

BUDGET WORKSHOP

JULY 19, 1988

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in a workshop session on July 19, 1988, at 9:00 A.M. to discuss the proposed 1988-89 budget.

The following Board Members were present: Chairman Joe R. Griffin, Vice-Chairman Sam Pridgen, Commissioner W.F. Miles, Commissioner Robert G. Fleet, and Commissioner Edward D. Armbruster. The County's Administrative Supervisor, Mr. Ronnie Bell, was also present.

Chairman Griffin called the workshop to order. Mrs. Martha Walden, Deputy Clerk, read a memo to the Board stating that Mr. George R. Miller, County Attorney, will not be able to attend the next regular Board Meeting due to a court case beginning July 25, 1988.

Mrs. Walden read the revised budget proposals for the Board.

The Board determined to write a letter to the State's Attorney to inform him that there would be no increase in his office rental allowance as was requested.

Mr. Mack Baker, Supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration, had informed the Board that the federal government would give no allocation for the secretarial position in his office. Motion by Commissioner Fleet, second by Commissioner Armbruster, to delete the secretary's salary from the 1988-89 budget. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Armbruster Aye, Fleet Aye, Miles Nay, Pridgen Aye, Griffin Aye.

Discussion began regarding the millage rate of the proposed budget versus the millage rate of the current budget. Mrs. Walden advised the Board that the millage rate of the proposed budget is 7.790 while the current millage rate is 7.620 - a difference of .170 mills. Mrs. Walden further advised that approximately \$170,000.00 would need to be taken off the proposed budget to return it to the current millage rate. The Board agreed that they would like to give a 5% pay increase to all County employees on the General Revenue payroll.

A representative from a VFW post in Walton County appeared before the Board requesting that the old copier from the Veterans' Services office be donated to the VFW organization. Mr. Phil MacMillian, Veterans' Services Officer, was present and advised the Board that he

was agreeable to the donation. The Board stated that if the Attorney found that it is legal to do so, they would be glad for the VFW post to have it. The Board advised the representative that he would be contacted when the Attorney gave his legal opinion.

Chairman Griffin asked Mrs. Walden to compute the difference between a 3% pay increase and 5% pay increase to employees under the General Revenue budget. He also asked Mrs. Walden to figure how much money needs to be trimmed from the proposed budget in order to offer each increase at the current millage rate.

Mr. Mack Baker appeared before the Board to advise them of the federal government's refusal to fund a secretarial position in his office. Chairman Griffin advised Mr. Baker of the action taken earlier in the meeting and expressed the Board's regret.

Dr. Howard Currie, Director for the Walton County Health Department, appeared before the Board to report on the status of various health services offered through the agency. Chairman Griffin thanked Dr. Currie for the status report and asked why the budget request was in such excess of last year's budget. Chairman Griffin stated that it was the Board's understanding that the money allocated to the Health Department last year was for the building of the South Walton Health Annex. Dr. Currie advised the Board that the monies allocated to them last year was used for emergency medicines, travel and per diem, indigent care, and other similar programs. Commissioner Miles praised the work of the Health Department, but stated that the new budget year looked particularly close financially. Dr. Currie stated that he certainly understood the Board's position and would be more than willing to take whatever the Board could offer the department at this time. Chairman Griffin and the Board agreed to place \$185,000.00 in the Health Department's budget. Dr. Currie thanked the Board and stated that if it should be necessary to request additional help, he will come back to the Board at a later date. In closing, Dr. Currie advised the Board that the Walton County Health Department had been recognized as one of the outstanding health units in the state.

The Board agreed to reconvene the budget workshop on July 22, 1988, at 9:00 A.M.

Motion by Commissioner Miles, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to adjourn. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Armbruster Aye, Fleet Aye, Miles Aye, Pridgen Aye, Griffin Aye.

APPROVED: Joe R. Griffin

Joe R. Griffin, Chairman

ATTEST: Catherine King

Catherine King, Clerk