

BUDGET WORKSHOP

JULY 10, 1998

The Board of county Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Budget Workshop on Friday, July 10, 1998, at 1:30 p.m., in the Commission Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Chairman William A. Young, Vice-Chairman Van Ness Butler, Jr., Commissioner Joel Paul, Jr., Commissioner Randall Infinger and Commissioner Gordon Porter. Ronnie E. Bell, Administrative Supervisor, was also present.

Mrs. Martha Ingle, Budget Officer, presented a list of departmental budget requests to the Commissioners for review.

Mrs. Ingle reviewed the budget for the Office of Management and Budget. Mrs. Ingle stated that additional funding is being requested for the position of Safety Inspector.

Mrs. Ingle stated that additional funding is needed in Machinery and Equipment to purchase four new personal computers. The Additional computers are needed due to the fact that Mr. Bodiford has requested that the computers in the OMB Office be returned to the Clerk's Office by October or he will begin charging rent. The Commissioners requested Mr. Bodiford's attendance to answer questions regarding his requested budget.

The Commissioners stated that they will review the Property Appraiser's budget once the State has an opportunity to review it first.

The Commissioners reviewed budget requests for the following departments: Tax Collector, County Attorney, County Planning, Administrative Supervisor, Circuit Court, County Court, Court Reporter, Public Defender, Supervisor of Elections, Elections, Courthouse Maintenance.

The Commissioners agreed to grant the Fireboard's budget at the same amount as last year's budget, \$320,260 and not grant the 40% requested increase. However, the Board will fund \$11,000 for communication services.

The Board agreed that they will not grant the request of the United Volunteer Fire Department to fund three paid firefighter positions.

The Board reviewed the following budgets: Probation Office, Building Department, and the Ambulance Service. The Commissioners questioned the possibility of conducting a survey for EMS to review the fee schedule. Mr. Bell stated that he could contact the Small County Coalition and request a survey, however, the State EMS will be conducting a survey in the near

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future.

The Commissioners felt that the budget request for the Medical Examiner is highly inflated and requested a representative from the Medical Examiner's Officer appear to explain their request and answer questions.

Mr. Bruce Ward, Extension Agent, appeared before the Board to discuss his requested budget. Mr. Ward stated that Tammy Register, Office Manager, and Tanessa Bird, Office Assistant, salaries are both below the County's pay scale and requested to adjust his budget to amend those wages to be in line with the County's pay scale. Mr. Ward stated that Mrs. Register would be raised to an Administrative Secretary at \$9.50 and Mrs. Bird would be raised to \$7.80 per hour. The Board agreed. Mr. Ward stated that he is requesting an additional position be funded for a Horticulture Agent. The Board stated that they will discuss this position further at a later date with Mr. Ward.

The Board reviewed the budget requests for the Soil Conservation Services. The Commissioners stated that they would like answers regarding the Chautauqua Festival Board's budget and the Veteran's Service budget. They also reviewed the requests from the Parks Department, Purchasing, and Public Works. Discussion was held regarding moving the Public Works budget to County Transportation when centralizing.

The Commissioners requested for Mr. Phil McMillian, Veteran's Officer, and Sheriff McMillian be present at the next budget workshop to explain their budgets.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED: _____

William A. Young, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Dan Bodiford, Clerk