

Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of February 20, 2003

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

Commissioners in Attendance: James Montgomery, Dewey Weaver, George Skinner, Jennifer Flinn, Ronald Williams.

Others Present: County Manager Dale Williams, County Attorney Marlin Feagle, Assistant County Manager Lisa Roberts, Clerk of Courts DeWitt Cason, and Deputy Clerk Sandy A. Markham.

I. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Williams asked that item #8 be pulled, and announced he would abstain from voting on items #14 and #15. See Form 8-B.

Mr. Marlin Feagle requested item #9 be pulled for separate action.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Skinner. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried.

Regarding item #14 and #15: Motion by Commissioner Weaver to approve items #14 and #15. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried.

Regarding item #8: Commissioner Williams asked for a motion to change the road from NW Sally Jones Glen, to NW Zack Jones Glen, a public road. Motion by Commissioner Weaver, "So move." Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously. (Clerk's Note: See Item XI (8))

Regarding item #9: Per Mr. Feagle, the item is an eminent domain action for property known as Parcel #10 (South Birley Avenue Project). It is owned by the estate of Lillie Mae and Alfonso Flemming (Administrator - Joyce E. Tucker).

Motion to approve the resolution by Commissioner Weaver. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

-Consent Agenda Continued-

1. Norfolk Southern - Invoice for annual maintenance at **Granger Road railroad crossing**.

2. **Century Ambulance Service**, Inc. - Renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

3. **Inventory Disposal** -County Court Judge's Office - Typewriter (No identification number provided).

4. **Utility Permit** -Bell South Telecommunications - SW Tustenuggee Ave.

5. **Utility Permit** -Bell South Telecommunications - NW Lassie Black Road.

6. 911 Addressing - Naming of unfound roads: **NE Kalb Ct., SW Sterling Terrace & NE Wild Horses Glen**.

7. 911 Addressing - Naming of Roadways for DOT Project - **SW Chad Place & SW Corey Place**.

8. 911 Addressing - Change to approved street/road names: **NW Sally Jones Glen**. (Pulled)

9. **SW Birley Road Project** -Acquisition of Right of Way Settlement - Parcel No. 10 - Estate of **Lillie Mae and Alfonso Flemming**, c/o **Joyce E. Tucker**, Administrator - Pursue Eminent Domain Process. (Pulled)

10. Public Library - Reclassification for **Kathy B. Smyth, Library Assistant II** -From part time to fulltime effective 02-19-03.

11. Invoice - Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. - M. David Finely, P.E. - Patti Bridge Engineering Services - \$890.00

12. Invoice - Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. - Booker T. Combs Road - \$1,325.

13. Invoice - Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. - Bascom Norris Drive - \$3,194.50

14. Invoice - Anderson Columbia Company, Inc. - CR 250 (Lake Jeffery) - Pay Request No. One - \$236,470.28 (Commissioner Williams abstained from voting on this item).

15. Invoice - Anderson Columbia Company, Inc. - NW CR 25A - Pay Request No. One - \$226,317.83. (Commissioner Williams abstained from voting on this item).

16. External Budget Amendment - BA #02-19 - Sheriff Office - BA #19 - Victims of Crime Act Grant - \$3,490.76.

17. External Budget Amendment - BA #02-20 - Sheriff's Office - BA #10 - Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Grant - \$10,878.89.

18. Property Appraiser - Transfer of Gateway Computer System #10960 From Board of County Commissioner to Property Appraiser's Office.

19. Philpot Tractor, Inc. - Addendum to Roadside Mowing Contract - Litter Removal - \$57.50 per mile. See attached addendum.

20. Construction Management - Change Order #6 - McGowan Asbestos Abatement Company - \$30,000 additive.

21. 911 Addressing - Naming of found unnamed roads: NW Landsend Ct., SW Lilac Court, and SW Endeavor Ct.

22. Clerk of Court - Declaration of junk property: IBM Typewriter #5141/06778.

23. Utility Permit - Bell South Telecommunications - SW Marigold Place.

24. Utility Permit - Alltel Florida, Inc. - CR 238.

25. Utility Permit - Bell South Telecommunications - NW Bert Avenue.

II. Mr. Larry Joiner, on behalf of **Manes & Tails 4-H Club**, spoke to the Board regarding a **horse-riding arena**. He asked the Board to consider a ten acre land or monetary donation that would assist with establishing the facility. He pointed out that the baseball, football and soccer fields are seasonal, and that the arena would be used year-round. He offered that the facility would have a horse show series monthly from October until May, and "Gaming" is held on average twice per month. Other events held at the arena would be: Team Penning, Speed Events, Riding Club Events, Practices, Picnics, Animal Shows,

Open shows, Junior **Rodeo**, FFA Events, Clinics, and 4-H Shows. The proposed **arena** will cost approximately one hundred ten thousand dollars. The estimate includes volunteer labor for several aspects of the project. Mr. Joiner told the Board that there are many **horse** enthusiasts in the community who now have to travel outside of the county to enjoy these events. He stressed that people travel long distances to participate in these events. He told the Board that by building the arena, it would allow local monies to stay local. He feels an arena would invite outsiders into the county to spend their money in local hotels, restaurants and at the gas pumps.

The Commission told Mr. Joiner that approximately a month ago, Ms. Janice Summers made a similar request. The County has a quarterly meeting scheduled with the City on February 27, 2003. The arena will be one of the topics discussed. In the meantime, Mr. Joiner was encouraged to seek-out private parties who may be willing to donate land or assist financially with the project.

III. Discussion regarding **Norton Home Improvement Property**. The Norton parcel is the **parking lot** just North of the Community Nation Bank (Downtown). The lot faces Marion Street and adjoins property of the Montgomery building at its Southwest corner. Mr. Dale Williams explained that after the **Magnolia Café** burned, Mr. Norton offered the lot to the County for parking. The County has not paid for the use of the property, but has paid the insurance premiums on the property as well as the taxes. Mr. Norton recently advised that the property is available for purchase. The asking price was originally \$75,000, but through negotiations Mr. Norton has agreed to accept \$55,000. The **parking lot** currently has 16 parking spaces, but hasn't been professionally engineered for maximum spaces.

Mr. James Bolton MAI, appraised the property at \$40,500; a difference of \$14,500. Mr. Marlin Feagle has advised that should **eminent domain** proceeding become necessary, the county could reasonably expect to pay legal fees of \$14,500. No money has been earmarked in this year's budget for the purchase. However, all of last year's year-end monies weren't spent and could be used to make the purchase. That money (general fund money) is in the **Beginning Year Cash Account**. Mr. Williams asked for feedback.

Commissioner Weaver commented that he would oppose the purchase. He said the purchase would remove the property from the tax roll. The property could be redeveloped and generate an increase in the **tax roll**. Since the County is

planning on moving some of the administrative offices in the next few years, he felt certain the **parking** would become less of an issue. He concluded that he simply couldn't support a purchase that is priced substantially higher than the appraised value.

Commissioner Williams agreed with Commissioner Weaver and added, *"I think we need to make sure we hold the **City** to what they promised (additional **parking**) us for staying downtown. We don't need to let the fire die down on that promise. It's a lot cheaper than \$55,000 if they (the City) will just hold to their part of the bargain."* Commissioner Williams explained that the County was seriously considering moving the **courthouse** and annex from downtown. The City negotiated with County to stay downtown, and bargained to provide **additional parking** if the County would stay.

Commissioner Skinner opposed the purchase and said that he believes his constituents would rather the County not pay above the appraised value. He stated he would oppose the purchase.

Commissioner Flinn said the **strained parking** is a major issue. She is concerned the County may not have many opportunities to acquire property for parking in the future. She see the offer to purchase the **Norton Home Improvement property** as an opportunity.

There was a motion by Commissioner Montgomery (for discussion purposes) to make the land purchase for \$55,000. Second by Commissioner Flinn.

Commissioner Montgomery expressed concern that the school system recently faced criticism by the Auditor General's office for making a land purchase for more than the appraised value. Mr. Feagle told the Board that since the asking price is below \$100,000, it wouldn't be unlawful for them to pay more than the appraised value.

There was discussion that the **City of Lake City** agreed to construct two (2) **parking lots** for off street parking for county employees. One of the lots is currently under construction (Behind Marlin Feagle's office). It was noted that after the final design was determined on the lot now under construction, there was approximately twenty parking spaces eliminated from the original lot proposal. Also worth noting is that decisions regarding the sale of the **Montgomery Building** are still uncertain, and an adjoining private **parking lot** may be considered a perk should the County choose to sell.

Commissioner Flinn suggested a counteroffer. Mr. Dale Williams responded that the owner has already adamantly refused the appraised value, and he sincerely

believes that the negotiated amount of \$55,000 is probably the owner's bottom figure, but certainly they could inquire.

There was a call for the vote. The motion failed 3-2.

In favor: Commissioner Flinn and Montgomery.

Opposed: Commissioner Weaver, Skinner and Williams.

IV. In December 2002, **Embree Construction** offered to sell a new communications building located on East Washington Street to the County for \$450,000. On January 16, 2003, the Board of County Commissioners made a decision to counteroffer at \$250,000, which is the budgeted amount for the new **Records Retention Center** the County plans to build.

Embree has responded with a correspondence stating the building is priced well below its value, and that they aren't able to take an additional loss. However, they are willing to negotiate payment terms should the County be interested.

The Board agrees the building has many extra frills, and is being offered at a reasonably fair price. However, the Board was not inclined to spend that far outside of what they have already budgeted for a records retention building. Especially, since the frills would be of no great benefit to the County. The Board said they could utilize the \$200,000 difference on another needed building.

Commissioner Flinn advised that she feels the County's offer is very fair since the Property Appraiser has the property assessed value set at \$199,730, and that Embree purchased the property back (through foreclosure) at \$200,000.

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to not accept Embree's offer. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

(Clerk's Note: See Section XI(1) and XI(6))

V. Continuation - **Severance Package** Request of **Marcel Bedenbaugh**. Mr. Williams advised the Board that he received a letter from **Ms. Bedenbaugh** this week tendering her **official retirement** effective March 14, 2003 at 4:30 p.m.

Ms. Bedenbaugh is a long tenured employee of the County and is now approaching her retirement date. As a result, Ms. Bedenbaugh has made a couple of requests of the County that weren't covered by general personnel policies and procedures. Therefore, the matters were brought before the Board for disposition, and has been discussed in the past few meetings. One issue dealt with additional years of tenured service, and the other dealt with compensation before retirement. The compensation issue was

resolved at the last meeting, but the years of service still exists.

At the last meeting, there was an issue, because of the **social security earnings** reported, as to whether the county was the reporting employer for Ms. Bedenbaugh's in 1971. There was also a question as to what the **Florida Retirement System's** ("FRS") position would be on late reporting, should the Board find documentation to support Ms. Bedenbaugh's claim.

The County contacted the **Florida Department of Retirement** ("FRS"), Calculations Division, and found the following:

1. During the time in question, a State M-10 Form was required when an employee was hired in a position falling under the **Florida Retirement System**. Ms. Bedenbaugh's form indicates her date of employment began October 1, 1972, and that is the date her retirement will earn from. The County is informed that regardless of their decision regarding years of creditable service, the decision will not have an impact on the Florida Retirement System.

2. Ms. **Marcel Bedenbaugh** had been in touch with the **FDR** and was informed that if she had any **discrepancies** in her retirement information, she should have it corrected before entering **DROP** or retiring. She was informed of this "again", in writing, on April 19th. She was also advised the Board of County Commissioners now had no authority to change her start date.

Clerk of Court DeWitt Cason was present to address the **archived records**. He advised that the Clerk of Courts' wage ledger records, as well as the Board of County Commissioners' wage ledger records, beginning in 1967, have been thoroughly reviewed. He explained that the FRS contributions were reflected in the records as well as social security and withholdings. He told the Board that the Clerk's records reflect October 1972 as the official date she began employment with the County.

Mr. Dale Williams expressed that at Ms. Bedenbaugh's retirement date, she will have served the county in some capacity for a total of 34 years, 5 months and 13 days. He suggested she be recognized for all of those years regardless of whether it was paid or voluntary service.

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to recognize Ms. Bedenbaugh's 34 years, 5 months and 13 days of service to the citizens of Columbia County. Second by Commissioner Skinner.

Commissioner Flinn told Ms. Bedenbaugh that she, as well as the veterans of this county are very proud of her and thankful for her dedicated services. Commissioner Flinn said, "You've done a great job! Thank you."

The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Legislative Update. Mr. Dale Williams provided the latest available information on issues pertaining to state shared revenues, **budget cuts**, and the impact it's having on the counties.

The **Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission** ("FWC") has offered preliminary notification regarding the **Environmental Education Specialist Position** at **Alligator Lake Recreation Area**. The position has not been included in the agency's budget that will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature. Additionally, it has been communicated to the County that the **Urban Fisheries Program**, under which the Education Specialist position would have been included, is being recommended for deletion from the agency's programs. As a result, 21 positions in the program are slated for deletion. Official notification is expected from the FWC after the Legislative Session.

The **County and the School Board** have allocated funding for the position in the amount of \$20,000 per agency to fund this position. If the position is not approved through FWC, the question remains as to the status of the position on a local level. Capital outlay funding in the amount of \$25,000 was allocated by the Board to support this position. If the County and the School Board elect to not staff this position, it was suggested that the funds remain in the line item for the **Alligator Lake Recreation Area**.

Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program 2003-2004. The County has received preliminary notice that their grant applications for the **Bethlehem Community Center** Project and the **Falling Creek Falls** Project were not included in the list of proposed projects to be sent to the Legislature and Governor for approval. The funding for the Train Depo Restoration Project for the Town of Fort White has also been eliminated. Mr. Williams said that they have also received notice that the Small Counties Road Assistance Program, which is administered through the Florida Department of Transportation, has been deleted. As a result, he said, "Before the program was scrapped, we were in line for \$1,217,557 that would be used on CR 252." He reported the county would not be receiving the \$1,621,679 in funding for CR 240 either. Official notification is expected from the **Department of Transportation** after this Legislative Session.

Mr. Williams stressed the importance of distinguishing between the two different types of impacts. There is the direct impact to the operating budget (retirement and Medicaid increases), and then there is the impact of projects no longer funded. Mr. Williams explained that if the County doesn't receive the project money, the County isn't under any obligation to fund the projects. However, it does mean that there are projects deemed needed that will not be funded at all. He concluded, by saying the Governor's budget is subject to legislative approval.

Commissioner Williams said, *"On lean budget years, the money goes to wherever the votes are, and the votes are in South Florida. We're going to be in for a rough year."*

Commissioner Weaver pointed out that there is approximately \$200,000,000 in the **Transportation Trust Fund**, but the money is being shifted to general revenue funds. He said, *"It's taking from transportation and being put into general revenue. It's not because there is a shortage of money in the Transportation Fund. It's being shifted and taken away from smaller counties."*

VII. Industrial Park. In prior years, the County made an agreement to sell 5.15 acres in the **Industrial Park** for \$6,000 per acre to Great South Timber. They have now chosen to exercise that option. The County will honor this option as reflected in the agreement. The purchase will return \$30,900 to the **Economic Trust Fund** of the County. The closing will be scheduled soon.

VIII. On behalf of Commissioner Flinn, Mr. Dale Williams requested permission to have the Public Works Department perform work on private property owned by Mr. **Ricky Drummond**. He explained that the drain is clogged at the intersection (Off Rossi Road, on **Mango Road**, formerly known as **Dove Road**) of the two roads and has damaged Mr. Drummond's drive. The County will make repairs to the drain, and will make necessary repairs to the driveway. Pictures were put into the record. **See attached.**

Motion by Commissioner Skinner. Second by Commissioner Flinn. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. Mr. Dale Williams read a proclamation on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners recognizing Commissioner **James Montgomery** as 2004 Columbia County **Teacher of the Year**. **See attached resolution.**

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to approve. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously. (Clerk's Note: See Section XI(5))

X. Commissioner Williams provided an overview of the **Patti Bridge** issue and the action taken by the Board over the past few months. The last action of the Board pertaining to this matter was a motion to take bids to replace the bridge, and to repair the bridge.

Commissioner Williams explained that originally, there was a motion and a second to approve the consent agenda, which had the bridge repair listed. However, there was a request to pull the bridge repair from the agenda for separate consideration.

As a result, two bids were placed to repair the bridge: Underground Excavation Company - \$82,500, and Hal Jones Contractor, Inc. - \$105,000. Three bids were placed to build a new bridge: Underground Excavation Company - \$186,300, Hal Jones Contractor, Inc. - \$550,000, and Anderson Columbia - \$526,462.89.

The Commission having had an opportunity to review the bids submitted was asked if there was a motion to reverse or rescind the Commission's previous motion to "not" repair the bridge. The Board appeared to remain steadfast that they didn't want to invest in such a large repair, nor were they interested in building a new bridge. No motion was offered.

Mr. Marlin Feagle clarified that no new motion being offered means that the bridge will not be repaired or replaced, and that formal action regarding the road closing needs to be scheduled for a public hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Montgomery to schedule a public hearing to close Cansa Road, a/k/a Patti Bridge Road. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The public hearing will be scheduled for the second March meeting (March 20, 2003). The motion carried.

Mr. James Bonner expressed that he believes if the bridge is closed, it must be removed for liability reasons. The Board agreed and said the removal would cost approximately \$3,000.

Mr. Ronnie Hughes wondered why the Board wasn't addressing the issue of Mr. Thomas destroying county property, and reminded Commissioner Williams that the feelings of the community were not split 50/50, but that it was overwhelming in favor of repairing or rebuilding the bridge. He said, *"You must have a memory block or something. We packed this auditorium about this road closing. It was a majority that wanted to keep this open and repair it."* Commissioner Williams replied, *"I only said that some wanted it open, and some wanted it closed."* Mr. Hughes reminded the Board about the large number of petitions submitted to leave the bridge open in the event of an emergency. He said, *"I don't think ya'll were listening! I don't understand why the County can't repair the bridge."* He

reminded the Board that even after the bridge was condemned, the County backed a fully loaded dump truck over **Patti Bridge**. He contended the bridge was still a strong bridge. He said road graders were crossing Patti Bridge just a few hours prior to the bridge being deemed unsafe. He asked the Board, *"What's the status of the issue on Mr. Thomas' destruction of county property? My Sheriff here has told me it's no big deal. Mr. Thomas was trying to help the community. I don't understand the repair cost. The "thing" I got talked about grouting the pilings with concrete. The County engineer says I'm not qualified, but I'm qualified to grout a water well."* Mr. Hughes went on to say that he'd be willing to give his money and time (up \$10,000) if the Board would allow him to repair the bridge under any guidelines. He said, *"That's how strongly we feel in the community to not abandon this bridge that is over one hundred years old."*

Commissioner Williams reminded Mr. Hughes that he was the very one who made the motion to approve (the consent agenda) repairing the bridge. However, when the item was pulled (by another commissioner) for separate consideration the remainder of the Commission voted against the repair. Mr. Williams stressed, *"I'm only one vote. The majority rules."* Mr. Hughes responded, *"Then you stand up and represent the majority with your one vote! The majority spoke the other night by showing up and through petitions."*

Commissioner Flinn interjected, by saying that she would like to see the bridge repaired since it has such sentimental value. Unfortunately, due to the tremendous cost, she said that she personally could not justify spending that much money on the repair when the county is facing such rigid budget cuts in the upcoming year. Mr. Hughes remained persistent that the repair price is inflated and that he was willing to invest his time, skills and \$10,000 on the needed repairs. He said, *"If the pilings are bad where Mr. Thomas knocked a hole in them, then let's pour them full of concrete and rebar, and make the repair. I formed a cost analysis and presented to the Commission at the last meeting showing the County could make the needed repairs for \$5,000, and ya'll know that."*

Mr. Hughes concluded by addressing Commissioner Williams, *"All I ask Ronald is that you represent the people that put you in office, with your one vote. That's what you told me you had, and we want to see your one vote. Thank you sir."*

There was a call for the vote. The motion carried 4-1.

In favor: Commissioners Montgomery, Flinn, Weaver and Skinner

Against: Commissioner Williams stated, *"I stick by my same motion made to approve the consent agenda."*

Commissioner Williams wished a speedy healing of the many hurt feelings that may exist throughout his district regarding this matter.

XI. Miscellaneous (Not on Agenda)

1. Clerk of Courts DeWitt Cason asked the Board to continue working persistently in the search for **record storage facilities/properties**. He encouraged the Board to allow the Clerks Office to work with County staff members in this endeavor and to explore other options.

2. Mr. Marlin Feagle gave an update on the most recent court proceeding held regarding the **Lake City Speedway's** violation of the injunction outlining hours of operation. He said that Mr. Parker (no first name provided) isn't the owner, but has a lease on the **racetrack** and leases the property. A Motion of Contempt was filed, and Judge E. Vernon Douglas found Mr. Parker in contempt of court, but reserved ruling on sentencing. The judge listened to both sides for almost an hour and then referred the parties to a mediation room. Both sides were able to come back with a stipulation. Mr. Feagle said, *"We feel that the Order we have now is probably better for the community, because it limits his daytime racing to sometime in February. No other racing, other than in the daytime, whereas previously he could have some daytime racing. All the races are to terminate at 12:00 midnight. There's only go-cart racing, I believe from November to January."* Mr. Feagle offered copies of the order to anyone interested.

Commissioner Flinn asked what would happen with the finding of contempt and the reserve sentencing. She specifically asked if he would have to pay any monetary fines or court costs. Mr. Feagle responded that the Judge hasn't passed any sentence on Mr. Parker at this time, but expects the Judge may review the sentencing if there is ever a need to go back to court for a violation.

3. Assistant Public Works Director Perry Little explained a need for the County to enter a private property located in the Five Points area (a specific property wasn't mentioned). He said there is a large tree standing on private property that has a root system that is causing damage to the ditches. **See the attached pictures.**

Motion by Commissioner Skinner to enter private property to remove the tree and its root structure. Second by Commissioner Flinn. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Commissioner Skinner recognized School Board Member Nelson in the audience and expressed his desire to ensure District III will be well represented in the **redistricting**. (No other details were provided) Commissioner Skinner asked the Chair to consider appointing him (Skinner) when the time is appropriate. (Clerk's Note: See a verbatim transcript of this set of minutes below - Pg.16)

5. Commissioner Weaver offered his personal congratulations to Commission **James Montgomery** for being nominated Teacher of the Year. He said, *"I can't think of anyone in this county who has had a more profound affect on so many lives. He went on to say, "I know the Board extends to you, and I personally extend to you my congratulations. It is long overdue and well deserved. Thank you."*

6. Chuck Shane was of the opinion that the Board should question the Property Appraiser as to why the **Embree Building** is on the **tax roll** for \$199,730, when it has a construction cost of \$1,000,000, and they are asking a reduced sale price of \$455,000 dollars. He said, *"Let's put it on the tax roll where it belongs, or at least within 80% of where it belongs. Maybe the man will get tired of paying the taxes on it and somebody will buy it. It might help with the deficit."* Mr. Shane also offered for consideration that specially built buildings will often cost more in the long run, because of the cost involved in altering it to meet the new owner's needs. Commissioner Flinn agreed. Commissioner Weaver suggested that a possible answer for the assessed amount may be that the building was purchased for \$200,000.

7. Mr. Wayne Williams.

(a) Mr. Wayne Williams had budget questions relating to the **Welcome Center's rent** for the past two years, and the signage advertising costs of \$32,000 and \$40,000. Mr. Dale Williams replied, *"It's the big message writer you see in the southbound lane."* Mr. Wayne Williams asked, *"\$32,000 per year?"* Mr. Dale Williams responded, *"Yes. That's the revenue it generates."* Mr. Dale William explained that the debt on the sign was paid for from the **3% bed tax**, and there is a charge for those who advertise on it. There are some costs involved in maintaining the sign (electricity, insurance and maintenance).

(b) Mr. Wayne Williams advised that recently his wife has found that the **Board of County Commissioners Minutes** are only partially posted to the web. He said, *"The minutes will be like one or two pages, but there will only be one page posted. I don't know what happens to the second page. If you're going to put it on the internet for somebody to review, it'll be a help to see that it's "all" there."*

(Clerk's Note: Specific dates were not mentioned. A review of the last six (6) sets of minutes posted to the net verified the following: The minutes range in size from two to fifteen pages

each. From the minutes checked, each set was found to be posted in its entirety and fully viewable.)

(c) Mr. Wayne Williams advised that recently, he visited with Mr. Dale Williams regarding employment and **industry** in the County. He said that he understands that Interstate 10 and Interstate 75 was built to move traffic and not to have ramps directing traffic to businesses. He pointed out that in the Baker County area there is a Winn Dixie, Michaels, Publix and more. He said, *"They don't have off ramps, they go out, and come on 90, and come off where they go in. They could do the same thing here. So my point is that the ramps don't have anything to do with us getting industry into the county."* He said he knew Workman's Compensation was high, and stated Columbia County isn't the only one feeling the high costs. He said, *"So it has nothing to do with us not getting any industry in this county, when they can go to other places in the state who are paying the same amounts of **Workman's Compensation.**"*

Commissioner Williams responded that there was no attempt to compare our county's rates to other county's rates in Florida. He said the only comparison made was that "one" of the reasons Winn Dixie didn't locate in Columbia County was because it could get lower (**Workman's Compensation** and Electrical) rates in Georgia. Therefore, they chose to locate in Fitzgerald, Georgia.

Mr. Williams clarified, *"My point is that there's industry going in and around Baker County, Macclenny, and into Alachua County and places like that. So my point is Workman's Compensation for them, or for us, is the same thing. So we need to do other things to get industry in here."* The Commission agreed.

He concluded by saying at another time, he would like to discuss the gas taxes. Particularly, how and when they come into existence, and when they will expire. He also questioned the budget item "Other Current Expenses." He offered that many things could be listed under that section, and thus it should be itemized so citizens can be informed as to what is being paid for from the fund. Mr. Dale Williams explained that he would be happy to provide Mr. Williams with an itemized Line Item Budget upon his request, but forewarned him that it would be approximately three inches thick (.15 per page).

8. Mr. Daniel Distel questioned Commissioner Williams' motion to change **NW Sally Jones Glen**, to **NW Zack Jones Glen**. He noted that the changing of blue sign to a green road sign leads one to believe it was simply changed from a private road to the county road. Commissioner Williams explained that the road was a public road to begin with. The four families living on that road asked that their road not be routinely graded. Therefore, when the 911 Department looked

at the road, it appeared to be private. A blue sign was erroneously erected and the motion was simply to correct the error.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

ATTEST:

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Courts

Ronald Williams, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ADDENDUM

Clerk's Note: At the direction of the Chairman, and per Mr. David Rountree's request, the following portion of the minutes is transcribed in verbatim form:

February 20, 2003

Section XI (4)

Commissioner Skinner: And the other request that I have Mr. Chairman. Uh, I know we're gonna be getting into redistricting. And uh, I notice that the School Board Member Nelson is here, and uh we're concerned that uh, we want District III represented, and uh I'd like to humbly ask the uh Chairman, when he gets ready to make his uh appointments to uh allow me to uh-

Chairman Williams: I'm gonna put em' in a hat and draw em' out. *(Laughing)*.

Commissioner Skinner: As long as my name comes out Mr. Chairman, that's all. *(Laughing)*

Commissioner Flinn: I humbly ask too. *(Laughing)*

Chairman Williams: Everybody done asked and we can't have but three. So we gonna put em' in a hat and draw two of em' up. *(Laughing)*

School Board Member Nelson: *(Inaudible - Speaking from the audience).....*

Commissioner Weaver: Mr. Nelson, did the School Board appoint the two senior members of the Board to that committee?

School Board Member Nelson: Uh, not knowing all of tenure, I can't guarantee that but...*(Inaudible - Still speaking from the audience)...*

Commissioner Weaver: I believe that's correct.