

BUDGET WORKSHOP

JULY 19, 1989

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in a Budget Workshop, on Wednesday, July 19, 1989, at 8:00 A.M., to discuss the proposed 1989-90 budget.

The following Board Members were present: Chairman Sam Pridgen, Vice-Chairman W.F. Miles, Commissioner Wilson Holley, Commissioner Robert G. Fleet, and Commissioner Donald D. Brown. The County's Administrative Supervisor, Mr. Ronnie E. Bell, was also present.

Mr. Bruce Ward, County Extension Agent, appeared before the Board to explain his budget requests. Mr. Ward stated that he had budgeted a 10% pay increase for two employees in his office and further stated reasons behind his doing so. Mr. Ward advised that his office had purchased a phone system this year also. The Board requested the complete salaries of Mr. Ward, the Home Economist, and the 4-H Agent: the County's contribution and the State's contribution. Mr. Ward stated that he will provide that information.

Mr. Clayton Adkinson, State Attorney, appeared before the Board to justify his budget requests.

Ms. Marilyn Coe, Walton County Librarian, appeared before the Board to explain her budget requests. Ms. Coe advised that the City does contribute to the Library's budget. Ms. Coe further advised that most all of the increases in her proposed budget are due to the expansion of the Coastal Branch Library. Ms. Coe stated that she feels that the Bookmobile program is not cost effective. The Board suggested terminating those Bookmobile stops where few customers are utilizing the facility. Ms. Coe stated that she goes through the Purchasing Department for the majority of her purchases. The Board thanked Ms. Coe for her presentation.

Dr. Edgar Myers, Director of the Walton County Public Health Unit, appeared before the Board to present his budget requests. Dr. Myers advised that they are expecting a new physician in the next month and a portion of the budget increases is to cover his/her salary. Dr. Myers stated that the Public Health Unit has no X-ray or mammography equipment and, therefore, those clients needing those services must be referred to

the Hospital. Many times, those clients are unable to receive the services because they are unable to pay. Dr. Myers asked that the Board allocate \$6,000.00 to \$8,000.00 to cover those costs and possibly save lives. Discussion followed regarding the various services provided by the Health Department. Dr. Myers advised that more space in the building is seriously needed. The Public Health Unit's proposed budget was reviewed and explained further.

Ms. Kathy Haight, representing Title 20 subsidized day care, appeared before the Board requesting that the County allocate \$5,000.00 to that program in Walton County. Ms. Haight reviewed the program and the clients it serves. Vice-Chairman Miles stated that the School Board should contribute to the program. Ms. Haight stated that she has been informed that the Title 20 program is one of the programs under the United Way campaign. The Board thanked Ms. Haight for the presentation.

Mr. Van Ness Butler appeared before the Board to request that the funding for COPE be restored. Discussion followed. Commissioner Fleet stated that he wants the STAR program included at Freeport Middle School. The Board agreed that Mr. Butler should act as arbitrator between COPE and the Board of Commissioners and attempt to reach a compromise between the two organizations.

Mrs. Martha Ingle, Deputy Clerk, advised that, presently, the General Fund millage is at 4.75.

Commissioner Fleet advised that he feels the County should allocate \$5,000.00 for the Title 20 program less what monies are provided by the United Way.

Commissioner Brown advised that many areas of the budget are "begging" for alternate means of funding, such as a Municipal Service Benefit Unit. Discussion followed.

Vice-Chairman Miles stated that \$4,000.00 should be added to the Health Department budget to be "earmarked" for the X-ray and mammography services as requested by Dr. Myers. The Board agreed.

The Board agreed to reduce the Landfill budget by \$790,000.00 in order to keep the millage at 4.000.

Mrs. Ingle advised that the County Transportation Trust fund millage rate is presently at 1.750.

Discussion followed regarding each Commissioner's turning over any "special road projects" (i.e. Bunker Creek/Steel Field Road) to the Public Works Director. Commissioner Holley stated that some federal grants should be available to aid in completing these special road projects.

Mrs. Ingle advised that the budget must be finalized by the end of July.

Commissioner Brown stated that the damage assessment team did not address the problem of the undermining of many of the County's roads when they visited the County during the recent heavy rains.

Mrs. Ingle advised that the millage is 7.250 if the budget is left as it is and the Landfill budget is reduced by \$790,000.00.

The Board agreed to ask the Sheriff to address the Board with his budget requests on July 20, 1989, at 8:30 A.M.

Chairman Pridgen adjourned the workshop.

APPROVED: 
Sam Pridgen, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Catherine King, Clerk