no cost to the County. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Henley to proceed with his search. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to approve a right-of-way easement from Walton County to Chelco for the location of a power line to the District 1 Office to be located in the McKinnon Pit. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised of a recommendation from Brice Nist, of Connelly and Wicker, that they proceed with the final payment to the contractor on the Driftwood Estates project and the acceptance of the water and sewer facilities. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised of a request from the USDA Rural Development Office

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(former Farmer Home Administration) to renew the present lease for an additional five years. The current lease expires on May 31, 1997. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell presented a request from the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) that the Board consider, during the regular budgetary process, to budget \$40,000 annually for three years to the YMCA. The Board agreed to consider this request during the regular budgeting process and place this consideration on the consent agenda.

Sheriff Quinn McMillian presented his Emergency Management/E-911 Proposal to the Board again for review. Sheriff McMillian stated that he met with the Fire Departments.

Charlie Day, representing the Walton County Fire Board, spoke regarding the receiving and handling of fire arms, the need for dedicated fire dispatching, need for better communications, process for complaints and problems and the need for a qualified person in Emergency Management to handle hazardous materials and maintenance.

Sheriff McMillian stated that he could agree to all stipulations suggested by the Fire Departments and that he would increase the number of dispatchers in the EOC and require that they be EMD certified. Sheriff McMillian stated that all dispatchers would be trained and certified as necessary.

Commissioner Porter stated that the Board of Commissioners will ultimately be responsible and have full liability of the Emergency Management/911 operations. Sheriff McMillian suggested to donate an old patrol car to each Fire Department.

Art McLellan spoke regarding the tremendous crime rate in the County and enormous work load on the Sheriff Department already. Sheriff McMillian stated that the crime rate is less now than in the past and that he felt he could handle the extra duties.

Less Hallman, Chief of the South Walton Fire District, suggested to establish a 911 communications committee, place communications in one building, direct the Emergency Management Director to devote one hundred percent to emergency management and answer directly to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Hallman suggested that the fire and EMS dispatchers work under Public Safety as they do now.

Bill Yearwood, DeFuniak Springs City Fire Chief, voiced his opinion of

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a good working relationship with Sheriff McMillian and dispatchers.

Frankie Hall, representing Liberty Volunteer Fire Department, voiced his dissatisfaction of past experiences with Sheriff Dispatchers and fire calls not being dispatched to the fire departments as needed.

Tommy Mathis, representing Paxton Volunteer Fire Department, voiced his gratitude toward Sheriff McMillian in placing a Sheriff Substation in Paxton and the good working relationship his department has with the Sheriff Department and their dispatchers.

John Miller, Chief of the Mossy Head/Oakwood Hills Fire Department, stated that more than three dispatchers are needed.

Several members of the audience spoke regarding the issue.

Skip Douger, representing the State Emergency Management Office, stated that 911 and Emergency Management are two separate issues and should be considered separately.

The Board agreed to appoint Bill Bishop to remain interim Public Safety Director until May 27, 1997 at which time the Board will further discuss this issue. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board recessed briefly.

Merlin Allen, resident of Mack Bayou, requested that the County apply for a permit to maintain and dredge the entrance to Mack Bayou. Mr. Allen stated that this would be at no cost to the County. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Allen discussed an ordinance to establish a County Adopt a Road Program similar to the State Adopt a Highway Program.

Mr. Bell advised of a previous request from the Liberty Volunteer Fire Department that an ambulance be donated when one becomes available. Mr. Bell stated that an ambulance box was sold in the County Auction, but no one paid for or claimed the item. The Board agreed to declare the ambulance box as surplus and donate to the Liberty Volunteer Fire Department. This item will be placed on the consent agenda. The Board agreed to donate a chassis when one becomes available.

Ralph Rish, Engineer with Preble-Rish, appeared before the Board to present the Walton County Road Construction Project Schedule. The paving plan is broken into three phases beginning May 1997 and ending May 1998. Mr. Rish presented the estimated cost for engineering fees: three percent for resurfacing and seven percent for new construction.

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The Board agreed to include certain roads, located near the prioritized roads in the road paving plan, on the bid price to be paved. The names of the roads to be considered will be given to Ronnie Hudson, Public Works Director at a later date.

Malcolm Patterson, Executive Director of the South Walton Tourist Development Council, presented the bids which were opened on April 28, 1997 relating to the Blue Mountain and Gulfview Heights Boardwalk Redecking Project. The low bidder was Gaddie Construction in the amount of \$26,125.00. The Board had authorized Ronnie Bell, Administrative Supervisor, and Vice-Chairman Butler, to award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder. Mr. Patterson stated that the construction is almost complete. The Board agreed to affirm the action authorized to Mr. Bell and Vice-Chairman Butler to award the low bid to Gaddie Construction Company. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to adopt a resolution supporting the application to the Bureau of Land Management for the long term lease for the beach front parcels owned by the Department of Interior located at Dune Allen (Fort Panic) and Walton Dunes for a beach access. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to establish a five member ADA Committee appointing Don Crim, Joel Langley and Pat McCann. This item will be placed on the consent agenda. The Board will submit two other names to the Administrative Supervisor at a later date.

The Board agreed to table the issue of Personnel Director until a later date.

The Board agreed to accept the recommendation to hire Angie Biddle, former Building Department Clerk, as Grants/Special Projects Coordinator. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda. This position was advertised in-house and two applications were received. The beginning salary will be discussed during the Regular Meeting tomorrow.

The Board agreed to allow Mrs. Biddle to attend continued training seminars when available. This item will be included on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell presented applications received for the advertised position of Planning Technician and South Walton Building Department Clerk. The Board agreed to review the applications.

Mr. Bell advised that the First Coast Auction and Realty, Inc., are

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conducting a consignment auction on June 21, 1997, in Marianna, if the Board is interested in placing items in the auction.

Mr. Bell advised of a request from Commissioner Paul to place two Ford dump trucks (BCC 1944 and 1945) in the consignment auction in Marianna. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised of a request from Commissioner Paul to sell a 1996 Mack dump truck (BCC 2189) to District 2 in the amount of \$70,000. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised of a request from Commissioner Paul for the Board's participation in paving the parking lot and drive of the EOC. The estimated cost of the asphalt is approximately \$3,000. The cost of the asphalt does not include the labor and spreading of the asphalt. The Board agreed to approve a budget transfer from County Transportation contingencies into District 1 road materials to pave the EOC parking lot. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised that Environmental Waste Systems (EWS) has invited the Board to visit the Springhill Landfill in Jackson County. Mr. Bell stated that the EWS house count is complete.

Mr. Bell presented a lease agreement between Okaloosa Walton Community College and Tri-County Transportation regarding leasing a van for transportation for the Work Fare participants. The Board agreed to table this matter for further discussion.

The Board discussed submitting an offer of \$750,000 to Wal-Mart for purchasing the building located on Highway 331, Freeport Road. Commissioner Infinger stated that Wal-Mart is requesting \$1.3 million for the building. The Board agreed to table this matter for further discussion.

The Board agreed to advertise for a Public Hearing to consider adopting a resolution abandoning a portion of property, approximately 2 acres, located south of County Road 30A near the Village of Seaside. This item will be placed on the consent agenda. Vice-Chairman Butler advised of a letter from St. Joe Corporation addressing a proposal to provide a parcel of property to Walton County, and in turn, Walton County would vacate approximately 2 acres of an abandoned roadway located just off County Road 30A near the Village of Seaside. The parcel of property proposed to be conveyed to the County would constitute approximately 2 acres on the north side of County Road 30A and a twenty foot right-of-way on the south side of County Road 30A, from the road

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to the mean high water line on the Gulf of Mexico.

Chairman Young advised of a possible violation regarding a sand pit located at Mossy Head.

The Board agreed to remove BCC 1770 and 1771, computers from the Library, from the assets and declare as surplus. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to approve an invoice from HTE for software maintenance in the amount of \$13,975.00 to be paid. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to grant a Fireworks Display Permit to Atlanta Pyrotechnics International for a fireworks display to be held June 6 and July 4, 1997 on the grounds of Sandestin contingent upon receipt of the \$500 bond. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to affirm action to approve a Fireworks Display Permit to be issued to Monte Carlo Productions held on the grounds of the Hilton Resorts on May 11, 1997. A telephone poll was taken, three Commissioners were contacted. Commissioner Infinger stated that he was not contacted. Mr. Bell advised that he was unable to locate him. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Porter advised that there was an accidental fire at the Landfill and that the Department of Environmental Protection is fining the County for the fire. The Board agreed to object to the fine.

There being no further business, Chairman Young adjourned the Workshop at 12:30 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

William A. Young, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Dan Bodiford, Clerk