

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
JULY 23, 2015
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: William Massey-Chairman, Joseph Parrish-Vice Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, Noah Lockley, Pinki Jackel.

Others Present: Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Marcia Johnson-Clerk of the Circuit Court, Linda Phillips-Finance Officer, Erin Griffin- Assistant Finance Officer, Lauren Luberto-Deputy Clerk to the Board, Lori Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Massey called the Budget Workshop to Order.

Mrs. Erin Griffin stated the Board has been presented with copies of budget requests for fiscal year 2015-16. She informed the Board the millage rate is 6.4117 based on the budget requests. She explained the Supervisor of Elections Office had a late revision reducing their budget by \$21,000 due to grant funds coming in for their equipment. She reported with the change the tentative millage rate is now 6.3986. Mrs. Griffin stated, according to the DR420 received by the Finance Department on June 26, 2015, the certified taxable value for budget purposes is \$1,690,427,690.00. She went on to say one mill will generate \$1,690,427.00.

Mr. Fonda Davis, Solid Waste Director, stated there is a little increase in the Solid Waste/Solid Waste Grant budget for a knuckle boom truck. Chairman Massey said he is still in the process of getting the trash truck donated to the County. Commissioner Jackel asked if the increase is \$18,000.00. Mrs. Griffin agreed this is the amount of the increase. Commissioner Sanders asked Mrs. Griffin to try and get a better interest rate than 3.52. Mrs. Griffin commented this is the second quote but she can try to get another quote. She stated the City of Tallahassee bid list was used for quotes. The Board discussed the protocol for public input at this meeting. Chairman Massey said the public should be allowed to speak and ask questions but to keep it short. Mrs. Griffin informed the Board at one time the consolidated Solid Waste grant was around \$270,000 a year and was used to purchase landfill equipment. She went on to say over the last few years the grant is around \$90,000 a year and used for landfill operating costs. Commissioner Sanders said all of these grants are being reviewed and the County needs to make sure they are watching the status of the grants. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the budget for the Solid Waste/Solid Waste Grant.

Mrs. Griffin reported the Animal Control budget is the same as last year with no increase. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the budget for Animal Control.

Mrs. Griffin said there is no increase in the Parks & Recreation budget. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the budget for Parks & Recreation.

Sheriff Mike Mock appeared before the Board. Ms. Griffin said there is a 2.61% increase in this budget. She explained \$51,490 of the increase is attributed to the Florida retirement rates in the special risk category. Sheriff Mock discussed the medical costs of inmates. Sheriff Mock read a letter to the Board concerning his budget. Commissioner Lockley inquired about the money in the budget for cars. Mrs. Ginger Coulter, Administrative Assistant, reported there is money in the budget for 3-4 cars depending on the state contract price. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the budget for the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Mock informed the Board of a policy change in his department concerning promotional raises.

Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Property Appraiser, appeared before the Board. Mrs. Griffin said this budget has a 1.63% decrease which equates to a little over a \$10,000 reduction. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Property Appraiser's budget.

Mr. James Harris, Jr., Tax Collector, appeared before the Board. Mrs. Griffin said there is a 1.74% increase in his budget. Mr. Harris reported his increase is the addition of a Senior Management Class for Florida Retirement. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Tax Collector's budget.

Mrs. Marcia Johnson, Clerk of Court, appeared before the Board. Mrs. Griffin said there is a 1.0% decrease in the budget which represents a \$3,173.00 reduction. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Clerk of Court's budget.

Mrs. Heather Riley, Supervisor of Elections' Office, appeared before the Board. Mrs. Griffin said there is a \$21,000 decrease in the budget due to a late revision but it is still an increase over last year's budget due to an election cycle. Commissioner Sanders asked if there will be a trade in amount received for the old machines. Mrs. Riley said the trade in value is included in the price. Mrs. Riley stated there will also be an additional \$1,200 in maintenance fees due to the equipment being new. Mrs. Griffin reported their budget last year was \$308,793.00 and the budget this year is \$331,517.00. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Supervisor of Elections' budget.

Mr. Howard Nabors, Road Department Director, appeared before the Board. Mrs. Griffin said the budget is the same as last year except there was a change from the purchase of a dump truck to a loader. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the budget of the Road Department.

Recessed 9:51 a.m.

Reconvened 10:19

Mr. Dewitt Polous, Mosquito Control Director, appeared before the Board. Mrs. Griffin said this budget is the same as last year and grant funding remained the same. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the budget for Mosquito Control.

Mrs. Griffin said the Courthouse Maintenance budget is the same as last year with no increase. She stated one large project planned for next year will be the replacement of the south side air condition units. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the budget for Courthouse Maintenance.

Mrs. Griffin reported the Building Department budget has a 7.4 % decrease due to a high level employee retiring. Mr. Michael Moron, County Coordinator, discussed the Citizens Serve database for permitting. Commissioner Jackel asked about the application for business licensing. Mr. Moron said it may be used in the future. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Building Department budget. Commissioner Sanders commended Mr. Moron for his work with technology. Commissioner Jackel asked about the permanent part time position in the budget. Mr. Moron stated it is not being used now but may be needed later.

Mrs. Griffin reported there are no changes in the Planning & Zoning budget. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Planning & Zoning budget.

Mrs. Griffin stated there is a 22.68% decrease in the Administrative Services budget due to Mr. Pierce's position only being funded for 25% of the year. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Administrative Services Budget.

Ms. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Director, appeared before the Board. Mrs. Griffin said the only increase in this budget is a new vehicle. Mrs. Brownell said one of her vehicles is not reliable and three vehicles are needed if a disaster occurs. She informed the Board the only way to receive reimbursement for mileage and gas for damage assessment is if County vehicles are used. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Emergency Management budget. Commissioner Jackel inquired if this is a lease or a purchase. Ms. Griffin said it is a state contract lease/purchase for 5 years at 3.52% with annual payments of \$6,383.48 and the County will own the vehicle at the end of the contract. Mrs. Brownell stated the old vehicle will be turned in to the County for auction. Mrs. Brownell discussed the need for a large vehicle for transporting FEMA employees around the County if necessary, hauling equipment and for staff travel.

Ms. Sonya Taylor-Furby, Franklin County Library, appeared before the Board. Mrs. Griffin said the Library budget is the same as last year but there has been a \$21,000 reduction in state grant funding. Commissioner Sanders stated the Board cannot make up the reduction in grant funding. She reported the Carrabelle Library Branch will not have to close one day a week without this funding. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Library Budget without the \$21,000. Commissioner Jackel reported it was a condition at the time the motion was made that if grant was not funded the position would have to go back to part time. Ms. Kate Aguiar, Franklin County Library, informed the Board the Library is understaffed compared to state standards because the staff was reduced when it was requested by the Board.

Mrs. Griffin reported the Extension budget is the same as last year. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Extension Budget.

Ms. Griffin stated the Veterans Service Office budget has a 26% decrease. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Veterans Service Office budget.

Ms. Griffin stated the State Attorney's budget does not have any changes or increases. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the State Attorney's budget.

Ms. Griffin said the Public Defender's budget does not have any changes. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Public Defender's budget.

Ms. Griffin discussed the Guardian Ad Litem budget. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Guardian Ad Litem budget.

Ms. Griffin presented the Soil & Water Conservation District budget. She reported the cost is the County's portion of an employee shared between the districts.

Ms. Griffin presented the Dog Island Conservation District. She reported they have a \$5,880 tipping fee credit at the landfill and a \$9,800 unrestricted budget allocation and there is no change to this budget. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the budget for the Dog Island Conservation District.

Mrs. Griffin said the Apalachee Center budget for Baker Act/Detox services does not have any changes. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Apalachee Center budget.

Mrs. Griffin presented information on the Carrabelle Tax Increment District and the Apalachicola Redevelopment Trust.

Mrs. Griffin provided a report on the Armory Historic Grant and the Apalachicola Airport grants.

Mrs. Griffin discussed the FEMA mitigation projects.

Mrs. Griffin reported there is no change to the Auditor's fee. Commissioner Jackel asked if there is always a separate fee for Weems Hospital to be audited. Ms. Griffin said Weems Hospital operating pays for the fee.

Mrs. Griffin stated Capital Health Insurance has a 1.2% increase. She said the dental insurance has a 7% increase but they are waiting on other quotes. Commissioner Sanders said the change to CHP has helped the Board and saved money for the employees. Mrs. Griffin provided an update on the providers in the County. Commissioner Jackel thanked Mrs. Griffin for her work with insurance.

Mrs. Griffin discussed the Tourist Development Council budget. Commissioner Jackel said promotional money is being reallocated into sustaining grants but the budget is the same. Mrs. Johnson pointed out Mr. Blair stated, at the regular Board meeting on Tuesday, the vendor contracts had not changed but the amounts were increased for all three visitor center contracts. Commissioner Jackel said visitor

center contracts were not approved only the vendor contracts were presented. Mrs. Johnson stated the visitor center contracts were also a part of his report and approved. Commissioner Jackel said she will look into this matter. Mrs. Griffin said the budget is the same as last year. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Tourist Development Council budget.

Mrs. Griffin stated the County's contribution to the Hospital fund is the standard transfer of \$505,592 for emergency management services. She discussed the Healthcare Trust Fund surtax. Mrs. Griffin said the current available balance in the Healthcare Trust Fund is \$2,000,417.00. Commissioner Jackel asked if the budget submitted included ambulance funding. Ms. Griffin said the \$505,592 is for operations of the ambulance but not for the purchase of a new ambulance. Commissioner Lockley asked if CHP is being accepted at the Hospital. Mr. Michael Cooper, Weems Memorial Hospital, answered no but they are working on the contracts for CHP. Commissioner Jackel questioned if Dr. Charbonneau was ever contacted about bringing his services to Weems Memorial Hospital and the clinics. Mr. Cooper stated Dr. Charbonneau has not responded to telephone calls, texts or emails. Commissioner Sanders suggested Mr. Moron try to make contact with Dr. Charbonneau. Commissioner Jackel suggested he facilitate a meeting. Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Cooper to also get with the Eastpoint Medical Center about getting hospital privileges. Mr. Cooper explained when privileges are requested an application is sent out to be completed and returned. Mr. Cooper said the Hospital receives the Eastpoint Clinic admissions through the hospitalist program. Mr. Cooper stated the problem is they change providers very often. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the Hospital budget. Mr. Moron presented the Board with a handout from Mr. Cooper regarding a new ambulance. Mrs. Griffin said no funds have been included in the budget for an ambulance. Mr. Cooper discussed the need for another ambulance in addition to the one being received by the grant. He referenced the report submitted last month and the need for the fleet to be updated. Commissioner Sanders asked how fast the ambulance purchased with grant funds will be online. Mr. Cooper estimated three months. Commissioner Sanders asked when the next grant cycle begins to apply for another ambulance. Mr. Cooper said he did think the County will receive another grant because the guidelines have changed and would require adding a fourth ambulance or upgrading services. Commissioner Sanders stated if a new ambulance is purchased the money should come from the Healthcare Trust. Commissioner Jackel agreed and discussed the report submitted about the fleet. Commissioner Lockley questioned when the last ambulance was purchased. Mr. Cooper responded 3-4 years ago. Commissioner Sanders asked if the Board wants to discuss another ambulance. Commissioner Jackel suggested this item be discussed at the next regular Board meeting in Carrabelle. Commissioner Sanders asked Mrs. Griffin to get some numbers together about the ambulance for the next meeting and asked Mr. Moron to place this item on his report. Commissioner Lockley questioned the exact cost for a new ambulance. Mr. Cooper said the cost for the ambulance is \$150,000. He said the grant was also for an additional \$100,000 as it covered advanced life support (ALS) equipment. He went on say equipment from a decommissioned unit would be moved over to the replacement ambulance. Commissioner Sanders asked if this unit will be ALS. Mr. Cooper answered yes. Commissioner Sanders questioned if the County would then have 2 ALS and 1 Basic Life Support (BLS) units. Mr. Cooper answered he would like to move the BLS unit to ALS for 12 hours a day but the operating costs would increase by \$35,000.00. Commissioner Lockley

questioned if the equipment being moved over is good. Mr. Cooper said the equipment is good they just need a truck.

Mrs. Marsha Lindeman, Franklin County Health Department, appeared before the Board. Mrs. Griffin said in 2014-15 the funding was \$49,000 and in 2015-16 the request is for \$259,000. Commissioner Sanders said the County cannot provide \$259,000. Mrs. Lindeman discussed the cost of the dental clinic and the loss of grant funds. Commissioner Lockley asked what will happen if the \$259,000 is not received. Mrs. Lindeman said they will try to find another provider to take over the clinic. Commissioner Jackel stated the County already contributes \$49,000 and some counties do not fund the health department at all. Mrs. Lindeman discussed the credentials for providers. Mr. David Walker said when the clinic was opened it was to address the needs of the children who do not have any dental care. He stated the initial focus was serving Medicaid recipients and the uninsured. He reported later it became clear the clinic needed to be opened to the insured. The Board agreed to tentatively approve the funding at \$49,000. Ms. Lindeman said they will continue to work on options.

Mrs. Griffin reported with the \$210,000 reduction in the Health Department budget and the reduction in the Library grant match the millage will be 6.2543. She said at that point the County is \$88,106 less than the roll back rate. The Board discussed raises for employees. Mrs. Griffin reminded the Board the millage rate being set now will go out on the trim notices and can be reduced later but cannot be increased. Commissioner Jackel asked about the amount in the reserve for contingency. Mrs. Griffin answered \$1,000,000.00. Commissioner Jackel inquired about the amount in capital outlay. Mrs. Griffin said there is only \$25,000.00 left in capital outlay and it will be used for a grant match for the Ell's Court Property. Commissioner Sanders suggested placing the \$88,000 in the capital outlay fund and leaving the millage at the roll back rate. Commissioner Jackel asked about the matching money allocated for Ell's Court. Mrs. Griffin said the cash component is taken care of and the remaining \$25,000 is for reforestation. Commissioner Jackel said since her time on the Board there have always been funds in the capital outlay fund going into budget and something always comes up and the funds are needed. She stated if the Board advertises the 6.3986 millage rate it can be reduced later and some funds can also be placed in capital outlay. Mrs. Griffin reported the current millage is 6.2543 and the roll back rate is 6.3064. The Board agreed to tentatively set the millage at the roll back rate of 6.3064. Mr. Bill Satterfield, a resident of Alligator Point, suggested the Board consider percentage raises to allow supervisors to allocate the funds based on employee performance. The Board discussed raises for employees. Mrs. Phillips discussed the dates sent to the Board for public hearings. The Board set the public hearing dates for September 3rd and September 21st at 5:15 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

William Massey - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts