

REGULAR WORKSHOP

DECEMBER 11, 1989

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in a regular workshop session on Monday, December 11, 1989, at 8:00 A.M. in the County Commission Boardroom in 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.

Mr. Bell advised the Board of Bid Openings on January 2, 1990 at 10:30 A.M. regarding the materials for the construction of the road into the prison and on January 3, 1990 at 10:00 A.M. regarding the Choctawhatchee Bay ferry.

Mr. Bell stated that Mr. Earl Garner is on the agenda for the regular meeting of December 12, 1989 to request the County's approval to construct bus stop shelters along selected County right-of-ways. Mr. Zane Sunday, School Superintendent, is supportive of the effort and it is at no cost to the County.

Mr. Bell advised that his office has received a letter from the Speaker of the House regarding a search for five-acre tracts on which to construct a rehabilitative facility for the Serious Targeted Offenders Program. The facility would be operated by the Department of Corrections and is to avoid incarcerating youthful offenders of the law in the mainstream correctional facilities.

Mr. Ronnie Hudson, Public Works Director, advised that there is not enough equipment or men available to finish work at the Farmer's Market. In addition, the inclement weather is holding up progress. Mr. Hudson further advised that work began on the Site C-6 road. Vice-Chairman Brown had contacted the Air Force Base and was informed that the federal agency would be pleased to have the County reopen and maintain the road.

The Board advised that all materials for maintenance at County parks should be charged to the Parks Repair and Maintenance Account.

Mr. Hudson advised that trucks are needed to haul approximately 278 cubic yards of clay to aid in the repair of the liner at the Landfill.

Commissioner Fleet stated that he has been contacted by Health and Rehabilitative Services regarding the need for prioritizing traffic travelling on the ferry across the Choctawhatchee Bay. Commissioner Fleet agreed and recommended some form of window sticker identifying priority traffic.

Commissioner Miles stated that he feels that there should be two ferries across the Bay and that there should be 24-hour service. Discussion followed regarding the recent accident which has halted traffic across the Choctawhatchee Bay bridge. The Board agreed that a request should be made to reroute barge traffic through the Gulf of Mexico and to implement some type of temporary span across the Bay. Discussion continued. The Board agreed to adopt a resolution in this regard in the regular session of December 12, 1989. Vice-Chairman Brown suggested that the County may seek action against the tug boat company for the shortfall in gas taxes and sales taxes resulting from the inhibited flow of traffic through the County.

Commissioner Holley advised that he had received the letter from Attorney William Barrow requesting that the County waive the time period to negotiations on reinstating retirees' insurance and allow him to file the retirees' suit at once. The other Board Members acknowledged that they, too, had received a copy of the letter.

Commissioner Holley stated that if he were to purchase all of District 3's sick leave and annual leave time presently on the books, it would cost over \$25,000.00.

The Board discussed the need for more parking space and prospective areas of expansion for such. The Board directed Mr. Bell to determine the number of parking spaces the County-owned lots on the corner of Sloss and 7th Street will accommodate.

Commissioner Fleet stated that the Clerk's Office and the Tax Collector's Office may need to consider a satellite office in South Walton County while the bridge is out.

Vice-Chairman Brown offered District 4's assistance to Commissioner Fleet during this period of difficulty traversing the Choctawhatchee Bay. Commissioner Fleet thanked Vice-Chairman Brown.

Commissioner Fleet advised that District 5 has received an offer for free fill dirt South of the Bay.

Mr. Jack Little, Tax Collector, appeared before the Board to request the Board's approval of his application to the Department of Revenue for a budget amendment from approximately \$119,000.00 to approximately \$148,000.00. The purpose of the budget amendment is to bring his employees in line with the State's salary recommendations. The Board stated that because Mr. Little is a constitutional officer, he does not need the approval of the Board, but that action will be taken in the regular session of December 12, 1989.

There was brief discussion regarding tax collection from Sandestin.

Mrs. Martha Ingle, Deputy Clerk, reviewed several proclamations and a resolution to be adopted in the December 12, 1989, regular session.

The Board acknowledged the receipt of a letter from Mr. Nicasio G. Ramos, former County employee, and his attorney advising the County of their intent to bring suit for discriminatory hiring and firing practices.

Mr. Kermit George, engineer, will be present in the regular session to make his recommendations regarding the renovation of the old jail and an architect. Brief discussion followed.

Chairman Pridgen adjourned the workshop.

APPROVED: Sam Pridgen

Sam Pridgen, Chairman

ATTEST: Catherine King

Catherine King, Clerk