

JULY 10, 2018 – BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Budget Workshop on July 10, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs, Florida.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner W. N. (Bill) Chapman, Chairman; Commissioner Tony Anderson; and Commissioner Sara Comander. Mr. Larry Jones, County Administrator; Attorney Sidney Noyes, County Attorney; and Mr. Alex Alford, Clerk of Courts and County Comptroller; were also present.

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order.

Ms. Amy Heavlin, County Finance Manager, stated the purpose of the workshop was to set a proposed millage rate which can decrease, but not increase and to set the TIF budgets. She also requested direction from the board on the discretionary departments, which were left the same amounts as the previous year with the exception of the Woman's Center due to necessary funding needed for leverage in obtaining State funds. The final budget hearings are set for September 10, 2018 at 5:01 p.m. at the courthouse annex in south Walton and September 24, 2018 at the courthouse in DeFuniak Springs at 5:01 p..

The 2018/19 budget was created with the assumption there would be no change in the current millage rate of 3.6363 and .4912 for North Walton Mosquito Control. Once the tentative millage rate is set it will go out on TRIM notices.

Ms. Heavlin presented the proposed budgets for each constitutional officer and the following additional FTE requests: Supervisor of Elections – 1; Landfill Scale Operator – 1; Legal – 1; OMB – 1; TDC – 6; Planning – 2; Public Works – 1; and Equipment Operators – 5. There were nine (9) positions eliminated in Public Works for a total of eight (8) new FTE's.

The total proposed budget presented for FY 2019 was \$161,252,301 an increase of \$10.3 million. Ms. Heavilin stated there was a 9.3% increase in health insurance. A 3% cost of living increase was included for individuals making under \$60k and 2% for those making over that amount. There was an increase in Operating in the amount of \$260,000 for software for the Finance Department; \$300,000 for the District 3 building; \$120,000 for south Walton parks and the Bay Grove Park; and \$80,000 for other insurances. There is a 28% increase in discretionary contributions and 4% increase in Public Safety. There were no changes to the Public Safety/911 budget.

The Community Development budget increased by 5.4% for the two (2) FTE positions in Planning. Public Works increased by 2.79% for the three (3) FTE positions. The Landfill budget had a 2% reduction. TDC requested the addition of 6 FTE's for an increase of 2.8%. The Courts budget decreased by 1%. The proposed increase for the Other Special Revenue Funds in the Local Option Gas Tax Fund was \$220,000.

The Capital Projects Fund was set at \$2,214,124, South Walton TIF \$4,071,298 and the 331 TIF Fund was \$11,518.

Ms. Heavilin presented the proposed Revenue Summary totaling \$161,252,301 or 7% increase in expected total revenues.

The proposed ad-valorem allocation percentages are divided as follow: Sheriff's Fund 68.0%; Constitutional Office Support 14.7%; General Fund Support for Courts, State Mandates and all others 4.0%; Public Works (including Facilities Maintenance, Parks Maintenance and Custodial) 7.1%; and TIF Trust Funds 6.2%.

The proposed Ad-Valorem Revenue History shows an approximate 10% increase over FY 2018.

Commissioner Comander questioned Mr. Tusa, TDC Executive Director, about his request for six (6) new FTE's. Mr. Tusa stated the positions will be on the administration side. He further explained they will be bringing social media marketing back in-house from Zhender saving approximately \$20,000. He felt the job could be done better by having someone local to cover events. Mr. Tusa stated the second position is for a Manager for the Visitor's Center due to growth. The other positions are for Beach Operations.

Discussion was held regarding discretionary funds and the substantial increases submitted. Commissioner Comander commented on the need to cut discretionary budgets due to the tight budget and the need to keep the millage rate the same. She understands the EDA needs funding to purchase more land, but that in turn will bring additional revenue back into the county. She also spoke about maintaining enough funds in the event of a hurricane.

Chairman Chapman questioned Mr. Imfeld if the cities have indicated any increase for their EDA Budget. Mr. Bill Imfeld, EDA Director, stated the EDA is seeking a 5% increase from each city. He advised that over the last year they brought in eight (8) new businesses and the income brought in from those businesses far exceeds the budgeted amount. He had no indication if the cities will budget for the requested increase.

Commissioner Comander agreed with the increase in EDA because the county will receive income back in return. She stated she sees the value in the Woman's Center, but voiced concern with the budgeted amount.

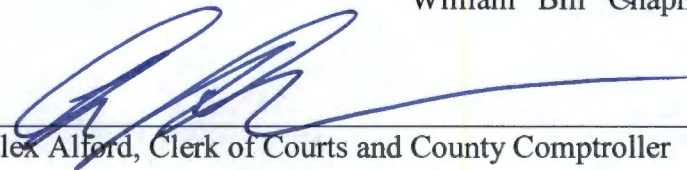
Mr. Jones spoke about the increases in discretionary contributions and stated staff will work with those entities before the hearings in September. He reminded the commissioners that some of the funds are used as leverage to bring in more funds. The board agreed.

Mr. Jones stated the S.W. TIF has been at approximately \$4 million over the last few years and does not effect the Public Works Budget. If the board approves of that amount staff will calculate the percentage and present a resolution for adoption of the South Walton TIF. The board agreed.

The board agreed to set the tentative county wide millage rate at 3.6363 and .4912 for North Walton Mosquito Control.

There being no further items to present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Approved: 
William "Bill" Chapman, Chairman

Attest: 
Alex Alford, Clerk of Courts and County Comptroller