

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET HEARING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019
5:15 P.M.
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 Budget Hearing to Order.

Mrs. Griffith read the following statement:

At this meeting the Board must adopt the *final budget and final millage rate* to be advertised according to statutory requirements.

1. It will take 5.9494 mills to fund this budget.
2. The total of the tentative budget is \$58,679,230.
3. The tentative millage rate of **5.9494** mills is **.77%** greater than the rolled back rate of **5.9040** mills.
4. The millage is **.77%** above the rolled back rate due to an increase in the FRS retirement contribution rates as set by the Florida Legislature, an increase in the transfer to the tax increment districts, increases in several constitutional and county department budgets as presented, a 4% increase in the cost of insurance coverage through Capital Health Plan and a 2% cost of living increase for all employees.
5. After the first public hearing, Franklin County received the finalized salaries for the elected officials and the budget has been amended to reflect the numbers released by the State of Florida. The total budget remains unchanged and there is no effect on the millage rate. I will need a motion and second from the Board to incorporate these changes.

Chairman Lockley asked about taking out the funding for the Humane Society. He said they closed the road and he wants to take the money out and put it in another place. Chairman Lockley questioned where she recommended they put the money. Mrs. Griffith suggested moving the money to Reserve for Contingency so it will still be in the General Fund. Commissioner Parrish asked if they need to do that before they adopt what she is asking for. Mrs. Griffith said if they want it changed in the approved budget then they can make a motion and make a motion to incorporate the changes she had to make for revisions to the salaries. Chairman Lockley stated he would like to do that because the county gave them land and now they do not want people to go across it to get to the firing range but they still want the county to fund them. Commissioner Boldt reported the county gave them the land and now they are preventing access to a public shooting range. He stated they have studied alternative access and cannot find an alternative access to the firing range. He asked if they have any precedents of any entity ever doing this before. Chairman Lockley answered not in the 15 years he has been on the Board. Commissioner Boldt questioned how they measure the public good for animal keeping and the shooting range. He asked if the law enforcement officers use the range. He also inquired how taking away the funding from the Humane Society affects the public. Chairman Lockley said he doesn't think it will affect them but they are not worried about that or how it affects people. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to move the Humane Society funding to Reserve for Contingency until they see if they open the road.** Mrs. Griffith reported the Board can restore the funding in the future if they decide to. Commissioner Massey agreed they can get their money back if they open the road but if they do not open the road then they do not get their money back. **Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish stated he agrees with Commissioner Massey. He explained the money is still in the budget but they have to work with the county. He reported they accepted the land knowing the firing range was there. Commissioner Parrish stated the Board has been getting a lot of calls and they waited until hunting season to do this which gave the Board no time to react. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Chairman Lockley reported if they want to come back and let people use the road then the Board can reverse the situation with the money. Commissioner Boldt said they caused this but the Board is open for negotiation. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to incorporate the changes for the finalized salaries of the elected officials.**

Mrs. Griffith read the following item:

6. Chairman Lockley will now open the floor for public comment to be followed by the adoption of two resolutions before the conclusion of the meeting.

Chairman Lockley asked for public comment. Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Property Appraiser, stated on behalf of her office she thanks the Board for the raises for her employees because they earned it. Mr. David Adlerstein, reporter with The Apalachicola Times, reported the City of Apalachicola has suspended their Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA) and asked if the county has accounted for that in the budget with their TIFF contribution. Mrs. Griffith stated she talked with Mrs. Skipper and they do not think this will take affect until January, 2020. She explained the TIFF forms have already come out and they are far along in the process. She said her understanding is they have not formally provided any information to Mrs. Skipper. Mrs. Skipper commented the only information she has is what she sees in the local newspaper. Mr. Moron said they have not received anything formal from the city. Commissioner Parrish said what they are giving this year is the property increase in value from last year. Mrs. Griffith reported it is tied to the value on January 1, 2019. Mr. Adlerstein questioned what the final decision was on animal control and what the two cities will contribute. Mr. Moron explained both cities have their final budget hearings and will get back to the county. He said the alternate option was reducing their contribution to \$3,500 but their city officers would respond first and then call the Animal Control Officers if needed. Mr. Adlerstein asked how much the county is going to give for the TIFF. Commissioner Parrish stated \$51,000. Mr. Adlerstein inquired where they will put the money. Commissioner Parrish reported the county does not know what they will do. Commissioner Jones asked if these are quarterly payments. Mrs. Griffith answered no, they distribute to the cities in December after the conclusion of the Value Adjustment Board hearings so they will receive the payment in December. Mrs. Griffith said they are doing what they are supposed to do. Mr. Adlerstein agreed the county has been funding this item. Commissioner Parrish inquired where the money went when the city has not contributed to the CRA as a city for the last 4 years. He asked if Mr. Adlerstein will ask the city. Mr. Adlerstein answered yes, they are pursuing it. Commissioner Parrish reported the funds are not in the bank for CRA. Mr. Adlerstein reported in the future this money will go in a line item for future capital outlay for CRA but will not be used because the CRA has been suspended and they cannot use it. He explained it will be kept in the budget as a line item that says it must be used for CRA when it is resurrected. Commissioner Parrish asked if he will ask the city. Mr. Adlerstein said he knows the answer for this year but Commissioner Parrish is asking about the last 4 years. Commissioner Parrish said someone needs to ask. Chairman Lockley stated he is going to ask if they will put the money from this year in an escrow or special account from the county to them. Mr. Adlerstein explained there was some talk at the city meeting that the county may demand a refund for the 4 years and inquired if the county is not interested in that. Commissioner Parrish reported that is a different branch of government but they will have to account for it. Chairman Lockley stated the county can ask for the money but he does not think they have it. He reported they are going to have to pay it back. Mr. Adlerstein said they cannot use the county's money to pay back what they owe for CRA because it must be city money. Chairman Lockley asked if there is any more public comment. There was no more public comment. Mrs. Griffith read the Resolution adopting the millage levy. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, 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 MILLAGE LEVY

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida, on September 17th, 2019, adopted Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Final 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 \$2,030,468,230.

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

1. The Fiscal Year 2019/2020 operating millage rate for Franklin County is **5.9494** mills which is greater than the rolled-back rate of **5.9040** mills by **.77%**.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

This Resolution DULY ADOPTED at a public hearing this 17th day of September 2019.
Time adopted 5:31 PM

s/Noah Lockley, Jr.

NOAH LOCKLEY, JR, 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 final budget. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, 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 FINAL BUDGET

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida on September 17th, 2019, held a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, set forth the appropriations and revenue estimates for the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 in the amount of \$58,679,230.

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

1. The Fiscal Year 2019/2020 **Final Budget** be adopted.
2. That copies of this Resolution containing the said budget be spread upon the records of Franklin County, Florida.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

This Resolution **DULY ADOPTED** at a public hearing this 17th day of September 2019.
Time adopted 5:33 PM

s/Noah Lockley, Jr.

NOAH LOCKLEY, JR, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

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

Clerk Johnson recognized Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Phillips and stated they have spent many hours on this budget. She reported they strive every year to keep the millage rate as low as possible and still meet the needs of all the departments and everyone submitting budget requests. She stated in relation to the conversations about the City of Apalachicola the Board can be assured Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Phillips are paying all the county's bills and there is not a loan payment that is not being made and the CRA is paid. Clerk Johnson said she lives in the City of Apalachicola and has told people in the city that she does not have to check and see if loan payments are being made because Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Griffith are doing their jobs. She thanked her Finance staff for looking out for the Board and protecting the county.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts