

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
AUGUST 15, 2006  
4:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Cheryl Sanders-Chairman, Russell Crofton – Vice Chairman, Noah Lockley, Jimmy Mosconis, Bevin Putnal

**Staff Present:** Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts, Ruth Williams – Finance Officer, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Morón – Board Secretary

**Call to Order**

Chairman Sanders called the budget workshop, which was continued from August 8, 2006, to order at 4:00 PM.

Ruth Williams, Finance Officer, reviewed the changes that the Board asked her to make during the August 8, 2006 Workshop. These changes included new health insurance amounts, budget requests for Weem's Hospital, Boys and Girls Club, Franklin Promise, and removed employee raises from the entire Budget. Ms Williams also discussed the lighting project for Kendall Park, the cost for new ambulances and equipment, and listed all of the non-governmental agencies she contacted for more information as directed by the Board. Ms. Williams stated the estimated amount of employee raises if calculated at 3%.

Board discussed the inmate medical budget request which was part of the Sheriff's Budget. Sheriff Mock and his staff joined the inmate medical budget request discussion. The discussion included options that would help to reduce the cost for inmate medical. Commissioner Mosconis recommended approving \$200,000.00, which would include two more positions, for inmate medical in the Sheriff's Budget.

Ron Wolfe, interim Hospital CEO, offered some options to help reduce inmate medical cost, including reducing the cost for medication. Board discussed some of these options.

**Carrabelle Chamber of Commerce**

Skip Frink and Sheila Hauser reviewed this budget request.

Commissioner Crofton stated his desire to decrease both of the Chamber of Commerce, Apalachicola and Carrabelle, to \$10,000 each. Board discussed this matter and agreed with Commissioner Crofton's request.

Commission Crofton suggested that the Board develop a policy to stop organizations from requesting money from the TDC and the County. The Board discussed this matter.

Chairman Sanders opened the floor for public comment.

Dave Hutchinson, a resident, discussed the high taxes in the county and questioned why the County was giving public funds to the Chamber of Commerce.

Joe Botcher, a resident, discussed increases in the Sheriff's Department and the relation between the economy and the increases in the budget, the recent County decision to accept the responsibility of maintaining roads that were previously private roads, the need to increase funding for literacy programs, and complimented Ms Johnson, Clerk of Courts, for her fiscal responsibility.

Alan Fifer, a resident, discussed the current economy in the County and the negative affect of high taxes on the residents of the County. Mr. Fifer also gave some numbers that reflected the growth of the County budget over the last few years and asked the Board not to allow any increase from last year's for this year's budget.

Richard Harper thanked Commissioner Mosconis for his involvement with the Hospital and inmate medical and offered his views on each Commissioner political relation to the budget.

Mark Brown commented on the management of the departments in the County, the current condition of the real estate market, the proposed raises for the County employee.

Greg Prickett offered his opinion of the proposed County budget from a "blue collar" point of view.

Jerry Thompson, a local realtor, asked the Board to freeze salaries and create a budget task force to review the budget before it gets to the Board.

### **Croom's Transportation**

John Croom and Robert Davis reviewed this budget request and discussed the services provided by Croom's Transportation, and the need for the increase in the budget request.

Board tentatively approved this budget request.

Board discussed other budget requests.

Kevin Ward discussed the Boys and Girls Club requests of \$75,000. The Board asked about other funding services that currently assist the Boys and Girls Club. The Board discussed reducing this budget request. Joe Botcher expressed his concerns about the Board not receiving adequate information before approving these budget requests.

Commissioner Sanders recommended scheduling another budget workshop and re-review every budget request. Board discussed this matter.

Paul Riegelmayer asked the Board to schedule the next Budget workshop in the evening.

Alan Fifer recommended that the Commission create a budget committee and use a “zero” based budget for next year’s budget. Mr. Fifer also recommended a 5% overall cut in this proposed budget and reserve 2% for discretionary spending.

Ms. Williams and the Board reviewed the proposed budget and millage rate, with the proposed changes.

Mr. Fifer renewed his request for the recommended cuts. Board discussed this matter.

### **Love Educational Centerplex**

Ms Lynn Wintons discussed the budget request for a community band. Ms. Wintons stated that to avoid the church and state “conflict” the headquarters for the band could be moved to another facility, other than the building owned by the Love Center Church. Ms. Wintons also stated that the requested funds were mostly for the purchase of band equipment and if she had to get staff support from one of the Universities or somewhere like that; her time would be on a voluntary basis. Ms. Wintons continued her discussion by stating the need for more preventative programs for children. Board discussed this matter. Ms Wintons stated that the community band project will be administered by the Apalachicola Community Development Corporation.

Board tentatively approved this budget request.

Attorney Shuler discussed the relationship between the Love Educational Center and Love and Worship Center Church and read Florida Law that applied to this matter.

Ms. Joyce Estes, recognizing that the Budget Workshop had went past its advertised time, asked the Board to honor it’s advertised time for the Regular Meeting which was 5:00 PM.

Gail Riegelmayer suggested that the Board direct their department heads to trim their budget so that their current budget request is the same as their prior year request.

Board scheduled another Budget workshop on Monday August 21, 2006 at 5:00 PM to review all budget requests for the 2006 – 2007 fiscal year.

**Adjourn**

Chairman Sanders adjourned the Workshop.

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Cheryl Sanders, Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Court