

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1ST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
SEPTEMBER 7, 2010
5:00 PM

MINUTES

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

Staff Present: Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts, Linda Phillips & Erin Griffith – Finance Office, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Morón – Board Secretary

Call To Order 5:28 PM

Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order.

Public Hearing 5:28 PM

Mrs. Johnson read the following statement.

Chairman Parrish opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Sam Rogers of the Alligator Point Taxing Association (APTA) read from a prepared statement that included a resolution passed by APTA and asked the Board not to increase the current millage rate.

Isaac Lang, St. George Island Civic Club, distributed and read from a statement which objected to any increases to the current millage rate.

Allan Feifer representing the Concerned Citizens of Franklin County read from a prepared statement and asked the Board not to increase the current millage rate.

Kristin Anderson, a resident of Apalachicola, complained of increases to her homesteaded property and asked the Board to reduce taxes.

Frank Venable, a resident and business owner in Eastpoint, stated that he has had to come out of retirement and start a new business because his taxes are so high. He talked about the financial situation of the County's local banks. Mr. Venable discussed increases or decreases to

each of the Commissioner's property taxes, compared those amounts to his own taxes, and questioned the difference in the amounts.

Commissioner Jackel commented on the closing of her business here in the County. She also stated that she asked for more cuts to the budgets, especially from the Constitutional Offices, without success.

Commissioner Sanders stated that she also asked that the millage rate remain at the 2009 - 2010 amount.

Gathana Parmenas, a former City of Carrabelle Commissioner, compared the 2004 - 2005 budget to the proposed 2010 -2011 budget.

Gail Riegelmayer, a St. George Island resident, stated some of the taxes and insurance amounts she pays for her residence on St. George Island and asked the Board not to increase the millage rate for the 2010 - 2011 budget.

Stephen Kearney asked the Board to consider reducing the Constitutional Officer's budgets to help lower the proposed millage rate.

Richard Harper, a St. George Island resident, explained that his taxes increased by 82% this year and compared this amount to previous years. He discussed the amount of property taxes paid in prior years versus this year.

Recess 6:24 PM

Chairman Parrish called for a recess.

Reconvene 6:44 PM

Chairman Parrish reconvened the public hearing.

Board and Finance staff discussed additional cuts to the 2010-2011 budget, which included proposed cuts to retiree health insurance and employee dental insurance.

Commissioner Lockley suggested additional cuts to the non-governmental agencies that have requested funding.

Commissioner Putnal proposed a \$250,000.00 reduction to the Reserve to Contingency account.

Commissioner Jackel asked the Board to consider scheduling another budget workshop. The Board discussed this matter further.

Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Phillips explained that any reductions to the budget must be done tonight as a tentative millage rate must be set this evening and discussed the advertising deadlines.

Board discussed additional cuts to the budget.

Mrs. Johnson informed the Board that once the millage rate is set this evening the Board cannot raise it at the final budget hearing.

Jean Collins, an Eastpoint resident, asked the Board to consider furloughing employees rather than reducing the workforce.

Board and the Finance department discussed a percentage cut for all departments.

There was a suggestion by audience members to cut the Sheriff's department by a higher percentage since he had the biggest budget.

Recess 7:23 PM

Chairman Parrish called for a recess.

Reconvene 8:15 PM

Chairman Parrish reconvened the meeting.

Commissioner Putnal recommended removing \$500,000 from the capital outlay fund to help reduce the millage rate.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to keep the millage rate at 3.6753 mills, which is the same millage rate as the 2009 - 2010 budget; Motion failed 2 – 3, Lockley, Parrish, and Putnal opposed.

Commissioner Sanders suggested that the Board consider reducing the budget by 1.1 million instead of the 2.2 million that would be needed to keep the millage rate at 3.6753.

Board discussed what additional cuts could be made to the proposed budget, including a suggestion by Commissioner Lockley to cut funding to the County's Extension office and the Literacy program. Commissioner Lockley asked that the secretary for the Extension office is transferred to another department. Board discussed these and other budget reductions including cuts to the Constitutional offices and moving the Supervisor of Election office to a County owned building. Erin Griffith of the Finance office reviewed the reductions suggested by the Board and reminded the Board of the courthouse fee increase.

Mrs. Johnson confirmed with the Board their proposed recommendations to reduce the budget which was reducing Capital Outlay by \$500,000, reducing Reserve for Contingency by \$250,000, eliminate funding for the County's Extension office but transfer the secretary for that office to another department, reducing the rent amount by 2/3 for the Supervisor of Election office.

Sheriff Shiver stated that he would consider doing a one day furlough for all of his employees which would reduce his budget by about \$160,000 rather than reducing his workforce or being subjected to additional cuts to his budget.

Recess 8:40 Pm

Chairman Parrish called for a recess to allow the Finance office to include the Board reductions into the proposed budget.

Reconvene 9:28 PM

Chairman Parrish reconvened the meeting.

Commissioner Lockley suggested that the Board accept all of the reductions to the proposed budget as the total amount of cuts, with the exception of furloughs to the Sheriff's Department as it would be unfair that only that department is subject to furloughs.

Erin Griffith reviewed the proposed cuts suggested by the Board thus far and how it would affect the proposed budget.

Board discussed additional cuts to the budget and furloughs for all County and Constitutional employees versus only the Sheriff's department.

Erin Griffith explained how much furloughing all County and Constitutional employees would save rather than only furloughing the Sheriff's department employees.

Ginger Coulter, of the Sheriff's department, stated that the furlough suggestion is only a temporary fix and the Board would have to re-address this matter in next year's budget.

The Board and Erin Griffith discussed furlough options for the employees.

Mrs. Johnson and the Finance staff suggested that the Board adopt the 4.3511 millage rate and allow staff to contact all County and Constitutional offices informing them of the Board decision to reduce the budget by 1.1 million which will require additional cuts to their budget and possible employee furloughs.

Commissioner Lockley recommended that the non governmental agencies budget request is reduced.

Erin Griffith further explained how the cuts made to the budget this evening are going to affect the proposed budget.

Mrs. Johnson stated that County employees work many years for the County with very low salaries and because of the downturn in the economy have not received any raises or pay adjustments for the last three years so she felt the need to stand up for the County employees this evening.

Commissioner Lockley supported Mrs. Johnson and the comments made.

Commissioner Jackel stated that if all departments are not going to be affected by the reductions then all of the reductions should come from Reserves for Contingency and Capital Outlay.

Commissioner Sanders was in favor of all departments being affected by the proposed budget reductions.

The Finance Department explained the budget advertisement requirements and suggested that the Board set the millage rate without the \$160,000 of furloughs and the \$90,000 that would get to the 1.1 million at this time and allow the opportunity for correct figures and other ideas for a reduction to the budget.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to reduce the proposed budget by 1.1 million which would set the millage rate at 4.2253 mills; Motion failed 2-3, Lockley, Parrish, and Putnal opposed.

Board discussed its intention to look at further reductions to the proposed budgets which will be discussed at the September 20, 2010 final budget hearing.

Richard Harper, a St. George Island resident, asked why the Board is not considering the \$160,000 amount that could be saved if the Sherriff moved forward with furloughs for his employee.

Chairman Parrish explained that the Board thinks it would be fairer if the entire County workforce is included in any furlough plan but more information is needed before a decision is made.

RESOLUTION

***WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, anticipates additional revenue in the Fine and Forfeiture Fund for the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year that was not included in the tentative budget; and*

***WHEREAS**, said additional revenue will be used to reduce ad valorem taxes in fiscal year 2010 – 2011;*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

FINE AND FORFEITURE FUND

REVENUES:

120.348.930 State Court Facility Surcharge	\$ 23,229.00
120.311.100 Current Ad Valorem Taxes	\$(23,229.00)

***THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED** by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners, this the 7th day of September, 2010.*

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to incorporate the increased courthouse funds into the budget by resolution; Motion carried 5-0.

**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 2010 - 2011

WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida, on September 7th, 2010, adopted Fiscal Year 2010-2011 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 \$2,057,250,908.

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

The Fiscal Year 2010-2011 tentatively adopted operating millage rate for Franklin County is **4.3511** mills which is less than the rolled-back rate of **4.9028** mills by **11.25%**.

DULY ADOPTED at a public hearing this 7th day of September 2010.
Time adopted _____ PM

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to adopt tentative millage rate at 4.3511 mills; Motion carried 3-2, Jackel and Sanders opposed. (10:32 PM)

**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 2010-2011 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 2010-2011 in the amount of \$42,354,108.

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

1. The Fiscal Year 2010-2011 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 7th day of September 2010.
Time adopted _____ PM

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to adopt tentative Budget of \$42,354,108.00; Motion carried 3-2, Jackel and Sanders opposed. (10:33 PM)

Adjourn

There being no further business, Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting.

Noah Lockley Jr. – Chairman FCBOCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts