

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2001**

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

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

(Tape 1-53) Commissioner Sanders made a **motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 20, 2001.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-57) Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to pay the County bills.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

BILL MAHAN-COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR

(Tape 1-64) Mr. Mahan said he wanted to update the Board on the UF-IFAS budget situation. He said the budget situation doesn't look good. He said the report from Dr. Pete Vergot is UF-IFAS is now planning for the "worse case" budget scenario. He said it is now possible all four 4-H Camps will be closed in addition to Blountstown Aquaculture Farm and some North Florida Research and Education Centers. He explained this would result in some major restructuring of existing programs. He stated, in addition, Dr. Mike Martin, Vice-President of UF-IFAS reported there would be some major changes in how IFAS does business. He said apparently included in the proposed cuts is the elimination of Leslie Sturmer's statewide clam aquaculture responsibilities and travel support. He said, according to Ms. Sturmer, if these budget cuts do occur she would not be able to travel outside the Dixie/Levy County area. He stated this would definitely harm Franklin County because of her expertise with Clam Aquaculture and the newly approved Alligator Harbor Clam Aquaculture Program. Commissioner Sanders asked if a letter opposing the budget cuts, which would affect Ms. Sturmer's traveling to Franklin County to assist with the Aquaculture Program, would help. She said Ms. Sturmer's experience and expertise was definitely needed for the County's new aquaculture program. Mr. Mahan replied he was not sure whom the letter would need to be directed to. He said he felt the Legislators did need to know how important Ms. Sturmer's expertise was to Franklin County and the new aquaculture program. Commissioner Sanders said she would speak to the Legislators about this matter.

(Tape 1-114) He said Mark Barrigan, DACS, and Leslie Sturmer, UF-IFAS, met in Cedar Key on Tuesday, November 27th to review the state's requirements for surveying the Clam Aquaculture Leases. He said Ms. Sturmer prepared a "draft" of the surveying specs and a cover letter for the specs packet and sent them to Mr. Barrigan for approval last week. He explained once final approval is received, the Franklin County "Survey Workgroup" will meet to review the final specs and prepare a bid package.

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(Tape 1-144) He said at the request of the Board and the oyster industry, he and David McClain, ABARK, collected an oyster meat sample on Monday, November 26th from Platform Bar with the help of Joe Shields, DACS. He explained the oyster meats were then sent to Dr. Bob Dickey with United States FDA for toxin extraction and an independent mouse bioassay. He said DACS also sampled from the same spot at the same time and sent their sample to the FMRI Laboratory for testing. He said the FMRI results came back as less than 20 mouse units on Wednesday and Platform Bar was reopened on Thursday. He explained the FDA Laboratory results came back on Friday at 22.4 mouse units and the bar was closed on Saturday. He stated new oyster meat samples were taken on Monday, December 3rd, and the results are expected back on Wednesday. He said during the Monday sampling trip several water samples were taken and they observed a number of dead fish floating in the tide line, just east and West of the Bob Sykes Cut. Commissioner Putnal said they are having a problem in Bay County with Red Tide too.

(Tape 1-209) He said the DACS Vv. Illness Reduction Work Group met on Friday, November 30th, in Tallahassee to update the Florida Vv. Plan. He informed the Board the group made changes in the plan to reflect the wording the ISSC issued and to meet the requirements adopted during the August ISSC meeting.

(Tape 1-237) Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Mahan to let him know immediately if something is changed on the opening of the oyster bars. He said he could inform the oyster harvesters regarding any changes like covering the oysters, etc.

(Tape 1-252) Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Mahan what he was doing locally to help alleviate the budget problems. Mr. Mahan replied there was not a lot he could do locally. He said most of the cuts would affect the outlying areas and not Franklin County as much. He said he is on a number of these committees and he has had some input on trying to find alternative funding for the camps at least.

HUBERT CHIPMAN-SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

(Tape 1-323) Mr. Chipman informed the Board Raymond Hall, the mechanic at the Road Department, is planning to retire in January. He said Mr. Hall's retirement would be a great loss because he does such a good job. He asked the Board for permission to post this position at the Landfill and Road Department in case one of the current employees would be interested in the job. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing Mr. Chipman to post this vacancy at the Landfill and the Road Department and if the vacancy is not filled then authorizing Mr. Chipman to advertise the vacancy in the local newspaper.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis said he wanted to also make a **motion directing the County Attorney to prepare a Resolution of Appreciation for Raymond Hall for his many years of service to Franklin County.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-395) Commissioner Sanders asked Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services, about the FEMA funds the County has to repair McIntyre and Jeff Sanders

Road in the Eastern part of the County. She asked him if there was a deadline on utilizing these funds. Mr. Pierce replied there probably is one, but he didn't know what the date was. He said he wanted to be sure the roads are finished and the project is closed out before there is any likely hood of another disaster such as a flood or a storm event. Commissioner Sanders said she didn't think the repairs should wait. Mr. Pierce agreed and stated FEMA has paid the County for the existing claims on McIntyre and Jeff Sanders Road in the amount of \$180,000.00. He said additional funds would be paid when the project is completed. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Chipman to think about a time frame for completion of these projects. She stated McIntyre Road is used from time to time as an evacuation route during emergencies. She said McIntyre Road was her top priority. Mr. Chipman told Commissioner Sanders he would get to work on these projects.

(Tape 1-462) Commissioner Mosconis said he attended the pre-construction conference regarding the Airport Access Road Project the other day. He informed the Board Mr. Chipman has a lot of in-kind work to do on this project. He stated he wants to make sure this project is kept on schedule. Mr. Chipman said he has most of his equipment at this project as well as a crew dedicated to this particular project. Commissioner Sanders said she wanted some of the crew to start work on McIntyre Road. Mr. Chipman stated he would try to work on the road. He informed the Board he only has one grader and has to use the drag on any other roadwork that has to be done. He said he only has this one road grader. Commissioner Mosconis suggested using some of this FEMA money to rent a motor grader to do the McIntyre and Jeff Sanders Road project. He said the County could rent one for at least a month. Mr. Pierce said the County could use this money to rent a motor grader or other equipment needed to fix the roads. Commissioner Sanders instructed Mr. Chipman and Mr. Pierce to pursue this matter and repair the roads as soon as they could. Mr. Chipman said his work crew was also small due to the opening of hunting season. He stated they work really hard all summer long and they don't take vacations until hunting season.

(Tape 1-559) Commissioner Putnal said an item on the agenda at 10:00 a.m. should probably be discussed before Mr. Chipman leaves the meeting. He stated the residents who live in Beacon Ridge Subdivision, represented by Robert Murray, wanted their roads repaired. Commissioner Putnal said the County has repaired other roads in this area. Chairman Creamer stated it was a private road and not a County road. Commissioner Putnal said the County had already fixed some of the other private roads in that area. He stated a lot of people have moved into this area and the traffic has almost doubled. Mr. Chipman said he rode down this road several weeks ago in his private vehicle and could not believe how many houses had been built there. Alfred Shuler, County Attorney, suggested the residents sign a right-of-way easement. Commissioner Mosconis told Mr. Chipman to go ahead and fix these roads because he didn't have to wait until Mr. Shuler had the paperwork. Commissioner Putnal said if he saw Mr. Murray to tell him the matter had already been addressed and he wouldn't have to come to the meeting this morning. Chairman Creamer asked Mr. Chipman to tell Mr. Murray he would need to get right-of-way easements from the residents in Beacon Ridge Subdivision.

Commissioner Mosconis said the residents should sign a right-of-way easement the County Attorney would prepare for them.

GINGER COULTER-ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER-FCSO

(Tape 1-675) Ms. Coulter said she was at the meeting this morning to request the "second" dollar money, which is received by the County as a \$2.00 assessment to civil traffic fines. She asked the Board if they would authorize the funds be administered by the Sheriff's Office instead of the Board Finance Office. She said this would make everyone jobs easier. She stated the money is used for special training or education for law enforcement. She presented each Commissioner with a copy of the Florida Statute applicable to these funds. After a brief discussion Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the "second" dollar money received from assessments on civil traffic fines to be received and administered through the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

VAN JOHNSON-SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

(Tape 1-739) Chairman Creamer read the following memo sent to the Board by Mr. Johnson into the record: for the Boards information I am taking my annual leave from December 3, 2001 through January 22, 2002. I have left the temporary operation of the department in the capable hands of my Fonda Davis, Assistant Solid Waste Director. Should you have any questions or need anything, I have instructed Mr. Davis to render immediate service. I will be in constant contact with Mr. Davis and if a situation arises I will be on top of it.

ALAN PIERCE-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

(Tape 1-765) Mr. Pierce informed the Board the first County Commission Meeting scheduled for 2002 is Tuesday, January 1st, which is a holiday. He asked the Board if they would reschedule the meeting for Wednesday, January 2nd. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion to reschedule the first County Commission Meeting from Tuesday, January 1st to Wednesday, January 2nd due to the New Year's Holiday and authorizing the advertisement of the change in the local newspaper.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-776) He asked the Board to direct the County Attorney to assist him in following up with the executor of Ms. Addie Mae Stephens' estate regarding the failure to pay the SHIP mortgage on her house. He said no payments had been made on the mortgage recently. He stated they made a few payments and then the payments stopped. Commissioner Williams said he would check with the Stephens' family to see what the problem was and to see if it could be remedied so the payments could be brought current. He stated he would have a representative of the Stephens' family contact Mr. Shuler.

(Tape 1-796) He asked the Board to approve the payment of overtime for the EOC Director, Tim Turner and his secretary, Vickie Moore. He said they assisted the Red Cross, as requested by the Red Cross, to prepare meals in Eastpoint this past weekend. He explained the State Emergency Management Grant funds could be used to pay the overtime. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the payment of**

overtime for EOC Director Tim Turner and his secretary Vickie Moore for assisting the Red Cross in preparing meals in Eastpoint using the State Emergency Grant to fund the overtime. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-816) Commissioner Putnal said Ms. Moore had contacted him about her salary. He stated he was informed by Ms. Moore that she was not being paid what she thought was originally offered to her. Mr. Pierce said he spoke to Ms. Moore in August during the County's Budget Hearings. He stated he and Mr. Turner miscommunicated on the issue of the County raises being discussed during the budget hearings. He said when he spoke to Ms. Moore in August she did not initially take the job. He stated she was not sure if she wanted to change jobs at the time. He said one of the issues was the salary difference. He said he informed her the Board was in the middle of the budget process and it might be possible, if she started work before the end of the Fiscal Year, for her to be eligible for the whatever raises the Board employees would receive. He explained she was not sure the Board would agree to give her the full raise amount because she was not going to start work one month and then get a \$1,200.00 raise the next month. He stated he did not guarantee her this raise, but with his mother's illness and death he just did not follow through on the discussion. He said he didn't realize Ms. Moore had even started working at the EOC. He stated he never really sat down with her and discussed her starting salary and when and if she would get raises. He said she started working at the current salary set by the Board and he never did meet with her to finalize her final salary. He stated Ms. Moore did not get the raise since she began work for the County just two weeks before the end of the Fiscal Year. Chairman Creamer said he thought the starting salary of \$16,000.00 was what everybody else started out at. He stated if the Board agrees to a raise next Fiscal Year then she would be eligible for it. He said Ms. Moore started work at the salary he had informed her it would be, but he said he did mention to her the raise might be forth coming as well.

(Tape 1-898) He submitted information concerning the meeting Representative Will Kendrick and the Governor's Office scheduled in the Courthouse last week. He said there was a general presentation by Ms. Mary Helen Blakeslee, representing the Governor's Office, with specific assistance programs presented by the Small Business Administration (SBA), Children and Family Services, Salvation Army, Red Cross and other groups. He said the SBA would be at the EOC Office at the Apalachicola Airport on Tuesday, December 11, 2001 from 9-5 to accept applications for SBA loans. He presented a copy of the forms sent to DCA completed by some businesses, which helped get the SBA declaration. He said he would give the Board a copy of the fax reflecting the date and time the SBA representatives would be at the airport. He said he needed the Board to approve and adopt a Resolution he had already prepared declaring Franklin County a disaster area because of the Red Tide infestation. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion adopting and authorizing the Chairman's signature on a Resolution declaring Franklin County a disaster area due to the Red Tide.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

BIDS-FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX CONSTRUCTION

(Tape 1-942) Chairman Creamer announced the opening of bids for the Construction of the Franklin County Courthouse Annex. Ms. Amelia Varnes, Board Secretary, opened the bids as follows: The Ingram Group, LLC in the amount of \$1,258,000.00; Bass Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,383,659.00. Mr. Pierce asked the Board to make a motion directing the bids be presented to the architect, Steve Jernigan, AIA, Bay Design Associates, Architects & Planners, for review and recommendation. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion directing the project architect to review the bids and return to the Board with a recommendation.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Pierce said he knew both of these bids were over budget for the project.

ALAN PIERCE-CONTINUED

(Tape 1-981) Mr. Pierce continued his report at this time and asked Mr. Turner to update the Board of how much food has been given out and how and when other food deliveries might occur for the oyster harvesters. Mr. Turner said they were asked to conduct a food program for the out-of-work oyster harvesters. He stated through the "Helping Hands" ministry they placed about 250,000 pounds of food into the community. He said they have made contact with the Governor's Office and the USDA for the "Farm Share" Program. He stated they are expecting more donations of food. He stated they would continue to assist these people. He thanked the Board for allowing the use of one of the larger County trucks for transporting this food, etc. He said Mr. Chipman was a big assistance as well.

ROBERT MURRAY-BEACON RIDGE SUBDIVISION

(Tape 1-1030) Mr. Pierce recognized Robert Murray at this time. Mr. Murray said he understood this matter has already been discussed and asked the Board what he needed to do to expedite his request for road repairs in the Beacon Ridge Subdivision in Carrabelle. He presented the Board with a petition signed by the residents of Beacon Ridge Subdivision. Mr. Pierce informed Mr. Murray the County would need right-of-way easements from all of the property owners who own part of the road. He said the County would need their consent. He asked Mr. Murray to furnish a list of people who either lived on the road or owned part of the road. He said then the County Attorney could prepare the easements for signature. Mr. Murray said he would take care of getting the list and then checking with Mr. Shuler. Commissioner Mosconis instructed Mr. Murray to contact Mr. Shuler as soon as the meeting was over for instructions. Mr. Murray assured the Board he would check with Mr. Shuler about exactly what was needed to remedy this situation.

ALAN PIERCE-CONTINUED

(Tape 1-1079) Mr. Pierce said he would continue his report. He stated, at the last meeting, the Board directed him to send the County Engineer, David Kennedy, to Alligator Point to look at the area where there have been some vandalism at the intersection of Alligator Point Road and Gulf Shore Blvd. He said Mr. Kennedy was unable, due to time constraints, to go over to Alligator Point, but he would be able to go down there within the next week or so.

(Tape 1-1096) He asked the Board where they would like for the Dog Island VFD's MSBU funds should be sent since their contract with the County expired November 30, 2001. He said the Board had a one-year contract with the DIVFD. Commissioner Sanders said she thought there were some problems. She stated she instructed Mr. Becker Boatenreiter, DIVFD Chief, and the Dog Island Conservation District to try and get along with each other. She stated she had received some complaints from the residents on Dog Island. She said she knew everyone was not going to be happy. She asked Mr. Boatenreiter if he was providing the services the VFD was supposed to be providing to the citizens there. Mr. Boatenreiter replied he and the VFD was doing a good job and if she would check some of these people complaining are not even voters. Commissioner Sanders stated she didn't care if they voted or not they were property owners. She said she thought the VFD was used as a power on Dog Island and this should not happen. Discussion continued and Commissioner Sanders discussed an audit with Mr. Boatenreiter and the Board. The Board agreed an audit would be cost prohibitive since there was a small amount of MSBU funds being sent to the DIVFD anyway. Commissioner Sanders said she would meet with Mr. Boatenreiter and try to make a decision as to whether the contract should be awarded to the DIVFD or the Conservation District. Mr. Boatenreiter said he had kept the Board informed of all the financial matters of the VFD. Commissioner Mosconis said the agreement needed to be signed or agreed on today. Commissioner Sanders suggested she meet with Mr. Boatenreiter to review the financial statements of the DIVFD. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion renewing the MSBU contract for Dog Island with the Dog Island Volunteer Fire Department contingent on Commissioner Sanders' approval.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1507) Mr. Pierce said, at the last Board Meeting, there was a presentation by the Franklin County United Firefighters and a request submitted for the Board to schedule a public hearing to consider raising the MSBU assessment to \$70.00 per house. He stated the Board agreed to have a meeting, but never set a time or place. He asked the Board if they would like to schedule a meeting now. Commissioner Mosconis said he would make a **motion authorizing the scheduling of a public hearing to consider raising the base MSBU assessment to \$70.00 on January 15, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis said he just wanted to have a public hearing to discuss this matter. He stated the Board would not adopt an ordinance at this time.

(Tape 1-1603) He submitted a letter from FDOT regarding the FDOT Tentative 5-Year Work Program. He said the letter states there would be no changes in the work plan for Franklin County in the next 5 years.

(Tape 1-1618) He presented a letter he mailed to Ms. Kimberly Shoemaker, Executive Director, Gulf Coast Workforce Board, Inc., asking her to come to a Board meeting in the near future to discuss the Workforce's 5-year Plan they submitted for Board approval.

(Tape 1-1641) He asked the Board if they would like to continue the County's membership with Opportunity Florida. He said the dues are \$1,105.70. Commissioner