

WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Workshop on Tuesday, September 8, 1998, at 1:00 p.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 Joel Paul, Jr., Commissioner Randall Infinger and Commissioner Gordon Porter. Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, was also present.

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

Mrs. Suedelle Wilkerson, Finance Supervisor, presented the Expenditure Approval List (EAL) consisting of the following bills for approval:

General Fund	\$ 91,260.91
County Transportation Trust	105,845.62
North Walton Msq. Control	794.40
Solid Waste Enterprise	58,662.54
Darlington VFD	316.15
TDC AmSouth	12,654.92
SHIP	27,441.16

Mrs. Wilkerson also requested approval to process payment to Farm Bureau in the amount of \$504.00 for insurance coverage for the Red Bay Volunteer Fire Department.

The Commissioners approved payment of the bills as presented on the EAL and payment to Farm Bureau in the amount \$504.00. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved payment to Attorney David Holder in the amount of \$712.50 for serving as council on the Code Enforcement Board. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved the purchase of a service pump for the Darlington Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$825.00 including labor to install a primer motor and assembly. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Shirl Williams presented an invoice from Eastman Kodak for the service agreement on the Imaging System which is located in the Clerk's Office. Mrs. Williams stated that the Clerk did not budget this expense because the Board normally paid for this service agreement.

Mr. Dan Bodiford, Clerk of Court's, addressed the issue and stated that it would not be beneficial to drop the service agreement on the imaging

September 8, 1998

Workshop

2

system due to the amount of service calls.

The Board agreed to pay Eastman Kodak for the service agreement in the amount \$12,048.00. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Commissioners approved to proceed with replacing the well at the Glendale Community Center. This item will be placed on the consent agenda. The Commissioners will obtain the related costs and present at a later date.

Mrs. Shirl Williams, presented the Personnel Committee recommendation to promote Mr. Willie J. Bailey from Equipment Operator I to the District 1 Assistant Road Foreman with an increase in pay from \$10.50 to \$10.80 per hour. The Board agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

After conducting interviews, the Personnel Committee recommended hiring Ms. Carol Thornton for the position of Administrative Assistant in the Office of Management and Budget and requested to give Ms. Thornton credit for five years of service and a beginning salary of \$9.40 per hour. The Board agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Williams presented an updated job description for the position of Administrative Assistant in the OMB Office for the Commissioner's review.

Mrs. Williams stated that the Personnel Committee recommended advertising externally for the District 5 Assistant Road Foreman's position. Mrs. Williams stated that Mr. Larry Fannin was the only applicant who applied and the Committee felt that he did not possess the proper qualifications for the position. The Board agreed to advertise externally and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Williams stated that she prepared Mr. Tom Blackshear's evaluation in which he received 91% and recommended that Mr. Blackshear be placed in permanent employment status with a one-step pay increase. The Board approved and placed this item on the consent agenda.

The Board approved to advertise for the position of Courthouse Janitor, night shift, and Code Enforcement Officer. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Chairman Young stated that Mr. Tucker Aplin, District 2 employee, has requested to be reinstated to his position. Mr. Aplin resigned in order to campaign for the position of Supervisor of Elections. Mr. Young stated that District 2 has two vacancies and requested to place Mr. Danny Palmer, contract laborer, in full-time employment status. The Board approved to reinstate Mr. Tucker Aplin to the position of Equipment Operator and hire

September 8, 1998

Workshop

3

Danny Parmer as a full-time employee. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bodiford appeared before the Commissioners at their request. The Commissioners requested an updated listing of all of the reserve accounts. Mrs. Martha Ingle, Budget Officer, stated that she presented the list during the September 3, 1998, meeting. Mr. Bodiford explained the system's encumbrance process to the Commissioners. Commissioner Infinger stated that he would like to keep the line of communication open between the Clerk's office and the Commissioners.

Mr. Dewey Wilson, Regional Utilities, informed the Commissioners of a proposed office expansion plan to include additional office and instructional space consisting of 2700 square feet. Mr. Wilson stated that the Planning Department declared the project as a major development because of the total combined square footage of phase I and phase II and requested the Commissioners declare it as a minor development. The Board approved the addition as a minor development because the expansion consists of only 2700 square feet. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Jerry Fountain, Purchasing Agent, appeared before the Commissioners and stated that he reviewed the quote from G&B Marine for the installation of pilings in the Bay, District 5. Mr. Fountain stated that the quote seemed very reasonable for the type and amount of work that has to be done and advised that he would have to advertise for bids if the Commissioners still want additional prices. The Commissioners approved awarding the quote to G&B Marine in the amount of \$8,260. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain stated that Ferrara Fire Apparatus submitted a quote for an additional fire truck off of bid #98-123 in the amount of \$117,346 for the Liberty Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Frank Hall, Liberty Volunteer Fire Department, appeared before the Commissioners and requested the Commissioners assist in financing a new fire truck for a period of ten years. Mr. Hall stated that the fire truck currently being used is over 30 years old and needs replacing. Mr. Hall requested ten year financing and agreed to repay the Commissioners on a yearly basis out of the MSBU monies collected. The Commissioners agreed to piggy-back bid #98-123 and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain presented the correct price for the tires being purchased

September 8, 1998

Workshop

for the RACO 250 in the amount of \$1,240 and requested that the minutes of August 24, 1998, workshop, be changed to reflect the correct price. The Commissioners agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain stated that Murphree Bridge Corporation, Troy, Alabama, is the only one who submitted a bid for bid #98-125, Hub Presley Road Bridge, District 3. The bid total was \$229,250.00. However, due to FEMA requirements, a minimum of three bids must be received. Therefore, Mr. Fountain requested to re-advertise for bids.

Commissioner Infinger stated that he would like to add three additional bridges; two on Long Road and one on George Road, to the list at the same time. Commissioner Porter stated that District 4 would also like to advertise separately for bids for the replacement of bridges on Laird Road and Hinote Road. The Commissioners approved to readvertise for bids on Hub Presley Road Bridge, the three additional bridges in District 3, and two bridges in District 4 on Laird Road and Hinote Road. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain presented the following bids that were received on bid #98-126, Landfill - Scraper:

Coastal Machinery, Pensacola, Fl	No bid
Beard Equipment, Dothan, Al	\$166,904.00
Thompson Equipment, Crestview, Fl	\$175,092.00

Mr. Fountain recommended awarding bid #98-126 to the low bidder, Beard Equipment. The Commissioners approved to award bid #98-126 to Beard Equipment, low bidder, in the amount of \$166,904.00. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain presented the bids received on bid #98-127, Landfill - Dozier as follows:

Thompson Equipment, Crestview, Fl.,	W/Air	\$87,070	
	No/Air	78,190	
	Alt. Bid	W/Air	81,326
		No/Air	73,885
Tractor Equipment, Panama City, Fl.,	W/Air	84,158	
		No/Air	74,619
Beard Equipment, Panama City, Fl.,			
85,819			
Coastal Machinery, P'Cola, Fl.,		66,955	

Mr. Fountain stated that the bids from Beard Equipment, Coastal Machinery and the alternate bid from Thompson Equipment did not meet the specifications.

Mr. Fountain advised that the Caterpillar equipment from Thompson has a

September 8, 1998

Workshop

5

better resale value than the other equipment offered. The Board agreed to discuss this issue further during the regular scheduled meeting.

The Commissioners approved the use of the lowboy for a District 1 County employee to take a driver's exam for his CDL Class A License. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. John Angus McDonald spoke to the Commissioners regarding the parking area at the Canning Center and invited each one to visit the site and speak with him regarding some recommendations he would like to present. Commissioner Paul requested for Mrs. Shirl Williams to locate the survey on the property for review.

Mr. Steve Toepper, Librarian, presented several requests to the Commissioners for approval. Mr. Toepper requested authorization to join a book service rental company at a cost of \$11,926 per year. The service provides 70 books per month and allows the purchase of 10% of the books at the end of a year for 75% less than retail value or \$2.00. In addition to the book service an audio cassette book service is available for \$1,581.16. The rental service provides a cost savings to the library and is a sole supplier. The Board approved to purchase the rental service subject to approval from the Library Board. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Toepper also requested authorization to connect with the on-line computer newsbank at a cost of \$6,520. This service enables the library to save storage space and is a cost savings by not having to subscribe to a large number of news papers and magazines that are provided through this service. The Board approved of the on-line newsbank subject to the Library Board approval. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Commissioners approved to allow Mr. Toepper to piggy-back the Library's computer quotes and purchase two additional laptops at a cost of \$2,995.00 each. The computers are needed for the South Walton Branch and the Freeport Branch to enable operations to continue in the event of a power outage.

The Board approved the purchase of the laptops subject to Library Board approval and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Toepper advised that Walton County is the only County that has a Library Board where the County Commissioners do not have direct control. Mr. Toepper stated that the State only recognizes the Commission Chairman as the

September 8, 1998

Workshop

6

authorized signature for purchases.

Mr. Toepper requested to advertise for phone service for the computer server. The Board approved to allow advertising subject to Library Board consent and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Phil Givens, Fire Board, presented a letter to the Commissioners regarding Mutual Aide Services, which was not received from DeFuniak Springs Fire Department when called upon. Commissioner Porter requested that the Attorney's meet and discuss the problem. The Commissioners voiced concerns with the City receiving money from the County, yet not responding when called.

Mr. Jack Rhodes, representing Gene Smith of the Ship Watch Development, appeared before the Commissioners and requested conceptual approval of Phase II. Mrs. Williams stated that phase II was vested earlier, however, would require a public hearing and the development still has several criteria's that must be met before final approval. The Commissioners approved the conceptual plans for Ship Watch Phase II and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Rhodes stated that Mr. Smith has obtained two permits from the U.S. Corp. of Engineer and the Department of Environmental Protection which will expire November 30 and requested the Board grant permission to move forward with the modified plans, reducing the acreage of shading and proceed with the work as permitted by the Corp and DEP due to time constraints. Mrs. Williams recommended the plans go back through the Planning Commission process.

Mr. Smith spoke to the Commissioners and stated that the changes were made for the better, reducing the environmental impact on shading. The Commissioners deferred further discussion until the regular scheduled meeting.

Mr. Bobby Collinsworth, Darlington Volunteer Fire Department, appeared before the Commissioners and requested to piggy-back bid #98-123, Glendale Volunteer Fire Department's bid, and purchase a new fire truck in the amount of \$131,000 for the type of truck needed. Mr. Collinsworth requested the Board finance the fire truck for ten years with \$10,000 down. The Board approved to piggy-back Glendale Volunteer Fire Department's bid and purchase a fire truck for the Darlington Volunteer Fire Department due to the need to replace the 40 year old truck currently being used, and allow the Fire Department to repay the loan over a period of ten years. This item will be

September 8, 1998

Workshop

7

placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Collinsworth presented some estimated cost savings to homeowners in the rural areas if the County can be reclassified in a class 8 or 9 for insurance purposes.

Mr. Malcolm Patterson, Tourist Development Council, appeared before the Commissioners and requested approval of a change order for the promotional supplies recently approved for purchase. Mr. Patterson stated that the supplier submitted a price change and in addition, the TDC made some minor changes to the embroidered patches. The change consisted of an additional \$195.00 which is still low bid for the product. The Board approved the change of an additional \$195.00 and placed this item on the consent agenda.

The Board approved the purchase of 100,000 - 9X12 envelopes in the amount of \$8,946 to Armstrong Printing, low quote. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Patterson introduced Ms. Joane Saucier who presented the plan for replacing Mr. Patterson, who will soon be retiring. Ms. Saucier commented on how appreciative the TDC Board Members are to Mr. Patterson and how difficult it will be to find a replacement. Ms. Saucier presented to the Commissioners the proposed search plan, proposed advertising, and the TDC Executive Director's job description for approval. The Commissioners reviewed the information and approved the replacement procedure. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Commissioners agreed to adopt a resolution (98-49) designating EMS grant funds in the amount of \$14,088.59 be used to improve and expand the County's pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services System. This item will be placed on the consent agenda. Mr. Douglass stated that the revenues will be amended into the 1998/99 budget.

The Board approved the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CON) for the Walton County Emergency Medical Services effective September 22, 1998. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Douglass requested to promote seven part-time employees to full-time, promote three part-time Paramedics to full-time and hire ten additional part-time employees. The Board approved and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Douglass informed the Commissioners that due to the dangerous conditions of the EMS Station in Mirimar, provided by the Frangista

September 8, 1998

Workshop

8

Corporation, they abandoned that location and are presently working out of a motel in South Walton. Mr. Douglass stated that he has spoken with Commissioner Butler and Mr. Ronnie Bell regarding the possibility of relocating a river buy-out house to Legion Park to use as an EMS station. Commissioner Butler has reviewed the situation and approved of the use of Legion Park and feels that it would be a good location. Sewer and water services are available. The Board approved to allow Charles McMillan, Maintenance Supervisor, to move forward with relocating a river buy-out house to Legion Park for EMS. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Rita Byrd, Bunker resident, appeared before the Board and voiced her objection to the tax bill received for fire protection. Mrs. Byrd stated that the Bunker area does not receive protection therefore they should not have to pay. The Commissioners felt that the bill may have been sent in error and agreed to look into the matter.

Mrs. Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, requested authorization from the Commissioners to take over the demolition of properties acquired under FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Mrs. Biddle stated that demolition can be handled in-house and the County would then be eligible to receive administrative grant funds for that portion of the program. The Board approved for Mrs. Biddle to contract with the West Florida Regional Planning Council for demolition activities. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Biddle updated the Commissioners on the DSR projects from El Nino~. Mrs. Biddle stated that 75% of the funds have been received and reminded the Commissioners to continue turning in receipts for submittal to the State for their portion of reimbursement.

The Commissioners recessed briefly.

Chairman Young called to order the special workshop to listen to concerns regarding communications between the fire departments and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Sheriff Quinn McMillian appeared before the Commissioners and presented an update on communications at the EOC. Mr. McMillian gave a brief overview of when the Sheriff's Department took over the 911 operations in 1997 until the present time. Mr. McMillian spoke of renovations, increased space, additional dispatchers for each shift, and additional equipment. Mr. McMillian informed the Commissioners that the County's mapping system has

September 8, 1998

Workshop

9

been updated and copies of the maps will be provided to all emergency and rescue departments when printed. Mr. McMillian told the Commissioners of the improvement plans for the South Walton substation for better service. Mr. McMillian stated that all attempts are being made to make the system work better and is willing to work with anyone to make continual improvements and voiced his opposition to any emergency calls being transferred out of the County due to the cost and added liability involved.

Attorney Miller advised the Commissioners that the liability remains with Walton County and cannot be transferred. Mr. Miller also stated that the 911 emergency dispatching is currently under the Sheriff's jurisdiction and he has to approve the transfer of calls to another county unless the Commissioners voted to take over control of 911 again.

Mr. Les Hallman, Chief of the South Walton Fire District, along with Attorney Allen Ramey, appeared before the Commissioners and once again voiced their concerns with the manner in which calls are being handled. Mr. Hallman thanked the Commissioners for the increase in funds for improvements and stated that he feels that South Walton has outgrown the services being provided. Mr. Hallman again requested permission to allow Okaloosa County to dispatch their calls on a temporary basis.

Mr. Maurice Gilbert, Chairman of the South Walton Fire Board, asked the Commissioners to favorably consider the request.

Mr. Ramey applauded the Sheriff for the improvements but asked the Commissioners to allow a one year temporary contract with Okaloosa County while the Sheriff continues making the necessary improvements.

Mr. Rob LaPlant, South Walton Fire Commissioner, addressed the Commissioners and stated that public protection is the most important criteria to remember.

Ms. Meg Stevens expressed her support of Les Hallman on behalf of the South Walton Community Council in linking the communications with Okaloosa County.

Commissioner Porter stated that a tremendous amount of money has been spent and he would like to give Sheriff McMillan an opportunity to make the system work.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the South Walton Fire District operating under the proper procedures of Florida Statue Chapter 191.

Mrs. Diane Hughes stated that it appears that the Commissioners have

September 8, 1998

Workshop

10

already made their decision, therefore, would like to urge the Sheriff to make the system better.

Attorney Miller advised that Senator Clary has promised to secure funding during next year's legislative session for communication improvements.

Mr. Douglass suggested forming a communications committee that can prepare some recommendations on how to solve the existing problems.

Mr. Ramey requested for Les Hallman to be placed in charge of the fire dispatching operations at the EOC Office. Sheriff McMillan said no.

Discussion was held regarding the number of protocols that must be followed by the dispatchers, which seems to be creating some of the problems.

Commissioner Infinger requested for the Sheriff, Captain Pagles, and Les Hallman to discuss the problems and come back to the Board on October 13 with some recommendations to solve the problem.

The Board approved travel expenses for Commissioner Paul to attend the Workforce Investment Act Training Session in Tampa on September 9.

There being no further business, the Commissioners recessed until the regular scheduled meeting at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

William A. Young, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Dan Bodiford, Clerk