

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FINAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
SEPTEMBER 16, 2013
5:15 PM**

MINUTES

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

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

Call to Order

Chairman Sanders called the Final Budget Public Hearing to order.

Mrs. Griffith provided information on the 2013-2014 budget including the proposed millage rate and total budget amount.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mrs. Griffith to list any State unfunded mandates that are included in the Budget. Mrs. Griffith stated and explained some of these mandates.

Chairman Sanders opened the floor for public comments.

Commissioner Jackel stated that the budget process should be changed but thought it was unfair to reduce anyone's budget at this point in the process. She explained her proposed changes for the 2014-2015 budget process and stated some of her proposed reductions, which totaled about \$300,000, for the 2013-2014 budget. The reductions proposed by Commissioner Jackel included the loan owed by Weems to the County, Professional Services, General Fund Road and Bridge Contingent Fund, and the Health Department's allocation.

Mrs. Griffith provided additional information regarding Commissioner Jackel's proposed reductions. Attorney Shuler reminded the Board that there is pending litigation that might affect the Profession Services budgeted amount.

Commissioner Jackel commented on the proposed salary increases for employees and discussed some departments and Constitutional offices that have given raises to their employees and included those amounts in their budget. She asked for reductions in the Supervisor of Elections and Property Appraiser budgets since they have given salary increases prior to this budget and also asked for reductions in the Tax Collector and Sheriff's budgets.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she preferred a no increase budget but realize that it might not be possible for the upcoming fiscal year. She explained why the suggestion of a 2% cut wouldn't result in the \$400,000 reduction that was discussed previously.

Commissioner Lockley stated that it was too late in the budget process to consider Commissioner Jackel's proposed reductions but expressed his concerns of the increase to the Library's budget.

Commissioner Parrish asked how Weems failure to repay their \$100,000 loan to the County during the 2012-2013 fiscal year affects the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget.

Mrs. Griffith explained that whenever the Board includes this repayment as part of their budget and Weems fails to make that payment that will increase the upcoming budget by an additional \$100,000.

Commissioner Parrish cautioned on reducing the Reserve for Contingency funds in the upcoming budget and then stated some of the issues that are making it difficult to reduce the 2013-2014 budget to the same amount of the 2012-2013 budget. He also commented on the manner in which the new County Library was financed, at what point and how the Board became involved, and then compared it to the City of Apalachicola's library.

Chairman Sanders expressed her concerns with reducing the Professional Services and the Road and Bridge budgets then she stated why she wasn't in favor of reducing other budget items. Chairman Sanders listed some of the neighboring counties that have higher millage rates than Franklin County, and stated that because of the starting cost Weem's new Electronic Medical Records project, which was recently approved by the Board; repayment of the \$100,000 to the County will be difficult.

Chairman Sanders and Commissioner Jackel discussed the Road and Bridge budget.

Chairman Sanders expressed her support for the proposed employee increase.

Board and Mrs. Griffith discussed the Road and Bridge fund budget.

Commissioner Lockley commented further on the proposed budget reductions.

Mrs. Griffith stated that there is a change to elected officials salaries which resulted in a change to the proposed Budget.

Mrs. Griffith read the Resolution adopting the final millage rate:

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 2013/2014; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida, on September 16th, 2013, adopted Fiscal Year 2013-2014 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 \$1,632,123,959.

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

1. The Fiscal Year 2013/2014 operating millage rate is **6.4705** mills which is greater than the rolled-back rate of **5.9954** mills by **7.92%**.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

This Resolution **DULY ADOPTED** at a public hearing this 16th day of September 2013.
Time adopted 5:59 PM

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to adopt the Resolution stating the final millage rate; Motion carried 4-1, Jackel opposed (5:59PM).

Mrs. Griffith read the Resolution adopting the final budget amount:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL BUDGET

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013/2014; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida on September 16, 2013, 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 estimates for the Budget for Fiscal Year 2013/2014 in the amount of \$43,584,365.

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

1. *The Fiscal Year 2013/2014 **Final Budget** be adopted.*
2. *That copies of this Resolution containing the 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 16th day of September 2013.
Time adopted **6:00** PM*

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Massey, adopting the Resolution stating the final budget amount; Motion carried 4-1, Jackel opposed (6:00PM).

Adjourn

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

Cheryl Sanders – Chairman FCBOCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts