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BOARD MINUTES FOR 94/09/13

1994 SEPTEMBER 13

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 5:05 P. M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 711 THIRD STREET, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS CORBIN, BROCK, CARTER, MORRIS AND TAYLOR PRESENT. DEPUTY CLERK DIANNE CARTER AND ADMINISTRATOR ROGER HAGAN WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AND STATED THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO HOLD THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE THE MILLAGE RATE AND ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1995.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS RECOGNIZED TROOP 700 OF THE BONNET POND COMMUNITY CHURCH AND THEIR SCOUT MASTER BUDDY PENNINGTON, WHO WERE PRESENT TO OBSERVE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S BUDGET HEARING.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS STATED THAT EVERY PROPERTY OWNER IN WASHINGTON COUNTY WAS NOTIFIED OF THIS MEETING BY THE REQUIRED TRIM NOTICES. HE STATED THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1995 TOTALLED \$12,489,466.00 WITH THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE BEING SET AT TEN MILLS. THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE IS 7.24 PERCENT GREATER THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS ASKED IF ANYONE IN THE AUDIENCE HAD ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1995. ROMAS SHATAS OF SUNNY HILLS, FLORIDA ADDRESSED THE BOARD COMPLAINING ABOUT HIS PROPERTY TAXES BEING INCREASED BY 21% OVER LAST YEAR. A PETITION WAS PRESENTED TO THE BOARD FROM RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS IN SUNNY HILLS, OAK HILL, AND VERNON STATING THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES.

RONALD WRIGHT, PROPERTY APPRAISER, ADDRESSED THE BOARD EXPLAINING WHY THERE WAS A TAX INCREASE ON AD VALOREM. HE EXPLAINED HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSED VALUE OF PROPERTY BUT NOT THE TAXATION BY THE TAXING AUTHORITY. HE ADVISED THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE HAD DIRECTED HIM TO RE-EVALUATE ALL THE PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY. HE REFERENCED AMENDMENT TEN WAS PUSHING TO OBTAIN ALL THE TAXABLE VALUE IN THE STATE AND UNTIL THE LAWS ARE CHANGED, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE FORCED WITH THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES EVERY YEAR. WRIGHT STATED THERE HAD BEEN NO MASS RE-EVALUATION SINCE 1989. WRIGHT EXPLAINED THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE GETS ALL THE RECORDS IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE, LOOKS AT THE LAND PRICES AND RELATES THEM TO THE TAX ROLLS SENT IN JULY; IF THE MARKET PRICES ARE OUT OF LINE WITH THE ASSESSMENT THEY REQUIRE YOU TO RE-EVALUATE. WRIGHT STATED AMENDMENT TEN GOES INTO EFFECT JANUARY OF 1995.

A PERSON IN THE AUDIENCE SAID THERE WAS NO REASON TO GO UP ON ASSESSMENTS WHEN NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE IN SUNNY HILLS TO MAKE THE ASSESSMENTS GO UP.

MR. ANDERSON, WHO LIVES ON FALLING WATERS ROAD, SAID ROADS ARE DETERIORATING EVERYDAY BUT NO ONE IS DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT. HE TOLD THE BOARD THEY NEEDED TO SPEND THE TAX MONEY AND ADDRESS THE ROADS. CHAIRMAN MORRIS AGREED THE BOARD WAS GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOME LONG RANGE PLANNING TO ADDRESS THE ROADS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

BURLY HILL ADDRESSED THE BOARD SAYING HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE BUDGET AND THE WAY IT IS SET UP OR ITS CONTENTS. HE SAID HIS TAXES HAVE GONE UP 15% OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO IMPROVEMENTS SINCE IT WAS BUILT. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE INCREASE IN TAX ASSESSMENTS AND THE MONIES COMING BECAUSE OF THE FLOOD BE JUDICIALLY SPENT. HE ALSO ADDRESSED MOBILE HOMES NOT GETTING TAGS AND THE COUNTY LOSING THESE REVENUES. HE ADVISED THE BOARD TO GET THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON THIS ISSUE AND HAVE THEM CITE THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT PURCHASING A TAG.

MR. HILL WAS ADVISED THE FEMA MONEY COMING IN BECAUSE OF THE FLOOD COULD ONLY BE SPENT ON DESIGNATED DSR'S.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS READ THE PETITION TURNED IN BY THE RESIDENTS OF SUNNY HILLS, OAK HILL AND VERNON OPPOSING THE INCREASES IN TAXES.

COMMISSIONER CARTER EXPLAINED THE BOARD WAS HAVING TO USE THE EXCESS FEES FROM THE TAX INCREASES FOR DETENTION AND CORRECTIONS TO HOUSE PRISONERS, TO PAY EXPERT WITNESS FEES DUE TO A COURT ORDER AND A \$57,000.00 INCREASE TO FUND THE SHERIFF'S BUDGET.

STANLEY KRAJEWSKI OF SUNNY HILLS VOICED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE TAX INCREASE. HE STATED HE WAS WILLING TO PAY HIGHER TAXES BUT HIS TAXES WAS TOO HIGH.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ADVISED THAT WEST POINT PEPPERELL WILL BE COMING OFF THE TAX EXEMPTION STATUS NEXT YEAR.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS EXPLAINED THE BOARD HAD TO PAY \$76,000.00 FOR 9-1-1 SALARIES THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PAYING.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS SAID HE WOULD ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO SET THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1994-95 AT TEN MILLS. COMMISSIONER CORBIN OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF TEN MILLS AS THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1995. RODNEY SOWELL STATED IN THE PAST 20 TO 25 YEARS, HE CAN'T REMEMBER ONE MILE OF ROAD BEING PAVED IN WASHINGTON COUNTY. COMMISSIONER CORBIN EXPLAINED EXPENDITURE INCREASES THE BOARD IS HAVING TO FACE. SOWELL ASKED IF THE COUNTY HAD ANY PLANS ON PAVING ANY ROADS AT ALL. COM- MISSIONER CORBIN SAID THERE WAS NO NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET. CHAIRMAN MORRIS STATED THE COUNTY WAS WORKING ON SECONDARY ROADS AT THE PRESENT TIME. SOWELL TOLD THE BOARD IF THEY COULD ONLY DO ONE MILE A YEAR, DO ONE MILE.

BURLY HILL TOLD THE BOARD THEY WOULD BE FACING A LONG TERM PROBLEM WITH THE JAIL IN ABOUT THREE YEARS.

JOHN FOSTER ADDRESSED THE BOARD ON THE TRANSPORTATION BUDGET STATING IT INCREASED EACH YEAR BUT NO ROADS ARE GETTING FIXED.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF TEN MILLS AS THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1995. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET TOTALLING \$12,489,466.00 AS THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1995. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK AND CARRIED TO ADVERTISE THE "SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET" AND THE "NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING" IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS, A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION WITHIN THE COUNTY, AND HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING TO FINALIZE THE BUDGET AND ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1995 ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1994 AT 5:05 P. M.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN. ATTEST:_____

CLERK
ATTEST: _____
DEPUTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN

END OF MINUTES FOR 94/09/13