

MINUTES OF THE
OKALOOSA COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1998
NOON

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 P.M. at the Upper Crust Restaurant by President Sharon Slivko.

In attendance were:	Councilwoman Sharon Slivko	Destin
	Commissioner Nick Nicholson	Okaloosa County
	City Clerk Helen Spencer	Fort Walton Beach
	Councilwoman Brenda Bush	Crestview
	Mayor Del Dunn	Mary Esther
	Commissioner Heyward Strong	Valparaiso
	Councilman Dutch Payne	Cinco Bayou
	Commissioner Gary Combs	Shalimar
Absent were:	Councilman Al Swihart	Niceville
	Council Chairman Perry Cadenhead	Laurel Hill

President Slivko presented the April Executive Board Meeting minutes for approval. Councilman Payne made a motion to approve minutes, motion was seconded by Mayor Dunn. Minutes were approved as presented.

President Slivko reported the current treasury balance is \$1990.00. She also reported that all cities had paid current annual dues.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Double Taxation Issue: Commissioner Strong reported that a local Arbitration Meeting was scheduled for May 20, 1998 to attempt to resolve the issue prior to formal court proceeding. He further reported that Fort Walton Beach was the lead for this issue. Later in the meeting, Commissioner Strong requested Commissioner Nicholson to take the lead in asking the County Commission to work with their legal advisors to make an honest effort to resolve this issue during the Arbitration process. Commissioner Nicholson agreed that the County wants to resolve the issue.

B. Reports on Purchasing Co-op: President Slivko requested board inputs on this issue. All members expressed an interest in pursuing the Purchasing Co-op initiative. Mayor Dunn suggested the board pursue an awareness campaign with possible publication of each cities major purchasing plans on a Web Page. At President Slivko's request, Commissioner Combs agreed to research the costs of designing and publishing a local area Web Page. President Slivko announced that the Destin purchasing point of contact was Sandra McDowell (837-4242, email at cityhalldestin.net). Various board members

commented that their cities were already pursuing co-op-purchasing plans with other government agencies for vehicles, maintenance, etc.

C. Report on Local Seminars: Councilman Payne reported that he is continuing to research avenues to conduct local government related seminars. Board members suggested he contact Dr. Walker with the local UWF Department of Government Studies. There was member discussion on providing some funding for seminars with League treasury funds.

NEW BUSINESS

A. President Slivko reported that Councilman Swihart had contacted Laurel Hill and the city intended to host the June quarterly League dinner meeting. The dinner is tentatively scheduled for June 25th at the Crestview Holiday Inn. The meeting date was moved to the fourth Thursday to provide some timing between the May 22, 1998, Panama City Panhandle League of Cities dinner meeting and the local Okaloosa County League dinner meeting. More details will be forthcoming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS FROM CITIES

Cinco Bayou - Councilman Payne reported the City is aggressively pursuing a major effort to upgrade/repave streets and the selection process is imminent for a Town Manager from over 30 applications. He further announced pending construction for the Laguna Landing project.

Crestview - Councilwoman Bush reported that Crestview is promoting a North Crestview (across from High School) Business Complex and also conducting Steering Committee year 2000 reviews to assess and plan for future Crestview public service needs.

Destin - Council recently enacted legislation to collect impact fees from new developments to assist city funding for Police Protection, Parks & Recreation and Libraries. Councilwoman Slivko also announced that the City was working on planning for the 50th Annual Destin Fishing Rodeo.

Fort Walton Beach - City is actively working on Downtown revitalization effort. These efforts included research into ways to manage downtown traffic with possible Around the Mound Highway 98 traffic redirection.

Laurel Hill - No representative.

Mary Esther - Mayor Dunn reported the city had recently purchased property near Doolittle with P2000 Grant Funds for a park project. The New Post office is to be constructed on the other end of the same property. The town is actively pursuing a Highway 98 medium Beautification Project.

Niceville - No representative.

Shalimar - Commissioner Combs briefly discussed construction projects in Shalimar, Meigs Executive Park, Racetrack Petroleum and the city is near the bid request stage for a three area \$500K CDBG Storm Water Drainage Mitigation project. Two city parks are also to be upgraded with grant funds.

Valparaiso - Commissioner Strong reported that Valparaiso was working with Eglin AFB to construct sidewalks from Eglin AFB to the Tom's Bayou Bridge. He reported the City has started the budget review process and that a city drug testing program had lowered insurance rates by 5%. He briefly discussed the Wolverine Park project.

Okaloosa County - Commissioner Nicholson reported that the County was also upgrading Parks with extra parking at Wayside and Beasley Parks on Okaloosa Island. He briefly discussed the Hurricane Proof Traffic signal installation progress and stated the County intended to construct a fishing reef with the old pole debris. County commissioners are reviewing water consumption rates and the rates on future water availability. Commissioner Nicholson reported water is not a problem now; however without a plan, water shortages could be a future problem for Okaloosa County.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Combs asked Commissioner Strong to explain the process for requesting a No-Wake Zone. Both Strong and Commissioner Nicholson stated that for Okaloosa County cities, the city must petition the County Board. With County Board approval, the city funds the cost of the project. Enforcement was not discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 P.M.


Sharon Slivko, President

