

JULY 10, 1995

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in a public workshop on Monday, July 10, 1995 at 1:00 P.M., in the Commission Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse to discuss underground utilities.

The following Board members were present: Chairman Gordon Porter, Vice-Chairman Sam Pridgen, Commissioner Charles C. Harris, Commissioner Johnnie Moore, and Commissioner Rosier E. Cuchens, Jr. The Board's Administrative Supervisor, Ronnie E. Bell, was also present.

Chairman Porter called the meeting to order and stated that the proposed amendment to Utility Ordinance 85-3 is with regard to Section 6 and 7.

Nancy Baldwin with Sprint/Centel addressed her concern with the additional cost which the new requirements would place on Sprint as well the customers.

Donny Bush with Sprint/Centel discussed spotting lines on the right-of-ways. Mr. Bush stated that he and his company is willing to cooperate with the county in any way.

Richard See with Emerald Coast Cablevision voiced his concern with permit approval time creating delays in providing service to customers.

Scott Peaden with TCI voiced his concern with the permitting cost as well as added expense to the customers.

Cal Wilson with Gulf Power voiced his concern with increase in cost to his company as well as the customers. Mr. Wilson discussed a central contractor for all utilities and the county which make it easier to spot utility lines on the right-of-ways.

Freddy Bishop, District 5 Foreman, stated that he is having problems with several different utility lines being scattered along the right-of-way and even in the middle of a road. Mr. Bishop stated that his men often cut lines due to there not being one central place designated for utility lines. Also, Mr. Bishop stated that it takes too long for a utility company to come to a job and spot the lines. Mr. Bishop suggested to keep utility lines at least five feet away from culverts and driveways.

Donny Bush addressed Mr. Bishop's comments. Mr. Bush stated that he is willing to work out a solution that will benefit everyone. Commissioner Cuchens stated that the Underground Utility Act will cost the county and the

taxpayers an enormous amount of money. It could even bankrupt the county.

Commissioner Harris stated that the clearance around pedestals must be maintained.

Dewey Wilson, Executive Director of Regional Utilities, stated that the right-of-ways are very congested and something needs to be done. Mr. Wilson suggested that the county follow Chelco's method.

Chairman Porter suggested that a representative from each company represented here today meet with Mr. Bell and work out a solution and present to the Board for final approval.

Commissioner Cuchens stated the the Underground Utilities Act needs to be resolved. The county needs to be exempt or have the repair fees waived.

Luke Green with the Mossy Head Water Department asked why Walton County will not allow water lines under roads to be installed with water and air pressure. Bobby Ammons, Assistant Public Works Director, stated that when water pressure is used, especially in the south portion of Walton County, roads over a period of time cave in due to the pressure.

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

APPROVED: _____

Gordon Porter, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Catherine King, Clerk