

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
JULY 20, 2017
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Joseph Parrish – Chairman, Noah Lockley-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, William Massey, Ricky Jones

Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson- Clerk of Court, Alan Pierce-Director of Administrative Services, Linda Phillips-Finance Director, Erin Griffith-Assistant Finance Director, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Parrish called the workshop to Order.

Mrs. Griffith read the following prepared statement:

The Property Appraiser is required to certify to the County Commission the taxable value of real property by July 1st of each year. The certified value is the basis for calculating a proposed millage rate. I am very pleased to announce Franklin County has an increase in taxable value of 3.59%. At this increase in value, one mill will generate \$1,825,653 in 2017. The proposed millage rate represents the amount of ad valorem tax proceeds per \$1000 of taxable property value. In the current budget, the millage rate of 6.3065 generated \$11,114,864. In the preliminary budget for 2017/2018, the current millage rate of 6.3065 would generate \$11,513,485. The rolled-back millage rate is the rate that nets the same ad valorem proceeds that a taxing authority operated on in the prior budget year (this does take into account the effect of amounts transferred to tax increment districts in the prior year). The rolled-back rate is 6.1554 and would generate \$11,237,628 in ad valorem proceeds – the preliminary budget is currently 2.45% over the rolled-back rate, which equates to \$275,857 over in ad valorem proceeds. Excluding the effect of the tax increment transfers, property tax proceeds are \$398,621 over the budgeted proceeds of the prior year.

The Commission asked that all requests be turned in at the same level as last year and all constitutional offices, county departments and non-governmental agencies adhered to that request. There were several items that increased that are beyond the control of the BCC. The county is a compulsory member of the Florida Retirement System and the contribution rates are set by the Florida Legislature each year. The rates increased on July 1st and the additional cost in the next budget year will be approximately \$46,836. As the costs of health care increases each year the cost of employer provided health coverage also increases. Capital Health Plan has renewed at a 9.5% increase. Capital Health Plan has proven to be a lower cost plan with single

digit annual price increases that are less than industry average. Even with the 9.5% increase in the renewal rate for 2017/2018, the premium is just seven dollars above the amount paid for coverage six years ago when Blue Cross was the carrier. There are two tax increment districts within the county and the district in Apalachicola saw a large increase in growth. This rise in taxable value increased the budgeted transfer to the district. There are some discretionary items in the preliminary budget to be discussed by the Board at some point today - does the Board wish to award an across the board cost-of-living increase this next year and if so, what amount is desired? Also, should the transfer to the Capital Outlay fund be increased in anticipation of the assumption of the transfer station sometime next year? Items that increased the budget (\$476,963) less those with decreases (\$108,636) result in a net increase that is approximately the difference in budgeted ad valorem proceeds.

The increases and decreases that make up this difference from the 16/17 budget to the 17/18 budget are summarized in the table below.

INCREASES TO THE BUDGET	AMOUNT
FRS RETIREMENT RATE INCREASE	\$46,836.00
HEALTH INSURANCE - 9.5% Rate Increase	\$162,607.00
INCREASE IN TRANSFER AMOUNT TO TAX INCREMENT DISTRICTS	\$15,960.00
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL OUTLAY - from \$182,094 to \$218,973	\$36,879.00
EST. ACROSS THE BOARD COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT	\$214,681.00
TOTAL SUMMARIZED INCREASES	\$476,963.00
OFFSETS/REDUCTIONS TO THE BUDGET	AMOUNT
INCREASES IN BUILDING DEPARTMENT REVENUES	\$41,993.00
INCREASES IN STATE SHARED REVENUES	\$66,643.00
TOTAL SUMMARIZED DECREASES/OFFSETS	\$108,636.00
TOTAL SUMMARIZED INCREASES LESS DECREASES/OFFSETS	\$368,327.00

There is a 1.8 million dollar increase in the size of the county budget. In addition to the increases summarized above, there is an additional \$713,000 in the general fund due to the planning grant portion of RESTORE and a grant-funded sidewalk project on Bayshore Drive in Eastpoint. Non-grant related increases in the balances of other funds include: Weems Hospital and the Health Care Trust Fund splitting an increase in sales tax proceeds of \$228,000 and an increase in the accumulated balance of the Health Care Trust Fund of \$500,000.

In 2017, Homesteaded Properties with just values exceeding taxable values, saw an increase in assessed value of 2.10% based on CPI. A homeowner with a house valued at \$150,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would have paid \$631 in county taxes in 2016. At the proposed 2017 rate and the CPI adjustment to value, that homeowner would pay \$651 in county taxes. A homeowner with a house valued at \$100,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption with the CPI increase in value, would have paid \$315 in county taxes in 2016 while paying \$328 in 2017.

Mr. Alan Feifer, Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, stated this is the one important time each year that the Board sets the amount to be taken from the citizens and affect the number

of people who cannot pay their taxes or struggle to pay their taxes. He reported the budget process is flawed and one of the ways they could improve the process is to discuss where they want to be at the end of the process. He questioned if the Board is comfortable with a 3-5% actual tax increase on top of the growth in the tax digest. He said additional taxes will be received with the growth. He reported there is a very significant increase in the spending proposed in this budget. Mr. Feifer stated the budget presented represents about \$500,000 in additional spending over last year. He applauded the Board at asking the constitutional officers and departments not to include an increase in their budget requests although some will ask for an increase due to their individual circumstances. He stated if this budget passes as presented it will represent a 3 ½%-5% increase depending on the individual properties and taxation. He asked the Board to consider discussing where they would like to end up at the end of the process. He offered to answer any questions.

Mrs. Ginger Coulter, Sheriff's Department, appeared before the Board. She said they have a zero change in their budget. Commissioner Sanders brought into discussion the specification of employees. She asked if they have 3 security guards at the Courthouse. Mrs. Coulter said recently there has been a change. She asked Mr. Brian Hardy, Bailiff, if there is a third security guard. Mr. Hardy answered no, not right now. Mrs. Coulter stated there are 3 in the budget. Commissioner Sanders said she wants to make sure they have adequate Courthouse security. She reported in visiting some of the Courthouses around this area she has noticed they do not have adequate security. She wanted to make sure these 3 positions are going to be filled. Mrs. Coulter said they do have the 3 positions and she will reiterate this to the Sheriff. The Board tentatively approved the Sheriff's Department budget.

Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Property Appraiser, appeared before the Board. She said her budget is the same as last year. The Board tentatively approved the budget of the Property Appraiser.

Mr. Rick Watson, Tax Collector, appeared before the Board. He stated his budget is basically the same as last year but slightly less. He reported he is exploring several services the Tax Collector can offer and is talking with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) about the possibility of offering driver's licenses. He said they can offer these services with the current staff. He went on to say there are only 3 counties in the state that do not offer driver's licenses and they are Franklin County, Glades County and Gilchrist County. Mr. Watson commented there are about 1,000 transactions a year where Franklin County citizens are going to other places to get their licenses. He explained DMV is exploring the possibility of offering the equipment so it will just be maintenance costs. He stated a decision has not been made yet but he wanted to provide an update. Mr. Watson reported concealed weapons permits are another service being considered. He stated there are almost 1,000 permit holders in the County. He reported the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) provides the cost for the equipment. He informed the Board he will make a decision during the next year about these services but the timeframe is March for driver's licenses and February for concealed weapons permits. Mr. Pierce pointed out there may be some minor modification to one of the walls for the additional services but the costs would be a capital expense out of the

Courthouse Maintenance Fund. Commissioner Massey asked if the Tax Collector will make money on these services. Mr. Watson said they will make about \$4,800 for driver's licenses and \$3,000 for concealed weapons permits. Chairman Parrish stated this is good news for the County when citizens could get their license here especially if they can provide this service under the current budget constraints. The Board tentatively approved the budget of the Tax Collector. Commissioner Sanders stated at one time the Carrabelle Annex asked for another person for the Tax Collector's Office so they could provide 3 people but there are usually not 3 people there. She stated it was done for security and now the security problem is not there. Commissioner Sanders reported the air condition has to be corrected at this building because it is hot there. Mrs. Skipper said her understanding is the County is looking at putting a new unit at this location. She reported Mr. Shane Phillips, Courthouse Maintenance Director, is working on this issue. Mr. Watson said these problems have been going on for about a month. Commissioner Sanders reported this needs to be corrected. Commissioner Jones stated he was there and it was so hot. He pointed out the heat is not good for the computers. Mr. Watson explained he and the Property Appraiser have had some problems with their computers too but they have been working on it and it should be resolved in a few days. Commissioner Jones said it is good to add services but it is hard to do without adding employees. He stated some employees are retiring and he hopes processes have been put in place to address that. Mr. Watson stated Mrs. Ethel Jenkins, Assistant Tax Collector, is retiring the end of September so he will be interviewing to fill that position. He explained he reviewed the transaction load the office has now and the additional transactions that will be expected for the new services. He reported he met with the budget person for the Department of Revenue and comparisons were done with other counties and he feels confident they will be able to handle the additional services.

Mrs. Marcia Johnson, Clerk of Court, appeared before the Board. She reported Mrs. Phillips will present her budget. Mrs. Phillips said the Clerk's budget is the same as last year. The Board tentatively approved the budget of the Clerk of Court.

Mrs. Heather Riley, Supervisor of Elections, appeared before the Board. Mrs. Riley stated they are submitting the same budget as last year. The Board tentatively approved the budget of the Supervisor of Elections.

Mr. Howard Nabors, Road Department, appeared before the Board. He reported their budget is the same as last year. Commissioner Sanders asked if there are any big expenditures in the coming year. Mr. Nabors reported the biggest thing they need to work on is the dump trucks. He explained the trucks are 15 years old and have over 500,000 miles on them. He stated he has talked with the Mack representatives and some other counties about leasing the vehicles. He stated the lease is \$12,000 a year and the County gets to keep the truck for 13 months. He said it is \$110,000 to buy a dump truck. Commissioner Massey asked which one Mr. Nabors would suggest. Mr. Nabors stated he would try leasing for a year. Commissioner Massey asked about the maintenance on the truck. Mr. Nabors reported every 13 months they bring a new truck. Commissioner Sanders suggested Mr. Nabors look into this matter and discuss it with

Mrs. Griffith. She advised Mr. Nabors not to get to the point where the dump trucks are down and not working. Commissioner Sanders asked if there is a different place to get road materials than what they are using now. Mr. Nabors answered there is another limerock pit in Perry but it still has large rocks. Commissioner Sanders stated the material coming from Marianna may be too fine. Chairman Parrish asked if all the dump trucks are the same year model. Mr. Nabors said one is older at about 17 years old. He stated they will keep this truck to use around the county and to haul sand. He reported they use 2 dump trucks every day. Commissioner Jones asked how many dump trucks the County has. Mr. Nabors answered 3. Commissioner Lockley asked about the rest of the equipment. Mr. Nabors reported the front end loaders and grass tractors are good. He said they need a bush hog because the one they have is 5 years old and keeps breaking down. Mr. Nabors stated it will cost \$16,000 and he has the money in the budget to buy one. Commissioner Massey said they need to buy it if they have the money in the budget. Commissioner Lockley stated that is used to cut grass so they must have it. The Board tentatively approved the Road Department budget.

Chairman Parrish stated the Board is way ahead of schedule and Solid Waste is the next budget. Mrs. Griffith reported there is no increase in the budget but at some point the County has to address the transfer station issue. She explained there is some capital outlay expense and there will be an ongoing expense if they assume the transfer station. She reported these items are not included in his request. She estimated the cost of the compactor and hopper to be \$85,000 and a used roll off truck to be about \$20,000. She explained the truck is specifically designed for this use and would not leave the yard. Mrs. Griffith reported the cost will be a full time employee and some small miscellaneous expenses like concrete repair, a hydraulic pump and some training. She stated the total capital expense is \$161,000 and the recurring expense is \$36,600, the cost of the full time employee. Ms. Virginia Messer, Road Department, said Mr. Davis and Mrs. Link Carroll, Solid Waste Department, are on the way to the meeting.

Mrs. Griffith reported there is no increase in the Courthouse Maintenance budget. She said there are some projects planned next year such as the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) bathroom improvements for the Public Defender's Office and some improvements at the State Attorney's Office. Mr. Pierce added there may also be costs for the wall at the Tax Collector's Office. The Board tentatively approved the Courthouse Maintenance budget.

Mr. Pierce reported the Building Department budget is the same. Mrs. Griffith said it has a 0% increase. She reported the Planning & Zoning budget has a 0% increase and Administrative Services also. The Board tentatively approved the Building Department Budget. The Board tentatively approved the Planning & Zoning Department Budget. The Board tentatively approved the Administrative Services' Budget.

The workshop recessed at 9:40 a.m.

The workshop reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Davis appeared before the Board. Chairman Parrish said if the transfer station is coming up in the middle of the budget year. Mr. Davis reported they will need a new hopper, compactor and used truck. He said the truck is only for the landfill. He explained they are looking into some concrete work. He estimated the transfer station costs to be \$161,000. Chairman Parrish questioned the full time position and said it will not be needed until later in the budget year when the County assumes the transfer station. Mr. Davis agreed but recommended assuming it as soon as possible and said Attorney Shuler is working on this matter. He reported the contract expires in March, 2018. Chairman Parrish said a position will need to be funded from March, 2018 until October 1, 2018. He inquired if Mr. Davis would move someone he currently has on staff to work at the transfer station and then add an entry level position to train in the Solid Waste Department. Mr. Davis said he would like to move in-house personnel but they are making more than entry level pay. Chairman Parrish stated there needs to be someone with experience running the transfer station so they need to promote someone. Mr. Davis agreed as the person will need to be certified and this is included in the budget. Chairman Parrish asked if it will cost \$36,000 for 7 months for this employee. Mrs. Griffith stated the cost for 7 months is \$21,400 which is for salary and benefits. Chairman Parrish asked if that is what is included in the \$161,000 estimate. Mr. Davis reported \$36,000 was included in the budget. Chairman Parrish stated this additional should be removed. Mr. Davis said their budget is tight so it may not make a difference. He said they have estimated the concrete work and some chute costs also. He explained the contractor has not been here to give them an exact figure on what these costs will be. Chairman Parrish asked if there is a revenue stream associated with taking over the transfer station. Mr. Davis reported if the tipping fee is adjusted the County will make money but if the tipping fee is left the same the County will break even. He said the County will need to adjust the tipping fees when they take over the transfer station. Commissioner Lockley asked how much the tipping fee is now. Mr. Davis answered \$65.00 per ton. He suggested increasing the yard trash and construction and demolition tipping fee even if they do not increase it for household garbage. He said the County is at the lowest amount at \$45.00 per ton and could increase to \$55.00 per ton. Commissioner Sanders stated she can see increasing the construction and demolition fee. Commissioner Jones reported yard debris is basically free all the time so the County may need to look at doing away with roadside pickup unless there is a special reason. He stated the two reasons for this is the money and the roadsides look bad and the County cannot keep up with the volume. Mr. Davis suggested cutting out amnesty days first. He reported people feel like the roadside pickup is a benefit they get for paying their taxes. Commissioner Jones reported the County is paying to dispose of all this debris that is collected. Commissioner Lockley expressed concern that people will not take this debris to the landfill and will dump it somewhere else. Commissioner Sanders brought into discussion the life expectancy of the landfill. She questioned if the County needs to negotiate for more land. Mr. Davis estimated the County still has about 10 years left. Mr. Pierce pointed out the County is not using the landfill but still has to have space for a transfer station. Mr. Pierce reported they still need some buffer for the construction and demolition site as they are still in violation. Mr. Pierce stated in the future the County will need more construction and demolition space. Commissioner Sanders said at least the County is getting a tipping fee when this debris has to come through the landfill. Mr. Davis reported most of what they are getting during amnesty

day is construction and demolition debris. Commissioner Sanders asked if there has been a significant cut in the amount of construction and demolition debris that is coming in since the Board stopped picking up these items. Mr. Davis answered yes. Commissioner Sanders asked if they can do something with the positions in place now and not need another position. She suggested they take one person from the knuckle boom truck and use that person for the transfer station. She explained they do not know where the \$161,000 is going to come from. Mr. Davis reported they could not keep up when they were collecting everything but now they are able to do a good job just handling yard trash. He said it will be tough if they do not hire and move someone. Chairman Parrish reported several years ago he thought they could do without roadside pickup but he got more calls from people who did not want this service cut. He stated these items will be dropped off somewhere else. Commissioner Lockley asked how the rest of the equipment is. Mr. Davis stated other than the knuckle boom truck they are okay. Chairman Parrish reported the idea of the transfer station is to keep the landfill from filling up so they do not have to open a new landfill. Mr. Pierce said the County does not want to start using the landfill again. He explained the landfill does not handle any of the construction and demolition debris. Chairman Parrish stated the transfer station will cost \$161,000 per year. Mr. Pierce commented it is cheaper than trying to build a DEP permitted, lined landfill. He went on to say he is not sure where the County would put a new landfill. Mrs. Griffith stated once the initial capital outlay costs are paid for the transfer station then it will only be the ongoing expenses of the employees and repairs to the equipment. Commissioner Lockley reported the County has to take over the transfer station. Mrs. Griffith stated the Board has the transfer to capital outlay. She explained the after the transfer the balance would be \$600,000. She stated it would take most of the transfer for this year. She reported the ongoing costs would be borne by ad valorem taxes. Chairman Parrish asked if the Board needs to take any action. Mrs. Griffith reported the Board can transfer the money or leave the additional transfer from capital outlay in this year and designate those funds for the transfer station. She did not recommend funding this budget as they do not know how much it is going to be. She suggested leaving this money in the capital outlay budget. Clerk Johnson clarified the Board needs to approve Mr. Davis' budget but approve Mrs. Griffith keeping the money in the capital outlay fund designated for the transfer station for this year. Chairman Parrish asked how much will be left in the capital outlay fund. Mrs. Griffith answered after the \$218,000 transfer; the balance would be \$600,000. Chairman Parrish said after the \$161,000 then there will be about \$430,000. Mrs. Griffith reported they will not put these funds in the budget until Mr. Davis needs to spend it. Chairman Parrish said they only want to transfer what the actual expense is because at this time they do not know what the costs will be. Commissioner Lockley stated the costs may be a little higher as these costs were estimated. Chairman Parrish reported he knows why they want to turn the transfer station back to the county as there is no revenue stream associated with it. He asked if there is a cost for transferring this trash for disposal. Mr. Davis answered yes; it goes to Jackson County to the Waste Management Landfill. He explained they will give the County a rate for accepting the garbage but this does not include the freight charge from Aggregate. He reported right now Waste Management is paying Aggregate but the County will have to pay them when they take back the transfer station. Mr. Davis said this money comes out of the tipping fees and the

County will have to increase their tipping fees. Commissioner Lockley asked about Waste Pro. Mr. Davis said he contacted them and has not heard back from them but it will be expensive. The Board tentatively approved the Solid Waste Budget and agreed costs may be incurred during the year from the transfer station and they will be addressed with a transfer from the capital outlay fund.

The Board tentatively approved the Animal Control Budget. Mr. Davis said it is the same as last year.

Mrs. Griffith reported the Consolidated Solid Waste Grant is the same as last year. She stated the County cannot buy large pieces of equipment with this grant. She said the grant is \$90,909.00. Commissioner Lockley asked if they ever got an agreement worked out on Animal Control. Mr. Davis reported they were looking into agreements with the cities but it has not been completed. The Board tentatively approved the Consolidated Solid Waste Grant.

Commissioner Sanders asked if they are at capacity at the animal shelter. Mr. Davis answered they are below because they are trying to complete repairs.

Mrs. Griffith reported there are no increases in the Parks & Recreation Budget but TDC did increase their transfer to the County by \$25,000 because they wanted increased hours for some of the beach facilities. She pointed out it is up to the Board where this money goes in the Parks & Recreation. Chairman Parrish reported Mr. Blair told him the money was for an additional employee. He explained TDC is getting a lot of complaints about the restrooms not being clean in the beach areas. He asked if Mr. Davis has been contacted about this matter. Mr. Davis answered yes, but explained they are trying to keep up the ball fields and the bathrooms. He and the Board discussed the different shifts used to try and address the bathrooms. Chairman Parrish stated TDC is funding two positions and is going to fund another position to help with these items. Mr. Davis said they are funding one position. Mrs. Griffith pointed out \$25,000 does not cover the cost of one full time position but does cover one permanent part time employee that works up to 29 hours a week and will also fund another seasonal position. She explained the cost of a full time employee is \$36,000. Mrs. Griffith said they provide \$50,000 but the basic salary is \$25,000. Chairman Parrish commented the County is assuming all the other costs for the employee. Mrs. Griffith agreed this is correct. Chairman Parrish reported TDC is providing \$75,000 and the County is still able to provide these services for visitors and citizens. Mrs. Griffith asked the Board's permission to include the additional \$25,000 in the Parks & Recreation budget. The Board agreed to this change. Commissioner Lockley stated TDC has to realize they are funding the positions but the County does not have the manpower to just do the beach work and not help in other areas. Chairman Parrish said in the off season they do other things but in the peak season they primarily do this work. The Board tentatively approved the budget with the additional \$25,000 coming from TDC. Mr. Davis asked if raises are being included this year. Chairman Parrish said they have not discussed raises yet. Mr. Davis asked the Board to let him know when it is discussed so he can address the Board.

Mrs. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Director, appeared before the Board. She stated her budget has not changed. The Board tentatively approved the Emergency Management Department budget.

Chairman Parrish reported Mr. DeWitt Polous, Mosquito Control Department, was unable to attend the meeting but his budget has not changed. The Board tentatively approved the Mosquito Control Budget. Commissioner Lockley asked about their equipment. Mrs. Griffith said one truck and some spray equipment were ordered because they received additional ZIKA funds.

Mr. Pierce stated Mr. Charles Elliott, Veterans Service Office, was not able to attend today but his budget has not changed. The Board tentatively approved the budget.

Mrs. Griffith said the auditor's fees are the same at \$93,050. The Board tentatively approved this budget.

Mrs. Griffith reported they received a rate hold on the dental insurance. Mrs. Griffith stated the health insurance renewed at a 9 ½% increase. She said the increase in costs is \$162,607 and that is overall for all employees. She stated Capital Health Plan (CHP) is a good product and has renewed with single digit price increases which are better than the industry average. Chairman Parrish asked if the County may need to look for a company if these increases stay the same. Mrs. Griffith reported the national average increase is 14%. She pointed out with Blue Cross they were receiving double digit increases. She said at this point it is still a pretty good deal. Commissioner Lockley asked if there are any other companies out there that would provide services. Mrs. Griffith commented there are basically United, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and CHP. The Board discussed the different insurance companies and providers. The Board tentatively approved this budget.

Mrs. Griffith reported the Carrabelle Tax Increment District Development Trust estimated transfer will be \$79,004.00. She explained they had a very small decrease in the taxable value of .5% so the transfer is about \$1,000 less than last year. Mrs. Griffith said the Apalachicola Tax Increment District saw a 4.7% increase and their transfer will be \$36,349.00. The Board tentatively approved the budget for the Carrabelle Tax Increment District and the Apalachicola Tax Increment District.

Mrs. Griffith presented the grants budget, as follows:

HAVA Grant	\$ 16,157
Restore Planning Grant	\$ 306,532
LAP Sidewalk Grant	\$ 407,000
Relocation of Gulf Shore Blvd.	\$ 373,000
FEMA Repairs-SGI Seawall	\$ 67,000
Road Paving CIGP Ellis Van Vleet	\$ 179,420

SCOP Mill Road	\$1,594,000
CDBG Housing Grant	\$ 342,000
Airport-Stormwater Upgrade	\$1,900,000
Airport-Airfield Lighting	\$ 526,000
Airport-North/South Taxiway	\$1,725,000

Mrs. Griffith reported these are the large grant projects the County is aware of at this time. The Board tentatively approved this budget.

Mrs. Griffith stated Fund 122 is the Law Enforcement Educational Fund. She explained a \$2.00 fee is collected on County criminal, County Traffic and Circuit Criminal cases. She reported eligible expenditures are criminal justice education degree programs and training courses including basic recruit training for law enforcement personnel.

Mrs. Griffith reported Fund 123 is the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. She explained there is a very small balance remaining to be used for investigation expenses by the Sheriff's Department. She stated this balance is from years ago when the County Commission received the proceeds from forfeitures. She said there is about \$3,000 in this fund.

Mrs. Griffith said the Health Care Trust Fund as passed by voters is a 1% discretionary surtax that took effect on January 1, 2008. She stated the estimated proceeds this year will be \$2,338,160. She reported 50% of the sales tax proceeds each year act to defray the operating costs at Weems Memorial Hospital. She stated \$120,000 goes to support clinical operations and the balance of the sales tax proceeds as well as 100% of the interest earnings go to capital outlay projects. She said there was an increase in the estimated sales tax of \$228,000. Chairman Parrish asked for the total in the capital outlay fund. Mrs. Griffith estimated \$2.4 or \$2.5 million. She stated they received a payment of \$50,000 from Weems Memorial Hospital yesterday that goes towards the emergency advancements that were made last year. She estimated the balance of those advancements is \$690,000. Commissioner Lockley asked if this is the first payment the County received. Mrs. Griffith answered the second payment.

Mrs. Griffith reported the Bald Point Trust Fund has been in existence since 1999 when the State purchased a large tract of land on Alligator Point. She stated the County received approximately \$500,000. She explained per the agreement dated October 20, 1998, \$50,000 was to be used to asphalt the realigned main road along the new right-of-way. She said the \$450,000 balance was placed into a County Trust Fund where the principal and interest may only be used for expenditures in the Bald Point/Alligator Point area. She went on to say this fund has been utilized over the years for a grant match for FEMA funds and the County is currently working on a FEMA mitigation project, the permanent relocation of 800 linear feet of Gulf Shore Blvd. She explained this project is funded at 92.5% at an estimated total project cost of \$420,000. She said the estimated available balance in this fund is \$359,294.

Mrs. Griffith stated Fund 141 is the Local Option Gas Tax/Road Paving Fund. She reported in the early 1990's the Local Option Gas Tax was voted in for Franklin County. She explained this was a \$.05 tax on every gallon of motor fuel or diesel sold in Franklin County. She said in August, 2016 the Board voted to increase the Local Option Gas Tax to \$.06 per gallon. She reported Franklin County was the only county in the state that had not adopted the \$.06 and due to that reason the County was not eligible to apply for SCRAP program grants with the Florida Department of Transportation. Mrs. Griffith explained the State revenue estimate for sales tax collections for the next fiscal year is \$307,904. She said the expenditures provided for by these sales tax proceeds are governed by Florida Statute 336.025. She reported upon completion of the current paving project and the end of the next budget year there will be approximately \$673,000 accumulated in the fund to go towards a future paving project.

Mrs. Griffith reported the Boating Improvement Fund has funds deposited monthly from fees collected by the Franklin County Tax Collector. She said the estimated annual fees deposited to the fund are \$14,500 per year. She reported grant projects funded by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission's (FWC) Boating Improvement Grant are runs through this fund. She explained the County uses these boating improvement fees to provide the local match requirement for these grant programs. Mrs. Griffith reported the balance in this fund is \$38,812.00.

Mrs. Griffith discussed the St. George Island Fishing Pier Maintenance Fund. She explained in 1999 Franklin County entered into a Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) with DOT to take ownership of the ½ mile remnants on both sides of the bay of the old Bryant Patton Bridge to St. George Island. She explained this agreement transferred the \$1.52 million that the state would have incurred to tear down the old bridge over to Franklin County. Mrs. Griffith said the County received the \$1.52 million on February 22, 2006 and now has a fishing pier on St. George Island and Eastpoint. She went on to say in June, 2012 during Tropical Storm Debbie a barge broke loose from a Progress Energy Construction Project and demolished 165 feet of the St. George Island fishing pier. She explained to provide access to the severed pier the County paid \$654,367 to bridge the 165 ft. gap. Mrs. Griffith stated in January, 2016 through mediation a settlement agreement was reached and in February, 2016, the County received a check in the amount of \$575,000 as payment for the damages. She reported at this time there is \$1,579,902.00 available in the St. George Island Fishing Pier Maintenance Fund. She explained the JPA with the state specified with the County's receipt of the funds, the County will assume full responsibility for the maintenance of those portions of the bridge transferred and shall assume sole liability for said portions immediately upon said transfer. She said in the events these portions are damaged in a storm, the repair or demolitions of the remnants of the old bridge are the responsibility of the County.

Mrs. Griffith said Fund 151 the Resolving Loan started in 1996 when disastrous flooding occurred in the county and the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) awarded the County an Emergency Assistance Community Development Block Grant. She stated Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) handled administration of the grant and in 1997 grants

provided emergency loans for individuals and businesses involved in the seafood industry. She explained the idea behind the grant was for the County to set up a revolving loan fund to use in future emergency situations. She stated many loans have been repaid however ARPC turned the administration of the loan program back to the County and the County has been unable to recoup some of the loans due to insufficient collateral. Mrs. Griffith said DCA inquires on the delinquency of these loans when they complete their annual monitoring visits. She said the Revolving Loan Fund has a balance of \$286,760.

Mrs. Griffith reported Fund 160 Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) was created by special assessments to fund the fire departments throughout the County. She explained revenues for each district are estimated from rolls generated by the Tax Collector's Office. She stated the total estimated operating revenue for the MSBU fund for next fiscal year is \$533,416.00. She said the volunteer firefighters from each district are covered under the workers' compensation policy of the County. She reported the transfer out to each volunteer fire department takes the estimated revenue from each fire district less the share of expenditures. She stated the MSBU was set up in 1987.

Mrs. Griffith report Fund 163 is the E911 Fund. She explained revenue for this fund is generated by fees collected by each voice communication service provider located in the county at a rate of \$.50 per month per each service identifier. She reported the intent of the fee is to provide funds to the County governments to pay certain costs associated with their E911 system. She discussed the statute which outlines the eligible expenditures.

Mrs. Griffith said Fund 170 is the Airport Fund. She reported the Airport Fund is self sufficient in the upcoming year. She explained revenues for this fund include a monthly lease with TP Auto Transport that will generate \$12,000, an annual lease with CAAZ that will generate \$1,500, an annual lease with Smiling Skies that will generate \$6,000, an annual lease with Forgotten Coast Fliers LLC that will generate \$25,000 and Fixed Base Operator (FBO) rent that will generate \$42,000. She explained these revenues will defray the cost of operating expenses for the Apalachicola Airport including the insurance expenses for the hangar facility and storage tank liability projects.

Mrs. Griffith stated \$350,000 will be received in the Affordable Housing Assistance Trust Fund for rehabilitation or down payment assistance for residents.

Mrs. Griffith reported there is approximately \$25,000 remaining in Fund 301-the Capital Outlay Reserve Fund to be used to complete the reforestation of the El's Court property pursuant to the grant agreement. She reported \$94,702 is available in the fund for mandated future GIS mapping updates for the Property Appraiser's Office. She said there is \$600,479 available for infrastructure or other capital improvements. She explained this includes the money with the transfer that was budgeted for the upcoming year.

Mrs. Griffith stated the Landfill Management Escrow Account must be maintained by Franklin County for future closure and longtime care requirements for the landfill. She said at this time there are adequate funds in the escrow to meet the minimum funding requirement. She explained at some time in the future the County may be required to contribute more to this escrow account.

The workshop was recessed at 11:00 a.m.

The workshop was reconvened at 11:21 a.m.

Mr. Pierce reported the Area Agency on Aging and the Library will appear at the afternoon session. He said the Board will start their meeting tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. to address the non-governmentals.

Mr. Pierce reported there is another fund that is not yet a grant and that is the Triumph Fund. He informed the Board he and Chairman Parrish met with new Triumph Board member Mr. Jason Shoaf yesterday. Mr. Pierce stated there is \$15 million of Triumph money reserved for Franklin County and he will be coming to the Board with some ideas for this money. He said the Triumph Board will be a battle for Franklin County. He explained the County will probably receive their \$15 million but it may be hard to get any additional funds. He reported the Triumph Board is not structured in favor of the county. Mr. Pierce said Mr. Shoaf will do all he can for the county but the Board will be restructured with Mr. Don Gaetz being the new Chairman as of January 1, 2018. He stated they discussed yesterday submitting a list of projects as soon as the application period is open. He reported this list should show the Triumph Board how great the needs are in Franklin County. He explained his goal is to provide the Board with a list of infrastructure projects countywide. He stated they told Mr. Shoaf it will take a while to develop economic projects but they have infrastructure projects that are eligible to be paid by the Triumph funds. Chairman Parrish pointed out Mr. Shoaf would like to see Franklin County get more than \$15 million but the County cannot receive more additional funds until the \$15 million allotment is spent. He explained if the County does not move forward with the infrastructure projects then someone else can apply from another area to spend money in Franklin County and if approved that would come out of the County's 5%. He reported anyone can apply as long as the money is spent in Franklin County. He explained anyone that is doing a project here that meets the criteria could take the money away from the County. Chairman Parrish reported there are several categories you can apply under and one is disaster response. Mr. Pierce stated they are working with the Sheriff to put up towers to enhance the SLURS radio. He explained Wakulla County is also interested in this radio tower and it would benefit the counties. Commissioner Sanders suggested they have this project in Liberty, Wakulla and Franklin County. Chairman Parrish stated they are hoping to do this project as a regional project so they have contact with the neighboring counties in terms of emergency response. Commissioner Sanders expressed concern that the Triumph Board could receive a project from someone else and the County Commission would never know. Mr. Pierce stated this is why the County needs a list of projects that need to be done. Chairman Parrish said the application

process should be done in September and then they can start submitting projects. Commissioner Sanders reported the Consortium has got to get the state expenditure plan (SEP) up and running. Mr. Pierce informed the Board he brought this up because there may be a budget amendment for this item. Commissioner Lockley said the County may not get additional funds but someone cannot take the \$15 million. Mr. Pierce stated the money must be spent in the boundaries of Franklin County but could be spent by someone else. Chairman Parrish commented it could be spent by someone who does not live here. He explained the County will have a chance to oppose those expenditures but it does not mean they could stop it.

The workshop was recessed at 11:27 a.m. The Board agreed to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:33 p.m.

Mrs. Lisa Bretz, Area Agency on Aging, appeared before the Board. Chairman Parrish stated there is no increase in their budget. Mrs. Bretz said they based their request on what was available. Commissioner Sanders asked how much money was expended to agencies in Franklin County. Mrs. Bretz answered \$6,000 to the Carrabelle Senior Center and other money to the lead agency. She reported they still have \$3,000 for the Carrabelle Senior Center and the balance to the lead agency. Mrs. Bretz commented they verified the Carrabelle Senior Center added services and were able to bring back their meal program by adding 12 new consumers. She stated they are serving 1,700 meals a year. Commissioner Lockley asked if they worked out another place. Mrs. Bretz said she is trying to negotiate with another provider in the County. She expressed concern if the leader of the current lead agency was to retire, Franklin County would be back to the same situation as before. She explained they are trying to groom a new provider because they have no current experience working with seniors and part of the Request for Proposals (RFP) requires two years experience. She reported they are trying to get the current lead agency to subcontract with the Elder Care Community Council (ECCC) to provide meals in Apalachicola. Mr. Pierce asked if this group is in existence now. Mrs. Bretz answered yes, they are a 501 (c) (3) and are an independent volunteer board. She said they are already established in Franklin County and Mrs. Bonnie Fulmer is their President. Mrs. Bretz reported they are hoping the Alzheimer's project receives a grant and they have set aside a \$10,000 match for this item as they must have a 50% match. The Board tentatively approved this budget.

Mrs. Lisa Lance, Franklin County Public Library Director, appeared before the Board. Commissioner Massey asked if the budget is the same. Mrs. Lance answered yes. The Board tentatively approved this budget. Mrs. Lance explained she re-classed some budget amounts to add another part time position for the Franklin County Branch. She explained they are extending their hours and only have one full time person and one part time so this would add another 29 hour position. Chairman Parrish asked if this is included in the budget and budget is unchanged. Mrs. Lance answered yes. Commissioner Lockley asked which branch this is for. Mrs. Lance answered the Carrabelle Branch. She reported there are two full time positions in Eastpoint but they have greater volunteer coverage. Mrs. Lance explained some of their

volunteers in Carrabelle are snow birds so she can't guarantee they will be back the next year. She reported if there is another part time person then she does not have to worry about closing the branch if there are any issues with the other staff. She stated this will allow them to extend their hours and will allow more outreach with the children.

Mrs. Griffith said the Board needs to set the public hearing dates and she asked if they want to discuss cost of living adjustments. Mr. Pierce reported the budgets are set with a \$1,000 raise in them at this time. Mrs. Griffith stated the cost of a \$1,000 cost of living increase would be \$214,681 and that is what is currently in the budget. She stated a \$750 cost of living increase would cost \$161,010 and a \$1,000 one time allocation would cost \$188,387. She said a \$600 cost of living raise would cost \$128,808. The Board tentatively approved a \$1,000 raise. Commissioner Sanders asked if this will not affect the budget submitted to them. Mrs. Griffith answered the budget will remain the same at the 6.065 millage rate which is the same millage rate as last year. She explained this includes the cost of living increase of \$1,000.

Mrs. Griffith suggested September 5th and September 19th at 5:15 p.m. as the public hearing dates. She explained these dates work with the TRIM timeline. The Board discussed and approved these dates. Mrs. Griffith reminded the Board the meeting tomorrow is at 9:00 a.m. to meet with the non-governmentals.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the workshop was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Joseph A. Parrish - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts