

## SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 – BUDGET HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Budget Hearing on September 25, 2017 at 5:01 p.m. at the Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs, Florida.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Cecilia Jones, Chairwoman; Commissioner W. N. (Bill) Chapman, Vice-Chairman; Commissioner Tony Anderson; Commissioner Sara Comander; and Commissioner Melanie Nipper. Mr. Larry Jones, County Administrator; and Attorney Sidney Noyes, County Attorney; were also present.

Chairwoman Jones called the meeting to order.

Ms. Melissa Thomason, County Finance Manager, announced that one change was made within the budget based on the approval of \$33,333.00 to Main Street DeFuniak Springs during the September 25, 2017 Regular Meeting. The amount was moved from the Contingency Expense Account to a designated line item for Main Street DeFuniak Springs.

Ms. Thomason read the following into the record:

This is the second of two Public Hearings for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget. The purpose of this meeting is to set a final millage rate and a final budget.

At the first Public Hearing, held September 11, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Tentative Millage Rates and Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018; 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 11, 2017 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 2016-2017 rate.

**0.4912 mills for the North Walton Mosquito Control District**, which is the same as the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 rate.

In aggregate, this is a 5.33% increase over the “Rolled Back Rate.”

Motion by Commissioner Chapman, second by Commissioner Anderson, to open the Public Hearing to consider resolutions adopting the final millage and the final budget. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Chapman Aye, Anderson Aye, Comander Aye, Nipper Aye.

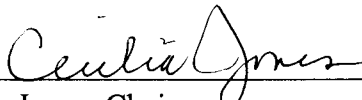
Mr. Tony Roy, Liberty Fire Department, requested the millage rate for the Argyle and Liberty districts be lowered due to the changes in Walton County Fire Rescue funding. Attorney Noyes reported that Florida Statute requires a uniform millage rate throughout the county. Mr. Roy requested a fair proportionate funding for all the Walton County fire departments. Discussion was held as to whether the request could be considered for this budget year due to this being the final hearing. The board concurred to review this request for the 2018-2019 budget year.


Motion by Commissioner Comander, second by Commissioner Anderson, to adopt **Resolution 2017-87** setting the final millage rate of 3.6363 mills for the County-wide millage and 0.4912 mills for the North Walton Mosquito Control District. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Chapman Aye, Anderson Aye, Comander Aye, Nipper Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Chapman, second by Commissioner Anderson, to adopt **Resolution 2017-88** setting the final budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in the amount of \$150,903,077.00 for county government of which \$673,195.00 is designated for North Walton Mosquito Control District. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Chapman Aye, Anderson Aye, Comander Aye, Nipper Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Chapman, second by Commissioner Comander, to close the Public Hearing. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Jones Aye, Chapman Aye, Anderson Aye, Comander Aye, Nipper Aye.

There being no further items to present, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Approved:   
Cecilia Jones, Chairwoman

Attest:   
Alex Alford, Clerk of Courts and County Comptroller