

SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 – BUDGET HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Final Budget Hearing on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 5:01 p.m. at the Walton Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs, Florida.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Sara Comander, Chairman; Commissioner Cecilia Jones, Vice-Chairman; Commissioner W. N. (Bill) Chapman; and Commissioner Bill Imfeld. Mr. Larry Jones, County Administrator; Attorney Mark Davis, County Attorney; and Mr. Alex Alford, Clerk of Court and County Comptroller; were also present.

Chairman Comander called the meeting to order and read the following statement into the record: This is the second of two Public Hearings for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget. The purpose of this meeting is to set a final millage rate and a final budget.

At the first Public Hearing held September 12, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Tentative Millage Rates and Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017; 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 12, 2016 are as follows: 3.6363 mills for the County-wide millage, applied to the General, County Transportation, Fine and Forfeiture, and Capital Projects/Infrastructure funds. This is the same as the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 rate; 0.4912 mills for the North Walton Mosquito Control District, which is the same as the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 rate.

In aggregate, this is an 8.43% increase over the “Rolled Back Rate.”

Motion by Commissioner Chapman, Second by Commissioner Jones, to call the Public Hearing to order. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Imfeld Aye, Comander Aye, Chapman Aye, Jones Aye.

Ms. Melissa Thomason, County Finance Director, reported that \$131,000.00 has been added to the TDC Fund for the U.S. Highway 98 Median Enhancement Project as requested by the Board at the September 12, 2016 Budget Hearing. She said this project will be brought back to the Board for a legislative finding and to move through the purchasing process.

Mr. Mike Bourque spoke in opposition of increasing taxes and hidden franchise fees. Chairman Comander clarified that the county taxes have not been raised this year. Commissioner Chapman stated franchise fees are not implemented by the county.

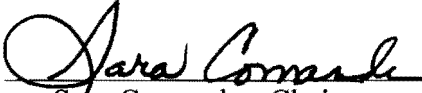
Ms. Leigh Moore discussed the median maintenance monies and asked where the funding would come from if a legislative finding does not allow TDC funds to be used. Ms. Thomason said contingency funds, which are already budgeted, will be considered.

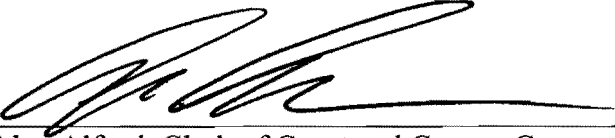
Motion by Commissioner Chapman, second by Commissioner Jones, to adopt **Resolution 2016-70** setting the final County-wide millage rate of 3.6363 mills, and a final 0.4912 mills for the North Walton Mosquito Control District. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Imfeld Aye, Comander Aye, Jones Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Chapman, second by Commissioner Jones, to adopt **Resolution 2016-71** approving the final County-wide budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 in the amount of \$138,336,794.00 for County Government of which \$612,986.00 is for the North Walton Mosquito Control District. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Imfeld Aye, Comander Aye, Jones Aye.

Motion by Commissioner Chapman, second by Commissioner Imfeld, to close the Public Hearing. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Imfeld Aye, Comander Aye, Jones Aye.

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Commissioner Chapman.

Approved: 
Sara Comander, Chairman

Attest: 
Alex Alford, Clerk of Court and County Comptroller