

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2nd BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
SEPTEMBER 28, 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 (5:19pm)

Chairman Parrish called the Budget Public Hearing to order.

Mrs. Johnson read the following information.

*The millage rate for the proposed budget is **11.29% less than** the rolled-back rate.*

2. *The rolled-back rate is **4.1431 mills**.*
3. *The millage rate for the 2009/2010 budget as advertised is **3.6753**, and the total budget is **\$47,406,360.00**.*
4. *The total certified taxable value of real estate for budget purposes is **\$2,778,064,119**. One mill will generate **\$2,778,064**.*

Chairman Parrish opened the floor for public comment.

Frank Venable, of Eastpoint, stated that he had to open a business after retiring in order to pay his taxes and has had to reduce the number of employees at his business due to the state of the economy. Mr. Venable then discussed increases to the County Budget over the recent years, read the tax figures on his tax bill, asked the Board to reduce the budget, and asked if any employee raises will be approved during this budget year.

Mr. Pierce explained that salary increases were not submitted as part of the Budget.

Ken Osborne, of Alligator Point and representing the Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, stated that unspent funds from the current budget should be used to reduce the millage rate of the upcoming budget and even though the budget has been reduced over the years, new taxes

has taken the place of the reduction. Mr. Osborne discussed funds that were moved from one account to another over the years and wanted a true accounting of the reserves in the budget. Mr. Osborne discussed the reduction in Alligator Point Water and Sewer district budget and would like the Constitutional Officers to share in the reductions of the budget not just the Board employees.

Commissioner Jackel thanked Mr. Venable and Mr. Osborne for their comments and explained that she didn't support any increases in taxes so she couldn't vote for the budget.

Commissioner Jackel commended the City of Carrabelle for their reductions to their budget and would like the County to tighten its belt regarding the budget.

Commissioner Sanders stated that the taxpayers cannot afford an increase in taxes at this time so was not in favor of the budget.

Mr. Venable asked each of the Commissioners who is in favor of the budget to explain why they supported the budget.

Commissioner Putnal explained that he supported the budget because it allowed the County to provide the basic services for the residents of the County.

Commissioner Lockley stated that the only way to further reduce budget is to lay off employees and reduce services and he was not in favor of that. Commissioner Lockley stated that he is not the type of commissioner that would vote against the budget and then spend money from the budget at the next meeting; he considered that straddling the fence.

Chairman Parrish explained that there has been a reduction in the ad valorem portion of the budget, but as it took many years for the budget to increase it will take time to reduce the budget. Chairman Parrish addressed some of the issues that Mr. Osborne discussed earlier. Mr. Osborne stated that he thought the Constitutional offices, not just the County offices, should reduce their budget when there are shortfalls.

Commissioner Sanders explained her comments of using reserves from current budget to reduce the upcoming budget and keep the millage rate the same.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she is not in favor of reducing services or employee layoffs but explained that it is possible to keep the millage rate the same for the new budget year.

Commissioner Lockley cautioned the Board of the unexpected reduction from the Property Appraiser last year and how it could affect the upcoming budget.

Commissioner Putnal was concerned of any plan to use the reserves and contingency to lower the millage and also discussed reduction from Property Appraiser last year.

The Board further discussed the use of reserves and the Property Appraiser's possible reduction.

Mrs. Linda Phillips explained the affect of the Property Appraiser's possible reduction on the budget, including the Value Adjustment Board results.

Mrs. Johnson read the Resolution stating 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 2009/2010; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida, on September 28, 2009, adopted Fiscal Year 2009/2010 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 \$2,778,064,119.

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

1. The Fiscal Year 2009/2010 operating millage rate is **3.6753** mills which is less than the rolled-back rate of **4.1431** mills by **11.29%**.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

This Resolution **DULY ADOPTED** at a public hearing this 28th day of September 2009.
Time Adopted _____ PM

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to approve the Resolution adopting the final millage rate; Motion carried 3-2 Sanders and Jackel opposed (6:04 pm)

Mrs. Johnson read the Resolution stating 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 2009/2010; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, on September 28, 2009, 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 \$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 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 28th day of September 2009.
Time Adopted _____ PM

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, approving the Resolution adopting the final budget; Motion carried 3-2, Sanders and Jackel opposed. (6:05pm)

Adjourn (6:07pm)

There being no further business Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting.

Joseph A Parrish – Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Court