

WORKSHOP

JULY 7, 1997

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a regular Workshop on Monday, July 7, 1997 beginning 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. Commissioner Joel Paul, Jr. was absent due to a prior commitment. Ronnie Bell, Administrative Supervisor, was also present.

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

Gordon Lawyer, resident of the Juniper Lake area, appeared before the Board to receive an update on the sprayfield issue. Mr. Lawyer reminded the Board of the County's responsibility to monitor the ground water at the sprayfield site and asked if the County has been monitoring the site and had an inspector.

Chet Bush, representing the concerned citizens of Juniper Lake, stated that the County is involved in the settlement agreement with the City of DeFuniak Springs. Mr. Bush stated that one of the settlement issues is that the County will monitor test wells annually. Mr. Bush stated that they have also requested that the Department of Environmental Protection also inspect the wells. Mr. Bush voiced his appreciation to the Board for their support.

Greg Majors, representing New York Life Insurance, appeared before the Board to request permission to meet with all county employees to inform them of the payroll deductible life insurance plan which his company offers. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Majors to meet with the county employees. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Rick Tooke, licensed Surveyor and Mapper, presented a proposal to the Board that they hire a licensed Surveyor and Mapper to meet the work load demands and future requirements for surveying and mapping. Mr. Tooke presented his credentials. The Board agreed that the County does need a licensed Surveyor and Mapper and decided to advertise for the position. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Malcolm Patterson, Executive Director of the South Walton Tourist Development Council, presented a proposal from Urbanomics, Economic, Planning and Development Consultants, to conduct a study of the economic impact of

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tourism in South Walton County. The study will cost approximately \$15,000 plus expenses. Mr. Patterson stated that the South Walton Tourist Development Council Board recommended approval. The study will be paid from Tourist Development tax funds. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Greg Oswalt appeared before the Board to request permission to place a stainless steel building in the Scenic Highway 98 Corridor. Mr. Oswalt is wishing to construct a diner with stainless steel as the exterior. The Scenic Highway 98 Guidelines does not address this type of construction material. The diner will also have two rings of neon lights around the front of the building. Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, stated that Mr. Oswalt can go before the Variance Board to request a variance or the Commission could discuss this type of construction material at the upcoming Workshop regarding the Land Development Code. The Board agreed to discuss this type of building material at the Land Development Code public hearing on Thursday night, July 10, 1997.

Bobby Ammons, Assistant Public Works Director, presented a letter from Jeff Brown, Hydrogeologist, regarding the sampling contract with Savannah Laboratories. The Board agreed to advertise for bids for soil sampling. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to accept the Tax Collector Recapitulation of the Tax Roll for Walton County, Florida 1996. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Due to minimum wage increasing to \$5.15 per hour in September 1997, the Board agreed to increase the Wage and Hour Schedule for Worker/Laborer up twenty-five cents across the scale. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to approve the State of Florida Department of Revenue child support enforcement agreements. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board received a request from James H. Fountain, District 5 employee, that he be allowed to combine his time with the County. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Fountain's years of service be combined so that he may receive the maximum leave time available. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Williams presented a request from the Housing Partnership

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Committee that the SHIP budget be amended due to the receipt of \$100,000 extra which was appropriated by the legislature this year. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Williams advised the Board that Becky Young has resigned from the SHIP Committee. The Board agreed to nominate Heather Seigler to represent the Extension Service and serve on the SHIP Committee. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Williams advised the Board that the Planning and Zoning Department will be meeting with the Inlet Beach Homeowners Association tonight at the Inlet Beach Fire Station to discuss the Zoning Map.

Commissioner Porter voiced his gratitude towards Bobby Ammons, Assistant Public Works Director, for his enthusiasm in working on the bridge construction projects.

The Board recessed briefly.

Doug Barr, representing the Northwest Florida Water Management District, appeared before the Board to discuss establishing a legal entity for development of an alternative water supply at a more regional level. Mr. Barr discussed several options that would provide for integrated planning, design and installation of needed infrastructure to meet the water supply needs of the area while also providing for the long-term sustainability of the ground water resources of the area. Mr. Barr stated that based on the research of the various alternatives available to the County, the Northwest Florida Water Management District recommends the creation of a dependent special district. A dependent special district would be created by passage of an ordinance by the County Commission that outlines the purpose, power, duties and composition of the governing body, among others. Mr. Barr stated that in regard to the governing body of the dependent special district, they would recommend that membership be as inclusive as possible with representation from the utilities and local governments that have a direct interest in providing for the water supply needs of the coastal area. Specifically, Mr. Barr stated, that they would recommend the governing body of the dependent special district include a representative from Walton County, the City of Freeport, Regional Utilities, South Walton Utility Company, Destin Water Users, and other municipalities with an interest in participating. Mr. Barr stated that the District would further recommend that funding for capital improvements, and associated operation and

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maintenance, be generated through the sale of water on a wholesale basis to those water systems that are members of the governing body of the dependent special district. In order to ensure that any capital improvements funded by the district would be paid for, those utilities receiving water would be required to execute contracts with the District providing for the delivery of a predetermined amount of water at a predetermined price. Mr. Barr further stated that regardless of which alternative is selected, additional research will be needed to examine the specific actions required to implement the alternative. Several members of the audience spoke regarding this issue. Representatives from the City of Freeport and Regional Utilities were present. Mr. Barr stated that the next step is to have a meeting among all parties involved.

Ronnie Bell, Administrative Supervisor, advised that Commissioner Paul requested that the Board enter into an agreement with the Northwest Florida Water Management District to assist the County in constructing two boat ramps on Water Management District properties. The boat ramps would be installed at Cow Lake and on Bruce Creek off Louie Miller Road. The District is willing to furnish the materials for the ramp on Cow Lake, the County would provide the materials and labor for the ramp on Bruce Creek. The Board agreed to approve the agreement and place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised the Board that they need to schedule a date for a grievance hearing for Robert Heighton. Mr. Heighton is a paramedic that was employed by the County with the Ambulance Service. The Board agreed to schedule July 21, 1997, at 1:00 p.m., as the hearing date. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to meet on Monday, July 14, 1997 at 1:00 p.m. to review the applications received for the position of County Engineer. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to hold a Budget Workshop tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. and on Monday, July 14, 1997 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The Board agreed to move forward with the engineering and bidding of Blue Ridge Road. The funds to pay for the engineering and construction of the roadway will come from an economic road grant. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell advised that Sue Carter, Tax Collector, has spoken with him regarding the need for a DCT student. Mrs. Carter stated that if she hired a

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DCT student, she would have to request the Department of Revenue to amend her budget. She is requesting that the Board place a DCT Student in her office. The Board agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell stated that he has not received the appraisal for the old Walmart building. The Board agreed to walk through the building and assess the amount of space available.

Mr. Bell advised that he is advertising for proposals from insurance firms interested in providing the County's general liability insurance coverage. The proposals should be submitted no later than August 11, 1997 at 9:00 a.m. The Board agreed to schedule August 11, 1997, beginning at 1:00 p.m., to hear proposals from the various firms. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to approve a bill from Evergreen Landscaping in the amount of \$20,466.06 for landscaping within Driftwood Estates. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Chairman Young discussed the road paving project. Mr. Young stated that the project has been delayed due to the rain. Mr. Young stated that he is expending District 2 funds for the road paving project in District 2 at this time. The Board agreed to transfer funds from CTT contingencies into District 2 road materials and supplies at this time. Each purchase order issued for a road paving project should be marked accordingly.

The Board agreed to adopt a resolution supporting the proposal plan for the development and use of Topsail Hill Park in Walton County, Florida. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board recessed for lunch.

Chairman Young called to order the continued Public Hearing to discuss Cablevision's franchise renewal.

Susan Blair, representing Cablevision, introduced the General Manager, Gene Brock, and Cablevision's Engineer, Gary Evans.

County Attorney George R. Miller and Commissioner Joel Paul, Jr. arrived.

Ms. Blair stated that the franchise agreement has not been completed with the correct verbiage.

Mr. Brock addressed the Board regarding several concerns voiced in prior hearings. Discussion followed.

Motion by Commissioner Paul, second by Vice-Chairman Butler, to

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continue the Public Hearing on August 12, 1997 at 5:45 p.m. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Porter Aye, Infinger Aye, Paul Aye, Butler Aye, Young Aye. Ms. Blair stated that she would provide the Board with the franchise agreement prior to the public hearing to allow time to review the agreement. Mr. Brock stated that he would have a plan developed on how they would obtain building plans in a timely manner.

Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, appeared before the Board and gave a brief status report on grant funding available to the County.

Mrs. Biddle advised of a Florida Department of Agriculture, Urban and Community Forestry Matching grant available. Commissioner Infinger suggested to apply for this grant to plant trees in the old county clay pits. The application deadline is August 14, 1997. The Board agreed to adopt a resolution supporting the development of a County Demonstration Tree Planting Program and authorizing the entering into an Urban and Community Forestry Grant Memorandum of Agreement and the Maintenance Memorandum of Agreement between Walton County and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Biddle advised of a Florida Department of State, Historical Preservation Projects grant available. This grant can be used for acquisition and/or development projects of historical and archaeological sites. The application deadline is September 2, 1997. The Board agreed to adopt a resolution supporting the application of this grant to be utilized for the Euchee Village. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Biddle advised of a Florida Department of State, Historical Museums Grants-in-Aid grant. The application deadline is July 31, 1997. The Board agreed to adopt a resolution supporting the Public Education Exhibit Project proposed for the Flowersview Community and authorize the submission of a grant proposal to the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources for the Historical Museums Grant-in-Aid Program for Public Educational Exhibits. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to authorize the installation of a phone line that would allow the Grants Department access to the Internet. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

There being no further business, Chairman Young adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

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William A. Young, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Dan Bodiford, Clerk