

JULY 13, 2006 – BUDGET HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Budget Workshop on Thursday, July 13, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. at the South Walton Courthouse Annex.

The following Board members were present: Scott Brannon, Chairman, Kenneth Pridgen, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Larry Jones, Commissioner Cindy Meadows, and Commissioner Rosier Cuchens.

Also in attendance were county staff members and administrators and members of the Walton County Taxpayers Association.

Commissioner Cuchens led with prayer followed by the pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Chairman Brannon called the meeting to order.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, County Administrator, reviewed the following proposed 2007 budget recommendations for the constitutional offices and county departments:

Clerk of Courts –\$1,808,438

Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, and Mr. William Pennington, Finance Director, were present to answer any questions. There were no public comments.

Supervisor of Elections –\$482,262

There were no public comments.

- Elections –\$158,000
- Voter Education Fund –\$1,432

Property Appraiser –\$1,793,354

There were no public comments.

Tax Collector - \$3,005,424

Personal Services includes an addition of three new personnel. Mr. Cory Godwin, Deputy Tax Collector, was present to answer questions. There were no public comments.

Sheriff's Department - \$19,283,623 (requested amount)

Personal Services include an addition of 27 new FTE's.

Mr. Bell announced that he had received a letter from Sheriff Johnson relinquishing the operation of the county jail to the BCC effective January 1, 2007. It was the general consensus to continue the discussion regarding this matter until the sheriff arrived.

Tourist Development Council - \$16,794,783

This budget encompasses TDC - Administration, Beach Area, Beach RE-nourishment, New Product Development, and Autumn Tides. Ms. Kriss Titus, Executive Director of the TDC, was present to answer questions. There were no public comments.

- TDC -Administration - \$5,869,358
- Beach Area — \$5,147,611 each
- RE-nourishment - \$2,158,917
- New Product Development — \$1,715,375
- Autumn Tides - \$1,903,522

Board of County Commissioners - \$11,544,930

This budget encompasses the Board of County Commissioners, County Administration Department and GIS/Information Resources. Personal Services includes an increase of .5 FTE's due to converting a half-time Secretary into a full-time Secretary

in the GIS/Information Resources Department. There were no public comments.

- Board of County Commissioners –\$10,578,520
- County Administration –\$399,051
- GIS/Information Resources –\$567,359 Parks & Recreation –\$1,735,408

This budget encompasses Parks & Recreation, Freeport Pool, and Recreation Board. There were no public comments.

- Parks & Recreation –\$1,103,058
- Freeport Pool –\$56,650
- Recreation Board –\$575,700

Planning & Development Services Division –\$7,036,650

This budget encompasses the Planning Development Services Division and Building Department. Personal Services includes seven new FTE's.

- Planning & Development Services Division General Fund –\$4,431,230
 - Planning & Development Services – Admin – \$803,491. Capital Outlay includes one truck and one ATV for the Beach Activities Coordinator.
 - Planning & Development –\$3,256,087
 - Planning –\$2,041,984. Personal Services includes one new Development Order Inspector, one new Secretary and 50% of a Planner position (to be shared with the Building Department). Capital Outlay includes one truck and five computers.
 - Engineering –\$832,374. Personal Services includes one new Plans Review Engineer. Capital Outlay includes one desk and one computer for the new position.

- North Walton Mosquito Control – \$611,034. Personal Services includes a new 1/2 time Mosquito Spray Technician. Capital Outlay includes spray equipment and a microscope.
- Landfill – \$15,767,220. Capital Outlay includes one grinder, one scraper, two gators, and one loader.

Emergency Services Division – \$12,093,155

This budget encompasses the Emergency Response Division, E-911, and Dependant Fire Districts.

- Emergency Response Division – \$10,529,800. This budget consists of ER Administration, Emergency Medical Services/Misc. Grants; Emergency Operations Center/Misc. Grants, Emergency Management Trust/Misc. Grants, Paramedic/Firefighter, Animal Control/Shelter, Walton County Fire Rescue, Fire Control, and Non-Department Fire Districts. Personal Services includes the addition of 9 new FTE's.
 - Emergency Response – Administration – \$252,303. Capital Outlay includes funds for the Phase II Remodel of the EOC/EMS building.
 - EMS Department – \$4,232,983. Personal Services decrease reflects 7 FTE's moved to the Walton County Fire Rescue budget. Capital Outlay includes three new ambulances, two trucks, twenty-one laptops, one server, two ventilators, five exhaust fans, two inventory scanners, four digital cameras, five fuel tanks, and improvements to the EMS/EOC building and existing fire stations.
 - Emergency Operations Center Department – \$329,628. Capital Outlay

includes one truck with Emergency Response package, 50% of the cost of a plasma TV (to be shared with EM Trust), one forklift, and improvements to the EOC building and parking lot.

- Emergency Management Trust Department – \$169,361. Capital Outlay includes 50% of the cost of a plasma TV (to be shared with EOC) and improvements to the EOC building.
- Animal Control/Shelter Department – \$614,247. Capital Outlay includes one truck (with lights and cages), one computer and all equipment needed to fully equip the Animal Shelter.
- Walton County Fire Rescue Department – \$4,530,044. Paxton, United, and Tri-Village Volunteer Fire Departments were incorporated into this budget during FY 06. Personal Services includes 7 FTE’s moved from EMS, 9 FTE’s for FY 06, and 9 FTE’s for FY 07. Capital Outlay includes one vehicle for the Fire Marshal position, three laptops, and two sets of extrication equipment.
- Fire Control Department – \$13,998
- Non-Dependent Fire Districts Department – \$387,236. Paxton, United, and Tri-Village Volunteer Fire Departments were all incorporated into the Walton County Fire Rescue Department during FY 06.
- E-911 Department – \$1,456,462. Operations include new Voiceprint software. Capital Outlay includes one desk, five computer servers (to be used in

This budget encompasses County Transportation Trust, State Mosquito Control Grant, North Walton Mosquito Control, and Landfill/Small Counties Grant. Personal Services includes an increase of 1.5 new FTE's.

- County Transportation Trust Department – \$26,573,685. Personal Services includes one new Surveyor. Capital Outlay for the CTT Fund includes the following machinery and equipment: F-150 Trucks (13); SUV's (3); Car (1); Dump Trucks (13); Paint Truck (1); Flat-bed Trucks (4); Rubber-tire Loader (1); Tractors (5); Backhoes (2); Loaders (2); Bush hogs (2); Dozer (1); Sweeper (1); Excavators (3); Trailers (2); Lowboy winch (1); Mowers (2); Tiller (1); Steel-wheeled Roller (1); Chemical Pump (1); RACO stabilizer (1); Air Compressor (1); and Welder (1).
- State Mosquito Grant – \$23,350
- North Walton Mosquito Control – \$611,034. Personal Services includes a new ½ time Mosquito Spray Technician. Capital Outlay includes spray equipment and a microscope.
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- E-911 Department – \$1,456,462. Operations include new Voiceprint software. Capital Outlay includes one desk, five computer servers (to be used in conjunction with the new software), and new carpeting in the call-taking/dispatch center.
- Glendale VFD Department – \$106,893. Capital Outlay includes one generator and paving costs associated with paving the lot at the fire station.

Facilities Management – \$2,438,256

This budget encompasses Facilities Maintenance, Construction Management, and Custodial Services. Personal Services includes the addition of one new FTE.

- Facilities Maintenance – \$1,661,370. Personal Services includes one new Plumbing Maintenance Technician primarily assigned to the new jail facilities. Capital Outlay includes one new truck.
- Construction Management – \$269,575
- Custodial Services – \$507,311. Capital Outlay includes two vans and floor-buffing equipment.

Office of the County Attorney – \$568,085

Personal Services includes one new Legal Secretary. Capital Outlay includes two computers and one copier. Attorney Hallman was present to answer questions.

Citizen Services Division General Fund – \$6,667,082

This budget encompasses the Citizen Services Division, Contributions, S.H.I.P., Housing and Urban Development, and Library Services. Personal Services includes a decrease of .75 FTE's.

- Citizen Services Division – \$1,237,615.
 - Citizen Services – Admin/P.I.O – \$265,353. Capital Outlay includes one computer.
 - County Probation – \$329,203
 - Veteran's Services – \$155,647. Capital Outlay includes one computer.
 - Ag/Extension Services – \$389,044. Capital Outlay includes three laptops, one band-width controller, two video cameras, and one 32" LCD monitor.
 - Soil Conservation – \$98,368.
- BCC Funded Cash Contributions – \$2,135,002
 - Discretionary Contributions – \$664,542:
 - Children & Families – \$141,942. This budget includes contributions to the following organizations: Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center (\$4,000); Shelter House (\$25,000); Judge Ben Gordon Jr. Family Visitation Center (\$25,000); Families Count (\$62,942); Child Care Services (\$25,000).

- Cultural & Educational – \$31,000. This budget includes contributions to the following organizations: The Florida Chautauqua (\$10,000); the Chautauqua (\$3,000); Grit & Grace, Inc. (\$15,000); Walton Co. Heritage Museum (\$3,000).
- Economic Development – \$122,500. This budget includes contributions to the following organizations: Chamber of Commerce (\$45,500) and Economic Development Council (\$77,000).
- Emergency Relief – \$8,000 to the American Red Cross.
- Environmental Preservation – \$0. Funding for the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance and Coastal Dune Lakes was combined in FY 06 and has been moved to the Planning & Development Division in FY 07.
- Mental Health/Development Disabilities – \$173,100. This budget includes contributions to the following organizations: C.O.P.E Center (\$83,100); Walton County ARC, Inc. (\$90,000); Resources for Human Development (\$0). No funding is recommended for the Resources for Human Development unless this organization complies with the terms of their existing FY 06 contract.
- Social Services Delivery/Indigent Services – \$188,000. This budget includes contributions to the following organizations: Walton County Council on Aging (\$150,000); Elder Care Services (\$4,000); Tri-County Community Council (\$34,000).

- Statutory Mandated Contributions – \$1,470,460:
 - Health Care Responsibility – \$216,000
 - Medicaid Services – \$400,000
 - Walton County Health Department – \$797,960
 - Baker Act Fees – \$50,000
 - Indigent Burials – \$6,500
- S.H.I.P – \$501,691. This budget is composed of the following departments: Professional Services – Admin (\$40,135); Other Charges – Admin (\$10,043); 1st Time Homebuyer (\$53,581); Moderate Housing Rehab (\$52,887); Substantial Housing Rehab (\$227,216); Emergency Repair (\$67,829); and Replacement Housing (\$50,000).
- Housing & Urban Development Department – \$1,731,441. Capital Outlay includes three new computers. Personal Services includes a decrease of one FTE.
- Library Services – \$1,061,360. Personal Services includes ¼ increase in FTE's to convert a ¾ employee to a full time position. Capital Outlay includes fifteen computers and a sewer.

Commissioner Cuchens questioned the concept of a mobile health unit to service the different municipalities. Mr. Bell stated that Ms. Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, was working with Mr. Jim Jones, Health Department Administrator, to research grant opportunities.

Human Resources – \$592,390

Capital Outlay includes three computers and two filing cabinets. Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resources Director, was present to answer questions.

After discussion regarding the rising costs of fuel and insurance rates, it was the general consensus of the Board to supplement the 2.5% Cost of Living Allowance with a one time 1.5% adjustment as an incentive for all county employees, including the constitutional offices.

Courts – \$974,138

Personal Services include an increase of 1/3 new FTE. This budget is composed of the following departments: Circuit Court; County Court; Public Defender; State Attorney; Court Technology; Medical Examiner; and Guardian ad Litem.

- Circuit Court – \$232,895. Personal Services includes two new Bailiff positions for the new courtroom facilities for the last two months of FY 07.
- County Court – \$70,624
- Public Defender – \$64,240. Capital Outlay includes a file server, a copier, and a fax machine.
- State Attorney – \$127,425. Capital Outlay includes eight computers, four laptops, and two printers.
- Court Technology – \$197,300
- Medical Examiner – \$225,254
- Guardian ad Litem – \$1,000

Finance Division – \$1,087,048

This budget encompasses the Office of Management & Budget; Central Purchasing; Grants; Telecommunications; Contracts; and Central Ambulance Billing.

- OMB – \$332,267
- Central Purchasing – \$480,769. Personal Services includes one new Purchasing Clerk. Capital Outlay includes one replacement Courier van, and one new computer for the new Purchasing Clerk position.
- Grants – \$109,724
- Telecommunications – \$64,617
- Contracts – \$45,835
- Central Ambulance Billing – \$53,836. Capital Outlay includes one new copier.

Sheriff Ralph Johnson arrived. The Board returned to the discussion regarding the sheriff's department's proposed budget. Mr. Bell explained that if the jail operations revert to the BCC, three-fourths of the proposed amount for the operation of the jail would be reflected in the General Fund.

Ms. Marjorie Adams, Finance Officer for the Sheriff's Department, commented that a number of the additional positions listed were actually proposed for law enforcement.

A copy of the modified Corrections portion of the Sheriff's budget was entered into the record.

Mr. Bob Hudson requested that a total "head count" of employees be provided once plans for the transition have been established.

Mr. Bell stated that he would develop a plan to move forward with the change in which the jail would become the responsibility of the Board. Mr. Imfeld stated that he would work with the Sheriff's Department throughout the transition.

The Board returned to the earlier discussion regarding the Planning & Development Services Division. After discussion was held, the Board decided to add an additional GIS position to the Planning Administration Department.

The following budgets were presented:

Debt Service – \$243,835

These are 1996 General Obligation bonds regarding the hospital. They bear interest rates between 4.50% and 5.00%. They are due to be paid in full in 2010. A separate millage (not part of the countywide ad Valorem rate) is assessed for this voter-authorized debt.

Recreation Plat Fee – \$2,550,000

Commissioner Meadows mentioned increasing the impact fees on more intensive developments, such as DRI's. Mr. Bell stated that staff could review the options and bring back information to the Board.

Preservation Fees – \$581,726

Commissioner Meadows stated that she would also like for staff to review the option of increasing these fees.

Sidewalk Fees – \$292,974

Local Option Gas Tax – \$2,360,001

These funds are restricted by State Statute for use in repairing and constructing roads and bridges, and for the purchase of equipment in support of those efforts. They are committed to the Accelerated Road Paving program, and will serve as a funding source for those costs.

Driftwood MSBU – \$300,000

These are the 1995 Revenue Bonds secured by liens on properties within the Driftwood Estates subdivision. The bonds funded a variety of infrastructure improvements and carry interest rates between 7.0% and 8.0%. They are due to be paid off by 2015. \$1,100,000 is the current outstanding balance. This does not affect the County's ad Valorem tax rate.

Imperial MSBU – \$26,390

Capital Projects – the estimated cost is \$34,200,000, requiring \$20,400,000 financing.

Capital Projects include: Jail with Additional Jail Pods (\$12,500,000); Courthouse with Change Orders (\$4,000,000); Animal Control Shelter (\$2,700,000); New South Walton Annex (\$10,000,000); and new Landfill Building (\$5,000,000).

Mr. Imfeld requested direction from the Board as to which Capital Projects to proceed with researching funding sources. He stated that he would bring back recommendations to the Board at a future date.

Commissioner Cuchens presented and reviewed a diagram of a park proposed to be located in Hammock Bay on a 57 acre parcel that was donated to the City of Freeport. The property was donated by the developers of Hammock Bay to be developed into a regional park. Commissioner Cuchens requested that the Board approve including a line item in the Capital Projects for a \$5 million contribution to support the park.

Mr. Jack Rhodes, Chairman of the Hammock Bay Community Development District Board of Supervisors, was present to speak as representative. Mr. Rhodes emphasized that this would be a regional park to serve all of the citizens of Walton County.

After much discussion, the general consensus of the Board was to support the project and include the park as a line item in Capital Projects. The Board directed Administration to obtain detailed information regarding the financial aspects to be brought back for further review. The Board recognized the need for recreational facilities throughout the county. Commissioner Meadows requested that a line item also be incorporated for recreational facilities in South Walton. Mr. Bell pointed out that these items would not affect the Ad Valorem Tax rate.

Ms. Bonnie McQuiston cautioned the Board that committing a contribution to the park could set precedence.

Mr. Bob Hudson expressed discontent with the unexpected line items being added considering the amount already requiring financing.

Mr. Bell turned the floor over to Mr. Mac Work, representing the Florida Chautauqua. Mr. Work presented a request that the Board consider increasing the contribution for FY 07 to \$15,000 instead of \$10,000. The general consensus of the Board was to grant the request and increase the FY 07 contribution by \$5,000, for a total of \$15,000.

Mr. Bell presented the adjusted proposed millage rate for FY 2007 - 4.2600. Mr. Bell also pointed out that the proposed millage rate for North Walton Mosquito Control and Dense Service is 0.5892 and .0155, respectively.

Ms. Bonnie McQuiston and Mr. Bob Hudson, representing the Tax Payer's Association, addressed the Board to make closing comments. Ms. McQuiston noted that the overall county spending had increased by 10.7%. She stated that, less the new North Walton Fire District, the county had met the target goal of 7.5% to 8% set by the Tax

Payers Association. She requested that the position for an internal auditor that was proposed for the FY 2007-2008 budget be brought forward to this year's budget.

Mr. Hudson strongly encouraged the Board to address policies regarding the following issues: promotional items that are donated by county departments, county vehicles being properly identified with familiar logos, and ensuring that appropriate fees are collected for developments.

The total proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 is \$143,320,216:

General Fund Operations	\$ 46,531,328
Public Works	26,573,685
Sheriff (Operations)	19,283,623
Tourist Development Council	16,794,783
Landfill Operations	15,767,220
All Other Operational	<u>14,497,577</u>
	\$ 139,448,216
Capital Projects	<u>3,872,000</u>
Total Proposed	\$ <u>143,320,216</u>

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

APPROVED: _____
Scott Brannon, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court