

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BUDGET HEARING  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2000  
5:15 P.M.**

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:** Clarence Williams, Chairman; Jimmy Mosconis and Cheryl Sanders, Commissioners; Kendall Wade, Clerk; Amelia Varnes, Deputy Clerk.

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Creamer and Putnal.

**5:15 P.M.** Chairman Williams called the meeting to order.

(Tape 1-3) Chairman Williams asked Mr. Wade to read the following into the record: This is the first public hearing to adopt the tentative budget September 11, 2000. At this meeting the Board must adopt the tentative budget and tentative millage rate to be advertised according to statutory requirements. 1. It will take 5.611 mils to fund the tentative budget. 2. The total of the tentative budget is \$16,361,438.00. 3. The tentative millage rate of 5.611 is 10.08% below the rolled-back rate of 6.240 mils. 4. The date set for the Final Budget Hearing to adopt the millage and budget will be Monday, September 25, 2000, at 5:15 p.m. at the Franklin County Courthouse, County Commission Meeting Room. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion adopting the tentative budget-\$16,361,438.00 and tentative millage rate-5.611 mils to be advertised according to statutory requirements.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Williams adjourned the Public Hearing and opened an Emergency Meeting to address the GRIT Bankruptcy Hearing on September 19, 2000, in Tampa.

(Tape 1-53) Mr. Wade said he was informed that Mr. Pat Floyd, City of Apalachicola Attorney, is going to attend the GRIT Bankruptcy Hearing on September 19, 2000, in Tampa. He said he has talked with Mayor Alan Pierce and asked him to consider allowing Mr. Floyd to represent the County as well as the City of Apalachicola. He said the County could pay half of the expenses to send Mr. Floyd to Tampa. Mr. Wade asked for a motion to allow Mr. Floyd to represent the County at this meeting. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the City of Apalachicola attorney, Pat Floyd, to represent Franklin County at the GRIT Bankruptcy hearing in Tampa on September 19, 2000 and agreeing to half the expenses with the City of Apalachicola.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-80) Mr. Wade said he wanted the Board to know he has approved the expenditure of \$4,100.00 for work on the Courthouse roof. He said a new cap for the roof would be \$18,000.00 and he felt he couldn't do that without bidding the project. He reported he felt it was important enough to go ahead and approve the work since the roof was leaking so badly. Mr. Wade explained the company was working on the roof right now.

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(Tape 1-112) Commissioner Mosconis said he had one more matter concerning the action Senator Graham is taking on de-authorizing the USCOE to dredge the Apalachicola River. He stated apparently there was a meeting being scheduled in Georgia and a Mr. Childers from Gulf County, a member of the River Keepers, called him the other day. He stated he asked Commissioner Mosconis about a Resolution Gulf County has adopted regarding this matter. Commissioner Mosconis advised him to call Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services, so he could check into the matter. He said the Resolution was in support of Senator Graham's initiatives. He asked Mr. Pierce if he had received a copy of the Gulf County Resolution. Mr. Pierce replied he did not have a copy. He said he had not checked his e-mail. Mr. Wade suggested Ms. Varnes call the Gulf County Clerk's Office to get a copy of the Resolution. Mr. Pierce said the County did want to support what Senator Graham is trying to do to save the lower Apalachicola River. Commissioner Mosconis said he would make a **motion to tentatively adopt a Resolution supporting what Gulf County is doing to support Senator Bob Graham's effort in de-regulating the dredging of the Apalachicola River.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis instructed Mr. Pierce to look over the Resolution to make sure it was proper and if so the Chairman could go ahead and sign it. Mr. Wade stated there was an indirect benefit to this in that if the Fed's adopt Senator Graham's proposal then they will go ahead and approve the legislation to come down the River and unstop a lot of these creeks. He said some of the creeks are stopped up and nothing has been done about them. He stated he hoped they do that. Commissioner Mosconis said this was a big part of the discussion as to if the USCOE was going to have the funds to correct some of these problems they have created on the River. He stated Senator Graham has assured the public he will see the funds are made available. Mr. Wade said Senator Graham is committed to having these creeks unstopped. Commissioner Mosconis said they used the figure of between \$30,000.00 and \$100,000.00 of tax money for each load of barges that go up the River. He said that was unbelievable.

(Tape 1-193) Mr. Pierce said he wanted to say, on behalf of the employees of the Board of County Commissioners, they appreciated the raises the Board approved. He stated he also wanted to thank the Finance Officer, Ruth Williams, for the good job she has done in working and preparing the budget. He said it is through the Board's leadership, but her efforts that the budget is prepared.

(Tape 1-222) Commissioner Mosconis said he thought the County Government, in his view, was in good shape. He stated the leadership has pretty well held things in line this year financially.

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

Clarence Williams CLARENCE WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN

Kendall Wade KENDALL WADE, CLERK