



Walton County

Board of County Commissioners Meeting Regular Meeting Agenda - Final

Zoom Registration - <https://www.co.walton.fl.us/FormCenter>

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

9:00 AM

Freeport Commons Board Room

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

❖ All present

OPENING COMMENTS

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

CALL TO ORDER

CONSIDER ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please limit comments to three minutes or less on agenda items only

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk's Items:

1. [22-1672 - Pdf](#) Request to approve the Expenditure Approval List (EAL)
2. [22-1671 - Pdf](#) Request to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the October 11, 2022 Regular Meeting

Administration - Consent Items:

3. [22-1667 - Pdf](#) Request to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the October 25, 2022 through November 1, 2022 COVID Local State of Emergency Resolution
4. [22-1664 - Pdf](#) Request to approve the purchase of security equipment for the DeFuniak Springs Courthouse in an amount not to exceed \$15,490.47

5. [22-1666 - Pdf](#) Request to approve the purchase of security equipment for the Tourism Administration and Tourism Beach Operations departments in an amount not to exceed \$8,283.73

Building Department - Consent Items:

Chief Financial Officer - Consent Items:

Code Compliance - Consent Items:

6. [22-1677 - Pdf](#) Request to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign Amendment No.: 1 and Exercise of First Option to Renew Contract No.: 022-002 with South Walton Beach Services Association for Concession Services for the Managed Beach Vendor Program

County Attorney - Consent Items:

Emergency Management - Consent Items:

Facilities Maintenance - Consent Items:

7. [22-1620 - Pdf](#) Request approval to bring back bid documents and re-advertise an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for the construction of Choctaw Beach Fire Station

Human Resources - Consent Items:

8. [22-1675 - Pdf](#) Request to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the Employer Carrier Acknowledgement Form to add Guardian to our iSolved account for Cobra dental services

Library - Consent Items:

9. [22-1662 - Pdf](#) Request to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the Annual License Agreement for software and database subscriptions beginning January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, with The Library Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$11,816

Parks & Recreation - Consent Items:

Planning & Development - Consent Items:

Public Works - Consent Items:

10. [22-1668 - Pdf](#) Request to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign an addendum to Gulf Consortium Subrecipient Agreement No.: 200105041.001 pursuant to the RESTORE Act Spill Impact Component and the State Expenditure Plan for the Choctawhatchee Bay Septic to Sewer Conversion - Feasibility Study project
11. [22-1663 - Pdf](#) Request approval to include the North Spooky Lane Roadway Improvements in the Invitation to Bid with the US 98 Pedestrian Facilities Project

- ❖ REQUEST: Staff recommends combining North Spooky Lane Roadway and Drainage Improvements project with the US 98 Pedestrian Facilities project in the same Invitation to Bid for advertisement due to no bids received for ITB 22-015 North Spooky Lane Roadway Improvements. Combining the projects under one contract is intended to make it more appealing to contractors.
- ❖ FUNDING: North Spooky Lane Roadway and Drainage Improvements-FY 2022 TIF \$650,000.00 Construction and \$50,000 CEI US 98 Pedestrian Facilities-TDC Funding
- ❖ PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
 - North Spooky Lane Roadway Improvements - Paving, striping, and signage for approximately 480 lineal foot of 18' wide existing dirt road know as North Spooky Lane off Scenic Highway 30A. Project includes the installation of 4 new drainage structures and associated conveyance.
 - US 98 Pedestrian Facilities - Construction of a 10 ft' wide asphalt multi use path along the south side of US 98. This will be an extension to the existing multiuse trail network and would be maintained by TDC.
- ❖ HISTORY:
 - US 98 Pedestrian Facilities
 - August 13, 2019-BC approved Task Order 19-02 Professional Engineering Services for US 98 Pedestrian Facilities (N. Watersound Parkway to West Shore Drive) with Genesis Halff in the amount of \$119,193.00.
 - January 26, 2021-BCC approved a Resolution and Maintenance agreement with FDOT pertaining to the new Multi-Use Path facility located on the south side of SR 30 (US 98) form Watersound Parkway to West Shore Drive in Inlet Beach. The project is 6184 Linear Feet to 10 ft' wide asphalt multiuse path along the south side of US 98. This will be an extension to the existing multiuse trail network and would be maintained by the TDC. This project is designed by Halff Associates and is funded by TY 18/10 TIF.
 - October 11, 2022-BCC approved to advertise and ITB for the construction of US 98 Pedestrian Facilities from North Watersound Parkway to CR 30A East using TDC funds. North Spooky Lane
 - April 14, 2020-BCC approved Task Order No. 20-09 Engineering Services for North Spooky Lane Roadway Improvement Project with Kimley-Horn and Associates in the amount of \$35,720.00.
 - July 18, 2022-Bids closed 10:00 am. No bids were received.

12. [22-1683 - Pdf](#) Request to approve the updated Drainage Easement Agreement form, Right of Entry form, Right of Way Easement form, and the Temporary Construction Easement form

Solid Waste - Consent Items:

Tourism Department Administration - Consent Items:

13. [22-1669 - Pdf](#) Request to award RFP 22-034A Public Relations Services to the highest ranked firm Turner Public Relations, Inc. and approve and authorize the Chairman to sign Contract No.: 22-034A

Tourism Department Beach Operations - Consent Items:

14. [22-1659 - Pdf](#) Request to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign a Resolution and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Florida Department of Transportation for the median and right-of-way maintenance along

portions of US 98 and US 331 in an amount not to exceed \$174,924.05

- ❖ This was approved at the September 13, 2022 board meeting. There was an error in the math, and this is the revised MOA from DOT. The MOA will authorize quarterly compensation for the cost of routine median/shoulder maintenance for portions of US 98 and US 331, totaling \$174,924.05 (\$9,995.66 for November & December 2022 then \$14,933.49 per quarter). The duration of this MOA commences on November 1, 2022 and continues through September 30, 2025
- ❖ Consent Agenda approved unanimously

TONY CORNMAN, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

15. [22-1661 - Pdf](#) Coastal Seniors of South Walton Healthy Aging Fair

- ❖ Jennifer Clauson and Jonathon Douglas, Coastal Seniors of South Walton – They are having a great year. They are holding a fair on November 12th at South Walton High School gym. There is no fee to attend. Inviting health care providers to seniors. There will be food trucks. They plan to come back to the board to suggest a senior center for South Walton.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

CODE COMPLIANCE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE

HUMAN RESOURCES

LIBRARY

PARKS & RECREATION

16. [22-1680 - Pdf](#) Request to approve and authorize Chairman to sign an Agreement with Qlaborate to reflect updated terms and conditions

- ❖ Approved unanimously with Commissioner Anderson abstaining

PUBLIC WORKS

17. [22-1679 - Pdf](#) Update and request for direction and/or approval regarding the Transportation Advisory Committee's draft of the Multi Year Implementation Plan

- ❖ SUMMARY OF INFORMATION Please note the attached Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan was approved at the October 3, 2022 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting with minor modifications and approved to be transmitted to the Walton County Board of County Commissioners for consideration. Please note the following summary is to provide the BCC some clarification on the breakdown of the supporting documentation that accompanies the Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan. Documents below can be found here:

https://walton.civicweb.net/document/147568/Update%20and%20request%20for%20direction%20and_or%20approva.pdf?handle=0DC854AEAD994D93A2A43418BAE8E87B

- DRAFT MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN This document allows staff to program projects in various phases of development for analysis of workload distribution. The current draft includes a five-year plan.
 - ATTACHMENT A- Updated Project Descriptions This document includes an updated project list (from the previously adopted Long Range Transportation Plan) for the County and the Municipalities.
 - ATTACHMENT B – Capital Projects List This document includes the same projects as the Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan but is formatted differently. The Capital Projects List is formatted to easily identify the project name and phase within each year while the Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan is formatted more for project programming.
 - ATTACHMENT C- Walton County Public Works Annual Infrastructure Improvements Draft Plan This draft plan identifies Walton County Public Works Department's proposed breakdown of infrastructure projects that are identified in the line items referenced on the Public Works Department Annual Infrastructure Improvements Year of Expenditure (YOE) Costs sheet in the Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan.
 - ATTACHMENT D- City of Freeport Public Works Annual Infrastructure Improvements Supporting Documentation These documents provide additional information on the infrastructure projects that are identified in the line items referenced on the Public Works Department Annual Infrastructure Improvements Year of Expenditure (YOE) Costs sheet in the Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan for the City of Freeport.
- ❖ Commissioner Glidewell stated this is the Public Works long-term plan.
 - ❖ The board didn't take any action on this. It will remain in draft form.

18. [22-1670 - Pdf](#) Update and request for direction regarding the Doodles Forest Road Analysis

- ❖ Approved unanimously to take the road into county maintenance

19. [22-1681 - Pdf](#) Update from the Transportation Advisory Committee regarding Bond Financing

- ❖ The Transportation Advisory Committee met on October 3, 2022 and has recommended the Board of Commissioners consider Bond financing should the sales tax referendum pass.
- ❖ Commissioner Glidewell – it seems the public's biggest concern with the proposed sales tax is that it is perceived it will be in place for 30 years. He suggested the board vote on a resolution not to pursue debt financing for the first five years and that if and when they do pursue it, it come back to the public for a vote. The Assistant County Attorney and Melissa Thomason stated they need to research the proposed resolution before any action is taken.
- ❖ No action was taken by the board.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

SOLID WASTE

TOURISM DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

TOURISM DEPARTMENT BEACH OPERATIONS

MELISSA THOMASON, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

ADKINSON LAW FIRM, ACTING COUNTY ATTORNEY

PUBLIC HEARING

COMMISSIONER BOOTS MCCORMICK, DISTRICT ONE

COMMISSIONER TREY NICK, DISTRICT FOUR

COMMISSIONER TONY ANDERSON, DISTRICT FIVE

VICE-CHAIRMAN DANNY GLIDEWELL, DISTRICT TWO

20. [22-1701 - Pdf](#) Farm Bureau parking lot

- ❖ Approved unanimously to change the name on the encumbrance from 2017 from 4H to Farm Bureau and direct staff to bring back a Memorandum of Understanding

CHAIRMAN MICHAEL BARKER, DISTRICT THREE

CITIZEN REQUESTS

21. [ASF-089 - Pdf](#) Rich Jaffe-Discussion regarding Inlet Beach Water Systems

- ❖ The county has pending litigation in this case, so the BCC was not able to comment.
- ❖ Mr. Jaffe stated that Regional Utilities canceled the contract to handle the sewage for Inlet Beach Water System, so now you can't get a sewer tap to build a new building in Inlet Beach. So, you can't build a new building now. This seems to be counterproductive and absurd. They have also been told that if Regional Utilities is allowed to cancel the current contract the sewer rates will go up 393% in Inlet Beach. It is common knowledge that Regional Utilities has wanted to take over IBWS for a long time. You, the BCC have the power to stop this as you in effect own Regional Utilities. Mr. Jaffe urged the BCC to ensure that Regional Utilities honor the contract. If you don't like the contract, renegotiate the terms at the end of the contract period. If not, he asked what is in the best interest of the community if this lawsuit goes forward.

OTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please limit comments to three minutes or less

- ❖ Suzanne Harris – Regarding the Covid state of emergency item on the consent agenda, she asked if we are still under a state of emergency. Jeff Goldberg of Emergency Management explained that there is still a federal state of emergency and as long as that is the case we need to maintain the local state of emergency to continue to get reimbursed for past expenses that are in process, and if we have an outbreak we need the protection of the state of emergency. Ms. Harris asked whether other counties are still under a local state of emergency, and Mr. Goldberg said some are.

- ❖ Bonnie McQuiston – Asked about the funding sources that are in place for roads and bridges, especially south of the bay. Melissa Thomason explained the South Walton TIF (Tax Increment Financing). It was put in place in 2014 and implemented first in 2016 and allowed the BCC to allocate a percentage of the growth in ad valorem taxes collected south of the bay to transportation projects south of the bay. It was reduced to \$0 in 2020 due to Covid. In 2021 they increased it to \$7,000,000. 2022 and 2023 were set at \$4,000,000. It is now referred to as the South Walton Infrastructure fund since it is no longer based on a percentage. Public Works also received ad valorem taxes and gas taxes (about \$7,000,000). The Landfill surtax funds about half of the Public Works budget. Commissioner Glidewell asked Ms. Thomason what the unrestricted reserves the BCC has right now are. Ms. Thomason stated it is roughly \$25,000,000. The \$95,000,000 stated in the public is the change in net position, which is not the same as the unassigned fund balance. They don't have that to spend.
- ❖ Bonnie McQuiston - Asked about the traffic lights for the connector roads at 30A. Chance Powell stated they are currently out to bid for the intersections of 283 and 83. Watersound Pkwy has a temporary signal until some of the private development in that area is built. They are putting the signal at 393 out for bid later next year.
- ❖ Barbara Morano – She asked what the developers will pay if the sales tax referendum is passed. Commissioner Anderson stated they will pay what they are paying now in Proportionate Fair Share or a Mobility Fee if the county goes to that. All fees that are paid currently will continue to be paid by the developers. Commissioner Glidewell stated they can't use those funds to take care of existing issues; they can only be used for future projects and can only be used where they are collected.
- ❖ Barbara Morano – The political signs regarding the proposed sales tax were taken down. She doesn't like the political signs but was told the county typically turns a blind eye and allows them during campaign season. She suggested they never allow the political signs and it should be consistent. Commissioner Barker stated a candidate is given a packet that states where they can and can't put signs. That gets honored sometimes and sometimes it doesn't. Mr. Cornman stated there is no exemption for political signs to be placed in the right-of-way. Ms. Morano asked if they can take the signs down now. Mr. Cornman stated they would allow them for the next two weeks but would not allow them in future years unless the policy is changed. Commissioner Barker stated they are allowed on public property, and many times people don't understand where their property is vs. where the right-of-way is.
- ❖ Dave Douglas – Thanked Buddy Wright for his assistance on Bay Loop Trail. More work is needed. Why hasn't it received attention and funding to keep it in a safe condition? He asked that needed repairs and signage be implemented immediately. Mr. Wright stated they have been working with Mr. Douglas on this. They will bring back some suggestions for additional maintenance for the rights-of-way throughout the county in the future. They are already scheduled to be making additional repairs Mr. Douglas mentioned shortly. Commissioner Anderson asked that they install some signs prohibiting golf carts.
- ❖ Chandler Huff – As a builder in the area, he feels Regional Utilities has way too much power. The water and sewer departments in Bay and Okaloosa Counties have been working well with builders on challenges. They asked Regional Utilities for some help on some issues and they refused to help. He asked the BCC to perform an audit of Regional Utilities. He asked they consider the county taking control of Regional Utilities.

- ❖ Chandler Huff – They have an item on Thursday’s planning meeting agenda. There was an issue with the notification mail out. The mailer went out with the wrong address for the meeting. He asked if they were going to put a note on the door of the Annex notifying attendees the meeting was moved to the Freeport Government Complex. He stated they did not want to have to do another \$10,000 mailer. The board agreed to put a notice on the door today.
- ❖ Jim Bagby – The people are asking for the proposed sales tax be fair in that the developers pay their fair share. All of the cost shouldn’t be put on the people of this county and it shouldn’t be for 30 years. He suggested they do a five-year sales tax and show the taxpayers they can manage the funds and the projects. Then they can go back for another sales tax. Commissioner Glidewell pointed out Mr. Bagby is a Destin City Councilmember and they get sales tax funds from Okaloosa County’s sales tax that they use to leverage projects to compete with Walton County projects at the Okaloosa Walton Transportation Planning Organization. Mr. Bagby stated what they are asking is that developers pay their fair share and that the sales tax not be for 30 years. Commissioner Barker pointed out that they started discussing a mobility fee and it was largely frowned upon. Then they began discussing the proposed sales tax. They also said they would look at a possible mobility fee modified from the original program proposed if the sales tax passed. Other commissioners confirmed this.
- ❖ Suzanne Harris – Can you have campaign signs in the right-of-way for the next two weeks or not? The Assistant County Attorney stated they directed Code Enforcement not to remove political signs for the next two weeks.
- ❖ John King – The problem we have as a community is that we waited too late to address this issue due to inaction of past boards of county commissioners. We never got ahead of it. Now we’re going to need to work together, have the sales tax pass, implement an adjusted mobility fee which minimally impacts the smaller house builds, and address this issue.
- ❖ Private citizen – We probably need the money from the proposed sales tax, but he is voting no because he doesn’t trust the commissioners to manage the money.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

QUASI JUDICIAL ITEMS

ADJOURN