

SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET IN SPECIAL SESSION AT 5:30 P.M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS FINCH, PATE, HOLMAN, SAPP AND STRICKLAND PRESENT. ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT, CLERK COOK AND DEPUTY CLERK CARTER WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

CHAIRMAN SAPP CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 TO ORDER AND READ THE FORMAT FOR THE MEETING:

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO HOLD THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE THE MILLAGE RATE AND ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008. THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS ADVERTISED VIA THE TRIM NOTICES SENT TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

2. THE TOTAL TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 TOTALS \$37,283,251.

3. THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE IS SET FOR 7.66 MILLS.

4. THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 7.66 MILLS IS 3% LESS THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE OF 7.897%.

5. IS THERE ANYONE IN THE AUDIENCE WHO WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 7.66 MILLS? THERE WAS NO RESPONSE.

7. IS THERE 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, 2008 TALLING \$37,283,251.

BRUCE COBB, LEISURE LAKES SUBDIVISION, ASKED IF HE WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE OTHER QUESTIONS FURTHER ON IN THE MEETING. CHAIRMAN SAPP REQUESTED HE RAISE HIS HAND WHEN HE WOULD LIKE TO BE RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK ON AN ISSUE HE IS INTERESTED IN.

DUE TO CHAIRMAN SAPP NOT ADDRESSING ITEM 6 WHICH ASKED IF ANYONE ON THE BOARD HAD ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE, COMMISSIONER FINCH COMMENTED ON THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE NOT BEING SET BY THE BOARD. HE SAID SOME OF THE SITUATIONS THEY ARE IN TODAY IS BECAUSE OF THE FACT THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO BUILD THEIR BUDGET BASED ON A MORE REALISTIC MILLAGE. THE 7.66 MILLAGE RATE WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS IMPOSED ON THE BOARD AND NOT SOMETHING THEY AGREED TO.

COMMISSIONER SAPP SAID THE LEGISLATURE MANDATED THE BOARD TO ADOPT THE 7.66 MILLAGE RATE TO FALL IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE MANDATORY RATES THEY SET FOR THEM.

8. IS THERE ANYONE ON THE BOARD WHO HAS ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008?

COMMISSIONER FINCH ADDRESSED THERE BEING SO MANY QUESTIONS

FLYING AROUND THE COUNTY AND THE BOARD IS GETTING SOME BAD PUBLICITY ON SOMETHING THEY REALLY DON'T HAVE CONTROL OVER. HE HATES TO PICK UP SOMETHING THAT SAYS HE IS GUILTY OF SOMETHING WHEN HE DOESN'T REALLY KNOW THAT HE IS. IF INDEED THERE IS MONIES AND FUNDING AVAILABLE, HE CERTAINLY WANTS TO SHARE IT WITH THE REST OF THE GOVERNMENTS AND THE RECREATION FOR THE KIDS AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. HE CAN'T REALLY GET A CLEAR CUT ANSWER OR UNDERSTANDING OF EXACTLY WHAT THERE IS IN THE BUDGET. EVERYBODY HAS A DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION THEY HAVE \$600,000 OF MONEY THAT IS FLOATING AROUND OUT THERE THAT IS NOT OBLIGATING. WHEN SPEAKING TO PETE, DIANNE AND THE BUDGET COMMITTEE, THEY SAY THAT IS NOT TRUE. IF THERE IS ANY EXPLANATION THEY CAN GET SO EVERYBODY CAN LEAVE WITH THE SAME UNDERSTANDING, IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL NOT ONLY TO THE BOARD BUT EVERYBODY THAT IS TRYING TO INTERPRET THE BUDGET.

PETE SAID \$600,000 IS WHAT IS ESTIMATED TO BE CASH CARRY FORWARD FROM THE 2006-2007 BUDGET AND IT WILL CARRY FORWARD INTO THE 2007-2008 BUDGET; IT IS OBLIGATED TO HELP BALANCE THE 2007-2008 BUDGET.

COMMISSIONER FINCH SAID HE HEARS ALL THE TIME THE BOARD HAS \$1,000,000 TO \$2,000,000 WORTH OF GRANTS, ETC. THEY HAVEN'T RECEIVED REIMBURSEMENT FOR. IN LOOKING AT THE GRANTS STACY HAS AND THE THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED, THEY DO HAVE THAT. HE ASKED PETE TO EXPLAIN TO HIM AND THE REST OF THE AUDIENCE, HOW THAT WORKS INTO THE BUDGET. HE ASKED WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BUDGET WHEN THAT COMES BACK INTO THE BUDGET.

PETE SAID MOST OR ALL OF THAT MONEY IS OBLIGATED INTO THIS YEAR'S BUDGET; THAT MONEY IS PART OF THE MONEY DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE BUDGET THIS YEAR.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ASKED IF THEY DO A \$200,000 GRANT PROJECT FOR A PARK OR SOMETHING AND THEY DON'T HAVE THE GRANT MONEY TO START WITH, WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM THEY ARE DOING THE WORK WITH.

PETE STATED IT COMES FROM THE GENERAL FUND. COMMISSIONER FINCH SAID THE GENERAL FUND IS A LOT OF OTHER AREAS; HE QUESTIONED IF THEY BORROWED FROM A LOT OF OTHER PLACES AND ARE REPLENISHING IT WHEN THEY GET THE GRANT REIMBURSEMENTS.

PETE ADDRESSED THE BUDGET IS A TOOL ON HOW TO DISTRIBUTE THAT MONEY; THE GENERAL FUND IS PAYING THE BILLS. THEN WHEN THEY ARE REIMBURSED, IT IS REIMBURSED BACK INTO THE GENERAL FUND.

JIM MORRIS, CHIPLEY CITY MANAGER, SAID HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT PETE IS SAYING; BUT, IF YOU GOT THESE KIND OF FUNDS TO UPFRONT ALL THE THEY WORKED ON GRANTS WITH, IT HAS TO BE LAYING IN AN ACCOUNT SOMEWHERE IN ORDER FOR THEM TO TAKE THOSE MONIES OUT OF THOSE ACCOUNTS. IF IT IS IN GENERAL FUND SETTING OVER TO THE SIDE SOMEWHERE, THAT MEANS YOU HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY THAT WAS IN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET AND WHEN IT IS REIMBURSED, THEY WILL HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY AGAIN IN THIS UPCOMING BUDGET SETTING OVER TO THE SIDE THEY CAN COVER MORE GRANTS WITH IF THEY SO CHOOSE TO.

COMMISSIONER FINCH REQUESTED PETE ANSWER THAT QUESTION IF THE COUNTY HAS A BUNCH OF MONEY LAYING OVER THERE. PETE SAID HE THOUGHT DIANNE HAD SAID AT THE LAST MEETING THE COUNTY WAS BROKE AND THEY DON'T HAVE A LOT OF MONEY AND ARE HAVING TROUBLE BORROWING MONEY FROM OTHER ACCOUNTS TO PAY THEIR BILLS. THEY HAVE ACTUALLY IN THE PAST BEEN ABLE TO PAY UP FRONT THE CONTRACTORS AND STAY TO THE GOOD; BUT, NOW, WHEN THEY GET AN INVOICE FROM THE CONTRACTOR, THEY HAVE TO WAIT

UNTIL FL-DOT REIMBURSES THEM BEFORE THEY CAN PAY THE CONTRACTORS.  
THEY ARE REALLY STRUGGLING WITH THE MONIES THEY HAVE ON HAND JUST TO  
PAY THE COUNTY'S BILLS.

JIM SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND WHY; ALL THE MONEY THEY HAVE SPENT  
ON GRANTS ALL OF THIS YEAR AND PROBABLY PART OF LAST YEAR THEY HAVEN'T  
BEEN REIMBURSED FOR. THOSE MONIES ARE JUST LAYING OUT THERE THAT  
SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALREADY BACK TO THE COUNTY. HE SAID HE WASN'T GET-  
TING INTO THE COUNTY'S BUSINESS ON HOW THEY INVOICE AND ALL.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT HE IS DOING. JIM  
SAID MAYBE HE IS; IT SHOULD HAVE COME BACK INTO THE COUNTY BY NOW.  
HE SAID HE LOOKED AT THE SPREADSHEET AS OF AUGUST 14TH OF THIS YEAR;  
THEY HAVE UPFRONTED A TOTAL OF \$2,040,479. HE WAS NOT AWARE OF WHAT  
THEY HAVE UPFRONTED SINCE THEN; BUT, HE CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THEY  
ARE HAVING TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM ONE ACCOUNT TO ANOTHER. IT IS  
GOOD THEY HAVE OTHER ACCOUNTS THEY CAN TRANSFER FROM.

JIM SAID IF \$600,000 OF THIS MONEY IS CASH CARRY FORWARD TO  
BALANCE THE BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR, THAT STILL LEAVES \$1.4 MILLION  
THAT IS COMING INTO THE COUNTY THAT IS GOING TO BE SET ASIDE IN  
SOME ACCOUNTS SOMEWHERE. HE SAID THAT IS HOW HE SEES IT; BUT,  
HE MAY BE WRONG AND IF HE IS WRONG, HE APOLOGIZES.

COMMISSIONER FINCH SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW IF JIM WAS WRONG OR NOT  
AS HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND IT. HE SAID HE IS NOT ACCUSING ANYBODY OF  
ANYTHING AND IT IS APPARENTLY CLEAR TO A LOT OF PEOPLE. IT IS  
CONFUSING WHEN HE STARTS TALKING TO PETE AND PETE FEELS VERY GOOD  
ABOUT WHAT HE HAS BEEN SAYING. HOWEVER, HIMSELF AND THE OTHER  
COMMISSIONERS ARE THE ONES GETTING BLAMED FOR NOT PAYING THE

RECREATION, NOT PAYING THE CITY OF CHIPLEY AND NOT HELPING SUNNY HILLS. HE SAID HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO; IF THE COUNTY HAS GOT THE MONEY, THEY OUGHT TO FUND THEM. IF THEY DON'T, THEY JUST DON'T HAVE IT.

JIM SAID THE MONEY THE COUNTY GOT IN LAST YEAR, AND REFERRED TO THEM TAKING IN \$2.4 MILLION MORE THAN THEY EVER HAD BEFORE IN AD VALOREM TAXES, MAYBE THIS ALLOWED THEM TO SPEND THIS MONEY THIS YEAR UPFRONT. BUT, THEY SPENT THAT MONEY AND IT IS GOING TO COME BACK TO THEM; IT IS GOING TO BE SET ASIDE IN SOME ACCOUNT WHERE THEY CAN BORROW IT AGAIN OR WHATEVER THEY NEED TO DO TO UPFRONT SOME MORE MONEY.

JIM ASKED PETE IF HE WAS CORRECT IN SAYING THAT ON THE SPREAD-SHEETS THE COUNTY PAID UP TO THIS AMOUNT AS OF AUGUST 14TH. PETE SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THE \$2 MILLION FIGURE CAME FROM. JIM NAMED OFF THE GRANT FUNDING TO BE REIMBURSED:

1. OTTED	\$750,000
2. HUNTER PARK	150,000
3. ROULHAC SHUTTERS	71,195
4. HOMELAND SECURITY	31,720
5. QUAIL HOLLOW	296,378
6. SCRAP-HWY 276	99,040
7. SCRAP-HWY 278	152,578
8. SCOP-HWY 279	22,674
9. GAP POND	26,103

- 10. WILDER PARK \$ 70,094
- 11. CHAIN LAKES/ALLISON DR. \$116,218

JIM STATED THIS TOTALLED \$1,786,000. ON THE \$1.2 MILLION HOSPITAL GRANT, FROM WHAT HE COULD TELL, AS OF AUGUST 14TH, THE COUNTY HAD SPENT \$254,479. THAT ADDS UP TO \$2,040,479 AS OF AUGUST 14TH. HE SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN PAID SINCE AUGUST 14TH.

PETE STATED HE WASN'T SURE SOME OF THAT HADN'T BEEN REIMBURSED. JIM SAID HE DIDN'T THINK ANY OF THAT HAD BEEN REIMBURSED.

COMMISSIONER SAPP QUESTIONED WOULDN'T ALLISON DRIVE PAID FROM COMMISSIONER CORBIN'S FUTURE ROAD PAVING MONIES.

COMMISSIONER FINCH SAID CORBIN HAD GOTTEN A GRANT AND USED SOME OF HIS FUTURE ROAD PAVING MONIES ON THE PROJECT.

COMMISSIONER FINCH QUESTIONED PETE IF ALL OF THOSE THINGS JIM MENTIONED HAD NOT BEEN REIMBURSED TO THE COUNTY. PETE STATED HE KNEW A LOT OF IT HASN'T; BUT, HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT ALL OF IT HASN'T BEEN REIMBURSED.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ASKED IF THE REIMBURSEMENT WAS ALREADY FIGURED IN THE BUDGET AND IS IT GONE. PETE SAID SOME OF IT IS IN CASH CARRY FORWARD AND SOME OF IT IS GOING TO BE IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET.

JIM SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THE \$600,000 IS OBLIGATED FOR CASH CARRY FORWARD; BUT, THE REST OF IT CAME OUT OF THIS YEAR'S BUDGET AND WHEN IT COMES BACK, IT HAS GOT TO GO BACK SOMEWHERE BECAUSE THEY ARE FIXING TO CLOSE THE YEAR OUT.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THAT MONIES IS NOT A SURPLUS LIKE JIM HAS BEEN QUOTING. JIM ASKED WHAT WAS IT THEN.

PATE SAID A SURPLUS IS WHAT IS LEFT OVER WHEN YOU GET THROUGH SPENDING AND THE COUNTY DOESN'T HAVE THAT CASH.

JIM SAID IT WAS ALL LISTED ON THE SPREADSHEET HE HAD. PATE RESPONDED HE HAD BEEN LOOKING AT THESE FIGURES TOO AND HAS BEEN WORKING FOR A LONG TIME. IT HAS BEEN REAL HARD AND INSULTING TO HIM AND THE PEOPLE WHO WORK ON THE STAFF TO HEAR JIM STAND UP THERE AND SAY THEY HAVE A BUNCH OF MONEY; BUT, THEY DON'T HAVE IT ALL IN HAND. HE SAID HE WAS BEING PLAIN AND HONEST WITH THE FOLKS OUT THERE AND WITH JIM TOO.

JIM SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE TO DO BUT TO LOOK AT THE PAYOUT SHEETS WHICH IS A PRINTOUT AND SEE WHAT HAS BEEN SPENT UPFRONT ON THESE GRANTS. HE REITERATED NONE OF THIS HAS BEEN REIMBURSED TO THE COUNTY; THIS TOTALS \$2,040,479. HE SAID HE KNEW THEY HAD ALREADY SPENT THIS MONEY BECAUSE IT IS ON THEIR PAYOUT SHEETS. HE REITERATED IF THEY HAD \$600,000 CASH CARRY FORWARD BUILT INTO THEIR 2007-2008 BUDGET, THAT STILL LEAVES \$1.4 MILLION. HE REQUESTED IF THE COUNTY DOES HAVE MONIES LEFT, TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT EVERYBODY'S BUDGETS AND THEY WOULD APPRECIATE IT.

KATHY FOSTER SAID SHE HAS BEEN TOLD THERE IS MONEY AVAILABLE AND IT IS BEING EARMARKED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR AN EMS BUILDING IN THE SOUTH END OF THE COUNTY. SHE ASKED IF THERE IS ANY TRUTH TO THAT.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THAT MONEY CAME OUT OF THE LAND SALES



OVER A YEAR AGO.

FOSTER QUESTIONED HOW MUCH HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR THE NEW EMS. PETE SAID ORIGINALLY THERE WAS \$650,000 SET ASIDE AND \$150,000 WAS USED FOR A PARCEL OF LAND THEY BOUGHT. HE NOTED THERE WAS STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT MONIES INVOLVED WITH THE NEW EMS. SHE QUESTIONED IF THERE WOULD BE NO OTHER COUNTY MONIES GOING INTO THAT FACILITY. PETE ADVISED THEY WERE JUST CARRYING FORWARD THE REMAINING MONEY FROM THE ORIGINAL \$650,000 IN LAND SALES.

TONY PETERSON ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING HE WAS NOT ON THE CITY'S SIDE OR THE COUNTY'S SIDE; HE IS ON THE SIDE OF THE KIDS.

HE SAID HE KNOWS BUDGETS, KNOWS TIMES ARE HARD AND AS ELECTED OFFICIALS WHAT THE BOARD DOES WITH THEIR MONEY, THEY HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT. HE ADDRESSED THERE BEING 800 KIDS COMING THROUGH THE CHIPLEY'S RECREATION DEPARTMENT; THAT IS 800 KIDS DOING SOMETHING BESIDES SITTING BEHIND A TV. IF 80% OF THE KIDS ARE COUNTY KIDS, IT SEEMS TO HIM AS A COUNTY RESIDENT TO SAY WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO OUR KIDS. IF THE BOARD HAS MONIES THERE THAT CAN BE MOVED, HE THINKS THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY WOULD BE BEHIND IT IF THEY HAD OPTIONS; THE KIDS NEED SOMETHING. HE STATED FOR THE CITY TO GO FROM FUNDING TO "0", IT IS HARD FOR HIM TO BELIEVE THERE IS NOT FAT TO BE CUT ON THE CITY SIDE AND THE COUNTY SIDE. IN JUST LISTENING TO MR. MORRIS AND MR. PATE TALKING, IT SEEMS LIKE THERE IS A LOSS WHEN CERTAIN PEOPLE GET CONFRONTED WITH OTHER CERTAIN PEOPLE; THERE IS ALREADY A DEFENSE MECHANISM THERE. HE STATED HE DIDN'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY; BUT, HE WAS BEFORE THE BOARD AS A CONCERNED CITIZEN TO SAY THE KIDS DESERVE SOMETHING. HE WANTS TO DO WHAT HE CAN.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE HAS CARED ABOUT THOSE KIDS FROM THE

DAY THE PARK WAS BUILT. ONE THING THAT HURTS HIM BAD IS PEOPLE OUT THERE GIVING HIM A BAD NAME ABOUT IT AND HE HAS BEEN TORPEDOED ALL OVER THIS COUNTY ABOUT IT. IT IS HARD FOR SOMEBODY LIKE HIM WHO STARTED OUT AT THE PARK.

TONY SAID HE UNDERSTANDS AND DOESN'T BELIEVE IN ALL THIS MUD SLINGING. JUST AS SOON AS WE START STEPPING ON EACH OTHERS TOES, WE ARE NOT LISTENING ANYMORE. HE REITERATED THERE HAS GOT TO BE A WAY. HE SAID THE PARENTS AND COACHES ARE TALKING TO THE CITY ABOUT THEM TAKING THE CONCESSION STANDS BACK OVER; THAT WAY, ALL THE MONIES THEY MAKE GOES RIGHT BACK INTO PALS PARK. HE SAID THEY ARE NOT JUST COMING TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SAYING IT IS THEIR PROBLEM; IT IS THEIR PROBLEM TOO AND THEY WANT TO HELP TO TRY AND SOLVE IT. THEY ARE TRYING TO TALK WITH THE CITY TO SEE HOW THEY COULD MAKE THIS PARK RUN.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND STATED HIS FIRST YEAR ON THE BOARD, THEY GAVE THE CITY OF CHIPLEY MONEY; LAST YEAR THE BOARD GAVE CHIPLEY'S LAW ENFORCEMENT \$200,000 AND THE CITY OF CHIPLEY \$100,000 FOR RECREATION. LAST YEAR, THE BOARD SAID THEY HAD THE MONEY THIS YEAR; BUT, NEXT YEAR THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE IT. HE KNOWS WHERE TONY IS COMING FROM AS IT GIVES THE KIDS SOMETHING TO DO; BUT, THIS YEAR, THE BOARD JUST DON'T HAVE IT.

STRICKLAND SAID EVERYBODY IS BLAMING IT OFF ON THE COMMISSIONERS. HE STATED WHEN HE FIRST GOT ELECTED, THE MILLAGE RATE WAS AT TEN MILLS; THEY DROPPED IT DOWN TO 8.5 MILLS. HE REITERATED TALLAHASSEE IS MAKING THEM DROP IT DOWN TO 7.66 MILLS. IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THEY NEED TO BE GOING TO THE SCHOOL SYSTEM ASKING FOR MONEY. THEIR MILLAGE RATE WENT UP WHEN THE COUNTY'S MILLAGE RATE IS COMING DOWN.

HE SAID THE SCHOOL SYSTEM SHOULD BE HELPING WITH RECREATION ALSO.

TONY SAID THERE IS A SOLUTION OUT THERE; IT IS JUST HOW BAD DO THEY WANT TO FIGHT FOR IT. STRICKLAND EXPLAINED IT WAS NOT THAT HE DIDN'T WANT TO HELP THE KIDS; HE DOES WANT TO HELP THEM AS THEY HAVE HELPED THEM THE LAST TWO YEARS. HE REITERATED THIS YEAR, THEY JUST DON'T HAVE THE MONEY. HE POINTED OUT THE COUNTY WORKERS ARE NOT GETTING A RAISE THIS YEAR BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE THE MONEY.

TONY SAID HIS WIFE WHO WORKS WITH THE COUNTY IS NOT PRESENT BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T FEEL IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY CORRECT. HE UNDERSTANDS TIMES ARE TOUGH AND HE IS NOT SAYING GIVE THEM \$2 MILLION DOLLARS; HE IS JUST SAYING FOR EVERYBODY TO WORK TOGETHER SOMEWAY AND FIND A SOLUTION. IF THEY WORK TO FIND A SOLUTION, THEY NEED TO WORK TO FIND A PERMANENT SOLUTION WHETHER THEY PUT IT ON A REFERENDUM ASKING THE PEOPLE IF THEY WANT A HALF CENT SALES TAX TO GO TOWARD RECREATION, ETC. HE SAID THEY CAN'T GO THROUGH THIS EVERY YEAR. NEXT YEAR THE BOARD MAY GIVE \$300,000 BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE MONEY; BUT, THEY NEED SOMETHING STABLE FOR THE KIDS AND SOMETHING COMING IN. AS RESIDENTS, COACHES AND PARENTS, THEY NEED TO HELP FIND IT TOO.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE COUNTY GET TOGETHER AND BUILD A GOOD RECREATION PARK SOMEWHERE IN THE COUNTY WHERE EVERYBODY CAN PLAY.

TONY SAID THAT WAS GOOD; BUT, THEY HAVE A GOOD PARK WHICH JUST HAPPENS TO BE IN THE CITY. PALS PARK IS A GOOD PARK. EVEN IF IT IS GRANTS, AND REFERENCED SOMEONE CAN GIVE HIM A CORVETTE OR A HUMMER, BUT, IF HE CAN'T AFFORD TO DRIVE IT, WHY SHOULD HE OWN IT. HE

REITERATED PALS PARK WAS A GOOD PARK. HE WANTED EVERYONE TO JUST TRY AND FIND A SOLUTION AS HE COULDN'T JUST STAND BY AND LET IT GO WITHOUT GIVING IT HIS BEST SHOT.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WHERE TONY WAS COMING FROM. HE EXPLAINED NOVEMBER 21ST WILL BE ONE YEAR THAT HE HAS BEEN IN OFFICE AND THIS HAS BEEN HIS FIRST BUDGET HE HAS HAD TO GO THROUGH. HE WAS ALL FOR THE CHILDREN, THE YOUNG PEOPLE AND SAID HE HAD GRANDCHILDREN COMING UP AND THEY MAY CHOOSE TO PLAY BALL TOO.

HOLMAN SAID THE ACCUSATIONS, THE COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE NEWSPAPER AND BEEN MADE THROUGHOUT THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS HAVE BEEN VERY UNPROFESSIONAL, IMMATURE AND UNCALLED FOR. IF YOU WANT TO WORK WITH HIM, HOLMAN SAID HE WOULD DO HIS VERY BEST TO HELP EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY. BUT, DON'T CALL HIM ON THE PHONE AND THREATEN HIM OR MAKE ACCUSATIONS AS TO A THREAT AS HE DOESN'T AGREE WITH THAT. HE SAID HE HAD NOT ONE TIME CRITICIZED THE CITY OR ANY OFFICIAL WITH THE CITY OR ANYBODY ELSE; HE HAS NOT POINTED A FINGER OR ANYTHING. HE SAID HE DOES WANT TO HELP THE KIDS; A 1000 KIDS AT \$25 EACH IS \$25,000 AND IF THERE IS A 1000 KIDS THAT WANT TO COME AND PLAY BALL AT THE CITY PARK, HE HAS NO PROBLEM WITH THAT. HE SAID IF THEY CAN COME UP WITH \$25,000 TO PAY THEIR \$25 FEE HE HAS NO PROBLEM WITH THAT. HE CAN'T HELP WHAT AGREEMENTS THE PREVIOUS BOARD MADE. SHOULD THE PRESENT BOARD ABIDE BY THEM AND HONOR THEM; THAT COULD BE QUESTIONABLE. DID THE PREVIOUS BOARD FORESEE WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN THIS YEAR WITHIN THE BUDGET? HE DIDN'T THINK SO OR THEY WOULDN'T HAVE MADE THE AGREEMENTS THEY MADE LAST YEAR; BUT, THE PRESENT BOARD IS HAVING TO DEAL WITH THEM. HE STATED BEFORE HE WOULD LET ANY OF THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES GO AND NOT

GIVE THEM A RAISE, HE IS NOT GOING TO FUND THE CITY WITH ANY OTHER MONEY OUTSIDE THE RECREATION. OUR COUNTY EMPLOYEES WILL GET A RAISE BEFORE THE BOARD HELPS FUND ANYBODY ELSE. HE IS ONLY GOING ON WHAT THE BUDGET COMMITTEE HAS TOLD HIM AND IT IS INFORMATION THEY HAVE GIVEN HIM; THEY HAVE DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB. HE CAN ONLY GO BY WHAT PETE TELLS HIM AND IF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE SAYS THEY HAVE \$25,000 OR \$50,000 THEY CAN HELP THE RECREATION WITH, HE IS ALL FOR IT FOR THE KIDS. AS LONG AS THAT MONEY GOES TOWARD THE RECREATION FOR THE KIDS, HE HAS NO PROBLEM WITH IT. AS FAR AS GIVING THE CITY ANY OTHER MONEY, THE COUNTY DOESN'T HAVE IT. HE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THEY COULD WORK TOGETHER. POINTING THE FINGER AND CRITICIZING THIS BOARD, THEY ARE WRONG WHEN THEY DO IT.

COMMISSIONER FINCH COMMENTED, THEY ARE NOT TALKING JUST ABOUT THE CITY OF CHIPLEY. THEY HAVE OTHER CITIES ASKING THE SAME THING; THE CITY OF CHIPLEY JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE BIGGEST. THEY CAN'T JUST FUND \$25,000 FOR THE CITY OF CHIPLEY AND FORGET ABOUT THE REST OF THE COUNTY AS THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER KIDS PLAYING ON THE SOUTH END OF THE COUNTY.

FINCH SAID HE THOUGHT THE BIGGEST PROBLEM, AND IT IS NO REFLECTION ON ANYBODY, SOMEONE COULD CALL HIM UP RIGHT NOW AND HE COULDN'T EXPLAIN THE BUDGET. HE DOESN'T HAVE THE EXPERTISE TO TELL THEM. HE FEELS JIM MADE SOME GOOD POINTS. HE REITERATED HE HATES TO GET BLAMED FOR SOMETHING HE REALLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER. IF THEY WILL SHOW HIM THE MONEY, HE WILL HELP THEM GET IT. HE TALKED WITH SOME OTHERS EARLIER AND MAYBE THEY NEED TO HAVE SOMEONE FOR HIM TO HAND THE SPREADSHEET TO AND THEY SHOW HIM WHERE THE MONEY IS AT. HE WANTS TO BE ASSURED HIMSELF, THERE IS NO MONEY. ALL HE CAN DO IS DO WHAT THEY HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, AND HE HAS BEEN HERE GOING

ON HIS SECOND TERM; HE HAS NEVER QUESTIONED THE BUDGET COMMITTEE. THE BUDGET COMMITTEE TOLD THEM WHAT WAS THERE AND THAT WAS WHAT THEY BUDGETED WITH AND WHAT THEY USED. BUT, NOW THE BOARD IS SORRY, ROTTEN DOGS BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT PAYING THE CITY THE MONEY. HE SAID HE WOULD HELP THEM GET THE MONEY IF THEY WILL SHOW HIM IT IS THERE; HE WILL DO EVERYTHING HE CAN TO SHARE IT WITH THEM. HE CERTAINLY WANTS TO HELP THE KIDS; THERE IS NOBODY ON THIS BOARD THAT WANTS TO AUTOMATICALLY NOT LET THE KIDS HAVE THE RECREATION. HE REITERATED IF THEY COULD SHOW HIM THE MONEY, HE WOULD HELP THEM GET IT AND WOULD VOTE FOR THEM. HE TOLD PETE TODAY MAYBE THEY NEED TO MAKE SOME KIND OF PRESENTATION SO PEOPLE CAN TOTALLY UNDERSTAND IT AS HE DOESN'T THINK THEY GET THE WORD OUT THERE WHERE PEOPLE KNOW THE BOARD IS NOT HOLDING BACK FROM THEM. HE STATED HE WAS NOT HOLDING BACK.

COMMISSIONER SAPP SAID MAYBE THE PROCEDURE THEY ARE GOING THROUGH WITH ON THE DIFFERENT GRANTS, IF THERE ARE MONIES LEFT IN THERE, EVENTUALLY IT WOULD COME TO THEM ANYWAY. IT IS NOT REOCCURRING MONIES; WHAT IF IT IS \$600,000 OVER OR \$1.2 MILLION OVER IF ALL THE GRANTS WERE PAID IN FULL AND THE COUNTY HAD THAT MONEY IN THE BANK TO WRITE A CHECK OUT FOR THE DIFFERENT CITIES TO SUPPORT THE KIDS. HE POINTED OUT NEXT YEAR, THAT MONEY STILL WOULDN'T BE THERE. A DIFFERENT PROCEDURE ON HOW TO HANDLE PAYOUT OF THE GRANTS WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT. IT IS ACTUALLY A CASH DEFICIT FOR THIS YEAR; IF THE GRANTS WOULD HAVE BEEN HANDLED DIFFERENTLY AND REIMBURSEMENTS WERE MADE QUARTERLY INSTEAD OF AT THE END OF THE GRANT PROCEDURE, THEY WOULD HAVE EXTRA CASH IN THE BUDGET. IT IS WHAT IT IS TODAY AND UNTIL THEY CAN GET A DIFFERENT PROCEDURE FROM THIS CONTINUATION OF GRANTS, UNLESS

THEY CHANGE NOW AND HAVE THEIR GRANTS HANDLED DIFFERENTLY AS FAR AS THE PAY IN, THEY DON'T PAY OUT UNTIL THEY GET THE REIMBURSEMENT IN, IT WILL REMAIN THAT SITUATION YEAR AFTER YEAR. THEY WOULD STILL BE OUT \$2 MILLION IF THEY STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN IT IN.

COMMISSIONER FINCH SAID THE BOARD HAS RECOGNIZED AND TAKEN ON THE FIREMEN AND EMS AND PROPOSED A HALF MILL. THEY MAY HAVE TO LOOK AT THAT SORT OF STRATEGY FOR THE YEAR, A SALES TAX OR MILLAGE, ETC., THAT WILL BE SET ASIDE TO GO TOWARD THE RECREATION FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY IF IT IS THAT IMPORTANT TO THEM. HE POINTED OUT IT CERTAINLY OUGHT TO BE. HOWEVER, THEY NEED MORE PEOPLE THAN WHAT IS THERE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT IT; THEY NEED A ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE. HE KNOWS THE CITY IS CONCERNED ABOUT IT AND THEY SHOULD BE; BUT, THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN WAUSAU, VERNON, EBRO, ETC., THAT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IT. THEY NEED TO BE HERE EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS. HE REITERATED THE BOARD WAS GOING TO HAVE TO SET ASIDE SOME FUNDING SOURCE OTHER THAN JUST LOOKING AT THE BUDGET AND WHATEVER IS OVER, JUST THROWING IT IN THERE. HE AGREED WITH CHAIRMAN SAPP THEY CAN'T JUST FIGURE IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN EVERY YEAR BECAUSE MONEY MAY NOT BE THERE, JUST LIKE IT WOULDN'T THERE THIS YEAR APPARENTLY.

CHAIRMAN SAPP SAID IF THEY COULD HAVE A WORKSHOP ON HOW TO SCHEDULE TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF THE GRANT PROCEDURES TO WHERE THEY COULD GET MONIES IN AND AS THEY COME IN, PAY OUT INSTEAD OF HAVING TO FUND IT OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND WOULD HELP THE PROBLEM THEY ARE GOING THROUGH TODAY. THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH IT IS TO HAVE A BUDGET WORKSHOP OR A GRANT WORKSHOP AND SEE IF THEY CAN GET A DIFFERENT PROCEDURE SET UP ON HOW TO HANDLE THAT MASSIVE AMOUNT OF GRANT COST. AT ANY POINT DURING THE YEAR, IF THEY CAN FIGURE OUT

A WAY TO GET THOSE GRANTS CLOSED OUT AND THE GRANT MONIES BACK IN, FOR THIS YEAR AND THEN SET UP A SCHEDULE FOR THE FOLLOWING YEARS TO DO ONLY SO MANY GRANTS AND REGULATE THEIR OUTGO ON GRANTS TO A QUARTERLY BASIS TO WHERE THEY ARE NOT OVER EXTENDING THEMSELVES. HE SAID THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT IS TO RESEARCH IT AND HAVE A WORKSHOP ON IT TO SEE WHAT THEY CAN DO AND HOW THEY CAN STRUCTURE THIS YEAR ON HOW THEY CAN CLOSE THE GRANTS OUT EARLIER AND GET THEIR MONIES BACK IN AND MAYBE RELEASE SOME OF IT IF IT IS NON-OBLIGATED TO HELP THE PARKS AND KIDS. AT THIS POINT, THAT IS ALL THEY CAN DO IS TO SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP AND TRY TO HANDLE THIS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF NEXT YEAR TO SEE IF THEY CAN DO ANYTHING.

COMMISSIONER PATE UPDATED THE BOARD ON SEVERAL TIMES IN THEIR BUDGET PROCESS WHEN THEY COME ALONG ON PROBLEMS, THEY MADE NOTES ON THINGS THEY NEEDED TO CORRECT. THEY ADDRESSED THE GRANTS AND THE IRREGULARITY OF HOW THE MONIES ARE COMING IN AND HOW THEY WERE GOING TO HANDLE IT. HE SAID THAT IS ALREADY IN THE WORKS; HOWEVER, THEY CAN'T DO THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF A BUDGET PROCESS BECAUSE THE DAMAGE IS ALREADY DONE.

HE WANTED EVERYBODY TO UNDERSTAND HE IS NOT ANTI-KIDS AND HE RESENTS SOME OF THE COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE. HE HAS DEALT WITH KIDS ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY AND WORKED WITH THEM. IT JUST TEARS HIM UP FOR SOMEBODY TO RUN HIM IN THE GROUND LIKE THEY HAVE.

HE SAID HE HAD TOLD JIM MORRIS IF THERE WAS ANY MONEY OUT THERE IN THE FUTURE, THE BOARD WOULD TRY TO HELP THEM OUT; HOWEVER, IT IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE THERE. HE REITERATED THE BUDGET COMMITTEE HAS WORKED REAL, REAL HARD ON THE BUDGET AND COMMENDED THE BUDGET STAFF FOR THE WORK THEY HAVE DONE.



RAY GUSTASON ASKED COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND WHY HE WANTED TO BUILD A BALL PARK; THAT IS THE DUMBEST THING HE HAS EVER HEARD OF IN HIS LIFE.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID THE COUNTY NEEDS A BIG BALLFIELD. RAY GUSTASON ASKED WHY AS THERE WAS ONE ALREADY RIGHT UP THE STREET; IF THE COUNTY CAN'T FUND THAT ONE, HOW ARE THEY GOING TO FUND ONE THAT IS BRAND NEW. HE SAID THAT WAS JUST STUPID.

CHAIRMAN SAPP SAID BOARD ACTION WAS NEEDED TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 7.66 MILLS AS THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008. COMMISSIONER HOLMAN OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PATE TO ADOPT THE 7.66 MILLS AS THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSIONER PATE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET TOTALLING \$37,283,251 AS THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH COMMISSIONER FINCH OPPOSING DUE TO HIM NOT UNDERSTANDING THE BUDGET AND HE DOESN'T FEEL COMFORTABLE IN WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PATE 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 20, 2007 EDITION AND TO HOLD THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 AT 5:30 P.M.

CHAIRMAN SAPP STATED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 WAS NOW CONCLUDED. HE THANKED THOSE ATTENDING THE PUBLIC HEARING TODAY FOR EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERNS. HOPEFULLY, THEY CAN DO SOMETHING ON THE RECREATION LATER ON DOWN THE ROAD.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT REPORTED ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

1. AUTHORIZATION WAS NEEDED FOR THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE LETTER FROM PGIT ON THEIR PROPERTY, INLAND MARINE, CRIME, EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY, AUTOMOBILE, LIABILITY AND PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO BIND THE COVERAGES. PROPERTY INSURANCE IS \$178,430, CRIME AND EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY IS \$1,000 AND AUTO-MOBILE LIABILITY AND PHYSICAL DAMAGE IS \$65,781. HE STATED THE MONEY WAS BUDGETED.

COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOLMAN AND CARRIED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE LETTER BINDING THESE INSURANCE COVERAGES WITH PGIT.

2. ESTIMATED PREMIUM FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION COVERAGE WITH PGIT IS \$228,010; AUTHORIZATION IS NEEDED FOR CHAIRMAN TO SIGN FOR COVERAGE.

COMMISSIONER SAPP QUESTIONED WHAT THE PREMIUM FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION WAS LAST YEAR. PETE STATED HE DIDN'T HAVE THE EXACT FIGURE; BUT, THE ESTIMATED PREMIUM FOR THIS YEAR IS DOWN FROM LAST YEAR. HE STATED PGIT DOES AN AUDIT AT THE END OF THE YEAR; MOST YEARS THE COUNTY ENDS UP PAYING MORE. PETE STATED THE MONIES WERE BUDGETED FOR WORKERS COMP COVERAGE.

COMMISSIONER PATE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOLMAN AND CARRIED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN LETTER BINDING WORKERS COMPENSATION COVERAGE WITH PGIT.

3. FL-DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES; STATE AID TO LIBRARY GRANT AGREEMENT- PETE SAID THIS IS A STANDARD AGREEMENT THE COUNTY DOES EVERY YEAR TO RECEIVE STATE AID FOR THE LIBRARY.

CHAIRMAN SAPP ADJOURNED THE MEETING.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

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DEPUTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN