

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
MARCH 17, 2015  
9:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** William Massey – Chairman, Joseph Parrish – Vice Chairman, Pinki Jackel, Noah Lockley

**Commissioner Absent:** Cheryl Sanders (recovering from surgery)

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

**Call to Order (9:00 AM)**

Chairman Massey called the Meeting to order.

**Prayer and Pledge (9:00 AM)**

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes (9:01 AM)**

There were no Minutes submitted for approval.

**Payment of County Bills (9:01 AM)**

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to approve the payment of the County's Bills as presented; Motion carried 4-0.**

**Presentation – William Scott – VSO (9:01 AM)**

Mr. Pierce presented Mr. Scott with a plaque for his years of service to the County as the Veteran Service Officer and Country for his service in the military.

The Board also thanked Mr. Scott for his years of service.

Mr. Scott expressed his appreciation and stated that it has been an honor to serve the Veterans of Franklin County.

### **Department Supervisors Report**

#### **Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works (9:04 AM)**

Mr. Nabors updated the Board on projects throughout the County and stated that grass cutting will start soon.

#### **Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report**

Mr. Pierce presented this item from his report.

*3- Provide Board with copy of bridge reports for the following bridges. The original bridge reports will be given to the Road Dept. for storage.*

*A) Bridge at Womack Creek (CR67) - The inspection concluded, "The Bridge is not posted. Based upon recent field inspections and the 2011 load analysis, posting restrictions are not considered necessary at this time.*

*B) Bridge at Gully Branch (Burnt Bridge Road): The inspection concluded, "The Bridge is not posted. Based upon recent field inspections and the 2011 load analysis, posting restrictions are not considered necessary at this time."*

*C) Bridge at Crooked River (CR 67): The inspection concluded, "The Bridge is not posted. Based upon recent field inspections and the 2011 load analysis, posting restrictions are not considered necessary at this time."*

*D) Bridge at Trout Creek (Mill Road): The Bridge is not posted. Based upon recent field inspections and the 2000 load analysis, posting restrictions are not considered necessary at this time."*

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Pierce discussed the timeline for posting the restrictions, as recommended by the State.

#### **Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director & Parks and Recreation (9:06 AM)**

Mr. Davis discussed issues with debris pick-up from the sides of the roads. He presented a policy that was adopted in 2005 and informed the Board that he has instructed his drivers to not pick up some of the heavier items.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Davis to advertise the new policy regarding debris pick-up from the roadside.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she is in favor of this new policy as the current system is being abused.

Mr. Pierce stated that enforcement is needed to help the County with this new policy and discussed this matter further.

Commissioner Parrish stated that enforcement might be a problem as some people dump trash in front of other property owner's homes so it will be difficult to ascertain who it belongs to.

Commissioner Jackel suggested sending all licensed contractors a copy of the new policy. Commissioner Lockley asked for a timeline for the start of this new policy. Mr. Davis stated that this policy will be implemented in about a month. The Board discussed this matter further. Mr. Pierce stated that the County is headed towards mandatory trash pick-up.

#### **Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report**

Mr. Pierce presented these items from his report.

*9- Board action to approve 2 TDC Budget Amendments to transfer funds from the TDC Reserves for:*

*A) \$15,000 from Reserves to Promotion to support of the Dixie Youth Tournament*

*B) \$10,000 from Reserves to Equipment for the replacement of playground equipment*

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Pierce discussed the guarantee for this equipment. Commissioner Jackel suggested implementing some regular maintenance on this equipment so it might last longer.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to approve both budget amendments, \$15,000 from Reserves to Promotion to support of the Dixie Youth Tournament and \$10,000 from Reserves to Equipment for the replacement of playground equipment on St. George Island; Motion carried 4-0.**

*14- Inform the Board that Fonda Davis and I met with representatives of the Audubon Society on Friday, May 13, regarding educational boards they want to install at boat ramps. The information they want to disseminate is educate boaters about the importance of nesting sea bird colonies in Franklin County. It so happens that all of the ramps are the same ones where the Big Bend Scenic By-way is building kiosks so I have given the Audubon reps the contact information of the Big Bend Scenic By-way group to see if they can share kiosk space.*

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Pierce to discuss Mr. Davis's request to increase his salary. Mr. Pierce recommended a \$2,000 increase for Mr. Davis for the additional duties of Parks and Recreation Department.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Lockley, to approve a \$2,000 increase to Mr. Davis's salary; Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Davis discussed the location of additional practice fields in the County.

**Pam Brownell – Emergency Management (9:21 AM)**

Mrs. Brownell had no action items for Board approval.

**Action Items:**

*NONE*

**Information Items:**

1. *Pamela Brownell met with John Gatlin, Region 2 SERP on March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Franklin County EOC.*
2. *Pamela Brownell and Tress Dameron attended the Region 2 Meeting in Quincy on March 5<sup>th</sup>.*
3. *Pamela Brownell, Tress Dameron and Jennifer Daniels met with DOH staff on March 6<sup>th</sup> regarding Franklin County EOC Exercise.*
4. *Franklin County EOC held a Full Activation Exercise on March 10. We had a large number of participants attend from various State and County agencies and from our volunteers.*
5. *Tress Dameron will be attending the G290 Class in Madison County on March 17-18.*

**Erik Lovstrand – Extension Agent (9:21 AM)**

Mr. Lovstrand had no action items for Board approval.

Mr. Lovstrand spoke favorably of the work done by Mr. Davis and his department.

**Anne Birchwell – Franklin County Library (9:22 AM)**

Ms. Birchwell had no action items for Board approval.

- *AARP Free Tax assistance is continuing at both branches of the FCPL. I am encouraging more and more for people to file their short form taxes at the library, because we must have at least 50 returns for AARP to consider Franklin County next year.*

Ms. Birchwell discussed the need for the citizens to use this service so it will continue to be available. She provided the following numbers to call for information, 670-8151 and 697-2366.

- *The organization, Rock By the Sea has again placed Franklin County Public Library as one of recipients from their fund raising efforts. The donation this non-profit organization gifts to the library will be used for the 2015 Summer Reading Program.*
- *The group Melodime will be coming back in May to play for Franklin County youth! The "I Play Along Too" group works with musicians and teachers who are willing to donate musical instruments and lessons to youth who can't afford the items or lessons. I have given them a list of interested youths that would like to take part in this program. They*

*have donated a guitar, signed by their members to be placed in a special place in remembrance of this partnership. Staff and volunteers look forward to seeing Franklin County youth learn music at the library*

- *Sgt. Bud Dasher of the Carrabelle Police Department has volunteered personal time to help people with basic computer skills at both the Eastpoint and Carrabelle branches. He will be there from 1:00 pm to 3:00pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Carrabelle and the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at the Eastpoint Branch.*
- *Our staff is now gearing up for the 2015 Summer Reading Program “Every Hero has a Story” This summer program should be an exciting and fun adventure in reading and activity as children and youth get to meet our local heroes in the community. We hope to bring local fireman, policemen, and others who serve the Franklin County Community. Children will also learn about four-footed service animals and how they serve the “handi-capable”*
- *Tomorrow, March 18<sup>th</sup>, I will be attending Library Days at the Capital in Tallahassee. The Florida Library Association will have materials and join in this huge event. Library supporters from across the State of Florida will meet for this opportunity to thank government representatives for past and future support of public libraries. If anyone wishes to attend with me, they can contact me at the library.*

### **Planning and Zoning Consent Agenda (9:23 AM)**

Mr. Pierce presented the Planning and Zoning Consent Agenda.

#### **LOT RE-CONFIGURATION REQUEST:**

- 1- *RECOMMENDED APPROVAL (3/1 Vote) Consideration of a request to re-configure Lots 86 and 87, Block C, St. James Island Park, Franklin County, Florida. This requests as submitted will create 2 buildable lots if approved. Request submitted by Larry Pentel, owner.*

#### **SCRIVENOR’S ERROR:**

- 2- *RECOMMENDED APPROVAL (Unanimous) Consideration of a request to correct a “Scrivener’s Error” on Lots 1-8, Block Z, Unit 1, Lanark Beach, Franklin County, Florida which is currently zoned C-4 Commercial Mixed Use and has been operating over the last 20 years as C-3 Commercial Recreation. Applicant also owns Lots 9-13, Block Z, Unit 1 which is currently zoned and operating as a C-3 Commercial Recreation RV Park. Request submitted by Mike Hughes, Ho Hum RV Park, applicant.*

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to table these items until further review by Attorney Shuler; Motion carried 4-0.**

*PLANNING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT:*

- 3- *RECOMMENDED APPROVAL (Unanimous) Amending and Cleaning Up of the Franklin County Zoning Code.*

Attorney Shuler stated that a public hearing will be necessary before action is taken on this item.

- 4- *RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) To revisit the idea of creating a Code Enforcement Board and Officer.*

Commissioner Jackel, Mr. Pierce, and Attorney Shuler discussed a timetable for the approval of these items.

**Curt Blair – TDC Update (9:27 AM)**

Mr. Blair updated the Board on TDC's monthly collections. He provided numbers for the amount of visitors to the County's visitor's centers and stated that it was a record month. Mr. Blair discussed the County's rating as the #17 Spring Break location, social media advertising, and signage for the visitor's centers. He discussed the installation of memorial highway markers along Highway 98.

Attorney Shuler stated that there is a Resolution for the Board's consideration regarding this matter.

Chairman Massey explained this process further.

Mr. Pierce read the Resolution to designate a 2 mile section of Highway 98 as Robert Clifford Millender Highway.

Commissioner Lockley stated that there are more Veterans that would qualify on the west side of the County.

Commissioner Jackel asked for the criteria for choosing names for this type of dedication.

Mr. Blair explained that there are no standard criteria, but these sites are often used for Veterans who have been killed in action.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to approve Resolution as presented and submit for Legislative consideration; Motion carried 4-0.**

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to look for other Veterans that could be submitted for consideration; Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Pierce read the Resolution.

Chairman Massey asked Mr. Blair to comment on an oyster shell sculpture. Mr. Blair discussed and asked the Board if they would like to proceed with using this sculpture as a memorial for oystermen on the Eastpoint Visitor Center site.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to ask TDC to consider the installation of this sculpture and bring a recommendation before the Board; Motion carried 4-0.**

**Recess (9:43 AM)**

Chairman Massey called for a recess.

**Reconvene (9:54 AM)**

Chairman Massey reconvened the Meeting.

**Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (9:56 AM)**

Mrs. Johnson was not in attendance as she is recovering from surgery.

**Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (9:56 AM)**

Mr. Pierce presented his report to the Board.

*1- Inform the Board that Commissioner Jackel and I met with representatives of the Big Bend Homeless Coalition, also known as the Big Bend Continuum of Care. Attending the meeting was Leon County Commissioner Dozier. The meeting was one of several the Big Bend staff will have with the outlying counties. The discussion centered on how the face of homelessness is changing, and how it is different in rural counties. The big city problem of a homeless person sleeping in a doorway is not a common problem in rural areas, so the Continuum staff is taking assessments of all the counties to see what common issues we all have related to the homeless. Provide Board with packet from meeting.*

Commissioner Jackel commented further on this item. She discussed funding, actual numbers of homeless citizens, and the definition of homelessness.

*2- Inform the Board that the Alligator Water District has sent the county a letter advising us that they have informed DEP that “we (the District) are unable to provide the minimum earthen cover required for the waterline of a section of Gulf Shore Blvd. due to the extreme erosion and failure of Franklin County to maintain the road. Failure to maintain is creating, among other things, a very serious fire safety issue due to inability to properly maintain fire hydrants and accordingly the ability to provide fire service.”*

*As the Board is aware, the county was stopped by DEP from making any repairs to the road. However, the Board has authorized up to \$10K out of the Bald Point Trust Fund for the*

*cost of removing the old asphalt, and for that activity I did get a field permit from DEP which included the placement of beach compatible fill in the area of greatest erosion. I believe the county has done all it can within the limits of the DEP field permit to protect the ROW from erosion., including the fire hydrant referenced by the District.*

*At this time FEMA in Washington has yet to approve the relocation of Gulf Shore Blvd, and I have yet to find a funding source to buy out the 7 lots that need this section of Gulf Shore Blvd.*

Commissioner Parrish and Mr. Pierce discussed the County's efforts to maintain the road and attempt to rectify the situation.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to send letter to APWD explaining why the County is restricted in what it can do regarding this situation; Motion carried 4-0.**

*3- Provide Board with copy of bridge reports for the following bridges. The original bridge reports will be given to the Road Dept. for storage.*

*A) Bridge at Womack Creek (CR67) - The inspection concluded, "The Bridge is not posted. Based upon recent field inspections and the 2011 load analysis, posting restrictions are not considered necessary at this time.*

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*D) Bridge at Trout Creek (Mill Road): The Bridge is not posted. Based upon recent field inspections and the 2000 load analysis, posting restrictions are not considered necessary at this time."*

This item was addressed earlier in the Meeting.

*3- Provide Board with copy of grant application and notice of award for the acquisition of the Ell's Court property. The official title of the grant application is Apalachicola Bay/ St. George Sound Conservation: Island View Maritime Forest and Shoreline Restoration.*

*4- Inform Board that Mr. Kal Knickerbocker has forwarded the Board's letter about the new summer harvesting rules to FDA for consideration.*

*5- Board update on RESTORE activities. The US Treasury is slowing going through their process of getting their own personnel up to speed on RESTORE rules and applications. Gulf County has decided to hire consultants to develop their Multi-Year Implementation Plans (MYIP). The MYIP is the first step in accessing RESTORE funds, and the MYIP has to be approved by Treasury. Wakulla County is also discussing hiring a consultant. I believe it would be prudent for the*

*Board also to consider selecting a consultant. The first step would be to advertise a Request for Qualifications, and then the Board would select the most qualified firm. The Treasury Dept. is approving Planning Grants so the small counties have some method of paying for the development of the MYIP. Board discussion.*

Commissioner Parrish asked if the consultant will take direction from the Board and not make decisions on its own.

Commissioner Jackel agreed with Commissioner Parrish's comments on this matter.

Commissioner Parrish explained the MYIP process further.

Commissioner Lockley asked what will be done about the litigation with the City of Apalachicola regarding the RESTORE funds.

Attorney Shuler commented on the litigation process and the amount of time involved.

Commissioner Jackel stated that the County needs to move forward.

Commissioner Parrish commented on the City of Apalachicola litigation issue.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to start RFQ process for MYIP; Motion carried 4-0.**

*6- When the Board took action to advertise for an entry level position to fill the vacancy that will be created by the retirement of Rachel Ward, I failed to ask for approval to put in-house notices to actually fill the positions of Zoning Administrator (Rachel's position), and then Planning Administrator (Amy's position). Both of these are responsible positions requiring knowledge of zoning and floodplain management, but I believe I still need to have approval to advertise in-house to fill the positions. I am bringing it up now because Ms. Ward has moved her retirement date up to May 15<sup>th</sup>.*

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to approve advertising in-house for Rachel Ward and Amy Kelly's positions at Planning and Zoning; Motion carried 4-0.**

*7- Board action to approve a Resolution associated with the Boating Improvement Grant for Old Ferry Dock that I should have had at the last meeting. The Resolution says the Board supports the grant application and that Mark Curenton is applying on behalf of the Board.*

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to approve Resolution associated with Boating Improvement Grant for Old Ferry Dock; Motion carried 4-0.**

*8- Board action to sign contract with Genesis Group for the permitting and design of the Bayshore Sidewalk project. The Board had selected Genesis and now we have negotiated a contract that has been approved by DOT.*

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to approve Chairman's signature on contract with Genesis Group for the permitting and design of the Bayshore Sidewalk project; Motion carried 4-0.**

9- Board action to approve 2 TDC Budget Amendments to transfer funds from the TDC Reserves for:

A) \$15,000 from Reserves to Promotion to support of the Dixie Youth Tournament

B) \$10,000 from Reserves to Equipment for the replacement of playground equipment

This item was addressed earlier in the Meeting.

10- Inform the Board that I did send a letter to multiple recipients regarding the possible end to LIP Payments as discussed at the last meeting by the Health Dept. The bottom line is the LIP program is caught in a battle between the state and federal government, and the outcome will be affecting a lot more counties than just Franklin.

Commissioner Parrish discussed the State's decision not to support Medicaid, which is why the Federal Government is not allowing the LIP program, which will affect the local Health Department.

11-Remind Board that FDOT has opened the window for the CIGP grant program, and we have until April 27 to submit 1 CIGP application. The Board has until April 17 to submit 2 SCOP applications. The past awards by FDOT have heavily favored resurfacing projects over any new construction. The Board could consider any bridge repair projects. While the bridges are all deemed safe there could repairs that need to be made to them.

Commissioner Jackel asked if these projects have to be tied into State Highway systems. Mr. Pierce explained this matter further.

Commissioner Parrish asked that C30 at the "Y" intersection is considered as a SCOP project. Commissioner Jackel asked that Pine Street is considered as a SCOP project to help with flooding issues.

Clay Smallwood, of Preble-Rish, stated that he will look at both items.

Chairman Massey and Mr. Pierce discussed the timeline for the paving project in Carrabelle.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Smallwood for the total figures for the paving project.

12- Board action to direct the County Attorney to see what he can do to mitigate some costs associated with an inmate currently in county custody.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, authorizing Attorney Shuler to check into mitigating some cost with a County inmate; Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Pierce stated that he will attend the turtle lighting workshop tomorrow with Eric Lovstrand.

15- After consulting with Mr. John Grantham, Weems CFO, on Monday afternoon, he agrees that it would be beneficial to request the EMS subsidy at this meeting, as opposed to waiting until the April 7 meeting. The county Finance Dept. normally cuts the Weems EMS subsidy at the beginning of each quarter, and April 1 would be the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Since March has an extra week, it would provide a cushion if the Board would release the check now instead of waiting until April 7. Board action.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to approve EMS subsidy; Motion carried 4-0.**

13- Board action to continue the reduced lease payments approved for Crystal Air until June, 2016.

The Board discussed this matter further.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Jackel, to approve reduction in Crystal Air's rent for 6 months; Motion carried 4-0.**

14- Inform the Board that Fonda Davis and I met with representatives of the Audubon Society on Friday, May 13, regarding educational boards they want to install at boat ramps. The information they want to disseminate is educate boaters about the importance of nesting sea bird colonies in Franklin County. It so happens that all of the ramps are the same ones where the Big Bend Scenic By-way is building kiosks so I have given the Audubon reps the contact information of the Big Bend Scenic By-way group to see if they can share kiosk space.

This item was addressed earlier during the meeting.

Debbie Amalfitano, of Lighthouse Road in Carrabelle, stated that there are issues that are causing flooding on her property and also neighboring property owners.

Mr. Pierce stated what he has done thus far to try and resolve this problem.

Chairman Massey commented on this matter.

The Board discussed this matter further.

Commissioner Parrish suggested a County easement for drainage on the private property.

**Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report (10:27 AM)**

Attorney Shuler had no action items for Board approval.

Commissioner Parrish asked about the information sent by Attorney Shuler regarding the Value Adjustment Board proposed legislation. He stated many reasons why he is against this legislation, including how it negatively affects the budget.

Commissioner Jackel asked why this legislation is being proposed.

Attorney Shuler recommended that the Board take a stand against this legislation.

Commissioner Parrish discussed the impact this legislation would have on the citizens of Franklin County.

The Board and Attorney Shuler discussed this matter further.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to send a letter to Legislative Delegation opposing the VAB legislation; Motion carried 4-0.**

**Commissioners and Public Comments (10:33 AM)**

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to request that legislature exempt anyone over 65 from paying oyster license fees; Motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Jackel reminded everyone of the Eastpoint Volunteer Fired Dept.'s annual Rib Cook-Off on Saturday.

Commissioner Jackel recognized her mother, who was in the audience.

**Adjourn (10:39 AM)**

There being no further business, Chairman Massey adjourned the Meeting.

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William Massey, Chairman – FCBOCC

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts