

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP
JULY 25, 2019
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Noah Lockley – Chairman, William Massey-Vice-Chairman, Joseph Parrish, Ricky Jones, Bert B. Boldt, II

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 Lockley called the workshop to Order.

Mr. Moron stated this is their Budget Workshop to hear from county departments, constitutional officer and others. He said there are two sessions one at 9:00 a.m. and one at 1:30 p.m. He reported tomorrow they will meet at 10:00 a.m. to address the non-governmentals and there is a Special Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Moron explained they usually review the budgets and then if there is a consensus one Commissioner tentatively approves the budget. He said if they are going to change this process then now is the time to address it before they move forward. He reminded the Board whatever number they leave with today on the total budget and millage rate can be reduced but cannot be increased. He said they will start with public comments and then Mrs. Griffith will read her narrative and they review the budgets one by one.

Chairman Lockley asked for public comment. Mr. Alan Feifer, Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, said the financial team has presented a budget that reduces the millage rate while bringing in \$200,000 more than last year's budget. He said the total budget has risen about \$8 million above last year's adopted budget and he knows that will be explained this morning. He stated there is some personnel compensation written into the budget but some constitucionals have built in increased pay for some of their employees. He reported county departments have not included additional pay. Mr. Feifer said the Board should treat all employees fairly and consistently which they do not at this time and that will impact the budget this year. He said the Sheriff's budget has benefitted by state law as they now fund School Resource Officers in the amount of \$81,000 which is a net increase to their budget. He stated there are also additional outside sources the Sheriff's Office accesses and they wish there was more transparency on these issues. Mr. Feifer reported their average pay is rising much faster than inflation. He stated the Property Appraiser's Office has a total of 9 employees and this appears to be many more employees than offices of similar size and needs explanation. He stated this

office is overfunded and they remember when the office was increased to hire a GIS specialist. He explained they do not know if this position is still there since the County hired this work out but the staff seems to be the same. He said the Professional Services budget increased 6 times. He stated the Road Department's use of an annual renewable lease for dump trucks is of great concern and discussed same. Mr. Feifer suggested capital requests be reviewed as a whole. He said the Board should consider the entire budget and not just ad valorem taxes as ad valorem is only a small fraction of the budget. He discussed total spending and the ad valorem offset which should be included in the numbers. Mr. Feifer stated there are millions of dollars in cash carried forward and said Finance should explain what happens with cash carried forward from previous years. He said there are many accounts with cash carried forward and individual, constitutional and county budgets sometimes include their own contingency in reserve funds. He addressed the cash carried forward in the Landfill Tipping Fee Fund and their contingency amount in addition to the funds to eventually close the landfill. He said there are several accounts with large amounts of money on the books and the Commissioners should be fully informed of the county's cash position which they are not today. He stated the figures indicate a repeating rapidly growing tax base with unconstrained spending by the county leading to even higher taxes on citizens. He said the numbers they will arrive at will require at least \$500,000 more in spending from last year. Mr. Feifer asked the Board to commit to the rolled back rate.

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 pleased to announce Franklin County has an increase in taxable value of 7.42%. At this increase in value, one mill will generate \$2,030,468 in 2019. The proposed millage rate represents the amount of ad valorem tax proceeds per \$1,000 of taxable property value. In the current budget, the millage rate of 6.2679 generated \$11,847,537. In the preliminary budget for 2019/2020, the current millage rate of 6.2679 would generate \$12,726,772. 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 5.9040 and would generate \$11,987,884, in ad valorem proceeds – the millage 5.9644 and proceeds required to fund the preliminary budget \$12,110,548 as presented today is currently 1.02% over the rolled-back rate, which equates to \$122,664 over in ad valorem proceeds. The difference between tax revenues from one year to the next excluding the effects of the tax increment values is \$263,011.

The Commission encouraged all requests be turned in at the same level as last year, if an increase was still requested, the department or constitutional appeared before the Board to explain the increase. The constitutionals and departments that have requested increases are as follows: Sheriff's Department \$25,253, Property Appraiser \$1,259, Supervisor of Elections \$57,554, Animal Control \$11,594, Parks and Recreation \$19,489, Library \$31,828, Building Department \$7,570 and Extension Office \$1,700. Other increases include a 4% increase in the cost of coverage through Capital Health Plan which equates to an increase in cost of \$58,561, increased transfer to the tax increment districts of \$6,940 and \$160,667 in available funds in the general

fund at the preliminary millage rate to fund a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment for all employees or other expenditures. On a positive note, other revenues increased by \$81,181 in the general fund, a reduction in the Tax Collector's budget of \$2,706 and transfers to/from other funds increased by \$32,665.

Items that increased the budget (\$382,415) less those with decreases (\$116,552) result in a net increase that is approximately the difference in budgeted ad valorem proceeds. The summarized increases and decreases that make up this difference from the 18/19 budget to the 19/20 budget are summarized in the table below.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	\$25,253.00
PROPERTY APPRAISER	\$1,259.00
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS	\$57,554.00
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$11,594.00
PARKS & RECREATION	\$19,489.00
LIBRARY	\$31,828.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	\$7,570.00
EXTENSION OFFICE	\$1,700.00
INCREASES IN TRANSFERS TO THE TAX INCREMENT DISTRICTS	\$6,940.00
HEALTH INSURANCE – 4% Rate Increase	\$58,561.00
PRELIMINARY COLA	\$160,667.00
TOTAL SUMMARIZED INCREASES	\$382,415.00
INCREASES IN STATE SHARED REVENUES	\$81,181.00
TAX COLLECTOR BUDGET DECREASE	\$2,706.00
NET CHANGE IN TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$32,665.00
TOTAL SUMMARIZED DECREASES/OFFSETS	\$116,552.00
TOTAL SUMMARIZED INCREASES LESS DECREASES/OFFSETS	\$265,863.00

The total budget in 2018/2019 was 50,838,272 and the preliminary budget for 2019/2020 totals \$58,666,537. The change in total budget is \$7,828,295. \$7.5 million dollars of the change in total budget can be attributed to the following special funds: the balance in the Health Care Trust Fund will be nearly one million dollars more by the end of next fiscal year, Weems Memorial Hospital fund budget is \$1.6 million more, the CDBG fund has a \$2.4 million dollar grant program that was not budgeted last year to provide housing for victims of the Eastpoint Wildfire, the landfill management escrow has over \$1.1 million dollars more and the landfill tipping fee fund has over \$1.4 million in additional funds due to Hurricane Michael. The summarized total budget by fund worksheet will illustrate the budgetary changes by fund.

In 2019, Homesteaded Properties with just values exceeding taxable values, saw an increase in assessed value of 1.90% based on CPI. A homeowner with a house valued at \$150,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would have paid \$627 in county taxes in 2018. At the proposed 2019 rate and the CPI adjustment to value, that homeowner would pay \$613 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 \$313 in county taxes in 2018 while paying \$310 in 2019. Chairman Lockley reported the Board asked everyone to keep the same budget as last year. He said there were some mandates from the state but for the rest of the increases they will need to give a good explanation or remove it. He stated that is what the Commission asked for and that is what he is going by.

Sheriff's Department

Mrs. Ginger Coulter, Franklin County Sheriff's Department, said they worked hard to keep their budget the same but they had some state mandated increases in retirement. She reported insurance and meals for inmates also went up. She explained to offset those increases they cut on the operating side and are taking a chance and hope it works out. Chairman Lockley stated they cannot do anything about the insurance and retirement. Mrs. Coulter discussed an item submitted by Captain David Vanes that he has been working with the Sheriff on. She explained other Sheriff's Offices and county offices were polled to get a comparison on salaries. She said the state prisons are about to raise starting salaries to a least \$35,000. Mrs. Coulter reported their deputies and correction officers start at \$32,000. She stated in order to maintain the staff they want to look at a step pay plan. She said the Sheriff knows this will not happen overnight but wants the Board to look at the information and open the dialogue to help in the future. Mrs. Coulter reported it is clear this will not happen this budget year but they want to review it and see how they can address it in the future. Chairman Lockley stated they usually let the state move first and then keep close to that amount to keep from losing staff. Commissioner Parrish said he would like to stick with the budget this year but he understands why they are looking at this plan. He explained if they allow one constitutional officer to look at this then the others should be afforded the same opportunity. He stated this stepped up plan goes for 25 years and there is no way to fund this without cutting somewhere else. Commissioner Parrish said they have a \$25,000 increase that is mandated. Mrs. Coulter answered yes. Commissioner Jones reported they already have a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) in the budget. Mrs. Griffith explained it is included in the Board side but has not been distributed out until it is approved. Mrs. Coulter highlighted the areas she cut in the budget. Commissioner Boldt asked if departments have the flexibility to contact vendors and ask for reductions. Mrs. Coulter answered yes and said they do a lot of negotiating especially with inmate medical bills. She said the inmate meal cost increased 5% and they cut it to 2%. Commissioner Massey asked where the meals are coming from. Mrs. Coulter responded they have a contract with Trinity. Chairman Lockley questioned how the building is holding up after they went through the Category 5 storm last year. Mrs. Coulter reported the investigations building was destroyed and they are 5-6 weeks away from getting back in a building. Chairman Lockley and Mrs. Coulter discussed the condition of the building and the generator. Commissioner Massey stated several items were replaced last year. Mrs. Coulter said there may be one HVAC that has not been addressed. Chairman Lockley explained he asked because they are going through the budget cycle and if there is something that is coming up this is the time to tell them.

Commissioner Parrish highlighted the changes to the Sheriff's budget. Commissioner Parrish tentatively approved the Sheriff's Department budget.

Property Appraiser

Mrs. Casey Nash, Franklin County Property Appraiser's Office, said she is standing in for Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Property Appraiser, who was not able to attend. She stated their budget stayed the same except for the mandated increase in retirement. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Property Appraiser's budget. Mrs. Nash clarified their office has 8 employees and Mrs. Skipper who is an elected official.

Clerk of Court

Mrs. Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Court, reported her budget is the same as last year. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Clerk's budget.

Supervisor of Elections

Mrs. Heather Riley, Supervisor of Elections, stated she has an increase in her budget. She explained her budget changes from year to year depending on the election cycle. She stated they are coming into one of the biggest election cycles. Mrs. Riley said her biggest increase is cyber security. She stated last year they received a grant from the state to purchase the monitor but the county has to fund it year to year. She explained her request for direct ballot printers. Mrs. Riley reported she will have to reprint all her absentee ballots and no solicitation signs this year because the laws have changed. Chairman Lockley said she is required to have her added items. Mrs. Riley answered yes, but next year her budget will drop dramatically since there will only be one election. Commissioner Boldt pointed out they had to leave their office last year during the canvassing when there was not enough room for people to sit. Commissioner Boldt questioned if Mrs. Riley has a saving account in her budget. Mrs. Riley replied no, she has to come to the Board if something happens she is not prepared for. Commissioner Boldt said they recognize Mrs. Riley needs more space at her office. Mrs. Riley stated they need more room but there are not a lot of locations available with more room. She reported she has looked at an actual on-site storage shed to store non-essential items. Commissioner Boldt asked if the landlord has rehabilitated the building. Mrs. Riley said he has worked a little but no one has been there since June. She reported he did repair the flooring. Chairman Lockley asked if they are out of harm's way. Mrs. Riley stated nothing has been done to stabilize the building. Chairman Lockley reported they are still an accident waiting to happen. Mrs. Riley explained two people said different things about the safety of the building. Commissioner Boldt said they would give her the authority to make sure these items are taken care of on behalf of her budget and safety. Commissioner Parrish questioned where the increased cyber security costs are in her budget paperwork and what the actual costs are. Mrs. Riley stated it is on Line 4601. Commissioner Parrish asked where the other increases are. Mrs. Riley reported Line 49 Other Current Charges which is repurchasing the vote by mail ballots,

signs and printed materials. She said part of that expense is also temporary help. Commissioner Parrish reported the increase is \$43,000. Mrs. Riley stated part of that are printers also. Commissioner Jones asked if the cost for the House of Representative's election caused issues with her budget. Mrs. Riley answered yes; she had to ask the Board for the money. She reported the first reimbursements of \$11,500 should be received in the next few weeks and it will be a few months for the rest to come through. She stated they work a lot of overtime during the special elections. Mrs. Riley said she does not put in for raises because of overtime. Commissioner Parrish questioned how the reimbursement comes in. Mrs. Riley said they reimburse her office and she sends it to the county. Commissioner Parrish stated with the explanations of the increases and the assurances that her budget will decrease next year he tentatively approves the Supervisor of Elections' budget.

Tax Collector

Ms. Stephanie Turrell, Franklin County Tax Collector's Office, stated their budget has decreased. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Tax Collector's budget.

Road Department

Mr. Howard Nabors, Superintendent of Public Works, stated his budget is the same with no increase. Chairman Lockley asked how the equipment is for his department. Mr. Nabors said good but some pickup trucks need to be replaced. He explained they talked with Mrs. Griffith and they are going to share a truck with the Mosquito Control Department. He said it will come out of the budget so there is no increase. Chairman Lockley asked about the building. Mrs. Griffith reported the building is unchanged and they will meet with Mr. Clay Kennedy, Dewberry, in August to formulate a bid plan. Commissioner Boldt asked if they got the money from FEMA. Mr. Nabors said they got some of the money and they finished working on the signs. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Road Department budget.

Mr. Nabors said he also has a generator for a fuel pump which will cost under \$10,000. He stated hopefully if there is enough left from his budget he can purchase the generator. He explained there were issues during the storm and someone had to sit there for 15 hours a day so people could fuel up. Commissioner Parrish asked if they will have some funds when FEMA reimburses his department. Mr. Nabors said they should. Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Nabors to work with Mrs. Griffith and if they have the funds available to get the generator. Chairman Lockley reported they need to let the Board now if there are things like this they need. Mr. Nabors stated the Board received complaints about leasing the dump trucks which are \$15,000 a year to lease. He explained the dump trucks cost \$150,000 a piece and he will be glad to buy two if they would like him to. Commissioner Parrish stated Mr. Nabors is doing a good job and the county does not have \$300,000 now to purchase dump trucks. Commissioner Jones discussed the location of the building and asked about the 8-10 trees that may be removed. Mr. Nabors reported staff will remove the trees. Commissioner Boldt said he learned leasing is a way to allow the budget to be more spendable. He explained leasing gets them up

and ready with quality equipment that does not fail in the middle of disasters. Mr. Nabors stated they put a lot of miles on the trucks and they are always working on them. He said during a storm if they do not have equipment to work with they are in trouble. Chairman Lockley stated they tried purchasing and leasing but leasing works the best.

Solid Waste Department

Mr. Albert Floyd, Assistant Director, appeared before the Board. Mrs. Griffith reported the budget is the same for Solid Waste and the Solid Waste Grant. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Solid Waste budget and Solid Waste Grant budget.

Animal Control Department

Mrs. Griffith reported Animal Control has an increase of 7.23% and Mr. Fonda Davis, Director, is asking for a new permanent part-time position. She reported the position would be for 2 days a week at \$12 an hour to get the certification to be a certified Animal Control Officer. She explained there is also a transfer to the Capital Outlay Fund to replace an Animal Control truck but it did not increase the budget as they moved some items in operating supplies. Mrs. Griffith stated they would pull the funds from Capital Outlay Fund to purchase the truck and each year Mr. Davis will make payments out of his budget back to the Capital Outlay fund. Chairman Lockley reported with the problems at St. George Island and in the cities two Animal Control Officers cannot handle all the work. He said the officers are off on weekends and nights and people have learned the system and release their animals when the officers are off work. Mr. Floyd explained they are on call 24 hours a day for 7 days but only respond after hours to emergencies. Mr. Floyd said they are asking for a part-time position but really need a full time position. Commissioner Parrish asked if the two cities help fund animal control. Mrs. Griffith responded there is no distribution from the cities but the taxpayers within the cities also pay county taxes. Chairman Lockley said this is the Board's fault but they can send them a letter and tell them. Mr. Moron stated the Board in the past discussed having a Memorandum of Understanding with the two cities to get monetary support but it never happened. Commissioner Massey reported in the past both cities had animal control officers. Chairman Lockley said the Board should write them and explain if the county is going to take care of animal control in the cities then they must contribute. Mr. Moron agreed to place this item on his report for the August 6th meeting. Commissioner Parrish reported the two cities together could help fund this additional person they need. Commissioner Massey said one day Mr. Floyd worked in the City of Carrabelle the entire day. Mr. Floyd reported the City of Carrabelle Mayor directed their officers to start issuing citations but they will still call them. He explained the laws for animal control are different from criminal law. Chairman Lockley said the animals are out of control. Commissioner Boldt stated when the letter is composed it is important to give a dollar value of the services being offered. Mr. Moron said he will bring this item to the regular meeting on his report and they can discuss it. Chairman Lockley reported people need to police their own animals. Mrs. Griffith said the position is in the budget for 2 days a week for \$9,984 and her only suggestion without increasing the budget would be to pool the position

with the vacancy in Parks & Recreation because Mr. Davis has some part time seasonal positions budgeted for \$12,000. She explained they may come close to funding one full time person to use in the Parks & Recreation Department for so many days and Animal Control for so many days. Mr. Floyd said that was mentioned and could work as Parks & Recreation covers the beach most of the time and could patrol and enforce the laws on the beach. Commissioner Parrish reported they are there on the weekends anyway with Parks & Recreation. Mr. Floyd pointed out they alternate weekends. Chairman Lockley stated the Board is going to ask the cities to contribute and TDC needs to contribute because the Animal Control Department has to watch the beaches. Commissioner Jones said they will talk about that budget tomorrow. Mr. Floyd asked the Board to just go over what Mr. Davis submitted because he asked for a part-time position and then they can discuss another full time position with him when he returns. Chairman Lockley stated if they only include a part-time position then they cannot increase the budget for a full time position. Mrs. Griffith explained they can as long as they are pooling resources from other areas or if they cut from some other area. She agreed once the meetings are over tomorrow they cannot increase the budget. Chairman Lockley said they can include a full time and then cut it if they need to. Commissioner Parrish stated if they budget a full time position then no one will contribute. Chairman Lockley said the cities can contribute or get an officer. Mr. Floyd stated there is more compliance and it is better but there is still a lot of land to cover. Commissioner Jones tentatively approved the Animal Control budget. Mrs. Griffith asked if the approval is for where the budget is now. Commissioner Jones responded yes.

Parks & Recreation Department

Mrs. Griffith said this budget has an increase of \$19,489 which is a 3.83% increase. She explained the county has added some new parks like the Buddy Ward Seafood Park which the state improved but then they turned the improvements over to the county for maintenance, upkeep, utilities and insurance. She reported the Eastpoint Fishing Pier restrooms which was also done by the state but turned over to the county and the county is responsible for the maintenance and repair, insurance and utilities. Mrs. Griffith stated the county is still waiting to get a FEMA Project Worksheet (PW) issued so they can proceed with repairs. She reported the Island View Park was done the same way although it was completely destroyed. She said the state did the work but the maintenance falls back on the county. Mrs. Griffith commented there has also been a utility increase. She explained she reviewed this item and through May, 2019 the utility expense was already at \$51,519.00 and the annual value for this year was \$77,278. She stated they are requesting \$80,000 for utilities in next year's budget. Commissioner Parrish asked what makes up the increase. Mrs. Griffith answered utilities and insurance since there are some new structures. Commissioner Parrish tentatively approved the Parks & Recreation budget.

Chairman Lockley stated they are picking up trash in the City of Apalachicola and now they want the county to handle animals too but they want a check for anything they do for the county and now the county wants a check from them.

The meeting recessed at 10:12 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:24 a.m.

County Library

Mrs. Kate Aguiar, Chairman of the Library Advisory Board, said she will present the budget since they are in between Library Director's at this time. She stated since the budget was submitted the state funding has increased over \$9,000. Mrs. Griffith reported it is an increase of \$9,092. Mrs. Aguiar said the only change to the budget is the proposed increase in the Library Director's salary. She explained they are hiring the 4th director during her time on the Library Advisory Board. She reported the last 3 Library Directors have been hired at \$35,000 or below and they are in a continual cycle of Library Directors getting their education and moving on. Mrs. Griffith stated libraries are changing in relation to programs and technology being provided and in order to entice qualified personnel they need to raise the Library Director's salary. Chairman Lockley asked how much she is proposing. Mrs. Aguiar stated she put in \$61,000. She explained she did research and this would be the top end of the range but she is not committed to bringing the person in at that salary. Chairman Lockley said that is not going to happen. Commissioner Massey said he understands what she wants to do but there are people who have been with the county for years and have degrees and do not make this amount. Mrs. Aguiar said the library is a different situation because the grants will not be available if someone does not come in with the appropriate qualifications. She explained this position deserves an increase and this is a fair number. Chairman Lockley stated \$40,000 would be good. He said they have people that have been here for years and have master degrees and this person would come in making more than them. Mrs. Aguiar said she understands but those individuals are not required by their positions to have an advanced degree. She explained people who work for the county are not required to have a retail presence like the Library does in this community. She reported they welcome countless visitors and residents every day and they are required to maintain a professional staff. She said if they do not continue to attract someone who has this level of education then they will find themselves consistently in the same cycle. Mrs. Aguiar stated Wakulla County and Jefferson County Library Directors are currently at \$48,000 and offer only about 10-15% of the programs our library offers, are not open as much and only manage one facility. Mrs. Aguiar reported Liberty County does not require a Master's Degree yet their maximum salary is \$41,000. She said to get the kind of person they need and keep that person this is where they need to be. Chairman Lockley stated to get tentative approval she will need to come back with another number. Commissioner Jones asked why Mrs. Lisa Lance, former Library Director, was not in on the discussion if they were going to ask for \$20,000 more money and why they did not fight for more money for her. He said he does not understand how they lose a library director and then immediately increase the salary that much when maybe \$4,000-\$5,000 might have kept her here. Mrs. Aguiar said she would not have stayed for that amount. She stated she would have looked at this path during the budget cycle but when she found out Mrs. Lance's intentions it was too late. Commissioner Jones commented Mrs. Lance surely discussed this move. Mrs.

Aguiar said it was a surprise to most of them. She explained they knew there was some dissatisfaction but she felt hindered by her ability to ask for a raise. She went on to say Mrs. Lance did not give them a chance to be her advocate before she made other decisions. Commissioner Jones stated he supports the library but that is a big number to support all at once. Mrs. Aguiar reported their budget has stayed the same and in the economic downfall they were asked to give back half a position and they did and have never regained it. Commissioner Massey stated he supports the library but also supports the county workers. He reported there are some county positions that require degrees and they do not make near this amount of money. He said he cannot support that when there are some people with the county that are underpaid. Mrs. Griffith suggested the Board use the increase in state grant funding to increase the salary and keep the Library budget the same. Chairman Lockley explained they cannot depend on the grant. Mrs. Griffith agreed the grants do fluctuate. Chairman Lockley stated if the grants decrease then it will fall on the county to fund. Mrs. Aguiar said if they cannot get a director with qualifications then the funding will be decreased. Commissioner Boldt reported he respects the Board's watch care for many employees and the contribution they are making but this issue is about merit and this individual bringing in grants. He said this county has an educational impairment and the library provides a source of education. Commissioner Boldt pointed out the Hospital CEO makes over \$150,000 and they did not talk about the longevity of the county workers when his position was considered. He said maybe they can come to a figure less than the one suggested and amend it with the additional money from the grant to land in the middle and get a qualified person that does not use the county as a stepping stone for more education. Commissioner Parrish stated he does not see the county requesting all the constitutional officers to present the same budget as last year and then increasing this budget \$30,000. He said there has not been any presentation about a middle range they have just asked for the \$61,000 and he agrees that is not going to happen. Commissioner Parrish stated if someone wants to come back with a mid range salary then he will consider it. He said the Board has other things to address in this budget and if they are not careful they are going to increase the budget. He stated some people cannot afford to pay any more taxes. Commissioner Parrish reported another issue is he does not want to see the county in the same position as some of the municipalities and be maxed out on their millage rate. He said he is not in favor of increasing the Library Budget \$30,000. Commissioner Parrish stated the Board has not discussed the Reserve for Contingency and other funds and when they will start receiving reimbursements from FEMA. Chairman Lockley asked what the state pays for a position starting off with a Master's degree. Mrs. Aguiar said it varies between \$66,000-\$99,000 but that is in central Florida. She reported Gulf County pays \$38,000 but without a Master's Degree. She read the salary ranges and said state funding is not reliable but the formula is dependent upon how much the county contributes. She suggested they set the salary at \$50,000 but did not feel like they would get a qualified person if they go any lower. Chairman Lockley asked why the starting salary for the Library Director should be more than for other department heads. Mrs. Aguiar stated because of advanced degrees and level of customer service. Commissioner Parrish asked what the last Library Director was paid. Mrs. Griffith answered \$37,080 for salary. Commissioner Massey questioned how much the benefits are. Mrs. Griffith replied \$12-\$15,000 in benefits. Commissioner Jones asked if the increase in

state funding is around \$9,000. Mrs. Griffith responded \$9,092. Commissioner Bold asked if they can table this matter or need to do it now. Commissioner Parrish said they need to do it now. Commissioner Parrish suggested \$45,000. Mrs. Griffith reported \$35,000 was low with the educational requirements and they had trouble getting people to apply. She provided the amount of the grants for the previous years. The Board discussed setting the salary based on grant funds. Chairman Lockley stated the other department heads' jobs are just as important and they do not start off at that amount. Commissioner Boldt agreed \$45,000 is a good compromise. The Board discussed the salaries of other department heads. Mr. Moron said he understands what Mrs. Aguiar is saying but the Board must keep a fair balance in the salaries for all the departments. He suggested they try on a step by step basis over a few years to get to a better salary for the director and get more sustainable grants they depend on. Commissioner Parrish reported the Sheriff submitted a 25 year plan for stepping up salaries. He said all the other departments want to step up too and all of this could bankrupt the county. Commissioner Parrish expressed concern that this could increase the millage rate and some people cannot afford to pay more. Chairman Lockley said the Finance Department has a more important job, handles all the budgets and does not start off at this amount. Mr. Moron agreed and said they also need to strike a balance because they do not want to create a salary that they cannot support. Mrs. Aguiar suggested the Board consider a minimum of \$45,000. Chairman Lockley said the Board should give half of the additional state funds as they do not know if they will get it again next year. Mrs. Aguiar said hopefully a qualified person can get more grants and they would not see any increases in the budget next year. She pointed out Mrs. Lance was able to increase staff and not increase her budget. Chairman Lockley stated they are spending other people's money and they must be accountable for it. Commissioner Massey said they have to consider all the employees and they will want more money too. Commissioner Boldt asked about the \$18,000 part time position #6 and questioned if part of that money could be used to amend the salary. Mrs. Aguiar stated that is a necessary position and she thinks it is for 29 hours a week but Mrs. Lance had the person working 20 hours. She was not sure but said maybe some of these funds could be used but she is not the best person to determine how to move around the budget as that is a question for a Library Director. Commissioner Jones inquired if everything they tentatively approve can go down but cannot go up. Mrs. Griffith explained if they tentatively approve today and after they come out of the workshop tomorrow the budget cannot go up because that is the millage rate that will be on the TRIM notice. Commissioner Jones said the budget could go down. Mrs. Griffith replied yes. Commissioner Jones tentatively approved \$45,000 for the Library Director position. Chairman Lockley said he does not go along with this because it is hard to tell someone you set a salary and then go back on it the next day. Commissioner Parrish asked how this will affect the budget. Mrs. Griffith stated with the increase in the grant the Library Budget will stay the same and not have an increase. Commissioner Jones said that is an \$8,000 increase over what the last Library Director was making. Chairman Lockley reported now the rest of the employees can come in and ask for \$8,000.

Courthouse Maintenance

Mr. Moron stated the budget for Courthouse Maintenance is the same as last year. Mrs. Griffith reported there are some things planned for the State Attorney's Office. She said they planned to do something this year but with the storm damage to the Public Defender's Office most of the attention was focused there. Commissioner Parrish tentatively approved the Courthouse Maintenance budget.

Building Department

Mr. Moron explained Mr. Gary Millender, Building Official, went to an hourly salary as he is also under contract with Liberty County. He said they are also advertising for a Building Inspector so the person has time to work with Mr. Millender and get all the required tests done to become a Building Official in a year or so. He explained he advertised for full time not part-time and there was not enough money in the budget to support a full time inspector. Mr. Moron stated there is an expectation that this person will also do other things. He reported the increase to the budget is to make the Building Inspector full time. Mr. Moron said they have the applications but have not interviewed yet until he knows the money is in the budget to support this position. Chairman Lockley inquired about the Building Inspector and Building Official positions. Mr. Moron explained the Building Official signs building permits and has the last say on what they do and interpretation of the building code. He said the Building Inspector works under the Building Official. Commissioner Massey clarified he works under the Building Official's license. Chairman Lockley asked what this position starts out at. Mr. Moron answered Mr. Millender started at \$45,000 but there were some increases over the years. He explained that was the salary before he went to an hourly rate. Chairman Lockley asked what the salary is for the Building Inspector. Mr. Moron replied \$32,000 and he will have a year to pass the state test. Mr. Moron reported Mr. Millender has expressed his desire to retire within a year or so. Commissioner Parrish asked if the increase is \$7,000. Mr. Moron replied yes to make the Building Inspector position a full time employee. Commissioner Parrish tentatively approved the Building Department budget. Commissioner Boldt brought into discussion a code compliant officer position. Chairman Lockley asked if he wants to hire an officer. Commissioner Boldt explained he is hearing so many dysfunctions with regard to code specifically in his district. Mr. Moron asked what this person would enforce. Commissioner Boldt said everything, the standard of practice. Mr. Moron said first the Board would need to enact some ordinances that would address this matter and create a code enforcement board to take the infractions to. He stated this code enforcement board would then report to this Board and a decision would be made here. Mr. Moron warned the Board if they do this for one person then they must do it for everyone. He questioned what items they will address. Commissioner Parrish agreed it must be enforced for everyone. Mr. Moron said the Board needs to take a comprehensive look at this item. He stated the Board is in budget time and asked if they are talking about the Building Inspector doubling as a code enforcement officer because he is trying to get this person to focus on becoming the Building Official. Commissioner Massey reported the Building Inspector cannot address code enforcement. He said the Board needs to study this item. Mr. Moron asked if they want him to bring this up on August 6th. Commissioner Boldt said they need to study this matter and give them a white paper. Commissioner Jones stated they can

bring it up and talk about it but it is not going to be included in this budget. Mr. Moron said they will discuss it for future planning. Mrs. Griffith said the only thing they can enforce now is the building code. Mr. Moron agreed and said they must consider the whole county minus the cities when they look at this matter. Commissioner Massey stated both cities have code enforcement so the county will just enforce outside the cities. Chairman Lockley reported it is similar to the police and the code officer will enforce the laws. Mr. Moron said he will add this to his report for discussion.

Planning & Zoning

Mr. Moron stated there are no increases. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Planning & Zoning budget.

Administrative Services

Mr. Moron said there are no increases. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Administration Services budget. Commissioner Jones asked at what point they need to get someone working part-time to work with Mr. Curenton. Mr. Moron reported Mrs. Whitney Barfield, Administrative Assistance, is not coming back from maternity leave. He explained as he was thinking about advertising this position Mr. Pierce contacted Mr. Curenton about retiring. He said Mr. Pierce suggested instead of hiring an Administrative Assistant they must consider where the county is going in the future in relation to a planner and Mr. Curenton who is the Grants Administrator. He reported he and Mr. Pierce will discuss this with the Board on August 6th because they need both of these positions filled. Mr. Moron said in the past they were lucky because Mr. Pierce was Administrator and Planner and Mr. Curenton was Assistant Planner and Grants Administrator. Mr. Moron said his position has been County Administrator/County Coordinator but the other positions have to be figured out. Mr. Moron reported Mr. Curenton will have his years and will probably be getting into the DROP program in the next year or so. Commissioner Massey stated that will be a maximum of 5 more years. He said they can put the two jobs together and make a salary for that position. Mr. Moron agreed they must decide what is more important. He explained when Mr. Pierce and Mr. Curenton leave that is a lot of institutional knowledge that is leaving the county. Chairman Lockley stated they need to hire someone to learn from Mr. Curenton. Mr. Moron explained they are not touching the Administrative Budget but they must take a hard look at what direction they are going and whether the emphasis is on planning or grants. Commissioner Boldt suggested bundling and having a high level County Manager dedicated to many of the roles. Mr. Moron said he thought that was him. Commissioner Jones stated if they discuss bundling it will be the same situation as the Library Director. He explained the same thing occurs at ARPC when people come out of college and get a position there and get the knowledge and move on somewhere else where they can make more money. Mr. Moron expressed concern that Serenity Seaside Resort may be the first of these types of developments going forward and that would be a planner's role. He said they also need someone to maintain the grants and Mr. Curenton does a lot of this work. Mr. Moron stated they need to address

their path first and then the funding. Chairman Lockley reported Mr. Curenton does a lot of work and is a very smart man.

Emergency Management

Mrs. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Director, said her budget is the same. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Emergency Management budget. Mrs. Brownell said she takes objection to what was said and every department head whether they have a degree or not put in their time and she feels like their jobs are more important than a Library Director.

Mosquito Control

Mr. DeWitt Polous, Mosquito Control Director, stated his budget is the same. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Mosquito Control Department. Mr. Polous said he will retire in a few years and he only has two full time positions. He stated he has 3 part-time positions and would like the Board to consider turning one of the part time positions into a full time position for the sake of training. He explained when he retires that only leaves Mr. Scott. Commissioner Massey asked if Mr. Scott is next in line. Mr. Polous reported Mr. Scott is working on the Mosquito Control Director's exam and has worked on the Florida Core in Florida Pesticides which takes years. He stated it takes 2-5 years to get someone certified. Chairman Lockley asked how much it will cost for one of the part-time positions to become full time. Mrs. Griffith estimated \$25,000-\$28,000 with insurance and benefits. Mr. Polous said they participate in a lot of the state programs to get additional money but it is hard to participate when they only have 2 full time people. Commissioner Jones asked if they would have the possibility of more grants if they could participate. Mr. Polous answered yes. He explained recently there was a Clean Up Program that would have generated \$7,000-\$8,000 but he did not have the personnel to participate. Commissioner Jones stated he did not ask for this item in this budget and questioned if this is a conversation for the future. Mr. Polous said yes they need to think about it but if they had extra money he could do this. He stated he understands the need to keep the millage rate down. Chairman Lockley reported it is better to train people or it will cost more later. Mr. Polous said the county pays for the training and their people are still here that were trained. Commissioner Boldt questioned the physical lab that is used for Mosquito Control. Mr. Polous stated when they create the new building for the Road Department he will get an office and a small lab. Chairman Lockley questioned if Mr. Polous should be in the office more when he gets the lab and if this will require another person. Mr. Polous explained he and Mr. Scott do everything now. He reported the part time employees have other jobs so if they are not available because of their other job then he or Mr. Scott drive the truck and spray the areas. He said during the summer they are very busy and have a lot of comp time. He stated in the winter it slows down and they do ditch maintenance. Chairman Lockley asked if the comp time would be reduced if they had another full time position and if the comp time would pay for the position. Mr. Polous said the comp time would be reduced but not enough to pay for a full time position. He reported the county is growing and they are

covering more area. Chairman Lockley said they will talk about this item more in a meeting and asked Mr. Moron to add this to a report.

Veteran's Service

Mr. Charles Elliott, Veterans Service Office, said there are no changes for this year. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Veteran's Service budget.

Extension Office

Mr. Erik Lovestrand, County Extension Director, said he has a slight increase in his budget request and all 3 items are related to operation of the new facility. He stated they are hoping to be in the facility in October. He explained the largest item is the half share of the utility costs at \$4,800. He stated there is \$400 to add the building to the county contract for pest control and \$500 for insurance to cover contents in the building. Mrs. Griffith stated the overall increase is \$1,700. Chairman Lockley asked about the insurance for contents. Mr. Lovestrand reported his equipment. Mrs. Griffith explained since the county does not own the building it will only be insurance for contents. Commissioner Parrish tentatively approved the Extension Office budget.

The workshop adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

The workshop reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Health Department

Ms. Sarah Hinds, Franklin County Health Department, said they sent the Board some video clips prior to the meeting to help with the role of public health in the county. She reported all the county health departments in all 67 counties operate core public health services for the county and she provided an overview of the services. She explained the funding the county provides is tied to the clinic and specifically pays for the nurse Ms. Emerald Larkin. Ms. Larkin informed the Board they are one of the few immunization providers in the county and in 2018-2019 they were number one in the state for having 100% of kindergarteners vaccinated. She reported as part of the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 since May they have been vaccinating against Hepatitis A. She explained there was a large outbreak down south and they are working to prevent a breakout in the panhandle. Ms. Larkin thanked the Board for their support. Ms. Hinds said they will continue to highlight successes of the health department through the year. She stated they are not asking for additional funds just the same as last year which was \$49,000. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Health Department budget. Commissioner Boldt inquired what the greatest health issue is today in the county. Ms. Larkin said she immunizes every day but there is no prevalence for health issues. Ms. Hinds discussed partnerships and the county health rankings. Commissioner Boldt asked if they have an intra-agency relationship with Weems Memorial Hospital. Ms. Hinds replied yes and they work

closely with them on disease outbreaks and investigations. She reported they also work together on the Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan. She explained the data for this plan is from surveys of what the community determines is the issues. She said the Board is welcome to attend these meetings as they are open to the public. Commissioner Boldt reported they may help them think about their new health care facility. Mr. Moron stated Ms. Hinds volunteered to facilitate a conference and get all the partners together to discuss what Franklin County needs for healthcare to move forward and not just Weems Memorial Hospital. Commissioner Jones explained this is a good idea because not only do they have the health department in the county but they have a federally qualified health center in Eastpoint. He stated it is about health care in the county not just Weems Memorial Hospital. Mr. Moron agreed to meet with Ms. Hinds and get this meeting set up.

Hospital Fund Budget

Mr. Moron said Mr. Bill Stork, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), is present. Mrs. Griffith explained since they are a separate entity but fall under the Board of County Commissioners their budget has to be advertised with the county's budget. She reported with county budgets revenue and expenditure must match so they had to put the hospital budget in that format to be advertised. She explained the items in the budget for the Board. She reported this amount will also show up in special funds as it is a transfer between the funds.

Mrs. Griffith read the following information for Special Funds:

FUND 125, Healthcare Trust Fund

As passed by voters, the Franklin County Discretionary Sales Surtax of 1% took effect on January 1, 2008. The estimated proceeds this year will be \$2,338,160. 50% of the sales tax proceeds each year acts to defray the operating costs of Weems Memorial Hospital, \$120,000 goes to support clinical operations and the balance of the sales tax proceeds as well as 100% of the interest earnings is held for capital outlay projects. At the end of 2020, barring any additional capital expenditures from the fund, there will be approximately \$5.22 million available in the fund.

Mrs. Griffith reported the ambulance subsidy is unchanged. Mr. Moron asked where the EMS Service is year to date. Mr. Stork stated they are doing good for an EMS. Mr. Moron questioned if they are breaking even. Mr. Stork said they may be close to breaking even.

Circuit and County Judge

Mr. Grant Slayden, Trial Court Coordinator, said he is here on behalf of Chief Judge Jonathan Sjostrom who represents the Circuit and County Judges in the Second Judicial Circuit. He reported their budget request is \$41,331 and is the same as last year. He stated they have not requested any increases for the last 4 years. He explained how they have actively managed this budget and said they were able to use end of the year state money to pay some of these costs

in lieu of county money. Mr. Slayden reported 81% of their budget comes from dedicated fees and court costs. He stated he was here last week talking about security improvements and they were able to find some court money to take care of some of these items. Mr. Slayden thanked the Board for their support. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Circuit and Court Judges' budgets.

State Attorney's Office

Mr. Jack Campbell, State Attorney, appeared before the Board. He thanked the Board for their support. He explained last year everyone went through a hard time with the storm and the court was down less than 48 hours and they were able to transport the prisoners to Leon County and other facilities. He reported they are not asking for any more money but will be doing some things to increase security. He stated they are making changes and hope to increase their staff later. Mr. Campbell said they are proud to be the county's partner. Commissioner Parrish tentatively approved the State Attorney's Office.

Public Defender's Office

Mrs. Griffith stated no one is here from their office but there is no change to their budget request. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Public Defender's budget.

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation

Mrs. Griffith said there is no change in this budget. Commissioner Parrish tentatively approved the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation budget.

Auditor Fee

Mrs. Griffith said Mr. Ralph Roberson, Roberson & Associates, has a 3% increase of \$2,175.00. She stated this budget would be \$74,725.00. She reported this is the first fee increase since they have been with this company. Commissioner Parrish said that increase is not too much since no one would do the audit for this amount of money. Mrs. Griffith stated the other firms thought the audit amount should be \$119,000. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Auditor Fee budget.

The meeting recessed at 1:54 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

Insurance

Mrs. Griffith said she was pleased they had a rate hold for the life insurance policy and the dental insurance policy. She stated Capital Health Plan renewed with a 4% rate increase. She

said with the rate increase it is \$58,561 due to the number of employees. Commissioner Jones asked about the rates for employee coverage and employee plus spouse. Mrs. Griffith said the employee is covered but the amount for employee and spouse is \$620.49 now and will be \$645.31 with the rate increase. She stated the county does not subsidize family coverage. Chairman Lockley asked if the hospital is in the network. Mrs. Griffith responded the clinics are in network and she has not heard complaints so she thinks it worked out. Commissioner Jones tentatively approved the Insurance budget.

Carrabelle Redevelopment Trust

Mrs. Griffith explained this is the estimated transfer to them. She explained with the redevelopment areas in the increment district they take the taxable value that is established when the CRA is created so for Carrabelle it would be 1996 and that is established as a base year. She explained every year as the value changes in that same district the growth money which is the 1996 values to where they are with the tax assessments for 2019 is multiplied by the millage rate and that is the amount that is transferred to them. She explained they get that money and there are some strict rules on the money but once the funds are transferred the county does not see anything else.

Apalachicola Redevelopment Trust

Mrs. Griffith said the value for the City of Apalachicola went up and their transfer is estimated to be \$51,115. She explained they did not establish their base year until 2014 so this will only be their fifth distribution. Chairman Lockley questioned if they used this money. Mrs. Griffith said they do not know after the transfer is done. Commissioner Parrish reported he heard the City was thinking of doing away with this. Mrs. Griffith said it has not been dissolved yet. Commissioner Jones stated some of the people running for mayor have talked about it. Commissioner Parrish said they are paying their administrator about what they are collecting. Mr. Moron stated they transferred the CRA to their Main Street organization.

Grants

Mrs. Griffith reported the county has a large Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for housing in the budget for the Eastpoint wildfire victims in the amount of \$2.4 million. She stated this contributes to the \$7.5 million she mentioned in the beginning. She said Mrs. Debbie Belcher, Roumelis Planning & Development Services, believes they will be able to provide permanent housing for up to 20 families. She reported there are no match requirements for this grant.

Mrs. Griffith stated the Hurricane Hermine SGI Sea Wall and Access Road Repair funds were received in 2017 and are in the St. George Island Fishing Pier Fund. She explained this was a hazard mitigation project through FEMA and they are waiting to go out for bids to do the repairs. She reported the repairs will probably cost more than the county was given however

the county has funds available in the St. George Island Fishing Pier Maintenance Fund and hopefully the cost will not be much more.

Mrs. Griffith said the Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) C30A Resurfacing Project has \$106,000 budgeted for survey, design, permitting and preparation of construction plans for roadway resurfacing along CR 30A from the county line to Thirteen Mile.

Mrs. Griffith reported the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) has \$193,495 budgeted for widening and resurfacing C.R.67. She said this is for the survey, design, permitting and preparation of construction plans for the C.R. 67 widening and resurfacing project that will run from S.R. 30 to Cricket Creek Bridge.

Mrs. Griffith said there is a Boating Improvement Grant in the amount of \$40,798 for the old Ferry Dock Ramp. She explained they will be designing a new boat ramp and widening the boat ramp to the full width of the basin, putting in a new seawall and redesigning the entrance to the ramp to divert stormwater. Commissioner Boldt said there are many statements throughout the ledgers with cash carried forward. He stated Fine & Forfeitures had a large amount of cash. Commissioner Boldt questioned how this money is managed and said it appears to be pools of reserves that go on endlessly. Mrs. Griffith explained with the Boating Improvement Fund the funds are used to provide the match when a boating improvement project is done. She stated they would have this as a base and then increase the fees the next year to add to it. Mrs. Griffith explained if you look at the entire county budget the entire carried forward is \$17,288,749 across all the funds. She reported they have a carried forward and new revenue and all the expenditures. She said from one year to the next most county funds are not spent. Mrs. Griffith explained the operating funds are spent but for the special funds they are waiting for projects to fund. Commissioner Boldt said he believes in saving but sometimes the county seems to struggle for money. He discussed the issue with the library and these funds and asked if there are policies about expending the funds in a responsible way. Commissioner Parrish reported the funds can only be spent in the way they are designated for. He said these funds are used for grant match. Commissioner Boldt asked if they could use the funds without a grant. Mrs. Griffith responded yes but they get more for their money if they get a grant and provide a match. Commissioner Parrish agreed this makes the money go further. Mr. Moron said there is a perception by some people that cash carried forward is used as a slush fund but it is not. Mrs. Griffith agreed it is not and from one year to the next it rolls forward. Commissioner Parrish pointed out the funds are restricted and can only be used for certain things. Mrs. Griffith explained the process of preparing the budget. She said the county must also be able to pay their bills before collecting property taxes. She reported some of the revenues run 2 months behind. She stated if the Reserve for Contingency is not spent then they do not have to re-fund it the next year. Commissioner Parrish stated people wanted the Board to cut the Reserve for Contingency in half and then a major storm hit and the Board had to use a lot of the money. He explained FEMA has not reimbursed the county yet so the county must have money to move forward. Mr. Moron clarified the money is rolled forward but they do not add to the money. Mrs. Griffith stated ad valorem is the last component when they prepare the budget. She explained she pulls all the revenue and looks at all the expenditures

and ad valorem is the last place they look. Mrs. Griffith said this is why she is delayed at getting the millage rate to the Board. Commissioner Jones stated if they delete all the carried forward then they had nothing to use as a match for grants. He reported these funds are their leverage to keep things moving smoothly and to have something to leverage without going to ad valorem taxes. Mrs. Griffith explained the Boating Improvement Fund only has \$13,500 coming in on an annual basis so it takes a while to build up the fund. Commissioner Jones said they are doing more for less by keeping the millage rate the same.

Mrs. Griffith presented the Special Funds, as follows:

FUND 122, Law Enforcement Educational Fund

\$2.00 Fee Collected on County Criminal, County Traffic and Circuit Criminal Cases – see FS 318, which outlines the assessment of these fees – and FS 938.15, which specifies how the fees are to be spent. Eligible expenditures include criminal justice education degree programs, training courses, and basic recruit training for law enforcement personnel. There is approximately \$89,389 available in this fund.

FUND 123, Law Enforcement Trust Fund

A small balance of \$3,187 remains in the fund to be used for investigation expenses by the Sheriff's Department – this balance is from years ago when the County Commission received the proceeds from forfeitures.

FUND 139, Bald Point Trust Fund

This fund has been existence since 1999 when the state purchased a large tract of land on Alligator Point. The county received approximately \$500,000. Per the Agreement dated the 20th of October, 1998 - \$50,000 was to be used to asphalt the realigned main road along the new right-of-way. The \$450,000 balance was then placed into a county trust fund whereas principal and interest may only be used for expenditures in the Bald Point/Alligator Point area. This fund has been utilized over the years as grant match for FEMA funds and there is approximately \$409,253 available.

FUND 141, Local Option Gas Tax Road Paving Fund

In the early nineties the Local Option Gas Tax was voted in for Franklin County. This was a five cent sales tax on every gallon of motor fuel and diesel fuel sold in Franklin County. In August of 2016, the Board voted to increase the local option gas tax rate to six cents per gallon. Franklin County was the only county in Florida that had not adopted the sixth cent and due to that reason, the county was not eligible to apply for SCRAP program grants with the Florida Department of Transportation. The state revenue estimate of sales tax collections for the next fiscal year is \$312,087. The expenditures provided for by these sales tax proceeds is governed by FS 336.025 – for authorized “transportation expenditures”. At the end of this next budget year, there will be approximately \$1,662,459 accumulated in the fund to go towards a future paving project.

FUND 143, Boating Improvement Fund

Boating Improvement Fees are deposited monthly from fees collected by the Franklin County Tax Collector – the county anticipates \$13,387 in annual fees will be deposited to the fund this next year. This fund provides the local grant match for projects funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commissions' Boating Improvement Grant Program. Boating Improvement Grants are awarded on a competitive score on a grant application. The ability to provide a local match increases the County's appeal for program grants. In the upcoming budget there is approximately \$49,431 that can be used as grant match towards future applications.

Commissioner Parrish reported these funds were also used to remove some derelict vessels.

FUND 144, SGI Fishing Pier Maintenance Fund

In 1999 Franklin County entered into a Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation to take ownership of the ½ mile remnants on both sides of the bay of the Old Bryant Patton Bridge to St. George Island. The agreement transferred the \$1.52 million dollars that the state would have incurred to tear down the old bridge over to Franklin County. The county received the \$1.52 million on February 22, 2006 and now has fishing piers on St. George Island and Eastpoint. In June of 2012, during Tropical Storm Debby, a barge broke loose from a Progress Energy construction project and drifted into the St. George Island Fishing Pier – approximately 165 feet near the causeway was demolished by the barge. To provide access to the severed fishing pier, the county paid \$654,367 to bridge the 165 foot gap. There was a lengthy legal battle with the Progress Energy subcontractor Orion Construction (the owner of the barge) to seek reimbursement for the damage. In January of 2016, a mediated settlement agreement was reached and in February of 2016 the county received a check for \$575,000 as payment for the damages. At this time, there is \$1,610,455 available in the St. George Island Fishing Pier Maintenance Fund. The Joint Participation Agreement with the state specified that with the county's receipt of the funds "the COUNTY agrees that it will assume full responsibility for maintenance of those portions of the bridge transferred and shall assume sole liability for said portions immediately upon said transfer". The funds received from this JPA with the state came with the condition that Franklin County is now responsible for these portions of the old St. George Island Bridge. In the event the fishing piers are damaged in a storm, the repair or demolition of the remnants of the old bridge would be the responsibility of the county. The responsibility of the repair and maintenance indefinitely of the SGI Fishing Piers should discourage any expenditure not relative to the direct and necessary repairs of the fishing piers. The county also received FEMA funds from Hurricane Hermine to do repairs along the access road to the St. George Island Pier. The repairs are estimated to cost \$67,450 and have not yet been completed or bid.

FUND 151, Revolving Loan

In 1996 there was disastrous flooding and through the Department of Community Affairs the county was awarded an Emergency Assistance Community Development Block Grant. Apalachee Regional Planning Council handled the administration of the grant and in 1997 the CDBG grant provided emergency loans for businesses and individuals involved in the Seafood

Industry. The idea behind the grant was for the county to setup a ‘revolving loan’ fund to use in future emergency situations. Many loans have been repaid, however, ARPC turned the administration of the loan program over to the county and the county has been unable to re-coup some of the loans due to insufficient collateral. DCA inquires on the delinquencies of these loans when they conduct their annual monitoring visits. Right now, the loan fund has a balance of approximately \$302,879.

Commissioner Parrish discussed the funds set aside for the demolition and removal of the St. George Island Fishing Pier and why these funds need to stay in place. He said there may not be enough in the fund to remove the fishing pier when the time comes. He explained the Board may not be facing that now but have to look into the future. He reported the Sheriff’s Department wants to do a salary increase over 25 years and they have to see how this is addressed in the future budgets.

FUND 160, Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU)

This special assessment funds the fire departments throughout the county – revenues for each district are estimated from rolls generated by the Tax Collector’s Office. The total estimated operating revenue for the MSBU fund for next fiscal year is \$527,972 – the volunteer firefighters of each district are covered under the Workers Compensation Policy of the County – the transfer out to each district takes the estimated revenue for each fire district less the share of expenditures (workers comp and administrative expense for the postage and assessment notices). The county setup the MSBU in 1987. The rates currently in effect were set by a resolution dated 08/18/09 for all districts with the exception of Alligator Point and St. George Island. Voters approved an increased rate on single family residences for Alligator Point and St. George Island and the rates were revised for those two districts by a resolution dated 05/21/13 – the rates are currently as follows:

TYPE OF PROPERTY	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT
SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE	\$50.00, ALLIGATOR POINT & SGI \$95.00
MULTI FAMILY RENTAL UNITS	\$50.00 PER UNIT NO MAXIMUM
MOBILE HOME PARK RENTAL SPACES	\$16.00 PER SPACE, \$160.00 MINIMUM, \$375.00 MAXIMUM
TRAVEL TRAILER-RECREATION VEHICLE RENTAL SPACES	\$8.00 PER SPACE OVER 16', \$100.00 MINIMUM, \$375.00 MAXIMUM
MOTELS, HOTELS, INNS, B&B	\$10.00 PER UNIT, \$100.00 MINIMUM, \$500.00 MAXIMUM
COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS	\$100.00 PER BUILDING, \$375.00 MAXIMUM
MULTIPLE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES	\$375.00
VACANT PARCELS	\$10.00

FUND 163, E911 Fund

Revenue for this fund is generated by fees collected by each voice communication service provider located within a county at a rate of 50 cents per month per each service identifier. The

intent of the fee is to provide funds to county governments to pay certain costs associated with their E911 systems. FS 365.172 outlines eligible expenditures of this fund and in this next fiscal year there is a percentage of the E911 related employees and other E911 expenditures being paid for by this communication charge and Supplemental Grant.

Mrs. Griffith said they will see this in the Sheriff's budget. Commissioner Boldt said he was at the 911 office and the person that is in charge got a grant and she had unused money of \$300,000 and they have that in reserve and that must be where the number comes from. Mrs. Griffith said they have not heard that yet. Commissioner Boldt stated they saved the money over the years. Mrs. Phillips explained any money carried forward has to stay with the fund and can only be spent on equipment. Mrs. Griffith stated that amount is \$392,000. Commissioner Parrish asked if the dispatch console is covered if it needs to be replaced. Mrs. Phillips explained they would need to call and see if it can be purchased because they can only fund a portion and it is only for the call takers and only certain equipment that they can buy.

FUND 170, Airport Fund

The Airport Fund is self-sufficient in the upcoming year. Revenues for this fund include: the annual lease with TP Auto Transport will generate \$12,000 in the next year, annual lease with CAAZ for airport land will generate \$1,500, annual lease with Smiling Skies will generate \$6,000, annual lease with Forgotten Coast Flyers, LLC will generate \$30,000 and FBO Rent with Centric Aviation will generate \$30,000. The \$.25/gallon fuel commission paid to Franklin County by Centric Aviation is anticipated to generate about \$30,145. These revenues all defray the costs of operating expenses for the Apalachicola Airport including the insurance expense for the hangar facilities and storage tank liability policies. There are several grant projects for the Airport in the next fiscal year. In grant funded projects: there is \$135,496 in additional pavement marking funds, and \$997,470 to design and construct a North/South taxiway.

Mrs. Griffith stated there is also about \$113,000 in the Airport Fund in reserves if they need a match for the fuel farm or anything else. Commissioner Parrish said like the Triumph application they are submitting. Mrs. Griffith replied yes. She explained with the Airport Fund there is revenue conversion so any funds generated by the airport cannot come back to the county to support other operations. She said money generated at the airport must stay at the airport. Commissioner Boldt reported Centric Aviation paid \$30,000 in rent last year but probably added that much to the building which is the county's asset. Mrs. Griffith agreed from a financial standpoint Centric Aviation has been wonderful for the airport.

FUND 180, Affordable Housing Assistance Trust Fund

Franklin County will receive \$350,000 for rehabilitation or down-payment assistance for qualifying residents.

Mrs. Griffith said these are the annual SHIP payments.

FUND 301, Capital Outlay Reserve Fund

In the capital outlay fund, there will be \$152,300 available in the fund for mandated future GIS mapping updates for the Property Appraiser's Office, \$100,000 in annual debt service payments for the Franklin Boulevard property and \$379,918 available for infrastructure or other capital improvements.

FUND 302, Landfill Management Escrow and FUND 304 Landfill Tipping Fee Fund

Mrs. Griffith reported normally she does not go over the Landfill Tipping Fee Fund because the tipping fees come in and go back out to pay for the transfer station charges going out and there is not a big difference but this year there is more to say. She read the following information:

Per FS 403.7125 – Franklin County must maintain an escrow fund for future closure and long-term care requirements of the Franklin County Landfill. At this time, there are adequate funds in the escrow account to meet the minimum funding requirement of Rule 62-701.630(5) Florida Administrative Code. Every (5) years, the county is required to have an engineer evaluate the remaining capacity of the landfill, estimate closure costs based on current construction pricing and estimate the remaining useful life of the landfill. This is called a re-cost. In the past months after Hurricane Michael, landfill revenues are four times greater than and thus four times the normal volume of waste has been processed by the landfill. Not including the volume of amnesty/curb-side debris pickup which was continued for months after the Hurricane without revenue. The 2018 closure cost estimates were \$2,564,449 for closure and \$3,171,016 for long-term care post closure. Based on trend and volume, at the next re-cost cycle to be completed in 2020, Franklin County estimates the minimum balance requirement in the landfill management escrow to be approximately \$1.8 million. The excess non-reoccurring proceeds estimated to remain in the tipping fee fund at 09/30 after taking care of the immediate needs of an excavator, replacement bins for the transfer station and payoff of the compactor, the county will be able to make a one-time transfer into the Landfill Management escrow of \$1,142,884 to hedge against future escrow requirements and landfill expansion. This transfer will bring the balance in the escrow fund to \$2,245,213.

Mrs. Griffith said she will be coming to the Board in August to talk about the excavator and compactor payment because she would like to do these two items in the current fiscal year. She explained she will do a Resolution for Unanticipated Revenues and the balance in the fund is what will be swept into the Landfill Management Escrow. Commissioner Parrish asked if there is a fund for opening a new landfill. Mrs. Griffith answered no, but they can do landfill expansion. She explained at this time they are \$400,000 over the minimum requirements if their estimates are correct. Commissioner Parrish clarified this is toward the cost but not the total cost of opening a new landfill. He reported this is why the Board needs to be careful when budgeting money because these items are coming in the future and if they raise the millage rate and they cannot go any higher then they will be in trouble. Mrs. Phillips said the re-cost will go up. Mrs. Griffith agreed it will because it is also based on inflation so each year the amount increases. Commissioner Boldt reported the Board needs to start thinking about the landfill expansion. Mrs. Griffith said the Board needs to start looking at land acquisition. Commissioner Jones asked how much land they should look for. Mrs. Griffith suggested

contacting the county engineers to determine how much land is needed. Commissioner Jones said at least 40 acres. Mrs. Griffith agreed that is probably correct. Commissioner Parrish stated the more land they acquire the longer they can extend the life of the landfill. Commissioner Jones reported they will need to contact the state because they are the only ones that own more than that amount of land. Commissioner Jones asked if there is money in those funds to purchase land. Mrs. Griffith explained after the re-cost they will know the true affect of Hurricane Michael.

Mrs. Griffith stated with the Library Fund reduction of \$30,382 the millage rate will be at 5.9494.

Chairman Lockley said they need to watch the boards making these decisions and setting a price to hire people. He stated this morning the Library Board set a price to hire a Library Director and it happened the same way at the hospital. He reported it was not this way in the beginning when they hired a Hospital Administration for \$10,000 a month and he had experience and was good. He explained once the Hospital Board took over they hired them to come here, paid moving expenses, paid a signing bonus and provided a severance. Chairman Lockley said this was done without the County Commission's knowledge and they did not approve it. He reported the Board must be careful when they have boards that are making agreements with people. He stated the Board does not always know until it is time to pay the person and they are leaving. Chairman Lockley said the Board did not know but had to follow through in the end. He said before they do a hiring the Board needs to tell them not to go over a certain amount. He reported the Board will be responsible and it does not look good that they let this happen.

Commissioner Boldt asked about the target millage rate. Mrs. Griffith reported when the meeting started they were at 5.9644 and now they are at 5.9494. She said at the meeting tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. they will address the non-profits. Mrs. Phillips stated the dates they are looking at for the public hearings are September 3rd and September 17th at 5:15 p.m. The Board agreed with these dates. Mr. Moron pointed out the City of Apalachicola elections are on this date.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts