

WORKSHOP

DECEMBER 7, 1998

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a regular Workshop on Monday, December 7, 1998, at 8:30 a.m., in the Commission Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following members were present: Chairman Joel Paul, Jr., Vice-Chairman Van Ness Butler, Jr., Commissioner Gene Ryan, Commissioner Randall Infinger, and Commissioner Herman Walker. Ronnie E. Bell, Administrative Supervisor, was also present.

Chairman Paul 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 payment:

General Fund	\$ 53,886.12
County Trans. Trust	74,416.89
Mosquito Control	1,011.47
Library	297.08
Rec. Plat Fee	80.00
Solid Waste Enterprise	12,725.26
Mossy Head VFD	412.05
Darlington VFD	392.78
Liberty VFD	27.93
Red Bay VFD	449.19
TDC SunTrust	3,111.74
Criminal Justice Trust	295.00
Section 8 Housing	60.00
TDC AmSouth	26,112.71

The Commissioners reviewed the list of expenditures and placed the bills on the consent agenda for payment approval.

Mrs. Lynda Robinson, Human Resource Officer, appeared before the Commissioners to present several issues. Mrs. Robinson requested the Commissioners approve the designated holidays for 1999. Mr. Bell stated that he will review the requested dates with Mrs. Robinson and report back to the Commissioners.

Mrs. Robinson informed the Commissioners that Mr. Ben Schofield, District 2 employee, has recently upgraded his license to a Class A CDL and requested to raise his pay from \$10.30 to \$10.70 per hour as stated in the policies. The Board approved to raise Mr. Schofield one pay grade as requested and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Robinson presented a letter from Mr. Ronnie Hudson requesting to be paid for the entire balance of his annual leave upon his retirement. Mrs.

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Robinson stated that at the time of retirement Mr. Hudson will have a balance of 293.85 hours of annual leave, not counting any time he may take off between now and the date of his retirement. He will also retain 120 hours of sick leave payable upon retirement. Mrs. Robinson stated that Mr. Hudson has hours in excess of the policy's stated 240 hours due to overtime hours worked during the recent storms and being unable to take time off. Mrs. Robinson requested direction from the Commissioners regarding payout for Mr. Hudson for the hours due to recent action of the Board to allow other employees one additional year to utilize their hours. The Commissioners approved to pay Mr. Ronnie Hudson 120 hours of sick leave and the balance of his accrued annual leave upon his retirement. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the necessary qualifications for the position of Public Works Director and the need to advertise throughout the State of Florida. The Commissioners agreed that further advertising was needed and approved to extend the closing date for the position and authorized additional advertising. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Robinson stated that several employees have a misunderstanding of overtime pay and feel that they should receive overtime when they work during a week when holiday pay is included in the pay period. The Commissioners advised Lynda to clarify to the employees that they must work 40 hours before receiving any overtime pay, that it does not include holiday or any other pay.

Mrs. Robinson presented the six month employee evaluation for Billy D. Infinger, Bridge Crew employee. The Commissioners approved the evaluation and placed Mr. Infinger in permanent full-time employment status and raised his hourly rate of pay to \$9.70 per hour. This item was placed on the consent agenda. Commissioner Infinger stated that he is not aware of any relationship between Billy Infinger and himself.

Mrs. Robinson presented the six month employee evaluation for Mr. Terry W. Thomas. Mr. Wilmer Stafford, Bridge Crew Supervisor, is requesting that Mr. Thomas be promoted to Assistant Bridge Crew Supervisor and raised to \$8.60 per hour due to his experience and excellent work performance. The Board approved the six month employee evaluation for Mr. Thomas and promoted him to the position of Assistant Bridge Crew Supervisor at \$8.60 per hour. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

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Discussion was held regarding the job description for the position of County Engineer and whom the Engineer will answer to. The Commissioners approved to hold a workshop to discuss the job duties of the County Engineer, Public Works Director, road centralization, and the OMB Office/Finance Department. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Miner, County Engineer, will continue his probationary period until further discussion at the special workshop.

Mr. Tom Powell, Director of the Walton County Economic Development Council, appeared before the Commissioners in reference to paving of the road leading to the Red Bay Golf Course. Again, Mr. Powell stated that he feels that this would be an opportunity to bring new business activity into Walton County, providing additional taxes. Commissioner Walker feels that it would not provide enough benefits to Walton County. The Commissioners agreed to discuss this issue during tomorrow's regular meeting.

Mr. Powell also discussed LaGrange Bayou and previous dredging activities by the Corp of Engineers. Mr. Powell explained that a large amount of silt is settling on the bottom causing the waterway to become shallow and creating problems for large ships to pass through. Mr. Powell stated that the Bayou needs to be dredged again and the funding issue of \$2.5 million for dredging has been solved. However, the Corp of Engineer needs a site to dump the spoilage after dredging. Mr. Powell explained that the Corp previously obtained several parcels of easements for this purpose, but construction has since taken place on the properties. Mr. Powell offered several suggestions among which was the possibility of the County purchasing 60 to 80 acres where the spoilage can be dumped. The Board agreed to direct Ms. Kassy Keyes to seek legislative action regarding a disposal site for spoilage from the LaGrange Bayou dredging project. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Ms. Joane Saucier, Chairperson of the South Walton Tourist Development Council (TDC), appeared before the Commissioners to present a recommendation for the hiring of the new Executive Director of the TDC. Ms. Saucier reviewed the hiring process with the Commissioners and presented Ms. Kriss Titus as the recommended applicant for the position. Ms. Saucier stated that Ms. Titus will begin on January 4, 1999, and requested the Board accept the recommendation and approve a beginning annual salary of \$75,000.00, moving expenses not to exceed \$4,000.00, and a temporary housing allotment not to

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exceed \$2,500.00. Ms. Saucier stated that all meetings were open to the public except the actual offer, which was made by telephone. Ms. Saucier stated that, since questions have arisen regarding possible violation of the Sunshine Law, she has attempted to contact the County Attorney and the TDC's Attorney to receive clarification. Commissioner Infinger questioned Ms. Saucier and requested to wait until tomorrow to make the decision, pending further clarification from Attorney Miller.

Mr. Malcolm Patterson, Executive Director of the South Walton Tourist Development Council, appeared before the Commissioners requesting approval for payment of an invoice in the amount of \$1,184.50 to Gary Smith Ford, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, for repairs made to a TDC pick-up truck. Mr. Patterson stated that the truck broke down and needed emergency repairs prior to Board approval. The Commissioners approved the payment to Gary Smith Ford in the amount of \$1,184.50 and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Patterson presented quotes for the purchase of new TDC routing signs. Smith Sign Shop presented a quote in the amount of \$850.00 and Himes Signs, Destin, Florida, presented the low quote in the amount of \$805.00. The Board approved the purchase of four (4) routing signs in the amount of \$805.00 each from Himes Signs, low quote. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Martha Ingle, Budget Officer, appeared before the Commissioners and presented the budget amendments for review that will be presented at a public hearing tomorrow.

Mrs. Ingle also stated her computer quit working and needs replacing. The Board approved to piggy-back bid #98-128 and purchase one computer for the Office of Management and Budget in the amount of \$1,389.00 and the associated equipment. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Matt Douglass, EMS Director, appeared before the Commissioners and reviewed the need for EMS housing in Rosemary Beach. Mr. Douglass stated that he has been working with Mr. Alex Dunbar regarding the placement of an ambulance in that area. Mr. Douglass explained that the future site will be located near CR30A and will also contain a small office for the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Douglass also spoke about the increase in development and an increased demand for services. Mr. Douglass presented this information for the Commissioners review and stated that Attorney Miller will be drafting the contract. Discussion was held regarding temporary housing for the ambulance

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crew until permanent facilities are constructed.

The Board approved a request from Mr. Douglass to hire two part-time EMT's, Uriah Becker and Daniel Furleigh. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved payment of an invoice in the amount of \$517.19 to Gulf Coast Community College for Amy Adams, EMS employee. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved payment to Mrs. Patty Warren Strickland in the amount of \$943.06 for the lease agreement of her condominium which is being used as an EMS Station. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Douglass requested approval to purchase two portable buildings from Bestway Portable Buildings, DeFuniak Springs, Florida, in the amount of \$995.00 each to use for supply storage rooms. The Board approved and placed this item on the consent agenda.

The Board approved to delete the position of Graduate Paramedic upon the recommendation of Mr. Douglass. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved for the Purchasing Department to advertise for bids for two (2) ambulance vehicles. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Douglass advised the Commissioners that funds have been received in the amount of \$36,342.00 for County Award Grant M7285. Mr. Douglass requested approval to purchase 12 automatic external defibrillators, from Physio Control after explaining that they carry the specialized equipment that is needed. The Commissioners approved to waive the bid procedure and purchase the 12 automatic external defibrillators from Physio Control at an approximate cost totaling \$45,500.00, with grant funds. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Donnell Whitfield, Cumba Enterprises, appeared before the Commissioners to request that the contract for white goods be renegotiated. Mr. Whitfield explained that due to the cost of metal, he is losing money by paying \$22.95 and would like the Board to consider dropping the rates to \$14-\$15 per ton. The Commissioners agreed to review the information and contact Mr. Whitfield.

Mr. Jerry Fountain, Purchasing Agent, appeared before the Board and presented several quotes for the repair of a Mosquito Control vehicle due to

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an accident. Mr. Fountain presented the following three quotes: Burgess Paint and Body - \$870.89; Tony's Paint and Body - \$1,482.52; and L & H Automotive - \$1,221.80. The Board approved for repairs to be made to the Mosquito Control truck in the amount of \$870.00 by Burgess Paint and Body. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain explained to the Commissioners that the Mosquito Control Department budgeted for one truck in the current budget. However, due to the extensive amount of miles on their current truck and having a balance in last year's budget in excess of \$47,000.00, they are requesting to purchase three new trucks at an approximate cost of \$17,850.00 each. The Board approved to advertise for bids for the purchase of three (3) pick-up trucks for Mosquito Control. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain explained that due to the bridge drawings for Sandy Creek Bridge, the bridge crew is seven piling short, therefore, requesting approval to purchase seven additional piling from Gates Concrete in the amount of \$5,830.00 including shipping charges. The Board approved the purchase and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain presented the results for bid #98-136, Darlington Volunteer Fire Truck. Florida Fire Apparatus, Melrose Park, IL., submitted the low bid in the amount of \$160,000.00 and Code Red, Ocala, Florida, bid \$223,009.00. After reviewing the bids, Mr. Fountain requested the Board award the bid to Florida Fire Apparatus in the amount of \$160,000.00. The Darlington Fire Department also requested to purchase additional options for the truck in the amount of \$730.00. The Board approved to award the low bid to Florida Fire Apparatus in the amount of \$160,000.00 and also approved the additional options in the amount of \$730.00. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain also presented quotes for the repair of the septic tank drain field at the County Shop. Mr. Fountain stated that the drain lines were damaged during Hurricane Georges and FEMA has stated that they will accept the bill for review for possible reimbursement of the repairs. The following quotes were presented: Flowers Septic - \$1,626.00; Superior Septic Service - \$1,568.00; and Florida Sewer and Septic - \$2,502.00. The Board approved the low quote for repairs to the septic tank drain line at the County Shop in the amount of \$1,568.00 to Superior Septic Service, Crestview, Florida. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

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Mr. Fountain stated that additional charges have been incurred for the DeFuniak Springs and Freeport EMS fuel tank and pumps totaling \$11,283.93. The bill was previously approved on April 14, 1998, in the amount of \$7,625.89. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain discussed the security regulations for the fuel pump at Paxton EMS and stated that an additional pump needs to be purchased for Paxton for inventory control purposes. Discussion followed regarding a key system for the entire county. The Commissioners approved for Mr. Fountain to obtain prices for the purchase of a complete county inventory control system for fuel and research the issue of the amount of fuel Paxton uses. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain requested the Commissioners waive the bid procedure on a one-time basis and purchase foam filled tires from Dave Howell's Tire, Pensacola, for the Landfill in the amount of \$1,245.00 each, piggy-backed off of bid #98-117. Mr. Fountain stated that Howell's Tire has presented the lowest bid the last two bids. The Board approved and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Steve Toepper, Librarian, appeared before the Commissioners and requested the use of a county vehicle in order to attend a Director's Conference in Orlando on December 15 and 16. The Board approved for Mr. Toepper to attend the conference and approved the use of a county vehicle. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board also approved the purchase of bar codes for the library from PSI Graphics in the amount of \$1,136.91. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Lynn Timbrook, Vice-President of Engineering and Operations for Chelco, appeared before the Commissioners to discuss the setbacks on CR 30A and the safety concerns with the new guidelines as adopted in the 30A Traffic Study. Ms. Beth Folta, President of the Scenic 30A Business Association, also spoke to the Commissioners regarding their reasons for supporting the new setbacks. Mr. Mike Richards of Chelco also spoke to the issue. After further discussion, the Commissioners agreed to set a date to hold a workshop with the utility companies and a workshop for public input. The Commissioners also agreed to place a moratorium on any construction proposing setbacks less than previously adopted setbacks. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

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Mr. Dan Bodiford, Clerk of Court, presented the 1998 Fiscal year end report for the operations of the Clerk's Office. Mr. Bodiford explained that the Clerk's Office is operated on both a budget and a fee system and stated that he is returning \$263,133.90 in excess funds and fees to the Commissioners. The Commissioners approved the Clerk's year end report and accepted the funds in the amount of \$263,133.90 to be returned to the General Fund. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Tom Terrell, Mossy Head Water Works, appeared before the Board requesting assistance from the County in preparing the subgrade, basework, and construction of a retention pond adjacent to their tower site in Mossy Head. The Board approved and placed this item on the consent agenda.

The Commissioners recessed until 1:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Butler presented a letter from Ms. Connie Kirk requesting the Commissioners place a light on the flag at the Hatcher Cemetery at an approximate cost of \$1,200.00. After further discussion, the Commissioners approved for Mr. Bell to submit a letter denying Ms. Kirk's request for lighting. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Butler presented a letter from Paradise Developers Inc., requesting Walton County pay one half the \$53,192.00 for relocating the utilities underground along Holiday Road between Old Hwy 98 and New Hwy 98. As a result of the placement of the utilities underground, Paradise Development, Inc., will deed an approximate 30 foot easement from Old 98 to New 98, including a 15 foot utility easement on the east side of Holiday Road to Walton County. Commissioner Walker stated that he would like an opportunity to visit the area and look at the situation before making a decision.

The Board approved Ms. Kassy Keye's contract for the period of January 1, 1999, through June 30, 1999, as Lobbyist for Walton County, and amended the contract to a 30 day payment upon receipt of invoice. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved for District 5 to provide dolomite and assist with preparing a temporary parking area at the location of the YMCA on CR 30A. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved to advertise to hold workshops on the following dates: January 5, 1998, at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the duties of Public Works Director and the County Engineer's duties; 1:30 p.m. to discuss road centralization; January 6, 1999, at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the OMB and Finance

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Office and 1:30 p.m. to discuss the Landfill; January 11, 1999, to discuss CR30A with the utility companies-1:30 p.m. at the TDC Office. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved January 1, 1999, as the designated New Year's Day Holiday for county employees. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved for Walton Correctional Institute to utilize the Landfill compactor recycling equipment, to establish a recycling program, until they obtain their grant funding and equipment. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board accepted the Sheriff's Department 1998 fiscal year end report as presented and accepted \$1,546.38 to be returned to the General Fund. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved to declare BCC #1377, time stamp, as surplus. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved payment in the amount of \$10,988.69 for ad valorem taxes on Walton Regional Hospital in exchange for indigent care provided by Healthmark, as per the agreement with Healthmark. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved a right-of-entry form for Mr. Jerry Nelson, District 2, for the purpose of constructing a drainage ditch. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell presented a proposed resolution for the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem special assessments for the Commissioners review. The resolution will be presented for approval tomorrow, as advertised, and will allow the Commissioners to impose the assessment if they choose to do so.

Mr. Bell presented information relating to the Grievance Committee's recommendation for Larry Rushing, former District 1 employee, for the Commissioner's review.

Mr. Bell presented a tax bill for the taxes due on the Sun Trust Bank Building. Discussion was held regarding the amount of taxes paid at closing. Mr. Bell stated that he will obtain a closing statement and present it back to the Commissioners.

Mr. Bell advised the Commissioners that a meeting will be held with Ms. Kassy Keyes and a representative from Tallahassee to tour the hospital to

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discuss possible uses of the building after Walton Regional Hospital relocates.

Mr. Bell presented a letter from Mr. Lloyd Blue requesting a variance to the Grayton Beach Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance and requested that the hours of service be extended until 2:00 a.m. on January 1, 1999. The Board approved and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell presented a proposed resolution to support the grant application for Historical Resources Grant-in-Aid Department of State, Division of Historical Resources for an Archaeological survey of Walton County. The University of West Florida will conduct the historical survey, if the grant is approved. The Commissioners approved to adopt the resolution in support of the grant application. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved the purchase of signature patches for the check signing machine in the amount of \$215.00 for Chairman Joel Paul, Jr. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Walker presented a resolution for the Commissioner's consideration that will allow the county to recover costs for "Private Road Grading". The Commissioners agreed to have Attorney Miller review the ordinance before considering it.

The Board approved payment of an invoice to Jay Neal Enterprises, in the amount of \$1,098.00 for the purchase of a Honda Fan for the Darlington Volunteer Fire Department. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved payments totaling \$127,758.25 for the purchase of three river buy-out properties. Commissioner Paul abstained because one of the properties belonged to his Father-in-Law. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved payment to Diamond Sand Company in the amount of \$1,885.95 for Rip Rap, District 3. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Discussion was held regarding the speed limit on Highway 1087, District 4. The Commissioners previously approved to restripe the double lines and look into lowering the speed limit. Commissioner Ryan will request the paint crew to restripe the road and also review the Uniform Standards for speed limits with Mrs. Shirl Williams.

The Board approved for District 3 to replace some top soil on the

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property of Don McQuade, due to damage to his property caused by traffic that was detoured across his property after Hurricane Georges. This item will be placed on the consent agenda. The Board approved payment to Mossy Head Water Works in the amount of \$800.00 for a damaged fire hydrant, caused by District 3. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Ryan voiced concerns with the recent Planning Commission recommendations that were adopted for Elrod's Fish Camp and the Neurological Center. Discussion followed regarding the time frame in which the recommendations are presented to the Commissioners for approval. The Commissioners agreed to change the date that the Planning Commission will present their recommendations to the Commissioners until the first Commissioners meeting of the month, which is an evening meeting and will also allow additional public input.

The Board approved to refund Mr. Anthony Dilio in the amount of \$15.00 for an unused mobile home permit. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved to return an NSF check to Jody Stroble for an unused dog tag in the amount of \$25.00. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved payment to Steven Bruce, County Surveyor, in the amount of \$600.00 for two subdivision inspections. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Joel Paul, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Dan Bodiford, Clerk