

SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 – BUDGET HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Budget Hearing on September 14, 2009 at 5:05 p.m., at the South Walton Courthouse Annex in Santa Rosa Beach.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Sara Comander, Chair; Commissioner Larry Jones; Commissioner Cecilia Jones; and Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen. Mr. Lyle Seigler, Interim County Administrator; Attorney W. C. Henry, County Attorney; and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

Chairman Comander led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Chairman Comander called the meeting to order. She read the following statement on the proposed millage rate: The proposed county wide millage rate is 3.3563 mills and 0.4912 mills for the North Walton Mosquito Control District. In aggregate, this is a 16.56% decrease below the Rolled Back Rate. The Rolled Back Rate is the rate that would essentially generate the same ad valorem tax revenues as last year. The county-wide 3.3563 mills (which is applied to the General, County Transportation, and Fine and Forfeiture) is lower than the fiscal year 2008-2009 rate, which was 3.3644 mills. The 0.4912 millage rate for the North Walton Mosquito Control District is the same as fiscal year 2008-2009 rate, which was 0.4912.

Mr. William Imfeld, County Finance Director, stated that the tentative millage rate and the tentative budget for 2009-2010 needed to be established. He said that the statement read by Chairman Comander was the result of the July Budget Workshop.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner C. Jones, to approve the tentative millage rates for county-wide plus voted debt service in the amount of 3.3563 and

North Walton Mosquito Control District in the amount of 0.4912. Ayes 4, Nays 0. L. Jones Aye, Comander Aye, C. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye.

Motion by Commissioner C. Jones, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to approve the tentative Budget for FY 2009-2010 in the amount of \$98,188,271 for Operations and \$100,956,540 Total Budget.

Ms. Collette Edwards felt that the amounts and the millage rates were incorrect. Mr. Imfeld stated that the figures which Chairman Comander read in the opening statement were the same as the amounts in the motion.

Ayes 4, Nays 0. L. Jones Aye, Comander Aye, C. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye.

Chairman Comander announced that the next budget hearing would be held on September 28, 2009 at 5:05 p.m. at the Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs.

Chairman Comander stated that the TDC had asked that she send a letter to set up a meeting with the Corp of Engineers to discuss beach re-nourishment.

Commissioner L. Jones felt that this was not the forum to address the issue, and that Board permission was not needed. Attorney Henry stated that there were time constraints to be met and that it would be appropriate for the Board to give their approval. The Board concurred to permit Chairman Comander to write the letter.

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

APPROVED _____
Sara Comander, Chair

ATTEST _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts