

FEBRUARY 22, 2012 – SPECIAL MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a special meeting on Wednesday, February 22, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. at the Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Scott Brannon, Chairman; Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Larry Jones; Commissioner Sara Comander; and Commissioner Cecilia Jones. Mr. Greg Kisela, County Administrator; Ms. Lynn Hoshihara, County Attorney; and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

Commissioner Comander led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Brannon called the meeting to order.

Mr. Kisela requested approval of the employment agreement with Ms. Toni Craig for the County Attorney position. Since the February 17, 2012 draft was distributed for review, there was a change on the compensation portion Section 4A.

Commissioner Comander and Chairman Brannon expressed concern with having a contract for the attorney position, compensation rate, and the 14.57% retirement rate.

Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, questioned if the 14.57% retirement rate was the rate for senior management. Mr. Kisela confirmed it was the senior management retirement rate.

Commissioner C. Jones questioned if other personnel qualify for the senior management retirement rate. Mr. Kisela confirmed there are several other employees which receive the 14.57% senior management retirement rate.

Discussion ensued regarding the employment agreement with Attorney Craig as presented.

Attorney Hoshihara explained that the employment agreement provides rights to a severance package, a requirement of a 60 day notice upon termination, and a set rate of 14.57% for senior management retirement.

Commissioner L. Jones suggested adding language to Section 4B to imply if other employees do not get an increase in pay the County Attorney will not either, and change language in Section 4A to state: "Upon review of her job performance by the Board members or no later than August 31, 2012, whichever occurs first, the salary may increase to no more than \$114,000."

Chairman Brannon asked for public comment.

Mr. Alan Osborne and Ms. Mary Nielson expressed the need to have an employment agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner C. Jones, to approve the employment agreement with Ms. Tony Craig for County Attorney with the suggested language changes as presented. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Brannon Aye, Pridgen Aye, L. Jones Aye, Comander Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Mr. Kisela requested approval to apply for the Safer Grant for Fire Rescue Volunteer Coordinator.

Mr. Brian Coley, Fire Chief, stated that they are eligible to apply for the grant which closes Friday, February 24, 2012. The grant is for a two year term with no matching funds requirement.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner C. Jones, to apply for the Safer Grant for Fire Rescue Volunteer Coordinator as requested.

Commissioner L. Jones questioned if at any time there will be a need for the County to allocate funds. Chief Coley explained that the grant is for two years, no matching funds, and after the two year term it is over. After the two year term a determination will be made to rehire a Volunteer Coordinator or stop the program.

Ayes 5, Nays 0. Brannon Aye, Pridgen Aye, L. Jones Aye, Comander Aye. C. Jones Aye.

Mr. Kisela presented a request from Regional Utilities to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) and set a public hearing for March 13, 2012 to refinance a portion of their debt.

Ms. Melissa Pilcher, Regional Utilities, explained that the Series 2002 bonds have the ability to be refinanced for the remaining six year term for an estimated interest reduction of 2.5%, for a total savings amount of approximately \$576,000. She requested approval to issue an RFP to the banks and set a public hearing for March 13, 2012 to review and approve the proposals received.

Motion by Commissioner C. Jones, second by Commissioner Comander, to approve the request as presented. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Brannon Aye, Pridgen Aye, L. Jones Aye, Comander Aye, C. Jones Aye.

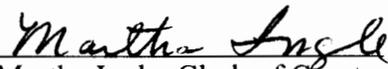
Attorney Hoshihara stated that the hearing scheduled for February 24, 2012 has been canceled therefore, they will not need an executive session as previously requested. She requested to schedule an executive session after the regular meeting on February 28, 2012 to discuss Susanne Harris vs. Walton County, Case No. 09-CA-000800. Those in attendance will be as follows: The Board of County Commissioners; County Administrator, Mr. Greg Kisela; County Attorneys Toni Craig, Lynn Hoshihara, and Bill Graham; and a certified court reporter.

Motion by Commissioner Comander, second by Commissioner C. Jones, to approve an executive session on February 28, 2012 as requested. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Brannon Aye, Pridgen Aye, L. Jones Aye, Comander Aye, C. Jones Aye.

Commissioner L. Jones asked if Attorney Tony Craig accepted the terms of the employment agreement as County Attorney. Attorney Craig stated that she did accept the amendment and terms of the Employment Agreement.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

APPROVED 
Scott Brannon, Chairman

ATTEST 
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts