JULY 25, 1960 – SPECIAL MEETING

On Monday, July 25, 1960 there was a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, as a Board of Tax Equalizers together with J. Will Kelly, Tax Assessor, Genevieve Collins, Deputy Tax Assessor, E. Leo Andrews, Clerk to the Board and Carolyn Spikes, Deputy Clerk.

Mr. Ralph P. Anderson, Route 1 Box 80, Freeport, Florida was present before the Board requesting a reduction in the tax assessment on the "NE ¼ East of Road less the North 225 feet in Sec. 14, Twp.l North, Rge.19 W." The oath was administered by the Clerk and Mr. Anderson Stated that the price paid for the property was $5,800.00; that there have been no improvements since purchase in 1959 and that the present assessment is $2,000.00. No final action.

Mrs. Lucy J. Morris of 210 North 9th St in DeFuniak appeared before the Board and the oath was administered by the Clerk. She requested a reduction in the tax assessment on Morris Heights S/D less lots 13 & 14, Blk 3. She stated that the present assessment is $20.00 on vacant lots; (on houses & lots) $520.00 & $1,000.00 and that she had no idea of what price she has on the lots for sale. Action on this request was postponed till a later date.

Mr. Ewart & Mr. Edgar Douglass appeared before the Board, the oath was administered by the Clerk, and they requested a reduction of the personal property assessment on their "Piggly—Wiggly" grocery store. They cited the following assessments: Casey's $10,000.00; Scotch Supermarket $8,500.00; Jitney-Jungle $15,000.00; Piggly-Wiggly in 1959 $20,000.00; Piggly-Wiggly for 1960 $15,000.00. The Board agreed with them that a reduction to $10,000.00 assessment would be fair, and so directed the tax assessor.

Mr. Granger Bruner was present as agent for his mother, Mrs. Ruth L. Bruner of DeFuniak, requesting adjustment of tax assessment f or the year 1960 on property known as the

Walton Hotel, long description in lots 664, 665 & 666-Town of DeFuniak. Oath was administered by the Clerk; Mr. Kelly, tax Assessor, announced that Mrs. Bruner filed a tax return on this property for the year 1960 and exhibited the original of sane to the Board and Mr. Bruner. Since it was shown that homestead exemption had been granted on this property, Mr. Bruner stated that no adjustment was requested of the Board.

Mr. John H. Kaske of 344 Moriarity Avenue, Fort Walton Beach, Florida was present and Clerk administered the Oath to him. Mr. Kaske requested an adjustment of the Tax Assessment on "Lot 2, Block G-Eastern Lake S/D". He stated that the price paid in August 1959 was $1,850; no improvements since purchase; lot is on Eastern lake on lake drive dirt road and the present assessment is $750.00. The Board advised him that the request would be considered.

Mr. John Dorsey of DeFuniak Springs, Fla. appeared and requested an adjustment of the tax assessment for the year 1960 on "All the E ½ of SW ¼ of SW ¼ lying South of road #20 exc 3 acres in Sec.9-lS-l9 (about 2 to 3 acres" A tax return had been made by him for $100.00 and was rejected by the Tax Assessor who set $500.00 as the assessment. Mr. Dorsey stated that he purchased the property in 1959 for $97.71 - a deed being given him for a note held; there have been no improvements & the house burned since the first assessment several years ago.

Francis Phillips Wright in telephone conversation with Commissioner Gavin requested that the 1960 assessment on "long desc. in Lot 2 - Sec. 27-lS-l9 be adjusted from $1,000.00 to $600.00. The Board advised that the request would be considered.

Carolyn Spikes appeared before the Board as agent for Mrs. Fennie U. Allison requesting adjustment on tax assessment for 1960 on "lot 775, less the West 30 feet & all lot 776 & 777 - Town of DeFuniak" The Oath was administered to Mrs. Spikes by the Clerk and she stated that a tax return on said property at $3,000.00 had been rejected by the Assessor and the assessment set

at $4,000.00. She cited the following assessment for comparison Lot 772 & a tract in SW corner of Lot 773-Sherrill Oil Co.-$3,500.0O; Lot 820 exc S 25 ½ ft; Lot 821 exc W 30 ft of S 25 ½ ft; Lot 822-Charles Murray-$3,000.00; Lots 742 & 743-Mrs. Chilshom-$2,500.00; Lots 752 & 753-Creel Ford Company-$l,000.00 - all of which are corner lots in the same neighborhood. Action was postponed on the request.

Mr. Henry V. & Mrs. Marjorie N. Willis, husband and wife, of Route 2 Box 250, DeFuniak were present and were administered the Oath by the Clerk. They requested an adjustment in the tax assessment for 1960 on "S 400 ft on that part of NE ¼ of Sec. 14-1N-19 W, lying East of State Road #83": the present assessment is $1,200.00 based on a tax return dated March 3, 1960; they paid $2,000.00 in 1960 and that the improvements are not complete-"house under construction". No action was taken at this time.

A letter from A.J.Dippree of DeFuniak was read to the Board which requested a reduction in the $75.00 assessment on Lots 4, 5 & 6 Block F—Pitts Bay Shore Sub—division" 23 lots in this sub-division were cited for comparison. After consideration the Board decided the assessment made by the Tax Assessor was fair and should remain as is.

A letter from Mrs. Yancie B. Griffin was read to the Board in which a reduction of assessment at $3,000.00 on a house & storage room on a lot between the old Ford place and the Telephone building in DeFuniak should be made. After consideration the Board decided that the assessment is fair.

A letter from Fernando J. Estopinol, 702 Magellan St, New Orleans, 14, La. was read to the Board. He the $3,000.00 assessment on "150 ft E & W by 440 ft N & S in Sec. 34-2S-2lW be reduced. The Board, after consideration and ascertaining that it is water front property with house on it, decided the assessment to be just.

The Board adjourned at 12 o'clock for lunch, returning at 1:30 P.M.

Sue 0. Strickland of the "Beautiful Waters Motel", Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. was administered the Oath by the Clerk & requested an-adjustment of tax assessment on "Lot 108 & 128 in s/d of SE ¼ of Sec.30-2S-21". She stated that the present assessment is $10,000.00 and that the purchase price in 1953 was about $400.00 or $500.00 and that the cost of improvements is not known by her at this time. She was advised that the request would be considered.

Mr. Paul Thompson appeared as agent for Mrs. Wilde Frances Wright, was administered the Oath, and requested the Board to reconsider the action taken this morning in which the assessment on "lot #2 Sec.27-1S-19—LaGrange Bayou" was reduced from $1000.00 to $600.00. He compared the assessment with adjacent property assessed at $200.00. The Board decided to reduce this assessment to $100.00.

Mrs. Blondeen Beck, Route 3, City was administered the Oath by the Deputy Clerk and requested a reduction of the $1,500.00 assessment on S ½ of SE ¼ of NW ¼ of Sec. 8-5N-18(20 ac.) & stated that there was only about 8 acres of this -property in cultivation. Commissioner Thompson stated that he knows the property and recommended the assessment be reduced to $800.00. The remaining Board members concurred and so directed that the recommended reduction be made.

Since there did not appear to be any other complaints concerning tax assessments, upon motion of Commissioner Burgess, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn as a Board of Tax Equalizers to reconvene at 10:00 o'clock Tuesday morning.

The Board reconvened as a Board of County Commissioners.

Upon motion of Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Burgess, the

Board voted unanimously to approve the plat of "Frangista Beach Second Addition"

Circuit Judge D. Stuart Gillis appeared before the Board requesting that the Board examine the Contract for construction and renovation of the Court House, calling their attention to that part of the Contract regarding a penalty of $30.00 per day for each day since June 9, 1960 that should be imposed. The Board told Judge Gillis that they would advise the Contractor that they would proceed to impose the penalty.

Upon motion of Commissioner Burgess, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Board voted unanimously to approve the plat of the "Second Addition of Choctaw S/D in 28-1S-21W"

The Clerk informed the Board that County Certificate no 1262 of 7-6-42 was missing from his files and the Board granted him permission to Issue a duplicate.

Upon motion of Commissioner Burgess, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon, the Board voted unanimously to approve the plat of "The Third Addition to Choctaw S/D in NE ¼ of 28-1S-21."

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

Approved:

Board of County Commissioners
Walton County, Florida

by A B Harris
Chairman

Attest:

Clerk to said Board