

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2000**

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: Clarence Williams, Chairman; Bevin Putnal, Jimmy Mosconis, Eddie Creamer, and Cheryl Sanders, Commissioners; Kendall Wade, Clerk; Amelia Varnes, Deputy Clerk.

9:00 A.M. Chairman Williams called the meeting to order.

(Tape 1-31) Commissioner Sanders made a motion approving the minutes of the meeting held on July 18, 2000. Commissioner Creamer seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-34) Commissioner Creamer made a motion to pay the County bills. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

HUBERT CHIPMAN-SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

(Tape 1-41) Mr. Chipman reported he thought everything was running smoothly at the Road Department. He informed the Board he thought the County had a good group of men working there. He said he just wanted to brag on them just a little bit.

VAN JOHNSON-SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

(Tape 1-70) Mr. Johnson said this past Friday inspectors from the DEP conducted their quarterly compliance inspection of the Landfill. He informed the Board they noted the construction and demolition site had inadequate cover and they have given the County one-week to correct this problem before re-inspection. He explained if the County does not become compliant the DEP has the authority to impose a fine of up to \$10,000.00 a day until compliance is met. He stated due to the failed inspection and with the Road Department's busy work load he has made a management decision to hire several of Jimmy Crowder's trucks to transport cover dirt from the Carrabelle sand pit to the Landfill. He said yesterday they transported enough dirt to cover about half of the site with the cost of transportation being about \$4,000.00. He stated the rest of the site should be covered by the end of the day. He explained to accomplish this task he would likely exceed the County's Bid Policy requirement of \$5,000.00. He reminded the Board they had already approved the transfer of funds from the Long Term Care fund to the Landfill Budget to purchase cover dirt from Jack Dodds. He said Mr. Dodds has to resolve some issues with the State before he's ready to dredge and sell his dirt. He asked that in the interim he would like permission to use these funds for transportation so he can bring the Landfill into compliance as required by DEP. Commissioner Mosconis made a motion declaring an emergency situation exists at the Landfill and to authorize expenditures in the excess of the bid policy to bring the Landfill into compliance as required by DEP, all contingent on the County Attorney's approval. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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(Tape 1-133) He informed the Board he would also be using Mr. Crowder's tub grinder to mulch up about 4 months of yard debris accumulated during the burn ban. He said the mulch would be used as a source of carbon in the County's composting program. He stated he would use Recycling Grant funds to pay the cost, \$3,900.00, incurred for this service.

Mr. Alfred Shuler, County Attorney came into the meeting at this time.

(Tape 1-144) Mr. Pierce said the County would have quite a bit of sand to use from the present dredging project on Brownsville Road. He stated the spoil material is from the Two-Mile Dredging Project. He suggested Mr. Johnson consider using this sand when it is available. Mr. Johnson asked how soon it would be available. Mr. Pierce replied he thought some of it might be ready right now. Commissioner Putnal said he thought the dredge material had to "cure" a little while before it could be used. Mr. Wade reported Terry Jangula, USCOE, was going to be here either today or tomorrow to inspect the site. He stated the dredging in the Two-Mile Channel is causing some problems for the local oyster houses. Mr. Pierce said he just wanted Mr. Johnson to know the material would be available for him to use at the Landfill.

ALAN PIERCE-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

(Tape 1-211) Mr. Pierce said Mr. Bob Burnett, Alligator Point, has informed him the County may be the recipient of some of the lime rock removed from the Bald Point Road. He stated he is just letting the Board know the State of Florida is interested in removing or having the County remove the lime rock. He said they would give the County the lime rock for free. He stated the roads are new and the lime rock would be useable around the County.

(Tape 1-247) Mr. Pierce said Mr. Leroy Hall, President of the Franklin County Seafood Workers Association, was present this morning to update the Board on the ISSC Meeting held in Arizona. Mr. Hall stated he wanted to thank the Board for sending Commissioners Sanders and Creamer to the meeting. He said he wanted to thank them for funding the trip for both he and Mr. Vinson. Mr. Hall stated he felt the meeting was a success in that the battle has been won, but not the war. He said the decision about the imposition of Federal Oyster Regulations has at least been postponed for a year.

(Tape 1-308) Mr. Pierce reported he had received a letter from the City of Carrabelle requesting the County assist the City in paving two portions of roadway with lime rock; between Block 153 and 154, also between Block 139 and 140 on Second Street West, the City of Carrabelle. Commissioner Putnal made a motion authorizing the Road Department to assist the City of Carrabelle with this request. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-366) He informed the Board he received a letter from the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Board requesting the Commissioners reappoint Ruth Schoelles to the Gulf Coast Workforce Board. Commissioner Creamer made a motion reappointing Ruth

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Schoelles to the Gulf Coast Workforce Board as a representative from the private sector. Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-408) He asked the Board to direct Mr. Shuler to amend the Fire Protection Contract between the County and the City of Apalachicola to extend the Contract beyond the current expiration date of January 1, 2001. He explained all of the other fire protection contracts with the other fire departments do not have an expiration date. He presented a copy of the Fire Protection Contract between the County and the City of Apalachicola to the Commissioners. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion directing the County Attorney to prepare a new Fire Protection Contract or amend the Contract to delete any expiration date between the County and the City of Apalachicola.**

Commissioner Creamer seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-435) He presented a Second Request letter from Gulf County Emergency Management requesting Franklin County sell the 5 bunk bed units to them for \$1,500.00. Mr. Pierce stated this was a very low price, as discussed in a previous meeting. He said the County purchased the units for \$600.00 and Gulf County wants to purchase them for \$300.00 a set. He said the Board did not previously act on this request and he recommended the Board do the same with this Second Request. Commissioner Mosconis said he would like for Mr. Pierce to negotiate with Gulf County to be sure the County gets the best price possible from them. Mr. Pierce said he would contact the Gulf County Emergency Management Department to see if he would negotiate with them.

(Tape 1-468) He asked the Commissioner if they would like to direct the Planning Office to submit a County FRDAP application to buy land and/or build a baseball-recreation complex in Carrabelle. He said the deadline for application submission is August 31, 2000. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion directing Mark Curenton, Assistant Planner, to submit a FRDAP application to buy land and/or build a baseball-recreation complex in Carrabelle.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-530) Mr. Pierce said he just wanted to advise the Board he was asked to attend a meeting in Lanark Village by a committee of the newly re-organized Lanark Village Association. He said they are concerned about the lack of enforcement of rules and regulations or code in the Village. He stated they are going to give him a list of some of the worst infractions so he can investigate them for the Board.

(Tape 1-567) He asked the Board to direct him to schedule a public hearing to receive public comments on the Hurricane Earl CDBG Drainage Program. He suggested the public hearing be scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on August 15, 2000. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing Mr. Pierce to schedule a public hearing to receive public comments on the Hurricane Earl CDBG Drainage Program for August 15, 2000 at 9:30 a.m.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-588) He asked the Board to direct Mr. Shuler to review a legal description for property on Alligator Point. He informed the Board there was a person interested in

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purchasing what appears to be a street end at Alligator Point and he wants to be sure the street end was properly abandoned before he permits a build able lot. He explained it seems to be one of those old street ends abandoned a number of years ago, but he again informed the Board he wants some assurances from the County Attorney this is the correct thing to do. Commissioner Mosconis made a motion authorizing Mr. Shuler to investigate and review this deed, for property on Alligator Point, as requested by Mr. Pierce. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-607) Mr. Pierce informed the Board Mr. Tim Turner, Emergency Management Director, was here to discuss two items with the Board this morning; one was an evacuation warning system and the other was the use of school buses during evacuations. Mr. Pierce said Mr. Turner has been researching ways to increase the County's ability to warn residents when evacuations are necessary. He said there is a system that uses the telephone network to dial each residence. He explained the County has the funds to pay for installation of the system, but upon activation it costs approximately \$1.00 per phone line called. He said the \$1.00 per call would only be paid upon activation, which would be controlled by the County and would be at most a few times a year. He said the best way to make sure a busy hurricane year did not break the Emergency Management Budget would be to pass the activation fee to the telephone that receives the call. He asked the Board if they were interested enough in this system to have him contact the telephone company to investigate the ability to add the surcharge to the phone bills for the activation fee for this warning system. He asked Mr. Turner to provide further information to the Commissioners at this time. Mr. Turner said this warning system also included hazardous chemical spills, fires, tornadoes, etc. He reminded the Board of the growing population in this County. He informed the Board Emergency Management did not have an appropriate way to notify people in an emergency situation. He said this could work for any specific area effected, large or small. He stated it could be set up in zones. He said the system worked no matter what time day or night. He explained there are probably about 7,000 phone lines in the County. He said the Emergency Management Budget could absorb the annual fee of \$10,600.00, but the call out fee of \$1.00 per call would have to be passed on to the public. Commissioner Mosconis asked if this \$10,600.00 was a onetime cost. Mr. Turner replied it was an annual fee for a 5-year contract. He said his budget could handle the \$10,600.00 not the activation fees if the system was activate several times. Commissioner Mosconis said he was leery about spending this kind of money on such a system. Discussion continued. Mr. Turner said the other system, a siren system, cost a total of \$958,000.00 so he knew that was out of the question. Mr. Pierce said he and Mr. Turner would get with Mr. Shuler to see if a \$1.00 activation fee could even be placed on an individuals phone bill. He said there are several unanswered questions that Mr. Shuler and the telephone company would have to help them on before the system could be approved.

(Tape 1-920) Mr. Pierce said Mr. Turner has also been meeting with the School Superintendent regarding the use of school buses during evacuations. He explained the school buses can be used provided the County has certified drivers and provided the Board will take responsibility for property and liability damages in the event the County

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does use the buses. He asked the Board to direct Mr. Shuler to investigate the insurance issues. Commissioner Sanders made a motion directing Mr. Shuler to investigate the insurance issues regarding the use of the school buses by the County during emergency evacuations. Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for.

MOTION CARRIED. Commissioner Mosconis asked about the National Guard and if Mr. Turner had asked them about assistance during disasters. Mr. Turner said he contacted them and was informed by them they would not assist unless specifically directed to by the Governor. Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Turner to check with someone higher up in the chain of command. He said they have always helped the County during these disasters. He stated there is a Florida Statute that allows the County Commission Chairman to activate the National Guard when the County was under a hurricane watch or impending disaster. He encouraged both he and Mr. Pierce to check into this matter.

SUSAN FICKLEN-ADMINISTRATOR-WEEMS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

(Tape 1-1037) Ms. Ficklen announced she was here today to discuss or update the Board on the failing air conditioning system at the Hospital. She introduced David Parris, David Conyers, and Ed Locke to the Board. She said Mr. Conyers and Mr. Locke were here as experts in the engineering and air conditioning field. She stated she needed a commitment from the Board for funds since the hospital was in critical status. She said budget workshops for the County were scheduled for tomorrow and that is why she had her experts with her today to answer any questions the Board might have of them. After Mr. Locke, Mr. Conyers, and Mr. Ed Locke, Locke Air Conditioning, presented the problems with the air conditioning at the Hospital and their recommendations how to repair or replace the system Commissioner Mosconis was authorized by the other Commissioners to actually go to the Hospital to inspect the situation. Commissioner Mosconis said he would report back, along with Ms. Ficklen, at the Budget Workshop tomorrow with an exact figure as to what it would take to get the Hospital's air conditioning system back up and running. He said he would go over to the Hospital as soon as the meeting was over this morning.

BILL MAHAN-COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR

(Tape 1-2319) Mr. Mahan apologized for being late. He said he was at the Doctor's Office for some blood work.

(Tape 1-2328) He presented the Commissioners with the new issue of WaterWorks, the quarterly newsletter published by the UF, highlighting Extension aquaculture around the State. Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Mahan if he knew the status of the Alligator Harbor Aquaculture Project. Commissioner Sanders said she too wanted to know what was going on. She stated she spoke to Mark Barrigan, DEP, in Tallahassee and was informed by him some of the change over in their department has been completed. She would like, at this time, to ask the Board to prepare a Resolution of Support for this project. She said she would make a motion directing Mr. Shuler to prepare a Resolution of Support for the Alligator Harbor Aquaculture Project. Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** She said this would then allow a workshop to be held in Franklin County and directed Mr. Mahan to call the

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Division of Aquaculture to schedule a workshop as soon as possible. She encouraged Mr. Mahan to send a copy of the Resolution to Mr. Barrigan when the Resolution was ready. Mr. Mahan assured Commissioners Sanders and Putnal he would contact Mr. Barrigan.

(Tape 1-2481) Mr. Mahan updated the Board on the ISSC meeting in Arizona. He said he attached a "Draft Vibrio Vulnificus Issue" that was sent back to the Vibrio Management Committee by the ISSC General Assembly on a 13.5 to 13 vote. He said, in addition, he has attached a copy of the Oyster Industry Position Paper that was developed during the ISSC and read into the record at the closing General Assembly. He explained that as a result of the vote to send the issues back to the VMC, the vote on the issue would be delayed until August 2001 when the meeting will be held in Norfolk, VA. He said in the meantime, Florida will be moving ahead with its own Vibrio vulnificus Management Plan. Commissioner Putnal said he wanted Mr. Mahan to find out why David Heil, DEP, voted against us since he was under the impression he was going to be for us until he got to the meeting. Mr. Mahan replied Mr. Heil had told him from the beginning he would have to wait until his supervisors told him how to vote on this issue. Anita Gregory, said the problem, she felt, was with Martha Roberts, the head of the Department of Agriculture, who forced him to vote against them. She said there is somewhat of a statewide-united front, at least on the Gulf Coast, but the Department of Agriculture sees the issue much differently as it not being a public health issue. She said DAC is supposed to protect the consumers and tells people to eat shellfish from Florida, but then votes against the matter in Arizona. She said she is working with Senator Graham and his office to see that the Department of Agriculture gets in line with the industry. She explained Mr. Heil had his hands tied and has to do what he is told. She and Mr. Mahan said he was invaluable and very helpful during this time. She said now is the time to work on this whole issue from the Federal, State and County side. She stated a united front had to be projected and the whole issue understood. Mr. Mahan said he signed up for several committee assignments, but has no guarantee he will be appointed to one by the ISSC Executive Director. He said he would keep the Board totally updated on the matter.

KENDALL WADE-CLERK

(Tape 1-3454) Mr. Wade said he had 3 items he would like to request the Board remove from the County Inventory List. He read the following into the record: 1-Printec Printer, A003004 Clerk's Office; 1-Generator-Set, A003684 Emergency Management; 1-Recycling Stands, A003205, Recycling Department. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to remove the following from the County's Inventory List, 1 Printec Printer, A003004, 1 Generator Set, A003684, 1 Recycling Stand, A003205.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-3486) He reminded the Board and audience that tomorrow August 2, 2000, was the Budget Workshop. He said it will start promptly at 9:00 a.m.

(Tape 1-3498) He informed the Board some maintenance had been done on the drains, as he informed the Board at the last meeting, in the Courthouse by readjusting the water

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lines going out of the Courthouse. He said he installed a drain field as well in hopes this will fix the leaking problem in the Courthouse. He stated he will keep the Board informed. He said this should work until the drainage projects are started and the entire street drain can be repaired.

ALFRED SHULER-COUNTY ATTORNEY

(Tape 1-3553) He said he had requested a trial date for the Lanark Village Old Officers Club Lawsuit. He said the trial should be scheduled by the next Board meeting and if so he will inform the Commissioners of the date. He stated he will need the Commissioners to furnish him a list of at least 4 people who know what a nuisance it is and are willing to come to Court to testify to this matter.

(Tape 1-3596) He said he is working on the "Ward" dog pen problem as well as the 2-acre tract in Section 2.

(Tape 1-3616 Continued on Tape 2) He stated there was a summons and complaint served on him in the Buzier versus School Board litigation. He said he informed the attorney for the Plaintiffs that the School Board was not a division of Franklin County. He said nevertheless he needs to file a motion to have the County dismissed from the lawsuit. Commissioner Putnal made a motion authorizing Mr. Shuler to file a Motion to Dismiss the County in the Buzier versus the School Board lawsuit. Commissioner Creamer seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED**.

(Tape 2-17) He presented an invoice from Kathryn R. Miller in the amount of \$18.50 for costs incurred in the Jerry Lolley workers comp claim. He asked the Board for approval to pay the bill. Commissioner Creamer made a motion authorizing the payment of \$18.50 to Kathryn R. Miller for costs incurred in the Jerry Lolley workers comp claim. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED**.

(Tape 2-40) He said in the matter of the lot the County is purchasing from Amerigas in Lanark Village. He stated he would like authorization for Preble-Rish to conduct the Phase I Environmental Study on the property. He said they had agreed to perform the survey or study for \$1,800.00, which was definitely the lowest price he had received. Commissioner Mosconis made a motion authorizing Preble-Rish to perform the Phase I Environmental Survey for the Amerigas property in Lanark Village for approximately \$1,800.00. Mr. Pierce said this was half the price he received from the other environmental firm they had asked to submit a price. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED**.

(Tape 2-78) Chairman Williams said Bishop Shirley White, Love Center Pastor, asked him for permission to place "Franklin County Belongs to God" signs throughout the County. He asked Mr. Shuler what she needed to do. Mr. Shuler replied she does not need the County's permission to put these signs up. Chairman Williams thanked Mr. Shuler.

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(Tape 2-95) Commissioner Mosconis said he was going out to the Hospital at this time. He said a friend of his, Jan Scruggs, the creator of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., is going to visit him in two weeks. He said he may bring him to the next Board meeting and would ask the Board to present him with a Resolution of Appreciation for the work he has done for the Vietnam Veterans of America. He said the County's resident veteran historian, Mark Curren, would be honored to prepare a Resolution of Appreciation for Mr. Scruggs. Commissioner Putnal made a motion directing Mr. Curren to prepare and authorizing the Chairman to sign a Resolution of Appreciation for Jan Scruggs to be presented at the next Board meeting August 15, 2000. Commissioner Creamer seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

TERESA KLINE-SGI LET THE CHILDREN PLAY FOUNDATION

(Tape 2-177) Ms. Kline presented each Commissioner with a copy of a page of the FRDAP Grant for the SGI County Park. She said the page reflected the expenditure of \$15,000.00 for playground equipment. She asked if the grant specifically contained this expenditure and allotment for the playground equipment why it was not going to be spent for the equipment. She said she would like for the County to give the Let the Children Play Foundation \$10,000.00 and \$5,000.00 for site work in general. Mr. Pierce said he thought that would be unwise at this point. He explained he had no idea what the construction costs were going to be. He said Mason Bean, SGI Civic Club, had the plans and is trying to get volunteer labor to build the bathrooms as well as some of the children's playground. He stated they have had no concrete response as to how much volunteer labor there will be or how much labor will have to be paid for. He said until the County had some idea how much the primary structures, the bathroom, etc., were going to cost he would be totally against allotting or giving away any of the money right now. He stated funds have been dedicated, even though the grant was not totally funded, to put in a playground facility. He said until some amounts are submitted he would be against any funds being spent. Ms. Kline said the money is allocated to the playground and if an element of the grant is not spent as indicated in the grant the County could get into problems with it. Mr. Pierce replied that was correct, but the County could ask for an amendment to the grant. He said this is a huge project and none of the actual construction has been done. He stated no material, except for the roads, have been purchased yet. Ms. Kline said she just wanted the Board to know the playground is important to her and many other parents on the Island. She stated she just wants to make sure the County helps them with the playground. Mr. Pierce suggested she talk to Mr. Bean about the status of his volunteer assistance and get his estimates on how much labor will be needed, then talk to Mr. Curren regarding the progression of the grant and at what stage he considers the grant to be at.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD
THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.**

Clarence Williams CLARENCE WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN

Kendall Wade KENDALL WADE, CLERK