



MINUTES

Board of County Commissioners

Monday, September 28, 2020 @ 5:01 PM

DeFuniak Springs Board Room

Final Budget Hearing

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Commissioner Bill Chapman, Commissioner Danny Glidewell, Commissioner Melanie Nipper, Commissioner Trey Nick, and Commissioner Tony Anderson

STAFF PRESENT: Larry Jones, County Administrator and Sidney Noyes, County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chapman called the Public Hearing to order to consider adoption of the final millage rate and budget for FY 2020-2021.

OMB/FINANCE

1. Budget Document

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

This is the second of two Public Hearings for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget. The purpose of this meeting is to set the final millage rate and budget for Walton County's County-Wide and North Walton Mosquito Control.

At the first Public Hearing held September 14, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the tentative millage rates and budget for Fiscal year 2020-2021; 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 14, 2020 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 2019-2020 rate.

0.4912 mills for the North Walton Mosquito Control District, which is the same as the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 rate.

In aggregate, this is a 7.35% increase over the Rolled Back Rate.

Motion by Commissioner Nipper, second by Commissioner Glidewell, to open the Public Hearing.

Mr. Bob Brooke questioned how much and where in the budget was money set aside for Customary Use legal fees. Ms. Thomason stated they estimated \$1 million and placed that in the Board of County Commissioners budget.

Mr. Brooke questioned how much money for preservation of the bay has been set aside regarding a motion Commissioner Nick previously made. Ms. Thomason stated the routine water quality monitoring is in Public Works in the amount of \$32,500.00. Ms. Melinda Gates could explain any other projects.

Mr. Brooke also asked about Triumph funds for the bay. Mr. Jones spoke about the different funds allocated to the county and how they can be used. He stated there is approximately \$12-13 million in the Pot 3 Restore Act Funds. The county is currently making application to apply \$10 million to the water quality of the bay. Triumph funds are the funds that Attorney General Pam Bondi won in a lawsuit against BP in the amount of a \$2 billion settlement, of which 75% would come to a disproportionately affected county over 15 years through a formula. They look favorably on airports, boat yards, docks, shipping industry over infrastructure. Mr. Jones felt it would be difficult to put a plan in place for water quality of the bay because it does not create jobs. The county felt it would better to apply the \$10 million out of Pot 3 for the bay project. That project has been submitted and must go through Restore Council then back to State.

Mr. Glidewell reiterated that the motion Mr. Brooke spoke about was to use Restore money not Triumph funds.

5-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Commissioner Chapman, Commissioner Glidewell,
Commissioner Nipper, Commissioner Nick, and
Commissioner Anderson

Motion by Commissioner Glidewell, second by Commissioner Nipper, to adopt a resolution (2020-118) setting the 2020-2021 Millage rate of 3.6363 mills for county-wide and 0.4912 for the North Walton Mosquito Control District which is the same as last year's rate.

5-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Commissioner Chapman, Commissioner Glidewell,
Commissioner Nipper, Commissioner Nick, and
Commissioner Anderson

Motion by Commissioner Glidewell, second by Commissioner Nick, to adopt a resolution (2020-119) setting the final budget for the Walton County 2020-2021 FY in the amount of \$194,934,581.00 for county government of which \$729,503.00 is for North Walton Mosquito Control District.

5-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Commissioner Chapman, Commissioner Glidewell,
Commissioner Nipper, Commissioner Nick, and
Commissioner Anderson

Motion by Commissioner Glidewell to adjourn the Public Hearing.

5-0 by the following votes:


Ayes: Commissioner Chapman, Commissioner Glidewell,
Commissioner Nipper, Commissioner Nick, and
Commissioner Anderson

ADJOURN

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



W. N. (Bill) Chapman, Chairman



Attest: Alex Alford, Clerk of Court and County Comptroller