

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: Clarence Williams, Chairman; Bevin Putnal, Cheryl Sanders, Eddie Creamer, and Jimmy Mosconis, Commissioners; Kendall Wade, Clerk; Pat Hevier, Deputy Clerk; Alfred O. Shuler, County Attorney.

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

(Tape 1-23) Commissioner Sanders made a **motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 18, 2000.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-25) Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to pay the County bills.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ROADS IN LIGHTHOUSE POINT ESTATES-DISCUSSION

(Tape 1-45) Cheree' Walden, a resident of Lighthouse Point Estates in Carrabelle, asked the Commissioners if the County could help them with their road. She stated Lighthouse Road and Woodill Road are private roads, but the citizens who live there want and need help in maintaining the roads. She explained they are more than willing to give them to the County. She said Mr. Langston, the developer of Lighthouse Point Estates, has already placed a six-inch base of lime rock on the roads. She stated that over a period of time the road has developed deep ruts and holes. She said it almost impossible to pass on the roads. She stated Mr. Langston has offered to give the County enough lime rock to repair the roads and bring them back up to where they are at least passable. She stated she has grandchildren and one of them fell asleep coming home on the school bus the other day and when the bus hit a road she bounced out of the seat and ended up with a goose egg on her head. Ms. Walden said emergency vehicles also have a hard time using the road. She asked the Board to do anything they could to help them. Commissioner Mosconis asked Hubert Chipman, Superintendent of Public Works, if he could help these people. Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Shuler, since these are private roads, if the County could get permission or an easement from the homeowners so the County doesn't have any liability. Mr. Shuler, County Attorney, said the County would have to see if the homeowners would be willing to do this. He stated he really didn't know, but it was possible to find out. Commissioner Sanders asked if the County couldn't go ahead and fix the roads since they are in such bad shape. Commissioner Mosconis said he knew Mr. Langston has always been willing to work with the County on such matters. He stated that since Mr. Langston has offered the lime rock then he would suggest the County go ahead and help these people. He said then Mr. Shuler could work out the legal details. He stated he would put that in the form of a **motion to authorize the Road Department, with Mr. Langston's assistance, to repair Lighthouse and Woodill Road in Lighthouse Point Estates.** Mr. Shuler said technically it is not the County's road; however he couldn't imagine anybody complaining about it. Commissioner Putnal stated

the County vehicles, emergency vehicles, school buses, etc. do use the roads and they are unsafe. Mr. Shuler said when the County starts this there are going to be a lot more roads, which do not belong to the County, needing work too. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

KEN MONEGHAN-FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES TRUST

(Tape 1-210) Mr. Moneghan introduced himself to the Board as their representative to the Florida Association of Counties Trust (FACT). He said FACT provides the County with general liability insurance and they have now been in operation a little over ten years. He explained there were six counties when FACT was first formed and Franklin County was one of those. He said there are now twenty-one counties as members. He explained he was here today to present the County with a plaque of appreciation for remaining with FACT. He thanked the Board for their continued support of FACT and presented the plaque to them.

BILL MAHAN-COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR

(Tape 1-508) Mr. Mahan said he attached the two newest Fishing Lines Newsletters from the Division of Marine Fisheries to their report package.

(Tape 1-534) He stated DEP returned his call regarding the Clean Vessel Program. He said he asked Ms. Debbie Hall "Can a boat fueling dock get a Clean Vessel cost share grant to build a pump out station?" He said her response was "Yes" if they make the facility available to the general public and they charge no more than \$5 for a recreation boat to use the pump out. He said there are several other guidelines that need to be met and Ms. Hall is going to send him a package of information on the program.

(Tape 1-590) He said the proposal he submitted to Florida FIRST for a Distance Diagnostics and Identification System (DDIS) for Franklin County has been partially funded. He explained it would allow him to purchase a digital camera, microscope, and photo adaptor. He informed the Board the system would allow him to make digital photos of insects and plant problems to send electronically to specialists for identification and recommendations.

(Tape 1-616) He reported he attended an in service training program in Blountstown on Wild fire. He explained the UF has received a grant to conduct a series of Wild Fire Training Programs around the State for Extension, Division of Forestry, U. S. Forestry Service and other interested parties on wild fires in Florida. He said two of the publications they received were "Landscaping in Florida with Fire in Mind," for homeowners and "Developing Land in Florida with Fire in Mind," for decision makers. He said he attached a copy of each for their review.

HUBERT CHIPMAN-SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

(Tape 1-725) Mr. Chipman said he wanted the Board to know there was a vacant position at the Road Department. He explained he would really like some time to make a decision since this position was going to be created by promoting someone. He stated since today is his very first day before the Board as Superintendent he would definitely

like some time. Commissioner Putnal said that would be okay with the Board. Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services, said he had met with Mr. Chipman and decided until the promotion was made there would be no entry-level position available. The Board agreed for Mr. Chipman to take his time to make the decision.

(Tape 1-794) He reported the new lowboy trailer the County purchased from Ring Power should be here March 7, 2000.

(Tape 1-807) Commissioner Putnal said the City of Carrabelle sent the County a letter asking for assistance with some culverts. Mr. Chipman replied the Road Department has already completed this task.

(Tape 1-834) Mr. Pierce said the Road Department has assisted the City of Apalachicola by removing the muck from the cemetery. He said another large project the Road Department will soon begin work on within a month to six weeks is the Airport Road, which will occupy a lot of time. He explained these are some large projects the Road Department are working on. He informed the Board the City of Apalachicola would be giving the County some free rubble as well as some free topsoil. He explained the contractor working on the sewer project would haul the material to the County Road Department Yard to become available to the County and City.

VAN JOHNSON-SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

(Tape 1-864) Mr. Johnson reported he met with Mr. Chipman regarding the use of the person he will be hiring to fill the entry-level position at the Road Department. He explained Mr. Chipman has informed the Board this morning he is not ready to hire anyone quite yet. He said when he is ready to fill the position he has informed Mr. Johnson he will need that person full time at the Road Department. Mr. Johnson stated he asked Ms. Keeva Gatlin, Gulf Coast Workforce Training Center, to come to the meeting this morning to enlighten the Board on a program they offer which may offer the County some assistance. Keeva Gatlin said she had a program called "Workforce Advancement Act" formerly known as the JTPA. She explained they tried to provide employers incentives to hire people within our community with on the job training contracts. She said the contract proposes to pay up to 50% of their salary depending on the training period. Mr. Johnson stated attached to his report is a copy of the type of a worker they are willing to pay part of the salary for. He said the maintenance worker description fits right into the scheme of things he is proposing. He stated since Mr. Chipman is not ready to make his changes then he will need to hire someone prior to March 1st. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing Mr. Johnson to take advantage of this program and to hire an additional person in an entry-level position for the Solid Waste Department.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

GREG YANCEY-LANARK VILLAGE WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

(Tape 1-985) Mr. Yancey, Commissioner on the Lanark Village Water and Sewer District (LVWSD), appeared before the Board at this time. He said he is here today to ask the County to allow them to cut some of the roads in Lanark to run their water lines.

He presented the Commissioners with a proposal for the repair of the streets after they have been cut. He stated they are hoping to cut the roads to install a six-inch water line to service the North side of Oak Street. Mr. Pierce asked Mr. Yancey exactly where he was talking about. Mr. Yancey replied near Idaho Street. He pointed out a forty-two-unit development being considered for the area. He said the only water service they have on the North side only goes so far. Mr. Pierce stated then they want to cut Oak Street. Mr. Yancey replied yes since they were already under Idaho Street. Mr. Pierce said the only problem is that Oak Street was just paved during the recent Road Paving Project. Mr. Yancey said he did not think so. Commissioner Sanders said that was Louisiana Street the County paved. Mr. Yancey assured the Board there would just be one cut across Oak Street to install a six-inch water line. Commissioner Mosconis said he did not like to cut any road. He stated he realized in some cases it has to be done. He explained the County just spent a million and a half dollars on paving roads in the County. Mr. Yancey said he checked with a boring contractor out of Port St. Joe and they gave him a price of \$40.00 per foot. Commissioner Mosconis suggested he contact the contractor doing the current water and sewer project in Apalachicola. Mr. Yancey replied it was the same company he received the prices from. After discussion it was decided that Mr. Yancey would seek estimates on both boring and cutting the road to present to the Board a future meeting. Mr. Pierce said Mr. Yancey could submit the information to him so he could bring it before the Board so Mr. Yancey would not have to come to the meeting.

ALAN PIERCE-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

(Tape 1-1287) Mr. Pierce reported Ronnie Bass, Amerigas, has informed him Amerigas is not interested in selling their property in Lanark Village for \$4,000.00, but would sell it for \$12,000.00. He said he informed Mr. Bass that he did not think the Board would want to pay \$12,000.00 for the property and asked Mr. Bass if the Board could submit a counter offer. He explained Mr. Bass told him \$12,000.00 is the lowest price Amerigas would accept. He stated if the County wants to continue to keep recycling containers on the Amerigas property the County needs to prepare some sort of agreement to protect Amerigas from any liability to the public going onto their property. Commissioner Mosconis said the problem is the County doesn't own any property in that area to use. Commissioner Mosconis said he felt the County needed that property. Commissioner Sanders asked the County Attorney, Mr. Shuler, what his thoughts were. Mr. Shuler answered he thought it would be a good idea to buy the property since the County did need staging areas throughout the County. Commissioner Sanders said she asked Mr. Chipman if the County had any equipment that, if necessary, can move the Amerigas tanks off the property. She stated Mr. Chipman told her the County does have equipment capable of moving the tanks when needed. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion instructing the County Attorney to pursue buying the land.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1400) He informed the Board that Judge Van Russell, County Judge, suggested the County open an access from the old jail site directly onto Water Street. He explained currently cars parked around the jail have to exit back onto the street in a very congested area. He said by letting cars exit the parking lot on Water Street it would ease the congestion and may encourage more people to use the jail parking area, as it is currently

underutilized on the back side of the jail. He asked the Board for permission to make a curb cut on Water Street. Commissioner Mosconis said he would make a **motion authorizing the County Engineer to make a curb cut onto Water Street.** Commissioner Creamer seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Wade, the Clerk, said there are several trees back there which will have to be removed. He explained the trees are old and falling down.

(Tape 1-1466) Mr. Pierce said he would like the Board to know the Apalachicola Airport Non-Directional Beacon, also known as the NBD has passed its annual FAA inspection. He presented the Board with the letter from FAA informing the County of this. He informed the Board the NBD license will have to be renewed in June. He said Mr. Ted Mosteller, Chairman of the Apalachicola Airport Aviation Committee, would be working on that project.

(Tape 1-1472) He also presented the Board with a letter from FDOT informing the County they did not receive the Fast Track Economic Growth Program Grant for the Apalachicola Municipal Airport Industrial Park Expansion.

(Tape 1-1493) He said Mr. Ted Mosteller informed him the Airport Committee is requesting the Board allow a security light be placed at the airport gate. He stated the cost of the light is approximately \$6.00 a month and will be paid for out of airport funds. He asked the Board for approval of this request. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion approving the installation of a security light at the airport gate for approximately \$6.00 a month to be paid for from the Airport Fund Account.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1508) He stated the Airport Committee also wants several hundred feet of fencing installed in the areas where there is no cyclone fencing at the airport. He explained these areas were too wet when the original fencing was installed, but now that it has been so dry, the four wheelers have been able to drive through the wetlands. He said the fencing is necessary because of an unprecedented number of four wheelers on airport property. Mr. Mosteller said there were funds available in their account. Mr. Pierce said they could use used fencing if the County had any available. Commissioner Mosconis suggested they check with Mr. Chipman and Mr. Johnson to see if they had any material to use. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion directing Mr. Pierce and Mr. Mosteller to check with Mr. Chipman and Mr. Johnson to see if they had any used fencing or materials to use for the fencing at the airport.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1578) He explained the Airport Committee is also requesting the Board expand the Four Wheeler Ordinance to include the Apalachicola Airport property. He said as the ordinance is drafted it does not include the airport property. Commissioner Mosconis said all of this would be brought into discussion when the public hearing to consider the ordinance is held.

(Tape 1-1669) Mr. Pierce said he received information about how other counties treat older mobile homes. He said Gulf County requires a preliminary inspection before a building permit is issued on all mobile homes which are more than three years old. He said the inspection costs \$50.00. He explained Wakulla County prohibits mobile homes more than 25 years old, and requires an inspection of all mobile homes that are not purchased new. He said they too charge \$50.00 for the inspection. He stated both counties hire independent contractors to perform the inspections and they receive a portion of the fee. He said Wakulla also charges a lot more for mobile homes: a singlewide permit is \$200.00 and a double wide is \$300.00. He explained all permits require a \$1,246.00 impact fee. He stated Gulf County fees are more in line with Franklin County.

(Tape 1-1735) He stated he wanted the Board to know he will be discussing with the Planning and Zoning Commission the issue of mobile home size compared to recreational vehicles. He explained while the County has had a minimum size for mobile homes of 450 square feet it appears, the State several years ago, changed the definition of a mobile home to be a at least 500 square feet; anything less is considered an RV by State standards. He said he is sure the County will have to raise the standard to 500 square feet.

KENDALL WADE-CLERK

(Tape 1-1756) Mr. Wade said he had given each Commissioner a copy of the request submitted by Susan Ficklen, Administrator George E. Weems Memorial Hospital, for payment, \$19,778.84, for the relocation of the helipad at the hospital due to the construction of the Health Department. He reminded the Board the helipad had to be relocated to the front of the hospital to allow construction of the new Franklin County Health Department. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion to pay \$19,778.84 for the relocation of the helipad at the George E. Weems Memorial Hospital in Apalachicola.** Commissioner Creamer seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1821) Mr. Pierce said he had one more item to discuss this morning. He stated Mr. Mosteller reminded him that the County advertised for bids to clear-cut the timber on the Apalachicola Airport property months ago. He said the bids were in excess of the budgeted amount and they were rejected. He explained they are ready to advertise for bids again, but they are going to try a different approach. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing Mr. Pierce and Mr. Mosteller to advertise for timber clearing at the Apalachicola Airport.** Commissioner Creamer seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1850) Commissioner Putnal said he would like to see if the cable company would add or replace another channel with the Sunshine Network. He stated the Sunshine Network was a Florida Sports Channel. He asked the Board if they would be willing to authorize someone to write a letter to Media Com requesting this. Mr. Wade stated he would be glad to call Media Com and ask them if the Sunshine Network is available or can be made available to cable customers in Franklin County.

ALFRED SHULER-COUNTY ATTORNEY

(Tape 1-1900) Mr. Shuler said he discussed with Mr. Ben Watkins the documentation required for his density request for Mr. Watkins' property in Eastpoint recently approved for rezoning. He explained Mr. Watkins' is working with the prospective new owners and he will submit a draft ordinance to accomplish this task.

(Tape 1-1922) He stated he reviewed the Amerigas property purchase with Mr. Pierce.

(Tape 1-1930) He explained he did some research into the ownership of the Lanark Village Old Officers Club in Lanark Village. He said he would begin action, as directed by the Board, this week.

(Tape 1-1946) Mr. Shuler informed the Board he has revised the proposed Four Wheeler Ordinance. He said he has conferred with Sheriff Varnes about the ordinance. He stated instead of trying to define four wheelers and all terrain vehicles he referred to Florida Statutes Section 316, which has a definition of four wheelers, or all terrain vehicles the State has adopted in the ordinance. He explained it is a considered a one-person vehicle. Commissioner Mosconis asked if the Statute included go-carts. Mr. Shuler answered if the go-cart is built to hold only one person. Commissioner Mosconis said some go carts carry two passengers. Mr. Shuler said he would amend the ordinance to reflect this. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing Mr. Shuler to advertise the proposed Four Wheeler Ordinance for Public Hearing.** Commissioner Creamer seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-2261) He explained he wrote the Dog Island Conservation District regarding their MSBU records as instructed by the Board. He said they responded to him by letter informing the County where the records were kept and filed if the County wanted to review them. He stated the Board has a copy of his letter to them and their letter in response to his. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Shuler if this was common practice. Mr. Shuler replied it is basically the response the Clerk or any County agency would make if someone made a request of the public records law to examine records. He said the same thing would happen if we were in litigation. He stated they could have been more cooperative. He said the County would have to send someone knowledgeable about accounting and the MSBU funds to Tallahassee to review the records. Commissioner Sanders said she remembered when Mr. Gary Stillwell, DICD, came to the Board during budget hearings and wanted \$15,000.00 for work on their dock. She stated the Board gave them \$7,500.00 and now they are wanting the County, at the County's expense, to get the records. She stated that just did not make any sense to her. Mr. Wade stated according to Florida Statue 119, the Public Records Law, the custodian of any record has to make the records available to the public within a reasonable time for a reasonable charge. He asked why couldn't the County make a written request for the records. Mr. Shuler replied he had submitted a written request and they have in turn written the County back informing the County where the records are, so they have officially responded to his letter. Mr. Shuler suggested the Board authorize him to send another letter asking the DICD to either send or bring the information to the Commissioners. He

said they were not especially accommodating to the County like he would have been since they will probably be back to the County asking for something. He said he would recommend they ask DICD to abstract and furnish the information on just the expenditures of the MSBU funds so the County does not have to pay somebody to go up to Tallahassee and research the records. Commissioner Mosconis asked if the County really wanted the information that badly. He said he was not in favor of spending any money to get this information. Commissioner Sanders said they are going to be asking the Commissioners to increase the MSBU assessment from \$28.00 to \$75.00. She said she wanted information of the expenditures before this can be decided. Commissioner Mosconis said the Board was not going to just arbitrarily raise the assessment so he felt the County shouldn't spend the money. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion directing Mr. Shuler to send another letter to the Dog Island Conservation District requesting they send the information the Board has asked for.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-2610) Mr. Shuler reported the previous work comp plan, GRIT; the County used to have is currently paying substantial benefits to one former Sheriff Department employee and one former Library employee. He explained they have asked the County, according to the contract, to reimburse them for these benefits because they have run out of money. He said they are threatening to sue the County. He stated the problem is that if the County just pays them what they are paying the individuals then he doesn't see why they would have any motivation to try to settle the claims so there is an end to the situation.

(Tape 1-2680) He said he read a demand letter the Board received from a lawyer in Tallahassee representing the Walters family. He stated the Walters sustained some damage to their house in Eastpoint because a fleeing vehicle dodging a law enforcement roadblock ran into the house. He said this should be covered by the County's insurance and the Clerk has notified our insurance carrier of the claim. He stated it was nothing this Board was responsible for. He said when somebody wants to sue the Sheriff's Department or any other part of the County they have to notify the County Attorney at least six months in advance so the insurance carrier can attempt to settle the matter before going to court. Commissioner Mosconis asked what about the young people driving the automobile and would their insurance come into play. Mr. Shuler replied they may be filing a suit against them as well. He said all the County would get would be anything pertaining to the County.

(Tape 1-2833) He informed the DCA Administrative Hearing concerning the zoning at Yents Bayou has been dismissed or settled. He said he received a letter from DCA notifying the County the case had been closed.

(Tape 1-2898) Commissioner Mosconis said he went to the Speckled Trout regulations meeting in Panama City on Friday night. He stated he may go over to Jacksonville for the meeting there. Commissioner Sanders said she was going too. Commissioner Mosconis said he told the Commission in Panama City about how important the guide fishing industry was to Franklin County.

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

Clarence Williams CLARENCE WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN

Kendall Wade KENDALL WADE, CLERK