

September 24, 2007 – Budget Hearing

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held the Final Budget Hearing on Monday, September 24, 2007 at 5:05 p.m., at the Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs, Florida.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, Chairman; Commissioner Cindy Meadows, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Larry Jones, and Commissioner Sara Comander. Mr. Ronnie Bell, County Administrator; and Mrs. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court, were also present.

Chairman Pridgen called the meeting to order.

Mr. Bill Imfeld, Finance Director, presented for adoption a Resolution (2007-87) to approve a county-wide millage rate of 3.3563 mills, 0.0144 mills for Voted Debt Service and 0.5069 mills for the North Walton Mosquito Control District.

Motion by Commissioner Comander, second by Commissioner Meadows, to adopt Resolution 2007-87 approving the millage rate of 3.3563 mills county-wide, 0.0144 mills for Voted Debt Service and 0.5069 mills for the North Walton Mosquito Control District. Ayes 4, Nays 0, Pridgen Aye, Meadows Aye, Jones Aye, Comander Aye.

Mr. Imfeld reported that funding had been fully restored to the Flowersview Branch of the Walton County Library System to operate six days a week. He also stated that the Resources for Human Development (RHD) and Economic Development Council (EDC) had also received funding as discussed during the first budget hearing. Mr. Imfeld stated that the Sheriff's budget was adjusted to reflect funding for an 8% increase for personnel costs for all Sheriff's employees based upon their current salary level.

Mr. Ronnie Bell, County Administrator, asked if a temporary facility had been secured to house the Flowersview Library until repairs could be made. Mr. Imfeld stated that additional facilities are being pursued. Mr. Bell stated that although much research had been conducted by his office and Ms. Maria Milton, he felt it was imperative to receive a medical opinion for the safety of the public.

Reverend Tyrone Broadis, St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, offered the use of the church facilities to house the library until repairs could be made.

Commissioner Jones suggested the issue move forward regarding funding for the Freeport Fire Department (FFD). He stated that details still needed to be worked out and suggested that Commissioner Comander work with the FFD to sort out the details. He requested that the final details be submitted at a public hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Meadows, to appoint Commissioner Comander to work with the Freeport Fire Department regarding the funding issue and submit findings at a public hearing. Ayes 4, Nays 0, Pridgen Aye, Meadows Aye, Jones Aye, Comander Aye.

Mr. Imfeld presented for adoption Resolution 2007-88 approving the Walton County Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-08 in the amount of \$128,168,120.00 for county government, of which \$249,235.00 is for Voted Debt Service Budget, and \$644,762.00 for the North Walton Mosquito Control District.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Meadows, to adopt Resolution 2007-88 approving the 2007-08 Fiscal Year Budget in the amount of \$128,168,120.00, debt service of \$249,235.00 and \$644,762.00 for North Walton Mosquito Control District. Ayes 4, Nay 0, Pridgen Aye, Meadows Aye, Jones Aye, Comander Aye.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth Pridgen, Chair

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court