

NOVEMBER 27, 2001 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Regular Meeting on November 27, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Tim Pauls, Commissioner Larry D. Jones, and Chairman Herman L. Walker, Vice-Chairman Lane Rees and Commissioner Gene Ryan, Mr. Michael Underwood, County Administrator, Mr. Gary Vorbeck, Director of Legal Services, and Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Administrative Supervisor to the Clerk of Court, were also present.

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

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order and opened the floor for nominations for the election of a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner Pauls thanked Chairman Walker for serving as Chairman for the past year and commented on the admirable job he has done. He then nominated Commissioner Rees as Chairman. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken with all in favor. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Rees nominated Larry Jones to serve as Vice-Chairman. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken with all in favor. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Rees accepted the Chair position and Vice-Chairman Jones accepted the Vice-Chair position.

Commissioner Jones also voiced his appreciation to Commissioner Walker for serving as Chairman.

Attorney David Theriaque presented a resolution for consideration to initiate the intergovernmental coordination dispute process. This would begin informal negotiations with Okaloosa County.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to adopt a resolution (2001-64) providing for initiation of conflict resolution procedures between Walton County and Okaloosa County. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Theriaque informed the commissioners of a revised site plan for the Destin Commons project. He stated that he would be attending the meeting regarding this issue. He advised that they have increased the square footage of development, adding another 60,000 square foot in office space. Changes have also been made to the turn lanes along with other site plan changes. Mr. Tipton, Traffic Consultant, will also be present at the meeting. He stated that concurrency is still an issue along US Highway 98.

Commissioner Walker stated that the Board should have been provided with a summary as to why Walton County should continue with the lawsuit against Okaloosa County. Mr. Theriaque stated that he would revise the report after the meeting and prepare an update to the Board as to the validity of the 19 points made in the report.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Walker to approve the minutes of October 22, 2001 – Special Meeting; October 23, 2001 – Regular Meeting; and November 5, 2001 – Land Use Meeting. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Patti Yates, Finance Supervisor, presented the Expenditure Approval List consisting of the following bills for payment, which include the entire month of November.

Section 8 Housing	246,661.17
General Fund	1,122,560.18
Multi-purpose Trust Fund	20,000.00
County Transportation Trust	1,054,128.10
Fine & Forfeiture	910,896.86
North Walton Mosquito Control	536.18
Mott Sign Grant	4,176.91
Walton-DeFuniak Library	18,354.99
Recreation Plat Fee	336.12
Solid Waste Enterprises	316,711.45
Local Option Gas Tax	21,754.52
Mossy Head VFD	7,157.26
Glendale VFD	854.19
Darlington VFD	9,791.93
Liberty VFD	10,303.47
Red Bay VFD	819.93
Capital Projects Fund	1,785.20
TDC	404,009.46
Driftwood Debt Service	295.53

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve payment of bills as presented on the Expenditure Approval List. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Walker to approve payment in the amount of \$6,490.00 to Ammons Dozier for work relating to Hurricane Georges. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Jones to adopt a resolution (2001-65) amending the budget to recognize additional budget revenue in the amount of \$4,402.00 as a reimbursement and satisfaction of mortgage for the SHIP First

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

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Jones to adopt a resolution (2001-66) amending the budget to recognize additional grant revenues in the amount of \$1,129.00 from the Department of State. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. These funds are to be utilized for voter education.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Walker to adopt a resolution (2001-67) amending the budget to recognize additional revenues in the amount of \$2,299.00 from the Department of Agriculture. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. The funds are awarded to the Liberty Volunteer Fire Department and are to be used for the purchase of additional fire protection equipment.

Mr. Russ Barry, Public Works Director, presented the county's two-year road paving plan. He requested the Board review the information and make any necessary revisions for a final decision at the next meeting. Commissioner Walker stated that any paving projects are contingent upon the county obtaining the necessary right-of-way.

Mr. Bill Julian, Holley Point Road, Freeport, appeared before the commissioners requesting an approximate timeframe for when his road would be paved. He stated that 9 of the 12 residents are in favor of paving.

Mr. Barry introduced Mr. Michael Bomar, Hartman & Associates, to discuss possibilities for mitigating wetland impacts caused by the road projects.

Mr. Bomar and David Carley appeared before the Board presenting information regarding wetlands and conservation easements. Mr. Bomar presented an overview of the report on wetlands. Mr. Carley clarified that because there is standing water does not mean that it is a designated wetland. Michael covered the reasons for protecting wetlands. Mr. Carley spoke about the agencies that regulate wetlands; the CORE and DEP, and their permitting process. Mr. Bomar stated that the permitting process requires the project plans and specifications be submitted. Mr. Carley presented information regarding mitigation options. Commissioner Ryan questioned if the county receives credit for state owned lands. Mr. Bomar stated that the county would not. He advised that communications need to remain open with the CORE and the DEP.

Mr. Barry requested to defer approval of the Contract renewal until the next meeting pending further review.

Mr. Barry requested direction regarding the purchase of an aluminum dump trailer in the amount of \$27,830.00, which is less than the budgeted amount. He also requested guidance when purchasing pre-approved budgeted items off of the State Contract and items being purchased for less than originally budgeted. He felt that due to the fact that these items have already been approved during the budget hearings and the fact that they are being purchased off of the State Contract, or a lesser amount, that he could grant final purchase approval rather than bringing it back to the board a second time. These are large items that would have been bid out.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, advised that the Public Works budget was detailed and the State Contract is a pre-approved price. Attorney Vorbeck stated that anything not on the State bid list should be brought before the Board for approval. The

Board discussed incorporating wording into the purchasing policies that relate to this issue and allow the Public Works Director to sign for these purchases. Commissioner Pauls agreed, however, he would like to be made aware of the purchases being made.

Mr. Barry presented an updated recommendation on Landfill property purchase. He presented a map showing the properties surrounding the landfill currently owned by the county. He presented four alternatives for solving the landfill capacity problems. The first would be to permit the area north of the incinerator providing additional space for 14 more cells, which would last approximately 12 years at the current rate. The second alternative is to purchase a 40-acre parcel being made available to the county. This parcel would provide approximately 21 usable acres. The third option would be the 730-acre Covell tract, which would solve the county's problems for many years. The last alternative would be a combination of the first two options. Mr. Barry recommended using alternative four. He stated that he could not justify spending \$730,000.00 for the Covell tract at this time. Commissioner Pauls questioned if an appraisal or environmental assessment has been performed on the 40-acre parcel. Mr. Barry stated that an assessment has been performed on the property, but not an environmental assessment or an appraisal.

Commissioner Ryan questioned how many years of usage option four would provide. Mr. Barry stated that it would provide 25 years based on current usage. Commissioner Ryan also questioned if the 730-acre Covell tract were purchased if the unusable portion could be placed in a conservation easement and used for future mitigation.

Mr. Don Crim stated that funds have been set aside for this purpose and money should not be the issue.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Vice-Chairman Jones to proceed with obtaining an appraisal and an environmental assessment on the 40-acre parcel.

Commissioner Ryan stated that a decision should first be made regarding the jail and the animal control shelter, which could possibly eliminate property usage. Discussion was held regarding the need to include the county's north 40-acre parcel in the environmental assessment.

The motion was amended authorizing the County Administrator to enter into a contract for the county to purchase the 40-acre parcel at \$40,000.00 subject to an appraisal and environmental assessment being performed and final approval by the Board at a later date. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Barry presented an update on the traffic studies on CR-30A. He stated that Regional Utilities, with the help of Preble-Rish, is performing an extensive traffic study. The study includes right-of-ways and beach locations, which can be put into a GIS database. Commissioner Pauls recommended expanding the scope of work to include Scenic Gulf Drive (old Highway 98). Mr. Barry stated that he would speak to Mr. Dewey Wilson of Regional Utilities.

Mr. Barry stated that he is working on the 5-year road-paving program and would bring it back before the Board in January.

Mr. Barry stated that six proposals were received for the auctioneering services for the sell of the county's used heavy equipment. A committee reviewed and ranked the

firms with a recommendation to use the services of First Coast Auction & Realty, Jacksonville, Florida. Mr. Barry requested approval of the recommendation to allow him to proceed with a contract.

Mr. Wayne Evans, Evans Auction Company, appeared before the Board and presented a guaranteed amount of \$516,000.00 for the dump trucks and motor grader. He felt that the vehicles should remain here and not be taken out of town to be auctioned. Mr. Barry stated that the vehicles would be sold here.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Vice-Chairman Jones to accept staff's recommendation and award the proposal to First Coast Auction Company. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Linda Morse questioned if other possible sites have been located for the landfill. Commissioner Walker stated that he had previously requested Mr. Terry Smith to assist in looking for alternative sites; however, he was also unsuccessful.

Commissioner Pauls requested an update on the Cease and Desist Order for Indian Woman Road and Thompson Road. Mr. Barry stated that he met with individuals from the Environmental Protection Agency, who is working on the issue along with the Corp of Engineers in an attempt to develop a mitigation plan. If that plan were to be accepted then he would also approve it.

Chairman Rees recognized Mr. Walker for his tenure as Chairman presenting him with a plaque. The Commissioners also recognized Ms. Meg Stevenson, DeFuniak Springs Herald Breeze, and Arthur McLean, North West Florida Daily News, for the excellent job they have performed in reporting Walton County news. Both Meg and Arthur are leaving their current positions for new jobs.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Emergency Response Director, appeared before the Board and presented a request on behalf of the Freeport Fire Department. Mr. Bell advised that they currently have two trucks that are non-operational and due to their large coverage area, they are in need of a new pumper and a new tanker. Mr. Bell explained that they currently have a loan with the county and requested to amend the loan allowing them to purchase the needed trucks. He further explained that a budget amendment would be needed.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve to hold a public hearing at the December 11, 2001 meeting to consider a budget amendment for the purchase of two new trucks for the Freeport Fire Department. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Walker commented on the need to have an agreement with Freeport Fire Department that they would provide service in the best interest of Walton County. Chief Wayne Charles, Freeport Fire Department, stated that it is their intention to provide the best possible service.

Mr. Bell reminded the Board that Freeport is a municipality who draws funds from an MSBU, which could be cut if they chose not to service the areas outside of their municipality.

Mr. Bell presented an update on problems relating to duplicate named roads. He stated that he is attempting to correct the problem and would be meeting with residents where the problems exist. Mr. Bell explained that the problem is created when roads have the same or similar name and are located in an area with the same phone prefix. When an emergency call is made it is difficult to determine which location to respond to.

Mr. Bell advised the commissioners that three firms submitted a response to the proposals for Animal Control Services. Mr. Bell has organized a committee to review the proposals and will present a recommendation to the Board at their December 11, 2001 meeting.

Mr. Bell, along with Mr. Cliff Knauer of Preble-Rish, presented possible locations for consideration for the animal control facility. He recommended the McKinnon Pit site. Mr. Bell advised that the McKinnon Pit site was selected because it was the most economically feasible site.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resources Director, presented a request to renew the contract for employee dental insurance with Guardian Insurance. He recommended renewal of the contract and stated that there is a 62% participation among employees and there will not be an increase in premiums.

Commissioner Walker stepped out.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve renewal of the employee dental insurance contract with Guardian Insurance. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Mattison presented a revision to Policy 17.00; Military Leave. Mr. Mattison explained that the current policy allows for an employee to be paid for a period of 17 days while on leave of absence due to temporary military duty or 30 days when called to active duty. He requested a policy change to coincide with directives from Governor Bush to allow employee pay beyond the 30 days, up to one year, the difference in an employee's county pay and the amount of military pay.

Commissioner Ryan commented that the policy change would only affect those employees who are in the lower military ranks.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to accept the recommendation to amend personnel policy 17.00, Military Leave, with the caveat that the policy be reconsidered in the event of a national draft and that it be presented for annual review. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Walker returned.

Mr. Ken Little, Citizens Service Director, presented the list of committees, appointed by the commissioners at their last meeting, containing the term of service for each appointee.

Chairman Rees nominated Ms. Susie Arnold to fill the District 1 position on the Library Board to fill the vacancy left by Mrs. Karen McGee. Commissioner Pauls seconded the nomination. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to appoint Ms. Mae Lee Brown to the District 5 Library Board position replacing Mr. Jack Williams. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Vice-Chairman Jones to reappoint Mr. Bob Littleton to serve on the Planning Commissioner for an additional term. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Doug Nolin has resigned his position on the Library Board, District 2, and will be replaced at a later date.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to reappoint Ms. AnnMarie Choo to the Library Advisory Board, District 5. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Joe Johnson, Zoning Board of Adjustments, and Mr. Frank Kovach, Design Review Board, have both resigned and will be replaced at a later date.

Motion by Commissioner Walker, second by Commissioner Ryan to appoint Mr. Danny Varnum to serve on the ADA Committee. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

On behalf of Ms. Lyn Stafford, Mr. Little invited the commissioners to a meeting of the Walton County Development Corporation to be held in January. Ms. Stafford also requested the Board hold a workshop on affordable housing issues.

Ms. Lyn Stafford addressed the Board stating that the State of Florida has Statutes requiring an Affordable Housing Component by the year 2010. Each county needs to set up rules and regulations.

Commissioner Walker stated that he would like the information presented to Mr. Underwood for review before setting a public hearing. Commissioner Pauls and Commissioner Ryan both agreed.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to direct Mr. Little to work with Mr. Underwood and Ms. Stafford regarding the Affordable Housing Component. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Ms. Stafford advised the Board that the Florida Housing Coalition would put the workshop together; it would not be the Board's responsibility.

Commissioner Walker did not present any items for discussion.

Commissioner Jones presented a list containing the names of individuals who would serve on a steering committee to work with the Economic Development Council regarding the Mossy Head Industrial Park.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Walker to appoint the individuals on the list to serve on a steering committee.

Further discussion was held regarding the purpose of the committee. Mr. Underwood stated that the committee would help determine infrastructure and other needs at the beginning of the project.

Mr. Tom Powell, Economic Development Council, voiced concern with a possible conflict with the steering committee being able to openly discuss various issues with members of the EDC because of the Sunshine Law.

After lengthy discussion, the commissioners agreed to allow Mr. Powell and the EDC to work with the individuals on the list on an individual basis in order to proceed on the Mossy Head Industrial Park project.

Commissioner Ryan did not present any items for discussion.

Commissioner Pauls requested clarification for the use of the Community Center on CR 393. Attorney Vorbeck advised that the county is currently leasing the Center from the South Walton Fire District and therefore could not be leased without their permission. The building can only be used according to the lease.

Commissioner Pauls requested an update regarding a Right-of-Way Policy. Mr. Underwood asked if the Board wants a policy or if they would like to leave it as it is. The commissioners agreed to discuss this issue further at the next meeting.

Commissioner Walker stepped out.

Commissioner Pauls submitted a listing of Legislative Appropriations to be entered as Exhibit A.

Commissioner Pauls addressed a letter and petition from residents in and around the Freeport area for sewer service around the Bay area. Commissioner Ryan advised that the Board is working with Freeport and they currently service the area in question. Mr. Pauls advised that he would respond to those concerned that the county is favorable in extending sewer service to that area.

The commissioners recessed for lunch.

Chairman Rees called the meeting back to order to hear presentations from the top three ranking firms for architectural services for the renovations of the old hospital and construction of a 50-Bed Assisted Living Facility.

Mr. William D. Rutherford, Clemons, Rutherford, & Associates, appeared before the Board along with several members of his staff. Mr. Rutherford gave an overview of his firm's background and experience. He explained site issues that relate to the renovations. Mr. Rutherford recommended as little renovations as possible while gaining the most benefit. He point out several issues that would need to be addressed such as the stairs, elevator and roof repairs. The interior should be remodeled in a professional manner. He also discussed issues that relate to the mechanical and electrical systems.

Mr. Rutherford also presented his proposal for construction of an Assisted Living Facility (ALF). He explained his firm's prior experience relating to the construction of ALF's and spoke about the interior design needed to benefit the clients. He presented a time frame of 16 months to complete both projects.

Mr. Rutherford stated that consideration should be given as to the location of family members when deciding where the facility will be placed.

Mr. Don Rutland, 2WR Holmes Wilkins Architects, appeared before the Board with an overview of his firm and the individuals who would be in charge of the project if selected.

Mr. Mike Rutland explained their firm's prior experience regarding the construction of ALF's. He stated that it is more economical to build a new facility than to renovate an existing structure. He spoke about design concerns and the best way to accommodate the user while taking construction costs into consideration, along with staffing issues. Mike commented that his firm would be willing to help prepare a site analysis. Their proposed project would consist of a 20,000 to 23,500 square foot facility at an estimated cost of \$75 - \$83 per square foot, totaling \$1,650,000.00 to \$1,850,000.00. Those figures were based on history and competitive bids.

In closing, Mr. Don Rutland gave an overview of their strengths and reasons for selecting their firm.

Mr. Charles Carlan, CarlanKillam Consulting Group, Inc., appeared before the Board along with Mr. Finley Schodopole.

Mr. Skocdopole addressed the Board regarding ALF's and various amenities that could be part of the project. He also spoke about their consultant and the amount of experience and knowledge they have designing ALF's.

Mr. Skocdopole addressed the commissioners regarding the proposed renovations of the old hospital building. He told of other court facilities they have worked on and also showed possible renovations that could be made to the old hospital to house Walton

County staff. He addressed their cost management techniques and cost effectiveness of working on both the ALF and hospital. In closing, he felt that their firm should be selected because of their experience, knowledge and their team.

Paul Donofro Jr., Donofro & Associates, Inc., Marianna, Florida, addressed the commissioners regarding renovations of the old hospital. He spoke about his firm's qualifications and background. He explained similar types of projects that they have performed before. Mr. Donofro introduced staff that would be working on the project and stated that they would have quick response time because of their close proximity to the job location. He advised that their current workload would allow them to begin work immediately. Mr. Donofro also stated that their firm performed the original work on the building and have the original documents; therefore they are already familiar with the construction, electrical and mechanicals of the building. Mr. Donofro presented a proposed drawing of the building utilizing it for governmental offices and estimated construction costs at no less than \$65.00 per square foot and \$2.50 per square foot to upgrade the roof.

The commissioners recessed briefly.

Chairman Rees called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Brian Kellenberger, Watkins Construction Company, appeared before the commissioners requesting approval of a change order for the Governmental Education Center for J.D. Miller Road. Mr. Kellenberger recommended option 1 in the amount of \$597,000.00. The costs for option 2 would be \$687,000.00.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to accept Mr. Kellenberger's recommendation and approve option 1 in the amount of \$597,000.00 for a

change order for J.D. Miller Road. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Discussion was held regarding the landscaping plan for the GEC. Commissioner Pauls explained that the plan met the requirements of the Scenic Corridor standards and can be advertised for bids.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to accept the landscape plan for the GEC, as presented by Allen Holt to CarlanKillam, in order to proceed with the project. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

The following are the results of the architectural rankings as tabulated by Attorney Vorbeck and Mr. Underwood.

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY:

- 1-Clemons Rutherford & Associates, Inc., Tallahassee, Florida
- 2-2WR – Holmes Wilkins Architects, Walton County, Florida
- 3-CarlanKillam Consulting Group, Inc., Pensacola, Florida

HOSPITAL RENOVATIONS:

- 1-Paul A. Donofro and Associates, Architects, Marianna, Florida
- 2-Clemons Rutherford & Associates, Inc.
- 3-CarlanKillam Consulting Group, Inc.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Walker to accept the ranking of the Board as presented and as tabulated. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Heather Wellman, Public Information Officer, informed the Board that she is working on a new logo for Walton County due to two logos currently being used. Mrs. Wellman advised that she contacted Bohan, Carden & Cherry, who has a contract with the TDC, regarding the logo. She advised that they have offered to design a logo for Walton County for an amount of \$1,000.00.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to authorize Bohan Carden & Cherry to develop the county's logo for an amount of \$1,000.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mrs. Wellman gave an update on the status of the web page. She stated that Mr. Alex Alford, MIS Director for the Clerk of Courts, is currently working with her on a design. January is their proposed launch date for the new web page.

Mrs. Wellman also spoke about the events that will be showcased at the Northwest Florida Legislative Day to be held March 6, 2002. She explained that goodie bags would be presented to the Legislators and requested approval to purchase books about Walton County's history, "The Way We Were, Reflections of South Walton Pioneers" to also include in the goodie bags. Three Arts Alliance has offered to sell 200 books to Walton County in the amount of \$8.00 each.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve the purchase of 200 books in the amount of \$8.00 each. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Attorney Gary Vorbeck, Legal Services Director, presented a letter from Mr. Greg Stewart, Nabors, Biblin & Nickerson, P.A., Attorney's at Law, Tallahassee, Florida, requesting a decision from the commissioners regarding the Sikes and Argo properties. Mr. Vorbeck recommended allowing Mr. Underwood to obtain an appraisal if the Board wishes to proceed with the purchase of the property. The proposed acquisition is due to a settlement in the case between S & S Materials, Inc. vs. Walton County. Commissioner Pauls stated that an appraisal would not obligate the county to purchase the property.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to authorize Mr. Underwood to obtain an appraisal on the Sikes and Argo properties.

Commissioner Walker questioned if this would in any way change the land use category on the other two nearby parcels currently classified as Industrial. He was advised that it would not. Commissioner Pauls explained that it could change the potential future. Commissioner Jones stated that because the county is obtaining an appraisal does not mean that the county has made the determination to purchase the property. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Attorney Vorbeck advised that after further review of the architectural contract for the jail that the contract is almost ready. A percentage of 6.5% was agreed upon during the last meeting; however, there was concern regarding other related costs. Mr. Underwood advised that he has worked on establishing a fixed price for all other related costs in the amount of \$30,000.00.

Mr. Rutland stated that these costs are a fixed prices and the county would only pay for actual documented costs. Commissioner Walker voiced concern with an open-ended dollar amount. He wants to know what will be included in those additional costs. Mr. Vorbeck stated that he would work on finalizing the contract and present it back to the Board.

The commissioners commented that they have not yet determined if the current jail facility would be renovated or if a new jail would be constructed.

This issue will be reviewed again during the December 11th meeting.

Mr. Michael Underwood, County Administrator, presented a request for approval of a traffic signal maintenance agreement for a caution light at SR83 and CR185 with the Department of Transportation.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Pauls to authorize Chairman Rees to sign the traffic signal maintenance agreement with DOT for maintenance of the caution light at SR83 & CR185. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. (DOT Request #23).

Mr. Underwood presented a request on behalf of the City of DeFuniak Springs for renewal of the Mosquito Control contract.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to authorize the Chairman's signature on the renewal contract with the City of DeFuniak Springs for Mosquito Control Services in the amount of \$10,500.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye. This contract runs from August 30, 2001 through August 30, 2002.

Mr. Underwood requested each commissioner submit a name from his respective district to serve on an Occupational License Committee. Chairman Rees appointed Michael LaDow and the remaining commissioners will present their representative at a later time.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt the SR20 Realignment Resolution as presented by the Department of Transportation. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Underwood advised that he has spoken with Mr. Dewey Wilson, President and General Manager of Regional Utilities, regarding sewer in the Inlet Beach area and will report back to the Board at the December 11th meeting.

Mr. Tom Powell, Economic Development Council, appeared before the commissioners and presented an update on the county wide strategic plan. He explained the steps involved in developing the plan. Step one is developing the strategic plan, which encompasses conducting a series of public meetings, the guiding principals, developing necessary goals and actions. The second step would be for the EDC to begin recording and tracking the progress and hold annual review of the progress.

Discussion followed regarding the meetings and keeping them open to the public. Commissioner Ryan questioned how to obtain the direction from Florida Great Northwest that Walton needs regarding needed industry. Mr. Powell stated that they would help Walton County; however, community input is needed to determine what business should be located in Walton County.

Mr. Powell presented an update on the Mossy Head Industrial Park. He stated that a master plan is needed on each of the four parcels for the development of the park and a time schedule. He spoke about the criteria for the park; the jobs needed, the speed in which to bring a business here while keeping the costs at a moderate level.

Mr. Powell question the possible use of a county building in the Industrial Park and stated that this would be addressed again at a later time.

Mr. Powell reported that the Florida Great Northwest now supports 16 counties without required membership, thereby saving the county \$10,000.00 membership dues. He advised that there is no longer any correlation between being a member and receiving

all the services as an economic development organization. He stated that the President of the Florida Great Northwest, Mr. Neal Wade, has indicated there is no longer a pressing need for Walton County to continue paying membership dues. Mr. Powell advised that the monies for membership dues is paid through the EDC and requested the funds still be paid and be allowed to be set aside for future economic development. Mr. Underwood stated that he also spoke with Mr. Wade who advised that there is no need for the county to spend the money that they would receive the same benefits.

Mrs. Melissa Piltcher, representing Mr. Dewey Wilson, President and General Manager of Regional Utilities, appeared before the commissioners requesting approval to submit grant pay request #3 in the amount of \$79,424.85.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Ryan to approve for Regional Utilities to submit grant pay request number 3 in the amount of \$79,424.85, less their 10% completion fee. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Chairman Rees called to order the advertised public hearing regarding Grayton Corners.

Attorney George R. Miller appeared on behalf of Mr. Ken Goldberg and Lloyd Blue who represent the parties in the Grayton Corners appeal. Negotiations are in process and therefore he requested approval to continue this hearing until December 11, 2001.

Motion by Commissioner Ryan, second by Commissioner Jones to approve continuing this public hearing until December 11, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Commissioner Walker presented Attorney Miller with a plaque in honor of his 30 years of service as County Attorney to the Walton County Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Miller addressed the commissioners and thanked the Board for being allowed to serve.

Chairman Rees opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Jessie Carter, appeared before the Board regarding property he owns at Smokehouse Lake. He explained that a tornado touched down on October 13, 2001 causing a large amount of damage. Mr. Carter stated that he requested assistance from the county in clearing the debris and was told the county could not assist him; however, the county did provide assistance to his neighbors in clearing their debris. Mr. Barry explained that the county crews were helping the neighbors; however, he stopped them as soon as he found out. Mr. Carter also stated that dumpsters were provided in strategic locations for his neighbor but the county refused locating dumpsters on his private property and he questioned why. Chairman Rees apologized to Mr. Carter on behalf of the county.

Mr. Mike Judkins and wife Shari, appeared before the commissioners and requested to be specifically placed on the agenda to discuss Code Enforcement and misuse of county property. They stated that the business located across from their residence is conducting business on county property. Mr. and Mrs. Judkins requested that Mr. Vorbeck write a letter directing them to stop operating business on county property. They stated that Mr. Trotman, Code Enforcement Officer, has not taken any action regarding this issue.

Commissioner Pauls stated that it needs to be determined if the property is zoned Light Industrial or Heavy Industrial and if any violations are occurring.

Mrs. Judkins questioned why they could not be told to stop operating on county right-of-way.

Commissioner Pauls stated that the courts issued a court order to correct a problem with N. Holiday Road, which will utilize that portion of property. The order was issued to correct the road problem not to stop Mr. Wooten from operating his business.

The Judkins asked the county to enforce their own codes on county property. Commissioner Pauls stated that there are two separate issues, right-of-way and property classification. Mr. Underwood suggested having someone visit the site and perform a site assessment. Mr. Barry agreed with the information as presented by Mr. and Mrs. Judkins and stated that county personnel has attempted to place barricades on the county's right-of-way to prevent this problem; however, the signs have been run over and destroyed.

Mr. Tom McGee invited each of the commissioners to attend the South Walton Community Council Meeting to be held next week.

Mr. Greg Oswald, Sandollar Diner, appeared before the commissioners regarding the issue of hanging a banner at his place of business in support of America. He stated that currently there is more patriotism taking place in America than ever before and he placed a banner at his restaurant showing his patriotism and was fined by Code Enforcement. He felt that Walton County should make allowances in their codes for patriotic banners for times like this. Business owners need to be able to show their support and further stated how strongly he feels about this issue.

Mr. Oswald displayed the banner that he had hung at his business on Highway 98, in which he was cited because his business is in the scenic corridor. The banner displayed an American Flag and said "Thank You For Traveling".

Mr. Don Crim stated that he recently traveled out of state and upon arriving at his destination and was welcomed by the same type of advertising. He questioned why the Walton County TDC is not using something like this.

Mr. Oswald stated that an allowance needs to be made in the Code. Commissioner Pauls stated that he spoke with the Code Enforcement Officer when approached with this issue and instructed him to perform his duties according to the code. The commissioners asked Mr. Arthur to instruct the Design Review Board to address this issue and look at designing a policy that would provide for allowances in these type of cases. Commissioner Pauls stated that the sign ordinance is currently being reviewed and felt that a change could also be implemented.

Mr. James Roberts appeared before the Board and questioned when Dr. Roberts Drive would be paved. Mr. Barry advised him that it is on the 2002 road paving list .

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Lane Rees, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court