

BOARD MINUTES FOR 09/11/01

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 5:05 P.M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS ENFINGER, COPE AND HALL PRESENT. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PETER HERBERT AND DEPUTY CLERK DIANNE CARTER WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

CHAIRMAN COPE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER, OFFERED PRAYER AND LED IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

THE BOARD HAD BEEN PROVIDED BUDGET NOTES ON CHANGES THAT HAD BEEN MADE TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 SINCE THE AUGUST 23, 2001 MEETING:

1. THE TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET NOW TOTALS \$27,807,158.
2. ADDITIONAL ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET: FIRE INSPECTION SERVICES AT \$5,000; MEDICAL EXAMINER SERVICES INCREASED TO \$44,576; LITTER AND MARINE BUDGET INCREASED TO \$12,839; FIVE POINTS, HINSON CROSS ROADS, DANIELS LAKE, ST. JOSEPH, BLUE LAKE, CAMPBELL PARK, ORANGE HILL, LIGHTARD LOG PARK AND PATE POND WILL BE FUNDED AT \$500 TO HELP OFFSET EXPENSES FOR UTILITIES; BAY CARE SERVICES AT \$3,000; MSBU AT \$314,700; PRESERVATION 2000 AT \$10,000; CONTINGENCY FOR GENERAL FUND TOTALS \$108,648.00; CONTINGENCY FOR TRANSPORTATION FUND TOTALS \$163,611.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET WITH THE BOARD BEING INFORMED THE PART TIME POSITION IN THE LIBRARY BUDGET WAS NOT INCLUDED.

NELL ROBERTS REQUESTED THE MILLAGE RATE BE LOWERED DUE TO HER PROPERTY TAXES GOING UP AND HER INCOME GOING DOWN; SHE RECOMMENDED THE BOARD LOOK AT ANOTHER REVENUE SOURCE OTHER THAN INCREASING THE PROPERTY TAXES. DISCUSSION WAS HELD WITH THE BOARD ADVISING THE INCREASE IN THEIR MILLAGE RATE WAS TO FUND THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AT ONE HALF MILL AND THE AMBULANCE SERVICE AT ONE HALF MILL. SALARY INCREASES FOR EMPLOYEES WAS ALSO ADDRESSED AS BEING PART OF THE INCREASE IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET.

LUZIA MIKUTIS ADDRESSED THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS INCREASING THE MILLAGE RATE TO FUND THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS PASSING AN MSBU TO FUND EMERGENCY SERVICES. CHAIRMAN COPE INFORMED MIKUTIS THE MSBU THAT WAS PASSED WAS STRICTLY FOR THE SUNNY HILLS/OAK HILLS COMMUNITY. MIKUTIS ADDRESSED HER PROPERTY TAXES HAVING GONE UP AND IN TALKING WITH OTHERS WHO HAVE MORE PROPERTY, LARGER HOMES, AND NEWER HOMES THAN SHE DOES, HER TAXES ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT WENT UP OVER \$100.

MIKUTIS ALSO QUESTIONED WHY THE COUNTY DIDN'T TRY AND BRING MORE INDUSTRY INTO THE AREA. CHAIRMAN COPE ADVISED HER THE BOARD WAS IN THE PROCESS OF PURCHASING PROPERTY FOR A COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK. DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE BOARD HAVING CUT THEIR MILLAGE RATE BY ONE MILL LAST YEAR AND APPROVED AN ADDITIONAL TAX CUT FOR PERSONS OVER 65 WHO HAVE AN INCOME OF \$20,000 OR LESS; TO FUND THE PROPOSED BUDGET, IT WAS NECESSARY TO RAISE THE MILLAGE RATE BACK TO TEN MILLS. DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSESSMENTS DONE BY THE PROPERTY APPRAISER. THE BOARD RECOMMENDED SHE CHECK WITH THE PROPERTY APPRAISER AND TAX COLLECTOR ON HER PROPERTY TAXES.

CHAIRMAN COPE STATED THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WAS TO HOLD THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE THE MILLAGE RATE AND ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002; THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS ADVERTISED VIA THE TRIM NOTICES SENT TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

CHAIRMAN COPE ADVISED THE TOTAL TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 WAS \$27,807,158; THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE IS SET FOR TEN MILLS AND IS 16.7% MORE THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE OF 8.569%.

CHAIRMAN COPE ASKED IF ANYONE IN THE AUDIENCE WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD WITH ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF TEN MILLS; NO ONE RESPONDED.

CHAIRMAN COPE ASKED IF ANYONE ON THE BOARD WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT OR HAD ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF TEN MILLS; NO ONE RESPONDED.

CHAIRMAN COPE ASKED IF ANYONE IN THE AUDIENCE WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 TOTTALLING \$27,807,158; NO ONE RESPONDED.

CHAIRMAN COPE ASKED IF ANYONE ON THE BOARD WOULD LIKE TO ASK QUESTIONS OR HAD ANY COMMENTS ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002; NO ONE RESPONDED.

CHAIRMAN COPE ADVISED BOARD ACTION WAS NEEDED TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF TEN MILLS AS THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002. COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF TEN MILLS AS THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002.

COMMISSIONER HALL VOICED HIS OPPOSITION TO TAKING TAX PAYERS DOLLARS TO FUND ORGANIZATIONS WHO FIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS; HE MADE REFERENCE TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FIGHTING AGAINST THE COUNTY IN THE BECTON SPRINGS SUIT.

CHAIRMAN COPE THEN STATED BOARD ACTION WAS NEEDED TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET TOTTALLING \$27,807,158 AS THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 AND BOARD ACTION WAS NEEDED TO ADVERTISE THE SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET AND A NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS IN THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2001 EDITION AND HOLD THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON OCTOBER 2, 2001 AT 5:05 P.M.

CHAIRMAN COPE STATED DUE TO NOT GETTING A SECOND TO THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE, THE BOARD WOULD HAVE TO RECESS THIS MEETING. COMMISSIONER HALL ADDRESSED HIM ALREADY EXPRESSING HIS VIEWS AND DIDN'T SEE A NEED TO COST THE TAXPAYERS ADDITIONAL MONIES FOR ANOTHER PUBLIC HEARING; HE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE OF TEN MILLS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET TOTTALLING \$27,807,158 AS THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL AND CARRIED TO ADVERTISE THE SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET AND A NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS IN THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2001 EDITION AND HOLD THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON OCTOBER 2, 2001 AT 5:05 P.M.

THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 WAS CONCLUDED.

COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN. ATTEST:\_\_\_\_\_

DEPUTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN

\*END OF MINUTES\* FOR 09/11/01