

BOARD MINUTES FOR 09/12/06

SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 5:30 P.M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA. COMMISSIONERS COPE, CORBIN, SAPP, FINCH AND STRICKLAND WERE PRESENT. DEPUTY CLERK CARTER AND ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

CHAIRMAN SAPP STATED THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO HOLD THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE THE MILLAGE RATE AND ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007. THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS ADVERTISED VIA THE TRIM NOTICES SENT TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

SAPP ADDRESSED THE TENTATIVE BUDGET:

A. THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007 TOTALS \$38,223,054.

B. THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE IS SET FOR 8.5 MILLS.

C. THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 8.5 MILLS IS 37.27% MORE THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE OF 6.192%.

CHAIRMAN SAPP 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 8.5 MILLS.

JAMES A. WILLIAMS ADDRESSED THE BOARD CONTESTING THE INCREASE IN HIS TAXES ON A LOT HE OWNED AT CRYSTAL LAKE. HE SAID HIS TAXES INCREASED BY 20% AND FELT LIKE A 10% INCREASE WOULD BE ENOUGH. HE SAID HE DIDN'T LIVE ON THIS PROPERTY AND USED IT FOR RECREATION. HE REQUESTED THE BOARD LOOK AT REDUCING THE MILLAGE RATE SO TAXES WOULDN'T BE INCREASED MORE THAN 10%. HE SAID HE WAS AWARE THE VALUATION OF PROPERTY WAS DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT WAS PASSED ON BY THE STATE, WHICH HE IS UNHAPPY WITH.

COMMISSIONER SAPP TOLD WILLIAMS HE APPRECIATED HIS CONCERNS. HE REFERRED TO ALL THE BOARD MEMBERS BEING TAX PAYERS AND HAVE TO PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TAXES, SOME MORE THAN OTHERS.

WILLIAMS ASKED DID THE COUNTY NEED THIS MUCH ADDITIONAL REVENUE AND POINTED OUT, IF EVERYBODY'S TAXES WENT UP AS MUCH AS HIS, THEY ARE LOOKING AT A 20% INCREASE IN THE COUNTY'S INCOME.

COMMISSIONER COPE QUESTIONED WILLIAMS IF HE GOT TO CLAIM HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION ON THIS PROPERTY. WILLIAMS SAID HE DIDN'T.

WILLIAMS REFERRED TO SOMETHING HE HAD NOTICED ABOUT A SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION. COMMISSIONER COPE ADDRESSED THERE WAS AN ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION FOR SENIORS IF THEY FELL INTO A CERTAIN INCOME LEVEL.

COMMISSIONER COPE TOLD WILLIAMS THE BOARD DIDN'T HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER THE PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS; THEY ONLY HAD CONTROL OVER THE MILLAGE RATE. HE SAID IF THE BOARD LOWERS THE MILLAGE RATE BELOW 8.5 MILLS, THEY WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR GRANTS THEY RECEIVE.

WILLIAMS SAID HE UNDERSTANDS A LOT OF THE MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES FUNDING COMES FROM GRANTS; HOWEVER, THE STATE SHOULDN'T PUT THE MILLAGE RATE RESTRICTION ON THE GRANTS.

COMMISSIONER COPE QUESTIONED WILLIAMS IF HE WOULD SELL HIS PROPERTY FOR THE AMOUNT IT IS ASSESSED FOR. WILLIAMS SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SELL THE MOBILE HOME FOR THE \$19,000 IT IS ASSESSED AT.

COMMISSIONER COPE OFFERED TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY FROM WILLIAMS FOR THE AMOUNT IT WAS ASSESSED AT AND PAY THE TAXES ON IT. WILLIAMS SAID HE WOULDN'T INTERESTED IN SELLING IT; HE WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN GETTING THEIR TAXES DOWN.

COMMISSIONER SAPP ASKED IF ANYONE ELSE HAD ANY QUESTIONS; NO ONE RESPONDED. HE THEN ASKED IF ANYONE ON THE BOARD HAD ANY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 8.5 MILLS. NO ONE FROM THE BOARD RESPONDED.

COMMISSIONER SAPP 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, 2007 TOTALLING \$38,223,054. NO ONE RESPONDED.

COMMISSIONER SAPP ASKED IF ANYONE ON THE BOARD HAD ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007. NO ONE RESPONDED.

CHAIRMAN SAPP STATED BOARD ACTION WAS NEEDED TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 8.5 MILLS AS THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007. COMMISSIONER COPE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND AND ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE OF THE 8.5 MILLS AS THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007.

CHAIRMAN SAPP STATED BOARD ACTION IS NEEDED TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET TOTALLING \$38,223,054 AS THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007. COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COPE AND ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, CARRIED TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF \$38,223,054 AS THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COPE 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 23, 2006 EDITION OF THE CHIPLEY NEWSPAPER AND TO HOLD THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2006 AT 5:30 P.M.

CHAIRMAN SAPP STATED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007 WAS CONCLUDED. HE THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING THE PUBLIC HEARING AND ADJOURNED THE MEETING. ATTEST:_____

DEPUTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN

END OF MINUTES FOR 09/12/06