

AUGUST 22, 2006 - SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held two Workshops on Tuesday, August 22, 2006, starting at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom B of the Walton County Courthouse. The Special Meeting scheduled for 1:00 p.m. was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

The following Board Members were present: Chairman Scott Brannon, Vice-Chairman Kenneth Pridgen, and Commissioner Larry Jones. Mr. Ronnie Bell, County Administrator and Mr. David Hallman, County Attorney, were also present.

Commissioner Pridgen opened with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Brannon called the meeting to order.

The purpose of the first Workshop was to discuss the Communications Committee's findings on communications capabilities in Walton County. Mr. Ed Baltzley, Director, EOC, and Mr. Jeff McVay, EOC, gave a power point presentation regarding the county's current and future communication concerns, needs, and upgrade options. Mr. Baltzley reported the findings of the Communications Committee and stated that their report included inquiries as to the communications being utilized by surrounding counties. He stated that the Committee ranked the vendors as follows and briefly discussed each:

1. SmartZone ASTRO
2. State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS)
3. M/A-Comm (Communication International, Inc.)
4. Southern LINC
5. Nextel

A copy of the presentation was submitted.

Commissioner Brannon asked if it was possible to expand the coverage of companies like Southern Link and Nextel by allowing them to utilize water towers. Mr. McVay replied that the option was discussed although representatives from Nextel and Southern Link were hesitant to

guarantee the necessary 95% coverage rate. He added that the county currently has an approximate 60% coverage rate with a goal of 95% coverage 95% of the time.

Commissioner Brannon questioned the possibility that the state will eventually require use of the SLERS.

Commissioner Jones felt that a comparative cost analysis for the desired options should be presented. Commissioner Brannon added that grant options should be considered.

The Board recessed briefly at 2:55 p.m. and reconvened at 3:15 p.m. into a Workshop to discuss Fire Service Impact Fees.

Ms. Melissa Proctor, Governmental Services Group, Inc., gave a power point presentation regarding impact fees imposed against new developments to fund infrastructure growth caused by those developments. She discussed issues which would pertain to a possible ordinance. A copy of the presentation was submitted.

Ms. Chrystie Carey, Nabors, Giblin, & Nickerson, P.A., discussed the economic development aspects and steps for implementation.

Ms. Proctor noted that there are errors on page 8 of the power point presentation which were corrected in the hard copy provided in the Board packet.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Workshop adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Scott Brannon, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court