

BUDGET WORKSHOP

JULY 21, 1997

Chairman Young reconvened the Board for the Budget Workshop at 1:00 p.m. The following Board members were present: Chairman William A. Young, Vice-Chairman Van Ness Butler, Jr., Commissioner Joel Paul, Jr., Commissioner Randall Infinger and Commissioner Gordon Porter. The Board's Administrative Supervisor, Ronnie Bell, was also present.

Tom Powell, Executive Director of the Economic Development Council, appeared before the Board to present a proposal and justify the EDC 1997-98 budget request. Mr. Powell is requesting \$53,000 to be placed in the EDC budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Powell presented and explained a Business Park Project which the EDC proposes. Mr. Powell stated that the EDC will raise \$500,000, over a period of five years, to develop a series of Business/Industrial Parks in Walton County. Private donors will contribute \$250,000 and \$250,000 will come from public support. These funds will be used for purchasing land, developing the park, selling the land, and then the process will begin over again. Mr. Powell is requesting that the Board of Commissioners contribute \$35,000 per year for a period of five years. The total request from the Board over five years is \$175,000.

The Board recessed to attend George D. Montgomery's funeral.

Mr. Powell continued his presentation to the Board. Discussion followed. Commissioners Porter, Paul and Butler agreed to place the requested \$35,000 in the 1997-98 budget for the proposed Business/Industrial Park.

The Board agreed to table this matter and discuss further during the Budget Workshop scheduled for Friday, July 25, 1997.

Mr. Bell advised that the Worker's Compensation premium has been reduced by \$107,000.

Matt Douglass, Ambulance Service Supervisor, appeared before the Board and presented a pay scale for his employees. The salary amounts stay within the budgeted amount for salaries.

Mr. Douglass presented a proposal for an in-house Ambulance Billing Department. The projected cost for the first year is \$53,648. Discussion followed.

The Board agreed to schedule another Budget Workshop on Friday, July 25, 1997 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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There being no further business, Chairman Young adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED: _____

William A. Young, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Dan Bodiford, Clerk