

BUDGET WORKSHOP

JULY 24, 1998

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Budget Workshop on Friday, July 24, 1998 at 8:30 a.m., in the Commission Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

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. Ronnie E. Bell, Administrative Supervisor, was also present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order.

The following individuals appeared before the Board to discuss their respective budget requests. Robert Bowers, Probation Office; Phil Givens, Fire Board; Cindy Roehm, Florida Chautauqua Festival Board. The Board tentatively granted each of their budget requests.

The Board recessed briefly.

Ms. Susan Haddock appeared before the Board to discuss the requested budget for the District 1 Medical Examiner. After discussion, the Board agreed to tentatively grant \$103,274.00, the same amount as last year.

Janet Windsor, Walton County Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the Board and received tentative approval for the Chamber's requested budget.

Mr. Tom Powell, Economic Development Council (EDC), appeared before the Board to discuss the budget request for the EDC. Mr. Powell stated that his budget request reflects a three percent increase this year.

Mr. Richard Whitaker questioned the Board's purpose for funding private organizations and the ability to account for the use of the funds by EDC.

J.W. Adkison, Mike Richards, Jack Huggins, Rachel Thomas, and Craig Robinson addressed Mr. Whitaker's concerns by informing him and the audience of the services and information provided by the EDC, and the services the County could not otherwise receive. They stated that the books are open for review, however, due to the costs involved for an audit, their books are self audited. It was explained how the EDC acts as an extension of the County to assist businesses in relocating to Walton County and other benefits as well.

The Board granted tentative approval to the Walton County EDC for their budget request.

Melinda Watson appeared before the Board and explained the budget request for the Humane Society. The Commissioners requested a quarterly

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interim activities report. The Board gave tentative approval to the Humane Society.

The Board recessed briefly.

The Board granted tentative budget approval for the following departments as requested by the following individuals: Dr. Susan Turner, Walton County Health Department, Rachel Gillis and Judy Murphy, Cope Center; Jean Dutton, Shelter House; Freddy Baker, Council On Aging; Julie Bielinski, RSVP; Robert Wilford, Tri-County; Charlie Harris and Malcolm Patterson, ARC.

The Board recessed for one hour.

The Board reconvened to consider the following budget requests. Joe Casal, YMCA; Kathleen Haight, Child Care Services; James Chitwood, Okaloosa Walton Community College; Cathy Cheung, Child Protection Team; Steve Toepper, Library; and Tommy Stephens, North Walton Mosquito Control. The Board granted tentative budget approval as requested.

Sandra Golden, Resources for Human Development, was granted \$19,000 (opposed to the \$2,000 request) to equal the amount granted to ARC for the reason that the two companies provide the same services.

Mrs. Lel Czeck, West Florida Regional Planning Council, (WFRPC) appeared before the Board and explained the benefits Walton County is receiving for their membership with WFRPC.

Mrs. Martha Ingle, Budget Officer, stated that she and Mr. Bell met with the Constitutional Officers requesting they lower their budgets. However, each Constitutional Officer explained their request and left the budget request as presented.

The Commissioners set Tuesday, July 28, 1998, 2:00 p.m. for the next budget workshop.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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

William A. Young, Chairman

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

Dan Bodiford, Clerk