

JANUARY 22, 2013 – WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a workshop on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at 8:05 a.m., at the Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, Chairman; Commissioner Sara Comander, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Bill Imfeld; Commissioner Bill Chapman; and Commissioner Cindy Meadows. Attorney Mark Davis, Special Counsel; Mr. Gerry Demers, Interim County Administrator; and Ms. Dede Hinote, Interim Assistant County Administrator, were also present.

Chairman Pridgen led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Pridgen called the meeting to order to discuss Legislative Funding Priorities.

Mr. Demers presented a list of 2013 State and Federal Appropriation Priorities for review. Ms. Dede Hinote, Interim Assistant County Administrator, had met with Ms. Kelly Horton and Mr. Michael Willis on the priorities to find out what type of projects could be included on the lists and had available funding sources. The Small County Coalition urged support on five of the state priorities. Mr. Demers asked for direction to rank any new, existing, or to remove priorities provided on the list.

Commissioner Imfeld questioned if the funds requested for the Walton County Medical Clinic would be for one clinic or several clinics. Ms. Hinote explained that would be used for one clinic in the rural areas, Paxton is now ready for a clinic.

Commissioner Meadows questioned if any research had been conducted for the project to widen U.S. Hwy 331 North to the Alabama state line, since it goes through the rural farm areas and if those citizens had any objections/concerns. Commissioner Imfeld stated that during the

City of Paxton Council meetings it had been voiced that they would like to see the roadway widened, however that did not include the input from the citizens closer to DeFuniak Springs.

Discussion ensued regarding the priorities and recommendations were provided.

Mr. Alex Alford, Clerk of Courts, entered the meeting at 8:12 a.m.

Commissioner Chapman expressed the need to consider a sewer system as work progresses on the U.S. Hwy 331 South widening project and also the affect that septic tanks are having on the bay.

Commissioner Meadows suggested paving the roads and providing stormwater management for areas adjacent on the north and south sides of the Choctawhatchee Bay, funds for library technology to provide additional computers and eliminate waiting periods, and exploring transit options due to gas prices and to provide the ability to travel around the county to different locations.

Commissioner Comander suggested researching the use of NRDA and RESTORE funds for the paving projects as well.

Chairman Pridgen discussed the Mossy Head Industrial Park and the need to finish the park to help the economy and create jobs for the citizens.

Commissioner Imfeld suggested modifying the Medicaid County Cost Share priority to help save administrative costs for both the State and the Counties.

Discussion ensued to determine the ranking order of the priorities.

The State Appropriation Priorities were ranked in the following order:

1. Widening of U.S. 31 from I-10 to the Alabama state line PD&E Study
2. Mossy Head Industrial Park Infrastructure
3. Small County Road Programs
4. Western Walton County Beach Restoration Project Monitoring
5. Coastal Dune Lakes Natural Outfall Restoration
6. Solid Waste Program Funding

7. Library Technology
8. Walton County Federal Shore Protection Project Preliminary Engineering and Design
9. Eradication of Cogon Grass
10. Protect funding for programs important to Small Counties and Rural Communities
11. Widening of U.S. 331 from I-10 to the Alabama State Line
12. Sewer Project along U.S. 331 South to Interstate 10
13. Lake Powell Improvements
14. Cowford Park Improvements
15. Natural Bridge Improvements
16. Medicaid County Cost Share
17. Florida Retirement System
18. Mass Transit System

The Federal Appropriation Priorities were ranked in the following order:

1. Widening of U.S. 331 PD&E Study from I-10 to the Alabama state line
2. Mossy Head Industrial Park Infrastructure
3. Wastewater Treatment Facility at Mossy Head
4. Shore Protection Project
5. Walton County Medical Clinic
6. Coastal Dune Lakes Environmental Assessment
7. Widening of U.S. 331 from I-10 to the Alabama state line
8. Eradication of Cogon Grass

Commissioner Imfeld questioned the accomplishments from the 2012 State and Federal Appropriation Priorities. Ms. Hinote answered that some funds were received for medical for the local Health Department for parking and storage, and the Law Enforcement Technology Upgrades.

Chairman Pridgen asked for public comment.

There were no public comments.

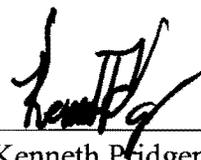
Motion by Commissioner Imfeld, second by Commissioner Comander, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 a.m. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Comander Aye, Imfeld Aye, Chapman Aye, Meadows Aye.

ATTEST



Alex Alford, Clerk of Courts

APPROVED



Kenneth Pridden, Chairman