

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2013**  
**5:15 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioner's Present:** Cheryl Sanders – Chairman, William Massey – Vice Chairman, Pinki Jackel, Noah Lockley, and Joseph Parrish.

**Staff 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 – Deputy Clerk to the Board

**Call to Order**

Chairman Sanders called the Public Hearing to Order.

Erin Griffith read a statement regarding the proposed budget.

Commissioner Jackel asked for a breakdown of the reductions in the budget since the budget workshop.

Mrs. Griffith gave a detailed breakdown of the budget reductions and provided detail info on the increases to the budget.

Commissioner Lockley and Mrs. Griffith discussed the increase to the Library budget due to the increased rent for the new Library in Eastpoint.

Commissioner Jackel and Mrs. Griffith discussed the increase to the Florida Retirement System budget, and if the State is planning to reduce the rates at anytime during the upcoming budget year. Commissioner Jackel explained that the State increased the County's contribution amount for the retirement system.

Chairman Sanders opened the floor for public comment.

Ben Houston, of Alligator Point, stated some of his past managerial experiences. He asked the Board to consider other options of balancing the budget instead of raising taxes.

Allen Feifer, of the Concerned Citizens, commented on the condition of the oysterman in the county. He stated that the increase in taxes proposed by the Board is in conflict to their

conversations with helping the oystermen. He proposed some options that might help with reducing the budget.

Gail Riegelmayr, of St. George Island, asked why some of the suggestions offered by others were not discussed during the budget workshop process and asked each of the Board members to comment.

Commissioner Jackel stated that a consensus of all Board members is needed to make good changes to the budget. She also stated that changes to the budget process are needed to improve the budget.

Commissioner Massey stated that he is favor of employee salary increases but because this was his first year as a Commissioner he was learning the budget process.

Commissioner Lockley stated that the Board did act on the suggestion of moving to a less expensive insurance provider but he did not agree with the other suggestions offered by the Concerned Citizens.

Commissioner Parrish agreed that a consensus is needed by the Board to make changes, which hasn't happen relating to the budget. He also stated that the Board did act on some of the recommendations made by the Concerned Citizens.

Chairman Sanders gave some specific information on the amounts saved by changing insurance providers.

Marcia Johnson reminded the Board that this suggestion, of switching providers, wasn't made by the Concerned Citizens but by the Clerk's finance office previously.

Chairman Sanders and Commissioner Jackel agreed with Mrs. Johnson and provided some history in this matter.

Erin Griffith gave some specific information on this matter explaining how difficult it was for some the employees to make this switch.

Commissioner Parrish stated some of the complaints he received from employees who were forced to change doctors because of this switch in insurance providers. He commented on the changes the Board has made for this budget but he thinks the Board did a good job and talked about some of his personal experiences.

Mrs. Riegelmayr commented on the manner in which the County should give increase to the employees, which isn't across the board but by performance.

Barbara McKintyr, a property owner, stated that her concern with the proposed budget is that there is an increase that will affect households in the County. She stated she is planning to retire to Franklin County at some point, commented on the community mindfulness in the County, but realized how some of the citizens feel about the proposed tax increase.

Commissioner Jackel asked if the Board was planning to reduce the budget any further, perhaps to last year's amounts. She suggested that the Board look at the Health Department budget and compared the amounts other County's fund their Health Department. She also commended the Health Department on the new dental services that is being provided in

Parrish commented on and compared the partnership with the County and the Health Department and the danger of the County losing these services which is very important to the County.

The Board discussed this budget item further.

Commissioner Lockley commented on the increase to the Library's budget and how it increases the entire budget. He would like the rent to be reduced to the original amount of \$1000 a month rather than the proposed \$2300 per month. He also commented on the amount of undeveloped land that part of the Library location.

**Recess 6:13 PM**

Chairman Sanders called for a recess.

**Reconvene 6:23 PM**

Chairman Sanders reconvened the hearing.

Commissioner Jackel asked about transfer of the Capital Outlay Fund from the current budget year to the next. Mrs. Griffith provided the current balance of that account which is included in the starting balance of next year's budget.

Commissioner Jackel suggested reducing the budget by the carry forward amount of the Capital Outlay Fund. Mrs. Griffith explained the possible repercussions of reducing the budget by that type fund account.

Mrs. Johnson provided additional information on this matter.

Commissioner Parrish stated that this fund might be needed to purchase a building or some other purchase, so was not in favor of reducing that fund.

Allen Feifer, of the Concerned Citizens, suggested a 2% reduction for all County departments and Constitutional offices and if this action created a real hardship on any department the Board could use the Reserve for Contingency account to help the department.

Commissioner Parrish was not in favor of this action, especially because the County was so far into the budget process and was also against using the Reserve for Contingency account in this manner and explained the importance of this account.

Commissioner Sanders responded to Mr. Feifer's earlier statements that neighboring counties were not increasing their budget amounts, by explaining that Liberty County is at the maximum millage amount so cannot increase their budget. She expressed her concerns of using the Reserve for Contingency to supplement any department that might need it due to the suggested 2% reduction. Commissioner Sanders commented on other items that have been discussed earlier during the budget process, employee raises and job descriptions, and that the County has considered some of the suggestion presented by Mr. Feifer during this and previous budget years. She stated that when reviewing the budget she always considers essential services, non-essential services, and the quality of life issues.

Commissioner Parrish stated that if the State would stop enacting unfunded mandates the Board could significantly reduce the County's budget. He suggested that Mr. Fiefer use his influence in Tallahassee to try and stop these actions.

Mr. Feifer stated that he likes Franklin County and would like it to grow. He suggested a 1% cut to the budget and that the Board request Weems to pay their 100,000 loan payment. Chairman Sanders informed Mr. Feifer of the commitment made by Weems this week for the Electronic Health Records program and the cost of this program.

Commissioner Lockley stated that if the Board moved on the 1% reduction and the loan repayment from Weems, by the end of the year the Board will have to find a way to fund the departments and Weems the same amount.

Barbara McKintyr commented further on the budget and the proposed increase.

Gail Riegelmayr stated how a 1% reduction would reduce different County departments and Constitutional offices.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she wasn't in favor of any increase to the budget but might consider a motion for the 2% overall budget reduction. She spoke in favor of changing the budget process and starting that process earlier during the year.

Commissioner Massey stated that he wasn't in favor of raising taxes but realized that there are costs to some of the services provided in the County. He spoke specifically about the cost of sidewalk trash pickup in different areas in the County.

Commissioner Parrish stated that he offered this suggestion previously but it wasn't supported by the community or by most of the Board members.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she was in favor of County wide mandatory trash pickup which would reduce the cost of sidewalk trash pickup.

Board discussed this matter further.

Commissioner Lockley stated that he would like a unanimous vote to pass the budget.

Mrs. Griffith read the Resolution adopting the tentative 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 2013 - 2014**

**WHEREAS**, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida, on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, adopted Fiscal Year 2013-2014 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 \$1,632,123,959.

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

The Fiscal Year 2013-2014 tentatively adopted operating millage rate for Franklin County is **6.4705** mills which is more than the rolled-back rate of **5.9954** mills by **7.92%**.

**DULY ADOPTED** at a public hearing this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2013.  
Time adopted 7:22 PM

**Motion by Parrish to approve the tentative millage rate of 6.4075 mills; Motion failed due to the lack of a second.**

**Recess 7:04 PM**

Chairman Sanders called for a recess.

**Reconvene 7:16 PM**

Chairman Sanders reconvened the meeting.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she is considering seconding the motion to approve the Budget because it is the tentative, not the final, budget and she as a Commissioner is lawfully bound to pass a budget.

Commissioner Massey verified that Commissioner Jackel will provide a list of items that the Board could look at to reduce the budget at the final budget public hearing.

**Motion by Massey, seconded by Parrish, to approve the Resolution, read by Mrs. Griffith earlier, adopting the tentative millage rate of 6.4075 mills; Motion carried 3-2, Jackel and Lockley opposed. 7:22pm**

Mrs. Griffith read the Resolution to adopt the tentative 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 2013-2014 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 2013-2014 in the amount of \$43,584,365.00.

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

1. The Fiscal Year 2013-2014 **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 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2013.  
Time adopted 7:24 PM

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to approve the Resolution adopting the tentative budget of \$43,584,365.00; Motion carried 4-1, Jackel opposed. 7:24pm**

**Adjourn**

There being no further business Chairman Sanders adjourned the public hearing.

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Cheryl Sanders – Chairman, FCBOCC

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts