

WORKSHOP

MAY 13, 1996

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a regular Workshop on Monday, May 13, 1996, at 8:30 A.M., in the Commission Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Chairman Gordon Porter, Commissioner Charles C. Harris, Commissioner Virginia D. Pridgen, Commissioner Gerald Wilkerson and Commissioner Rosier Cuchens, Jr. The Board's Administrative Supervisor, Ronnie Bell, was also present.

Chairman Porter called the meeting to order.

Dennis Smith with World Wide Internet Access appeared before the Board to present a proposal that would provide to County Government and Agencies free service on the Internet if they provide general information to be printed in an on-line magazine. This would provide free advertising on the Internet. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Charles McMillian, Maintenance Supervisor, presented a proposal from Ponderosa Builders to repair the Health Department building that was damaged during Hurricane Opal. The estimated cost for repairs is \$26,225.00. The Board agreed to speak with Attorney Miller regarding the requirement to bid this project out.

John Hazelton, Larry Anchors and Tom McKenzie, members of the Scenic 98 Committee, appeared before the Board to discuss the Happy Store project located on the corner of Highway 98 and 30A. The Committee feels that the project should have come before them for review and that the developers must be made to comply with the guidelines. The Board agreed that every controversial project must go before the Planning Department and, where applicable, the Scenic 98 Committee. The Board agreed to discuss this item at tomorrow's meeting in the presence of the County Attorney. Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, suggested that the developer submit conceptual plans to the Planning Commission to receive feedback, then make necessary changes and proceed with a final plan.

The Board agreed to request property from the State on the West side of Highway 331, South of the Bay Bridge, to study the feasibility for the Ecosystem Management Project and Town Center as well as requesting property on the East side. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board recessed briefly.

The Board agreed to appoint Commissioner Virginia Pridgen to serve on the West Florida Regional Planning Council. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Julian Webb appeared before the Board to request that the completion date on the D/H Truck Stop be extended from one year to two years. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Joe Brewster, representing Emerald Coast Cablevision, appeared before the Board to request that a public hearing date be set to consider the renewal of their franchise agreement. The agreement expires in August 1997. The Board agreed to schedule a public hearing date. This item will be placed on the consent agenda. The County Administrator and County Attorney will schedule the public hearing.

Albert Milton, representing GRIT, gave a brief update on the Drug Free Workplace Policy. Mr. Bell stated that the County Attorney is still reviewing the Policy.

Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, stated that the Board needs to appoint three alternates to serve on the Zoning Board of Adjustments due to lack of having a quorum at most meetings.

Mrs. Williams presented a request from the members of the Walton County Contractor Competency Board that Section 5 of County Ordinance 95-22 be amended to read as follows:

Section 5. organization. The Board shall meet as the need presents itself. The Board shall elect a chairman, and such other officers as it deems necessary, from its membership, whose term shall expire at the end of the County fiscal year in which he is elected to serve. A majority of the Board present shall constitute a quorum.

The members of the Walton County Contractor Competency Board feel the present quorum requirement of five members creates an undue hardship on both the applicants and Board members. No action was taken on this matter.

Mrs. Williams gave an update on the Ecosystem Management Team activities. Mrs. Williams presented two budgetary items to be paid from the grant: \$5,000 toward the GIS needs assessments and \$16,417.23 to FNAI to do a field evaluation of the disposition parcels. Other activities include sending out letters to property owners within the planning area inviting them to attend the meetings and participate in the process, and drafting an RFP to send to firms who might be interested in developing the site plan for the

planning area and developing the new Land Development Code.

Mrs. Williams presented comments regarding the Unsafe Building Code. Mrs. Williams suggested to provide a definition of unsafe building so the County does not get into condemning buildings due to complaints from tenants or neighbors and complaints of nuisances. Mrs. Williams stated that the ordinance needs to address the requirement for cleaning up a site where a building has been completely destroyed and only rubble remains. The Board agreed to discuss this with Attorney Miller.

Mrs. Williams presented a letter from Lel Czeck, Director of the West Florida Regional Planning Council, regarding the SHIP Affordable Housing Partnership Program. Mrs. Czeck recommended that the Board appoint a Housing Partnership to take the place of the Affordable Housing Committee. The existing committee members wish to be reappointed to serve on the Partnership Committee except Becky Young. Mrs. Williams stated that she is not sure about Charlene Rushing or Jack Huggins but she will contact them.

Mrs. Williams presented two agreements regarding the Florida Housing Finance Agency. Attorney Miller is reviewing the agreements.

Mrs. Williams stated that the covenants prohibit a bed and breakfast to be located in a residence in Dune Allen Subdivision. This is regarding Mr. Howard Kirkpatrick's request to open a bed and breakfast in his home.

The Board discussed the proposed abandonments scheduled for tomorrow.

The Board discussed the request from Clifton Whitaker for determination of landuse to have a retail carpet business on Highway 30A. The Board agreed that the Code needs to be amended to require businesses creating semi traffic to have a turn-around and loading dock for the semis.

Martha Ingle, Chief Deputy Clerk, advised of a letter from the South Walton Turtle Watch Group regarding turtle nests on Inlet Beach. Commissioner Cuchens stated that he would like information on where the turtles are nesting this season.

The Board agreed to renew the contract for the Child Support Hearing Officer. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to approve a bill from Preble-Rish in the amount of \$11,286.00 for the contamination assessment at the County Landfill. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Ingle advised the Board that the Department of Revenue has placed a color additive in diesel fuel to be able to determine illegal use of equipment on paved roads. There is a federal fine for vehicles found on

roads illegally.

The Board agreed to renew the Dog Fly Control Agreement. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Ingle presented a request from Robert Godwin to withdraw hours from the sick-leave pool. Mrs. Ingle advised that after this withdrawal the sick-leave pool will be depleted. The maximum number of draws from employees enrolled in the sick-leave pool have been made. The Board needs to authorize a fourth draw.

Mr. Bell reminded the Board that Channel 13, Panhandle Pride will be on the Courthouse lawn today interviewing individuals from Walton County.

Mr. Bell presented a request from Chief John Miller of the Mossy Head/Oakwood Hills Fire Department to place him on the County's list of persons allowed to purchase equipment from the State Surplus Facility in Marianna. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell presented a proposed resolution honoring Walton Regional Hospital during National Hospital Week.

Mr. Bell stated that two county employees, Matt Douglass and Mike Barker, are two of only thirty-five individuals invited to attend a civic leader tour on May 28 and 29, 1996. This function is being sponsored by the Department of Air Force. The cost to the County would be \$100, which would cover meals and lodging.

Mr. Bell advised of a request from the Florida Association of Counties, asking that the Board adopt a resolution opposing House Bill 557. The Board wished to review the resolution.

Mr. Bell presented the April Work Squad Report from Walton Correctional Institution.

Mr. Bell advised of a letter from Brown Marine Services regarding the donation of seven old tug boats to be used for artificial reefs. Brown Marine requests that they be reimbursed for preparation and towing of the vessels to permitted reef sites.

Mr. Bell advised of a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection announcing the application cycle for the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program for fiscal year 1997-98.

Mr. Bell advised of a request by Tri-County Community Council to approve two letters of support for their grant application under the FloridaFix program. These monies are used to help repair and weatherize elderly persons' homes. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent

agenda.

The Board agreed to affirm a phone poll of May 8, 1996, approving the paving of a portion of Morrison Springs Road, a portion of Cedar Log Lake Road and the overlaying of a portion of County Road 181-C. These sections of roads are located in District 1. The cost of paving these projects would be \$36.12 per ton from Okaloosa Asphalt. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised of a letter from William Howell, P.E., of H. W. Lochner, Inc., requesting a letter on a mitigation scheme acceptable to the County on the wayside park and boat ramps along the US 331 causeway. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised the Board of a request from Mike Turner that Thompson Road be paved. No action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Bell advised of a request from Cablevision that the County start the process of renewing their two franchises.

Mr. Bell advised of a request from Mike Barker, Public Safety Director, that Penny Keeton be hired as a full-time 911 operator. Mr. Bell presented letters from Kent Bass and Frank McCormick stating they do not wish to be considered for the 911 operators position. The Board agreed to hire Mrs. Keeton as full-time 911 operator. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised of a request from Mr. Barker that Kenneth McKenzie be hired as a part-time 911 operator. Mr. McKenzie has already completed the medical dispatchers course at his own expense. The Board discussed the issue of Mr. McKenzie not being a resident of Walton County. The Personnel Policies state that full-time employees must be Walton County residents, not part-time. Mr. Bell stated that in some cases, trained emergency medical personnel is hard to find in Walton County. The Board agreed to hire Mr. McKenzie as a part-time 911 operator. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised of a meeting held last week at the EOC regarding the Department of Community Affairs allocating \$397,999.70 to Walton County to be used for Beach Restoration activities. A public hearing needs to be held to explain what activities are being planned for this particular program. The Board agreed to adopt a resolution requesting that Secretary Murley allow a portion of the money to be used for Administrative and Engineering costs. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised of a letter from the Juvenile Detention Facility located off Hurley Road asking if the Board can utilize a group of juveniles from the facility to clean up around County buildings and parks. These youth are required to perform a certain amount of community service under the current system. The Juvenile Facility would supply transportation and supervision for the youth in performing the community service. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell presented three agreements between the Department of Transportation, CSX Railroad and Walton County for the maintenance of the railroad crossings at Woodyard Road, Community Center Road and Gene Hurley Road. The Board would be responsible for fifty percent of the cost for operation and maintenance of the three crossings. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised of a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding a meeting to be held on May 28, 1996 to discuss management of future land use.

Mr. Bell advised of a letter from Roy Petrey, with Polyengineering, regarding relocating the D/H Truck Stop Wastewater Treatment Facility due to an encroachment of the parking and stormwater detention facilities. The Board directed Mr. Bell to prepare a letter to Mr. Petrey stating that Walton County will not be responsible for the cost in moving the facility and that Polyengineering should bill D/H Oil direct for the relocation of the facility and associated costs, not Walton County. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell stated that the Driftwood Estates project is proceeding very well.

Mr. Bell advised the Board that lighting struck the equipment located in the EOC causing approximately \$30,000 worth of damage. The Board agreed to approve purchases to replace and repair the equipment due to lighting damage. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Wilkerson stated that he wished to perform emergency maintenance on Vince Bruner's driveway leading to his home. The Board agreed to check with Attorney Miller regarding the matter.

Commissioner Wilkerson stated that he received a request to perform emergency repair to the dirt road located behind the Taste Freeze.

Commissioner Wilkerson stated that Jim Cosson requested a one ton truck to be purchased as a welding truck.

The Board agreed to accept a right-of-entry agreement from George Montgomery to allow District 1 to control runoff water and straighten the roadway and the approach to the bridge located on the north side of George Montgomery Road between Mr. Montgomery's home and the bridge. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Chairman Porter stated that he wanted Tri-County Community Council to move back to Walton County.

The Board agreed to approve a request from Thomas Stephens, Director of the North Walton Mosquito Control, to purchase 1,000 gallons of FLAK 4-4. This is the chemical used for spraying by the mosquito control trucks during the mosquito season. The total amount of the purchase would be \$38,200.00. This amount was included in the Mosquito Control budget. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Chairman Porter stated that the nuisance problem still exists at the Alaqua Park.

Chairman Porter stated that he has received several complaints regarding Environmental Waste not picking up garbage as scheduled. The Board directed Mr. Bell to look into the matter.

Commissioner Harris stated that received several anonymous telephone calls reporting Code violations with setback requirements on Juniper Island Drive. Commissioner Harris stated that he was unable to reach Ronnie Bell or Shirl Williams, but contacted Latilda Verhine regarding the matter. Mrs. Verhine informed Commissioner Harris that he had received complaints regarding the same matter several months ago and that she is in the process of investigating the complaints.

Mr. Bell advised the Board that a representative from Preble-Rish Engineering Firm will be in attendance tomorrow to discuss the CDBG paving project.

There being no further business, Chairman Porter adjourned the Workshop.

APPROVED: _____

Gordon Porter, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Catherine King, Clerk