

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET HEARING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021
5:15 PM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Bert Boldt, II-Vice-Chairman, Noah Lockley, Joseph Parrish, Jessica V. Ward

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron—County Coordinator, Jessica Gay-Deputy Clerk to the Board

1. Call To Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

2. Prayer and Pledge

Chairman Jones led the Board in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Budget Information

Mrs. Erin Griffith will update the Board on any changes since the Budget Workshop and state the proposed tentative millage rate to fund the 2021-22 budget.

Mrs. Griffith reported that the only changes was the GAL submitted a revised allocation request in the amount of \$9,087 and the TDC incorporated \$105,263 to fund the Special Museum Program. Mrs. Griffith said they were still working on the pay plan.

4. Public Comments

This is an opportunity for the public to comment on FY 2021-22 millage levy and budget. When you are recognized to be heard by the Chairman, please adhere to the 3- minute time limit.

Ms. Brenda Karlin from 316 East Gorrie Drive requested the Board look at additional funds to fund the pay plan increase and asked the Board to consider going back to the roll back rate.

Ms. JoEllen Pearman asked the Board to address the road and bridge cleanup. She said that the TDC has done a bang-up job of bringing lots of tourists to the county and she feels they should be held responsible for cleaning the bridges. Chairman Jones reminded Ms. Pearman that the TDC budget is separate from the county's budget. Mrs. Pearman said she feels a lot of funds go to waste.

Ms. Gail Riegalmayer said although the millage rates will be reduced the county will be taking in an additional \$1million. She asked the Board to go back to the roll back rate. She said that she completely agrees that the county needs to bring their pay scale up to current standards. However, she has notices over that past nineteen years that each budget cycle the capital outlay funds are requested the same. She suggested the Board looks for ways to cut the inflated amounts and feels

there is ways to slash the budget without impacting the proposed salaries. She said that the City of Carrabelle, had their budget workshops and they were looking at rolling back their rates. Ms. Riegalmayer asked the Board to keep the taxes at the current levels.

Mr. Moron called for public comments from Zoom attendees. There were none.

5. Budget Discussion

Commissioner Lockley spoke in opposition of going back to the rollback rate. He said the people of Florida voted to increase the minimum wage and we are trying to get ahead of the game.

6. Adoption of the Classification and Pay Plan

a. Board action to adopt the Classification and Pay Plan as presented and discussed at the September 7, 2021 BOCC Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Lockley made a motion to adopt the Classification and Pay Plan.

Commissioner Ward said that she is surprised due to Covid that we didn't have an increase in the millage rate to fund the budget.

Commissioner Ward seconded the motion to adopt the Classification and Pay Plan.

Commissioner Boldt spoke regarding the ways that the Board saved money in the budget. Mrs. Griffith addressed the capital outlay fund and noted that a lot of the payments for the equipment had been built into the budget. She said that by running them through the capital outlay funds the county does not incur interest. She said that the Board is trying to address some of the issues moving forward. Chairman Jones noted that the Board had requested from department heads a 3–5-year list of items that they would need. He said in doing so the Board was being proactive and not reactive. Commissioner Boldt said that our county is a county of grants, and it speaks highly of our budget process. Mr. Moron noted that the Sheriff manages the jail for the county, and he is going to take it item by item to not have one large expense at one time. Commissioner Ward said with hackers and technology world that we live in, supply and demand for everything is expensive especially with Covid. Commissioner Ward said she would be glad to sit down with individuals who spoke during public comments and discuss their ideas for next year's budget. Commissioner Lockley said that we have one of the lowest millage rates in the State of Florida. He encouraged everyone to look at the rates for the entire state.

Motion carried 5-0.

7. Adoption of 2021-22 Tentative Millage Rate and Budget

a. Board action to adopt a resolution adopting the tentative 2021-22 millage levy

Motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to adopt the resolution adopting the tentative 2021-22 millage levy. Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY FOR
FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - 2022

WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida, on September 7th, 2021, adopted Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Tentative Millage Rate following a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within Franklin County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS as \$2,334,118,830.

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

The Fiscal Year 2021-2022 tentatively adopted operating millage rate for Franklin County is 5.4707 mills which is greater than the rolled-back rate of 5.3991 mills by 1.33 %.

DULY ADOPTED at a public hearing this 7th day of September 2021.

Time adopted 6:11 PM.

b. Board action to adopt a resolution adopting the tentative 2021-22 tentative budget

RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION ADOPTING TENTATIVE BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida has determined the amount of funds required for a Tentative Budget for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year and

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

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, has set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2021- 2022 in the amount of \$77,344,340.

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

1. The Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Tentative Budget be adopted.
2. That copies of this Resolution containing the Tentative Budget be spread upon the records of Franklin County, Florida.

This Resolution duly adopted at a public hearing this 7th day of September 2021.

Time adopted 6:12 PM.

8. Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Parrish apologized for being late for the meeting. Commissioner Lockley said that the Board had a job to do, and this is a business. He said that the Board was sincere and tried to do what is right for the company.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell - Clerk of Courts