



Just green
Partly cloudy and
warm Wednesday.
Lows upper 50s,
highs low 80s today.
Winds southerly, di-
minishing at night.
Weather map, tides,
data, Page 2-A.

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Florida's Best Newspaper

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Dial-a-Bus resolution to be presented

By CHARLES PATTON
Pasco Times Staff Writer

NEW PORT RICHEY — A resolution will be proposed at a meeting of the Pasco County Commission Wednesday that, if approved, would commit the commission to supporting a proposed Dial-a-Bus mass transit system with general fund revenues.

The commission will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Dade City. The meeting was scheduled for today, but was delayed one day to allow commissioners to attend a state convention in Jacksonville.

The resolution, to be introduced by Commissioner Wil-

liam Hamilton, calls for the county to provide operating funds for the Tampa Bay Area Rapid Transit Authority bus program until alternate sources of revenue are available.

The proposal would commit the county to a special election to seek voter approval of a special tax district with a maximum tax levy of 1.5 mills.

The special election would be scheduled within two years of the adoption of the resolution.

The proposal also calls for the transit authority to seek alternate methods of meeting operating costs through its millage levying capabilities.

The transit authority could

levy a tax of up to 3 mills if voters approve.

Pasco County's participation in the transit plan has been clouded recently because the state has no funds to meet its share of the operating costs.

The county will have to pick up the entire tab, about \$140,000 for the remainder of this budget year and about \$400,000 next year.

Circuit Clerk Miller Newton advised the commission last week that funds for offsetting the operating loss would have to come through additional budget cuts since the reserve funds for this year already have been committed.

The commission trimmed its budget by about \$500,000 earlier this year when it learned that funds from the state's revenue-sharing program would be reduced because of the effect of the national economic decline on the state revenue collection programs.

The county's money woes will get two shots in the arm with voluntary reductions in departmental budgets.

John W. Cashion, acting county administrator and building department director, said he is returning \$15,500 from the building department budget to the general fund reserve because of reductions in

manpower within the department.

Cashion already has returned \$125,345 from the building department budget to the general fund reserve because of reductions in manpower within the department.

Another \$10,025 will be provided to the reserve fund by Circuit Clerk Miller Newton.

Newton said the refund represents three months of anticipated salaries of manpower for a function of his office not yet initiated.

That function deals with preliminary hearings in all criminal cases. Initiation of the record-keeping service is dependent upon a decision by the

U.S. Supreme Court, Newton said.

The commission also will consider requests for modification of the beverage zoning to allow sale of alcoholic beverages at Pete's Pantry in Dade City and at the Frontier in Zephyrhills.

A request for a gun permit from Felix Schmidt Jr., Route 3, Zephyrhills, will be studied. Schmidt is an investigator for the public defender's office.

The Bureau of Blind Services, vocational rehabilitation service, has requested that the commission consider the feasibility of a snack bar, to be operated by the blind, being placed in the Dade City Courthouse.

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<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=EEFSAAAAIBAJ&sjid=FHkDAAAIBAJ&pg=7286,3203083&dq=miller-newton+election&hl=en>