

Franklin County Commissioners' Court  
Commissioner Court Minutes  
Special Session  
September 15, 2011

The Franklin County Commissioners' Court met in Special Session September 15, 2011 at 9:00 AM in the District Courtroom at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex located at 208 Highway 37

Members present: Paul Lovier, County Judge  
Danny Chitsey, Commissioner, Precinct 1  
Donnie Surratt, Commissioner, Precinct 2  
Deryl Carr, Commissioner, Precinct 3  
Sam Young, Commissioner, Precinct 4  
Will Ramsay, County Attorney ABSENT  
Betty Sue Allen, County Treasurer  
Betty Crane, County Clerk

VISITORS: Sue Ann Harper, Everett Walter, D. K. Michaelson, Ellen Jagers, Jerry Cooper, Jim Alford, Gerry Allen, Paul Fletcher, and Lillie Bush-Reves

Judge Lovier called the meeting to order and offered prayer.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON RENEWAL OF DISTRICT CLERK'S ARCHIVE PLAN AS PER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 51.305 – 5 MINUTES PER PERSON –**

- A) Convene – The Public Hearing on the renewal of the District Clerk's Archive Plan convened at 9:03 AM. District Clerk Ellen Jagers gave an overview of her Archive Plan. See Volume 1Q Page \_\_\_\_\_
- B) Adjourn – The Public Hearing adjourned at 9:08 AM.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVE THE DISTRICT CLERK'S THIRD ANNUAL PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION RECORDS PLAN - DISTRICT CLERK** – Commissioner Carr made a motion to approve the District Clerk's third annual Preservation and Restoration Records Plan and Commissioner Surratt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON RENEWAL OF COUNTY CLERK'S ARCHIVE PLAN AS PER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 118.025 – COUNTY CLERK**

- A) Convene – The Public Hearing on the renewal of the County Clerk's Archive Plan convened at 9:08AM. County Clerk Betty Crane gave an overview of her Archive Plan. See Volume 1Q Page \_\_\_\_\_
- B) Adjourn – The Public Hearing Adjourned at 9:13 AM.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE COUNTY CLERK'S ARCHIVAL PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION RECORD PLAN – COUNTY CLERK** – Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the County Clerk's Archival Preservation and Restoration Record Plan and Commissioner Chitsey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2012 PROPOSED BUDGET AS REPCORDED BY THE COUNTY CLERK – COUNTY JUDGE**

Commissioner Chitsey asked for clarification on giving the county employees fifty cents per hour per employee and stated nothing was said about merit raises during the budget process. Treasurer Allen reported the budget had been figured at fifty cents per hour for each employee and fifty cents should go to each employee. Commissioner Chitsey stated he would be against approving the budget if all the employees were not given their fifty cent per hour raise. They discussed the employees know they are to get fifty cents per hour raise. Commissioner Carr made a motion to approve the amendments to the 2012 Proposed Budget and Commissioner Surratt seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Volume 1Q Page \_\_\_\_\_

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2012 PROPOSED BUDGET AS AMENDED – COUNTY JUDGE**

- A) Convene – The Public Hearing convened at 9:36 AM. Mr. Everett Walter requested the Court to reconsider increasing the tax rate by one cent to create a surplus of \$42,000 and asked them to find other ways to cut the budget. Judge Lovier explained what we are trying to do is avoid a deficit rather than make a profit and by going up a penny it will give us a surplus. Commissioner Carr explained the auditor gave them three reasons why the surplus was needed such as capital murder trials or unforeseen circumstances. Commissioner Carr pointed out by raising the tax rate a penny it will raise taxes about \$10 on \$100,000 and people over 65 have their taxes frozen.
- B) Adjourn – The Public Hearing adjourned at 9:43 AM.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON ADOPTING THE FINAL 2012 PROPOSED BUDGET – COUNTY JUDGE**

Commissioner Chitsey requested clarification on the budget that was presented for approval. Auditor Michaelson explained the budget on the table does include the one cent increase in the tax rate and it would create a \$42,000 surplus. If we leave the tax rate the same we would have a \$46,000 deficit. Commissioner Chitsey stated he would rather leave the tax rate as it is with no increase and have a deficit and use the funds out of the fund balance to make up the difference. He stated he disagreed with setting a rate that creates a fund balance. Commissioner Young reported he was the one that proposed a penny increase because we are looking at a decline in property values in the next few years and take a little tax rate increase at a time verses having to increase the tax rate several cents all at one time. Commissioner Chitsey stated a fund balance is created by over collecting and under spending and thought you should not tax for a fund balance. Auditor Michaelson stated the fund balance has gone down the last couple of years and recommended considering other future obligations. He stated we need to set up some reserves in our fund balance for future needs. Commissioner Carr made a motion to approve adopting the 2012 Proposed Budget and Commissioner Surratt seconded the motion. Motion carried with all voting in favor of adopting the budget.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON ADOPTING TAX RATE – COUNTY JUDGE**

Commissioner Carr made a motion to adopt .472857 tax rate to cover the proposed 2012 budget and Commissioner Surratt seconded the motion. Motion carried with Judge Lovier, Commissioner Carr and Commissioner Surratt voting for adopting .472857 tax rate and Commissioners Chitsey and Young voting against adopting .472857.

Commissioner Carr made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Surratt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

I, Betty Crane, County Clerk certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of Commissioner's Court Special meeting on September 15, 2011.

Witnessed and recorded this 15th day of September, 2011.

---

Betty Crane, County Clerk