

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
SEPTEMBER 23, 2008
5:30 PM**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Noah Lockley Jr. – Chairman, Joseph Parrish – Vice Chairman, Russell Crofton, Cheryl Sanders, Bevin Putnal

Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Court, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Linda Phillips – Finance Director, Erin Griffith – Assistant Finance Director, Michael Morón – Board Secretary

Call to Order (5:38 PM)

Chairman Lockley called the Public Hearing to order.

Chairman Lockley gave some opening remarks.

Mrs. Marcia Johnson, Clerk of Courts, announced the proposed millage rate, 3.3149, and total budget, \$49,792,672.00.

Mr. Pierce read letters from residents who are opposed to the budget in its current state.

Recess (5:43 PM)

Chairman Lockley called for a recess to allow Judge Russell to hear the jury's verdict in a case that was going on in the annex courtroom.

Reconvene (5:50 PM)

Chairman Lockley reconvened the public hearing.

Commissioner Putnal thought the Board did a good job by reducing the budget and millage rate over the last 2 years.

Commissioner Crofton agreed that lowering the millage rate helped the taxpayers but all of the departments should have reduced their budget by 10 % to lower the budgets and help the taxpayers.

Commissioner Parrish agreed that the Board did do a good job by reducing the budget and millage rate, but warned that by reducing the budget, services will also be reduced.

Commissioner Lockey stated that the Board, the Clerk, and Mr. Pierce worked well together and did a good job in reducing the budget, but there has to be a balance between providing services and reducing the budget.

Commissioner Sanders asked the Clerk if the allocation budgeted for the Food Pantry can be split between the Franklin Promise Food Pantry (70%) and the Carrabelle Food Pantry (30%). Clarice Powell of the Franklin Promise Food Pantry, explained why the Carrabelle Food Pantry separated from the Franklin County Food Pantry.

Mrs. Johnson stated that whoever receives County funds must be a 501c3 corporation separate from a Church.

Attorney Shuler agreed with Mrs. Johnson.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to split the budgeted amount allocated for the Franklin Promise Food Pantry, and allocate 70% for the Franklin Promise Food Pantry and 30% for the Carrabelle Food Pantry providing that the Carrabelle Food pantry has their own 501c3 certificate which must be verified by Attorney Shuler; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sanders stated that the Board did a very good job in reducing the Budget over the last 2 years.

Commissioner Putnal discussed some of the Board efforts to research some of the ideas discussed at the 1st Public Budget Hearing

Mr. Pierce agreed with some of the items discussed by Commissioner Putnal.

Mrs. Johnson read the following Resolution adopting the Final Millage rate.

**RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING MILLAGE LEVY

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR
2008/2009; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida, on September 23, 2008, adopted Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Final 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 \$3,597,434,499.00

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

1. The Fiscal Year 2008/2009 operating millage rate is **3.3149** mills which is less than the rolled-back rate of **3.8910** mills by **14.806%**.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

This Resolution **DULY ADOPTED** at a public hearing this 23rd day of September 2008.
Time Adopted _____ PM

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve the Resolution adopting the final millage rate for the 2008-2009 Budget; Motion carried 5-0 (6:11pm).

Mrs. Johnson read the following Resolution adopting the Final Budget.

**RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL BUDGET

A RESOLUTION OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, on September 23, 2008, held a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008/2009 in the amount of \$49,792,672.00.

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

1. The Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Final Budget be adopted.
2. That copies of this Resolution containing said budget be spread upon the records of Franklin County, Florida.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

This Resolution **DULY ADOPTED** at a public hearing this 23rd day of September 2008.
Time Adopted _____PM

Commissioner Crofton stated that he was not in favor of the budget because all of the Departments and Constitutional Officers did not reduce their budget by 10%.

Chairman Lockley reminded everyone that only 11.9 million of the budget was ad valorem.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, to approve the Resolution adopting the final budget; Motion carried 4-1, Crofton opposed (6:14 PM).

Mrs. Johnson presented the Health Department contract for approval.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve the Health Department contract contingent on Attorney Shuler's review and approval; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Pierce to respond to the letters the he read earlier in the meeting.

Adjourn (6:17 PM)

Chairman Lockley adjourned the Public Hearing.

Noah Lockley Jr., Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Court