

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1st BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
SEPTEMBER 9, 2009
5:15 PM

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Joseph Parrish – Chairman, Bevin Putnal – Vice Chairman, Pinki Jackel, Cheryl Sanders, Noah Lockley

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

Call to Order 5:20

Chairman Parrish called the Budget Hearing to order

Mrs. Johnson read the following statement:

At this meeting the Board must adopt the tentative budget and tentative millage rate to be advertised according to statutory requirements.

- 1. It will take 3.6753 mills to fund this budget*
- 2. The total of the tentative budget is \$47,406,360.00.*
- 3. The tentative millage rate of 3.6753 mills is 11.29% less than the rolled back rate of 4.1431 mills.*
- 4. The date set for the FINAL BUDGET HEARING to adopt the final millage rate and budget for Fiscal Year 2009/2010 is MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2009, AT 5:15 PM, at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex, County Commission Meeting Room, 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, Florida*

Commissioner Jackel recommended adopting the 2008/2009 millage rate for the 2009/2010 budget.

Commissioner Putnal stated that if the 2008/2009 millage rate is adopted for the 2009/2010 budget year cuts would have to be made and it would be with personnel or work hours.

Commissioner Lockley agreed with Commissioner Putnal and added that this County has the smallest millage rate in the State but if Franklin County continues to lower the millage rate there won't be enough funding to provide the basic services the residents need.

Jackel stated that the Commission was united when opposing Progress Energy's proposed rate increase so the increase to the millage should be viewed in the same manner, as the residents of the County cannot stand for any type of increases.

Commissioner Lockley stated that compared to the other Cities, Water Districts, and School District, the County has the lowest increase in its millage.

Commissioner Sanders stated that because of the increase in foreclosures and the condition of the economy she could not support an increase in millage rate.

Commissioner Putnal stated that there is nowhere else to cut except for layoffs and he is not in favor of layoffs.

Chairman Parrish discussed the Board's efforts in reducing the budget over last 5 years and compared the reduced current budget to previous budgets.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to adopt the current 2008/2009 millage rate of 3.3149 for the 2009/2010 budget and not adopt the proposed millage rate of 3.6753; Motion failed 2-3, Parrish, Putnal, Lockley opposed.

Chairman Parrish opened the floor for public comments.

Allan Feifer, representing the Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, stated that even though the budget was back to 2004 budget amount, County spending has not been reduced to 2004 amounts. Mr. Feifer then read from a prepared statement that supported reducing the County budget.

Gail Rieglmayer, a St. George Island resident, discussed the Public Service Commission hearing on the proposed Progress Energy rate increase and the hardships that were raised by residents of the County, and the Board's actions to minimize the increases to the MSBU, and asked why the same consideration shouldn't be given to the proposed millage rate increases. Mrs. Rieglmayer asked why it is not OK for Progress Energy to get their rate increase but the Board is considering raising the millage rate for the residents.

Commissioner Putnal explained that the services provided by the County are worth the small increase to the millage rate.

Commissioner Lockley explained that the only possible reduction to the budget is layoffs.

Mrs. Rieglmayer stated other options beside layoffs that might help reduce the budget and asked the Board to be more creative on reducing the budget, and supported keeping the same millage rate for 2009/2010 budget as it is in the 2009/2009 budget.

Commissioner Lockley stated that the County has a hiring freeze that has been in effect for a few years, and if the Budget is reduced, services will be reduced and residents on St. George Island will be one of the first to complain to the Board about the reduction in services.

Commissioner Sanders expressed concerns of probable unknown reductions to the budget that the Board might have to deal with in the future but would like the Board to look at the budget one more time for any possible cuts that would help in reducing the millage rate.

Mason Bean, a St. George Island resident, stated that the Board has to tighten its belt and live within its means because there will be more revenue reductions in the future.

Roger Crawford, whose second home is on St. George Island, stated that it is not the role of the County to be an employment center, discussed the assessment of his property, and also stated that high taxes will not attract new businesses. Mr. Crawford didn't think that he receives enough services for the taxes he pays.

Alan Feifer stated that there is an uneven situation in the County between the County and Constitutional Officers so there should be no across the board decision, an overall review is needed.

Marti Vermont, a St. George Island resident, stated that not increasing the millage rate is an opportunity for the Board to show the taxpayers that they understand the problems of this County.

Jim Tollerson, a St. George Island resident, stated that increased taxes is the reason he and his wife still have to work and are not able to retire. Mr. Tollerson did appreciate the efforts the County has done to keep the area the way it is but is not in favor of increased taxes on all levels of government including the federal government.

Ted Snyder, a resident of Apalachicola, discussed problems he has experienced in other Counties and asked the County to look at other solutions instead of raising taxes and encourage the residents to be part of the solution.

Chairman Parrish discussed reductions made to all of the budgets since he has served on the Commission.

Mrs. Johnson read the Resolution stating the tentative proposed millage rate.

**RESOLUTION
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 2009-2010***

***WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida, on
September 09, 2009, adopted Fiscal Year 2009-2010 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 \$2,778,064,119.***

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

***The Fiscal Year 2009-2010 tentatively adopted operating millage rate for Franklin County is 3.6753
mills which is less than the rolled-back rate of 4.1431 mills by 11.29%.***

DULY ADOPTED at a public hearing this 9th Day of September 2009.

Time Adopted _____ PM

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to approve the resolution adopting the tentative millage levy of 3.6753; Motion carried 3-2 Jackel, Sanders opposed 6:04 PM

Mrs. Johnson read the Resolution stating the tentative proposed budget.

**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 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 in the amount of \$47,406,360.00.

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

- 1. The Fiscal Year 2009-2010 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 9th day of September 2009.

Time Adopted _____ PM

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to approve the resolution adopting the tentative budget; Motion carried 3-2 Jackel, Sanders opposed (6:05 PM)

Adjourn (6:11 PM)

There being no further business Chairman Parrish adjourned the Budget Public Hearing.

Joseph Parrish – Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Court