

BUDGET WORKSHOP

JULY 20, 1989

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in a Budget Workshop on Thursday, July 20, 1989, at 8:30 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.

Sheriff McMillan appeared before the Board to advise that the money received from drug raids can be used to purchase automobiles used in investigations. Discussion followed regarding the impact of that knowledge on the Sheriff's budget. Mrs. Martha Ingle, Deputy Clerk, advised that she must know the exact amount of money to be received from the drug raids before it can be shown as income. Otherwise, the Sheriff must ask for a budget amendment.

Sheriff McMillan compared his budget to four other similarly sized counties. His budget is a million dollars less than all four counties.

Sheriff McMillan advised that his department does increase an officer's salary for every 80 hours of college credit successfully completed. That is referred to as "incentive pay."

Mrs. Kathy Foster, member of the press, asked Sheriff McMillan for "turn-over" rate of officers in the Sheriff's department. Sheriff McMillan stated that he will get that information for her.

Sheriff McMillan stated that he has included, in his budget requests, a \$2,500.00 pay increase for each employee in order to bring the lowest paid employee up to the base salary of State institutions. Sheriff McMillan advised that he does not know what percentage of increase that equates to. Sheriff McMillan advised that only one retired officer is still on the County's hospital insurance.

Mrs. Ingle advised that the Board created a policy providing that any employee who retires while employed by the County will be retained on the County's health insurance. Commissioner Brown advised that that policy is unique and it should be investigated to ascertain if other Counties have similar policies.

Sheriff McMillan advised that there has been no increase in his personnel over the past two years, yet the County continues to grow as does the needs in his department. The Board thanked the Sheriff for his presentation.

Commissioner Brown stated that he feels the officers deserve better pay. Commissioner Holley asked if the money to be received from drug raids can be used to fund drug programs in the schools and rehabilitation centers. The Board directed Mr. Bell to investigate that question and enlisted the help of Mr. George Miller, the County Attorney.

Mr. John Foster, South Walton resident, asked if funds have been allocated for a new heat pump unit for the Courthouse. Mr. Bell advised that money has been allocated to rebuild the present air conditioning unit. Gulf Power Company is assessing the situation and will provide the Board with their results. There are no funds allocated in the proposed budget to renovate the old jail building. There are adequate funds in reserve to facilitate any such renovations.

The Board advised that they are unaware of any official notice to the School Board that the School Board's lease in the Annex Building is about to expire.

There are no funds allocated for major road repairs due to the recent storm damages.

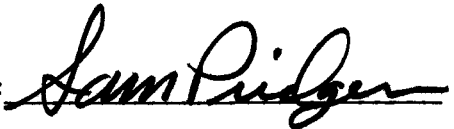
The Board discussed funding for the ARC, Title 20 subsidized child care, and COPE.

The Board discussed the serious situations of many County roads as result of the recent heavy rains and flood conditions.

The Board discussed means by which to fund major road repairs; specifically, the gas tax.

The Board directed Mr. Bell to discuss with the Sheriff increasing those deputies and correctional officers with salaries below \$17,000.00 to that salary, but those officers who are making above \$17,000.00 to receive a 4% salary increase as all other County employees. The Board directed Mr. Bell to find out how many employees are employed by the Sheriff.

Chairman Pridgen adjourned the workshop stating that the Board will go into a Budget Workshop immediately after the close of the regularly scheduled workshop on Monday, July 24, 1989.

APPROVED: 
Sam Pridgen, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Catherine King, Clerk