

BUDGET HEARING – SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Budget Hearing on September 28, 2008 at 5:05 p.m., at the Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Sara Comander, Chair; Commissioner Scott Brannon, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Larry Jones; Commissioner Cecilia Jones; and Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen. Mr. Lyle Seigler, Interim County Administrator; and Attorney W. C. Henry, County Attorney, were also present.

Mr. Andy Watkins, Parks and Recreation, led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Comander called the meeting to order.

Mr. Bill Imfeld, County Finance Director, presented for adoption a resolution **(2009-84)** setting the millage rate for Walton County at 3.3950. (Operations: 3.3563; North Walton Mosquito Control District (NWMCD): 0.4912). He stated that the millage rate is 16.56% less than the roll back rate of 4.0688 mills. He recommended adoption.

Motion by Commissioner Pridgen, second by Commissioner C. Jones, to adopt a resolution **(2009-84)** setting the millage rate for Walton County at 3.3950. (Operations: 3.3563 mills; North Walton Mosquito Control District (NWMCD): 0.4912 mills). Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, C. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye.

Mr. Imfeld presented for adoption a resolution **(2009-85)** setting the budget for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year in the amount of \$100,956,540. He stated that it includes no employee contribution toward health insurance. A proportionate share of family coverage

for the Commissioners is also included. Both Voted Debt Service Hospital Renovation Bond Issue in the amount of \$247,450; and NWMCD in the amount of \$608,751 are included. He recommended approval.

Mr. Robert Hudson, Walton County Tax Payers Association President, asked Mr. Imfeld to reiterate his statement regarding insurance. Mr. Imfeld complied. He also stated that Human Resources has re-negotiated with Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Mr. Hudson asked if the budget would be available on line. Mr. Imfeld stated that it would. Mr. Hudson asked if the areas where cuts were made would be shown. Mr. Imfeld stated that a listing of various cuts was previously made available. However, he would have to create a line item listing of what was cut. Mr. Hudson stated that Mr. Patrick Pilcher, Property Appraiser, voiced concern that the taxable value will drop next year. Mr. Hudson stated that this will greatly affect the next budget process. He said that difficult decisions have been made and were well appreciated.

Motion by Commissioner C. Jones, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to adopt Resolution **(2009-85)** for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Budget in the amount of \$98,188,271 for Operations and \$100,956,540 total budget with \$247,450 Voted Debt Service and \$608,751 NWMCD.

Commissioner L. Jones stated that this budget would be locked in. If funding needs to be increased in one area, it will have to be decreased in another.

Ayes 5, Nays 0. Comander Aye, Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, C. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye.

There being no further items to address, the meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

APPROVED _____
Sara Comander, Chair

ATTEST _____
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts