

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1ST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING - FY 05-06
COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
SEPTEMBER 12, 2005
5:30 PM**

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Marcia Johnson – County Clerk, Ruth Williams – County Finance Officer, Alan Pierce – FCBCC Administrator, Michael Morón – FCBCC Secretary

Chairman Sanders called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30PM

Mrs. Ruth Williams, the County finance Officer, updated the Board of the tentative Budget amount. All changes from previous workshops and grants and projects not known at the time of the workshops were discussed. Mrs. Williams stated that the tentative millage rate and tentative budget must be adopted at this Public Hearing and that the tentative budget total is \$34,036,313.00 and the tentative millage rate is 4.0504.

Mason Bean, of St. George Island, asked the Board to consider freezing or reducing County spending and seek options to reduce property taxes.

Ann Camp, St. Teresa, stated she was an “old time” resident and asked the Board to consider finding ways to reduce the property taxes or she will be forced to sell. Ms. Camp read article from AARP “The Big Squeeze” and stated that it seemed that non-beachfront property was being taxed the same as beachfront property. Ms. Camp also discussed the water quality with the Board and stated that Franklin County has the highest pollution count in the State of Florida based on Dept. of Health report.

Diane Olson, who owns rental house on St. George Island, expressed concerns of high property taxes on her modest house and discussed her intent of retiring to St. George Island but high property taxes would not allow this.

Ms. Davenport stated that her house is very modest and it is unfair to use the same evaluation method for her house and the newer bigger houses.

Lori Raney expressed her concerns of the evaluation process especially the frequency at which evaluations for property taxes are done during a year.

Joan West, of St Teresa, discussed the water quality of the Bay.

Karen Span, an emergency room nurse with a home in Carrabelle, explained that the increasing taxes would not allow her to retire in Carrabelle. Ms. Span also expressed concerns, of an incident on St. George Island, of trying to revive someone that fell and the first responders brought the wrong supplies to assist her. The Board informed Ms. Span how much of the Budget was slated for ambulance service.

Doris Pendelton, the County's Property Appraiser, updated the Board on the trim notice and discussed the assessments process. The Board discussed the proposed budget including the proposed raises. The Board addressed and offered options for some of the concerns raised by the speakers in the audience. The water quality of the Gulf was also discussed. Ms. Ann Camp had additional comments.

Mrs. Ruth Williams, the County's Finance Officer, discussed some of the contributing factors that cause the increase in the budget and difference between the increase in the millage rate and the property values.

Van Johnson, of Apalachicola, stated that in his opinion reducing or removing the pay raises would only change the budget by a very small percentage and this would only be a "symbolic" message and not actually make any major changes to the budget.

The Board discussed the Proposed Budget further including the County's low millage rate and the high taxable base as compared to other counties in Florida and also heard more comments from the audience.

Motion(Tape 1-2486)

Commissioner Putnal motioned to adopt the tentative millage rate of 4.0504 mills as stated in the following resolution. Commissioner Lockley seconded and the motion carried 3-2 Commissioners Mosconis & Crofton voting nay.

Mrs. M. Johnson, County Clerk, read the following resolution at 6:40 PM

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE
LEVY FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005/2006**

WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida, on September 12, 2005, adopted Fiscal Year 2005/2006 Tentative Millage Rate following a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within Franklin County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS as \$3,360,049,261.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida that:

The Fiscal Year 2005/2006 *tentatively adopted operating millage rate* for Franklin County is **4.0504** mills which is greater than the rolled-back rate of **3.1158** mills by **30.00%**.

DULY ADOPTED at a public hearing this the 12th Day of September 2005, at _____ p.m.

Motion(Tape 1-2593)

Commissioner Lockley motioned to adopt the tentative budget of \$34,036,313.00 as stated in the following resolution. Commissioner Putnal seconded and the motion carried 3-2 Commissioners Mosconis & Crofton voting nay.

Mrs. M. Johnson read the following resolution at 6:43PM.

**RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TENTATIVE BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida has determined the amount of funds required for a **tentative budget** for the 2005/2006 Fiscal Year, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has given due notice as required by law, and has held a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, has set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the

Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2005/2006 in the amount of \$34,036,313.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, that:

1. The Fiscal Year 2005-2006 **Tentative Budget** be adopted.
2. That copies of this Resolution containing the **tentative budget** be spread upon the records of Franklin County, Florida.

This Resolution **duly adopted** at a public hearing this the 12th day of September 2005, at _____ p.m.

There being no further public comments Chairman Sanders adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:55 PM.