



SPR Seven
Fair through Friday,
with mild days, and
pleasant. Low in 25s, high
in low 30s today and
Friday. Northerly wind
to on a h. Fog, tempera-
ture, 18-24, 24-31.

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Map Pact Is Dropped; Pasco Eyes Agenda Ills

By JAN GLIDEWELL

Pasco Times Staff Writer

NEW PORT RICHEY — In a variation on the "good news — bad news" joke format, Pasco County Circuit Clerk Miller Newton Tuesday presented the County Commission with what he called "poor news, bad news and terrible news."

The terrible news was his demand that the commission



rescind action taken earlier in the meeting awarding a \$45,000 aerial mapping contract to William Mack and Associates of St. Petersburg. Newton said the action was illegal because projects of that size require bidding. "I cannot sign it without incurring personal, financial and criminal liability," Newton said. "I won't sign it."

The commission had approved the contract award on the recommendation of planning director William Wiley. But, after receiving a legal opinion, it rescinded the action.

NEWTON'S poor news was a recent attorney general's opinion that minutes of work sessions and committee meetings must be taped and filed. Newton said he was not enthusiastic, about the requirement that he have a deputy clerk at each of those sessions, sometimes as many as six or seven in one week at different locations in the county.

At Newton's request, the county attorney was asked to review the opinion for its applicability to Pasco County government.

Under the heading of bad news Newton told the commission that as much as 40 per cent of the action it has taken in recent months could be nullified because of the "inability of the public and press, at a specified place and time, to examine documents connected with items on the commission agenda."

Newton said it may be necessary to close the agenda earlier in the week. The county attorney also was asked to examine the legality of that claim.

Commissioner Louie Holt then questioned the legality of action taken on a 2-1 vote at a

meeting where only three of the county's five commissioners are present. Commissioners also ordered that point researched.

THE COMMISSION refused, for the third time, to approve a job description for an administrative assistant to County Administrator George Knoblock, and tabled consideration of refund payment on the Pithlachascotee River dredging project.

The dredging matter was set aside until the commission's finance committee can review a recommendation made Tuesday by Newton.

New Port Richey and Port Richey each have requested that the county pay over their shares of a \$32,272 refund received from the state after the 1972 project was completed.

Problems arose because \$10,000 was donated to the project by a now-defunct citizens group and the commission was unsure how, or to whom, the portion of the refund represented by that amount should be paid.

NEWTON REPORTED that a review of the minutes of the meeting at which the project was approved made no mention of disposition of possible refunded money, and that the commission probably would be within its rights to refund \$8,318 to each of the municipalities and to keep \$16,636 for the county.

A suggestion from Chairman Walter Voorhees that the commission form a pollution control department died without coming to a vote.

Voorhees made the suggestion, and Commissioner William Hamilton countered, "We have too many different departments running around now that aren't functioning right."