

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
JULY 30, 2020
9:00 A.M.
MINUTES**

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

Call to Order

A. Public Notice

To comply with CDC and Government social distancing requirements, the general public will not be allowed in the commission meeting room for this meeting; therefore, this Board of County Commission regular meeting will be conducted via livestream and conference call. Those wanting to view the meeting can use the livestream link (<https://www.youtube.com/user/SGIBeachLife>) or go to Forgotten Coast TV's YouTube Page. The livestream feed will promptly start 5 minutes before the meeting commences. Those wanting to participate during "Public Comments" on the agenda should use the conference call system by dialing 1-844-844-0014 and when prompted enter 540166#. Once the "Public Comments" agenda item is completed, the conference call will be disconnected. Any person who wishes to appeal a decision made by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners, with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, must have a record of the proceedings. He or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made.

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

Prayer and Pledge

Commissioner Jones said a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

This is an opportunity for the public to comment on agenda or non-agenda items. When you are recognized to be heard by the Chairman, please sign the speaker's log and adhere to the time limit. An individual will be allowed to speak for three minutes whereas a designated representative of a group or faction will be allowed to speak for five minutes.

Mr. Moron stated there are no public comments. He said citizens may be waiting until the public hearings in September to comment on the budget.

Mr. Moron stated this is the meeting where the Board looks at the budgets and addresses the constitution officers, department heads and non-governmental organizations. He explained the number they come up with today is the highest the budget can go and then they will work everything down from there. He reported at the beginning of September they adopt the tentative millage rate and then later in the month they adopt the final budget. He explained there are some things going on that if they work out could help the budget. He stated the new stimulus (Heroes) Act does not include any more money but they are deliberating language that would allow counties to use 25% of the CARES Act funding to go toward loss of revenue in the budget. He reported that would help the county so the Board needs to contact the federal delegation and let them know that the counties need this help. Mr. Moron said there are others items that they could discuss so he will bring this information up at the regular meeting on Tuesday. Mr. Moron presented the Governor's Executive Order #20-179 addressing how meetings are conducted. He read the following section of this Executive Order:

Section 1.

Executive Order 20-69 is amended to include Section 5, as follows:

A. For any taxing authority holding a millage and budget hearing under Chapter 200, Florida Statutes, or a local governing board holding a hearing or meeting regarding a non ad valorem assessment, including, but not limited to, those under section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, I hereby suspend any Florida Statute that requires a quorum or supermajority of the membership to be present in person or requires the local government body to meet at a specific public place.

B. A taxing authority holding a millage and budget hearing under Chapter 200. Florida Statutes, or a local governing board holding a hearing or meeting regarding a non ad valorem assessment including, but not limited to, those under section 197.3632. Florida Statutes may utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing as provided in section 120.54(5) (b) 2. Florida Statutes.

C. This Executive Order does not waive any other requirement under the Florida Constitution and "Florida's Government in the Sunshine Laws," including Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.

D. The provisions set forth in this section shall expire at 12:01 a.m. on October 15, Section 2.

Mr. Moron said the Board is doing what the Governor is directing others to do throughout the state. He stated the Board are not the only ones conducting meetings in this manner and they are allowing the public to speak through the telephonic equipment. He reported later they may move to a more virtual situation and he is working on that matter. Commissioner Boldt stated this is not a secret meeting and the Board has broadcast equipment here. He reported the

meeting is open for everyone to be involved. Commissioner Jones said several people have come to him wanting to talk about the budget and that is fine because the Commissioners are available to talk. Chairman Lockley stated the Board is not trying to do anything wrong and they are mistaken because the meetings are open and a public record is kept of the meeting.

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 5.44%. At this increase in value, one mill will generate \$2,140,883 in 2020. 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 5.9494 generated \$12,080,068. In the preliminary budget, the current millage rate of 5.9494 would generate \$12,736,970. 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). The rolled-back rate is 5.6926 and would generate \$12,187,191 in ad valorem proceeds – the millage 5.9026 and \$12,636,695 in property tax proceeds required to fund the preliminary budget as presented today is currently 3.69% over the rolled-back rate, which equates to \$449,504 over in ad valorem proceeds. The difference between tax revenues from one year to the next excluding the effects of the tax increment districts is \$556,627.

The sales tax revenue estimates which were released late by the State of Florida's Office of Economic and Demographic Research paint a dire picture of the State's economy for next fiscal year. Florida government is heavily reliant upon sales tax proceeds. Whereas county government does not rely as heavily upon sales tax proceeds as the State budget, we are intertwined with the state economy as far as state-shared revenues are concerned and approximately 17% of the revenues for the general fund come from sales taxes. In the past, these revenues have been dependable and have shown sustainable, reliable growth year after year. Due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, the State of Florida is expecting next year's revenues to be negatively impacted. The State of Florida has a tourism based economy and the social distancing and reduction in travel to South Florida locations due to pandemic fears have reduced the State Shared Sales Tax Revenue Proceeds by \$227,821 for the general fund and \$225,780 for the Road and Bridge Fund.

The Commission encouraged all requests be turned in at the same level as last year with the exception of State mandated funding. The constitutionals and departments that have requested increases are as follows: Clerk of Courts \$12,996, Parks and Recreation \$12,228, and Extension Office \$2,342. Other increases include an estimated 10% increase in the cost of coverage through Capital Health Plan which equates to an increase in cost of \$144,492, an increase in the FRS retirement contribution rates as set by the Florida Legislature increased costs by \$44,971, an increase in the transfer to the tax increment districts of \$3,327 and \$231,232 included in the general fund at the preliminary millage rate to fund a \$1,200 one-time-allocation for all essential government employees. A one-time allocation does not permanently increase the wage base or departmental budgets.

Revenue offsets and reductions to the budget include the following: other revenues increased by \$67,430 in the general fund, an additional \$109,677 in FEMA funds carried forward, the transfer to the capital outlay fund was decreased by \$84,218, a reduction in the Sheriff's budget of \$10,756, a reduction in the Tax Collector's budget of \$3,871, and a reduction in the Supervisor of Elections budget of \$9,196. With the recent rate increase on landfill tipping fees, improvements in the housing market and the ongoing processing of storm related construction debris, the Tipping Fee Fund was also able to transfer an additional \$100,000 to the general fund. The tipping fee fund has not been able to transfer more than \$100,000 per year to the general fund since 2010.

Items that increased the budget (\$902,847) less those with decreases (\$385,148) 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 19/20 budget to the 20/21 budget are summarized in the table below.

REVENUE LOSSES / INCREASES TO THE BUDGET	AMOUNT
REDUCTION IN SALES TAX PROCEEDS AND STATE REVENUE SHARING	\$453,601
CLERK OF COURTS BUDGET INCREASE	\$12,996
PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET INCREASE	\$12,228
TAX INCREMENT DISTRICTS TRANSFER INCREASE	\$3,327
HEALTH INSURANCE ESTIMATED INCREASE 10%	\$144,492
PRELIMINARY ONE-TIME ALLOCATION EMPLOYEES	\$231,232
FRS RETIRMENT CONTRIBUTION RATE INCREASE	\$44,971
TOTAL REVENUE LOSSES/INCREASES TO THE BUDGET	\$902,847
OFFSETS / REDUCTIONS TO THE BUDGET	AMOUNT
INCREASE IN TRANSFER FROM TIPPING FEE FUND	\$100,000
INCREASES IN OTHER REVENUES	\$67,430
INCREASE IN CARRY-FORWARD FEMA FUNDS	\$109,677
DECREASE TRANSFER TO CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND	\$84,218
DECREASE SHERIFF'S DEPT BUDGET	\$10,756
DECREASE TAX COLLECTOR BUDGET	\$3,871
DECREASE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS BUDGET	\$9,196
TOTAL OFFSETS / REDUCTIONS TO THE BUDGET	\$385,148
TOTAL SUMMARIZED REVENUES LOSSES / INCREASES NET OFFSETS / REDUCTIONS TO THE BUDGET	\$517,699

The total budget in 19/20 was \$58,679,230 and the preliminary budget for 20/21 totals \$62,433,711. The change in total budget is \$3,754,481. The change in total budget can be attributed to the some of the special funds: the balance in the Health Care Trust Fund will grow by more than \$579,000, Weems Memorial Hospital fund budget is more than the prior year by \$937,000, there is a new HHRP Housing Assistance Trust fund with an approximate grant balance of \$806,000, an additional \$787,705 in grant funded paving projects in the LOGT fund and an additional \$615,571 in grant funds for the Franklin County Airport.

In 2020, Homesteaded Properties with just values exceeding taxable values, saw an increase in assessed value of 2.3% based on CPI. A homeowner with a house valued at \$150,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would have paid \$594 in county taxes in 2019. At the proposed 2020 rate and the CPI adjustment to value, that homeowner would pay \$611 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 \$297 in county taxes in 2019 while paying \$309 in 2020.

Chairman Lockley stated some of the increases are mandated. Mrs. Griffith agreed some things are beyond their control such as the reduction in sales tax and revenue sharing. She reported the Florida Retirement System (FRS) retirement contribution rate increased which is beyond the Board's control. She stated the increase in the Clerk of Court's budget is relative to FRS and cannot be avoided.

Meeting Items

B. Workshop Schedule

9:00 am

Sheriff

Mrs. Ginger Coulter, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, stated their budget has a .20% decrease. She reported some higher end employees retired and they filled the positions at a reduced rate. Mr. Moron reminded the Board this is a workshop so no motions are made. He explained they just review the budgets and give tentatively approval but everyone knows between now and September that the numbers could change and there could be more discussion on their budget. Chairman Lockley stated there will either be a tentatively approval or they will go back and revisit the budget. Commissioner Boldt asked if there is a budget line item for the new rehabilitation facility. Mrs. Coulter answered no, it is not included in the Sheriff's Office budget because the Sheriff is working on that outside of this budget. Commissioner Boldt questioned if the gun range has a budget item. Mrs. Coulter said they have a little budget for firearms and ammunition and that is where this would be included but they did not add anything because they did not want to ask for anything extra during the COVID-19 situation. She reported they may look at that item in another fiscal year. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Sheriff's Department budget.

Property Appraiser

Mrs. Casey Nash, Franklin County Property Appraiser's Office, appeared before the Board and said Property Appraiser Rhonda Skipper sends her apologies for not being here today. Mrs. Nash stated their budget did not change from last year. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Property Appraiser's budget.

Tax Collector

Mr. Rick Watson, Franklin County Tax Collector, said his office has a slight decrease in his budget. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Tax Collector's budget.

Clerk of Courts

Clerk Johnson reported her budget has an increase of 3.67% due to an increase in the retirement rate to be paid to the clerk elect in 2021 for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the upcoming fiscal year. She explained the first quarter is at a lower rate because she participates in the state DROP retirement but the new clerk will have retirement paid in at an elected officials' rate which is much higher. She said that is the only reason the budget was increased. Commissioner Jones tentatively approved the Clerk of Courts' budget.

Supervisor of Elections

Mrs. Heather Riley, Supervisor of Elections, said her budget has a 2% decrease this year as there is only 1 major election this year instead of 2 elections. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Supervisor of Elections' budget.

Mr. Moron said the Board is ahead of schedule but they designed this format so they would not have too many people in the room at the same time. Mr. Moron stated at the last meeting he pointed out there would be gaps in the morning session because they are trying to allow social distancing for everyone. He said the Veterans Service Officer is present if the Board would like to address his budget. Mr. Moron explained for the public's information this is not the first time the Board has seen this budget as they have been reviewing it and researching it with the Finance Department. Commissioner Massey agreed they have had this package and have been reading it and talking with all the offices. Mr. Moron suggested the Board address the budget of the Veterans Service Officer and then take a break until 10:00 a.m. Chairman Lockley stated they have had the budget packet long enough to look over it and talk to people. Mr. Moron said he will ask the department heads to come here a little earlier so the Board can address their budgets. Chairman Lockley reported the process is going fast because people followed the Board's directions to keep their budget the same as last year. He stated a lot of the budgets have decreased and that is the good part.

Veteran's Services

Mr. Charles Elliott, Veterans Service Office, said he has no change to his budget. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Veterans Service budget.

The meeting recessed at 9:25 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:47 a.m.

Road Department

Mr. Howard Nabors, Superintendent of Public Works, stated there is no change to their budget. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Road Department budget.

Solid Waste, Solid Waste Grant

Mr. Fonda Davis, Solid Waste Director, reported he has asked for a couple of pieces of equipment. Mrs. Griffith stated in the Solid Waste Department they are not asking for any increase in the General Fund so the budget has no increase and his equipment needs are going to be funded out of the Landfill Tipping Fees. She advised the Board if they would like to look at the Landfill Tipping Fee Fund she can explain this item. Chairman Lockley reported they made the money off of the tipping fees. Mr. Davis answered yes. Mrs. Griffith explained in fiscal year 2018-2019 with processing all the Hurricane Michael debris the landfill processed more than 4 times the annual volume of paid waste in 1 year. She went on to say this year they are on track to collect almost 2 times the annual volume of paid waste. Mrs. Griffith stated there has been a lot of hurricane related construction and demolition debris but that will not last forever. She stated there is also an increase in tipping fee rates and the housing market has risen. She pointed out this additional debris is also using up space in the county landfill. Mrs. Griffin explained the county has a re-cost coming up that will look at how much space is left in the landfill to process the waste. She reported at that time the Board may be faced with needing to put more money in the Landfill Management Escrow to cover the cost of closure or expansion. She explained one of the things they were able to do in 2018-2019 is transfer a lot of the onetime revenues from storm debris into the Landfill Management Escrow Account. Mrs. Griffith stated they are working on larger problems with these proceeds. Commissioner Massey questioned where the county will expand the landfill. Mr. Davis reported the state owns property next to the landfill and they have talked to them. He said the Eastpoint Water & Sewer District owns property across the street from the landfill. Commissioner Massey stated the county will have to purchase some property. Mr. Davis replied yes. Mrs. Griffith said in relation to the landfill department and the quotes that were included for the equipment, Mr. Alan Feifer, Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, wanted to make sure all of the equipment was off the state bid pricing. She explained the knuckle boom quote came from the Florida Sheriff's Association bid contract and the truck is state contract bid price. She stated the Dozier track loader was off of a Sourcwell contract which is another governmental bid platform. She pointed out the original bid for the tub grinder was not the state bid price so they got a better bid and it is about \$48,000 less and is from the Sourcwell contract. She stated this bid will be uploaded to the Commissioners. Mrs. Griffith read the following information about the Landfill Tipping Fee Fund:

The Landfill Tipping Fee fund continues to see higher than average revenues – in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, the Franklin County landfill process over 4x the annual amount of paid waste in one fiscal year. To date, the landfill is on track to collect nearly 2x the average volume of paid waste in the current year. Coupled with an increased rate, improvements in the housing market and ongoing

processing of storm related construction debris, the tipping fee fund was able to transfer \$200,000 in recurring, sustainable revenues to the general fund. The county has not been able to transfer more than \$100,000 to the general fund since 2010. With non-recurring excess funds available from the collection of Hurricane Michael Debris, there is approximately \$519,166 available in the tipping fee fund to pay for the requested equipment that was so heavily used and abused during the processing of that waste. This \$519,166 will replace a 2003 knuckleboom with 273,192 miles and 2002 963 Track Loader with 8,090 hours. There is also enough recurring revenues in the fund to finance the replacement of the existing tub grinder which is over 15 years old. Hurricane Michael and the overwhelming amount of debris that has been processed has stressed the equipment needs of the landfill to the max.

Mrs. Griffin stated they need to keep in mind the age of the equipment and use of the equipment. She explained Franklin County uses their equipment so there is almost no residual value. Commissioner Massey reported the landfill must have equipment and they must have land to expand. Commissioner Boldt said the tub grinder is important to reduce the bulk of the material so the landfill has longevity. Mr. Davis explained the county has been spending about \$20,000 every year for repairs on this equipment and Ring Power is not sure it can be repaired again. He stated the tub grinder is down now and must go to Thomasville for repairs. Commissioner Boldt asked if the landfill fees reflect the depreciation of equipment. Mrs. Griffith responded they do not have a factor for this but said the most recent increase in the tipping fee rates lead to the \$100,000 transfer to the General Fund which helped as there has been a decrease in the sales tax proceeds. She explained another item that may play a positive part in this budget is not paying for recycling to be hauled as they do not have to pay as much to the transfer station operator. Chairman Lockley asked about the status of the rest of the equipment. Mr. Davis stated Solid Waste is doing pretty good but he has some issues in other departments. Commissioner Parrish questioned how many pieces of equipment are being purchased for Solid Waste. Mrs. Griffith responded a tub grinder, knuckle boom truck and Dozier 963 track loader. Commissioner Parrish asked if they have ever had a Dozier track loader at the landfill. Mr. Davis answered they had one when he first started work with the county 30 years ago. Commissioner Parrish inquired if this equipment is paid for out of the Landfill Tipping Fee Fund. Mrs. Griffith said yes, it is not being purchased with ad valorem tax proceeds. She reminded the Board these are onetime revenues from debris from Hurricane Michael and will come to an end soon. Commissioner Parrish asked if the tipping fee is the same for out of county residents and county residents. Mr. Davis replied yes. Commissioner Parrish said this is not fair as they will close the landfill with all the debris coming in from out of the county which causes more expense for this county because they must buy land and open a new landfill. He stated this issue needs to be addressed. He stated some people talked with him when the tipping fees went up but apparently the tipping fee is still low compared to surrounding counties. Commissioner Parrish stated he is in favor of helping other counties but someone must help when the county has to open a new landfill. He reported people coming from out of

the county need to pay a higher tipping fee. He stated citizens should not have to pay when other counties are filling up the landfill. Chairman Lockley asked Mr. Moron to put this item on the Agenda for discussion at Tuesday's meeting. Mr. Moron agreed to address this item on Tuesday. Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Davis to review this matter and see how much the tipping fee needs to be increased. Chairman Lockley stated they need to see what the surrounding counties are charging for a tipping fee. Commissioner Massey explained the tipping fee is low and that is why the other counties are bringing their debris here and they are the only county taking the debris. Mr. Davis reported Gulf County just paid \$12,000 for yard debris disposal at a rate of \$45 a ton. Mr. Moron asked if the county has an agreement with Gulf County. Mr. Davis answered no. Chairman Lockley asked if they will approve all these departments together. Commissioner Parrish said he would like to address each one. Commissioner Jones said they can increase the tipping fees but until roadside debris pickup is only after a storm and mandatory trash pickup is done in the county they are not going anywhere and the debris will pile up beside the road. He stated they have a problem with people bringing in the debris now and if they increase the fees that will increase the problem. Commissioner Jones tentatively approved the Solid Waste budget. Mrs. Griffith reported the Consolidated Solid Waste Grant had no change from the previous year. She explained this grant supplements operating expenditures of the Solid Waste Department.

Animal Control

Mr. Davis said there is no change in this budget. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Animal Control budget.

Parks and Recreation

Mr. Davis stated this budget has an increase in insurance and things that are beyond their control. Mrs. Griffith explained new parks came on line and the state completed improvements to the Buddy Ward Seafood Landing Park so they had to increase value on that structure and the state also constructed the Eastpoint Restroom facility and turned it over to the county so that has also been added. She reported to date they have paid \$61,941 in insurance costs and \$61,000 was budgeted so she may not have increased this budget enough. She stated the county must have insurance on their structures and they must be insured at a minimum of 80% of replacement value for their policy. Mrs. Griffith stated the county has been taken care of well by the Florida League of Cities in relation to insurance claims after Hurricane Michael. Chairman Lockley said this is like a mandate because they must have insurance. Mr. Moron reported they will discuss this item on Tuesday but Mr. Davis is in a bind because there is no funding for the hurricane recovery people who are assisting his department. He explained he talked with Mrs. Kim Bodine, CareerSource Gulf Coast, and when the workers leave tomorrow there is no more funding. He stated this is a federal issue and they need to contact their federal delegation to get the money released to the Department of Economic Opportunity and

then to CareerSource. Mr. Moron reported the Board asked him to contact the warden at the prison and talk about inmate crews. He explained the prison was a Phase 2 but have now gone back to Phase 1 since there may have been positive cases at the Franklin Correctional Institute so the county is now further away from getting inmate crews. Commissioner Parrish said it is correct they have positive cases. Mr. Moron explained Mr. Davis is in a tough position with not having this additional help. Mrs. Griffith questioned if they should talk with Ms. Traci Buzbee, The Management Experts, about possibly getting CARES Act funding to hire temporary help. Mr. Moron stated yesterday he talked with Ms. Buzbee and she is looking for funding but it cannot be for positions that were budgeted or show as an employee. He explained it must be strictly COVID recovery. He explained if the county gets relief and they can use 25% of CARES Act funding for the shortfall it reduces the \$1.5 million. Mr. Moron cautioned the Board they have to be careful how they use this funding or it will gone very quickly. He said they may not have a problem spending the money by December 31, 2020 but may have to re-address their priorities. He explained Ms. Buzbee is creating a spreadsheet that will track temporary budget line items. Mr. Moron reported the Board has to discuss the budget line items and make some decisions and they will work it out in accordance with the Clerk's Finance Office. Chairman Lockley asked how long it will be before she will know about this funding. Mr. Moron said in relation to the revenue shortfall hopefully the Heroes Act will be acted on by the federal government before they take their August break and then the county will know if they can use the \$500,000 for the revenue shortfall. Mr. Moron explained then they can decide what line items they will spend the rest of the CARES Act funding for. Mrs. Griffith stated the middle of August the Office of Economic Development and Research with the Department of Revenue will have another revenue estimate conference so they may re-assess the estimates. She reported hopefully if the estimates are substantially different they will reissue the estimates and they will be better. Commissioner Parrish said because they are not able to get this inmate labor to run these essential services because of COVID can they get some money to use for the temporary workers. Mr. Moron answered yes, and he and Ms. Buzbee may need to write up a job description for the workers that specially explains what they are doing and that it is directly related to COVID. Chairman Lockley asked how long this will take. Mr. Moron replied not long because Ms. Buzbee is working on the language. He said the question is how much the county wants to spend on this labor. Chairman Lockley questioned how much money is available to spend. Mr. Moron clarified he and Ms. Buzbee will recommend a priority but the Board must make a decision on how much money is placed in each line item. Chairman Lockley said while they are working on this they also need to call the county's representatives in Washington and tell them they need help. Mr. Moron stated he will call and request they get the money to CareerSource and also make sure the language is placed in the Heroes Act that allows them to use the money for revenue shortfall and employees. Commissioner Boldt questioned if the Board should write a letter. Mr. Moron said they could address that on Tuesday. He explained he would like to make a telephone call and then report back to the Board and then they could follow up with a letter. Commissioner Parrish asked if there is a way for these employees to continue to work through CareerSource rather than making them temporary Franklin County employees. Mr. Moron said he will ask Ms. Bodine. Commissioner Jones questioned if they would give the funds to CareerSource. Commissioner Parrish explained he does not want to

increase the county work force and then when the inmates come back these individuals do not have a job. He said he is not sure what kind of program is set up but it may be better to provide funding to CareerSource until their funding comes through. Commissioner Parrish asked if these will be county employees if they are paying them. Commissioner Jones said everyone employed at CareerSource may be OPS which would pay a higher hourly rate but receive no benefits. Commissioner Parrish reported he would like to know what the county would be obligated for. Mr. Moron said if money gets allocated he will let the Board know. Mrs. Griffith stated the county has a class of temporary employee and to avoid paying retirement they must anticipate the position lasting less than 6 months. She advised the Board if they did advertise for temporary employees they would advertise the position for up to 5 months. She stated they would also need to work less than 29 hours a week to avoid the health insurance benefit. Commissioner Parrish asked how many hours these employees work now. Mr. Davis replied 40 hours. Commissioner Parrish said that may be an issue because 29 hours may not be enough. Mrs. Griffith reported they may need a lot of temporary part time workers. Chairman Lockley inquired how many workers they have in the Solid Waste Department and the Road Department. Mr. Davis said Solid Waste contracts for 15 workers but they are down a few. Ms. Virginia Messer, Road Department, stated their department is supposed to have 5 workers but are down to 3. Mr. DeWitt Polous, Mosquito Control Department, said he has an inmate crew in November through the winter for ditch work and if they cannot get the inmates they will need someone to do this work. Chairman Lockley asked how many workers this requires. Mr. Polous responded 5. Chairman Lockley stated the county will be down 25 people. Mr. Moron added he has also had discussions with Clerk Johnson and Mrs. Brownell about ordering tanks and sanitizing solution for county buildings but they will need someone to train and be responsible for this work because the county only has 1 custodian and 1 maintenance person. Mr. Moron thanked Mr. Polous and Mrs. Brownell for their help about the solution and what the person should wear. He explained Mrs. Brownell thinks she has what they needs to wear but 1 person will be needed to do this work when the Courthouse is closed. Commissioner Parrish said this must be someone the Board trusts to go into the buildings after hours and must be a county employee. He reported some offices have confidential information and this cannot just be a temporary employee but someone who will do the right thing for the county. Mr. Moron agreed and said he was responsible when they sprayed the buildings on the weekend. Mr. Davis pointed out with the increase in parks it is getting tough for the 6 man crew to do all this work so he will be coming back later for more help. Chairman Lockley asked how many more he is asking for. Mr. Davis was not sure at this time. Mr. Davis explained that is why they are behind now because they are trying to maintain the areas they have and parks are being added. Chairman Lockley said Mr. Davis needs to give them a number and they will work on it. Commissioner Parrish asked if there is no increase in this budget. Mrs. Griffith reported there is an increase in insurance and there is a request for 2 trucks to be purchased from the Capital Outlay Fund. Commissioner Parrish tentatively approved the Parks & Recreation Department budget. Commissioner Jones questioned if there are 15 workers from CareerSource that work at the landfill. Mr. Davis stated no, most of the workers are helping with Parks & Recreation. Chairman Lockley said they will be working on getting the workers back. Mr. Davis thanked the Board and Mrs. Griffith for their help.

Mr. Moron informed the Board the noise next door is a contractor working on upgrades to the State Attorney's Office.

Library

Mrs. Whitney Roundtree stated there is no increase in the budget and no significant changes. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Library budget.

Courthouse Maintenance

Mr. Moron said he is presenting 4 budgets-Courthouse Maintenance, Building Department, Planning & Zoning and Administrative Services and there are no increases or reductions in any of the budgets. Mrs. Griffith stated the Courthouse Maintenance budget actually handles the repair and maintenance of 7 locations-The main Courthouse, the Courthouse Annex, the new Courthouse Annex in Carrabelle, the Supervisor of Elections' Office building, the old jail storage location, the Public Defender's building and the Chapman Auditorium location. She said in the 2019-2020 budget there are lingering repairs going on for the State Attorney's Office and they are trying to get those accomplished in the next fiscal year. Commissioner Boldt asked what the Chapman Building has to do with Courthouse maintenance. Mrs. Griffith explained there is nowhere else in the budget to place this item. She reported there is a tenant in the building but after a certain amount the county is responsible for the repairs on the building. Mr. Moron stated this is a county building. Mrs. Griffith reported the tenant is responsible for a certain amount of repairs. Mr. Moron said there are two tenants that complete work on the building.

Building Department

Mrs. Griffith reported there is no change to the budget but there was an increase in Building Department fees so there is an additional \$64,000 in other revenues that she read in the opening narrative. She explained the Board cannot assess fees higher than what it cost to run the Building Department. Mrs. Griffith reported she estimated the proceeds at approximately \$200,000 and right now the total budget is \$204,000 so they are even but there are not enough months yet to establish a trend to know if these fees will allow for more expenditures and improvements in the Building Department or they are going to remain at the current level. Commissioner Massey explained if they do not spend these funds then they must lower the fees. Mr. Moron said they will wait to get the history for a few months before they make decisions about how to use the money in a more efficient way. He stated when most counties went to Phase I they issued permits on an emergency basis or not at all but Franklin County continued to issue permits on a regular basis and he has to see if the fees level out in the future or stay the same. Mrs. Griffith pointed out home construction is considered to be essential so construction on residences did not stop during the shutdown. Commissioner Boldt stated they are doing research on a code enforcement officer or a role of this type so maybe these fees could be used to fund this position.

Planning and Zoning

Mrs. Griffith stated there is an error in the forms and this budget will be reduced by \$3,000 so there is no increase. Mr. Moron reported Steve Patterson, Building Inspector, is working toward becoming the Building Official and is doing well but he has to wait a certain amount of time before being certified. He explained in early spring he will finish his training and move into the Building Official position and Mr. Gary Millender, Building Official, will probably retire. He said Mr. Millender is waiting for Mr. Patterson to get his certification. Mr. Moron explained he is not sure how this will affect the budget. Commissioner Parrish asked if another person will be hired when Mr. Millender retires and Mr. Patterson moves into his position so they will not be limited to one inspector. Commissioner Jones agreed they will need another person. Mr. Moron agreed they will need a backup. Mrs. Griffith agreed this could be funded if the increase generates enough. Commissioner Parrish stated Mr. Mark Curenton, County Planner, entered the DROP Retirement option so they need to hire an Assistant County Planner to be learning from him before he retires. Mr. Moron said he has been working on this but planning is not the same as it was before and they may need less planning. He said they must determine how much of Mr. Curenton's day is spent in planning and how much is grant management. He reported the Board needs to decide if they want a planner as an employee, a contract employee or if they want to use the services of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC). He explained Mr. Curenton feels more of his job is about grants management than planning. Commissioner Boldt asked if Mr. Curenton has a certain date for retirement. Mrs. Griffith said he entered DROP in April and it is for 5 years. Commissioner Massey stated Mr. Curenton can leave whenever he wants to. Chairman Lockley questioned if the planner handles the grants too. Commissioner Parrish reported the Assistant Planner handled grants before but now that only Mr. Curenton is there he is keeping up with all of this work. Mr. Moron stated Mr. Curenton is working with Mrs. Cortni Bankston on learning grants management. He said the grants part is easier than the planning part so he will make this item a priority and address it. Commissioner Jones pointed out Mr. Curenton is the only person LAP certified in the entire county. Mr. Moron reported Mr. Curenton is also working with Mrs. Bankston to make sure she is LAP certified.

Administrative Services

Mrs. Griffith said there is no change in this budget request. Commissioner Parrish tentatively approved the Courthouse Maintenance Budget, the Building Department Budget, the Planning & Zoning Budget and the Administrative Services Budget.

Emergency Management

Mrs. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Director, stated there is no change in her budget. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Emergency Management Budget. Mrs. Brownell reported the storm has moved back to the east. She stated it will move several more times before they know its path. Mrs. Griffith explained the Emergency Management Budget

comes from three sources which are a state grant provided by the Division of Emergency Management in the amount of \$105,806, a federal grant in the amount of \$53,720 and local support in the amount of \$69,671. Mrs. Brownell stated they are participating in hurricane conference calls and COVID calls. Chairman Lockley asked when the storm will hit. Mrs. Brownell stated the middle of next week. She reported messages were sent to Alligator Point residents warning them the road will go if the storm comes this way so they need to prepare to shelter in place. She explained they warned them because they will start seeing tropical force winds before next week and the wave action is what will take the road.

Commissioner Parrish left the meeting.

Mosquito Control

Mr. Polous stated there is no increase in the budget. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Mosquito Control Budget. Chairman Lockley asked about their equipment. Mr. Polous informed the Board his department has 2-2013 trucks and a 2009 truck. He stated next year they will need to replace all 3 trucks but they can finish this season with the trucks they have now. Commissioner Parrish returned to the meeting. Mr. Polous reported software costs are always increasing and he covers these costs with extra in other line items. He said next year they will need to replace some items. Mrs. Griffith reported this budget receives \$33,403 in state support and \$183,517 of local support. Mr. Polous said he was asked to participate in some programs and received funds from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which is helping to offset some of the other expenses. Mrs. Griffith reported several years ago Zika funding paid for some pesticide purchases and a portion of a truck. Chairman Lockley asked Mr. Polous to keep them updated on his equipment. Mr. Polous said they should be okay. He reported they perform routine maintenance on their equipment. Mr. Polous stated the mosquito control complaints have increased the last 3 weeks because they had a part time and a full time employee out. He explained he accumulated 70-80 hours of comp time helping spray. He reported the complaints have also picked up because of the rain.

Commissioner Boldt asked if anyone in these departments get bids on supplies and equipment and said this should be a process used by the county departments. Mrs. Griffith said Ms. Messer in the Road Department calls and gets prices. Ms. Messer agreed they get prices for items. Mr. Polous stated they complete the same process on pesticide purchases. Mrs. Griffith reported this happens with a lot of departments. She explained they call her office wanting copies of the old invoices because it helps in negotiations with the vendor.

Extension Office

Mr. Erik Lovestrand, County Extension Director, said he has a slight increase that the University of Florida (UF) would like to request. He explained this is not an increase to his extension program operations but is the result of a recent promotion. He explained he was promoted from Extension Agent 2 to Extension Agent 3 as part of the university's permanent status

system. He reported the UF is asking the county pay the portion of the agent's salary so there is an 80/20 split and the county's portion is 20%. He said that is what they do around the state but most of the offices have a 60/40 split or 70/30 split. Mr. Lovestrand explained Franklin County is the only county they are requesting the 80/20 split in. He stated the annual increase would be \$2,342 to the extension portion contributed by the county. Mr. Lovestrand stated this portion of his budget has been the same since 2014. Commissioner Boldt said this is a new level of credential as Mr. Lovestrand has been certified to a new level and it is a compliment to the county. Mr. Lovestrand explained the timing is not good but it is based on when he came into this job and the process involved with the promotion. Chairman Lockley asked if the UF is supposed to take care of this item. Mr. Lovestrand stated UF has a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the county to share costs for the agents in the extension offices. Commissioner Jones questioned if this increase is included in this budget. Mrs. Griffith answered yes that amount is in the budget request. She reported the \$85,699 in the budget includes the 80/20 split. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Extension Office Budget.

Mr. Moron stated Mrs. Griffith recommends they address the items scheduled for 3:30 p.m. because she will present these budgets and no one is scheduled to appear. He explained they will then recess and come back at 1:30 p.m. to address the remaining budgets. Mr. Moron reported some of the individuals will appear in person and some will appear via telephone.

Auditor Fees

Mrs. Griffith reported Mr. Ralph Roberson, Roberson & Associates, has proposed a 2% increase which equates to \$1,500. She said this is the first increase they have asked for since becoming the county's auditors. Commissioner Parrish tentatively approved the budget for Auditor Fees.

Insurance

Mrs. Griffith reported Capital Health Plan (CHP) has not been able to provide a firm renewal rate due to the pandemic and they are trying to estimate claims history and deferred procedures. She explained the increase is \$144,492 as she estimated a 10% increase on the renewal rate but hopefully that will not occur. Mrs. Griffin stated the Franklin County School Board renewed at an 8% increase. She reported last year the increase for the county was 4%. Mrs. Griffith said in talking with CHP they felt the 10% would be sufficient. She reported once they receive the rates then she will go through and adjust the budgets. She hoped to have a firm rate at the next meeting so the Board can make a decision. Mrs. Griffith reported the Board can go out for bids for insurance or look at other carriers if they are interested. She said the worst case scenario for the increase has been entered in the budget. Mrs. Griffith explained several months ago the Board allow them to send a letter to Pat Thomas & Associates so they could price some different options with Standard Dental Insurance. She explained as long as they move the county covered life insurance (\$10,000 in accidental death and \$10,000 regular death coverage) from Florida Combined Life at a rate of \$2.40 per month

to Standard the rate would be reduced to \$1.30 per month per employee. She stated this would pull the employee dental rate down from \$27.20 per month to \$25.84 per month and give the employees a better plan. Mrs. Griffith reported in the proposed plan in and out of network would be at the same level. She said the local dentist complained about being out of network with Standard as it resulted in higher out of pocket charges for employees. She explained by switching over and having the Standard Life Insurance they will get a lower rate and a better plan. Mrs. Griffith stated another concession the county has to make is that Standard wants to come in and talk with employees about a voluntary life insurance. Chairman Lockley asked if the local dentist will take this insurance. Mrs. Griffin answered yes, and said in network and out of network will pay the same amount. Commissioner Boldt commented he likes this and it has been well negotiated. Commissioner Parrish stated the school board received an 8% increase and questioned why the county does not have their rate. Mrs. Griffin replied the school board plan renews July 1st so they had to give them a rate. She stated the county renews October 1st and they usually give the rate in early July so they should know the rate any day. Commissioner Parrish inquired if they will increase 10% if they know the county budgeted 10%. Commissioner Boldt expressed his opinion that CHP would not do that because the county would compare rates around the region. Commissioner Parrish reported the rates will be higher than CHP and there is not a plan that provides the same benefits. Chairman Lockley asked about other insurance companies. Mrs. Griffith said the insurance carriers in the county are United Health Care, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and Capital Health Plan. She explained the Florida Sheriff's Association has a self-insured risk pool and they reached out to her for our census information but she has not heard back from them. Mrs. Griffin reported she will follow up on this information but she is not fond of the self-insured plan. She stated Commissioner Parrish is correct it is hard to beat the CHP rates. Chairman Lockley questioned why the county cannot fall under the state plan. Mrs. Griffith reported the state pays a higher premium per employee than the county does because the state subsidizes family coverage and the county does not. Commissioner Boldt reported there are 1,243 people in the county insured under CHP. He said that was one of the reasons they picked the management company they did for the hospital because they will work with CHP. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Insurance Budget.

Carrabelle Redevelopment Trust

Mrs. Griffin said each year they transfer to the increment districts and City of Carrabelle's area is along the waterfront. She reported all the supporting documentation is behind the estimate sheet. She said in 1996 the City of Carrabelle established the Carrabelle Redevelopment Authority (CRA) and the 1996 base year taxable value was \$7,423,025. Mrs. Griffith reported the taxable value in 2020 is \$22,303,470. She explained in the tax increment districts the difference between the base year and the current year and for any of the growth the money is multiplied by the county's millage rate and the entity receives the funds. She stated for the City of Carrabelle the distribution this year is \$84,103. She said there was about a \$3,000 increase in the distribution between the 2 tax increment districts

Apalachicola Redevelopment Trust

Mrs. Griffin reported the City of Apalachicola passed their tax increment district in 2014 and the base year value was \$31,376,822. She said their 2020 current taxable value is \$40,915,846. She stated the anticipated payment to the City of Apalachicola for this year is \$53,914. Mrs. Griffith pointed out the cities determine what they do with the funds and any questions about the expenditures would be directed to the cities. Commissioner Parrish asked if the cities are supposed to contribute. Mrs. Griffith said they are but the exact contribution is a question for them. Commissioner Parrish asked if one of these cities has not contributed anything for about 7 years and said they were not going to accept any more money until they caught the payments up. Mrs. Griffith agreed they discussed this matter last year. Mr. Moron stated the city did not get their legal issues with that plan worked out. Commissioner Parrish questioned if the county should hold the money until the city works out their legal issues. Mr. Moron said the county has to release the money. Commissioner Parrish asked if they are required by statute to fix all these issues. Mrs. Griffin stated the county is required to distribute the money according to statute.

Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Carrabelle Redevelopment Trust budget.

Commissioner Parrish tentatively approved the Apalachicola Redevelopment Trust budget.

Grants and Other Funds

Mrs. Griffith read the following grants and funds for the Board:

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 \$90,635 available in this fund.

FUND 123, Law Enforcement Trust Fund

A small balance of \$3,189 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 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.

Mrs. Griffin reported this is the same estimate that was used last year because as of yesterday the Florida Department of Revenue and the Office of Economic and Demographic Research has not released the sales tax revenue estimates. She said she does not anticipate the taxes

collected within the county to have the same negative impact as state shared revenues. She reported they received their proceeds check for the discretionary sales surtax and for all taxable sales within the county for the month of May they were only off 10%. She explained Franklin County was shut down to vacation rentals until just before Memorial Day weekend so that is good news that the reduction is only 10%. Mrs. Griffith said there has been a lot of tourist traffic in the community because people are able to socially distance and the area is not heavily populated. She reported south Florida is being heavily impacted by the travel restrictions but Franklin County has not seen the same thing and seems to have rebounded strongly for sales taxes collected within the county.

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 \$5.8 million available in the fund.

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 \$314,250 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 \$282,572 – this is a decrease from the prior year but the State of Florida is anticipating a negative impact on the local option gas tax proceeds due to the reduction in tourism related travel. 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 \$1,586,456 accumulated in the fund to go towards a future paving project.

These funds are split between the (5) districts and the balances by commissioner do vary. There is \$785,954 budgeted in State grant proceeds for the survey, design, permitting and construction costs associated with the repaving, widening and roadway compliance for .90 miles of Timber Island Road in Carrabelle from US Hwy 98 to the Carrabelle River.

FUND 143, Boating Improvement Fund

Boating Improvement Fees are deposited monthly from fees collected by the Franklin County Tax Collector – the county anticipates \$7,975 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 \$54,425 that can be used as grant match towards future applications.

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 \$1,716,664 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 and Hurricane Michael to do repairs along the access road to the St. George Island Pier. The repairs are estimated to cost \$96,181 and are currently in progress.

FUND 150, CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Trust Fund

On Sunday, June 24th, 2018 there was a terrible disaster in Franklin County. Fueled by high winds, a controlled burn got out of control and rapidly swept through nearly 1,000 acres of property in Eastpoint. The wildfire consumed approximately 38 homes, displaced 132 people and the fire moved so quickly that many escaped the blaze with only the clothes on their back. The overwhelming response to this disaster has been remarkable, although the damage and loss will be felt by the community for years to come. The county purchased 24 travel trailers at a cost of \$237,240 which were transferred to the Capital Area Community Action Agency to be used as emergency housing for the displaced residents. Other non-profit organizations within the county also provided temporary and permanent housing assistance. The county has received a \$2,630,588 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide permanent housing for up to 38 families. To date, ten families have received permanent housing provided by this program, eight more families are in the process and there is funding available for more as applicants are qualified. There is approximately \$1,489,762 in grant funds available.

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 \$305,580.

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 \$522,264 – 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.

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, \$689,729 to design and construct a North/South taxiway, and a \$779,711 TRIP Grant to rehab the apron pavements.

FUND 180 and 181, Affordable Housing Assistance Trust Fund and HHRP Trust Fund

Franklin County will not receive the standard \$350,000 annual allocation for rehabilitation or down-payment assistance for qualifying residents in next year's budget. The amount budgeted in the upcoming year for the SHIP fund is simply remaining funds from the current allocation. The Florida Housing Finance Corporation through the Hurricane Housing Relief Program provided over \$1,000,000 in funding to harden existing residences for qualified homeowners or provide for full replacement of mobile homes built before 1994 as part of community resilience measures. Fund 181 is newly created as these funds were required to be in a separate fund as part of the grant agreement.

FUND 301, Capital Outlay Reserve Fund

In the capital outlay fund, there will be \$152,491 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, \$149,880 is FEMA funds transferred from the Road Department to purchase a grass tractor in the upcoming fiscal year, and there is \$61,140 budgeted for (2) new trucks for the Parks and Recreation Department whereas a (5) year repayment schedule has been established for the fund and \$371,912 available for infrastructure or other capital improvements.

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

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, the county will be able to make a one-time transfer into the Landfill Management

escrow of \$291,857 to hedge against future escrow requirements and landfill expansion. This transfer will bring the balance in the escrow fund to \$3,120,128.

Commissioner Massey inquired about the meeting tomorrow. Mr. Moron said that was scheduled in case they needed additional time but the Board agreed not to address the non-governmental organizations unless there were cuts. He stated they will review these items and check with Mrs. Griffith. He said they can set some dates in September if needed. Commissioner Massey stated their funding never increases. Mrs. Griffin agreed the funding level has remained the same for several years. Mr. Moron clarified they are not meeting tomorrow. He said after this afternoon's meeting that is the end of the budget workshops.

Commissioner Jones questioned if they could cut the budget by doing a payment plan for the equipment for the Road Department. Mrs. Griffin agreed they could do a payment plan. She said the transfer to pay for the equipment was a transfer from FEMA funds that had accumulated in the Road & Bridge Fund. She stated they also received some FEMA reimbursements for equipment hours and materials. Mrs. Griffith reported this is one time revenue for a onetime expense. Commissioner Jones stated Hurricane Michael was rough but it is good to have the unanticipated funds to look at so they can cut back more where they need to.

Mr. Moron stated they need to set the dates for the public hearing. Mrs. Phillips said these dates must be on the TRIM notice and must be advertised. She suggested the dates of September 8th and September 22nd at 5:15 p.m. The Board agreed with these dates. Mr. Moron reported public comment will be received at the public hearings. Commissioner Parrish stated if the county can use some of the CARES Act funding to make up for lost revenue then they could cut the budget more. Mr. Moron said hopefully they will know by mid-August. Mrs. Griffith reported they can decide today on the budget and then can reduce the budget but cannot increase the budget. Commissioner Parrish stated their constituents are facing hard times in relation to COVID-19 so they need to get the budget down as low as they can go for the people they represent. He explained they need to try and help people and still provide the same services. He reported they should lower taxes if possible. Mr. Moron said the county has 105 positive COVID-19 cases. Commissioner Parrish stated if the positivity rate is 6.6% then they should not recommend starting school as the positivity rate should be below 5%. Commissioner Massey reported Leon County has delayed starting school until October 31st. Mr. Moron said at 1:30 p.m. the first department is the Health Department so they can receive an update. Commissioner Jones reported so far the school system rolled everything out to delay 4 days or a whole week. He expressed concern that some kids are not receiving an education virtually and it is not working out. The Board discussed the opening of school and the issues facing families.

The meeting recessed at 11:39 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 130 p.m.

Health Department

Ms. Sarah Hinds, Health Department Director, requested renewal of the \$49,000 to support core public health services in the county. She said this is the same amount they have requested for years. She stated this funding supports services through the medical clinic and is tied to a position for one of the nurses. Mrs. Hinds presented the services provided by this nurse. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Health Department Budget. Commissioner Boldt thanked Ms. Hinds for her updates. Ms. Hinds said another update will come out tomorrow.

Weems Hospital

Mr. David Walker, CEO at Weems Memorial Hospital, stated the annual budget was submitted for the hospital, clinics and ambulance service in the amount of \$14,755,305. He requested the Board tentatively approve the budget. Chairman Lockley said the budget did not go up. Mr. Walker said the sales tax is lower than last year but they expect that because tourist dollars are going down. He read the amount of money received from the healthcare surtax and the subsidies provided. Mr. Walker said the COVID money is helping and the new bills may allocate another round to money to hospitals. Chairman Lockley asked when they will get the machine that does the rapid COVID-19 test. Mr. Walker stated this equipment will be received the end of August. Commissioner Boldt questioned where the equipment will be placed. Mr. Walker reported it will go in the lab. He stated they are updating equipment while they can with the additional funding. Commissioner Massey asked if their budget is the same as last year. Mrs. Griffith explained the only ad valorem tax proceeds that go to the hospital are for the ambulance and that subsidy is unchanged. Commissioner Boldt inquired if they received \$3 million in COVID-19 funding from the CARES Act. He questioned if this money is in a bank account and earmarked for special spending. Mr. Walker responded yes, it is earmarked for COVID related purchases as well as lost revenue. He stated they can purchase anything to prepare, prevent and prepare for COVID-19. He stated they are updating equipment that offers remote patient monitoring. Commissioner Boldt said Mr. Bill Storck, Chief Financial Officer, reported at the last Hospital Board meeting that they started to update their contracts and are asking for better rates. Mr. Walker stated they have a preliminary analysis of their negotiations for the top 3 payors and they will receive an additional \$369,000 the first year, \$433,000 the second year and \$451,000 the third year. Commissioner Boldt said they need to analyze everyone to make sure they are paying what they should and re-file if they are missing documentation. Mr. Walker reported Mr. Storck and Mr. H.D. Cannington, former CEO, started this process in March when there was \$1.2 million outstanding and now the balance is about \$95,000. He pointed out that does not mean they will collect all of this money because they were some bad insurance rates. He explained they are working on this list on a weekly basis and have revenue cycle team meetings. Mr. Walker reported the negotiations of the contracts have improved but are still low so they will go back and address them again. Commissioner Boldt asked if they have an accounting firm helping them. Mr. Walker answered yes, Mr. Brian Hall, Carr, Riggs & Ingram, is looking at this matter and thinks the rates are still low. Mr. Walker

reported the county is geographically isolated but these insurance carriers must still provide service to their policy holders. Commissioner Boldt stated there are many different layers of the federal government that are interested in the hospital. He explained the hospital is critical and money came in specifically earmarked for rural hospitals. Mr. Walker stated Texas A & M did a national webinar with the National Organization of Rural Health Offices and he was asked to sit on a panel to talk about their relationship with Texas A & M. He said they are also looking at other resources to bring into the county. He reported they want to leverage their funding sources and diversify the money they are receiving. Chairman Lockley tentatively approved this budget.

TDC

Mr. John Solomon, TDC Director, stated their budget request is \$1,717,805 which is a 2% decrease from last year's budget. Commissioner Boldt asked what will be reduced that they normally spend money on. Mr. Solomon said they are able to reduce payments to land acquisition and a couple of projects in this year's budget will not be added back in. Chairman Lockley asked if things are picking up. Mr. Solomon answered yes and said hopefully he will have a good report at the next meeting. Mrs. Griffith stated Franklin County's tourism numbers are good compared to the rest of the state. Mr. Solomon agreed the county may have an increase for the year despite COVID-19. He explained after the rentals reopened the TDC focused on the county having wide open spaces. He stated they did minimalist advertising but let people know there was a place to get away from large crowds. Commissioner Jones tentatively approved the TDC budget.

Circuit & County Judge

Mr. Grant Slayden, Trial Court Administrator for the 2nd Judicial Circuit, appeared via telephone. He thanked the Board on behalf of Chief Judge Jonathan Sjostrom. He stated their budget request is the same and a majority of the budget comes from dedicated statutory fees and costs. He reported their budget request is \$41,331.00 and there is no change from previous years. Mr. Slayden said they reduced the technology fund which offset any potential increase. He reported they are in the process of submitting a request for CARES Act funding which is separate from their base budget. He offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved this budget.

State Attorney

Ms. Mary Dean-Barwick, State Attorney's Office, appeared via telephone. She stated they are requesting \$24,150 which is the same budget as last year. She explained this funding pays for their technology, telephone and internet. She reported Mr. Moron has been great in working with them to expand their office space. She thanked the Board for their support. Ms. Dean-Barwick thanked Mrs. Phillips and said she is knowledgeable and helpful about what they can spend and what they cannot spend. She reported they have purchased laptops to allow their

staff to work more efficiently remotely. Ms. Dean-Barwick offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Jones tentatively approve the State Attorney's budget.

Guardian Ad Litem

Ms. Deborah Moore, Guardian ad Litem, appeared before the Board via telephone. She said she is proud of their staff and guardian ad litem advocates that have transitioned for this crisis. She stated they are working to serve the children in Franklin County and beginning the middle of March have worked remotely and visited with the children virtually. Ms. Moore explained the middle of June they added face to face contact visits with the children and caregivers. She stated they complete this work for about 4 weeks and then had to revert back due to the resurgence of cases. Ms. Moore reported they have a formal reopen plan for their office but do not have a date at this time. She stated they served 52 children last year in Franklin County. She explained the numbers have been high for all of their counties for the last couple of years. Ms. Moore reported Franklin County is one of the strongest counties in retaining their volunteers and has 11 strong advocates. She explained their goal for all 5 counties including Franklin County is to recruit more guardian ad litem advocates that reside in the county. She stated one new advocate was added with the new online training. Ms. Moore reported they are currently serving 39 children which is low but some cases were discharged. She said their budget request is \$6,466. Ms. Moore offered to answer any questions. She emphasized their circumstances for the children continue to be substance abuse and domestic violence. She stated they have an incredibly strong team for every child in the community and she will do everything she can to make sure this continues. Commissioner Boldt tentatively approved the budget.

Dog Island Conservation District

Mr. Chris Teaf, Dog Island Conservation District, thanked everyone that helped them. He said their budget request is the same at \$11,000 in unrestricted funds for operation of equipment and maintenance of equipment, waste management, dock maintenance and repair and landing craft operations on Dog Island. He reported they have also requested as they have in the past a tipping fee credit at the landfill of \$6,000. He offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Dog Island Conservation District budget.

Apalachee Center

Mr. Dean Hilton, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with the Apalachee Center, stated their funding request is level compared to last year. He explained they provide assistance with Baker and Marchman Acts in relation to crisis stabilization and detox for Franklin County residents. He offered to answer any questions. Mrs. Griffith said their request is the same as last year. Commissioner Boldt tentatively approved the Apalachee Center budget.

Franklin Soil & Water Conservation

Mrs. Griffith stated their operating expenses of \$798.50 are unchanged. She explained they pay a portion of a shared employee with 4 other counties that are all part of the same water district. She reported there is about a \$600 difference in the budget from last year. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the Franklin Soil & Water Conservation budget.

Public Defender

Mrs. Griffith stated they have an increase of \$1,535 in office supplies. Mrs. Phillips said the increase is in technology funds. Commissioner Jones tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Moron reminded the Board the public hearings will be held on September 8th and September 22nd at 5:15 p.m.

Mrs. Griffith stated the NGO's funding will stay the same. Commissioner Jones tentatively approved the budgets of the NGO's.

Mrs. Griffith reported right now what will go out on the TRIM Notice is the millage rate of 5.9026 which is 3.69% over the rolled back rate. She explained they can go down from this rate but cannot go above the rate. Mrs. Griffith stated if the revenue estimates come in the middle of August when they convene again for the next revenue estimating conference they can make the adjustments and any positive changes. She reported they can also address any CARES Act funding and final estimates from CHP.

Commissioners' Comments

There were no Commissioners' comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts