

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 15, 2002**

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

**ABSENT:** Eddie Creamer, Chairman

**9:00 A.M.** Vice-Chairperson Cheryl Sanders called the meeting to order.

(Tape 1-45) Commissioner Williams made a **motion approving the minutes of the meeting held on January 2, 2002.** Commissioner Putnal 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.**

(Tape 1-66) Commissioner Putnal said the Board did something at the last Board meeting that he has had second thoughts about. He stated after speaking to several people he thought the County could save around \$5,000.00 on the Apalachicola Airport T-Hangar Project. He explained he met with Joe Smith, FDOT Aviation, regarding the motion Commissioner Mosconis made at the last meeting authorizing Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services, to negotiate with Preble-Rish, Inc., about overseeing the construction of the T-Hangars. He said Preble-Rish, Inc., does need to approve the site plan, but the County does not need them to oversee the construction because Mr. Smith informed him it wasn't necessary. He stated the Franklin County Building Official can provide these services and he is already on the County's payroll. Mr. Pierce said the problem is there isn't anybody really in charge of the airport right now. He stated the former County Engineer, Joe Hamilton, has now retired and moved to Oklahoma, oversaw the previous T-Hangar Project. He said Mr. Hamilton was a qualified Engineer. He explained there are other issues like the site plan; then when the maintenance hangar is started someone will have to prepare the actual plans. He said FDOT would pay 80% of the \$5,000.00 anyway so the County would only have to pay 20%. He stated the actual contract price was 1 ½% of construction and that is approximately \$5,200.00. Ted Mosteller, Chairman Apalachicola Advisory Committee, said he thought the Committee should schedule an emergency meeting to discuss this problem and return to the Board with a recommendation. Commissioner Mosconis said he also wanted Mr. Pierce to send a letter to Mr. Smith asking him to put the statement in writing that it would be all right to bypass this portion of the project.

**HUBERT CHIPMAN-SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

(Tape 1-352) Mr. Chipman said he was going to have to wait until the roads dry out some before they can be graded. He stated they should have some asphalt to fix some of

the roads. He explained the recent rain has caused a lot of damage to the dirt roads as well as created a lot of potholes in the paved roads.

(Tape 1-367) He asked the Board for permission to purchase the equipment he was budgeted during the budget workshops. Kendall Wade, the Clerk, said the County has not been cut, by the State, like everybody thought would happen. He said the County is in a position to follow the adopted budget. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing Mr. Chipman to purchase the equipment he was budgeted during the Budget Workshops.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-399) Mr. Pierce informed the Board the County is preparing to repave the south half of Highway 67 from Highway 98 to Gully Branch Road. He said the engineering firm, Baskerville-Donovan, Inc., working on behalf of the City of Carrabelle, will be installing utility lines in the area the County is going to repave the road. He stated they would like to request the County allow them to open cut the roads to place the utility lines in. He said since the County is going to resurface the road anyway now it the time them to open cut the road. He asked the Board to approve this request for authorization to open-cut County Road 67 in ten (10) instances between Highway 98 and Avenue H in Carrabelle. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing Baskerville-Donovan, Inc. to open-cut County Road 67 in ten (10) instances between Highway 98 and Avenue H for the Carrabelle Water and Sewer Improvement Project.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **KENDALL WADE-CLERK**

(Tape 1-495) Mr. Wade said he would like to mention something while all of the Department Heads were present this morning. He stated his office is in the process of placing all of the County payroll and the Clerk's payroll on electronic fund transfer status. He said, at the present time, his office is working out any problems they might have with the software. He stated if there is any employee that does not have a checking or savings account they need to be informed so they can open one.

#### **VAN JOHNSON-SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

(Tape 1-584) Mr. Johnson informed the Board he had hired Catherine "Nikki" Barrack to fill the Secretary/Clerk position at the Solid Waste Department. He stated he wanted the Board to know Ms. Barrack has about six years of actual scale house experience making her very suitable for this position. Mr. Johnson said he had approximately twenty-five applications submitted; he interviewed nine and then selected Ms. Barrack.

#### **ALAN PIERCE-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

(Tape 1-603) Mr. Pierce announced the Emergency Management Director's new secretary was unable to complete her probationary period and therefore Mr. Turner, EOC Director, will have to hire someone else. He informed the Board Mr. Turner might use Mr. Johnson's applications to select candidates for interviews.

**BILL MAHAN-COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR**

(Tape 1-630) Mr. Mahan said he had attached, for the Commissioners information, a copy of the press release that Dr. Mike Martin, VP for Agriculture and Natural Resources wrote on the current IFAS Budget situation.

(Tape 1-659) He informed the Board Congressman Allen Boyd has acquired \$500,000.00 for research on the post harvest treatment of oysters through USDA. He explained USDA has notified UF-IFAS that \$374,000.00 would be available for research if UF-IFAS researchers submit a proposal to them. He said yesterday, the Oyster Dealer's Association held a meeting with UF-IFAS researchers to tell them what type of research they would like to see done. He said the dealers decided, short-term they would like to see additional research on freezing and in the long-term irradiation.

(Tape 1-842) He explained the bid specs for the Alligator Harbor Clam Aquaculture Use Area have been sent to surveyors throughout North and Central Florida requesting bids to survey the area. He said the deadline for proposals is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 18, 2002. He stated the Aquaculture Survey Committee would meet next week to review the bids and hopes to select a firm for the job within the next few weeks. He announced the Governor and Cabinet would meet this month, January 29<sup>th</sup>, to approve the final list of lease applicants.

(Tape 1-877) He said Dave Harrington, Georgia Sea Grant, and Gary Graham, Texas Sea Grant have asked him, to setup a meeting with local shrimpers to discuss ways to better document social and economic impacts on the industry due to regulations. He said these men would be in Franklin County from February 4-6 along with National Marine Fisheries economist Mike Travis to meet with shrimp industry representatives. He said he attached a copy of the meeting flier they are sending out explaining why they are here to the Commissioners individual packages this morning.

(Tape 1-906) He informed the Board the interviews for the FYN and FNP/EFNEP Agent Positions would be held in the county on February 11, 2002. He said the FYN Agent would focus on water quality issues and covers Bay, Franklin and Gulf Counties. He said the FNP/EFNEP Agent position would focus on nutrition, health and budgeting issues and would cover Franklin and Wakulla Counties. He informed the Board there were only two applicants for each of the positions.

(Tape 1-950) Commissioner Sanders said she was approached by the prospective Clam Aquaculture Farmers to see if the County could furnish them some signs. She stated they need fourteen signs specifying or delineating the clam harvest area. She said she talked to DeWitt Polous at the Road Department to get a general ideal as to how much each sign would cost. She stated they have to be two-feet by two-feet, but she really doesn't know exactly what wording would have to be placed on the signs. She asked the Board if they would be willing to authorize this expenditure. Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Mahan if he couldn't meet with Mr. Polous and coordinate the purchase and design of these signs. Mr. Mahan agreed to check with Mr. Polous. He stated right now they are seeing what the exact language needs to be placed on the signs. He said the signs would

be on the main corner posts that designate the lease areas. He stated they have to be International Orange and reflective, etc. Mr. Pierce asked who would be liable if someone ran into one of these signs. Mr. Mahan answered that the clam farmers would be responsible once they are in place. Commissioner Sanders said this is exactly what Mark Barrigan, DACS, told her.

(Tape 1-1027) Commissioner Mosconis said with Emergency Management short a secretary and with the budget crunch why couldn't Mr. Mahan share his secretary with Mr. Turner. Mr. Pierce answered they are in the same building. He said Mr. Turner's position is totally funded through the State. He explained Mr. Mahan would rather not share a secretary since the last time he tried to share a secretary he could never find her because she was always doing something for him. Mr. Mahan stated it would be a tough mix since the departments are so different with so many different things going on.

(Tape 1-1067) Mr. Pierce asked if the purchase of these signs mentioned earlier needs to be approved by the Board. Commissioner Sanders said she thought so. She stated they need fourteen signs. After discussion Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the expenditure of up to \$500.00 from the Road Department Budget to purchase these fourteen signs needed for the Alligator Harbor Clam Aquaculture Project.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **BARRY GILBERT-DASSEE COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS**

(Tape 1-1150) Barry Gilbert, Administrator of George E. Weems Memorial Hospital, said he was here this morning because he was invited to this meeting. He said he would be glad to answer any questions the Board had for him. He was here to possibly update the Board of what is going on at the hospital. He said his role as administrator was to administer corporate policy and to develop local hospital policy. He stated he joined the DasSee team as of last July and became involved with the heating and air conditioning project already in progress at the hospital. He said the hospital still wanted to install a CAT scan and other equipment for diagnostic services. He stated this is needed in Franklin County. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Gilbert why the hospital locked its doors during the night. She stated some citizens had complained to her the hospital doors had been locked when they went there for medical care. He answered the front doors are locked because things are placed in the lobby and they might be stolen. He said the sliding ER doors are shut off and a button is there for anyone to press that needs ER care. He stated after a certain time of night, for protection, they do lock those doors. He said all anyone has to do is press the button. Commissioner Sanders asked him if DasSee was financially sound and she stated she has a real problem with them being continually being late on their rental payments. He replied Mr. Michael Lake, President of DasSee Community Health Systems, LLC, would be better prepared to answer this question. He said Mr. Lake has sent a letter to the Board of County Commissioners and stated he is sure each Commissioner has a copy. He stated the letter informs the Board as to when and how the back payments will be made or brought current within 30 to 45 days. Dr. Photis Nichols was present at the meeting and asked the Chairperson to allow him to speak. Dr. Nichols said two years ago when DasSee came to the Board to request permission to assume the hospital lease they informed the public and the Commissioners

they had a 2 million dollar line of credit. He said they shouldn't have any problems paying their rent. He stated they also promised to have a state of the art diagnostic center in place within a year or so. He stated they still have not gotten a diagnostic center up and operating. He said they have problems paying their rent. He said he is afraid the County is in real trouble by allowing this company to continue to operate the hospital. After a lengthy discussion between the Board, Dr. Nichols, and Mr. Gilbert Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion directing the County Attorney, Mr. Shuler, to send a letter to Mr. Michael C. Lake, President, DasSee Community Health Systems, LLC, requesting they bring their rent current and keep the rental payments current.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion and said he wanted to make sure Centennial Health Care Systems got a copy of the letter since they have subleased the hospital to DasSee. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **DORIS PENDLETON-PROPERTY APPRAISER-SUMATRA CEMETERY**

(Tape 1-2189) Ms. Pendleton said she was here today to address the Sumatra Cemetery. She stated the cemetery is on the County line between Franklin and Liberty County. She explained the cemetery is considered in Franklin County. She asked the Board to give her clarification if this cemetery is considered a County cemetery or a private cemetery. She informed the Board she has researched the deed records and found one old deed and as far as she can tell it is not a private cemetery. She said the property is not being taxed and therefore she would assume it is not a private cemetery. Commissioner Mosconis asked her if cemeteries were taxed in any case. She replied she would assume, but she wasn't sure. She said she felt if it was a private, family owned plot then she would think it would need to be taxed. She stated this matter has been in dispute a long, long time. She said the last deed she found titled the property at the "Sumatra Cemetery". Commissioner Sanders said she thought the County used inmates to clean this cemetery. Ms. Pendleton said the last deed she found reflects there is a 320-acre piece of property with 2-acres cut out for the cemetery. She stated Mr. Drew Branch is the owner of the property and deeded the whole 320-acre plot except the 2-acres, which is the Sumatra Cemetery. She said she really doesn't know to whom it belongs, but if it belongs to Franklin County then the County should maintain it. Ms. Pendleton reiterated this matter needs to be solved. Commissioner Mosconis said the County would continue to do work at the cemetery in any case. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion directing the County Attorney to work with the Property Appraiser in acquiring a deed to the cemetery and see if the deed can't be conveyed to the County.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Shuler said a title search needed to be done since a professional title searcher maybe could find more than he could. He stated he didn't think there was any other deeds other than the one Ms. Pendleton mentioned. Bill Bouington, a resident of Franklin County, said he has a lot of his family buried there and he would like a resolution to this problem. Ms. Pendleton said she researched all the way back to 1932 and the Apalachicola State Bank had all of that property. She stated even then there was a less and except of one-acre for the cemetery. She said she has researched this property as far back as possible and she still doesn't have a clear idea as to who owns it. Ms. Pendleton said some type of trustees or committee should be appointed to this cemetery if and when it ever gets straightened out.

(Tape 1-2541) Mr. Pierce said Kim Shoemaker, Gulf Coast Workforce Board, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on the Agenda has cancelled and would not be present this morning.

**TRAVIS MILLENDER-EASTPOINT CHANNEL DREDGING**

(Tape 1-2622) Mr. Millender said he was here this morning concerning the problem of the Eastpoint Channel needing to be dredged out. He asked what could be done about the Channel. He stated it is to the point where he has to bring his shrimp boat into Scipio Creek in Apalachicola because the Channel cannot be used. He said he knows there is money that is not being made because their boats are on the hill in Eastpoint. He stated a lot of the boats have hit ground in the middle of the Channel. He asked what would have to be done, who would have to be seen, etc. to have something done and done immediately about dredging the Eastpoint Channel. He stated it is totally impassable. The Commissioners, Mr. Pierce and Mr. Wade told Mr. Millender they had numerous meetings with DEP and USCOE and have written dozens of letters about the problem. They informed Mr. Millender the only thing they knew to do would be to send another letter to DEP, since they felt this is what the hold up was, informing them of this situation. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature and directing Mr. Pierce to send a letter to DEP, USCOE, US Representative Allen Boyd and US Congressman Bob Graham and anyone else who Mr. Pierce thinks could help with this situation and inform them of the urgency of this situation with the Eastpoint Channel.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**ALAN PIERCE-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

(Tape 1-3328) Mr. Pierce informed the Board Governor Bush informed Representative Will Kendrick on Friday FEMA had denied the Governor's request to have Franklin County declared a Presidential disaster due to the red tide event. He said Representative Kendrick was going to Washington to appeal the FEMA decision.

(Tape 1-3395) He presented the Board with the 2001 Year End Building Report. He stated construction was up tremendously this year not only in number, but also in value. He stated in the year 2000 Franklin County had 125 housing starts; \$205,000.00 in permit fees and in the year 2001 Franklin County had 170 housing starts; \$245,000.00 in permit fees. He said this was a very strong year. Commissioner Mosconis said Franklin County needed a new school in the County and this is where it could come from.

(Tape 1-3435) He presented the Board with a letter from Senator Bob Graham regarding the sand dredged from the Apalachicola River being sent to South Florida. He said the letter basically reassured the citizens of Franklin County he would be checking into the matter.

(Tape 1-3458) He submitted a letter from Joe Smith, FDOT Aviations Manager, authorizing the Notice to Proceed on the Airport Access Road Project. He said this would allow C. W. Roberts to do the relocation of the access road to the Industrial Park at the Apalachicola Airport.

(Tape 1-3468) He said he would need Board action for the Chairman to sign the FDOT Access Permit for connection of the new Apalachicola Airport Access Road to US Highway 98. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the FDOT Access Permit for connection of the new Apalachicola Airport Access Road to US Highway 98.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-3487) He then asked the Board to sign the actual Notice to Proceed for C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. to construct the new road. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the Notice to Proceed for the Apalachicola Airport Access Road Project for C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-3548) He asked the Board to approve his signature on behalf of the Chairman on the contract for the Ingram Group LLC to construct the Courthouse Annex. He said the Chairman was unavailable to sign the contract and Mr. Shuler had approved the contract. He explained rather than making a representative of the Ingram Group come back another day he called the Chairman and received his authorization to sign his name for him. He said Mr. Shuler informed him he would need Board action authorizing the Chairman to designate him to sign his name on this particular contract. He presented the Board with a copy of the contract, along with the associated bonds, the Performance and Bid Bonds. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing Mr. Pierce to sign the contract with the Ingram Group LLC for construction of the Courthouse Annex as the Chairman's designee.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-3551) He submitted a letter from DEP with the executed amendment to the SGI County Park FRDAP Project No. F20009. He said this would extend the project until June 30, 2002.

(Tape 2-1) Mr. Pierce said he would need Board action to authorize the submission, by Preble-Rish, Inc., of three projects for some leftover FDOT funds from the County Incentive Grant Program. He said the CIGP pays 35% of the cost of construction of roads that reduce congestion on state highways. He explained since the County is paying to have CR 67 resurfaced he had asked the County Engineer, David Kennedy, to check around the other parts of the County, which might have qualifying roads. He said Mr. Kennedy recommends the County submit Patton Drive in Eastpoint-the cutoff from US 98 to Island Drive, South Bayshore Drive in Eastpoint-also connects Island Drive with US 98 toward Apalachicola and then Water Street in Apalachicola. He informed the Board the strategy Mr. Kennedy recommends the Board follow is to apply for the 35% funding for the cost of the project and then also apply for the waiver of the County match, which means if these projects are funded the County would receive 35% of the County estimated construction costs from the State, and then the County would be responsible for the 65%. He explained, if this happens, the waiver would then have 35% of the funds and with the waiver the County would not be responsible for funding the other 65%, meaning the County could do as much paving on these three roads as possible with State

funds. He stated if the County wanted to "kick in" County funds it could, but the County would not be obligated. He said if the County does apply for the 35% and does not ask for the waiver then the County would be required to pay the 65%, which might utilize most of the County's Gas Tax on just those three roads. He explained if the waiver is denied the Commissioners could refuse the CIGP. He stated, since these are leftover funds FDOT has allotted the County; they have given the County a deadline of February 1, 2002 to apply. He stated only eight counties are eligible to apply of which we are one of them. He asked the Board for action on Mr. Kennedy's recommendation. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion to follow Mr. Kennedy's recommendation as submitted by Mr. Pierce regarding the CIGP program.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-52) He informed the Board the Fish and Wildlife Commission informed Mark Curenton, Assistant Planner, the County would receive \$70,800.00 instead of \$8,000.00 for the Derelict Vessel Removal Project. He said he is just waiting on the revised contract from the State.

(Tape 2-62) He submitted a memo from Mr. Curenton to him informing him the Planning and Zoning Office has received another complaint about Randy Harrelson's motorcycle repair business in Lanark Village. Mr. Pierce said this is a continuing problem in Lanark Village. Bonnie Dietz, President of the Lanark Village Association, said they have complained numerous times about this problem to the Board and the Planning Office. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Shuler if the Board didn't direct him to send Mr. Harrelson a letter or something. Mr. Shuler replied he did send a letter to him and said it obviously didn't do any good either. Commissioner Mosconis said he would make a **motion directing the County Attorney to send a letter to Mr. Harrelson informing him that if he doesn't cease his business activity in Lanark Village the County will file a complaint with the State Attorney's Office.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ms. Dietz said she knew Mr. Harrelson was in violation of the Lanark Village Nuisance Ordinance. Mr. Shuler agreed and said he would send a threatening letter to Mr. Harrelson.

(Tape 2-137) He said he was asked by Mr. Curenton to remind the Board two new members are still needed on the CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee to replace Lynn Page and Linda Crosby. Mr. Robert Benson, Lanark Village, a member of the audience volunteered to serve on this committee. Commissioner Sanders said she would like to see someone like Mr. Benson appointed to the Committee since a lot of CDBG work was going to be done in the Lanark Village area. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion appointing Robert Benson, Lanark Village, to the CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Pierce said then there was only one vacancy remaining on this committee and asked the Commissioners to be thinking about an appointee.

(Tape 2-279) He said Mr. Curenton would also like to request the Board authorize his submission of the payment in lieu of taxes for this year. He said the County would be

requesting \$164,390.65, which is \$1,956.72 above last year's amount. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the submission of a request for Franklin County's Payment-in-Lieu of Taxes in the amount of \$164,390.65 to the State of Florida.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-293) He said he also needs, as requested by Mr. Curenton, the approval of the application contract and the administration contract with Roumelis Planning and Development Services, Inc. for the submission of a CDBG. He informed the Board Mr. Shuler has approved the contracts, but did want the Board to be advised that if this company submits a grant and it is funded and the Board elects not to accept the grant then the Board would still owe Roumelis Planning and Development Services, Inc. \$10,000.00 for her submission, work, etc. on the grant application. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion approving the Application Contract with Roumelis Planning and Development Services, Inc. and authorizing the Chairman's signature on the contract.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion approving the Administration Contract with Roumelis Planning and Development Services, Inc. and authorizing the Chairman's signature on the contract.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-384) He said the Planning and Zoning Commissioner met in regular session on January 8, 2002 and recommends the following action: Approval for Alice Collins to construct a private dock on Lot 1, Block B, Magnolia Bluff, Eastpoint. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion approving a private dock for Alice Collins in Eastpoint.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Approval for Robert Wilgres to construct a private dock on Lot 6, Block L, Peninsular Point, Unit 2, Alligator Point. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion approving a private dock for Robert Wilgres in Alligator Point.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Approval for Roger and Dale Holleger to construct a private dock on Lot 13 of Watkin's Cove Subdivision, SGI. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion approving a private dock for Roger and Dale Holleger on SGI.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Approval for Peter Cromwell to construct a private dock on Lot 21, Block A, Gulf Wynn Subdivision, Lanark Village. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion approving a private dock for Peter Cromwell in Lanark Village.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Sanders asked about the request for a dock submitted by Odie Lazslow. Mr. Pierce said Mr. Lazslow's property was in the City of Carrabelle and therefore he would have to approach them for approval. Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Pierce if he had found out who is responsible for lighting these docks. He said he had asked this question before. Mr. Pierce said the State is responsible for the permitting and therefore they or the property owner would be responsible. Commissioner Putnal said he wanted to make a **motion directing Mr. Shuler to send a letter to the various State agencies requesting information and opinions about who is ultimately responsible for lighting these docks.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Pierce said the Planning and Zoning Commission heard the following rezoning

requests: Mr. Jimmy Miller for 46 acres of property in Eastpoint. The first part of the 46 acres had been rezoned to R-2 from R-4 almost two years ago, and a subdivision had been approved, but Mr. Miller has decided he is not going to finish the subdivision and instead wants to re-divide the property into nine five acre tracts for commercial storage and warehousing. The request is to change the 16 acres of R-2 to C-4 and the remaining 30 acres of R-4 to C-4. In a 4-3 vote the Commission recommends rezoning all of the 46 acres to C-4. The difference between R-4 and C-4 is that R-4 requires someone to live on the property and C-4 does not. The Board would need to approve the scheduling of a public hearing to decide this land use and rezoning matter and if Mr. Miller chooses to submit all 46 acres for rezoning and land use change he would have to deed it in 10 acre parcel to avoid it being considered a large scale land use change. The Board, after discussion, decided to table this issue until a later date. The Commission recommends another small rezoning and land use change from R-1 to C-4 on Lots 5, 7, 8, and 9, Block 7, David Brown Estates, Eastpoint, request submitted by Eddie Creamer. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the scheduling of a public hearing to consider a land use and rezoning change submitted by Eddie Creamer from R-1 to C-4 on Lots 5, 7, 8, and 9, Block 7, David Brown Estates in Eastpoint.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** The Commission also approved the final plat for Magnolia Ridge Subdivision. There is no action by the Board as the Board approved it at the last meeting contingent on Planning and Zoning. However, there is a need by the Board to direct its Road Department and engineering firm to realign Twin Lakes Road so that it is in the middle of its right-of-way so it intersects North Bayshore Drive properly. He requested Board action to relocate the road, which is currently unpaved, but the developers might be paving. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to follow the Engineers recommendation to realign Twin Lakes Road so the middle of its right-of-way intersects North Bayshore Drive.** Commissioner Sanders said she wanted to be sure Mr. Chipman was aware of this situation. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** The Commissioner recommends the Board recognize a scrivener's error on a single lot at 1 Pine Drive west of Apalachicola. The lot has been continuously used by John and Roxie Allen as a trucking repair area and storage area. The zoning map shows the area R-4, but nobody has ever lived on the property and yet there has been a business on the property continuously for over twenty years. The Commission recommends the Board direct the County Attorney to consult with the County Planner to determine whether its best to designate the lot C-4, like the surrounding land, or Industrial which is more in keeping with the lot's actual use. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion to direct the County Attorney and the County Planner to determine whether its best to designate the lot C-4, like the surrounding land, or Industrial which is more in keeping with the lot's actual use.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** The Commissioner discussed the Rodney Glass situation and the consensus was that his property not be rezoned to allow seafood processing in a residential area, but to instead seek ways to create some C-1 zoning off the waterfront. The Commission is highly concerned that moving traditional seafood uses off the waterfront will open up the Eastpoint waterfront to other uses, such as restaurants, and other tourist uses. He said the Board didn't need to take any action on this matter today, but this is what the Planning and Zoning Commission would like to see happen. The Commission recommended

approval for a sketch plat "Green Land Subdivision" a 32-lot subdivision owned by Jim Green in Lanark Village. The property is already zoned R-1. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion approving the sketch plat for "Green Land Subdivision" a 32-lot subdivision owned by Jim Green in Lanark Village.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Sanders said she would like to thank Mr. Green for his assistance in eliminating his problem with the road in Lanark Village.

(Tape 2-928) Mr. Pierce reminded the Board about the meeting at 1:00 p.m. concerning the M.S.B.U. rates with the Franklin County Fire Fighter's Association.

#### **KENDALL WADE-CLERK OF COURTS**

(Tape 2-936) Mr. Wade said he just wanted everyone to know site preparation had begun on the new Courthouse Annex beside the Courthouse.

(Tape 2-972) Bonnie Dietz, LVA, said she would like to ask the Board to do something about the problem at the Y-intersection of US 319 and US 98. She asked the Board what they could do about the problem. Commissioner Sanders said the Board had written numerous letters to FDOT and they had done a traffic study at the site. Commissioner Mosconis said he would suggest the County send FDOT a letter about placing additional signs in that area. Commissioner Sanders said she would hope they would put some blinking signs at that site. The Commissioners instructed Mr. Pierce to send a letter to the new private company, VMS, which has contracted with FDOT to provide signage, maintenance, etc. to the State roads requesting additional signage at this intersection. Mr. Pierce said he would send a letter to VMS and send a copy to FDOT. Jack DePriest, a resident of this area, said his mother had an accident there. He stated people not coming to a complete stop at the "STOP" sign cause 99% of the accidents. He said most people just run those "STOP" signs.

#### **ALFRED SHULER-COUNTY ATTORNEY**

(Tape 2-1106) Mr. Shuler updated the Board on several projects he is working on. He presented the Board with a copy of a letter he mailed to Mr. William Martin regarding beach access between Lot 6 and Lot 7, Block E, Unit 3, SGI as directed by the Board.

(Tape 2-1182) Mr. Shuler said he sure hoped he was wrong, but was sure the Eastpoint Channel was not going to be dredged until a spoil site could be decided on. He stated he thought it would be troublesome and most expensive to acquire a spoil site. He said as time goes by land becomes even more valuable and it would even be more difficult to acquire a site.

(Tape 2-1267) He stated he had reviewed the Valery Insurance Agency "Agreement to Provide Coverage" for the Board's approval. He said he did want to notify all of the retired County Employees that this was a voluntary program and not mandatory for them to enroll in this insurance coverage. Commissioner Putnal said he would go ahead and make a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the "Agreement to Provide Coverage" submitted by Valery Insurance Agency contingent on the statement that**

**this is strictly on a volunteer basis and not a requirement for the retired County Employees and that the Valery Agency notify all the retirees of this before agree to this coverage.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED UNTIL 1:00 P.M.**

**1:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS RECONVENED AT THIS TIME**

(Tape 2-1489) Chairperson Sanders opened the meeting at this time and informed the Board and audience this meeting was to discuss the proposed rate hikes in the M.S.B.U. Assessments and submitted by the Franklin County Fire Fighters Association.

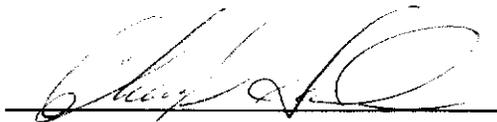
(Tape 2-1490) Mr. Wade asked if he could address the Board before the discussion about the rate hikes begin. He stated he had just received a letter from the Office of the State Attorney's Office, Second Judicial Circuit of Florida, Pat Owens, Fiscal Administrator requesting the County authorizing the movement of money from the Expert Witness Fee Budget, Category 4901, to Library Services, Category 5410. He said the letter states the State Attorney's Office has used all of the budgeted funds in the Library Services budget. He said they are asking the Board for permission to move \$2,000.000 from Expert Witness Fees to Library Services. Mr. Wade informed the Board this would only leave \$1,000.00 in the Expert Witness Fee Budget. He said he knew there were several high profile trials, which should be tried in the near future and stated there was also eight more months remaining in the budget year. He stated he is afraid the State of Florida has cut their budget and they are trying to move County funds around for them to use. He said the Court can order the County to pay any expert witness fees even if the budgeted amount has been spent. He stated he is really concerned about this request. He said he would hate for the County to use funds from the County's Contingency Fund to pay for expert witness fees. He presented each Commissioner with a copy of the letter. Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Wade why he didn't call State Attorney Willie Meggs and express the County's concerns to him. Mr. Wade said he would contact Mr. Meggs to see what could be done and then he would report back to the Board at the next Board Meeting.

(Tape 2-1551 Continued on Tape 3) Chairperson Sanders said this meeting was to hear input from the members of the Franklin County United Firefighters Association. The following citizens and members of their local Volunteer Fire Departments urged the Commissioners to go ahead and increase the M.S.B.U. Assessment; John Chandler, LVVFD; Earl Morton, APVFD; Ed Robinson, LVVFD; Becker Boatenreiter, Chief, DIVFD; Steve Fling, Chief, APVFD; Jay Abbott, Chief, SGIVFD; George Pruitt, EPVFD; Bud Evans, Chief, LVVFD; and Don Johnson, EPVFD. Jack Depreist, a motel owner, from the east end of the County voiced his concerns about raising the assessment from \$28.00 to \$70.00 for single family residences; the increase in multi-family rental units from \$28.00 with a maximum of \$250.00 to \$70.00 per unit with no maximum; the increase of mobile home per rental spaces from \$10.00 per unit-minimum of \$100.00-maximum of \$250.00 to \$20.00 per space-minimum of \$200.00-maximum \$500.00; the

increase of travel trailer and recreational vehicle rental spaces from \$50.00 minimum-\$3.00 per space over 10 spaces-\$250.00 maximum to \$100.00 minimum-\$6.00 per space over 10 spaces-\$500.00 maximum; Motels, Hotels, Inns from \$5.00 per unit minimum \$50.00-maximum \$250.00 to include Bed & Breakfast \$10.00 per unit-\$100 minimum-\$500.00 maximum; the increase of commercial establishments from \$50.00 per building-maximum \$150.00 to \$100.00 per building-maximum \$300.00; multiple business activities from \$250.00 to \$500.00; platted vacant lots accessible by roads which have no present assessment. A letter was presented from the Alligator Point Taxpayers Association expressing their full support for the proposed M.S.B.U. increases. A letter, which had been faxed, from R. L. Caleen, Jr., Vice-Chairman and Attorney for the Conservation Board, Dog Island Conservation District reflecting their strong opposition for the increases and the reason for their opposition. Chuck Marks, Marks Insurance Agency, said the insurance rates had decreased because of the volunteer fire departments and the first responder units. Bud Evans, Chief, LVVFD, said he is always short of money and right now is approximately \$7,000.00 short for the insurance premium. The Tax Collector, James A. Harris, Jr., and the Property Appraiser, Doris Pendleton, attended the meeting to listen to the discussion and offer some suggestions.

Commissioner Mosconis suggested using a phase in procedure for the \$70.00 assessment. He said this would help people ease into paying a higher assessment. Commissioner Mosconis said was concerned about the platted vacant lots being assessed and what the definition of a platted vacant lot was. He asked if this was a forty- acre piece of property or what it included. Mr. Fling replied it could be a forty-acre parcel of land and the only charge would be \$20.00 for the whole property. He said if you have one platted vacant lot the charge would be \$20.00. Ms. Pendleton and Mr. Harris agreed it would just be simpler to use parcel numbers. Mr. Fling said he would like to met with Mr. Harris and Ms. Pendleton before the final hearing to work out some of these questions. After further discussion Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion directing the County Attorney to prepare an amendment to the Franklin County M.S.B.U. Ordinance, 96-8, to reflect the increases, as proposed by the Franklin County United Fire Fighters Association, and to consider adopting this Single Family Rate amount of \$70.00 to be phased in over a two year period and authorizing the advertisement of a public hearing on Tuesday, February 19, 2002 at 5:30 p.m.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Vice-Chairperson Sanders, Commissioners Williams, and Mosconis for. Commissioner Putnal against. 3-1 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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



**CHERYL SANDERS, VICE-CHAIRPERSON**



**KENDALL WADE, CLERK**