

BUDGET WORKSHOP

JULY 24, 1989

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, met in a workshop session on Monday, July 24, 1989, at 10:20 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.

Chairman Pridgen called the workshop to order.

Discussion began regarding the Purchasing Department and the contract labor employees within that department. Commissioner Holley recommended that a policy be adopted governing the procedure for hiring contract labor employees. Commissioner Brown agreed.

Commissioner Fleet advised that Mr. Van Ness Butler has been unable to speak with Ms. Judy Murphy, Director of COPE Center, because Ms. Murphy has been out of town in a meeting. Mr. Butler will attempt to mediate a compromise between COPE Center and the County as soon as Ms. Murphy returns.

Mrs. Martha Ingle, Deputy Clerk, advised that there are 28 County retirees for whom the County continues to pay their health insurance premiums. The cost per retiree is approximately \$1,405.00 per year, a total of approximately \$39,000.00 per year. The continuation of health insurance payments is based on a formal statement of Board policy in 1976 or 1977. Commissioner Brown stated that he does not feel that is common practice in other counties. Vice-Chairman Miles directed Mr. Bell to survey other counties in Florida to determine if they continue to pay their retirees' health insurance premiums.

Mrs. Ingle advised that the proposed 1989-90 budget stands at 7.250 mills. That is less the \$790,000.00 allocated for the Landfill recycling/incineration program.

Commissioner Brown advised that he has some serious misgivings concerning the proposal received from Mr. Howard Odom on the incineration plant. Commissioner Brown stressed the importance of

scrutinizing any default provisions within Mr. Odom's contract with the County.

Commissioner Holley advised that he feels someone should be employed by the County to actively search out new economic development. Commissioners Fleet and Brown advised that the Chamber of Commerce currently serves that purpose. Commissioner Holley stated that he is concerned that Walton County is not fully aware of available federal grants and is not active enough in bringing in economic development. The Board discussed allowing Mrs. Latilda Scott, Comprehensive Plan Coordinator, to fill that position when the County's Comprehensive Plan is completed and accepted by the State.

Mrs. Ingle advised the Board that the budget must be finalized by the end of July. The Public Hearings are scheduled for September 11 and 18, 1989.

Chairman Pridgen adjourned the workshop.

APPROVED: _____

Sam Pridgen, Chairman

ATTEST:

Catherine King

Catherine King, Clerk