

MARCH 18, 2002 - WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Workshop on Monday, March 18, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at the Emergency Operations Center to discuss goals and objectives for Walton County.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Tim Pauls, Chairman Lane Rees and Commissioner Gene Ryan. Mr. Michael Underwood, County Administrator, Attorney Gary Vorbeck, Director of Legal Services, Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, and Ms. Lana Barley, Tourist Development Council, were also present. The Board of County Commissioners Division Heads was also present.

Chairman Rees called the meeting to order.

Mr. Underwood addressed the commissioners and staff. He advised that staff has worked on their goals and are presenting them at this time to find common goals with the Board.

Mr. Paul Smith with the Institute of Government was present to assist the Board with their goal setting workshop. He commented that the first need is to recognize the need for change. Mr. Smith showed the video "Who Moved My Cheese" and then presented a handout consisting of draft goals and objectives as developed by county staff, Vision 20/20 and the Economic Development Council.

Commissioner Ryan spoke about the difficulties in operating and the ability to settle necessary issues because of the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Smith stated that a well set budget would establish how to operate, and then policy and procedures should be set to monitor activity within the guidelines of the budget.

Commissioner Pauls stated that the County needs a vision beyond politics to ensure the community accepts it.

Mr. Smith commented that staff needs to know they are performing according to the directions of the commissioners along with feedback. Mr. Underwood commented that staff desires a more clear direction from the Board along with priorities. Commissioner Pauls stated that Growth Management is his number one priority and will be his focus, with public works issues being his second priority. Mr. Pauls also spoke about coordinating interlocal growth. Ms. Ingle commented that while working on present needs, future growth should also be considered. Chairman Rees mentioned that economic development, infrastructure and growth management were his priorities.

Discussion was held regarding the need to correct the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code in order to get them to match. Commissioner Pauls commented that the budget should support the Comp Plan. Mr. Smith suggested a citizen's assistance desk to handle needs/complaints. Discussion followed regarding the need to prioritize during the budget process.

There is also a need for a construction manager to coordinate the numerous projects to relieve department heads from unnecessary tasks. Commissioner Pauls spoke about the need for commissioners to get out of the daily operations and give the County Administrator the necessary authority.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Discussion continued regarding the need for staff to have clear direction and set priorities from the commissioners in order to work through the budgeting process more efficiently.

Mr. Vorbeck advised that Mr. Arthur is currently reviewing the Comp Plan to determine what portions of the Plan the county has been following and which areas need improvement.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, commented on the importance of having all five commissioners working in the same direction. He stated that it would relieve many pressures on the directors because the issues will be addressed at the beginning of the budget process.

Ms. Ingle suggested the commissioners provide her with information they would like relayed to the public and she would help disseminate that information to her pool of jurors as a way of informing the public on important issues.

Discussion was held regarding a space needs assessment. Mr. Underwood stated that most of that has been accomplished; however, he would get that information to each commissioner.

In closing, the commissioners agreed to submit their priorities to staff.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED: _____
Lane Rees, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court