

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 1, 2001**

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

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

(Tape 1-25) Commissioner Sanders made a **motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 17, 2001.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-27) Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to approve the payment of the County bills.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**JAMES A. HARRIS, JR.-TAX COLLECTOR**

(Tape 1-34) Mr. Harris presented a statement to each Commissioner regarding his AS400 computer system. He informed the Board he and the Property Appraiser signed a joint contract with Affiliated Computer Systems Services, ACS, formerly Business Records, for a total system rewrite for each of their systems. He explained he and the Property Appraiser share records. He stated the company, ACS, had contracted to furnish a total system rewrite for both offices. He said he has been informed by them they could not complete their services as specified in the contract and refunded the contract price of \$13,500.00, plus \$2,700.00 in earned interest, for a total refund of \$16,200.00. He stated he would like to use this money to payoff his portion of the AS400E main frame, which is accruing 7% interest, he shares with the Property Appraiser. He said that total amount is \$11,330.34. He stated the remaining balance of the \$16,200.00, \$4,869.66 could be paid on the balance due for the Property Appraiser. Commissioner Sanders said she did not have a problem with this since it would save the County some money. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion authorizing the Tax Collector to use the refund from Affiliated Computer Systems Services contract, \$16,200.00, including \$2,700.00 in interest earned, to pay off his portion, \$11,330.34, of the AS400E contract for the main frame he shares with the Property Appraiser and authorizing him to apply the balance, \$4,869.66, to the Property Appraiser's remaining balance of the shared AS400E contract.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**HUBERT CHIPMAN-SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

(Tape 1-152) Mr. Chipman stated he did not have anything that needed Board attention this morning.

(Tape 1-162) Chairman Creamer thanked Mr. Chipman for the work he and his crew did at the Eastpoint Cemetery. He asked Mr. Chipman to move the sand banked up around the fence. Mr. Chipman assured Chairman Creamer he would take care of the matter. He also asked Mr. Chipman to remove the hedges around the cement foundation.

(Tape 1-181) Commissioner Putnal said he would like to table the matter of approving the new Franklin County Personnel Rules until each Commissioner and department head had a chance to thoroughly review them. He stated he would make a **motion to table approval of the new Franklin County Personnel Rules until each Commissioner and the department heads have a chance to review them.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **BILL MAHAN-COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR**

(Tape 1-200) Mr. Mahan said he attended and participated in the three-day Public Issues and Conflict Resolution Training Workshop on April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> in Pensacola. He informed the Board the training focused on marine and coastal issues and the "nuts & bolts" of conducting public meetings.

(Tape 1-234) He said he attended the final day of the Annual ISSC Gulf & South Atlantic Regional meeting and the ISSC's Vibrio Vulnificus and Vibrio parahaemolyticus subcommittee meetings in Biloxi, MS last week. He said the Vibrio subcommittees were meeting to finalize the issues, which would be presented at the Annual ISSC Meeting. He said the Vv. Subcommittee adopted an issue very similar to last year's issue including an illness rate reduction goal of 40% in five years and a 60% reduction in seven years, with the current average illness rate being 0.306 per million. He said the core reporting states California, Florida, Texas and Louisiana would be selecting its own control measures to reach the reduction goal. He stated the Vp. Subcommittee decided to not make any major changes to the Vp. Ordinance Chapter VIII due to a number of unanswered questions related to Vp. testing and monitoring however, it was clear from the committee's discussions that Vp. would be a public health issue in the near future. Commissioner Putnal said he was concerned about oysters shipped in from another state and shucked here in Franklin County. Mr. Mahan stated a tag should be on the oysters and the tag should not be removed under any circumstance. He said if the tag is removed and a Florida tag is placed on the oysters then if an illness occurs it would be counted in the statistics as an illness caused by Florida product. He stated this is why it is very important that the dealers leave the tags on the oysters especially if they are brought in from another state. He stated if the oysters were double tag, shipped in from Louisiana and shucked and repacked in Florida, and an illness occurs then the statistics would reflect an illness caused by a Louisiana product. He informed the Board this is going to be very important. He said sometimes the tag disappears from the retailer, but they are going to have to make sure they keep the tags. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Mahan how he felt about the issue the subcommittee is working on. Mr. Mahan replied he thought it had given some more room for consideration. He said the FDA wanted some guidelines implemented however, if the educational study being conducted reflects the vast majority of people who have risk factors for eating raw oysters know they are at risk and still eat raw oysters then the states could show this. He said if a person knows they

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can get sick, still consumes raw oysters then becomes ill with one of these illnesses then the state should not be held accountable. He said these people are choosing to eat the oysters raw.

(Tape 1-540) He informed the Board the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, DACS, Bureau of Aquaculture, scheduled a Clam Aquaculture Use Area Public Workshop for May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Apalachicola Community Center from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. He said this workshop would review the procedure for applying for a clam aquaculture lease. He stated in addition, the Franklin County/University of Florida Extension Program has scheduled two educational programs for people interested in clam farming and applying for a lease. He said the first program, "So, you want to be a clam farmer," would be held on May 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. and the second program to be held in June, "The A, B, C's of the clam lease application," would be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. He said the sites for these two workshops have not been determined. He said lease applications would be taken on a first come, first service basis beginning June 18<sup>th</sup>.

(Tape 1-637) He said the dates for the Annual ISSC Meeting are July 21<sup>st</sup>-July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott, with reservations required by June 18<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Sanders and Chairman Creamer stated they have received their information on the conference. Commissioner Putnal said he would make a **motion approving the payment of travel expenses for Commissioner Sanders, Chairman Creamer, and Mr. Mahan to the Annual ISSC Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia from July 21<sup>st</sup> through July 27<sup>th</sup>.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Mahan said he was asked at the meeting in Biloxi if the two Commissioners from Franklin County would be at the meeting in Norfolk. He stated he is glad the Commissioners are going. He said one of the representatives on the ISSC from Colorado told him she appreciates having people who are really impacted by these regulations attend these meetings so she can talk to them. He said she informed him it helps her to understand what is really going on around the coastal areas since she lives in an interior state. He stated she told him she thinks these Vv. issues are very important and is very concerned about the actual impact they will have on these Gulf and South Atlantic states.

(Tape 1-714) He informed the Board the public speaking programs, the seat belt safety programs, and the butterfly release programs are almost complete for another school year.

(Tape 1-734) Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Mahan if he knew how much it would cost to apply for one of the clam aquaculture leases. Mr. Mahan replied there would be a \$200.00 application fee. He said he did not know exactly what the lease per acre amount would end up being. He stated they are looking and checking into financial aid aspects of the aquaculture programs.

**VAN JOHNSON-SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

(Tape 1-774) Mr. Johnson said he wanted to apologize for not being in attendance at the last Board meeting where discussions on packs of dangerous dogs running at large were held. He explained he was absent due to a shortage of staffing at the Landfill. He stated,

in response to those discussions, he would like to inform the Board the Franklin County Animal Control Department has always been committed to public safety through enforcement of the County Animal Control Ordinance. He read the following into the record; "Animal Control Officers are certified pursuant to Florida Statutes and are aware of the statutory requirement of performing their duties. Nevertheless, to reassure the public that walking the streets of Franklin County is safe, Animal Control Personnel along with myself have begun a massive roundup of stray and nuisance animals. Any animal found off the real property limits of its owners and unsecured will be impounded and if the owner is known a citation will be issued in accordance with Ordinance 88-4. In fact over the past two weeks we have issued about \$230.00 in citations and impounded more than twenty-three dogs. I have attached to this report a copy of Ordinance 88-4, along with a fact sheet outlining the services provided by the Animal Control Department. The fact Sheet shows how an Animal Control Officer has evolved from being you typical Dog Catcher to an investigative officer with a wide range of responsibilities. Also, I would like a motion from the Board supporting Animal Control efforts in cracking down on violators of the County's Animal Control Ordinance. The reason I'm asking for this motion is that it is very important to the Department the Board is in full support of this measure." Commissioner Putnal made a **motion supporting Animal Control efforts in cracking down on violators of the County's Animal Control Ordinance.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**GAYLE DODDS-DIRECTOR-FRANKLIN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER**

(Tape 1-850) Chairman Creamer asked Ms. Dodds if she would like to address the Board while Mr. Johnson was present this morning. Ms. Dodds thanked Chairman Creamer for allowing her to go ahead and make her presentation at this time. She said the Franklin County Humane Society was created to help with stray dogs running around, not in packs, just dogs nobody wanted. She stated a group of people built the shelter to house this type of animal. She said over the years this has changed and now, since the inception of the Animal Control Department, the number of animals brought into the shelter has greatly multiplied. She stated the Humane Society's philosophy is to try to keep the animals until they can be adopted if possible. She said unfortunately more and more of the animals are not adoptable and are being euthanized. She said between her staff and the Animal Control Staff the work is overwhelming. She said the bottom line is that these animals brought to the animal shelter have to be fed, watered, housed, etc. She stated they do the best they can, but now there is a problem with space at the shelter. She said the Animal Control Officers confiscated fifteen bulldogs, which were trained as guard dogs. She stated if they had gotten into the shelter every little puppy or smaller dog would have been killed by them. She stated she cannot permit that type of thing to happen. She stated she has no problem with the Animal Control Officers collecting all these stray animals, but they just do not have the space to house them. Ms. Dodds said her employees are just part time and she operates on a very small budget, therefore she can't continue to take care of all of these animals without some help from the Commissioners. She warned the Board she may not have enough money in her budget to keep operating for the rest of the fiscal year. She stated it is certainly not because she does not try to budget and manage the money it is just because of the increase in the

amount of food, water, etc. She said these animals must be kept in the shelter for five, seven or sometimes fourteen days. She explained the animals must be taken care of while they are there. She stated not only does she need supplies she also needs employees to work full time instead of just part time. She stated Mr. Johnson had prepared a diagram of a containment pen and euthanasia area they were proposing the County build. She said it didn't matter where it was built, either by the shelter or at the Landfill, but it had to be built so the animals could not dig or get out of the fenced in area. She stated it had to be placed on a concrete pad with covers over the area. Mr. Johnson said he has checked into the matter and presented a diagram of the proposed holding pen and euthanasia area, which reflected an estimated construction cost of \$11,125.00. He stated he did not have the funds in his budget. He suggested the Board transfer the money out of contingency to have the facility built. He said he could use inmate labor to actually put the building up. Commissioner Putnal suggested Mr. Johnson check with Mr. Chipman about the chain link fencing the County removed from around the baseball parks. He said he would check with him on the fencing. He asked the Board to go ahead and approve his request and if he could save any money by using the used fencing he would. He said he and Ms. Dodds desperately needed this extra space for animals brought in by Animal Control Officers. Chairman Creamer asked how Mr. Johnson planned on staffing the facility. He stated the County cannot expect Ms. Dodds and her two part time employees to do all of the work. Ms. Dodds replied that with the type of kennels Mr. Johnson is building, with the concrete, etc., the facility would be easier to maintain and therefore it would be easier to staff. She said not only does the Animal Control Officers bring animals into the shelter, but people do too. She stated the numbers of animals people bring and drop off at the shelter are astronomical as well. Commissioner Mosconis said he would go ahead and make a **motion authorizing the expenditure of \$11,125.00 from Contingency to build a holding pen and euthanasia area for the Animal Control Department.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis instructed Mr. Johnson to try and assist Ms. Dodds with an employee or whatever he could do to help her for the rest of the budget year. Mr. Johnson said he was going ahead and inform the Board there would be a request from him and Ms. Dodds to increase their respective budgets. Ms. Dodds asked the Board if she could work with Mr. Johnson in preparing their budgets for consideration this year. Mr. Wade cautioned the Board about the balance left in the contingency budget. He explained there have been a lot of expenditures this year that were paid from the contingency budget. Mr. Johnson said he would start work on this facility as soon as possible.

(Tape 1-1222) Mr. Johnson said the Solid Waste Department is having a staff shortage. He explained one employee has been out since April 16<sup>th</sup> with a job related injury and another employee would be out until the middle of May attending National Guard Training. He said the Landfill has implemented the summer hours, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturdays, which total fifty-four hours per week. He said with the increased work hours and staff shortages, it would be impossible to serve the public without incurring some overtime. He suggested and asked the Board to approve paying for such overtime from the Small County Solid Waste Management Grant. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing overtime for the Solid Waste**

**Department and to pay such overtime from the Small County Solid Waste Management Grant.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1247) Mr. Johnson said it was his understanding some of the Commissioners have been receiving telephone calls about the rate increase at the Landfill. He explained he wanted to clarify this. He said a couple of months ago the Commissioners voted to lower the yard waste rate by one-half, from \$45.00 a ton to \$22.50 a ton. He stated just a couple of weeks ago, in compliance with the waste hauler contract between Franklin County and Waste Management, the Commissioners agreed to raise the household rate, based on the Consumer Price Index, by \$1.36. He said the rates have not doubled as rumored. He stated they have only gone up by \$1.36 and another rate has actually decreased. Commissioner Sanders said she was one of those who received phone calls about the matter. She stated she did inform her constituents the garbage rates did not double, but only increased \$1.36 as specified in the contract with Waste Management.

(Tape 1-1281) Commissioner Mosconis told Mr. Johnson he and his staff were doing a good job.

**ALAN PIERCE-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

(Tape 1-1319) Mr. Pierce reminded the Chairman he needed to sign the FDOT access permit for Avenue C in Eastpoint, which is the road the county de-mucked behind the new Putt-Putt golf course. He said the Board has already taken action to submit the request for the access permit, but the County Engineer, David Kennedy, has just finished preparing the forms.

(Tape 1-1338) He said Mark Curenton, Assistant Planner, reports he was notified another green buoy is needed in the channel of the Apalachicola River to identify the Scipio Creek flats. He asked for the Board to approve sending this request to the proper authorities either the USCOE or the US Coast Guard. Commissioner Mosconis stated he asked Mr. Curenton to pursue this matter. He said vessels coming south on the Apalachicola River see the harbor and think they can just cut over the flats to get to the harbor. He stated the water there is about knee deep and boats are going aground there. Commissioner Mosconis said the US Coast Guard needs to take care of this matter. He made a **motion directing Mr. Curenton to pursue the placement of a green buoy in the channel of the Apalachicola River to identify the Scipio Creek flats.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis instructed Mr. Pierce to inform Mr. Curenton he would need to call the US Coast Guard facility in Mobile, Alabama for information.

(Tape 1-1375) He presented a letter from the City of Carrabelle requesting the County begin work on the Tillie Miller Kiddy Park Walking Path as soon as possible. He stated this path is being subsidized, as the other walking paths in the County, by the Franklin County Health Department. He said there has been \$10,000.00 allocated for the walking path and stated he would try to get started on the project as soon as he could.

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(Tape 1-1397) He provided the Board with a copy of the letter from DCA informing the County they have received the proposed comprehensive plan amendments for the St. James Bay and Bill Wells. He said the letter states they will review the amendments and then they would furnish the County with their final report on or about June 22, 2001.

(Tape 1-1408) He submitted a copy of the check sent to the County by the State of Florida in the amount of \$162,433.92 for payment in lieu of taxes. He reminded the Board this represents the seventh check for payment in lieu of taxes and after three more years the amounts will drop.

(Tape 1-1420) He presented a brief outline of the difference between swales and ditches, which was discussed at the wetland identification meeting he, Mr. Shuler, Robin Brinkley, and Rachel Ward attended. He stated they had to go to Liberty County to see the graduation from a state wetland and an upland. He said if it is a ditch along a County road it could be considered a state wetland. He stated if it is a swale then you are exempt from any permitting requirements.

(Tape 1-1478) Chairman Creamer said he would like for Mr. Pierce to send a letter to FDOT requesting they clean out the ditch at the corner of North Franklin Street and US 98 in Eastpoint. He said the owner of the property near the ditch, Clifford Carroll, needed the ditch cleaned out. He stated the ditch is not draining properly and the water is coming onto Mr. Carroll's property. Commissioner Putnal said he wanted to request that FDOT fill in the huge potholes near the Beacon Ridge Road before you get to the trailer park at Carrabelle Beach. He said the shoulders where you enter onto the road is full of big potholes. Mr. Pierce asked him if it was on US 98 right-of-way. Commissioner Putnal replied it was. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion directing Mr. Pierce to send a letter to FDOT requesting the ditch at the corner of North Franklin Street and US 98 in Eastpoint be cleaned out and the pot holes in the shoulders at US 98 and Beacon Road be repaired.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1519) Mr. Pierce said he received a telephone call from Virginia Maintenance Systems (VMS) informing him they have the new contract to maintain the roadways in Franklin, Liberty, Calhoun, Gulf, etc. from FDOT. He stated he was told they will put an office at the Carrabelle Airport, but it would not have a person there. He said it would contain a telephone and some computers, but someone would be there to do paperwork when they are in the area. He said no full time person with VMS would be in Franklin County. Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Pierce if he had the name of a contact person. Mr. Pierce replied he did not, but they have informed him a representative from the company will be in next week to purchase a building permit for their office trailer. He said this person told him they will not have a person in the area, but they will a telephone in the office trailer for their personnel to use when they are in Franklin County. Mr. Wade said this is another good example of privatization by the Governor. Mr. Pierce said these people are in the business of making money not assisting residents like they would if the State was overseeing their budget. Commissioner Mosconis said he wanted to give the people a chance.

(Tape 1-1593) He asked the Board for permission to send a letter to Wayne Parrish, Vice-President of the Apalachicola Northern Railroad, requesting the rails be removed across Bluff Road. He said this would allow for a bigger culvert to be installed, which would help with the drainage problem in that area. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing Mr. Pierce to send a letter to Wayne Parrish, Vice-President of Apalachicola Northern Railroad, requesting the rails across Bluff Road in Apalachicola be removed.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1608) He informed the Board Tim Turner, Emergency Management Director, has submitted all eligible projects form the 10-inch rainfall the County received in September of last year. He said the total FEMA funds request is \$427,460.00. He explained these requests would have to go to FEMA-Atlanta for approval. He said most of them should be approved. He said he informed the Board at an earlier meeting that the County has received authorization for \$23,000.00 in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds, which are allocated as a percentage of FEMA requests, so if all of the County's projects are approved the County should ultimately receive about \$70,000.00 in HMGP funds. He stated those funds must be used for projects that are part of the County's Local Mitigation Strategy. He said the County can amend these projects and can include projects where the County does the work and uses the money to buy materials. Commissioner Putnal said before any paving is done to Highway 67 someone needs to install a culvert in the area where they have cleaned the property for the prison to be built. He suggested instructing the County Engineer to check into the problem. Mr. Pierce said he would send a letter to the Florida DOC to see if they had any suggestions or recommendations.

(Tape 1-1774) He said he initially advised the Board the existing \$23,000.00 in HMGP funds could be used to fix the Lanark Village Stormwater problem. He stated after speaking with Greg Preble, Preble-Rish Engineering, who is preparing the engineering analysis for the project, he is going to estimate the cost would probably be between \$150,000.00 and \$200,000.00, which includes a contractor hired job. He said the \$23,000.00 is not enough to complete the project, however the \$70,000.00 of HMGP funds might come close if the County was doing all of the work. He said the deadline for applying for HMGP funds is July 30, 2001 and he asked the Commissioners to hold off on dedicating the \$23,000.00 of current funds until Mr. Preble has finished calculating the various costs of rebuilding the Lanark Village system and he has a better idea the total of additional HMGP funds the County will receive.

(Tape 1-1815) He presented two ditch maintenance agreements for the County. He said these easements allow the County to maintain ditches in the County, which ultimately helps with the various Stormwater problems. He presented an easement from Living Waters Assembly of God, Inc. and J. Gordon Shuler, both in Apalachicola off of Bluff Road. He said the easements had been recorded in the Official Records of the Clerk's Office.



(Tape 1-1826) He provided the Board with a copy of a letter from Dr. Shakra Junejo, Director of the FCPHU, agreeing to have her current budget reduced by \$35,000.00 because she has agreed to assist mosquito control by purchasing a mosquito sprayer for \$10,000.00 for the County and because she had been unable to get the State Health Office to approve the purchase of a boat, motor, and four wheeler for use by Environmental Health to inspect septic tanks, etc. on remote islands or in remote areas like Dog Island. He stated the combined purchase, which had been budgeted, was approximately \$25,000.00. He explained these funds would revert to the Board's reserve funds. He said, in her letter, she advises the Board she would be seeking her full budget next year, because she, like the County, does not know what the State is going to do to her budget. He asked for Board action on approving the budget changes as worded by Ms. Williams, Finance Officer, and sending Dr. Junejo a letter informing her of the Board's action. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion approving the following adjustments to the FCPHU Budget; Increases 001.99.584.9600, Reserve for Contingency-\$25,000.00, Increase 001.42.562.6400, Mosquito Control Equipment-\$10,000.00, Decrease 001.52.562.9400-Health Department Budget Transfer and authorizing Mr. Pierce to send a letter to Dr. Junejo informing her of the Boards action.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1905) He asked the Board to approve two Resolutions of Support, for Robin Brinkley and Rachel Ward, in preparation for their trip to St. Augustine for an information hearing in front of the State Board of Inspectors and Administrators. He said the County Attorney is going with him, Ms. Ward and Mr. Brinkley to the meeting so this whole matter can be brought to some kind of closure. He reminded the Board he has mentioned in several meetings how Mr. Brinkley and Ms. Ward are having difficulty in acquiring their state licenses. Commissioner Williams made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on Resolution's of Support for Robin Brinkley and Rachel Ward.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** He said the meeting would be in St. Augustine on May 17, 2001.

(Tape 1-1971) He presented the Board with a copy of a letter from FDOT stating they can't process the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) for CR 67 until the County provides the cost estimates. He informed the Board he has the County Engineer working on the cost estimates and should have them submitted within 30 days.

(Tape 1-1991) He asked the Board for direction on a general paving program for Franklin County. He said while he has mentioned planning for a \$700,000.00 paving program this summer, with \$200,000.00 allocated for CR 67, and \$100,000.00 for each Commissioners District. He said the Board has not taken any action and only one commissioner has actually submitted a list of roads to be paved. He said while gas revenues have dropped slightly, the Board would have \$350,000.00 in cash by June 30<sup>th</sup>. He stated if the Board wants to spend more than the \$350,000.00 then some limits need to be set and direction needs to be given to the staff. He said this could apply to legal, financial, or engineering presentations for funding alternatives. He said the Board doesn't even have to pave more than CR 67, but traditionally the Board has done more than one road once a paving contractor is in Franklin County. Commissioner Putnal said

he was not sure about the roads in his district because of all of the water and sewer infrastructure repairs. He said the City of Carrabelle was not through with the sewer project they started. Commissioner Mosconis said he knew the City of Apalachicola was at the stage with their sewer projects that they could have some streets paved. Mr. Pierce suggested each Commissioner prepare a list of roads in their district they want paved. He asked the Commissioners to have the list ready by the next Board Meeting.

Commissioner Mosconis said he thought each Commissioner should give Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Putnal a little of their \$100,000.00 allocation because they did not do any paving in their districts from the last paving project since they were having major water and sewer projects done in the City of Apalachicola and the City of Carrabelle. Chairman Creamer said he was going to be paid back, but he wasn't going to share any of his money. He stated he needed it badly. Commissioner Sanders said she would like for each Commissioner to list the paving projects most needed in their districts. She reminded the Board she wasn't a Commissioner when the last paving project was done. Commissioner Mosconis said if each Commissioner would just get a list together then the Board could move forward with compiling a final list. Mr. Pierce said financing could be another alternative if the Board wanted to do more than \$700,000.00 in paving projects.

(Tape 1-2185) Mr. Pierce submitted a letter from FDOT regarding the speed study on SR 30 (US 98) east of Lanark Village as requested by the Board. He said the letter reflects the area studied was near Crooked River Road and Sacred Parrish Catholic Church. He said the letter states they are not recommending a reduction in speed at this time, but they would continue to monitor the area. Commissioner Sanders said she thought the study should have been conducted from Infield Road to Putnal Street or Infield Road to the Catholic Church.

(Tape 1-2269) Mr. Pierce said he would interrupt his report at this time to allow Mr. Dave Robertson, Emergystat, Inc. to address the Board.

#### **EMERGYSTAT, INC.-DAVE ROBERTSON**

(Tape 1-2277 Continued on Tape 2) Mr. Robertson said the Board asked him to come back to this meeting to discuss his sublease for the ambulance service at Weems Hospital. He said he asked the Board to check into Emergystat's references. Commissioner Mosconis said the process was started at the last meeting by authorizing Emergystat to begin applying for all of their necessary licenses to operate the ambulance service in Franklin County. He said he had talked to his representative on the hospital committee and decided he was ready to move forward with the Certificate of Public Necessity (COPN) for Emergystat. Commissioner Putnal expressed his concern over Emergystat's plan to cut the present employees salaries. He said he didn't want to take a chance on losing all of these employees. Albert Fincher, EMS, said the ambulance employees held a meeting and there were three full-time employees who are going to give Emergystat a try, but the other employees, some with fifteen years experience, are going to leave because they can't afford this substantial cut in pay. He asked the Board who would treat them when they get sick. Commissioner Mosconis said Emergystat, if they get the COPN, would be responsible for upholding their end of the contract. Mr. Robertson said

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he would try to recruit employees from surrounding counties. He stated employees would get a lot of overtime and therefore make up the difference they think they are going to experience. Barbara Robuluck, Commissioner Putnal's appointee to the Hospital Advisory Board and spokes person for the committee, said the committee met on April 11<sup>th</sup> and on April 27<sup>th</sup>. She stated on April 26<sup>th</sup> the committee met the new administrator, Gene Shuler. She said at the meeting they were told the County had approved the COPN for Emergystat. She stated they all have concerns about this. She stated healthcare is very important in Franklin County since the ambulance crew is the first people to see you when you are in an urgent situation. She stated Mr. Shuler told them they were going ahead with the sublease with Emergystat as specified in their agreement with the County. She said he also told them the air-conditioning project only had \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 left in the budget to finish the project. She said he told them they have over \$213,000.00 in outstanding invoices that need to be paid and they are going to apply for a loan from Apalachicola State Bank. She stated he told them they were going to pursue the Critical Access Hospital designation since this procedure was already started. She stated he told them they would be closing the clinic in Carrabelle and Dr. Nichol's clinic in Apalachicola. She stated Mr. Shuler told her they are neither in the ambulance business nor in the clinic business. She said he told her to inform the Board that Dr. Victoria Smith was no longer with Dr. Nichols; they had ended her contract. She stated the clinics should be closed by July 1<sup>st</sup>. She stated the committee was also told they do not want to operate the emergency room. She said this is strictly business according to these folks. She stated she was very concerned about healthcare in Franklin County and what were people in the outlying areas are going to do. She stated Mr. Shuler told them everything they are going to cut, but were not offering anything to replace these things. She said Paul Parker, Commissioner Sanders' representative on the Hospital Committee, walked through the hospital before they met. She stated he informed her if people think the ambulance service is a problem then they had not been to the hospital. She said Mr. Parker told her the hospital was a big problem. Commissioner Putnal said he wanted the administrator and Mr. Lake to come to one of the future meetings to tell the Board just what their intentions are. Commissioner Sanders said she was very distressed when she turned on the local radio station, WOYS, to even learn there was a new administrator at the hospital. She stated on top of that the 2 clinics are being closed in Franklin County, therefore leaving Carrabelle with absolutely no medical care. She said privatizing the ambulance service was a problem. She stated she called out to the Lanark Village ambulance substation Sunday was a week ago only to discover there was one person at that substation. She stated she asked Ms. Walker, the EMT at the substation, if the ambulance was ALS or BLS, she replied ALS with First Responders. She said she asked Ms. Walker how she would drive the ambulance and take care of a person in the back of the ambulance being brought to the hospital. She stated she was very, very upset. She said the other thing she is disturbed about is the Critical Access status for the hospital allowing what they call a "swing bed" status. She said this would allow the hospital to keep nursing home residents for a longer period of time. She stated this was a hospital that is needed for everybody not just nursing home patients. She said if you do not have the support services in this county to support the hospital how would the hospital make it. She stated she is taking a stand today and is very upset about this situation. She said she is going to fight for Franklin County's health care. She stated she

wanted adequate, fair health care in Franklin County. Commissioner Mosconis asked who operated the clinic in Carrabelle before DasSee took over. Commissioner Sanders said Dana Holton did. Ms. Robuluck said Centennial, now subleased to DasSee, leases these clinics and then staffs them. She stated they decided who would staff the clinic. Commissioner Mosconis stated he had not talked to the hospital about this matter. He asked if Dr. Nichols clinic has closed. Ms. Robuluck replied that Dr. Sanaullah would be going to Carrabelle for 2 days a week and Dr. Nitsios would be going to Dr. Nichols clinic because Dr. Nitsios was seeing approximately 19 patients and Dr. Nichols was seeing around 30 and Dr. Nichols wanted to move toward retirement. She stated Dr. Nichols clinic would be opened for 3 days a week. She said DasSee would be closing the clinics and the 2 doctors they have brought in under contract would be running the clinics. Commissioner Mosconis said he wanted to tell everybody something before everybody's emotions get overwhelmed and people become irrational. He stated for 4 years the County has not put any money in the hospital. He said the County gave them \$150,000.00 to upgrade the air conditioning system, which he felt was needed. He stated Centennial has paid their rent and the property taxes regularly. Mr. Wade interjected that DasSee is late on their rent and it has not been paid this month. Commissioner Mosconis said prior to Centennial leasing the hospital there was a bad group of people operating the hospital. He stated he did not like the attitudes he sees on all sides of this thing. He said it was counter productive to the community and the future health care of the community. He stated people needed to get off this emotional roller coaster and get real here. He said this thing about the ambulance service is that the County can supplement Emergystat a little bit more money so they can bring these employees up to what they are making now. He stated if they realign or dismiss their people then that is their decision as a private business. He said the ambulance service has been privatized for 17 years. He said he met the new administrator and had lunch with him. Chairman Creamer and Commissioner Sanders asked Commissioner Mosconis why was it that the administrator, Susan Ficklen, etc. only talked to Commissioner Mosconis and none of the other Commissioners. Chairman Creamer said they have never, never contacted him. Commissioner Sanders agreed and said they have never called her either. Commissioner Mosconis said he either goes out to the hospital or calls them every week. He stated he was just eating lunch with his wife when Ms. Ficklen and Mr. Shuler walked in. He explained Ms. Ficklen introduced Mr. Shuler to him. He said he was impressed with Mr. Shuler. He stated the hospital has not been managed like it should have been. Commissioner Mosconis said he was definitely in favor of giving Emergystat another \$5,000.00 a month to help with the ambulance personnel. Chairman Creamer said time is of the essence with this matter. After a lengthy discussion Commissioner Mosconis make a **motion directing the County Attorney, Mr. Shuler, to send a letter, as soon as possible, to Mike Lake, President of DasSee Community Health Systems and Mr. Gene Shuler, George E. Weems Memorial Hospital Administrator requesting their presence at one of the next regularly scheduled Board Meetings.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis said he would also make a **motion tabling the final decision as to whether to formally issue a COPN to Emergystat until a later date.** Mr. Robertson asked Mr. Wade when he should come back to a meeting. Mr. Wade told Mr. Robertson he needed to contact Ms. Varnes, Board Secretary, to schedule a definite time on the agenda. He

reminded Mr. Robertson Franklin County was in the Eastern Standard Time zone and not the Central Time Zone as Mr. Robertson had thought. Mr. Wade said he wanted to also inform the Board that he had written a letter to DasSee requesting a complete original Assignment of Lease from Centennial Health Care and proof of insurance showing Franklin County as Loss Payee or Additional Insured. He said he sent the letter, a copy of which he submitted to the Board, on April 5, 2001 certified mail. He stated it was signed for on April 9, 2001 and as of today he has had no reply to the request. He said he just wanted the Board to be aware of this situation.

**ALAN PIERCE-CONTINUED**

(Tape 2-808) Hank Garrett, a resident of Eastpoint, asked the Board if they had made any progress with having the Eastpoint Channel dredged. Chairman Creamer said the Board had sent letters to the USCOE and DEP asking for a meeting between all parties to be scheduled. He explained he is working on this matter. Mr. Wade said he had also talked to Congressman Boyd. He stated the Board mentioned it to Congressman Boyd at the last meeting when he dropped by. Chairman Creamer said he is hoping to have something scheduled soon.

(Tape 2-827) Mr. Pierce presented the Draft Erosion Control Study for Alligator Point to the Board. He said the report was massive and was completed by Coastal Tech. He said he had 8 copies of the report. Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Pierce how much money this study cost. Mr. Pierce replied approximately \$160,000.00-\$180,000.00 for the study. He said it was funded one-half by FEMA and one-half by DEP. He said in order for the study to be finalized the Board had to schedule a public workshop with the consultants to review the study. He stated there are 5 choices the Board has regarding the Alligator Point Road as follows: 1. Relocation of Alligator Drive along the CR-370 revetment; 2. "No New Action" along the Bald Point beach segment; 3. Dune restoration along the Bald Point beach segment; 4. T-groins/beach fill construction along the CR-370 revetment beach segment; and, 5. Combination of alternatives to be discussed at the BCC Workshop. He asked the Board to go ahead and take action on scheduling a public hearing. Commissioner Williams made a **motion scheduling a public workshop to discuss the Alligator Point/ Bald Point Feasibility & Design Study on June 5, 2001 at 1:00 p.m.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-944) He informed the Board the County is eligible for \$106,415.00 of a one-time appropriation of federal funds related to off shore drilling, called the Coastal Impact Assistance Program. He said he initially thought the County would get approximately \$10,000.00 because of our small population, but the County received more of the money because we are closer to the Louisiana oil fields. He explained how the County could get these funds. He suggested the Board approve and direct the County Engineer to prepare a recommendation for the Board as to how to spend these funds. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion directing the County Engineer to prepare a recommendation of how to spend this one-time appropriation, \$106,415.00, in federal funds related to off shore oil drilling.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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(Tape 2-1210) He asked the Board to direct Mr. Shuler to advise him on the position the County should take regarding condemning 2 houses on Alligator Point in the same area just discussed around Alligator Point. He said one house is promoted as being habitable and is for sale, and the other has been owned by the same owner for some time. He said there appears to be no one trying to live in it. He informed the Board that if the houses are condemned DEP might have funds available to remove the houses, because the houses appear to be below mean high tide now. He said the County can direct him to apply for Flood Mitigation Assistance Program funds and try to get federal funds to buy the houses and move them. He informed the Board he is concerned the house for sale might be purchased by someone unaware of the potential danger of the house, and it might collapse before the County obtains Flood Mitigation Funds. He stated it might be easier for the County to condemn the houses and let DEP move them, than apply for federal funds and the County have to hire a contractor to remove and dispose of the houses. Commissioner Putnal said he would make a **motion directing Mr. Shuler to assist Mr. Pierce with these 2 houses on Alligator Point and his request to have them condemned and have a recommendation ready by the next Board meeting May 15, 2001.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-1352) He said several months ago the Board applied for CDBG funds to make improvements to the Stormwater systems in Eastpoint and Apalachicola. He explained the improvements were restricted to those areas because CDBG funds have to be spent in areas where at least 51% of the full time residents were classified as low or moderate income. He said Taylor County was also eligible for these same funds, but they did not choose to apply. He said since they did not apply the remaining five counties are eligible to share equally in Taylor County's portion. He said he needed Board action to approve increasing the previously approved CDBG project by \$49,000.00. He informed the Board that Mark Curenton, Assistant Planner, went to a meeting Monday and was informed that upon redistributing Taylor County's funds, contracts would be sent out, hopefully by the end of May. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion approving the increase of the previously approved CDBG project by \$49,000.00.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-1388) Mr. Pierce said Kurt Spitzer, the gentleman who came to talk to the Board about redistricting, has not been back in contact with him. He said he would contact him to see how the project is going. He stated the Census has been sending him forms regarding annexation issues, but not about redistricting.

(Tape 2-1400) Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Pierce how the Airport Access Road Project was moving along. Mr. Pierce replied he hadn't heard anything about the project. Commissioner Mosconis asked him to check into this matter. He said the contract, in his opinion, needed to be terminated and the project re-advertised. He said he wanted some immediate action on this project.

**COMMISSIONER PUTNAL-ARPC REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

(Tape 2-1414) Commissioner Putnal said he wanted everyone to know that most of these people stopped paying on their ARPC Revolving Loan at the same time. He said they