

JUNE 21, 2002 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on Friday, June 21, 2002 at 9:15 a.m. in the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Tim Pauls, Vice-Chairman Larry D. Jones, Commissioner Herman L. Walker, Chairman Lane Rees and Commissioner Gene Ryan. Mr. Michael Underwood, County Administrator, Attorney Gary Vorbeck, Director of Legal Services, and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

Commissioner Pauls led with prayer following the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Chairman Rees called the meeting to order and recognized Ms. Sara Comander for her efforts in leading the 100-year celebration of DeFuniak Springs. Ms. Comander spoke about the events that have taken place and the entertainment that will occur.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following items. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

1. EAL Approval	
General Fund	231,210.20
County Transportation Trust	491,591.09
Walton County Library	17,530.90
Glendale VFD	81.44
Darlington VFD	737.02
Section 8 Housing	305.41
Tourist Development Council	279,182.50
Fine & Forfeiture	37,225.02
N.W. Mosquito Control	9,940.19
Recreation Plat Fee Fund	2,394.12
Solid Waste Enterprise	8,731.28
Mossy Head VFD	414.89
Glendale VFD	533.19

Liberty VFD	71.52
Red Bay VFD	139.94
Local Option Gas Tax	294,213.30
2. Approval to Submit Annual Applications to Dept. of Environmental Protection for the Solid Waste Recycling and Education Grant and the Solid Waste Tire Grant	
3. Approval of Amendment to the Flood Mitigation Assistance Sub-Grant Agreement Between Walton County and the Two Individual Homeowners Participating in the Elevation Program	
4. Approval of the Standard Rate Agreement Between Walton County and Florida Dept. of Revenue for the Child Support Enforcement Program for Service of Process	
5. Records Disposition Request by the Clerk	

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, appeared before the Board and explained that his department is presently working on the upcoming budget and stated that budget workshops are tentatively scheduled for July 8 and 10, 2002.

Mr. Imfeld stated that Purchasing is working to update their system to enhance their working abilities, which will also help them to communicate better with the public.

Mr. Imfeld stated that they are working to better oversee the expenditures for phone and radio use to insure it is being charged properly.

Mr. Imfeld updated the commissioners on the status of grants. He stated that we have had 50 grants for the county this year, with 13 of them being closed out. Ms. Ingle commended Mrs. Angie Biddle for her hard work, making it easier for the Clerk's Office at year-end.

Mr. Underwood asked Mr. Imfeld to explain the process regarding the goals that were set by each of the commissioners. Mr. Imfeld explained that each goal was compared to that of another commissioner; many of them overlapped. There were 10 basic goals and objectives in which they worked with to align the budgets, with the help

of each division head. Mr. Imfeld will present a copy of the working document to the commissioners for their information.

Mr. Dan Trotman updated the commissioners on the status of the Voice Data System for the South Walton Courthouse Annex. Two of the four proposals submitted did not meet the specifications. New Tel submitted a bid of \$110,000 and Gulf Coast submitted a bid in the amount of \$58,000. Discussion followed regarding the proposals that did not meet specifications and the types of equipment that were included in the proposals.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to award the Voice Data System for the South Walton Courthouse Annex to Gulf Coast Communications. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. William Pennington, Clerk Finance Director, appeared before the board to discuss implementation of the GASB34. He stated that one critical concern is the fixed assets and capitalization thresholds. Currently all items over \$500.00 are being capitalized. He requested that the threshold for financial statement purposes be changed to \$5,000.00 for equipment and \$25,000.00 for all other purchases such as land, buildings, and improvements. Mr. Pennington stated that a register would still be maintained for everything \$750.00 and above as set by the State. Mr. Imfeld and Mr. Hilton Galloway are both in agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept the recommendation and change the capitalization threshold as stated for both the Fixed

Asset Register and the Financial Statements. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Walker Aye, Jones Aye, Ryan Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, appeared before the Board requesting to lower the speed limit in the Governmental Education Center from 35 mph to 25 mph due to the amount of pedestrians in the area.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to approve lowering the speed limit to 25 mph in the Governmental Education Center. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Barry updated the commissioners on various Public Works projects. He explained that all information has been provided to EPA regarding the cease and desist order, which should be lifted by the middle of July.

Mr. Barry informed the board that they have taken a good look at CR 30A and now know what the county owns and what is in the county's right-of-way along that highway. He also stated that they should be able to go out for bid for phase II of the bike path in the near future. He advised that he is continuing to work on the Right-of-Way Policy.

Mr. Barry explained that work is still continuing on the landfill project. He stated that the second design phase has been complete, however there are issues with several property owners that are being discussed.

Mr. Barry spoke about the deteriorating condition of CR 3280 and continued truck traffic on that road. He explained that he has maintenance crews continually repairing the road and the repairs are torn apart within hours. The entire road is becoming a safety hazard to the public. Mr. Barry explained that the road can be torn out and rebuilt

to 24 feet. He stated that they have a preliminary engineering plan, the engineering designs are completed and the permits have been received. He estimated reconstruction to be \$1 million. Commissioner Walker commented that work on this road should be coordinated with other work in the area so the road will not continue to be torn apart. Commissioner Jones questioned the status of the agreement with White Construction for repairs on the road. Mr. Barry stated that he has been in contact with White, but has not received any response. Mr. Ryan reminded the board of previous discussion regarding lowering the speed limit. The board directed Legal Services and Mr. Underwood to set up a meeting to discuss this issue.

Mr. David Herring appeared before the board to discuss a county easement on his property on Brown Road. During the title search they found that the county has a 330' easement on the property. He stated that he has contacted county staff in an attempt to reduce the easement. Commissioner Jones explained that the county will be requesting right-of-way along Brown Road to widen the road. He stated that if the entire 330' is not required then they would work with Mr. Herring to reduce the easement. Mr. Barry also commented that he has been working on this issue. Commissioner Walker stated that he had previously spoken with staff several times in an attempt to correct the problem. He further explained the problems that exist with drainage and steps taken to correct it. He commented that he had previous discussion with Mr. Herring, however, Mr. Herring has never contacted him back. Commissioner Walker will bring this issue back after discussing it further with the parties involved.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, stated that the interlocal agreement with the City of Paxton is still pending. Mr. Bell reported that Animal Control has had 730 calls and has responded to 555 of those calls. They have picked up 333 dogs and 31 cats. He stated that one reoccurring problem is that many of the animals are not wearing collars or any identification. Commissioner Jones suggested offering the public some type of method to provide identification for a nominal fee. Approximately 20% of the calls are from south of the Bay.

Mr. Bell informed the board that there has been 4782 E-911 calls for the month of May. Fire/EMS responded to 1080 of those calls. He further explained that trunk tests are performed from both the north and south part of the county to assure that the lines are operating correctly in order to receive 911 calls. Mr. Bell also reported on Emergency Medical Services, Fire calls, and Airheart 1 transports.

Mr. Bell stated that they have completed training on the GPS addressing and have begun adding new addresses and will start backtracking as soon they are caught up. Mr. Bell also stated that they have held exercises in preparation of Hurricane Season. Commissioner Pauls questioned Mr. Bell regarding a memo that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to ask the commissioners to appoint a committee to clarify county policy regarding hurricane preparedness. Commissioner Pauls asked Mr. Bell to organize that committee. He agreed to do so.

Chairman Rees announced that Mrs. Titus is unable to attend today's meeting and therefore requested to postpone the presentation of the county logo until the July meeting.

Mr. Ken Little, Citizens Service Director, addressed issues relating to the Citizen Services Department. Mr. Little requested to add the name of Dozier Padgett, a Civil War

soldier from Walton County, which was inadvertently omitted, to the Confederate War Memorial.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Jones to approve adding Pvt. Dozier Padgett's name to the Confederate War Memorial located at the courthouse. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Little presented a request to provide office space for the Department of Agriculture's Beef Inspector and Forestry Agent in the County's Agricultural Building.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Jones to provide available office space to the Beef Inspector and Forestry Agent at the no cost to the county. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Little stated that he is working on the county owned property listing; however, it is time consuming and not yet complete. He stated that his ultimate goal is to put them into the GIS system.

Mr. Little advised that the Occupational License Committee has met several times and will meet again in July and August. They are working to draft an ordinance to present back to the board. Commissioner Pauls expressed his appreciation for the committee's efforts.

Mr. Little also told the commissioners about a project he is working on to compile a composite of all of the previous constitutional officers, when they served, which office they held, and a picture.

Mr. Little informed the board that the library has had 31,233 visitors since the beginning of the year and checked out 45,457 books. He also told the commissioners that 169 people have submitted applications for Section 8 Housing and 106 were interviewed

and 66 vouchers were issued. Veteran's Services has been extremely busy with 447 claims processed this year. He gave updates on issues relating to the Health Department and health care services in the schools. Mr. Little also gave an update on the Extension Services, and the SHIP Program.

Mr. Don Crim questioned Mr. Little about the citizen's complaint line that has been discussed in the past. Mr. Little stated that at the present time people are contacting the department relating to their concern.

Chairman Rees questioned Mr. Little regarding the CDBG Advisory Committee. This issue will be brought back before the board at the July 9, 2002 meeting.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resources Director, discussed employment issues; the number of personnel hired this year and their positions. He stated that they are also looking at reevaluating the DCT program to provide better training. Mr. Mattison spoke about the Safety Program and performing the CDL licensing in-house. Additional training, employee orientation, and house calls are being made to better serve county employees. Workers compensation cases are being reviewed. He discussed the insurance benefit plans and reviewed possible changes that might occur. The employee newsletter has been postponed until the new PIO Officer starts.

Mr. Underwood explained that Cody & Associates has submitted a draft study as performed for the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Rees commented that he would like to proceed with finalizing the study because it has already been over a year. Mr. Underwood voiced concern regarding a lack of communications with Cody & Associates since the board hired this firm. Some felt the report was the final report. Mr. Mattison stated that

he would be contacting Cody & Associates to request they meet with the commissioners before the budget process begins.

Mr. Jack Arthur, Growth Management Director, gave an overview of his departmental issues. He spoke about the workshop that will be held regarding wetlands. He also discussed statistics for the Building Department, Planning, Beach Activities, and Code Enforcement. Mr. Arthur also advised that the Noise Ordinance has been sent to each commissioner and is available for public review as well. This ordinance will be presented at the last meeting in July.

Attorney Vorbeck explained that the Chamber of Commerce has submitted a request asking the board to consent to them mortgaging their lease for the property in the GEC Center, in order to borrow money against their lease. Mr. Vorbeck stated that he would like an opportunity to make certain amendments. This will give consent to the Chamber borrowing monies against the lease.

Mr. Vorbeck also requested authorization to retain the law firm of Pleat and Perry to assist with two cases on Sugar Cliff and Sunseekers Condominiums.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Pauls to approve to retain legal service from the law firm of Pleat and Perry to assist with cases on Sugar Cliff and Sunseekers. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Ryan commented that the Regional Utility Authority held a meeting recently. He stated that they are attempting to develop a computer model regarding the Florida aquifer and the affects that can be created from different situations. They have estimated a completion date for the model to take approximately 7 months.

Commissioner Pauls presented photos of Helen McCall Park. Mr. Markey has requested an additional \$20,000.00 from the Recreation Impact Fees to complete needed improvements at Helen McCall Park.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to approve to utilize an additional \$20,000.00 from the Recreational Impact Fee funds for the Helen McCall Park. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Pauls presented a request to assist in securing a Florida Community Trust Grant to purchase a parcel of property in Grayton Beach that is surrounded by State owned lands. There would not be any cost to the county.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Jones to support a proposed resolution in support of the acquisition of the Davidson land tract at Grayton Beach. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Walker questioned if the commissioners have reviewed the House Bill that would allow an additional \$3.00 to be added to the cost of traffic fines and to join in a partnership with the school board to support driver's education.

Commissioner Walker presented the assessed value of county owned properties, as presented by the Property Appraiser, in the amount of \$5,228,478,231.00.

Mr. Underwood requested to remove the Three Rivers Foundation from the agenda. He also presented a request on behalf of CHELCO for a right-of-way easement for the placement of utility lines for the Chamber of Commerce and the Cultural Arts Building at the GEC Center.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve a right-of-way easement agreement with CHELCO to install utilities at the GEC Center,

subject to review of the agreement by the Public Works Department and Legal Services to insure that the easements do not prevent the county from constructing the trail systems.

Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Underwood discussed relocating the trailers to complete the parking area at the South Walton Annex. Commissioner Pauls also reminded the board that a decision would need to be made regarding the use of the trailers.

Mr. Underwood stated that a meeting would be held to discuss the beginning of the abatement at the old hospital, which could start on July 15th if the contract is awarded. He stated that there is equipment and material that needs to be moved to another storage location.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Walker to grant approval for the board to lease space at the Sears Building from Mr. Mitchem for a period of one year to store equipment for the Supervisor of Elections. The monthly cost is \$350.00 per month. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Commissioner Walker also requested consideration be given to the Supervisor of Elections to allow her the use of 800 square feet if the 20,000 square foot building is erected at the EOC. Mr. Bell felt that space would be available.

The commissioners recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

Mr. Mike Varner, Southern Earth Sciences, appeared before the board regarding the bids for abatement of the asbestos at the old hospital. He recommended Gulf Services Contracting, Theodore, Alabama, who submitted the low bid in the amount of \$137,204.00. They will begin July 15 and have a completion date of 60 days.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Jones to award the asbestos abatement contract to Gulf Services Contracting in the amount of \$137,204.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. Mr. Varner explained that his firm would oversee Gulf Services on a full-time basis during the process and air tests will be conducted to insure compliance. Commissioner Walker voiced concern with paying \$30,750.00 for Southern Earth Sciences to oversee this firm when they are a licensed firm themselves. Mr. Varner explained that a project monitor is require and has to be under to direction of an asbestos consultant.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to grant conditional approval of payment in the amount of \$30,750.00 to Southern Earth Sciences to monitor the removal of hazardous materials, subject to review of Florida Statutes and EPA regulations by Attorney Vorbeck.

Mr. Dewey Wilson, President and General Manager of Regional Utilities, spoke about providing water for Inlet Beach. He stated that Regional Utilities has drafted a contract for Inlet Beach to purchase water from them, which needs the county's approval. The agreement is for a period of 29 years and states that Inlet Beach agrees to purchase a minimum of 10,000 gallons per day and maximum of 100,000 gallons per day.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Jones to approve for Regional Utilities to contract with Inlet Beach for the purchase of water as stipulated in the contract. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Naye. Discussion was also held regarding sewage problems at Inlet Beach.

Mr. Underwood advised that Mr. Brian Kellenberger reported that the guaranteed maximum price for the Chamber of Commerce Building is \$599,480.00 in addition to

\$7,000.00 in furnishing. The note they are requesting is for \$480,000.00. The commissioners requested language be added to the contract that the county would have first right of refusal if the Chamber were to default on their lease.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Pauls to direct Attorney Vorbeck to add language to the document that allows the Chamber of Commerce to proceed with borrowing money, against their lease on property in the GEC Center, giving the county the first right of refusal. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Linda Morse spoke to the commissioners regarding the destruction of Pit Bulls that were awarded to the Humane Society of Walton County and later released back into the community. She voiced her concern because of recent attacks by bulldogs.

Mrs. Shari Judkins appeared before the commissioners and stated that once again, she asked to be placed on the agenda and was told that she could only go under Mr. Barry's timeframe. Mrs. Judkins asked about the safety and completion of North Holiday Road including signs and drainage. Commissioner Pauls commented that he has visited the area and has seen the county crews continuing to work on the storm water. He has been told that the "No-Parking" signs are in and ready to put in place.

Chairman Rees clarified for Mrs. Judkins that she and others would be placed on the agenda and be allowed to speak for themselves.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Lane Rees, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court

