

BUDGET WORKSHOP

JULY 26, 1990

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in a Budget Workshop on Thursday, July 26, 1990, at 8:30 A.M., in the County Commission Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

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

Chairman Pridgen opened the workshop for discussions.

County Court Judge Bob Lindsey appeared before the Board to state that Mr. Robert Bowers', Probation Officer, pay raise request is justified. It will bring him more in line with similar Counties' Probation Officers.

Mrs. Martha Ingle, Chief Deputy Clerk, advised that, as the budget currently stands, the millage rates are as follows:

General Revenue	4.800 mills
County Transportation Trust	2.300 mills
Fine & Forfeiture	1.400 mills
Hospital Bond Payment	.245 mills
North Walton Mosquito Control	.703 mills
GRAND TOTAL	9.448 mills

Judge Lindsey requested that the glass doors on the jurors' bathroom be painted to provide more privacy. The Board agreed.

Representatives of the Walton County Health Department appeared before the Board to answer any questions regarding their budget requests. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the prospective birthing center for Walton County. The Board agreed to fund the \$53,000.00 for the Birthing Center from the Contingencies Account should the Center come to fruition. The Walton County Health Department budget was set at \$235,000.00. Representatives of the Health Department agreed to meet with the Hospital Board of Trustees to discuss the issue of the Birthing Center.

Sheriff Quinn McMillian appeared before the Board to answer questions regarding his budget requests. He indicated areas in his budget which had been "cut back." Commissioner Miles questioned the need for a full-time bailiff in the Courtroom. The Board requested that Sheriff McMillian review his department's budget and find other possible areas for cut-backs.

Commissioner Fleet expressed his support for a full-time bailiff in the Courtroom.

Ms. Ardythe Sellars questioned the justification for the position of jail administrator. Ms. Sellars also suggested paying a bailiff on an hourly basis.

The Board recessed for five minutes.

The Public Works Director, Mr. Ronnie Hudson, appeared before the Board to justify his budget requests. Vice-Chairman Brown asked for further documentation of why a greater savings has not been realized in the Landfill budget since terminating four employees and changing the Landfill's hours of operation.

Commissioner Miles asked what will be done for those Landfill employees currently transporting the dumpsters to the Landfill when the dumpsters will be "pulled" from the County. Mr. Bell recommended transferring one to the Public Works Department as an additional Environmental Officer and one to the Parks Department. Discussion followed regarding funding for the Landfill.

The Board directed Mr. Hudson to acquire the figures on fuel used by the trucks transporting dumpsters to the Landfill. Account number 50127.52 may be reduced.

The Board removed \$52,371.69 from Landfill salaries, bringing the figure to \$144,390.40; FICA to \$10,870.97; and retirement to \$22,486.12. Vice-Chairman Brown commended Mr. Bell and Mr. Hudson for "tightening the reins" on the Landfill budget.

The Board agreed to subtract the additional Parks employee's salary (plus the proposed 6% salary increase) from the Parks budget. This will alter the FICA and retirement figures.

Brief discussion followed regarding the budget requests of the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC).

Brief discussion followed regarding the Supervisor of Elections' budget. Mrs. Nellie Thompson, Supervisor of Elections, advised that she will make minor revisions to her budget and re-submit it to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Miles recommended setting the Allocation to Volunteer Fire Departments at \$125,000.00. Vice-Chairman Brown stated that he could not support awarding \$1,500.00 to the Ponce de Leon Volunteer Fire Department. Brief discussion followed. Commissioner Fleet, Commissioner Miles, and Chairman Pridgen agreed to set 50120.82 at \$109,010.00. Discussion continued.

Mr. Bell reviewed the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) budget requests. Commissioner Miles recommended raising paramedics' salary to \$5.10 per hour. Brief discussion followed regarding the current lawsuit against the County brought by several EMS employees.

Mr. Bell advised that Ms. Annette Howell, billing clerk for Ambulance Services, is preparing a proposal providing for her payment according to the amount of ambulance fees she collects. Discussion followed regarding funding for EMS and bill collection. Vice-Chairman Brown directed Mr. Bell to acquire information on the number of ambulance billings, the number of bills paid in full, and the number of billed services not collected.

Mr. Bell recommended establishing a transfer crew for the EMS in the 1990-91 fiscal year.

Mr. Bill Mixon, Hospital Trustee, respectfully requested that the Board give some consideration to funding for the operation of the Walton Regional Hospital.

The Board agreed that it would be most feasible for the County to construct a building for office space for the offices of the Public Defender, State Attorney, and Section 8 Housing. The Board directed Mr. Bell to determine some estimates for constructing a building with the necessary square footage required by law to house the above-named offices.

Mr. Mike Barker, Civil Defense Director, appeared before the Board to advise of the need to commit \$3,505.00 (matching grant monies) to upgrade or replace the County's present communication system. The Board directed Mr. Barker to calculate the cost per district for two 110-watt radios and two 40-watt radios per district plus any "overhead" (base stations, etc.)

The Board directed Mrs. Ingle to figure all salary increases at 3% and 4%.

The Board scheduled the next Budget Workshop for 8:30 A.M., Friday, July 27, 1990.

Chairman Pridgen adjourned the Workshop.

APPROVED: _____

Sam Pridgen, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Catherine King, Clerk