

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FINAL PUBLIC HEARING-BUDGET  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2001-5:15 P.M.**

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:** Cheryl Sanders, Vice-Chairman; Bevin Putnal and Clarence Williams, Commissioners; Kendall Wade, Clerk; Amelia Varnes, Deputy Clerk; and Ruth Williams, Finance Officer.

**5:15 P.M.** Vice-Chairman Sanders called the meeting to order.

**ABSENT:** Eddie Creamer, Chairman and Jimmy Mosconis, Commissioner

(Tape 1-3) Mr. Wade, the Clerk, announced the opening of this Final Public Hearing regarding the FY 2001-2002 budget. He said it is Monday, September 24, 2001, 5:15 p.m. in the Franklin County Board of County Commission Meeting Room. He read the following into the record: The proposed budget is 11.02% over the rolled-back rate. The rolled-back rate is 5.02 mills. (The rolled-back rate is the number of mills it would take to generate the same amount of revenue as FY 2000-2001 using the certified taxable property value for 2001-2002.) The millage rate for the 2001-2002 budget as advertised is 5.573, and the total budget is \$18,095,637.00. The total certified taxable value of real estate for budget purposes is \$943,858,671.00. One mill will generate \$943,858.00. He asked if anyone would like to make a public statement regarding the budget.

(Tape 1- 41) Charles Brannon, SGI Tax Watch Committee, said he would like to make a few suggestions. He said he would like to see the Commissioners do the following; Issue guidelines for departments to follow when they submit the budget requests; Departments that ask for the same amount of funding each year should be audited to see if they could actually cut their budget; Urges the County to review the County's policy of granting taxpayer dollars to fund non-governmental entities, which should be funded through other sources other than taxpayer dollars; Implementation of User Fees for garbage, etc.; Animal Control-taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for people having pets and not taking care of them-Implementation of some charge or service fee so the people who do have pets would have to fund Animal Control, etc.; Review the fee schedule for the Health Department to make it fairer to everyone in the County; and the formation of a County Office of Volunteer Services to utilized the skilled residents of this area. He said there are engineers, clerical, architects, labor relation experts, health, etc. who would volunteer when the County needs them.

(Tape 1-297) Vice-Chairman Sanders thanked Mr. Brannon for his input. Commissioner Putnal said he would like to address some of the items Mr. Brannon mentioned. He stated the Board does issue directives to the different departments requesting funding from the County during the budget process. He stated they are always encouraged not to ask for an increase in their budget. He said he thought these people had done an outstanding job in keeping the budget in check. He said the increase in property values does cause the budget to increase. He stated he also would like to see if volunteers couldn't be used for some of these projects the County does. Mr. Brannon agreed and

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said the millage rate was lowered at the last meeting. Commissioner Putnal said the reason for Amnesty Days at the Landfill was to encourage people to take their garbage to the Landfill and not illegally dump it in the woods. He stated it has eliminated a lot of illegal dumping.

(Tape 1-386) Mr. Wade said he would like to address the Board at this time. He stated he would like to say the five Constitutional Officers; the Sheriff, the Clerk, the Tax Collector, the Property Appraiser, and the Supervisor of Elections, are the people who run this County. He stated, in his opinion, they have all done a good job with what they've had or given to do with. He said he knows each year he has returned money to the Board by being very frugal. He stated most of the other Constitutional Officers had also returned money at the end of the budget year. He said these offices are mainly run or dictated to by Legislative Mandates. He stated what the Legislature does in Tallahassee determine, in large, what the local County government has to spend and controls the budgets. He said they don't just "willy-nilly" say where money is going to be spent or what it is going to be spent on. He said the Office of the State Court Administrator, Department of Revenue and many other State entities are always making demands of his office. He said everything in each of these offices is set by State Statutes. He explained the real costs to the County Government come from the Legislative Mandates; what they tell us each year we can do and we can't do. He said he didn't think a lot of the public knew this. He stated it is hard to understand unless you are actually in the office on a day-to-day basis. He said he would like to put in a good word for all of the five Constitutional Officers and the job they do.

(Tape 1-463) Mr. Brannon said he did agree with Mr. Wade. He stated this was probably the friendliest group he has had to work with. He said he had more contact with this Commission than any other group.

(Tape 1-474) Mr. Wade asked if there was anyone else who would like to make a comment at this public hearing. After no response he read the Resolution Adopting Millage Levy into the record: 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 2001-2002; Providing for an Effective Date. Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, on September 24, 2001, adopted Fiscal Year 2001-2002 Final Millage Rates following a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, held 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 \$943,858,671.00; Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida that: 1. The Fiscal-Year 2001-2002 operating millage rate for Countywide is 5.573 mills, which is greater than the rolled-back rate of 5.02 mills by 11.02%. 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption. Duly Adopted at a public hearing this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 2001. Board of County Commissioners Franklin County, Florida. Commissioner Williams made a **motion adopting the final millage levy and**

authorizing the Vice-Chair's signature on the Resolution Adopting Millage Levy.  
Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

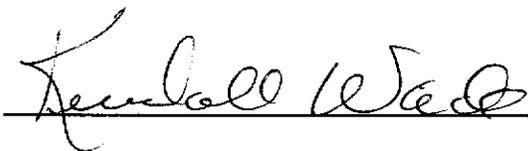
(Tape 1-560) Mr. Wade read the following Resolution Adopting the Budget into the record: Resolution Adopting Budget Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, after due consideration for the needs of the people of said County, has ascertained the amount of funds required for a budget for the 2001-2002 Fiscal Year, and Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners has given due notices as required by law, and has held public hearings 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 2001-2002 in the amount of \$18,095,637.00. Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners, Florida, that: 1. The Fiscal Year 2001-2002 Final Budget bet 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 the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 2001. Board of County Commissioners Franklin County, Florida. Commissioner Williams made a **motion adopting the Final Budget for FY 2001-2002 and authorizing the Vice-Chair's signature on the Resolution Adopting the Budget.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-640) Vice-Chair Sanders said the Board needed to authorize three commissioners to attend the Value Adjustment Board hearing on Wednesday, September 26, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Williams made a **motion appointing Commissioner Putnal, Vice-Chair Sanders, and himself to the Value Adjustment Board.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD  
THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.**



**CHERYL SANDERS, VICE-CHAIR**



**KENDALL WADE, CLERK**