

JULY 14, 2015 – BUDGET HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a budget hearing on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, at 2:00 p.m., at the South Walton Courthouse Annex.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Bill Imfeld, Chairman; Commissioner Sara Comander, Vice-Chairman; Commissioner W.N. “Bill” Chapman; Commissioner Cecilia Jones; and Commissioner Cindy Meadows. Mr. Larry Jones, County Administrator; Mr. Stan Sunday, Deputy County Administrator; Ms. Dede Hinote, Deputy County Administrator; Mr. Mark Davis, County Attorney; and Ms. Sidney Noyes, Assistant County Attorney; were also present.

Chairman Imfeld called the meeting to order to continue discussion on the FY 2015-2016 budget. He stated that a recommended millage rate would need to be set at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr. Larry Jones, County Administrator, explained that the presentation would be brief and calculations have been provided for consideration based on the recommendations made at the July 9, 2015 Budget Hearing.

Ms. Melissa Thomason, Finance Director, explained the changes and addition to transfer the funds from the Mossy Head Industrial Park (MHIP) to the General Fund for the EDA, transfer funds from MHIP to the Landfill Fund, and possible additions for the CR 30A & Hwy 98 Trust Fund, Landfill Facility, COLA, one FTE for the Legal Department, and one Environmental Planner. She stated that the TIF amount and COLA were added and discussion is needed to determine the rate. The current millage rate is 3.6363, and a rate of 4.1630 was presented to fund the projects to the full extent.

Commissioner Chapman questioned what the position would be for the Legal Department. Attorney Mark Davis, County Attorney, stated it would be a legal secretary position.

Chairman Imfeld did not feel that funding of the EDA should come from the MHIP funds. Commissioner Meadows did not agree and felt that it should be funded by the MHIP funds.

Commissioner Jones felt that it is vital to have an EDA.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the funding source for the EDA and the need to use the MHIP funds in the park due to outstanding infrastructure needs.

Chairman Imfeld asked for public comment.

Mr. Bob Hudson discussed BP funds in reserves and questioned why those cannot be used to fund the EDA and then fund it from RESTORE Pot 1 funds. Mr. Billy Williams, RESTORE Act Coordinator, explained that there are two pots of money and there is some flexibility, but federal funding pots are project specific. Mr. Hudson urged the Board to evaluate what the agency is actually accomplishing.

Ms. Jackie Markel discussed the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and funding. She questioned why homeowners are not paying for that account rather than the general public. Ms. Thomason explained that was one of the items that were not funded correctly and they are looking at strategies for that funding. She also questioned the need for eight (8) additional employees in the TDC and urged reduction in the bed tax collections, and discussed the Angelos beach property acquisition, stormwater fund allocation, and the Coastal Dune Lakes study.

Commissioner Meadows questioned if the Landfill improvements would be phased. Ms. Thomason stated that it could be conducted in phases. Mr. Jones felt that \$500,000 would be feasible to get the process started.

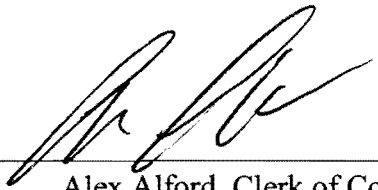
Discussion ensued regarding the appropriate millage rate to set and the percentage towards TIF funding and several scenarios were discussed with different TIF percentages.

The Board concurred to set the tentative county-wide millage rate at 3.9746 mills and keep the prior North Walton Mosquito Control District millage rate of 0.4912.

Motion by Commissioner Comander, second by Commissioner Meadows, to close the Budget Hearing at 3:00 p.m. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Imfeld Aye, Comander Aye, Chapman Aye, Jones Aye, Meadows Aye. (Actually approved at the 3:00 p.m. special meeting.)

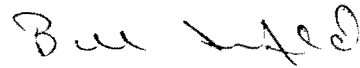
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST



Alex Alford, Clerk of Courts
and County Comptroller

APPROVED



Bill Imfeld, Chairman