



MINUTES

Board of County Commissioners

Monday, September 23, 2019 @ 5:01 PM

DeFuniak Springs Board Room

Budget Hearing

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Bill Chapman, Commissioner Danny Glidewell, Commissioner Trey Nick, and Chairman Tony Anderson

ABSENT: Commissioner Melanie Nipper

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Larry Jones, County Administrator, and Attorney Heather Christman, Asst. County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order.

OMB/FINANCE

1. Final Budget Hearing

Ms. Melissa Thomason, County Finance Manager, read into the record the following statement:

This is the second of two Public Hearings for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget. The purpose of this meeting is to set a final millage rate of 3.6363 and a final budget of \$183,598,102.

At the first Public Hearing held September 9, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Tentative Millage Rates and Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020; the law requires that prior to consideration of the Final Budget, an explanation of the "Rolled Back Rate" be provided and entered into the records; the "Rolled Back Rate" is a computed millage rate that would essentially generate the same ad valorem tax dollars as the prior Fiscal Year.

The millage rates tentatively approved by the Board on September 9, 2019, are as follows:

3.6363 mills for the County-wide millage, applied to the General, County Transportation, and Fine and Forfeiture funds. This is the same as the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 rate.

0.4912 mills for the North Walton Mosquito Control District, which is the same as the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 rate.

In aggregate, this is a 5.9% increase over the Rolled Back Rate.

Motion by Vice-Chair Chapman, second by Commissioner Glidewell, to open the Public Hearing to consider a resolution adopting the final millage rate and a resolution adopting the final budget.

4-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Vice-Chair Chapman, Commissioner Glidewell,
Commissioner Nick, and Chairman Anderson

Mr. Tony Roy, representing Liberty Fire District and Walton County VFDs, requested financial support of the Volunteer Fire Departments and spoke about the recent mutual aid calls out of district and on county property. Commissioner Glidewell voiced the need to support the VFDs and questioned where the money would come from. Ms. Thomason replied that the budget has been advertised and that to include financial support of the VFD, the budget would have to be re-advertised and the process restarted. She said funds could be reallocated from another area. Mr. Roy stated the VFDs operate within the MSBU and charge \$75.00 per household. He said the VFDs do not receive money from the general fund. Vice-Chair Chapman discussed the significant cost to each home owner to enable the VFDs to be paid from the general fund. He said there were too many low/fixed income families who could not afford the amount. He noted that the independent districts were established on the request of the VFDs and said that funding should be sought through the MSBU method. Mr. Roy said the money raised through the Liberty Fire District MSBU is to take care of the individuals inside that district and not those outside the district. Discussion continued on the reduction of mutual aid, the MSBU, and reimbursement for calls.

Motion by Vice-Chair Chapman, second by Commissioner Glidewell, to adopt Resolution **2019-93** approving the FY 2019-2020 final millage rate of 3.6363 mills for the operations of the county government, and a millage rate of 0.4912 mills for the North Walton Mosquito Control District.

4-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Vice-Chair Chapman, Commissioner Glidewell,
Commissioner Nick, and Chairman Anderson

Motion by Vice-Chair Chapman, second by Commissioner Glidewell, to adopt **Resolution 2019-94** approving the FY 2019-2020 Budget in the amount of \$183,598,102.00 of which \$728,894.00 is for the North Walton Mosquito Control District.

4-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Vice-Chair Chapman, Commissioner Glidewell,
Commissioner Nick, and Chairman Anderson

Motion by Vice-Chair Chapman, second by Commissioner Glidewell, to close the Public Hearing.

4-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Vice-Chair Chapman, Commissioner Glidewell,
Commissioner Nick, and Chairman Anderson

Ms. Thomason asked the board to consider increasing the minimum hourly pay-rate to \$12.00 per hour and make the necessary pay adjustments to all employees affected by this change. She said this would impact all permanent and part-time employees. She also requested the board consider making the 3% pay raise included in the budget effective on September 28, 2019 so that it would coincide with the board's payroll calendar.

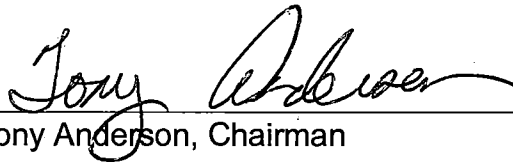
Motion by Vice-Chair Chapman, second by Commissioner Glidewell, to approve to increase the minimum hourly pay-rate to \$12.00 per hour, make the necessary adjustments to all affected employees, and to make the 3% pay increase effective September 28, 2019 to coincide with the board's payroll calendar.

4-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Vice-Chair Chapman, Commissioner Glidewell,
Commissioner Nick, and Chairman Anderson

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Tony Anderson, Chairman



Attest: Alex Alford, Clerk of Court and County Comptroller