

BUDGET HEARING

SEPTEMBER 11, 1989

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, conducted a Public Hearing on Monday, September 11, 1989, at 6:00 P.M., to consider adopting a tentative budget and millage.

The following Board Members were present: Chairman Sam Pridgen, Vice-Chairman W.F. Miles, Commissioner Wilson Holley, Commissioner Donald D. Brown, and Commissioner Robert G. Fleet.

Chairman Pridgen called the meeting to order.

Chairman Pridgen advised that the proposed millage rate of 7.450 mills is an 8.5% increase over the rolled-back rate. Chairman Pridgen stated that the proposed operation budget expenditures are 10.3% more than last year's total operating expenditures.

Mr. E. W. Woodward, of Seagrove Beach, appeared before the Board to oppose the increase in his assessment. The Board explained that the millage increased 1/4 of a mill and that the Board does not set the assessment. The Board advised that Mr. Woodward could appear before the Tax Adjustment Board by filling out a petition from the Property Appraiser's office.

Mr. Burnell Mottert, of Seagrove Beach, advised the Board that he is dissatisfied with his assessment. The Board directed Mr. Mottert to the Tax Adjustment Board.

Mr. Willard E. Strain, of 5167 Beachwalk, Destin, Florida, advised the Board that he is a new resident to the area. Mr. Strain asked questions regarding how the budget is prepared, such as funding for the landfill operations. Mr. Strain had no objections to the budget.

Mr. Victor Cheney, of 374 Gardner Drive, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, advised the Board that he owns property in Country Club Heights, but there is no access road. Mr. Cheney stated that he does not feel he should have to pay taxes on property that he can not access. Vice-Chairman Miles advised that a group of the property owners had obtained an attorney to pursue an entrance to their property.

Mr. James Cannon, of Route 2, Box 268, Laurel Hill, Florida, appeared before the Board and stated that fire protection for Walton County has taken a backward step. He further stated that the fire

departments receive less funding than the library. Mr. Cannon advised that the cost to operate the fire departments has increased, but the funding has not.

Mr. Phillip Boswell, Fire Chief of Mossy Head/Oakwood Hills Volunteer Fire Department, requested that the 15% budget increase be reconsidered.

Vice-Chairman Miles advised that, at this point, the budget can only be decreased. It can not be increased.

Motion by Commissioner Fleet, second by Commissioner Brown, to adopt the tentative budget for 1989-90 in the amount of \$16,870,032.42 and the tentative budget for the North Walton Mosquito Control District in the amount of \$156,852.99. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Brown Aye, Fleet Aye, Holley Aye, Miles Nay, Pridgen Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Fleet, second by Commissioner Brown, to adopt the tentative millage for 1989-90 at 7.450 mills and the tentative millage of the North Walton Mosquito Control District at .650 mills. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Brown Aye, Fleet Aye, Holley Aye, Miles Nay, Pridgen Aye.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Miles, second by Commissioner Holley, to adjourn. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Brown Aye, Fleet Aye, Holley Aye, Miles Aye, Pridgen Aye.

APPROVED:

Sam Pridgen

Sam Pridgen, Chairman

ATTEST:

Catherine King

Catherine King, Clerk