

SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

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 PATE, HOWELL, STRICKLAND, BROCK AND HOLMAN PRESENT. COUNTY MANAGER EMORY PITTS, CLERK LINDA COOK AND DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER WITH COMMISSIONER HOWELL OFFERING PRAYER AND COMMISSIONER PATE LEADING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN 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, 2011. THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS ADVERTISED VIA THE TRIM NOTICES SENT TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND ALSO ADVERTISED IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2010.

THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 TOTALS \$37,356,140. THE TENTATIVE BUDGET IS \$4,279,999 MORE THAN THE 2009-2010 BUDGET. THE MSBU PROPOSED BUDGET IS INCLUDED IN THE TENTATIVE BUDGET AND TOTALS \$676,094.

THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE IS SET FOR 9.0913 MILS WHICH IS THE ROLL BACK RATE; THE ROLL BACK RATE GENERATES THE SAME AMOUNT OF REVENUE AS THE 2009-2010 MILLAGE RATE OF 8.6185 DUE TO ASSESSMENTS DECREASING.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYONE IN THE AUDIENCE WHO WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD WITH ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 9.0913 MILS. NO ONE RESPONDED.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED IF ANYONE ON THE BOARD HAD ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 9.0913 MILS.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL AND PATE VOICED THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE MILLAGE RATE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL VOICED HIS OPINION THERE WERE STILL WAYS

THEY COULD CUT THE BUDGET AND ADDRESSED THERE BEING A CONTINGENCY OF \$200,000 PLUS AND THEY STILL RAISED THE MILLAGE RATE ALMOST A HALF MIL.

COMMISSIONER BROCK REFERRED TO HIM HAVING ASKED THE BOARD NOT TO WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO CHANGE THE MILLAGE RATE. THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING TO TRY AND GET THE BUDGET BALANCED; THEY HAVE IT BALANCED AND NOW SOME COMMISSIONERS ARE SAYING THEY DON'T APPROVE OF IT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID HE THOUGHT HE AND COMMISSIONER PATE HAD OPPOSED THE MILLAGE RATE WHEN IT WAS VOTED ON. COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE VOTED AGAINST THE MILLAGE RATE FROM THE START.

DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW UPDATED THE BOARD ON THE 9.0913 MILLAGE RATE BEING APPROVED ON A 4-1 VOTE WITH COMMISSIONER HOWELL VOTING IN FAVOR OF THE MILLAGE RATE BECAUSE THEY HAD TO APPROVE OF A MILLAGE RATE TO BE PUT ON THE TRIM NOTICES. THEY SAID AT THAT TIME, THEY COULD APPROVE THE 9.0913 MILLAGE RATE TO BE PUT ON THE TRIM NOTICES; BUT, THEY COULD LOWER IT LATER IF THEY DECIDED TO.

CHARLES WARD, SUNNY HILLS, UPDATED THE BOARD ON HIM HAVING WENT TO THE PROPERTY APPRAISER'S OFFICE BECAUSE HIS TAXES WERE ABOUT THE SAME ON HIS PROPERTY IN SUNNY HILLS. MR. WARD SAID HE KNOWS THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY HAS DECREASED IN SUNNY HILLS SINCE LAST YEAR AND ARE STEADILY GOING DOWN IN VALUE. THE PROPERTY APPRAISER TOLD HIM THE REASON THE TAXES WERE ABOUT THE SAME WERE DUE TO THE MILLAGE RATE HAVING GONE UP.

MR. WARD ADDRESSED HIM NOT MINDING PAYING FOR A PUBLIC SERVICE; THEY NEED THE FIREMEN, POLICEMEN, ETC. THEY HAVE A LOT OF PUBLIC SERVANTS IN CHIPLEY THAT MAY BE MORE THAN WHAT THEY NEED. THEY HAVE SECRETARIES AND SECRETARIES THAT HAVE SECRETARIES AT THE COUNTY ANNEX AND AT THE COURTHOUSE AND MAYBE THIS COULD BE CUT DOWN. HE DIDN'T THINK HIS TAXES SHOULD BE AS MUCH, OR A LITTLE MORE, THAN THEY WERE LAST YEAR BECAUSE HIS MILLAGE RATE HAS GONE UP. HE POINTED OUT MOST OF THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN SUNNY HILLS DON'T HAVE SCHOOL CHILDREN; BUT, THEY DON'T MIND PAYING FOR GOOD SCHOOLS.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID HE AGREED WITH MR. WARD; THE COUNTY COMMISSION CAN CUT THEIR MILLAGE RATE AND THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WILL RAISE THEIR TAXES. IT IS KIND OF LIKE THAT EVERY YEAR; THE COUNTY CUTS THEIR TAXES AND THE SCHOOL SYSTEM RAISES THEIRS. HE THOUGHT THE SCHOOL SYSTEM HAD AN INCREASE IN THEIR TAXES THIS YEAR.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND ASKED COMMISSIONER HOWELL AND COMMISSIONER PATE TO GIVE THE BOARD SOME IDEAS ON HOW THEY WOULD LIKE TO CUT THE BUDGET TO LOWER THE MILLAGE RATE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID HE WOULD LIKE THE MILLAGE RATE ROLLED BACK; TAKE THE \$200,000 CONTINGENCY AND PUT IT IN THE BUDGET AND SEE WHERE THAT GETS THEM TO. THE MILLAGE RATE WON'T BE 9.0913 FOR SURE.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE HAD MADE HIS RECOMMENDED CUTS PRETTY PLAIN WHEN THEY HAD \$90,000 WORTH OF CUTS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE NOT TO BE IN THE BUDGET AND THE BOARD PUT IT BACK IN BY A 3-2 VOTE.

DORAIN SAWER ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING SHE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE COUNTY'S MILLAGE RATE AND DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE A COUNTY RUN; SO, ON A LOT OF THAT SHE IS IGNORANT. HOWEVER, WHAT SHE CAN TELL THE BOARD IS THE SAME TEN ACRES SHE LIVED ON BEFOREHAND WITH A DOUBLEWIDE TRAILER NOW HAS A HOUSE BUILT ON IT. SHE FEELS LIKE SHE IS GOING TO BE PENALIZED FOR TRYING TO WORK HARD, PAY HER PART, HAVE SOMETHING INSTEAD OF DRAWING OFF THE SYSTEM; BUT, WHEN SHE GOES FROM A DOUBLEWIDE TRAILER AND \$50 OR LESS FOR HER TAXES AND GOES TO A HOME BECAUSE SHE TRIES TO BETTER HERSELF, SHE DOESN'T THINK SHE SHOULD PAY \$2,678.21 IN TAXES. SHE ADDRESSED HER BEING A LITTLE UPSET. SHE REFERRED TO BOTH SHE AND HER HUSBAND WORKING AND HE MADE ENOUGH MONEY TO WHERE THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD MAKE THEIR HOME PAYMENT. SO, IF YOU BETTER YOURSELF, HAVE A HOME PAYMENT, TRY TO PAY YOUR BILLS, TRY TO HAVE HOME INSURANCE AND PAY EVERYTHING YOU CAN IN, IT IS HARD ENOUGH. FOR SENIOR CITIZENS WHO DON'T HAVE ANY EXTRA TO GIVE, WHO

CAN'T TRY TO SELL A FEW MORE ITEMS THEY HAVE OR PUT A FEW MORE HOURS IN BECAUSE THEY JUST DON'T HAVE IT, WHAT ARE THEY SUPPOSE TO DO. SHE REITERATED SHE WAS IGNORANT TO HOW THE COUNTY IS RUN; BUT, SHE IS NOT IGNORANT TO HOW MUCH THE TAXES HAVE INCREASED AND HOW MUCH IT HAS COST HER. SHE CAN TRY TO MAKE MORE MONEY BY SENDING HER HUSBAND OFF TO WORK AN EXTRA WEEK OUT OF THE YEAR INSTEAD OF THINKING ABOUT A VACATION TO MAKE THE TAX PAYMENT. SHE STATED SHE THOUGHT IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE JUMP FROM \$50 OR LESS TO \$2,600. FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE IGNORANT ON WHAT IT TAKES TO RUN THE COUNTY, THEY KNOW THE DOLLAR AMOUNT ON THEIR PART. SHE ASKED THE BOARD TO EXPLAIN THIS AND SAID SHE FULLY AGREES ON CUTTING BACK.

MS. SAWYER THEN ADDRESSED THE SEPTIC TANK LAW THAT HAS BEEN PASSED. JACKSON, HOLMES, WALTON COUNTIES GOT PETITIONS AND ARE FIGHTING IT. SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T KNOW IF SHE COULD AFFORD TO PAY FOR THE SEPTIC TANK REQUIREMENT EVERY FIVE YEARS ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE.

THE BOARD INFORMED MS. SAWYER THEY WERE DOING LIKE OTHER COUNTIES AND SUPPORTING THE OPPOSITION OF THE SEPTIC TANK LAW.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED IF MS. SAWYER WAS GOING FROM A TRAILER TO A HOUSE AND HER APPRAISAL WENT UP BECAUSE SHE BUILT A HOUSE. MS. SAWYER SAID THAT WAS CORRECT AND ADDRESSED DURING THESE ECONOMIC TIMES, PEOPLE ARE HAVING A HARD TIME.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THAT IS WHAT THEY ARE DICUSSING TODAY; THE BOARD RAISED THE TAXES BY A HALF MIL LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR THEY ARE DOING IT AGAIN. A LOT OF THE APPRAISALS HAVE GONE DOWN AND THEIR TAXES HAVE ACTUALLY GONE DOWN OR WOULD HAVE GONE DOWN IF THEY WOULD HAVE STAYED AT THE SAME MILLAGE RATE. BY THE BOARD APPROVING THIS HIGHER MILLAGE RATE, IT MAKES THOSE PEOPLE'S TAXES GO UP EVEN THOUGH THEIR APPRAISAL WENT DOWN.

MS. SAWYER SAID MAYBE HER NUMBERS WERE MISCALCULATED AND THEY MAY NEED TO GO OVER IT BECAUSE IT IS A TWO STORY HOUSE; SHE THOUGHT THE FIRST FLOOR WAS FULL TAX AND THE SECOND FLOOR WAS HALF TAX AND

THE PORCH, UNHEATED AREA WAS A QUARTER TAX. SHE TOOK TAX CONSIDERATION IN MIND WHEN SHE BUILT THE HOME.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND ASKED MS. SAWYER IF SHE HAD TALKED WITH THE PROPERTY APPRAISER ON HOW MUCH THE TAXES WOULD GO UP IN GOING FROM A TRAILER TO A HOUSE.

MS. SAWYER SAID SHE DIDN'T REALIZE, EVERYBODY TOLD HER THEIR TAXES WOULD GO UP FROM \$50 TO \$1200; BUT, NOT \$2,600.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED MS. SAWYER ON THE SIZE OF HER HOUSE. MS. SAWYER SAID IT WAS JUST UNDER 3,000 SQUARE FEET AND SHE WORKED HARD FOR IT.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND PRAISED MS. SAWYER FOR WHAT SHE HAD DONE AND POINTED OUT HE WAS THE SAME WAY; HE WENT FROM A SINGLE WIDE TO A HOUSE.

MS. SAWYER EXPLAINED SHE AND HER HUSBAND COULDN'T AFFORD A CONTRACTOR; THEY HAD TO BUILD THEIR OWN HOUSE SUBBING OUT SOME OF THE WORK. SHE WAS JUST WANTING TO MAKE SURE THE TAX FIGURES WERE RIGHT AND TO MAKE SURE EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS, FOR THE MOST PART THEY ARE NOT EXPERTS AND DON'T UNDERSTAND; BUT, DO REALIZE WHEN IT COMES OUT OF THEIR CHECKBOOKS ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE THAT ARE ON FIXED INCOME OR ARE ELDERLY.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED WHAT KIND OF MILLAGE RATE COMMISSIONER HOWELL WAS LOOKING AT. COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THE LEAST AMOUNT OF INCREASE THEY POSSIBLY CAN ON THE TAXPAYERS OF THIS COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SAID HE SEEN A NATIONWIDE POLL ON THE NEWS AND IT HAD 68% FOR LOWER SERVICES AND LOWER TAXES. IF THE BOARD GOES BACK TO CUTTING THE BUDGET AGAIN TO LOWER THE MILLAGE RATE, TO NOT RAISE TAXES FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, THERE IS GOING TO BE SERVICES THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO CUT AND LOWER TOO. THERE IS GOING TO BE THINGS THEY HAVE NOW THEY ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE. HE DOESN'T MIND DOING THAT IF THAT IS WHAT THE BOARD WANTS TO DO.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND POINTED OUT WASHINGTON COUNTY HASN'T SENT ANYBODY HOME. COMMISSIONER HOLMAN AGREED AND ADDRESSED THERE

BEING A LOT OF OTHER COUNTIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE THAT HAVE SENT HALF THEIR WORKFORCE HOME DUE TO BUDGET CUTS AND BUDGET RESTRAINTS FROM TALLAHASSEE. HE FEELS THIS IS COMING.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID IF THE BOARD KEEPS GOING AT THE RATE THEY ARE GOING, THEY WILL BE AT TEN MILLS BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR OR THE 2012 YEAR.

KAREN SCHOEN, SUNNY HILLS, QUESTIONED IF NOW WOULDN'T BE A GOOD TIME TO START LOOKING AT WAYS TO GENERATE REVENUE INSTEAD OF LOOKING AT WAYS TO CUT REVENUE. IT SEEMS AS THOUGH CUTTING AND CUTTING AND CUTTING, YOU REACH A POINT YOU CAN'T CUT ANYMORE; BUT, THE ONLY WAY THIS COUNTY MAKES MONEY IS BY GRANTS, MILLAGE RATE AND GASOLINE TAXES. IT SEEMS THERE IS OTHER THINGS THEY COULD BE DOING.

COMMISSIONER PATE ASKED MS. SCHOEN IF SHE WERE A COUNTY COMMISSIONER, WOULD SHE VOTE FOR GASOLINE TAXES IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PAVING PLAN AND THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET ONE FOR THREE YEARS. HE SAID HE WOULDN'T. MS. SCHOEN SAID "NO;" BUT, THERE ARE OTHER THINGS THAT ARE BEING DONE IN OTHER COUNTIES THAT ARE IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS; THEY ARE LOOKING AT WAYS TO GENERATE REVENUES.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN AGREED SAYING OTHER COUNTIES HAVE ADDED A HALF CENT SALES TAX OR ONE CENT SALES TAX ON DIFFERENT THINGS AND THEY HAVE LAID PEOPLE OFF.

MS. SCHOEN SAID THEY HAVE ALSO BROUGHT IN BUSINESSES AND MADE CONCESSIONS TO BUSINESSES TO BRING IN THAT WILL GENERATE OTHER INCOME AND OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE. THE COUNTY CAN'T JUST CONTINUE TO RELY ON THE REVENUE THEY HAVE WHEN IT IS DWINDLING.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THE BOARD IS LOOKING AT OPTIONS FOR REVENUE.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN ADDRESSED BUSINESSES ARE NOT KNOCKING DOWN THE DOOR TO COME TO WASHINGTON COUNTY. COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND REFERRED TO THEM HAVING BEEN WORKING ON PROJECT PIPE EVER SINCE HE HAS BEEN ON THE BOARD, FIVE YEARS.

DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW INFORMED THE BOARD IF THEY LOWERED THE

MILLAGE RATE TO 8.9195, THEY WOULD HAVE TO DECREASE THE BUDGET BY \$161,183 AS THIS IS HOW MUCH THEIR AD VALOREM TAXES WOULD DECREASE IF THEY WENT FROM 9.0913 TO 8.9195.

COMMISSIONER PATE ADDRESSED THERE WAS \$90,000 THEY COULD CUT BY FUNDING THE EMS AND FIRE AT HALF A MIL INSTEAD OF FUNDING THEM AT THEIR CURRENT RATE AND BY THE BOARD CUTTING THEIR IN COUNTY TRAVEL TO \$250 PER MONTH. HE SAID HE COULD BE TALKED OUT OF CUTTING THE EMS BECAUSE IT IS NECESSARY.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID THEY DIDN'T NEED TO BE CUTTING THE EMS.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL ADDRESSED EVERY DEPARTMENT NEEDS TO CUT; BUT, THEY HAVEN'T CUT ANYTHING. HE THINKS EVERY DEPARTMENT OUGHT TO BE CUTTING SOMETHING; THIS BOARD HASN'T CUT ANYTHING.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID IT IS A BAD TIME AND IT IS ON THE BOARD ABOUT CUTTING TAXES. HE WENT TO THE PODIUM TO SPEAK.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID ON THE MILLAGE RATE OF 8.9195, IT WILL GENERATE \$8,368,290 WHICH IS \$161,183 LESS THAN THE ROLL BACK RATE. THIS WILL REQUIRE A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IS THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE EVER LET IT GET THIS FAR. COMMISSIONER PATE REITERATED HE HAD THE SAME POSITION HE HAD TO START OFF WITH.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID IF THE BOARD WANTS TO DO SOME CUTTING, THEY CAN DO SOME CUTTING; BUT, THEY HAVE GOT TO DO IT, WE'VE GOT TO DO IT. HE SAID THE NUMBER ONE THING, AND HE LOVES THEM TO DEATH, A COUPLE YEARS BACK THE BOARD DID SOMETHING BECAUSE THE COUNTY WAS GROWING; THEY HIRED A HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT. THEY THOUGHT THE COUNTY WAS GOING TO GROW AND IT IS NOT. COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID IF THE BOARD WANTS TO DO SOME SAVINGS, THEY CAN DO SOME SAVINGS.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO THERE.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND REFERRED TO MR. WARD HAVING SAID THERE IS SECRETARIES AT THE COUNTY ANNEX AND ADDRESSED HIM SPENDING A LOT OF TIME AT THE ANNEX HIMSELF. THE SECRETARIES WALK UP AND DOWN THE

HALL. THE SECRETARIES HAS GOT SECRETARIES. THE COUNTY IS NOT GROWING FOR THAT; THREE YEARS AGO THEY THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO GROW BUT IT IS NOT. THERE IS A LOT OF WAYS THEY CAN CUT.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID LOOK AT HOW MANY CELL PHONES THEY HAVE; EVERYBODY HAS GOT THEM. THE SECRETARIES HAVE GOT THEM AND ASKED WHY DOES THE SECRETARY NEED CELL PHONES; THEY DON'T. A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY PHONES THE COUNTY PROVIDES THE PRISON, THE WARDEN THE ASSISTANT WARDEN, THE LIEUTENANT, THE SERGEANT. IT IS TAXPAYERS MONEY DOING THIS; SO, IF THE BOARD WANTS TO DO SOME CUTTING, THEY CAN DO SOME CUTTING.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID THEY COULD TAKE MR. EMORY, MR. CORBIN, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, ROBERT HARCUS AND DALLAS CARTER; THAT IS THE ONLY ONES THAT NEEDS A CELL PHONE. THE BOARD CAN HAVE HIS CELL PHONE; HE HAS ANOTHER ONE. THE COUNTY CAN SAVE \$50. THERE IS DIFFERENT WAYS THEY CAN GO; HE IS JUST TIRED OF COMING HERE AND THEM THROWING UP WHAT THE COMMISSIONERS GET FOR THEIR GAS MONEY, DOING THIS, DOING THAT. HE DON'T MIND CUTTING; IF THE BOARD WANTS TO CUT, LETS CUT. BUT, LETS CUT HERE AT THE ANNEX AND DOWN AT THE ROAD DEPARTMENT.

COMMISSIONER PATE RESPONDED TO CELL PHONES STATING FOUR YEARS AGO HE WAS ON THE BUDGET COMMITTEE AND THEY DISCUSSED CELL PHONES AND THEY CUT THEM BACK AS FAR AS THE BOARD WOULD LET THEM AND IT WOULDN'T SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE NUMBER OF CELL PHONES WAS RIGHT BACK WHERE THEY WERE. HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO CUT EVER SINCE HE HAS BEEN ON THIS BOARD.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID TODAY WAS COMMISSIONER PATE'S LUCKY DAY; IF HE WANTS TO DO SOME CUTTING, LETS DO SOME CUTTING.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND ASKED DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW HOW MUCH CELL PHONES COST THE COUNTY. DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW STATED SHE DIDN'T KNOW THE TOTAL AMOUNT THE CELL PHONES COST THE COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE HAD A CELL PHONE BEFORE HE BECAME A COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND HE CAN HAVE ANOTHER ONE; THAT IS NO PROBLEM.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID LETS CUT THEM; THE PRISON AND

EVERYONE.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID DON'T TAKE THIS WRONG; THE COMPUTER DEPARTMENT, THEY CAN DO AWAY WITH THE DEPARTMENT OR DO AWAY WITH ONE OF THE EMPLOYEES, EITHER ONE. THEY HAVE A GUY AT THE END OF THE BUILDING THAT SPECIALIZES IN THAT JOB; BUT, HE DON'T DO IT.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID PARK THE COUNTY VEHICLES; IF THAT WILL SAVE A LOT OF MONEY, LETS PARK THE VEHICLES. HE DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID FOUR YEARS AGO, COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND HAD A PROBLEM WITH PARKING THE VEHICLES.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID TIMES HAVE CHANGED. COMMISSIONER PATE SAID "NO;" HE TOLD THE BOARD THEN IT WAS GOING TO BE LIKE THIS.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID HE IS NOT PLAYING POLITICS; HE DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY POLITICS. THIS IS DONNIE STRICKLAND AS A COUNTY WORKER AND COMMISSIONER UP HERE NOW.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID ANOTHER THING. IF THEY WANT TO DO SOME CUTTING AT THE ROAD DEPARTMENT, TAKE TWO FROM THE EAST SIDE AND TWO FROM THE WEST SIDE; BUT, LETS DO IT EVEN. LET'S NOT PICK ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. THERE IS DIFFERENT WAYS TO CUT IF THE BOARD WILL DO IT; BUT, RIGHT NOW THE BOARD CAN'T COME AS A GROUP TO DO ANYTHING WITHOUT THEY ARE FUSSING ABOUT IT.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THEY HAVEN'T DONE IT IN FOUR YEARS AND THAT IS WHY THEY ARE WHERE THEY ARE AT RIGHT NOW. THEY TRIED TO CUT THEN.

COMMISSIONER PATE RESPONDED TO COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND'S COMMENT ABOUT GETTING RID OF HR. THAT WOULD BE THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NOW ARE STILL TRYING TO FORCE HR TO HIRE PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY WANTED THEM IN THERE. IF THE BOARD GETS RID OF HR IT WILL BE TOTAL CHAOS AND THEY WILL GO BACK THIRTY YEARS IN THIS COUNTY, WHERE EVERYBODY HIRES THEIR BROTHER, COUSIN, AUNT, UNCLE, ETC.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID HE HAS BEEN ON THE BOARD FOR FIVE

YEARS AND HE HASN'T SAID TO HIRE SOMEBODY. COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE DIDN'T SAY COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND HAD TRIED TO GET SOMEBODY HIRED; HE SAID COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND ASKED COMMISSIONER PATE TO KEEP HIS NAME OUT OF IT.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE DIDN'T HEAR COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND MENTION GIVING UP HIS TRAVEL MONEY.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID LETS DO THIS; THE COMMISSIONERS WILL GIVE UP THEIR TRAVEL MONEY BUT THE PEOPLE IN THIS ANNEX WILL BE GONE HOME TO. LETS NOT JUST TAKE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS; LETS TAKE FROM EVERYBODY. LETS TAKE FROM THE ANNEX, ROAD DEPARTMENT; LETS DO IT 50/50, NOT 75 OR 90 OR 10. LETS EVERYBODY FEEL THE CUT.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THE DIFFERENCE IN THE EMPLOYEES OUT THERE IS THEY ARE NOT ELECTED LEADERS OF THIS COUNTY AND THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE AND THEY OUGHT TO BE SETTING AN EXAMPLE.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND TOLD MR. PATE HE DIDN'T HAVE HIS KIND OF MONEY. WHEN MS. SAWYER GOT UP AND SAID WHAT SHE DID.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE TAKES OFFENSE TO WHAT COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID BECAUSE FOR FOUR YEARS HE HAS SET HERE AND LISTENED TO TWO OF THE COMMISSIONERS TALK ABOUT HIS KIND OF MONEY. YOU TALK ABOUT WORKING HARD, HE WORKED REAL HARD FOR HIS MONEY.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID HE WAS SORRY; HE KNOWS COMMISSIONER PATE HAS WORKED HARD. HE IS WITH MS. SAWYER; HE CAME UP THE SAME WAY AS SHE DID. HE HAD A TRAILOR AND GOT A HOUSE. NOW EVERYBODY WANTS TO CUT COMMISSIONERS MONEY. CUT THE COMMISSIONERS MONEY. HIS WIFE DIDN'T WORK FOR A YEAR; HE HAS A LOAN FOR HIS HOUSE PAYMENT AND IT WENT FROM \$1900 TO \$2500. WHEN YOU MAKE \$28,000 A YEAR SETTING ON THIS BOARD. COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND STATED HE LOVED HIS JOB; BUT, YOU CAN'T MAKE IT WHEN YOU HAVE A HOUSE PAYMENT LIKE THAT. HE IS NOT PROUD; HIS HOUSE IS IN FORECLOSURE. THERE ISN'T ANYTHING HE CAN DO; HIS WIFE ISN'T WORKING AND SHE MAKES ALL THE MONEY. SHE HAD A SURGERY; HE HAS BEEN OUT AND HAD A HEART CATH DONE FRIDAY BUT YOU HAVE TO KEEP ON GOING. SATELLITE TV, IT'S CUT OFF; YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT,

YOU HAVE TO EAT. HE SAID HE IS NOT PROUD; HE USE TO BE PROUD. HE ADDRESSED HIS TAXES WHEN HE WENT FROM A SINGLE WIDE TRAILER ELEVEN YEARS AGO TO A HOUSE WAS \$1500 A YEAR. IT IS HARD ON EVERYBODY; IF WE ARE GOING TO DO SOME CUTTING, LETS CUT A LOT OF STUFF OUT INSTEAD OF NITPICKING IS ALL HE IS SAYING.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED HOW MUCH MONEY WAS IN CONTINGENCY.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID HE WAS ON THE BOARD WHEN THE MILLAGE RATE WAS AT TEN MILLS AND THE BOARD CUT IT DOWN TO 8.5 MILS AND ASKED IF THE COMMISSIONERS GOT A PAT ON THE BACK. HE SAID "NO, THEY DIDN'T." WHEN THE BOARD CUT, THE SCHOOL BOARD SYSTEM WENT UP. HE KNOWS SOME PEOPLE DON'T HAVE KIDS IN SCHOOL; THE WAY HE LOOKS AT IT THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PAY THE SCHOOL TAXES. HE IS TIRED AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN FIVE YEARS HE HAS REALLY SPOKE UP TO LET PEOPLE KNOW HOW HE FEELS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK TOLD COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND HE WAS PROUD OF HIM TONIGHT AND PROUD FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTY HE CAME AND SPOKE TONIGHT. COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID TWO YEARS AGO THERE WERE PROMINENT CITIZENS OF CHIPLEY THAT CAME TO HIM AND SAID "THEY ARE BURYING THE COUNTY MR. BROCK, THEY ARE BURYING THE COUNTY; PLEASE GO DO SOMETHING OUT THERE." HE CONTINUED SAYING COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND IS EXACTLY RIGHT; HALF OF THESE OFFICES UP AND DOWN THE HALL DON'T HAVE NOTHING TO DO. THEY SIT ON THEIR CHAIRS EVERYDAY AND DRAW BIG SALARIES. A LOT OF THESE OFFICES COULD BE COMBINED AND THAT POSITION CAN DO TWO JOBS.

COMMISSIONER PATE ASKED COMMISSIONER BROCK IF HE HAD TALKED TO MR. PITTS OR PETE ABOUT THIS AND ASKED BROCK HOW MUCH HE HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT THIS. WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THIS SAME THING.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE HAS HEARD IT AND HE IS GLAD MR. STRICKLAND SPOKE TONIGHT.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID FOUR YEARS AGO MOST OF WHAT MR. STRICKLAND WAS TALKING ABOUT CAME UP IN A BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING. COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE WAS ON THE BUDGET COMMITTEE UNTIL COMMISSIONER

BROCK CAME IN AND TOOK THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER AWAY FROM THE BUDGET COMMITTEE. CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED COMMISSIONER BROCK AND PATE TO JUST HANG ON.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND REFERRED TO THE CITY OF CHIPLEY PREVIOUSLY HAVING CUT TED EVERETT'S AND THE CHAMBERS FUNDING AND THE COUNTY RAISED THE CHAMBER'S FUNDING. HE ADDRESSED MS. SCHOEN SAYING THERE WERE NO JOBS COMING IN AND ASKED HER IF SHE KNEW HOW MANY TIMES HE HAD CALLED A RESTAURANT AND THEY ASKED HIM IF HE HAD A 100,000 PEOPLE LIVING IN THE CITY.

MS. SCHOEN RESPONDED THE OTHER QUESTION TO THAT IS DO YOU HAVE A LIQUOR LICENSE AND THEY ARE NOT GOING TO COME IN; SO, MAYBE THAT IS A WAY TO RAISE MONEY.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO UNTIL YOU CAN GET MORE PEOPLE TO COME INTO THE CITY.

MS. SCHOEN SAID IT IS A CHICKEN AND EGG; YOU ARE NOT GOING TO GET MORE PEOPLE UNTIL YOU HAVE JOBS AND YOU ARE NOT GOING TO GET JOBS UNTIL YOU HAVE THINGS FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE TO DO TO STAY ON. SO THEY HAVE TO CREATE IT; YOU HAVE TO CREATE THE IMAGE AND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO CREATE THE IMAGE, IT IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN RECOMMENDED THE BOARD TAKE THE CONTINGENCY WHICH IS \$206,458, TAKE AWAY \$161,183; THAT WILL LEAVE A CONTINGENCY OF \$45,275 AND THEY WILL BE ABLE TO SET THE MILLAGE RATE AT 8.9195.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ASKED IF RECREATION WAS FUNDED IN THIS PROPOSED BUDGET. DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW ADVISED HIM THERE WAS NO MONIES FUNDED FOR RECREATION.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE HAD ASKED FOR RECREATIONAL MONIES TO BE FUNDED OUT OF THE COMMISSIONER'S TRAVEL MONIES.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HE HAD ASKED FOR RECREATION TO BE FUNDED OUT OF CONTINGENCY AT THE LAST BOARD MEETING AND ASKED WHY IT WOULDN'T PUT IN THERE.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN TOLD COMMISSIONER BROCK THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE MONIES. COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED THERE BEING \$45,000 IN

CONTINGENCY; THEY ARE GOING TO THROW AWAY THE \$45,000 ANYWAY.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID THE \$45,000 WAS GOING BACK INTO THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET. COMMISSIONER BROCK TOLD THE BOARD THEY NEEDED TO TAKE CARE OF THE KIDS IN THE COUNTY AND ASKED THEM NOT TO LEAVE THE KIDS OUT; THEY ARE IMPORTANT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL AGREED WITH COMMISSIONER BROCK. COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE AGREED TOO; BUT, HE THOUGHT THE BOARD NEEDS TO GET OFF THEIR POCKETBOOK AND DO THAT.

COMMISSIONER PATE REITERATED THE BOARD IS NOT CUTTING THEIR TRAVEL, ANYTHING AT ALL. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WHETHER HE IS RICH OR NOT RICH; THE COMMISSIONERS TOOK THIS JOB KNOWING THEY HAD A JOB TO DO AND THEY MAY HAVE TO SACRIFICE.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID THEY COULD CUT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BACK.

COMMISSIONER PATE QUESTIONED HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET JOBS IF YOU DON'T HAVE SOMEBODY OUT THERE WORKING TO BRING THE JOBS IN.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND ADDRESSED THEY HAD BEEN WAITING FIVE YEARS FOR PROJECT PIPE AND HE DOESN'T THINK MONEY IS THE CAUSE OF IT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL TOLD COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND HE APPRECIATED WHAT HE HAD SAID; THEY WERE ALL GOOD IDEAS AND THEY NEED TO LOOK AT THEM.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN REITERATED HIS RECOMMENDATION TO TAKE THE \$206,458 CONTINGENCY, TAKE AWAY \$161,183 TO LOWER MILLAGE RATE TO 8.9195 WHICH WILL LEAVE \$45,275, GIVE THE CITY OF CHIPLEY \$15,000, VERNON \$10,000, WAUSAU 2,500 AND EBRO \$2,500 FOR RECREATION.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK AND CARRIED TO APPROVE OF COMMISSIONER HOLMAN'S RECOMMENDATION. COMMISSIONER PATE OPPOSED.

COMMISSIONER PATE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL TO ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE OF 8.9195 AS THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN 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, 2011.

MS. SAWYER ASKED IF THE BOARD WENT UP OR DOWN ON THEIR MILLAGE RATE. THE BOARD TOLD HER THE MILLAGE RATE WENT DOWN.

NAN THOMPSON ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING A LOT OF THE OTHER COUNTY'S COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND CITY COUNCIL WORK FOR THE GLORY AND FOR THE COUNTY. SHE ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS IF ANY OF THEM HAD CONSIDERED WORKING FOR THE COUNTY AND NOT GETTING PAID BY THE COUNTY.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN THANKED MS. THOMPSON; BUT, THERE WAS NO OTHER RESPONSE.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF \$37,356,140 AS THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE THE MOTION CARRIED 4-1 WITH COMMISSIONER PATE OPPOSING.

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 ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2010 AND TO HOLD THE FINAL PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2010 AT 5:05 P.M.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN CONCLUDED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL UPDATED THE BOARD ON MR. PERRY WELLS BEING RECOGNIZED SEPTEMBER 22ND AND REQUESTED THE BOARD CONSIDER A RESOLUTION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 23 AS PERRY WELLS DAY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND HAVE THE LAWYER PREPARE A RESOLUTION AND IT BE PRESENTED TO MR.

WELLS THAT NIGHT AT THE BANQUET. THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS THEY WERE IN AGREEMENT WITH COMMISSIONER HOWELL'S REQUEST TO DECLARE SEPTEMBER 23RD AS PERRY WELLS DAY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND HAVE THE LAWYER PREPARE THE RESOLUTION TO BE PRESENTED TO MR. WELLS.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL REQUESTED THE BOARD CHANGE THEIR OCTOBER BOARD MEETING DUE TO HIM ATTENDING TRAINING THAT DAY IN GAINESVILLE. THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS TO HOLD THEIR REGULAR OCTOBER MEETING ON OCTOBER 21ST AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE COUNTY ANNEX.

ROGER HAGAN REQUESTED THE BOARD ADOPT A MOTION TO CERTIFY THE MSBU ASSESSMENT ROLL TO THE TAX COLLECTOR WHICH INCLUDES THE 5% INCREASE AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNTY MANAGER TO SIGN THE CERTIFICATION OF THE ROLL TALLING \$482,828.08 ASSESSED ON 15,030 PROPERTIES AND THE TRANSMITTAL OF THE MEMO SO THEY COULD GET IT TO THE TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PATE AND CARRIED TO CERTIFY THE MSBU ASSESSMENT ROLL TALLING \$482,828.08 WHICH INCLUDES THE 5% INCREASE AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNTY MANAGER TO SIGN THE CERTIFICATION OF THE ROLL AND THE TRANSMITTAL OF THE MEMO TO THE TAX COLLECTOR.

DAVID CORBIN INVITED THE BOARD TO THE KIDS FISHING DAY ON SATURDAY FROM 8 A.M. UNTIL 12 NOON.

MR. PITTS UPDATED THE BOARD ON THE STAFF HAVING WORKED HARD THIS YEAR TO CUT BUDGET AND HAVE WORKED HARD THE LAST TWO OR THREE YEARS; HE FEELS LIKE THEY HAVE BEEN BEAT UP A LITTLE BIT TONIGHT. HE WANTED TO RECOGNIZE THE FACT THE STAFF HAS WORKED HARD AT CUTTING THEIR BUDGET EVERYWAY THEY COULD CUT IT. HE IS SURE THERE ARE SOME CELL PHONES, TAKE HOME VEHICLES, ETC. THAT COULD STILL BE CUT AND HE HAS BEEN TALKING WAY BEFORE HE CAME INTO THE COUNTY MANAGER POSITION ABOUT CONSOLIDATING OFFICES. HE RECOMMENDED THAT TO THE COMMITTEE THREE YEARS AGO AND IT IS IN THE WORKS NOW. HE IS IN

HOPES THEY CAN DO THAT WITHOUT LAYING PEOPLE OFF AND AS THEY LOSE PEOPLE FROM RETIREMENT AND JUST LEAVING EMPLOYMENT, HIS GOAL IS TO CONSOLIDATE OFFICES WITHOUT LAYING PEOPLE OFF.

MR. PITTS SAID HE WAS ALSO IN HOPES THEY COULD SAVE ENOUGH MONEY THIS YEAR THEY COULD GIVE THESE EMPLOYEES A LITTLE BIT OF A RAISE NEXT YEAR. IT HAS BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE THEY HAD A RAISE AND THAT IS HIS GOAL TO SAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO GIVE THEM A RAISE.

MR. PITTS ADDRESSED PUBLIC WORKS OPERATING OFF OF GAS TAXES AND THEY ARE IN TROUBLE AT PUBLIC WORKS NOW. THERE IS A GRADER AND TRUCK BROKEN DOWN THEY CAN'T FIX; THE BUDGET IS VERY TIGHT. HOWEVER, HE FEELS LIKE IT HAS BEEN CUT EVERYWAY IT CAN BE CUT. HE DON'T SEE THOSE PEOPLE JUST SITTING AROUND.

ROGER HAGAN REQUESTED THE BOARD APPROVE OF TRANSFERRING \$7,200 FROM THE MATCHING MONIES FOR THE NEW EOC TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS FUND FOR THE T-1 LINE REOCCURRING CHARGES FOR ONE YEAR. THIS WILL DO THREE THINGS; IT WILL REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THEY NEED OUT OF THE NEW EOC COUNTY MATCH, IT GIVES THEM TIME TO SEE WHAT THE COST AT THE NEW EOC IS GOING TO BE TO HAVE THIS CONTINUING AND HAVE IT BUDGETED NEXT YEAR IN THE OPERATIONS BUDGET TO BEGIN WITH AND IT MAKES THE NEW EOC TO BE FULLY AND SECURELY OPERATIONAL IN A QUICKER AND MORE ECONOMICAL MANNER. HE TOLD THE BOARD IF THEY WOULD APPROVE THIS, THEY COULD ADVERTISE THE BUDGET BEFORE THE FINAL PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND ASKED HOW MUCH THE INTERNET SERVICE COST. MR. PITTS REPORTED IT WOULD COST \$7,200 PER YEAR VERSUS A \$80,000 WIRELESS SYSTEM WITH NO REOCCURRING COST.

MR. HAGAN EXPLAINED THE \$7,200 WOULD BE FOR A T-1 LINE; THIS WOULD KEEP THEM FROM HAVING TO PUT UP A TOWER.

MR. PITTS SAID THEY WERE HOPING THE BIG GRANT NWF JUST GOT ON WIRELESS WOULD BENEFIT THE COUNTY IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS. WITH THEM USING THE COUNTY'S TOWER, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO GET SOME USE OF THEIR EQUIPMENT OUT OF IT.

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COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL AND CARRIED TO APPROVE OF ROGER HAGAN'S REQUEST TO TRANSFER \$7,200 FROM THE NEW EOC MATCHING FUNDS TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS BUDGET TO COVER THE REOCCURRING COST FOR ONE YEAR FOR A T-1 LINE.

COMMISSIONER PATE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN.

ATTEST: _____
DEPUTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN