

WORKSHOP

JUNE 8, 1988

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in a workshop session on June 8, 1988, at 10:00 A.M.

The following Board Members were present: Chairman Joe R. Griffin, Vice-Chairman Sam Pridgen, Commissioner W.F. Miles, Commissioner Robert G. Fleet, and Commissioner Edward D. Armbruster. The Administrative Supervisor for the County, Mr. Ronnie Bell, was also present.

The workshop was called to order.

Mr. Charles Helton, Mayor of the City of Freeport, appeared before the Board to request the use of a County loader to remove the scrap metal located at the old dump in Freeport. The Department of Environmental Regulations requires the moving of the metal in order for the construction of the sewage treatment plant to begin. Mr. Helton advised the Board that Mr. Seftin Miller will move the metal, but a loader is needed to load the metal into Mr. Miller's trailers. Commissioner Armbruster agreed to loan the use of his loader when it is needed and Commissioner Fleet agreed to send one of his graders to smooth the site when the metal is moved. Mr. Bell suggested that Mr. Helton contact him when the loader is needed and he, in turn, will notify Commissioner Armbruster.

Mr. Bell presented the job descriptions for County employees. Commissioner Fleet stated that District 5 is installing a boat ramp in Portland. He requested that Mr. Ronnie Hudson, Public Works Director, ask Mr. Obie Adams to confer with Mr. Herman Jackson, Parks Supervisor, about the installation. Commissioner Fleet also advised Mr. Hudson that several other boat ramps in District 5 needed repairing.

Mr. Herman Jackson, Parks Supervisor, appeared before the Board to advise that the Parks Department is in need of a vehicle to haul sand to the various parks under construction. Each Commissioner volunteered the use of their trucks when necessary. Mr. George Montgomery advised the Board that he has an opportunity to purchase two small pickups from the Division of Surplus Property for \$50.00 each, one of which can be used by the Parks Department.

Chairman Griffin called for any discussion regarding the proposed job descriptions. Commissioner Ambruster advised that he had rewritten two of the job descriptions. He stated that he would have them ready for the inspection of the Board at a later date.

Mr. Bell questioned the Board about taking further action concerning the renovation of the old jail. Chairman Griffin advised the Board that he feels all renovations should stop for the time being because of the present strain on the budget. Chairman Griffin further advised that when renovations do begin the courtrooms should have priority. Chairman Griffin suggested to the Board that architectural services should be stopped and that a 5-year projection of expansion be prepared before any renovation is begun again on the old jail building.

Mr. Ronnie Hudson, Public Works Director, appeared before the Board to present a paving schedule to be followed by all the Districts. Mr. Hudson further advised that all bridges would be included under this proposed paving schedule. The schedule was distributed to the Board for their inspection and approval. Chairman Griffin advised the Board that, according to his understanding, it is illegal for the County to do its own paving in excess of \$50,000.00. The County must put paving out on contract. Commissioner Miles advised that it is his understanding that only the mix that is used must be put out on contract. The County may provide its own paving services. Mr. Hudson stated that he will obtain a copy of the State law regarding road specifications.

Commissioner Fleet opened discussion on the vicious dog ordinance. He advised that because there is no administrative penalty attached to violation of the ordinance and because there is no one to enforce the ordinance, it is inadequate. He, therefore, recommended that an Animal Control Advisory Board be created by appointment of the Board and consist of the Sheriff, a Health officer, and possibly three others concerned about animal control. Commissioner Fleet further recommended that their terms consist of two to three years and there be no salary attached to the positions on the Advisory Board. Commissioner Fleet suggested that in addition to the creation of an Advisory Board an amendment to the ordinance calling for the assessing of a fine or a series of fines to violators would substantially increase the validity

of the existing vicious dog ordinance. He further advised that an Animal Control officer would be necessary but that certain employees in each District could be designated as Animal Control officers in addition to their present duties and could be compensated by a slight increase in pay. The Animal Control officer could use a County vehicle for transportation in carrying out his assigned duties and a cage could be purchased to impound any animals found without proper identification. Commissioner Fleet recommended that a licensing fee of \$1.00 - \$2.00 per animal not to exceed \$10.00 be required to offset the expense of providing Animal Control officers.

Mr. Allen Dent, South Walton resident, appeared before the Board to express his concern about allowing animals on the public beaches. Mr. Dent cited several veterinarians as saying that no other County in Florida is without animal control laws for beaches. Mr. Dent further advised the Board of various diseases which humans could contract from the excrement of dogs and cats. Commissioner Fleet stated that the signs regarding the requirement of leashes on dogs on the beach are slowly disappearing. The Board agreed with Commissioner Fleet's recommendations. Discussion followed regarding the authority of the current Environmental Officer in enforcing the present vicious dog ordinance. Commissioner Fleet suggested that Walton County prepare a vicious dog ordinance modeled after the adjoining Counties'. Chairman Griffin requested Commissioner Fleet to confer with Mr. Bell and prepare an ordinance agreeable to the Board.

Mr. Bill Booth, representing G & K Services, appeared before the Board to advise the Board of the advantages of having all County employees wear the same uniform. Commissioner Ambruster asked what the bottom-line cost would be. Mr. Booth answered that the cost would be less than \$6.25 per man per week. Upon quick figuring, the Board arrived at the annual cost of approximately \$32,000.00. Chairman Griffin recommended that the subject be addressed at the budget hearings. The Board agreed.

Discussion was opened on establishing salary schedules for County employees. Chairman Griffin advised the Board that a pay-scale was prepared before. Commissioner Miles agreed and stated that it was

adopted. The Board decided to locate the original proposed pay-scale and to determine if it was adopted before any further action is taken.

Commissioner Ambruster opened discussion on certain purchasing procedures by stating that he feels batteries should be purchased by bid and that a one-year contract be awarded to the low bid with the State contract price as the base price. Mr. Dec Curry, Purchasing Agent, advised the Board that the Purchasing Department handles the purchasing of all items except what the Shop buys for emergency purposes and batteries. He further advised that he feels batteries cannot be purchased for less than what they are purchased for now unless the County chooses to stockpile the items. Mr. George Montgomery, Shop Foreman, appeared before the Board to give an overview of his procedure for purchasing batteries and various other emergency items. Commissioner Ambruster asked Mr. Montgomery to state his procedure for picking up the batteries that are purchased in Alabama and where the batteries go. Mr. Montgomery stated that the batteries are brought from the vendor to a Shop employee's home near the Florida-Alabama line. The employee then transports the batteries to the Shop. Mr. Montgomery advised the Board that this is done as a mere courtesy to the vendor and that, if the Board so desires, he will ask the vendor to transport the batteries directly to the Shop himself. Mrs. Kathy Foster, reporter for the DeFuniak Herald-Breeze, asked if the County pays Alabama sales tax. Mr. Curry answered that if the point of acceptance is in Florida then no Alabama sales tax is applicable. Commissioner Ambruster reiterated his conviction that ALL purchases should be made by the Purchasing Agent. Mr. Montgomery asked the Board's permission to take advantage of the opportunity to purchase two small pickups from the Division of Surplus Property at \$50.00 each. The Board agreed. Commissioner Miles expressed his appreciation for the fine job Mr. Montgomery has performed as Shop Foreman. Mr. Curry advised the Board that he and Mr. Montgomery can work together in the purchasing of so-called "shelf items."

Chairman Griffin requested Mr. Bell to check on the availability of a clay-pit in the South Walton area. It needs to be 20-40 acres and, if Mr. Bell locates one, it should be test-bored. Commissioner Ambruster recommended that Mr. Bell check the listings of all the real estate

brokers in the County to see if any 20-40 acre lots are available through them. If so, then Mr. Bell may investigate further to ascertain if the lots meet the qualifications. In this manner, costs may be kept to a minimum. Chairman Griffin requested Mr. Bell to take Commissioner Armbruster's suggestion and to look for possible clay-pits near each District.

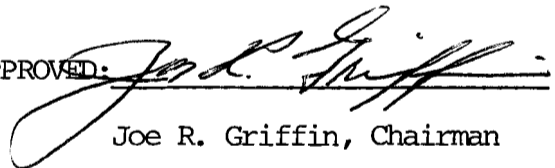
Commissioner Fleet advised the Board that the Tourist Development Council received one bid on the rebuilding of Ed Walline Park. Chairman Griffin asked that it be passed and place it on the agenda at the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Armbruster recommended that a contract be prepared between Mr. George Ralph Miller and the County so that each party might know what is expected of them. Discussion followed regarding each Board Members views on Mr. Miller's services.

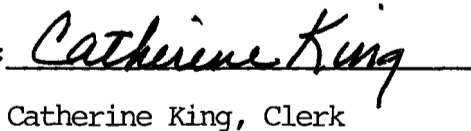
Commissioner Fleet advised the Board that he had spoken with Mr. Dewey Wilson and was informed that Mr. Wilson is happy to have Mr. A.W. Sims working with him. Commissioner Fleet further advised that the three of them will confer in order to prepare an acceptable job description for Mr. Sims.

The workshop was adjourned.

APPROVED:


Joe R. Griffin, Chairman

ATTEST:


Catherine King, Clerk