

BUDGET WORKSHOP

JULY 22, 1996

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Budget Workshop on Monday, July 22, 1996, at 8:30 A.M., in the Commission Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Chairman Gordon Porter, Vice-Chairman Virginia D. Pridgen, Commissioner Charles C. Harris, Commissioner Gerald Wilkerson, and Commissioner Rosier Cuchens, Jr. The Board's Administrative Supervisor, Ronnie Bell, was also present.

Delois Carrol, representing the Walton County Health Department, presented the 1996-97 budget request in the amount of \$265,200. This amount is \$5,200 over last year's approved budget. Mrs. Carrol stated that the increase is due to an increase in work load.

The Board discussed hiring an additional Planning and Zoning employee to be housed in the south portion of Walton County.

Commissioner Harris arrived.

The Board discussed the requested employee raises for the Building Department and Public Safety employees.

Ronnie Hudson, Public Works Director, appeared before the Board to amend his 1996-97 budget request to include a 4-wheel drive vehicle for Bobby Ammons, Assistant Public Works Director. Mr. Ammons' present county vehicle has over 200,000 miles and is five years old. Mr. Hudson received three quotes for vehicles. The Board agreed to place \$22,000.00 in the budget for a new vehicle.

The Board discussed the projected revenue from property assessments. Lengthy discussion followed.

The Board discussed raises earned by required certifications and exams passed. The Board agreed to approve a merit increase only for certifications or exams required by the job.

Chairman Porter polled the Board regarding the requested salary increases for the Building Department employees. The result of the poll was to approve the request. Pridgen and Porter voiced their opposition to giving a raise above the three percent without an evaluation and merit system.

Chairman Porter polled the Board regarding the requested salary increases for the Public Safety Department employees. The result of the poll was to deny the request. Pridgen and Porter voiced their opposition again to

giving a raise above the three percent without an evaluation and merit system.

The Board agreed to approve a raise for Nonie Nethery.

Nellie Thompson, Supervisor of Elections, requested that the doors at the blue building be repaired so that a truck can get the voting machines out of the building. The Board agreed to take care of the matter.

Shirl Williams advised the Board that the fruit stand owned by Mr. and Mrs. Blackman located on Highway 98 is back up. Mrs. Williams asked if an arrest warrant should be sent. The Board agreed to contact Attorney Miller.

The Board discussed the requested increases in the 1996-97 budget. Lengthy discussion followed.

The Board discussed the Fine and Forfeiture budget request. The Board directed Mr. Bell to contact Sheriff McMillian and ask to explain the requested increases.

The Board agreed to hold another Budget Workshop immediately following the regular workshop on Monday, July 29, 1996.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Gordon Porter, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Catherine King, Clerk