

Budget Workshop

July 14, 1997

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Budget Workshop on Monday, July 14, 1997 at 8:30 a.m., in the Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

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

Chairman Young called the meeting to order followed by pledging allegiance to the American Flag and prayer.

Matt Douglass, Ambulance Service Director, presented his 1997-98 budget request. Mr. Douglass requested that the work schedule of the ambulance crew be changed to 24 hours on duty, 48 hours off. This is the industry standard. Mr. Douglass is requesting a new ambulance also. The fifth ambulance crew is also budgeted in the 1997-98 fiscal year. The 1997-98 budget request is \$1,576,708. The 1996-97 approved budget for the Ambulance Service was \$936,828, this did not include the fifth ambulance crew. The Board discussed ambulance billing. The Board agreed to revisit the policy that requires ambulance employees to live within Walton County due to the lack of ambulance personnel in Walton County.

Phil McMillian, Veterans Service Supervisor, presented his 1997-98 budget request. Mr. McMillian requested raises for the three employees in his office above the three percent cost of living raise. The Board agreed to limit the raises to three percent. Mr. McMillian also requested \$7,500 for a part-time employee to help work on the computer.

Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, presented the Planning Department's 1997-98 budget request. The Board discussed increasing development fees.

Freddy Baker appeared before the Board to present the Council on Aging 1997-98 budget request. Mr. Baker is requesting an additional \$19,589 to hire a coordinator to continue the SHIP Project. Council on Aging has received \$25,000 of SHIP monies to administer.

The Board recessed briefly.

Motion by Commissioner Porter, second by Commissioner Infinger, to enter into Emergency Session. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Porter Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Young Aye.

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Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Porter, to remit payment in the amount of \$79.71 for delinquent taxes due from 1994 on a parcel of property which the County obtained from Grover Cox in 1994. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Porter Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Young Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Porter, to place three handicap signs on Royal Drive at the Disabled American Veterans building (DAV). Ayes 4, Nays 0. Porter Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Young Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Porter, to close Emergency Session. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Porter Aye, Infinger Aye, Butler Aye, Young Aye.

Lynda Robinson, Payroll Clerk, presented an updated wage schedule for the District and County Wide Road Crew employees.

The Board agreed that the years of service on former District or County Wide employees who left on their own accord should begin at the beginning of the wage scale upon returning to work. If an employee was laid-off and should return to work for the County, their years of service should be combined. The wage scale is for continuous years of service according to the latest date of hire unless the Board authorizes for the employee to combine his years of service.

The Board agreed that if the hourly wage of a District or County Wide employee does not increase by the Wage Scale, then that employee should receive the three percent cost of living raise. If the employee receives an increase based on the Wage Scale, they will not receive the three percent increase as well. The employee should receive the highest hourly wage either by the Wage Scale or the three percent cost of living raise.

Mr. Bell presented a projected cost for a County Engineer and Surveyor. The Board agreed that two additional positions for assistance are not needed. The Board could reduce the Professional Service line item within the District budgets.

Commissioner Infinger stated that the School Board may be interested in utilizing the County's Grants Coordinator to research and obtain grants for the school system. The Board agreed to allow Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, to also research grants for the School Board if she has time.

The Board agreed to hold the District budgets at the same amount as last year with the exception of the additional one million dollars each for

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Districts 1 through 4 and two million dollars for District 5 for road paving. The Board also agreed to place an additional \$250,000 in the District 5 budget.

The Board recessed for lunch.

Commissioner Joel Paul, Jr. arrived after lunch.

The Board discussed the following budget requests: Fine & Forfeiture, North Walton Mosquito Control, South Walton Tourist Development Council, Library, Landfill and Mossy Head/Oakwood Hills Fire Department.

Vice-Chairman Butler presented a budget request for the Recreational Plat Fee. Commissioner Porter voiced his objection to creating an additional position.

The Board agreed to increase the General Fund contingency fund to \$340,000 to adjust salaries later in the budget year.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Commissioner Porter, to enter into Emergency Session. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Porter Aye, Infinger Aye, Paul Aye, Butler Aye, Young Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Porter, second by Commissioner Infinger, to abolish the \$10 household animal license. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Porter Aye, Infinger Aye, Paul Aye, Butler Aye, Young Aye.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Butler, second by Commissioner Porter, to allow Walton County registered voters as well as Walton County real property owners to obtain a \$25 Beach Dog Tag which allows a dog owner to walk their dog on the beach between the hours of 6:00 p.m to 8:00 a.m. on a leash. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Porter Aye, Infinger Aye, Paul Aye, Butler Aye, Young Aye.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Butler, second by Commissioner Infinger, to amend Section 6 of Ordinance 97-13, Beach Ordinance, to include regulating jet skis due to the events which occurred this past weekend. Ayes 3, Nays 2. Porter Naye, Infinger Aye, Paul Naye, Butler Aye, Young Aye. The motion failed due to not obtaining a 4/5 vote which is required to pass an emergency amendment to an ordinance.

Motion by Commissioner Paul, second by Vice-Chairman Butler, to adopt an emergency ordinance amending Section 6 of Ordinance 97-13, Beach Ordinance, to include regulations for jet skis and advertise for a public hearing to be held on August 12, 1997 at 6:10 p.m. for public comment. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Porter Aye, Infinger Aye, Paul Aye, Butler Aye, Young Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Vice-Chairman Butler, to

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close Emergency Session and adjourn. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Porter Aye, Infinger  
Aye, Paul Aye, Butler Aye, Young Aye.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

William A. Young, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Dan Bodiford, Clerk