

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
SEPTEMBER 5, 2017
5:15 PM
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Linda Phillips-Finance Director, Erin Griffith-Assistant Finance Director, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Parrish called the Public Hearing to Order. He said at this meeting the Board must adopt the tentative budget and tentative millage rate to be advertised according to statutory requirements.

Mrs. Griffith provided the following information:

1. It will take 6.3065 mills to fund this budget.
2. The total of the tentative budget is \$52,254,490.
3. The tentative millage rate of **6.3065** mills is **2.45% greater** than the rolled back rate of **6.1554** mills.
4. The millage is 2.45% above the rolled back rate due to an increase in the FRS retirement contribution rates as set by the Florida Legislature, an increase of 9.5% in the cost of health insurance, an increase in the transfer to the tax increment districts, an increase in the transfer to capital outlay due to the assumption of the transfer station and a cost of living increase.
5. The date set for the **FINAL BUDGET HEARING** to adopt the final millage rate and budget for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 is **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017, AT 5:15 PM**, at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex, County Commission Meeting Room, 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, FL.

Mrs. Griffith said the budget remains unchanged from the items discussed at the budget workshop with the exceptions of the salaries of the elected officials. She explained the updated salaries as released by the State of Florida were received late Friday. She reported the salaries of the elected officials have been corrected to reflect the change in the budgets and the transfer to capital outlay reduced by the same amount to cover the change. Mrs. Griffith stated this change will not increase the millage rate. Chairman Parrish referenced Item #4 on the handout and asked if that is all the increases the County had over last year's budget. He provided a description of each of the increases. He said the County is not meeting the rollback rate because of these expenses. He reported the budgets of all the constitutional officers stayed at the same rate as last year. Chairman Parrish stated there were no increases to County Departments except for Solid Waste and that was out of their control. Mrs. Griffith pointed out the money was not transferred into the Solid Waste Budget but to Capital Outlay so the Board still has ultimate control of the funds. Chairman Parrish agreed the money was set aside for the transfer station expenses. Chairman Parrish asked for public comment. Mr. Alan Feifer, Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, stated this is a \$52 million budget which are an increase from last year and the year before. He said the County is not going with the rolled back rate and offered a definition of the rolled back rate. He reported there has not been an attempt to save the \$500,000 to achieve the rolled back rate. Mr. Feifer said the Association came up with 16 different areas where the County could potentially save money. He reported there were 1,300 tax sales this year and many of the citizens are unable to pay their taxes. He stated the County is 1 of the 3-4 highest taxing counties in the state per capita. He asked the Board to take the time and energy to find the \$500,000 worth of savings and show the citizens that they care. He reported the raise issue has been bothering him for years and in many instances they treat county employees differently than the employees of the constitutional officers. Mrs. Gail Rieglmayer, a resident of St. George Island, discussed being on a fixed income and having bills increase. She stated it is up to the Board to be prudent about how the money is spent at the county level. She said there are areas that can be cut and the Board should take time to cut these items. Mrs. Reigmayer asked the Board to think of the people on fixed incomes, consider the rolled back rate and keep the spending where it is today. Mr. Mason Bean, a resident of St. George Island, thanked the office staff for their time and work on the budget. He stated he supports the rolled back rate and asked the Board to look at the suggestions of the Concerned Citizens. Ms. Georgia Ann Metz, a resident of Alligator Point, said Alligator Point is paying taxes and not receiving many services. She reported they have a road that they almost cannot drive over. She stated they are not getting anything for the tax money and she feels they have been forgotten. She informed the Board she is not for the increase. Ms. Lisa Ray, a resident of St. George Island, said she is against the increase. She referenced an article in The Apalachicola Times about a criminal probe for the Tax Collector's Office and asked the County to reconsider the increase. Ms. Marguerite King, a resident of Alligator Point, said they are the forgotten Alligator Point. She stated she does not feel like they are getting the County services they deserve for the amount of taxes they pay. She discussed the services they pay for and the services provided by the County. She requested the County put some of the money back in the road at Alligator Point. She said the road has never been fixed properly and it is time someone thought of them. Ms. King stated the Road Department is doing a good job

about the road but something needs to be done. She requested the taxes stay where they are and the Board approve the rolled back rate. Commissioner Jones reported there are several things involved in the differences they are seeing but the only thing they may have qualms with is the raises given to county employees. He stated the County must assume the transfer station at the landfill and cannot control how much the health care rates and retirement rates increase. He reported the only thing they can do to cut the budget is to cut some of the services they say they are not receiving already. He said they are not going to tell the employees what they are doing is not important and discussed the amount of the proposed raise. Commissioner Sanders stated she has been on the Board for 19 years and has just been told she is not doing a good enough job. She explained they cannot help what Mother Nature brings to Alligator Point or that the federal government is dragging their feet. She said they have been trying to get the project started since last September and now things are happening since the Congressman in District 2 got involved and tried to help. She stated there are people in the county that drive down dirt roads every day and the people at Alligator Point drive down 1,100 ft. of dirt road. She reminded the public the Board members pay taxes and when the Board taxes the citizens they also tax themselves. Commissioner Sanders reported there are many things she wants to do but they are not all possible. She stated she has tried to provide remedies for the people at Alligator Point and she is sorry if they do not think she has done enough. She said the taxes that people are being asked to pay today are fair and reasonable. Commissioner Sanders said the Board has kept the millage rate down and are showing some prudence just not the prudence they are asking for. Commissioner Sanders reminded the public that every day the Board sees the problems of everyone in the county. Mrs. Griffith read the Resolution adopting the tentative millage levy. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Resolution, as follows:**

**RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE
LEVY FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 - 2018**

WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida, on September 5th, 2017, adopted Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Tentative 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 \$1,825,653,612.

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

The Fiscal Year 2017-2018 tentatively adopted operating millage rate for Franklin County is **6.3065** mills which is greater than the rolled-back rate of **6.1554** mills by **2.45%**.

DULY ADOPTED at a public hearing this 5th day of September 2017.
Time Adopted 5:40 p.m.

s/Joseph Parrish

JOSEPH PARRISH, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

s/Marcia M. Johnson

MARCIA M. JOHNSON, CLERK OF COURTS

Mrs. Griffith read the Resolution adopting the tentative budget. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt this Resolution, as follows:**

**RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TENTATIVE BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida has determined the amount of funds required for a **Tentative Budget** for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has given due notice as required by law, and has held a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, has set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the **Tentative Budget** for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in the amount of \$52,254,490.

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

1. The Fiscal Year 2017-2018 **Tentative Budget** be adopted.
2. That copies of this Resolution containing the **Tentative Budget** be spread upon the records of Franklin County, Florida.

This Resolution **duly adopted** at a public hearing this 5th day of September 2017.

Time adopted 5:43 PM

s/Joseph Parris
JOSEPH PARRISH, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

s/Marcia M. Johnson
MARCIA M. JOHNSON, CLERK OF COURTS

Commissioner Lockley asked for the records for the last 16 years since he has been on the Board showing how much money was spent on Alligator Point Road.

Mrs. Griffith reminded the Board the final budget Public Hearing will be held on September 19, 2017 at 5:15 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Joseph A. Parrish - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts