

REGULAR WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 9, 1989

The Walton County Commissioners met in a regular workshop session on Monday, October 9, 1989, at 8:00 A.M., in the Commissioners' Boardroom in the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board Members were present: Chairman Sam Pridgen, Commissioner W.F. Miles, Commissioner Wilson Holley, Commissioner Robert G. Fleet, and Commissioner Donald D. Brown. The County's Administrative Supervisor, Mr. Ronnie E. Bell, was also present.

Chairman Pridgen called the workshop to order.

Mrs. Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, advised that the Public Hearings regarding the Salvage and Recycling Center Ordinance and the Nuisance Ordinance will be held during the Regular Meeting of October 10, 1989.

Mrs. Williams stated that she has prepared the agreement between the County and the Northwest Florida Regional Planning Council to complete the Capital Improvements Element and Housing Element of the Town of Paxton's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Allan Ramey, Attorney for the Town of Paxton, must prepare the agreement stating that Paxton will contribute \$2,806.00 toward the completion of those two elements.

Mrs. Williams advised that the Zoning Department has received a letter from the Citizens for the Preservation of 'Tops'1 Hill requesting that the acreage be designated as conservation. Commissioner Fleet stated that the Board's Attorney, Mr. George R. Miller, believes that zoning restrictions may be decreased but not increased.

Vice-Chairman Miles advised that he believes the City of Freeport will be requesting that the County pay 46% of the cost to complete their last two Comprehensive Plan Elements - Housing and Capital Improvements; or contribute \$3,000.00 toward those elements.

Mr. Bell stated that the County Engineer has submitted his report on the status of Rushing Road - whether or not the erosion resulted from water run-off from a County right-of-way.

Mr. Bell further stated that a new roof has been installed over the Courtroom. Within the next two weeks the roof over the jury room will be replaced. In addition, the windows in the courtroom are rusted and

the sills are rotting. Mr. Bell is looking into the cost of mill-finish double-paned windows.

Mr. Bell advised that he has reviewed the engineering proposals received from Barrett, Daffin, and Carlan and George, Nielson, and Associates. He asked that the Board review also.

Mr. Bell stated that Mr. Buddy Thompson, Superintendent of the Walton County Correctional Facility, has requested that his on-site trailer be hooked up to the Landfill water pump until the City of DeFuniak Springs constructs the water system to the site.

Brief discussion followed regarding the proposed expansion of Storer Cable into the Argyle community.

Commissioner Brown stated that shrimpers in the Choctawhatchee Bay are requesting the Board's assistance in convincing the Bureau of Marine Fisheries to revert to the size-count regulation in determining the opening and closing of the Bay to shrimping.

Commissioner Brown stated that it was the County Engineer's determination that the erosion on Rushing Road is not due to run-off from a County right-of-way. At an earlier meeting, the Board authorized Commissioner Brown to repair the road on a one-time emergency basis which he will do as soon as the one remaining right-of-entry agreement is acquired.

Commissioner Brown stated that the Solid Waste Committee will soon have a recommendation for the Board. He further stated that Mr. Tom Foss, the computer consultant, is at work and is progressing on schedule.

Mr. Bell advised that Mr. Lee Ingram, of Hondo Enterprises, believes that the barge removal in Hogtown Bayou will be completed well before the 120-day time limit.

Vice-Chairman Miles suggested that the rusty barge at the ferry be removed. The Board agreed. Mr. Ronnie Hudson, Public Works Director, suggested also removing the ramps located at the ferry.

Commissioner Fleet advised that the County was informed that they could pay for the contractor to leave the detour paving at the Choctawhatchee Bay bridge to be used for recreational parking. The contractor intends to mill that paving and reuse it. Commissioner Fleet

stated that he does not feel it would be feasible to pay to have the paving left as it is.

Brief discussion followed regarding the Tops'1 Hill tract.

Commissioner Fleet briefly discussed the advantages of the United Way and its being an asset to the County.

Mr. Robert Davis, developer of Seaside, appeared before the Board to discuss the Successful Communities program and the possibility of preserving DeFuniak Springs as well as the entire County under the program. Mr. Will Aberjur, field representative of Successful Communities in Florida, gave a video presentation of the program and a brief overview of the background and components of the program. General discussion followed regarding controlled growth and development and successful committees.

The Board recessed for ten minutes.

Mrs. Martha Ingle, Deputy Clerk, advised that four part-time employees are being paid out of the General Services 50101.13 Account. Ms. Pearl Harper manages the council on Aging Meal Site at Mossy Head. Ms. Lillian H. Silcox works at the Library branch in Freeport. Mrs. Cynthia Beach and Ms. Geneice Maricle are part-time bus drivers for the Tri-County Community Council. Vice-Chairman Miles has transferred Mrs. Beach and Ms. Maricle to the Road and Bridge payroll until the Board decides if they will continue to fund these positions. Vice-Chairman Miles stated that Mr. Freddy Baker, Director of the Council on Aging, feels that Ms. Harper is an invaluable asset at the Mossy Head meal site. Commissioner Fleet advised that issues of this nature should be addressed during Budget Workshops and Hearings. Commissioner Fleet further advised that he will ask Ms. Marilyn Coe, Librarian, to place Ms. Silcox on the Library's payroll. Discussion continued in reference to contract labor on the County's payrolls.

Mrs. Ingle advised of a resolution from the Walton County Tourist Development Council (TDC) requesting financial assistance from the Department of Natural Resources for the development of beach access parks.

Discussion regarding contract labor employees was renewed. The Board directed Mr. Bell to ask Tri-County Community Council to place

current County employee, Ms. Angela Caldwell, on the Tri-County payroll. Ms. Caldwell works at Tri-County but is paid by the County. Commissioner Holley stated that he believes it is wrong to expend Road and Bridge funds for labor that is not beneficial to the Road and Bridge department.

The deed to the former DOT park on old Highway 98 must be executed in the Regular Meeting of October 10, 1989.

The Regular Board Meeting for December 26, 1989, must be changed as it conflicts with a Board-approved holiday.

The County was declared a natural disaster area for the farmers by the Department of Community Affairs.

Commissioner Brown suggested that the acquisition of boiler and machinery insurance should be considered. Such a policy may cover the air conditioning and heating unit for the Courthouse. The Board suggested that the air conditioning contractor should review the policy to determine what is covered.

The City of Freeport is requesting that the County contribute \$3,000.00 toward the cost of completing the last two elements of Freeport's Comprehensive Plan.

The Walton County Health Department is requesting the Board's approval of a sliding fee scale for primary care services.

The Board agreed that the new addition to the Health Department building should not have a flat roof. Chairman Pridgen stated that he will speak with Mrs. DeLois Carroll and advise her of the Board's recommendation.

Mrs. Ingle reviewed the letters to the Board on the agenda for the regular meeting of October 10, 1989.

Mr. Paul Kersting, of Buck Consulting, appeared before the Board to advise of his company's scope of services and related costs. Mr. Kersting advised that they will perform a financial review primarily of the County's health carrier and make recommendations regarding the negotiation procedures. Discussion continued. The Board directed Mr. Kersting to return in two weeks with a proposal of services associated with the County's needs in the price range of \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00.

Mrs. Ingle reminded the Board that the current rate of travel and per diem is .20¢ per mile. There was discussion during the Budget Workshop to raise it to .22¢ per mile.

Chairman Pridgen adjourned the Workshop.

APPROVED:

Sam Pridgen

Sam Pridgen, Chairman

ATTEST:

Catherine King

Catherine King, Clerk