

SEPTEMBER 27, 2010 – BUDGET HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Budget Hearing on September 27, 2010, at 5:01 p.m., at the Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs, Florida.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Scott Brannon, Chair; Commissioner Larry Jones, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, Commissioner Cecilia Jones; and Commissioner Sara Comander. Mr. Lyle Seigler, County Administrator; Attorney Lynn Hoshihara, Interim County Attorney; and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts; were also present.

Commissioner C. Jones led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Brannon called the meeting to order.

Mr. William Imfeld, County Finance Director, presented the 2010-2011 county wide millage rate and fiscal year budget for final approval. He reported that the budget has been cut approximately \$38 million over the past four years with an approximate \$21 million reduction in ad valorem taxes. He recommended that the Board approve a county wide millage rate of 3.5563 mills and 0.4912 mills for the North Walton Mosquito Control District. The aggregate millage rate is 3.6012 mills which is less than the roll back rate of 4.1940 mills which is a reduction by 14.14%.

Chairman Brannon opened the discussion to public comment.

Mr. David Kramer, Mr. Bob Sullivan, Mr. Jim Boughner, and Ms. Bonnie McQuiston all spoke against raising the millage rate and felt further cuts should be made.

Mr. Dan Scupin asked for the increase percentage. Mr. Imfeld stated that the increase was just under 4.5%. Mr. Scupin asked if any other cuts were made since the September 13 budget

hearing. Mr. Imfeld stated with a number of components that are not ad valorem funded and with the approximate \$30.5 million dollars designated for public safety, there are not a lot of areas that can be cut. He reported that there is approximately \$21 million less in revenue. Mr. Scupin made suggestions for next years budget and felt that basic services should be the main area of concentration.

Mr. Bob Hudson, Walton County Taxpayers Association President, stated that the Board had the authority to decrease the millage rate and asked what the monetary amount of the millage rate increase would be. Mr. Imfeld stated approximately \$1.7 million.

Chairman Brannon closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Comander felt that the people should be heard and that the millage rate should not be increased. She also felt that more cuts could be made.

Motion by Commissioner Comander to retain the millage rate of 3.4076 mills. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Commissioner L. Jones, second by Commissioner C. Jones to adopt a resolution (**2010-85**) approving the 2010-2011 millage rate of 3.5563 mills, and 0.4912 mills for the North Walton Mosquito Control District. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye, Comander Nay.

Motion by Commissioner C. Jones, second by Commissioner Pridgen, to adopt a resolution (**2010-86**) approving the 2010-2011 FY Budget in the amount of \$98,041,873. Ayes 4, Nays 1. Brannon Aye, L. Jones Aye, Pridgen Aye, C. Jones Aye, Comander Nay.

There being no further items to present, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

APPROVED Scott G. Brannon
Scott Brannon, Chair

ATTEST Martha Ingle
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts