

BOARD MINUTES FOR 09/17/02

SEPTEMBER 17, 2002

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, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS BROCK, COPE, ENFINGER, FINCH AND HALL PRESENT.

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

CHAIRMAN FINCH ADVISED THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WAS TO HOLD THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE THE MILLAGE RATE AND ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003; THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS ADVERTISED VIA THE TRIM NOTICES SENT TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

CHAIRMAN FINCH THEN STATED THE TOTAL TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003 TOTALLED \$26,622,739; THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE IS SET FOR 10 MILS WHICH IS 3.70% MORE THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE OF 9.64%.

CHAIRMAN FINCH ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYONE IN THE AUDIENCE WHO WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 10 MILLS.

NICHOLAS GRAMMAS, PERMANENT RESIDENT OF LYNN HAVEN, ADDRESSED THE BOARD ON HIS PROPERTY TAXES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY HAVING GONE UP CONSIDERABLY OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS AND QUESTIONED WHY AND WHAT SERVICES WAS HE GETTING FOR HIS TAXES.

THE BOARD ADVISED HIM TO TALK WITH THE PROPERTY APPRAISER IF HE FELT HIS PROPERTY WAS BEING ASSESSED TOO MUCH OR WAS BEING MISCLASSIFIED AS FAR AS USE OF PROPERTY. THEY EXPLAINED THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INCREASED THEIR TAXES IN ORDER TO CONSTRUCT A NEW HIGH SCHOOL IN VERNON. DEPUTY CLERK CARTER INFORMED NICHOLAS OF HIS RIGHTS TO APPEAL HIS TAXES TO THE VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD EACH YEAR BUT THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR AN APPEAL THIS YEAR HAD ALREADY PASSED.

CHAIRMAN FINCH THEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYONE ON THE BOARD WHO HAD ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 10 MILLS; NO ONE RESPONDED.

CHAIRMAN FINCH THEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYONE IN THE AUDIENCE WHO WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003 TOTALLING \$26,622,739; NO ONE RESPONDED.

CHAIRMAN FINCH THEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYONE ON THE BOARD WHO HAD ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003. DEPUTY CLERK CARTER READ THE PROJECTION 8 BUDGET NOTES ON CHANGES MADE SINCE THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2003 BUDGET WORKSHOP.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE NOTIFICATION RECEIVED ON THERE BEING A 14% INCREASE IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS WITH BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD. ALLAN CLARK, INSURANCE AGENT, ADVISED THE BOARD THERE WAS A STATE LAW THAT EVERY EMPLOYEE IS MANDATED TO BE COVERED UNDER A GROUP PLAN IF THE COUNTY IS PAYING 100% OF THE PREMIUM; TO PREVENT EVERY EMPLOYEE FROM HAVING TO BE COVERED, THE COUNTY WOULD NEED TO REQUIRE COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO CONTRIBUTE AT LEAST 1% OF THE EMPLOYEE PREMIUM.

COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL AND CARRIED FOR EVERY EMPLOYEE COVERED UNDER THE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE TO CONTRIBUTE \$3.00 PER MONTH TOWARD THE INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE IN COMPLIANCE WITH FLORIDA STATUTES.

THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS FOR COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT TO GET WITH CHAIRMAN FINCH TO FORMULATE A COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO MAKE

THE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN FIT THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF \$265.00 PER EMPLOYEE DUE TO THE BUDGET BEING UNABLE TO FUND THE \$288.90 PREMIUM PER EMPLOYEE.

COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COPE AND CARRIED ON A ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE OF 10 MILS AS THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003.

COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COPE AND CARRIED ON A ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET TOTALLING \$26,622,739 AS THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003.

COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COPE AND CARRIED TO ADVERTISE THE SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET AND NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS IN THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2002 PAPER AND HOLD THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON OCTOBER 1, 2002 AT 5:05 P.M.

CHAIRMAN FINCH ANNOUNCED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003 WAS CONCLUDED.

ATTEST: _____
CLERK

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
DEPUTY CLERK

END OF MINUTES FOR 09/17/02