

REGULAR WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 29, 1990

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in a regular workshop session on Monday, October 29, 1990, at 8:00 A.M., in the County Commission Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

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

Chairman Pridgen opened the workshop for discussion.

The Honorable Circuit Judge Laura Melvin appeared before the Board to introduce Ms. Darla Rice, Coordinator for the local Guardian Ad Litem program. Judge Melvin advised that the Guardian Ad Litem program is a group of trained volunteers who observe, interview, and work with both sides of any child custody case or any court case involving children. More importantly they offer to the Judge an objective view of a very subjective situation with the child's best interest as their only concern. Judge Melvin highly recommended the Guardian Ad Litem program and further advised that Ms. Rice is requesting part-time office space in the Courthouse with a small stipend of \$100.00 per month to cover postage and telephone expenses. Ms. Rice stated that she needs an office here in Walton County from which she can recruit and train volunteers without asking them to drive to her office in Crestview. The volunteers are not reimbursed for their gas. The Board was agreeable to allowing the former County Probation office on the second floor of the Courthouse to be used for the Guardian Ad Litem program on a part-time basis and to allocate \$100.00 per month for telephone and postage expenses. Official action will be taken in the regular session of October 30, 1990.

Ms. Nadine Brassel appeared before the Board to advised that she has found no one willing to serve on a committee to consider alternatives to removing the garbage dumpsters from the County and to the County's solid waste management problem in general. Ms. Brassel relayed to the Board several suggestions she had received from citizens. There was lengthy discussion regarding Landfill operations, the garbage dumpsters, and a Municipal Service Benefit Unit. Ms. Brassel stated that she will continue her efforts and report to the Board at a later date. The Board thanked Ms. Brassel.

Mr. Bell advised of an ordinance prepared for adoption relating to fire inspection activities of Walton County and adopting the NFPA Life Safety Code. Commissioner Miles

advised that he will not vote for the adoption of the ordinance if it imposes another fee on builders. Discussion followed. The Board directed Mr. Bell to eliminate the fee schedule from the proposed ordinance. The ordinance may be amended at a later date to include a fee schedule.

Mr. Bell submitted to the Board a list of the five major areas of concern in Walton County. This list will be forwarded to the Florida Association of Counties. This list includes the following:

1. Comprehensive Plan/Land Development Regulation/Concurrency/Stormwater Management
2. Solid Waste
3. Authority of State Regulating Agencies
4. Alternative Revenue Sources
5. Health Care

The Board directed Mr. Bell to add to the list a concern over the State's extended road plans.

Mr. Ronnie Hudson, Public Works Director, appeared before the Board with Parks Supervisor, Mr. Royce Griffith, to advise of vandalism at Cat Island Park. Mr. Griffith submitted pictures of the vandalism. Mr. Hudson suggested that an ordinance be adopted establishing a nightly closing time for County parks and prohibiting alcoholic beverages in County parks. The Sheriff's Department has indicated that they can enforce the provisions of County ordinances. Discussion followed. Commissioner Fleet recommended that Mr. Hudson should check into the means by which Okaloosa County has attempted to curtail vandalism and alcoholic beverages in their County parks.

Mr. Bell advised that the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has informed the County that other arrangements should be made for office space for Section 8 Housing rather than their occupying space at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Building. The Board directed Mr. Bell to determine who owns the EOC building and the property on which it is located.

Commissioner Holley questioned why the State has requested that County Road C-2A be closed. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Nellie Thompson, Supervisor of Election, has requested an amendment to her budget. The State had not set the elected officials' salaries at the time the County had adopted its budget. The additional amount will be taken from Contingencies.

Commissioner Miles advised that he intends to make a motion in the regular session of October 30, 1990 to advertise for proposals from health insurance providers. Discussion followed. Vice-Chairman Brown stated, for the record, that he was not present at the meeting where the vote was taken to enter into the contract with Humana Health Care Plans.

Mrs. Martha Ingle, Chief Deputy Clerk, reviewed the letters to the Board.

The scheduled closing for the Villa Bay Gardens Retirement Center is November 7, 1990.

The Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, and Property Appraiser have submitted their annual reports.

Commissioner Holley appointed Mr. Joe Cromartie to the Planning Commission. Mr. Warren Conover has resigned his position on the Planning Commission - an appointee is needed to fill the vancancy.

Mrs. Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, advised that DCA will permit the Planning Department to use \$6000.00 (awarded to the County by DCA an in an interest-bearing account) for Comprehensive Plan revisions. However, the County must enter into a contract with DCA sending DCA the \$6000.00. When DCA receives Walton County's Comprehensive Plan, they will release \$3000.00 to the County and upon review of the County's Comprehensive Plan the remaining \$3000.00 will be released.

Commissioner Holley stated that the Shop secretary, Mrs. Theresa Miller, has been "filling in" at the Purchasing Department quite a lot lately and wishes to be compensated for the additional work load. Discussions followed.

Chairman Pridgen adjourned the workshop and called to order the advertised Special Meeting to consider renewing the auditing contract with Marsh, Carr, and Associates.

Motion by Commissioner Miles, second by Chairman Pridgen (who stepped down), to renew the contract with Marsh, Carr, and Associates for \$37,500.00. Ayes 5, Nayes 0. Fleet Aye, Holley Aye, Miles Aye, Brown Aye, Pridgen Aye.

APPROVED:_____

Sam Pridgen, Chairman

ATTEST_____

Catherine King, Clerk