

JULY 12, 2012 – BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a budget workshop on Thursday, July 12, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., at the Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Scott Brannon, Chairman; Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Larry Jones; Commissioner Sara Comander; and Commissioner Cecilia Jones. Ms. Toni Craig, County Attorney; Mr. Gerry Demers, Interim County Administrator; and Ms. Dede Hinote, Interim Assistant County Administrator, were also present.

Commissioner Comander led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Brannon called the meeting to order to discuss the FY 2012-2013 proposed budget.

Mr. Demers stated that he had met with all the directors and constitutional officers for input. There was no change recommended for the millage rate of 3.5563. The proposed budget total increased \$3.3 million and revenues are starting to increase. He provided information for review.

Discussion ensued regarding upcoming challenges, solutions and initiatives, FTE increases and decreases per department area, required statutory contributions, discretionary contributions, and gas tax.

The next budget hearings will be held on September 10, 2012 at the South Walton Annex and on September 24, 2012 in DeFuniak Springs at 5:01 p.m. The millage rate will be set at the September 10th meeting, from that time the rate cannot increase but it can be decreased.

Commissioner C. Jones and Commissioner Comander recommended hiring another TDC Code Enforcement Officer to help with the beach activities and policing.

Commissioner Comander discussed the need to look into the future and determine the best solution for the landfill, as well as reviewing the maintenance and pavement of roads. Chairman Brannon agreed that the landfill does need to be reviewed for cost savings and a possible revenue source.

Commissioner Comander recommended having a meeting to discuss the future and those costs. Commissioner C. Jones stated that beach accesses and parking are also very important. Commissioner Pridgen stated that maintenance of facilities and any improvements need to be considered as well. Commissioner L. Jones stated that they need to determine what is important and what to spend the money on. He recommended that Mr. Demers meet with each Commissioner to determine their priorities for the future, and then make a decision.

Discussion ensued regarding the involvement of citizens' help and the need to discuss a 5 year capital elements plan.

Chairman Brannon asked for public comment.

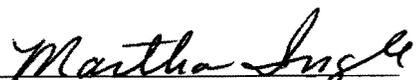
Mr. Mark Flynn commended the Board on working on a capital budget to make sure it fits and works for the county.

Mr. Cory Godwin discussed the need for visioning.

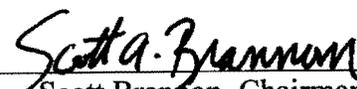
Mr. Demers stated that he will review the TDC Code Enforcement Officer and Landfill positions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

ATTEST


Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts

APPROVED


Scott Brannon, Chairman