

SEPTEMBER 24, 2001 – BUDGET HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held their final budget hearing on Monday, September 24, 2001 at 5:05 P.M. in the Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Tim Pauls, Commissioner Larry D. Jones, Chairman Herman L. Walker, Vice-Chairman Lane Rees and Commissioner Gene Ryan. Mr. Michael Underwood, County Administrator, and Mr. Gary Vorbeck, Director of Legal Services, were also present.

Vice-Chairman Rees led with prayer following the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Heather Wellman presented information to the commissioners regarding the Northwest Florida Legislative Day that will be held March 6, 2002. She informed them that she was appointed to the committee of History/Culture, and Agriculture. She stated that the committee was not aware of Walton County's historical significance with the Indians, Grit & Grace and the cattle industry. She has been invited to speak with other representatives about Walton County attributes.

Chairman Walker called to order the advertised public hearing to consider final adoption of the FY 2001-2001 budget.

Mr. William Imfeld, Financial Director, read into the record the resolution adopting the millage rate for the tax year 2001-2002. Based upon the total assessment of \$4,586,602,728.00 a millage rate of 5.3150 will be required in order to meet the minimum requirements of the various budgets submitted by county officials, and a

millage rate of .0550 will be required to service the Voted Debt Service, Hospital Renovation Bond Issue. Based upon the total assessment of \$533,982,442.00 millage rate of .5354 will be required in order to meet the minimum requirements of the North Walton Mosquito Control District. The aggregate millage rate for countywide is 5.3773 mills which is less than the rolled back rate of 5.7490 mills by 6.47%.

Chairman Walker noted that the hospital bond was for former renovations not the currently proposed renovations.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rees, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt Resolution 2001-53, which approves the millage rate of 5.315 for operations of the county government, a millage rate of .0550 to service the Voted Debt Service, Hospital Renovation Bond Issue, and a millage rate of .5354 for operations of the North Walton Mosquito Control District for the tax year 2001-2002. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld stated that he feels the budget is adequate to absorb any impact from the economy due to the recent tragedy against the United States.

Mr. Imfeld read into the record the resolution adopting the budget for FY 2001-2001 in the amount of \$89,269,957.00 for county government, of which \$248,955.00 is for Voted Debt Service Hospital Renovation Bond Issue, and \$367,581.00 for the North Walton Mosquito Control District.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Richard Whitaker questioned the commissioners regarding their ability to discontinue funding for any one department during the budget year, such as the Economic

Development Council. Mr. Imfeld explained that the Board has the right, by vote of the Board, to alter or amend any budget. He questioned why this budget was being adopted as a package and not by line item. Chairman Walker explained that each budget was already reviewed by line item and this is the final adoption.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Ryan to adopt resolution 2001-54, which adopts the Walton County budget for the fiscal year 2001-2002 in the amount of \$89,269,957.00 for county government, of which \$248,955.00 is for Voted Debt Service Hospital Renovation Bond Issue, and \$367,581.00 for North Walton Mosquito Control District. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Pauls Aye, Jones Aye, Walker Aye, Rees Aye, Ryan Aye.

Mr. Imfeld recognized Ms. Kim Mayo and Mrs. Wanda Smith for their outstanding work in assisting with the budget preparation.

The commissioners recessed at 5:23 to relocate meeting rooms to hold a special meeting.

APPROVED: _____
Herman L. Walker, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts