***BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS***

***WORKSHOP: BUDGET***

***MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014***

The Board of County Commissioners in and for Wakulla County, Florida met for a Scheduled Budget Workshop on Monday, March 3, 2014 with Chairman Richard Harden presiding. Present were Commissioners Ralph Thomas, Howard Kessler, Jerry Moore, and Randy Merritt. Also, present were County Administrator David Edwards, County Attorney Heather Encinosa and Deputy Clerk Evelyn Evans

2:00 p.m. Chairman Harden called the Workshop to Order.

This is the first Workshop in preparation of the FY2014/2015 Budget. The Budget Calendar was approved by the Board on October 21, 2013.

County Administrator David Edwards provided an overview of the past and presented options and topics for Board discussion.

1. Capital Project Implementation
2. Cost of Living Allocation (COLA) Salary Increase for Employees
3. Health Insurance Cost Increase

There was discussion about the Fine & Forfeiture Fund – Jail Bed Revenue is down and unpredictable. A discussion ensued about Lobbying ICE for a guaranteed minimum. It was decided that an appointment needed to be made with Senator Nelson and have the Sheriff, Mary Dean Barwick and possibly County Administrator go to Washington and talk with him to see if he can help with this situation.

There was discussion about an audit for the Sheriff and he fully supports a comprehensive audit from an independent company. The County Administrator spoke about unrestricting all funds for Sheriff’s Office and pulling them into the fine and forfeiture fund.

The Board does not want an increase in taxes and would like to see a cost of living increase to the employees.

Medicaid taxes will increase, Ad Valorem will be down, and there may be an increase of up to 5% for Health Insurance.

The Board is trying to decide what needs to be down with the Welcome Center as there are many repairs that need to be done. This building may have to be shut down quickly.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by order of the Chair at 3:45 p.m.