

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
NOVEMBER 20, 2007  
5:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Russell Crofton – Chairman, Noah Lockley Jr. – Vice Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, Joseph Parrish, Bevin Putnal

**Others Present:** Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Court, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Morón – Board Secretary

**Call to Order 5:00 PM**

Chairman Crofton called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Prayer and Pledge 5:00 PM**

There was Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes (Regular Meeting: November 6, 2007) 5:01 PM**

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 6, 2007; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Payment of County Bills 5:01 PM**

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders to approve payment of the County Bills as presented; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman 5:02 PM**

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to appoint Commissioner Lockley as the Chairman; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to appoint Commissioner Parrish as the Vice Chairman; Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Lockley thanked the Board for allowing him the opportunity to serve as Chairman.

**Doris Pendleton – Property Appraiser – Lanark Village Petitions 5:05 PM**

Mrs. Pendleton stated that the petitions submitted by the Concerned Citizens of Lanark Village to dissolve the Lanark Village Water and Sewer District were signed by persons owning not less than 10% of the property within the boundaries and did meet the requisite of signed petitions for the purpose of Section 153.53 of the Florida Statutes and were delivering these petitions to the Board.

Attorney Shuler stated that negotiations between the Lanark Village Water and Sewer District and the City of Carrabelle were still ongoing and a final draft of the agreement will be presented to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Sanders stated that she was pleased with the outcome of the public workshop held with the Lanark Village Water and Sewer District and the City of Carrabelle.

Attorney Yonclas, representing the Concerned Citizens of Lanark Village, stated his clients' position on this matter.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to delay action on the petitions to dissolve the Lanark Village Water and Sewer District to allow more time for negotiations between the Lanark Village Water and Sewer District and the City of Carrabelle; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Department Supervisors Report**

**Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works 5:11 PM**

Larry Brown stated that he had no items for discussion and/or approval.

Commissioner Putnal and Mr. Brown discussed some options for controlling the dust after applying the milled asphalt to some of the County roads.

Commissioner Sanders and Mr. Brown discussed the problems they are having with the new radio system. Commissioner Crofton suggested going back to the old VHF radio system until the issues with the new systems are resolved.

Van Johnson, of the Solid Waste Department, stated that his department was having the same problems.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to have Attorney Shuler write a letter to Williams Communications, the vendors for the new radio system, requesting that they either repair or replace the new radio system; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director 5:18 PM**

Mr. Johnson presented the following items for discussion and/or approval.

Item 1 – Carrabelle Park Easement Update

Item 2 – Scale House Position Filled – Ms. Link Carroll

Mr. Johnson stated that the Landfill would be closed for the Thanksgiving Holidays on Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23, 2007.

Mr. Brown stated that the Road Dept would also be closed on Thursday and Friday, and there were some employees who would also be off on Monday November 26, 2007.

**Dan Rothwell – County Engineer 5:21 PM**

Mr. Rothwell presented the following items for discussion and/or approval.

Item 1 - Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Grant CR30A:  
Received the Joint Participants Agreement (FDOT 50% Franklin County 50%) from FDOT for \$100,000.00, FDOT 50-50 with Franklin County \$50,000.00 for the CR30A shoulder stabilization project. It had been estimated that project costs should not exceed \$50,000. Staff requests the BOCC approval for the Chairman to sign these agreements so the project may move forward.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the requested agreements; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 2 - 2007 Grants Applications:

Staff has applied for \$13,375,800.00 in project specific grants since January 1, 2007:

- TRIP grant for patching, leveling, and striping Bluff Road \$2,367,400.00. FDOT 50-50 with grant Franklin County and under the Area of Rural Critical Economic Concern (ARCEC) program Franklin County is eligible for a reduction or waiver of the 50% financial match requirement.
- TRIP grant for patching, leveling, widening and striping CR67 \$3,828,400.00. FDOT 50-50 with Franklin County and Franklin County is eligible for an ARCEC reduction or waiver of the 50% financial match requirement.
- TRIP grant for Apalachicola Airport East Taxiway \$2,250,000.00. FDOT 50-50 grant with Franklin County and Franklin County is eligible for an ARCEC reduction or waiver of the 50% financial match requirement.
- TRIP grant for Apalachicola Airport west ramp stormwater structures evaluation and rehabilitation \$3,500,000.00. FDOT 50-

50 with grant Franklin County and Franklin County is eligible for an ARCEC reduction or waiver of the 50% financial match requirement.

- Northwest Florida Water Management District Florida Forever Grant, Staff had previously requested and received Board approval to apply for Stormwater and Paving Grants. A grant application has been submitted to the District for \$1,430,000.00 to be funded over 2 years to approximately \$585,000.00 each year 82% by the district and 18% in kind work.
- Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) (FDOT 75% Franklin County 25%) grant to resurface Gulf Beach Drive on SGI from W 12<sup>th</sup> Street to the State park on the east end.
- SCOP grant to resurface Carrabelle Airport Road from US98 to the airport.

Commissioner Putnal discussed the possibility of giving the Airport Road at the Carrabelle Airport to the City of Carrabelle.

Item 3 - Airport Access Road Observations:

The road has met the asphalt smoothness specifications except four (4) places and contractor has been shown these and referred to FDOT specifications for repair methods required.

Item 4 - Mrs. Bocher for SGI Business Association desires Crosswalks:

The SGI Business Association desires the County to place crosswalks in six (6) locations in the Saint George Island Business district.

- E. Gulf Beach Dr at Franklin Blvd
- E. Gulf Beach Dr at E. 1<sup>st</sup> St
- W. Gulf Beach Dr at Franklin Blvd
- W. Gulf Beach Dr at W. 1<sup>st</sup> St
- E. Pine St at Franklin Blvd (FDOT)
- W. Pine St at Franklin Blvd (FDOT)

I respectfully request that the BOCC rezoned the speed to 25 mph on Gulf Beach Dr from E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St to W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to authorize a reduction in the speed limit to 25 mph on Gulf Beach Drive from East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Putnal expressed his concerns of the current speed limit of 35 mph on School House Road in Eastpoint with all the children that utilize that road and asked Mr. Rothwell to recommend a slower speed limit to the Board.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, directing Mr. Rothwell research the speed limit at School House Road in Eastpoint and recommend a lower speed limit to the Board; Motion carried 5-0.**

I request authorization to request FDOT consider placing crosswalks at E. & W. Pine at Franklin Blvd.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to authorize new crosswalks at the requested locations; Motion carried 5-0.**

I request that cross walks be painted at E. & W. Gulf Beach Dr at Franklin Blvd, E. & W. 1<sup>st</sup> St at Gulf Beach Dr. and decrease speed signs at E. & W. 5<sup>th</sup> St for the new speed limits and crosswalk warning signs.

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to authorize new cross walks at the requested locations; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 5 - Lake Morality Road:

Current proposed repair is a 1.5" structural overlay estimated to cost \$253,000.00. The design firm has agreed to test the entire road and to recommend a repair strategy without charge to the county. The purpose of the additional tests is to provide an economical and appropriate repair strategy which may entail less thick overlay elsewhere. The design firm has offered to participate in repairs with Franklin County and the contractor, which is prepared to implement the overlay at cost.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, directing Mr. Rothwell to get the additional test results of Lake Morality Road for the Board to review before making any further decisions for the repair project; Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Rothwell gave status updates on Alligator Point dune walkovers and securing the recycling area in Lanark Village.

**Bill Mahan – County Extension Director 5:38 PM**

Mr. Mahan presented the following items for discussion and/or approval.

Item 1 - NOAA FL Red Tide Update: A patchy bloom of *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide organism, is still being found in the FL Panhandle from Gulf County, FL to Baldwin County; AL. Patchy high-impacts are possible in bay regions of Gulf County through Thursday.

Item 2 - Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Update: The GMFMC will convene its Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) on December 6-7, to discuss allocation issues and the

role of the Panel in the Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) and Council processes. The meeting will be held in Tampa beginning at 8:30 a.m. December 6<sup>th</sup>, and ending no later than 1:00 p.m. on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Item 3 - FL Fish & Wildlife Commission Updates: The FWC and the University Of South Florida (USF) announced last week the establishment of the Center for Prediction of Red Tides. The Center will be located on the USF campus in St. Petersburg. A five-year \$1.25 dollar contract from FWC's Fish & Wildlife Research Institute will be matched by USF \$400,000 computer cluster and staff support for the center.

Item 4 - Fish Buster Bulletin, December 2007: Florida is the #1 place to fish according to a survey by the U.S. Census Bureau with 46.3 million days of recreational fishing in 2006 (4.8 million days were by tourists).. Texas was second with 41.1 million days. FL also ranked #1 in fishing participants' age 16 years old and older with 2.77 million. However, FL has seen a decline in the number of fishermen of 11% over the past 5-years, 3.1 million in 2001. FL was also #1 in angler spending with \$4.4 billion supporting 75,068 jobs. Texas was again #2 with \$4.3 billion in spending and 58,938 jobs.

Item 5 - UF/IFAS Extension Calendar & Annual Report: Attached for your information and use is the 2008 UF/IFAS Extension Calendar & Annual Report. Each month features material from our "Solutions for Your Life" Website.

Commissioner Putnal stated that because of the restricted water flow to the Apalachicola River which is causing low water levels in the Apalachicola Bay, much of the seafood life is dying and it is a potential economic disaster for Franklin County

Commissioner Crofton expressed his concerns of the low freshwater levels causing red tide in the Bay.

Butch Baker, Emergency Management Director, stated that a State of Emergency has to be declared before any disaster could be enacted.

Kevin Begos, of the Seafood Task Force, discussed some of the recent actions that included the distributing of data to many of the national newspapers and media and also stated some of the recent actions of the County's Legislative Delegation. Mr. Begos also stated that there are State agencies that have the information regarding the Apalachicola Bay, but is not distributing this information in a manner that would help the County.

Dan Tonsmire, of the Apalachicola Bay and River Keepers, suggested that the County get the information to the media, and have the County Commission officially send out the data to the Governor, the Legislative Delegation, and the National and State media.

Marjorie Solomon suggested inviting the Governor to the County so that he can see the potential damage first hand.

Mr. Begos stated that he did invite the Governor and Secretary Sole to the County but they never responded to the invitation.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to declare a local state of emergency with the potential of an economic disaster, due to the lack of fresh water coming down the Apalachicola River which is negatively affecting the seafood industry; inform by a letter, the Legislative Delegation, the Governor, his staff including Chief Financial Officer Sink, and the Department of Environmental Protection, of the state of emergency and the potential of an economic disaster; and invite the Governor and his staff to the County to witness the problem; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Adoption of 5 Year Capital Improvement Schedule 6:07 PM**

Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler discussed the 5 Year Capital Improvement Schedule.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to adopt the 5 Year Capital Improvement Schedule; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Curt Blair – Hospital Board – Update 6:11 PM**

Mr. Blair thanked the Board for its efforts on the one cent sales tax referendum.

Mr. Blair reviewed some suggested changes to the hospital board by-laws and recommended looking for an outside agency or group to partner with the County and assist with managing healthcare in the County.

The Board discussed using property in Carrabelle for a new health care center. Commissioner Crofton suggested negotiating with the School Board for the use of the Carrabelle High School property for a new health care center, once the new consolidated school is open.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, to authorize Mr. Pierce to schedule a workshop with the School Board to discuss using some of their property for a new health care center in the County; Motion by 5-0.**

Commissioner Putnal stated that he wanted the Hospital Board to adhere to the wording in the referendum as to how the money from the sales tax will be spent.

Attorney Shuler stated that the proposed amendments to the by-laws that Mr. Blair was discussing would in no way override or contradict the wording in the Ordinance created for the sales tax.

Commissioner Parrish suggested that Mr. Pierce be appointed to the Hospital Board as a nonvoting member.

Mrs. Johnson, Clerk of Courts, stated that even though this is the first time the proposed amendments have been presented to her, she did not see any reason not to approve them.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Crofton, to approve the proposed by-laws as presented by Mr. Blair and appoint Mr. Pierce as a non-voting member of the Hospital Board; Motion carried 5-0.**

**John Richards – Seafood Workers Association – Update 6:31 PM**

Linda Raffield, of the Seafood Workers Association, stated that some of the items she was intending to address were discussed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Raffield also stated that members of the association were carrying news crews out in the Bay on a regular basis and their association did get a positive response from the Governors office regarding the Bay.

Kevin Begos, of the Seafood Task Force, gave an update on the status of the Lombardi Property purchase and asked that the Board schedule a Public Hearing during the regular meeting in December to discuss purchase options, as the seller is now eager to sell.

Attorney Shuler recommended that since a second appraisal is needed before the actual numbers can be stated in a public meeting, a public workshop should be scheduled after the second appraisal is received which would probably be in 30 days.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to authorize the second appraisal of the Lombardi property as soon as possible; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Planning and Zoning Report (Attached) 6:48 PM**

Mr. Pierce presented the following items for discussion and/or approval.

**CRITICAL SHORELINE APPLICATIONS:**

Item 1 – APPROVED BY PLANNING AND ZONING: (unanimous) Consideration of a request to construct 7 new slips to an existing multi-family dock for Rio Nuevo Estates located at 435 Mill Road, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Alvin and Beverly Morris, applicant.

Dan Tonsmire, to the Apalachicola Bay and River Keepers, asked the Board to carefully review this item before approving as it might set a policy

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve Item 1 contingent on Attorney's review and approval; The motion and second was rescinded.**

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, directing Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler to review this application (Item 1) and forward a recommendation to the Board; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 2 – APPROVED BY PLANNING AND ZONING: (unanimous) Consideration of a request to construct a single family dock on Lot 18 Alligator Point Subdivision, 1586 Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, Florida. Request submitted GEA, Inc, agent for Rudy Rowe (RB Asset Management, LLC, applicant).

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to approve Item 2; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 3 – APPROVED BY PLANNING AND ZONING: (unanimous) Consideration of a request to construct a single family private pier on Lot 1 Marina Sunset (location around 2372 Highway 98 East, Lanark, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by GEA, Inc, agent for Brown and Lanning, applicant. Dan Garlick stated that the pier is 236 ft.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to approve Item 3; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 4 – APPROVED BY PLANNING AND ZONING: (unanimous) Consideration of a request to construct a single family private pier lying in Section 29, Township 8 South, Range 6 West, off of Bluff Road, Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by GEA, Inc, agent for John McGough, applicant. **With the stipulation that the owner attach a sign that says, "No Mooring of Boats" and agree to place railings on the pier.**

Commissioner Parrish suggested amending the dock ordinance to include the restrictions in item 4.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Crofton, to approve Item 4; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report 7:11 PM**

Mrs. Johnson presented the following items for discussion and/or approval.

Item 1 – I have 4 resolutions for adoption on unanticipated revenues which involves money received during the prior budget year which was not included in the initial budget. You need to adopt the resolutions in order for the money to be appropriated and expended for the purposes received to comply with F.S. 129.06(2)(d). **The first resolution** deals with \$97,386.61 received from the State of Florida FEMA. This money was put into the General Fund and LOGT Road Paving Fund into 001.20.511.3401 for

Contract Services for the Alligator Point Project of \$20,309.65 and 141.41.541.3103 for Engineering costs of \$77,076.96. **The 2<sup>nd</sup> resolution** deals with \$97,270.50 from the State of Florida for the Bluff Road Pedestrian/Bike Path Grant. This money was put into the General Fund into 001.20.511.3400 for Other Contract Services of \$3,000 and 001.20.572.6300 for Infrastructure of \$94,270.50. **The 3<sup>rd</sup> resolution** deals with \$35,150.00 from the State of Florida for the SGI Multi-Use Path, Phase III Grant. This money was put into the General Fund into 001.20.511.3103 for Engineering Services. **The 4<sup>th</sup> resolution** deals with \$10,219.25 received from the State of Florida for a Homeland Security Grant. This money was put into the General Fund into 001.48.525.3401 for the Grant Contract.

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS, Franklin County has received unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$97,386.61 from the STATE OF FLORIDA for FEMA 1595 HURRICANE DENNIS, and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2006-2007, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS, this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.20.511.3401	Contract Svc/Alligator Pt Project	\$20,309.65
141.41.541.3103	Engineering	\$77,076.96

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$20,309.65 in the GENERAL FUND and \$77,076.96 in the LOGT ROAD PAVING FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 20<sup>TH</sup> of NOVEMBER 2007.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to approve this Resolution for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues from FEMA; Motion carried 5-0.**

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS, Franklin County has received unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$97,270.50 from the STATE OF FLORIDA for BLUFF ROAD PEDESTRIAN/BIKE PATH, GRANT NO. AN877, and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2006-2007, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS, this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.20.511.3400	Other Contract Services	\$ 3,000.00
001.20.572.6300	Infrastructure	\$94,270.50

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$97,270.50 in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 20<sup>TH</sup> of NOVEMBER 2007.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to approve the Resolution for unanticipated revenues from the State of Florida for the Bluff Road bike path; Motion carried 5-0.**

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS, Franklin County has received unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$35,150.00 from the STATE OF FLORIDA for SGI MULTI-USE PATH – PHASE III, GRANT NO. ANR29, and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2006-2007, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS, this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.20.511.3103	Engineering Services	\$35,150.00
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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$35,150.00 in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 20<sup>TH</sup> of NOVEMBER 2007.

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to approve this Resolution for unanticipated funds from the State of Florida for the St. George Island Multi Use Path; Motion carried 5-0.**

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS, Franklin County has received unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$10,219.25 from the STATE OF FLORIDA for HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT NO. 07DS-5N-02-29-01-395, and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2006-2007, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS, this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.48.525.3401      Homeland Sec Grt/DSI LLC Contract \$10,219.25

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$10,219.25 in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 20<sup>TH</sup> of NOVEMBER 2007.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to approve this Resolution for unanticipated revenues from the State of Florida for a Homeland Security Grant; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 2 – I'd like to request the Board to write letters supporting a proposed legislative bill that is being filed to clarify the role of Clerks with regard to their duty to keep financial statements and books of account for the County Commission as well as clarification that the Clerk is the accountant to the Board and auditor. Recently, in Collier County, a court ruling recognized that while the Clerk is the auditor, recorder, custodian of all County funds, and accountant to the County Commissioners, the Clerk's

duties in these areas must be spelled out in statute. The Court found that the Clerk had no constitutional or statutory authority to audit any outside bank accounts into which county funds may have been improperly deposited. The proposed bill clarifies that the Clerk is the accountant to the Board and is the Auditor and is authorized to perform the duties we have historically performed with oversight of how public funds are spent. This proposed legislation does not diminish any Board authority, and Clerks and Commissioners both play a vital role in providing taxpayers the continued peace of mind in knowing their tax dollars are being well-guarded and respected by those they have elected.

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of support regarding a proposed legislative bill regarding the Clerks role with the finances of the County and County Commission; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report 7:17 PM**

Mr. Pierce presented the following items for discussion and/or approval.

Item 1- Board action on accepting committee recommendation for 2K Webgroup to serve as county web site design and maintenance.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Crofton, to accept the recommendation of the committee to select 2K Webgroup to redesign and host the County's website; Motion carried 4-0, Sanders abstained.**

Item 2- Board action on accepting closing statement for the purchase of south part of Sportsman's Lodge property for \$4.4 million, and sign Declaration of Restrictive Covenants. All closing costs are coming out of the FCT grant. Attorney Shuler discussed Declaration of Restrictive Covenants.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Crofton, to accept the closing statement for the purchase of the south part of Sportsman's Lodge; motion carried 5-0.**

Item 3-Board action to sign Amended Project Agreement with DEP Contract No. 07FR1 for Alligator Point Beach Renourishment for \$1 Million. This is the contract that ties up the \$1Million dollar legislative appropriation. In another few weeks we will get a second contract that will tie up the cost sharing funds. Attorney Shuler distributed the voting rules that were requested by the Board at the last meeting.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Amended Project Agreement with DEP for the Alligator Point Beach Renourishment; Motion carried 4-0, Parrish absent.**

Item 4- Board action to approve Resolution affirming support for sea turtle protection on Alligator Point, and the designation of Mr. Chris Giametta as lighting enforcement officer. This Resolution has been requested by Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the DEP Beach Renourishment permit.

Paul Riegelmayr asked if the Resolution could include St. George Island. Mr. Pierce stated that this resolution was restricted to Alligator Point because of the Department of Environmental Protection permit.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to approve the Resolution affirming support for sea turtle protection on Alligator Point and designating Mr. Chris Giametta as lighting enforcement officer; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to authorize Mr. Chris Giametta to continue to serve as the lighting enforcement officer on St. George Island; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 5- Inform Board that in order to provide the residents of Alligator Point with the most accurate estimate of construction costs for beach renourishment, MDR will prepare construction documents and go out for bid before the Alligator Point referendum. We are anticipating opening the bids for beach renourishment on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>. It takes some time for a ballot to be printed to contain the bid information so it is likely the election could not occur before Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board still has to set the guidelines for the election, but there is some time for that. With this schedule, there will be no MSBU assessment this tax year.

Attorney Shuler discussed the process.

Attorney Shuler explained why the County's contribution is not on the document that was distributed.

Ken Osborne asked the Board to pass a Resolution committing the County's contribution to the project.

Mr. Pierce and the Board discussed this matter further.

Dan Withers asked if the Board would schedule a workshop once the bids are received. Board, Pierce, and Shuler discussed this matter.

Attorney Shuler stated that the bid information will be included on the mail out ballot.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, directing MDR to prepare the construction documents and go out for bids before the Alligator Point referendum; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 6- Board action to sign up with U.S. Census for a Local Update of Census Addresses Program. This is a voluntary program but it does provide an opportunity for the county to challenge the US. Census numbers if we think they do not have all of the residents in the county. This ultimately could increase our revenue sharing from the federal government.

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Parrish, to direct staff to enroll the County with the U.S. Census Bureau for a Local Update of Census Addresses Program; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 7- Provide copy of letter from Board to Ms. Gail Carmody, USFWS, relative to the Apalachicola River water flows.

Item 8- Inform Board that the with the assistance and persistence of Mr. Shuler, and Mr. Nick Yonclas, the county has received further direction from DCA on how to proceed with affordable housing. The county's initiative was informally re-submitted to DCA last week for a quick review. After receiving DCA comments on the draft, the initiative will be officially submitted. The attorneys were assured by DCA attorneys that there is a solution that DCA can live with.

Item 9- Provide Board with copies of the RFQ for Boat Ramp Design that is being advertised in the local paper. The county has three boat ramp grants pending signature from FWC. Two are new projects and one is a Phase II of an existing project. Preble-Rish has offered to continue working on Phase II of the Abercrombie Boat Ramp but obviously can not do so without an agreement with the county. Preble-Rish did the design and construction supervision of Phase I. If the Board wants to utilize Preble-Rish it can do so without waiting for the outcome of the RFQs because Preble-Rish is already under contract with the county, but the Board would need to make a motion to enter into a contract with Preble-Rish for that project.

Mr. Pierce stated that Preble-Rish will be paid about 10% of grant.

Commissioner Sanders agreed that it was a good idea for the County to have Requests for Qualifications for future projects.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Crofton, to authorize Preble-Rish to continue working on Phase II of the Abercrombie Boat Ramp; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 10- Provide Board with copy of information submitted free by GSG Consultants on how the county can obtain funding for EMS through the adoption of a county-wide EMS tax assessment. GSG sent this information to all counties in the state eligible for this funding mechanism.

Item 11- Board action to approve a Resolution supporting the "baby" EMS grant with the state for \$2,913. This will be used to buy equipment for the ambulances we have. The new ambulances should be delivered before the end of the year.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve the Resolution supporting the "baby" EMS grant for \$2,913.00; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 12- Provide Board with information on what the median income is for Franklin County. Median income for a household of 2 is approximately \$36,000. Most housing programs require the household income to be in the low, or very low category in order to qualify. The income guidelines fluctuate depending on how large the household is. But the following is a guide:

	Household Size			
	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person
Very Low Income	15,450	17,650	19,850	22,050
Low Income	24,700	28,250	31,750	35,300

Item 13- Inform the Board that upon discussion with the Franklin County Legislative delegation it became apparent that the county should make at least two funding requests through the CIBS form which will be due the first part of January.

A) \$500,000 for courthouse renovations to try and put back in what we had to remove because of costs.

B) An amount to be suggested by the Board for land acquisition. Board direction.

After some discussion the Board agreed to request \$750,000.00.

Item 14- Board action to change meeting date for Jan. 1, meeting to Jan. 2, 2008. at 9:00 am. (Jan. 1 is a holiday- New Year's Day).

Chairman Lockley suggested that the Board change all meetings to a 9 AM start time, but if the Board determines necessary public hearings and special meetings could be scheduled at 5 PM.

Alan Fiefer, of Alligator Point, stated that he was in support of the evening meetings and if the Board was changing the times of the meetings that the public is notified before the change is made.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to change the start time of all the regular meetings in 2008 to 9 AM unless the Board determines that an issue in a regular meeting, a public hearing, or a special meeting requires a 5 PM start time; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to reschedule the January 1, 2008 meeting to January 2, 2008 at 9 AM due to the holiday; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report 7:58 PM**

Attorney Shuler presented the following items for discussion and/or approval.

Item 1 – Golf Cart Ordinance – Schedule Public Hearing

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to schedule a Public Hearing for the proposed Golf Cart Ordinance; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 2 – Apalachee Mental Health Deed to Franklin County

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to re-claim the property that was deeded to Apalachee Mental Health in the same condition as it was, without any of the stipulations stated in the letter dated November 7, 2007 from the Apalachee Center; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 3 – Alligator Point Beach Referendum Update

Item 4 – Weems Hospital – Carr, Riggs and Ingram

Item 5 – Litigations Status – Franklin County vs. Jason White Construction and Stuart White

Item 6 – South Shoal Development, Alligator Point - Update

**Commissioners' and Public Comments 8:10 PM**

Commissioner Sanders complimented Commissioner Lockley as the new Chairman, Commissioner Parrish as the new Vice-Chairman, and Commissioner Crofton as the previous Chairman.

Ted Mosteller, the Airport Manager, asked for board approval for a letter amending the lease of a tenant, asking the lease holder to accept maintenance responsibility of a new water and sewer system that will be installed at the Apalachicola Airport.

Attorney Shuler expressed his concerns about this matter.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to have Attorney Shuler and Mr. Mosteller discuss on this matter and forward a recommendation to the Board; Motion carried 5-0.**

Daniel Withers, of Alligator Point, stated that he would like the condition of the Alligator Point Road to get on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Pierce gave a status update of the Alligator Point Road.

Mr. Pierce also gave an update of the South Shoal project.

Alan Feifer discussed the South Shoal project, including the reverter clause in the PUD, and asked the Board to push forward with moving the Alligator Point Road before the 2008 hurricane season, as there are some options currently available to the County. Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler discussed this matter further.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to direct Attorney Shuler and Mr. Pierce to review the South Shoal PUD and present some options and recommendations to the Board regarding the Alligator Point Road; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Adjourn 8:20 PM**

There being no further business, Chairman Lockley adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

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Noah Lockley Jr., Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts