

BOARD MINUTES FOR 07/11/01

JULY 11, 2001

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 8:00 A. M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS BROCK, COPE, FINCH, HALL AND ENFINGER PRESENT. ATTORNEY HOLLEY AND DEPUTY CLERK DIANNE CARTER WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE. CHAIRMAN COPE OPENED THE MEETING WITH PRAYER AND LED IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

COMMUNICATION SERVICE TAX-ATTORNEY HOLLEY BRIEFED THE BOARD ON THE COMMUNICATION SERVICE TAX SIMPLIFICATION LAW PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE THE TOTAL RATE FOR THE CST BY 0.24 PERCENT IN LIEU OF IMPOSING PERMIT FEES ON COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS DESIRING TO OCCUPY COUNTY RIGHTS-OF-WAY. HE HAD PREPARED A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED TO CHAIRMAN COPE BY THE SMALL COUNTY COALITION INCREASING THE CST RATE BY 0.24 PERCENT. COMMISSIONER HALL OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENFINGER AND CARRIED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION CONTINGENT ON DEPUTY CLERK CARTER CLARIFYING WHICH COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS ARE INCLUDED AND IF THE COUNTY WOULD BE MAKING MONEY OR LOSING MONEY.

GRIT-ATTORNEY HOLLEY UPDATED THE BOARD ON GRIT, THE PREVIOUS WORKERS COMPENSATION CARRIER FOR THE COUNTY, HAVING FILED BANKRUPTCY AND HAVING TURNED ALL THEIR FILES OVER TO A LIQUIDATED TRUSTEE. THE TRUSTEE HAS SENT OUT TWO AGREEMENTS AND THE BOARD NEEDS TO ADOPT ONE OF THEM:

1. THE FIRST AGREEMENT ALLOWS THE BOARD TO ELECT, IF THEY DESIRE TO DO SO, TO HAVE GRIT THROUGH ZENITH INSURANCE COMPANY CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER ANY OUTSTANDING CLAIMS THAT WERE IN THE GAP WHEN THE COUNTY HAD NO INSURANCE. IF THE BOARD CHOOSES TO DO THIS, THEY WILL HAVE TO SEND THEM A \$10,000 CHECK TO HOLD IN ESCROW TO ASSURE THE COUNTY IS GOING TO PAY CLAIMS AS ZENITH SETTLES THEM. WHEN ZENITH SETTLES THE CLAIM AND THEY BILL THE COUNTY FOR IT, THE COUNTY HAS TO REIMBURSE THEM WITHIN 30 DAYS FOR THE CLAIM. THE ONLY OUTSTANDING CLAIM THE BOARD IS AWARE OF IS WITH GEORGE WEBER.
2. THE SECOND AGREEMENT ALLOWS THE BOARD TO ELECT TO ADMINISTER THE CLAIMS THEMSELVES; THE BOARD WILL REQUEST THEY RETURN THE CLAIMS FILE TO THE COUNTY WITH THE COUNTY TAKING CARE OF THEM.

COMMISSIONER BROCK OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL AND CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE SECOND AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY HANDLING THE OUTSTANDING CLAIMS THEMSELVES CONTINGENT ON THE COUNTY'S RELIANCE OF GRIT THERE IS ONLY ONE PENDING CLAIM WHICH IS GEORGE WEBER'S CLAIM.

ALLEN CLARK-COMMISSIONER HALL OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FINCH AND CARRIED TO AUTHORIZE ALLEN CLARK, COUNTY INSURANCE AGENT, TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT, NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000, WITH GEORGE WEBER ON HIS OUTSTANDING WORKERS COMP CLAIM.

AIR CONDITIONING/EMS BUILDINGS-COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK AND CARRIED TO TRANSFER \$10,000 FROM ST. JOSEPH PHASE II FUND FOR AIRCONDITIONING OF HINSON CROSS ROADS AND ORANGE HILL VOTING PRECINCT AND COMMUNITY CENTER AT \$5,000 EACH. COMMISSIONER FINCH OPPOSED. COMMISSIONER ENFINGER HAD EXPLAINED THESE MONIES IN THE ST. JOSEPH PHASE II FUND HAD BEEN BUDGETED AS MATCHING FUNDS AND THERE IS NO MATCH REQUIRED ON THE PROJECT. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE AIRCONDITIONING WAS NOT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUT FOR THE VOTING PRECINCT AND COMMUNITY CENTER.

TOWN OF WAUSAU-COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION FOR THE COUNTY TO ASSIST ANY COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$500.00 IF THEY HAVE A

FIREMEN WHO WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND SCHOOL TO BECOME A CERTIFIED FIRE FIGHTER. DISCUSSION WAS HELD WITH THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS TO APPROVE OF CHAIRMAN COPE'S RECOMMENDATION TO INSTRUCT THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AT THE NEXT FIRE ASSOCIATION MEETING, COME UP WITH SOME TYPE OF CRITERIA AND SEE HOW MANY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE CERTIFICATION SCHOOLING.

VERNON DIXIE YOUTH LEAGUE-COMMISSIONER BROCK OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENFINGER AND CARRIED TO GIVE \$500 TO THE VERNON DIXIE YOUTH PONY LEAGUE TO GO TO STATE IN BARTOW.

CITY OF CHIPLEY-COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FINCH AND CARRIED TO GIVE \$500 TO THE CHIPLEY GIRLS TEAM IF THEY GO TO THE WORLDS SERIES.

MILLAGE RATE OF FY 2001-2002-COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO TENTATIVELY SET THE MILLAGE RATE AT 10 MILLS, DESIGNATE 1/2 MILL TO THE AMBULANCE SERVICE AND 1/2 MILL TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS. DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE ADDITIONAL MILLAGE, JAIL RELATED EXPENSES, REASON FOR MILLAGE REDUCTION LAST YEAR, ETC. COMMISSIONER ENFINGER POINTED OUT THE 1/2 MILL FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS WOULD REPLACE MONIES THE GENERAL FUND HAD BEEN PROVIDING TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THE 1/2 MILL FOR THE AMBULANCE SERVICE WOULD ONLY BE FUNDED TO THEM AS LONG AS THEY HAVE A DEFICIT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH COMMISSIONER COPE AND FINCH OPPOSED.

VIOLATION OF PROBATION-COMMISSIONER BROCK RECOMMENDED THE BOARD ADOPT A RESOLUTION ASKING THE LEGISLATURE TO DO AWAY WITH VIOLATION OF PROBATION DUE TO IT COSTING THE TAX PAYERS A LOT OF MONEY. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATION.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS-DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON COMMISSIONER BROCK'S CONCERN WITH THE REQUIREMENT PERSONS WOULD HAVE TO RE- REGISTER TO VOTE IF THEIR REGISTRATION IS FIVE YEARS OLD OR OLDER; HE DID NOT FEEL A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM AND MAIL IT BACK IN TO THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS.

COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN. ATTEST:_____

CLERK
ATTEST:_____

CHAIRMAN

DEPUTY CLERK
END OF MINUTES FOR 07/11/01