

Workshop

July 8, 1996

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in a Workshop on July 8, 1996, at 8:30 A.M. The following Board Members were present: Chairman Gordon Porter, Vice-Chairman Virginia Pridgen, Commissioner Charles Harris, Commissioner Gerald Wilkerson, and Commissioner Rosier Cuchens, Jr. Also present was Ronnie Bell, Administrative Supervisor.

Chairman Porter read a letter from the Walton County Shrine Club requesting that July 13, 1996 be designated as the Walton County Shrine Club of Hadji Shrine Temple Appreciation Day. This item was placed on the Consent Agenda.

The Board received a letter from Bruce Ward, County Extension Director, requesting that Tanessa Byrd become a permanent employee and to increase her salary to \$6.00 per hour. This item was placed on the Consent Agenda.

Chairman Porter advised the Board that he has received permission by letter from W. Robert Billingsley to remove a tree and straighten a portion of Hulion Road. Hulion Road is located off Laird Road in District 4.

Sue Carter, Tax Collector, submitted the end of Year Recapitulation Report for the 1995 tax year. Acceptance of the report was placed on the Consent Agenda.

Matt Douglas, Ambulance Supervisor, appeared before the Board to request that Christen Faulkenberry be employed as a full time Paramedic, Jonathan Strong as a part-time Paramedic, Shanna Lusk as a part-time EMT, and Tony Pridgen as a part-time Paramedic. Commissioner Pridgen asked that Tony Pridgen not be hired until it can be investigated to see if he is related to her. The Board placed the hiring of Jonathan Strong, Shanna Lusk, and Christen Faulkenberry on the Consent Agenda.

The Board agreed, to place on the Consent Agenda, to allow the American Red Cross to train up to 8 county employees as Safety Instructors.

Mr. Hilton Lawson, South Walton Fire District, appeared before the Board to introduce the new Fire Chief, David Adams, of the South Walton Fire District. Mr. Adams advised the Board that he is looking forward to working with the Board of County Commissioners and the emergency employees in Walton County.

Mr. Tom Powell, Economic Development Council Director, appeared before

the Board to present a resolution that would grant an ad valorem tax exemption to Blue Ridge: The Item Company for ten years or less. Mr. Powell will return to the Board Meeting on Tuesday to present the resolution. The Board agreed that should the company go out of business the exemption will be terminated.

Bobby Ammons, Assistant Public Works Director, presented information to the Board regarding crane rental. M.D. Moody & Sons has a 75 ton truck crane with boom that will rent for \$6000 per month. The diesel hammer will rent for \$5000 per month. An air hammer will rent for \$4000 per month. There will be a cost of \$2000 to deliver the crane along with a \$500 per day set up fee. Mr. Ammons advised that the crane operator will need to go and train on the machine before it is delivered for use. He agreed to go and look at the crane to be sure it will meet the county's needs to repair and construct county bridges.

Mr. Bell advised that the Florida Association of Counties Trust (FACT) has requested to utilize the EOC training room on July 25, 1996 to present a program on Road and Bridge liability. This program will be available to counties in our area. There will be no cost to any of the employees from Walton County to attend the program.

Mr. Bell stated that some months ago Mr. Bill Collier appeared before the Board and proposed that the Board look into the possibility of acquiring a grant to construct a horse arena. Mr. Bell presented a news article advising that the Baker Community received a grant to build such a facility. Mr. Bell contacted Mr. Collier and it was suggested that the Board appoint a committee to see if the project would be feasible for Walton County.

Mr. Bell presented a letter of request from the Freeport Little League that they be allowed to purchase equipment with the unused portion of funds that were donated for a Tee Ball Field. The remaining funds are in the amount of \$1912. The Board placed this item on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Bell advised that Ms. Brenda Chunn has requested that the Board sell Lot 18, Block 124 of the Town of Santa Rosa. Mr. Bell and Mrs. Williams went to inspect the lot and advised that it is wetland. Ms. Chunn wishes to use the land in mitigation. The Board members will go and inspect the lot.

Mr. Bell presented to the Board for review the proposed CDBG Road Paving Project.

Mr. Bell presented to the Board a letter from the Walton County Fire Board requesting a joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners. The

meeting was set for July 16, 1996 at 6:30 P.M., in the Courtroom.

Mr. Bell presented to the Board a letter from Charlotte Mathews requesting a salary increase. Mr. Bell recommended \$6.00. Mrs. Mathews presently makes \$5.30 per hour.

Mr. Bell requested the Board to review a copy of the June Newsletter and make comments on changes.

Ms. Melinda Watson, president of the Board of Directors of the Walton County Humane Society, appeared before the Board to request an additional \$5,500 to supplement the Humane Society budget to the end of September. Ms. Watson stated that the loss in revenue from the Thrift-Shop and an increase in the number of animals that have been disposed of have caused a shortage in revenue. The Board asked for a report on the number of animals picked up and disposed of along with a revenue report. This information will be furnished.

Ms. Jackie Baker, First Vice-President of William R. Hough & Co., appeared before the Board to present information on savings to the county should the Hospital Revenue Bond Issue be refinanced. She stated that these savings would be approximately \$19,000 annually. The Board authorized Ms. Baker to proceed with getting the cost to refinance. There is no obligation to the Board.

Mr. John Fox, resident at 51 Oyster Lake, in South Walton County, appeared before the Board in reference to damage to his property during the clean-up process of removing the houses out of Oyster Lake. The work remaining to be performed is placing sod and gravel on Mr. Fox's property. Mr. Cuchens, will meet with Mr. Fox to review the problem.

Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrator, advised the Board that a Public Hearing will be conducted for No Wake Zones in Mallet Bayou and Hewett Bayou at the meeting tomorrow. A Public Hearing will also be conducted to amend the Contractor Competency Board Ordinance.

Mrs. Williams stated that it has been advertised to extend the DRI build-out date for Hidden Dunes.

Mrs. Williams presented to the Board a list of applicants for the Building Inspector position. Commissioner Wilkerson advised the Board that he would like to see someone hired that has certifications. Mr. Wilkerson stated that if we do not hire certified inspectors the State will take over the operation of the Building Department. Mrs. Williams advised the Board that none of the applicants are fully certified. Mr. Wilkerson encouraged

the Board to hire certified people or to get the present employees certified. The Board suggested to contact other counties to see what the rate of pay is for inspectors.

Mrs. Williams advised the Board that she has prepared a letter to be sent to Abbott and Andrews Realty in reference to the additional parking lot at their office in Seagrove Beach. This is in reference to a complaint made by Mr. May.

Mrs. Williams advised that Wallace Kemper will be coming before the Board tomorrow for a determination of suitability for the Destinair Project. The size of the project has been down sized from 603 acres to 60 acres.

Mrs. Williams informed the Board that the 30A Business Owners wish to form a Technical Review Committee as the 98 Scenic Review Committee.

Mrs. Williams advised that Vicki McLurg requested a sign permit for a sign erected at Rolling Dunes Phase III. The Board instructed Mrs. Williams to get an opinion from Mr. Miller, the County Attorney.

Mr. Bell presented a lifting policy as recommended by Dr. Jana Holland to be added to the safety policy. The Board agreed to place the adoption of the lifting policy on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Bell advised that he had a request to place a fence around the Red Bay Community Center. Mr. Harris instructed Mr. Bell to find out the amount that Red Bay Golf Course Project paid in recreation fees. Mr. Bell advised that a 4' chain link fence will cost between \$800 to \$1,000. Mr. Bell and Mr. Harris will work out the details on the project.

Mr. Bell advised that Ms. Annette Howell, Ambulance Billing, advised that she received a letter from relatives of Jimmy Carroll offering to pay \$350 as full payment on an outstanding bill in the amount of \$949. The offer will be referred to Mr. Miller. Mr. Carroll has no insurance or job.

Commissioner Wilkerson stated that he was advised by Bruce Ward of a change in the Land Development Code from 2 ft. contours to 10 ft. contours in North Walton County. Mr. Ward feels that this is causing drainage problems. Mr. Ward complained about a development which Dr. William Permenter is constructing on Wycoff Road. The Board agreed to discuss this matter with the County Attorney.

Ms. Patsy Register, employee of the Humane Society, presented a report to the Board as requested.

Mr. Harris advised the Board of a drainage problem off German Club Road. Mr. Barges' home sets low and has received damage caused by water run

off. Mr. Harris will consult the County Engineer for assistance.

The Board received a letter from Ronnie Hudson, Public Works Director, recommending the acceptance of Douglas Drive and Spears Circle located in District 3. The Board agreed to place the acceptance of the two streets on the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Harris presented a Right of Entry Agreement from Ms. Donald N. Helms to clean out sand from the entrance to a pond. The sand was washed from a county road.

Chairman Porter asked Mrs. Williams the status of the junk yard at Mossy Head. Mrs. Williams advised that the junk yard is being cleaned up. Mrs. Williams has been advised that Mr. Runge is filing a law suit against Walton County.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:45 A.M.

The Board reconvened at 1:10 P.M.

Mr. John Hazelton, member of the Scenic 98 Corridor, discussed problems that are occurring in South Walton. Mr. Hazelton advised that an enforcement officer is needed to assist investigating unpermitted or unapproved signs being erected. The Board will direct Kent Bass, Enforcement Officer, to meet with the Scenic 98 Corridor Committee for instructions. Mr. Hazelton will be back at the meeting tomorrow for further discussion.

The Board discussed the budget requests as presented. The Board was informed that the present requests would require 8.494 mills to fund.

Commissioner Cuchens asked if the \$200,000 additional paving funds were placed in the 1996-97 proposed budget. Discussion followed about the \$200,000 in the present budget and how it was spent. It was discussed that the Board was to approve the spending of the \$200,000. Commissioner Cuchens stated that the funds were spent to resurface a portion of County Road 30A and he apologized for not bringing the matter to the Board for approval.

The Board set the next Budget Workshop for July 15, 1996, at 8:30 A.M.

The Board adjourned at 2:40 P.M.

APPROVED: _____

Gordon Porter, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Catherine King, Clerk