

SEPTEMBER 22, 2003 – FINAL BUDGET HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held the Final Budget Hearing on Monday, September 22, 2003 at 5:15 p.m. at the South Walton Courthouse Annex.

The following Board members were present: Larry Jones, Chair, Tim Pauls, Vice-Chair, Commissioner Lane Rees, Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, and Commissioner Ro Cuchens. Mr. Michael Underwood, County Administrator, Attorney Gary Vorbeck, Director of Legal Services and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, appeared before the Board and presented the tentative 2003/04 millage rate and tentative budget as adopted by the Board.

There were no public comments voiced.

Motion by Commissioner Rees, second by Commissioner Pauls to adopt the millage rate of 5.315 for operations of the county government, a millage rate of .0407 to service the Voted Debt Service, Hospital Renovation Bond Issue, and a millage rate of .5982 for operations of the North Walton Mosquito Control District for the tax year 2003-2004, which reflects no increase. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Rees Aye, Pridgen Aye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Aye, Pauls Aye.

Mr. Imfeld presented the tentative budget in the amount of \$91,029,806.00 for FY 2003-2004.

Mr. Gary Mattison, Human Resources Director, advised the Board that he has further scrubbed the vehicle list and has reduced the number by another 32 vehicles no

longer in use. He also stated that a review is being done regarding employee use of county vehicles.

Mr. Dan Scupin, representing the Citizens Budget and Finance Committee, questioned if the budget information could be placed on-line for public review. He also commented that he has received great cooperation from county staff in getting the information he requested. Mr. Scupin stated that the committee has recommended that the number of county positions be posted to keep the public informed. He again presented the recommendation to appoint a budget review committee.

Commissioner Pauls responded to Mr. Scupin's comments stating that he is awaiting some recommendations from the Impact Fee Committee regarding what needs to be done to fund infrastructure in the county, which could be a direct reflection on the millage rate. He further commented on the importance of looking at the overall assessed value and growth in the county in terms of evaluating the budget. Commissioner Pauls stated that there is information that he too would like to see presented on the county's web site. He thanked Mr. Scupin for the work his committee has done.

Commissioner Rees felt that the county is making tremendous progress. He also thanked Mr. Scupin and the other committee members for their review of the budget. He also spoke about making the information available to the public and the need for keeping the budget realistic.

Motion by Commissioner Pauls, second by Commissioner Rees to adopt the 2003-2004 budget in the amount of \$91,029,806.00 of which \$249,380.00 is Voted Debt and \$372,095.00 is for the North Walton Mosquito Control District Budget. Ayes 3, Nays 2. Rees Aye, Pridgen Naye, Jones Aye, Cuchens Naye, Pauls Aye.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED: _____
Larry D. Jones, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court