

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

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

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

(Tape 1-28) Commissioner Sanders made a **motion to approve the minutes of the meetings held on September 17, 2002-September 23, 2002-September 30, 2002- and October 1, 2002.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-32) Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to pay the County bills.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**HUBERT CHIPMAN-SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

(Tape 1-37) Mr. Chipman said he didn't have anything requiring Board attention this morning.

(Tape 1-40) Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Chipman if he had met with the County Engineer about the ditch. Mr. Chipman replied the Engineer was on vacation. Commissioner Mosconis asked if he had seen the lady there about some questions she had. Mr. Chipman replied he didn't because when he went to see her she was not home. Commissioner Mosconis asked him to go by and see her if possible. Mr. Chipman said he really didn't know what she would want because the water was flowing fine. Commissioner Mosconis instructed Mr. Chipman to go by and see her. He informed Mr. Chipman she works at Lanier's Pharmacy. Mr. Chipman asked Commissioner Mosconis if he knew her name. Commissioner Mosconis replied her name was Eleanor.

**VAN JOHNSON-SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

(Tape 1-64) He informed the Board the Franklin County Little League Football and Cheerleading Program expanded its schedule to include their participation in the Big Bend Football League. He said three teams representing Franklin County travel to compete against teams in Wewahitchka, Liberty County, Sneads, Blountstown, and Port St. Joe while concurrently maintaining teams from Carrabelle, Eastpoint and Apalachicola that only play local games. He stated, in order for the league to sustain such a program, the purchase of equipment to replace aged and unsafe equipment plus the outfitting of a new age division became necessary. He explained the League requested help with these purchases and received financial support from the Parks and Recreation Department for \$11,418.55. He said the purchases were made during the prior Fiscal Year, and the invoices were received by the Finance Office in the current Fiscal Year. He asked the Board for a motion authorizing the payment of these expenditures from the current Park and Recreation Department Budget. He informed the Board the Franklin

County Little League Football and Cheerleading Program targets more than 200 boys and girls' ages seven through thirteen annually. He said without continued financial support from the Board, the success of this program would be unlikely. Commissioner Mosconis asked Ruth Williams, Finance Officer, if she had any comment on this issue before the Board approved the expenditure. Ms. Williams said there were insufficient-funds in the prior year budget to pay this expenditure so it would have to be paid out of the current year's budget, which was just adopted. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion approving the payment of this expenditure, \$11,418.55, for Little League Football and Cheerleading support from the current FY Parks and Recreation Budget.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-114) Commissioner Putnal asked what happened to the Boom Truck. Mr. Johnson replied the oil pressure dropped and so the truck was sent to Tallahassee to be checked out since it is still under warranty. He said he received word yesterday from the people in Tallahassee that this was not abnormal for the oil pressure to drop to around 20 PSI, but that if it dropped below this amount then he needed to have it checked out. He stated the mechanic looked at the truck and decided to send it to Tallahassee to make sure, since it was still under warranty, there wasn't anything wrong with the truck. He informed the Board the truck should be back in the County today.

**ALAN PIERCE-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

(Tape 1-153) Mr. Pierce presented a copy of a letter he sent to Tommy Barfield, FDOT, requesting a six-month extension on County projects being funded under the County Incentive Grant Program Agreement. He stated the JPA's have been executed for the projects. He said the projects are: Widening and Resurfacing South Bayshore Drive in Eastpoint; Widening and Resurfacing Patton Drive in Eastpoint; Connection US Highway 98 and SR 300; and Resurfacing and Drainage Improvement on Water Street in Apalachicola. He said the County has been held up in completing these projects because of water lines in the City of Apalachicola, and a sewer project in Eastpoint.

(Tape 1-172) Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Pierce what happens if the County Engineer is on vacation or sick. Mr. Pierce replied Preble-Rish, Inc. could send someone else over to the Courthouse. He said last December when the County Engineer, David Kennedy, was on vacation they did send someone else over for him. He said the problem is the replacement person is not familiar with the projects in process and is totally unfamiliar with the County. He stated then there is a lot of time spent just locating where the person needs to go. He said he didn't ask Preble-Rish, Inc. to send anyone else to the County. He stated Mr. Kennedy was only going to be gone a week and would be back on Monday. He said hiring a full time engineer was a possibility, but the funds were not budgeted in this year's budget. Commissioner Putnal said he thought the County needed to find a full time Engineer. He suggested someone retired and moved into the County might want to work part time. Mr. Pierce said there was some additional money added to the Engineering Services Budget, but not enough to hire a full time person. He stated the funds could be used to pay Preble-Rish, Inc. to send Mr. Kennedy over to Franklin County more than one day a week. Commissioner Putnal said he wanted to make a **motion to advertise the submission of proposals for a part time Engineer for**

**Franklin County.** Chairman Creamer asked how many days this person would work. Commissioner Putnal replied two or three days a week. He said he felt the County needed someone they could get a hold of because the County has projects right now that are waiting to be completed because the Engineer just can't get to them. Commissioner Mosconis said he agreed with Commissioner Putnal. He stated a lot of the problems in Franklin County have to do with storm water management. He said someone with engineering experience could handle these storm water management issues. He stated the County is getting further and further in the hole. Commissioner Mosconis suggested the Board instruct Mr. Pierce to review this matter and bring back proposals for a solution to this problem to the next Board Meeting. Mr. Pierce said he agreed with this and wanted to think through the matter thoroughly. Kendall Wade, Clerk, suggested the Board wait until the budgeted item, Engineering Services, could be reviewed to see what, if anything could be done this year. He said there was a lot of projects going on in the County and the Budget Year just began in October. He stated this might be an issue to be discussed at next year's budget workshops. He said he would hate to advertise such a position or job and not be able to pay them. Commissioner Sanders said she wanted to have the contract checked into or reviewed. She asked if the contract provided for more than one day a week or as needed. Mr. Pierce replied it was initially for one day a week, maybe two or three, but then Preble-Rish, Inc. increased Mr. Kennedy's hourly rate and the Board decided at that time they did not want to increase the amount of budgeted funds to pay Preble-Rish, Inc. He said then the only way to balance this contract was to cut Mr. Kennedy's hours. He stated the Board only wanted to spend about \$15,000.00 a year on contractual services like this, which meant Mr. Kennedy would only come one day a week. Commissioner Putnal said he would withdraw his motion and allow Mr. Wade and Mr. Pierce to check into this matter and report back to the Board at the next Meeting.

(Tape 1-350) Commissioner Sanders said she wanted to discuss the matter of Highway 67 at Lake Morality Road. She stated in the area where "Cypress Slough" is there is still a problem with the humps, which were not supposed to be there after the new paving was done. She stated the Engineer really needed to check into this matter and not sign off on the project until this problem is fixed. Mr. Pierce said he did have a matter on his report concerning this problem. He asked the Board to allow him to seek a time extension on the contract with C. W. Roberts to complete the CR 67 Project at the request of Preble-Rish, Inc. He said the time extension would be until November 15, 2002. He said this would be with the understanding no payments would be made until a report is received back from the engineer. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion authorizing Mr. Pierce to seek a time extension for the contract with C. W. Roberts to complete the CR 67 Project at the request of Preble-Rish, Inc. with the understanding no payments would be made until a report of completion is received by the County from their engineer.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-387) Mr. Pierce said he would like the Board to approve the purchase of the Apalachicola Airport tractor with a sweeper, loader, and mower attachments through a JPA from FDOT Aviation in the amount of \$47,279.00, from the State Bid List instead of pursuing separate bids. He said if the State Bid List was used the equipment could be

purchased at a savings. He stated Bill Ruic, Airport Manager, and Ted Mosteller, Chairman, Apalachicola Airport Aviation Committee, recommended this after contacting Johnny Beard Equipment, Panama City, and being informed by them they could use their State Bid List to purchase the equipment. He said the price off of this State Bid List would be preferable and would save the County some money. Commissioner Putnal said he was concerned about the matter and wanted Mr. Pierce to talk to the County Attorney, Mr. Shuler, about this. He said he would make a **motion authorizing the purchase of this equipment, a tractor with a sweeper, loader and mower attachments, from the State Bid List contingent on Mr. Shuler's approval.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-431) He informed the Board Palmer Philyaw, a member of the Board of Adjustment, has formally resigned from the BOA. He also informed the Board Gary Montgomery, who was appointed as an alternate because he was also the Security Person at the Courthouse and who was easily accessible if there was not a quorum for the meetings, has resigned from the Sheriff's Department. He asked the Board to appoint one new member and another alternate who can be available if the regular members do not show up. He said this didn't need to be dealt with today, but asked the Board to think about the appointees. Commissioner Mosconis said this was his seat and he would appoint someone to the vacancy. He stated he would have someone to fill it at the next meeting.

(Tape 1-453) He asked the Board to reappoint the following members to the CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee: Robert Benson, A. J. Taylor, Jim Philyaw, Charles Watson Clark and Betty Webb. He said they were all willing to continue serving on this committee. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion reappointing Robert Benson, A. J. Taylor, Jim Philyaw, Charles Watson Clark and Betty Webb to the CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Commissioner Williams said he thought Charles Watson Clark would have to be replaced since he is very sick and in the hospital. Mr. Pierce asked the Board to go ahead and reappoint the other four and then he would check on Mr. Clark. Commissioner Mosconis then made a new **motion reappointing Robert Benson, A. J. Taylor, Jim Philyaw, and Betty Webb to the CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Williams said he would check on Mr. Clark as well and he would have a recommendation for a new appointee to the CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee.

(Tape 1-478) Mr. Pierce presented a letter from FEMA informing the Board the County would receive a discount of 10%, up from the previous 5%; on citizens flood insurance premiums effective October 1, 2002. He explained Mark Curenton, Assistant Planner, and the employees of the Road Department helped bring this additional discount to the County.

(Tape 1-495) He asked the Board for direction on Dell Schneider's request to receive permission to use the County right-of-way on Timber Island for a sewer system to serve his development. He said the sewer system would eventually become the property of the

City of Carrabelle. He stated he is concerned that if the system is being built under Mr. Schneider's control and responsibility, and the County facilities are damaged, either the Timber Island dock or boat ramp, or something happens to Timber Island Road, Mr. Schneider would not be as able to correct the situation as easily as the City of Carrabelle. He said his recommendation is that the County waits for the City to come forward wanting this same project before the Board allows the County right-of-way to be used. Commissioner Sanders she has already informed the Board and Mr. Schneider she feels the City of Carrabelle needs to come address the Board requesting this. Mr. Pierce said Mr. Schneider is not at the Board Meeting this morning. He stated he would inform Mr. Schneider the Board wants the City of Carrabelle to make this request and should be responsible for this project. Michael Shuler, County Attorney's Office, informed the Board he had discussed this matter with Mr. Pierce and they agree the City of Carrabelle should be the responsible party, not Mr. Schneider.

(Tape 1-534) He requested Board direction on a proposed agreement with SGI Limited and the County concerning improvements and uses of County property in Eastpoint. He recommended the Board turn the proposed agreement over to the County Attorney for review. He said this matter deals with some exchange of money and the right to use a short strip of property over in Eastpoint. He stated this matter was also discussed several months ago. Chairman Creamer asked if the property was on Island Drive. Mr. Pierce replied it was. Commissioner Putnal asked what the property was used for. Mr. Pierce answered Eastpoint needs part of it for an easement and the gentlemen who is willing to fund the project wants to use the other part of the property for a sign. He explained in exchange for this property the gentlemen would pay the County and the money would be used to elevate a road in Las Brisas Subdivision in Eastpoint. Commissioner Sanders said she would make a **motion to direct the County Attorney's Office to review the proposed agreement between the County and SGI Limited and to report back to the Board at the next meeting with a recommendation.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-575) He reminded the Board they had agreed to rehire Roumelis Planning and Development for services related to applying for a CDBG Grant and Administering a CDBG Grant if awarded. He said the County is seeking \$700,000.00 in CDBG funds and payment is in keeping with CDBG guidelines. He stated just like last time, no funds would be paid if the County were not awarded a CDBG Grant. He said Mark Curenton recommends Board action to sign two contracts, one for grant writing and one for administration. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on a contract between Roumelis Planning and Development and Franklin County for CDBG Grant Writing.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis then made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on a contract between Roumelis Planning and Development and Franklin County for CDBG Grant Administration.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-607) He provided the Board with a letter from FDOT informing the Board a traffic light is not justified at the intersection of Island Drive and US Highway 98 in

Eastpoint. He said the letter is from Dustie Moss, FDOT Traffic Studies and Analysis. He stated the letter informs the County FDOT did conduct an operational and safety study in relation to the County's request for turn lanes at this site. He said Larry Hale, President of Coldwell Bankers, had written FDOT requesting the installation of a traffic signal at the same location. He said they are still studying or developing a need for both Westbound and Northbound Left turn lanes with 100 feet of storage capacity. He stated in the letter Mr. Moss states due to right-of-way constraints in this area, the Department would develop a conceptual report to determine the cost feasibility of constructing the turn lanes.

(Tape 1-660) Mr. Pierce reported that Robin Brinkley and Rachel Ward, Building Officials, interviewed six applicants for the new position of Building Inspector. He said based on their recommendation he has hired Chris Giametta from Carrabelle. He said Mr. Giametta has a broad background in construction and is a licensed Master plumber. He informed the Board his employment will begin on November 1, 2002 and his employment is contingent upon him obtaining a provisional building inspector license.

(Tape 1-673) He said Mr. Curenton recommends the Board extend Tri-State's contract for completion of the "Big Ditch" project until November 5<sup>th</sup>. He said the contract would expire on October 28<sup>th</sup> and the County Engineer and Mr. Curenton both agree there might be a need for another extension, but this short extension would get the contract to the Board at their first meeting in November. He said, by then, Mark and David would have time to calculate the new expected completion date. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on an extension to Tri-State's contract with Franklin County for completion of the "Big Ditch" project until November 5<sup>th</sup>.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-695) He reported that Mr. Curenton recommends the Board apply to become a Local Agency Program Certification. He explained this is a Federal certification, which if granted allows the County to have more control over Federal Grants awarded to the County. He said if the County can get a LAPC then the County could have greater control and flexibility on selecting a contractor for the Ned Porter Bike Path Project. He said if the County receives the certification in enough time, it might help the Eastpoint Project, but Mr. Curenton does not think it would be approved in time. He asked the Board for authorization to allow Mr. Curenton to apply to become a LAPC. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion authorizing Mark Curenton to apply for Franklin County to be approved as a Local Agency Program Certification area.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-724) He also informed the Board Mr. Curenton is in the process of applying for a Historic Preservation Grant to develop construction plans and specifications to retrofit the Old County Jail for modern purposes. He stated Mr. Curenton stated the development of construction plans is step one, and then the County would have a better idea of what modifications are needed for the building. He said the County could not get a construction grant without approved construction plans. Commissioner Mosconis said he would make a **motion authorizing Mark Curenton to pursue a Historic Preservation**

**Grant to develop construction plans and specifications to retrofit the Old County Jail for modern purposes.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-762) He presented copies of the Emergency Managements Office's response for Tropical Storm Isidore and Tropical Storm Hanna. He said the County did not qualify for FEMA funds.

(Tape 1-768) He said he received a telephone call from Charlie Gautier, DCA and Kari Roth, DCA General Counsel, who were talking with St. Joe Company Representatives about the "Summer Camp" development. He stated, from the tone of the conversation, it appears St. Joe Company is still working on the Coastal High Hazard issue. He said Billy Buzzett, St. Joe Company, informed them St. Joe Company was still trying to address all of the DCA and the County's concerns about the project. He said Mr. Buzzett stated he did want to be at the next County Commission Meeting to give the Commissioners an update on the project.

(Tape 1-785) Mr. Pierce said he wanted to let the Board know he met with DCA Representatives on Friday, October 11, 2002 to learn more about the visioning concept. He explained, at this time, it appears Charlie Gautier, DCA, would like to come to the November 19<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting for a workshop to discuss with the Board the function and structure of visioning. He said at the workshop Mr. Gautier plans to have a recommended list of issues DCA wants the County to address in the new Comp Plan update. He stated he might also have a scope of work that DCA is willing to help Franklin County pay for the update. He stated the idea is for the County to begin a visioning process, which would bring citizen issues to the forefront, and then tie those citizen concerns together with the DCA concerns, for one Comp Plan update, which would carry the County until the year 2020. He explained these are two large obstacles to successful visioning: one is generating the funds necessary to hire a competent facilitator who will help make sure everyone is treated fairly and issues are debated, not personalities. He said everybody is talking about money, but no contracts or agreements have been signed which would actually provide any money; two is the structuring of a committee to help oversee the work. He said there is a wide range of ideas of how the committee should work, who is going to be on the committee, what authority they will have, etc. He stated he knew of many people interested in serving on the committee and have contacted him about it, but his concern is the public might think it is critical to be on the committee and the Board will be unable to narrow the committee down to a manageable number. He explained the committee itself is not the public, and the committee would not be coming up with the answers, the citizens who want to participate would generate the issues and the answers, the committee to a large degree will only assist the public. He informed the Board all they need to do today is to agree to conduct this workshop on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. to listen to Mr. Gautier and several other people speak on this visioning process. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion to schedule a Public Workshop, as requested by Charlie Gautier, DCA, on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the visioning process and it's use in Franklin County.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-906) Mr. Pierce said he would interrupt his report at this time for the scheduled public hearing on a rezoning and land use change issue.

**PUBLIC HEARING-LAND USE AND REZONING**

(Tape 1-907) Mr. Pierce explained this request was for a land use change and rezoning change for Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, Block X and Lots 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, Block W, Unit 1, Lanark Beach. He said the rezoning is from C-3 Commercial Recreational and C-4 Commercial/Residential Mixed Use to R-1 Single Family Residential and a land use change from Commercial to Residential. He said the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the request. He said the rezoning does not increase or decrease the number of lots since it was platted. Commissioner Sanders said the C-3 Zoning would be removed and the R-1 would be implemented. Mr. Pierce agreed. He said this was a campground and the zoning for the campground would be removed. Chairman Creamer asked if there was any public input regarding these requests this morning. Mr. Pierce reported the Planning and Zoning Office did not receive any letters or telephone calls opposing this rezoning and land use change. After no public comment, Commissioner Sanders made a **motion approving the Land Use Change request for Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, Block X and Lots 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, Block W, Unit 1, Lanark Beach from Commercial to Residential.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Sanders then made a **motion approving the Rezoning request for Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, Block X and Lots 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, Block W, Unit 1, Lanark Beach from C-3 Commercial Recreational and C-4 Commercial/Residential Mixed Use to R-1 Single Family Residential.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Putnal asked if this property was on the Bay. Commissioner Sanders replied it was the "Sea Breeze" Campground. He said there might be a possibility to put a boat ramp right there. Commissioner Sanders replied it would kind of difficult to put one there, but there was an area off Arizona Street that would be the best area. She stated it was a little bit further to the west. She said the County owned a right-of-way off of Arizona Street. Commissioner Putnal asked if there were any parking places in the area. Commissioner Sanders replied there was some parking areas, but not many.

(Tape 1-1047) Mr. Pierce said he would finish his report. He stated Rachel Ward was the staff person attending the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting on October 8, 2002. He said they met in regular session and requests approval for the following: Approval for a private dock and boat lift for Ronald Schlitt at 351 East Bay Drive, Eastpoint. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion approving a dock and boatlift for Ronald Schlitt.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Approval for Bruce and Judith Irvin to construct a private dock on Lots 28 and 29, Block U, Unit 1, Lanark Village. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion approving a private dock for Bruce and Judith Irvin.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Approval for Dr. Jones Phillip to construct a fishing pier at 2556 US Highway 98 in Lanark Village. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion approving a fishing pier for Dr. Jones Phillips.** Commissioner Williams

seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Approval for William Vester to construct a private dock and boatlift on Lot 1 Cara Bay Estates, SGI. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion approving a private dock and boatlift for William Vester.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Approval for Bobby Boone to construct a private dock on Lot 1, Block 62, Unit 5, SGI. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion approving a private dock for Bobby Boone.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Approval for Clifford and Sally Brody to construct a private dock on Lot 4, New River Subdivision, Carrabelle. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion approving a private dock for Clifford and Sally Brody.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Approval for William and Beatrice Hubbard to construct a private dock on Lot 2, Driftwood Subdivision, Lanark Village. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion approving a private dock for William and Beatrice Hubbard.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Approval for John Horvath to construct a private dock on Lot 6, Alligator Point Subdivision, Alligator Point. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion approving a private dock for John Horvath.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** The Commission tabled several items concerning subdivisions, but did approve the preliminary plat for Palmetto Village, a 23-lot subdivision lying next to Magnolia Ridge Phase Two in Eastpoint. A request after the meeting from a Commission member as to whether the County was being consistent with the interpretation of lot width. Mr. Pierce said he has asked Mark Curenton to investigate this issue and he has provided him with the minutes from the April 16, 2002 County Commission Meeting where the Board discussed this issue. He said he has not had time to respond to the Commission member, but it appears the Board is being consistent. He stated the issue involves the width of lots on a curve or a cul-de-sac. He said he would like Board approval of the preliminary plat of Palmetto Village. He explained again, the Planning and Zoning Commission did approve this preliminary plat. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the preliminary plat of Palmetto Village, a 23-lot subdivision next to Magnolia Ridge Phase Two in Eastpoint.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** He said the last item discussed at the P&Z Meeting was the issue of rental houses and whether there should be some County guidelines on occupancy. He said there was a great deal of debate at the meeting, but no action. He said separately, Barbara Sanders, requests the Board require rental houses provide parking for the renters on private property. He said Ms. Sanders said that large accumulations of cars in neighborhoods parked on the side of the road is not what residential zoning is all about. He asked the Board if they wanted to consider parking regulations in areas around rental houses. He informed the Board Ms. Sanders was present this morning if the Board wanted to address this issue. Commissioner Mosconis said you can't pick and choose how the law is going to be applied since this is a problem throughout the County. Commissioner Sanders agreed and said parking was a real problem throughout the County. Chairman Creamer asked why the P&Z Commission was discussing guidelines on occupancy. Mr. Pierce replied there was a discussion centered around trying to limit occupancy based on environmental issues, such as what a septic tank has been permitted for. He said the number of occupants a house can have is determined by how many

people use the septic tank system. He stated the houses are being rented to at least twenty people and has a septic tank designed for a house with eight people. He said the connection is the number of bedrooms and bathrooms in a house. He stated the assumption is two people per bedroom, and then this amount if used to determine how many people would use the septic tank system to design the septic tank system. He said the Plantation on SGI had used the guideline of having two people to each bedroom plus two additional people, so this house, if it had four bedrooms, could handle eight people plus two additional people, for a total of ten people in a four bedroom house. Commissioner Putnal said if the Planning and Zoning Commission was going to try and find a solution to this problem then they should go ahead and make some recommendations to the Board. He stated the Board didn't really need to do anything this morning. He said he thinks the overriding concern is that SGI is losing its residential character since more and more houses are being used as rentals. Barbara Sanders, SGI resident, said if something can be done about this problem then the Commissioners should try to find a way. She stated the Board could adopt a policy applying to this situation. She said with growth the County is bound to become more and more crowded. She stated she is hoping the Commissioners can prohibit problems from happening twenty or thirty years down the road when the County becomes even more crowded. She asked the Board to just direct the County administrators to look into the matter and try to find some potential solutions to the problem. She said parking is a problem in Apalachicola, Carrabelle, SGI, etc. Mr. Pierce said he would have the Planning and Zoning Commission discuss this matter further to see if some solution can be reached.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING-CDBG APPLICATIONS**

(Tape 1-1544) Mr. Pierce introduced Debbie Belcher, Roumelis Planning and Development Services, Inc., to the Board so she could address them. Ms. Belcher stated this was the second public hearing regarding the \$700,000.00 Neighborhood Revitalization grant under the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. She said the proposed projects to be funded, with rough budget estimates, are as follows: Lanark Village Drainage \$165,000.00 CDBG-\$22,000.00 FEMA(?); Wilderness and Ridge Road Drainage, \$25,000.00/\$5,000.00 County Labor and \$16,000.00 Contractor donated culverts; Paving Twin Lakes Road \$292,000.00 CDBG-\$80,000.00 County labor, rock (estimated value of time & materials); Eastpoint Water extension on Twin Lakes Road \$90,000.00-Water hook ups 4 low income homes \$4,500.00-\$5,000.00 Eastpoint Utility tap waivers; Sewer rehab, Gulf Terrace \$35,000.00 CDBG; Engineering \$32,500.00 CDBG-\$500.00 Lanark Water & Sewer District; Administration \$56,000.00 CDBG-\$2,500.00 County labor, audit; Total \$700,000.00-\$131,000.00 County and other. Mr. Pierce said everyone did need to sign in on the sign in sheet so this public hearing could count as a public forum so the County could receive points on the grants. Ms. Belcher explained the grant application was due December 19<sup>th</sup> and she added she felt the chances of getting these projects funded are much better than before. She stated she really liked the new facility. She presented the Commissioners with a handout reflecting the proposed projects, as mentioned above, and the costs of each one. She said she has informed Preble-Rish, Inc. staff they need to get all of their design and permit applications submitted by December 16, 2002. She assured the Board she is doing everything she can to see this application is approved. Commissioner

Mosconis asked her is she was familiar with the visioning process discussed earlier. Ms. Belcher replied she thought it was a lot of fun. She said she had participated in the process in Bradenton Beach and had to meet with business owners, property owners, residents, and lot of people in the community. She stated they just talked about all of the problems and ranked them as to importance. She said the County priorities have to be established first. She said this makes her use her planner background. She said when she works for a local government she tries to look long term and at as many angles as she can. She thanked the Board for their attention this morning.

**DORIS PENDLETON-PROPERTY APPRAISER**

(Tape 1-2277) Ms. Pendleton said she was here this morning to ask the Board to allow her to move approximately \$5,000.00 remaining in her budget this year. She asked the Board to grant her permission this morning to move the money into her Mapping Fund Budget. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the Property Appraiser, Doris Pendleton, to move \$5,000.00 from her budget into the Mapping Fund Budget.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-2305) Ms. Pendleton said she is having a problem with the certification of Tax Rolls as it is being done now. She stated it is a tight time crunch so the Tax Collector can send the tax bills out on time. She the Legislature has changed their time frame and moved the deadline up to where it is almost impossible to get the tax bills out on time. She said she needs to get permission from the Board to perform an early certification for the Tax Rolls. She stated the Value Adjustment Board meets Thursday and unless she can go ahead and complete her certification early then it is going to push her into a time frame whereby the tax bills are not going to be sent on time. She said she is asking the Board to approve her request to certify the Tax Roll at this time, which is everything except those parcels being brought before the VAB. She said if any changes are made at the VAB then she would do another certification. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion granting the Property Appraiser, Doris Pendleton, permission to go ahead and certify the Tax Rolls.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-2470) Jimmy Harris, Tax Collector, Doris Pendleton, Property Appraiser, and Ruth Williams, County Finance Officer appeared before the Board. Mr. Harris asked Ms. Williams to explain to the Board what they are requesting. Ms. Williams explained they were going to purchase an imaging system that all three of their offices could use. Mr. Harris said they needed to use the same company they are already using. Ms. Williams stated during the budget process the Board approved the costs of this system. She said the problem they have is the bid process. She informed the Board the system is part of the equipment or attached to all of their present IBM AS400 system. She said this IBM AS400 compatible imaging system is only available through an IBM Business Partner. She said the system would interface with the current software applications they are using at this time, which was obtained through ACS. She stated if the general bid process were used they would only be able to obtain the scanner for the imaging from someone else, and then the other equipment from somebody else. She explained it would all be different equipment or pieces being retrofitted onto these IBM AS400 systems. She

further stated this would be a mess of providers and she asked the Board to keep this request as straightforward as they can. She said she would suggest they use ACS to obtain the equipment, installation and the needed software applications. She stated she knew the Board was concerned about going outside the bid policy, but she thought the problem was because the Board had declared several things emergency situations and had not bided the project out. She said this is different and they are only asking the Board to waive the bid policy and allow them to use ACS as the provider for this imaging system, which they would all share. Commissioner Mosconis asked if ACS was the only or sole source provider of this equipment. Ms. Williams replied there are other providers that could provide the hardware, but the software is going to have to interface with the existing software, which is already being used and furnished by ACS. She said the problem would be getting rights to interface with their software and she stated she really didn't think it was worth that type of problem. She stated no one even knew if it would work properly. Commissioner Mosconis asked what the cost was going to be. Ms. Williams replied \$113,000.00. Commissioner Mosconis said he would make a **motion authorizing the purchase of this imaging system and allowing the Property Appraiser Doris Pendleton, the Tax Collector Jimmy Harris, and the Finance Officer Ruth Williams to use ACS as a provider contingent on some legal advice from the County Attorney and the opinion of the County Auditor, Mike Tucker.** He said he wanted to make sure they okay it for the County. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Harris stated the problem is the Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) handles all of the AS400 problems and if an outside bidder is used then ACS would not support the other system. He stated this would be a problem to spend this much money for a system and then have no support for the system. Commissioner Mosconis said he did understand this, but he had to make sure the County was covered and make sure the County wasn't opened up to some criticism or problems from this. Michael Shuler asked what the time frame was on this matter. Ms. Williams replied she needed an answer by the first of next week at least.

#### **SCOTT VASCAVAGE-OAR ORGANIZATION**

(Tape 1-2764) Mr. Vascavage said he wanted to update the Board on the SGI Bridge demolition project. He stated the old part of the bridge would be destroyed next year when the new one is finished. He said some of the debris would be used to shore up the causeway and some of the debris would be hauled out into the Gulf for artificial reefs. He stated OAR has a contract, through Jacobson Engineering, to find a site suitable for placement of the old bridge material off SGI. He said he is here today to inform the Board the research dive team for OAR has scouted the Gulf bottom approximately nine nautical miles, a little Southeast of Bob Sikes Cut. He stated they found a site roughly one-mile long by two-tenths of a mile wide, which is suitable for the placement of the old bridge. He said he is here today to request that OAR use the County to apply for and retain the permit for this project. He stated a public entity has to be the one to apply for and retain the permit and since this is a County project, the County should be the ones to hold the permit. He said he didn't think this would cause a problem with the local shrimping community. He stated this data they have gathered needs to be sent to the USCOE for a permit for this site. He stated the permit application would need a couple signatures so it can be sent to USCOE. He said OAR would do all of the paperwork

associated with the application for the permit. He stated they would either accept the permit or deny it based on their, OAR's, findings. Chairman Creamer asked Mr. Vascavage if he had contracted or consulted any of the local shrimpers about this project. Mr. Vascavage replied he had not yet, but he was going to. He said he is going to do this before the permit application is completed. Chairman Creamer informed him there are a lot of shrimpers who shrimp in that area and he didn't want them to have any problems. He suggested OAR schedule a workshop and invite the shrimpers to speak about this matter. Commissioner Putnal said he would like some of the material placed at the Eastpoint Breakwater if possible. He stated the one in place now is gradually eroding away. Mr. Vascavage said there were requirements that a portion of the bridge material be used as an artificial reef. Commissioner Mosconis said it would be cheaper for the material to be put on the Eastpoint Breakwater. Mr. Vascavage explained there are strict requirements for this material. He said this was the site OAR recommended. Chairman Creamer said he just wanted to be sure Mr. Vascavage contacted the local shrimper organization to get their approval. Mr. Vascavage said he would schedule a meeting and advertise a workshop. Mr. Pierce stated he would assist Mr. Vascavage with this matter. Mr. Pierce asked Mr. Vascavage to decide on what day he would want the workshop held and then to contact him or the Board Secretary, Amelia Varnes, to schedule the workshop on the calendar.

(Tape 1-3240) Mason Bean, SGI, said he wanted to go on record, before all of the debris is removed from the SGI Bridge, his request for some of the debris would be used on the causeway. He said they needed to go out 300-feet by 1,000-feet and reclaim this area for parking and a boat ramp. He said this debris or rubble would be a great thing to use. He stated he wanted to be sure the Board knew they wanted some of the debris from the SGI Bridge when it is demolished.

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

(Tape 1-3257) Mr. Wade said he had the annual National Epilepsy Awareness Month-November Resolution for the Board's approval. He stated the Board adopts this Resolution during the month of October of each year as requested by the Committee for Epilepsy Awareness. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the National Epilepsy Awareness Month Resolution for the month of November.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-3291 Continued on Tape 2) Mr. Wade said he had given each Commissioner a copy of an estimate of the costs it would take to move County Court Judge Van Russell's Office from the main Courthouse to the Courthouse Annex. He stated he contacted the Ingram Group, Inc., and talked to James Rogers the person who oversaw the construction of the present building. He said Mr. Rogers sent an estimate for the changes, in the amount of \$17,950.00 to him and Judge Russell. He stated he has also received an estimate for the furniture the Judge and his Judicial Assistant will need in the amount of \$7,400.00, for a total amount of \$25,350.00. He said each Commissioner had a list of these charges, etc. He stated, before anything else can be done, the Board would have to approve these expenditures. He said the \$17,950.00 could be paid from Courthouse

Finance Budget and the \$7,400.00 for [redacted] could be paid from Reserve for [redacted] Contingencies. He did say Chief Judge William Gary had copies of the estimates, as well. He stated Judge Gary asked him to contact him after the meeting today with the Board's decision. Mr. Wade said the taxpayers of the County helped pay for this building as well as the Judicial System Article V monies. He stated this building was built under a joint effort from both Franklin County and Article V money. Mr. Pierce said he wants to make sure the modifications are done consistent with what the Judicial System wants. He stated Judge Gary did question several other items such as the need for a witness chair and a holding cell. He stated he would like confirmation from Judge Gary that these would be the final changes and nothing else would need to be done. Mr. Wade said Judge Gary told him the same thing, that he wanted a witness chair and a holding cell. He stated, after talking to Judge Russell, he didn't think, since he would be using it, there would be any problem with what we had. He said after the meeting he is going to see Judge Russell and tell him what the Board decided. He stated then they would call Judge Gary. Commissioner Sanders said she would make a **motion approving these expenditures \$17,950.00 from Courthouse Maintenance Budget and \$7,400.00 from Reserve for Contingencies contingent on the approval of these changes by Judge Gary.** Commissioner Mosconis said he called Judge Gary last week, he said actually the day the Judge was in Apalachicola. He stated Judge Gary called him back a couple days later with some concerns such as the layout of this building and the Article V money. He said Judge Gary was concerned if the County spent the Article V monies in the Judicial System's best interest. He stated Judge Gary informed him he was not going to make any rush decisions on what and how many changes needed to be implement in the annex building. He said he thought it would be premature to go ahead and make these changes. Commissioner Putnal said he understood they were part of the planning of this building. Mr. Wade agreed and said the plans were submitted to Judge Reynolds, the Chief Judge at that time, Judge Russell, and Judge Steinmeyer for comments. He said Judge Russell was working right in the Main Courthouse the whole time the building was being constructed. He said Judge Gary was not the Chief Judge when this building was being constructed, Judge Reynolds was. Commissioner Mosconis said he felt this whole issue needed to be studied further. Chairman Creamer called for a second and a vote on the motion. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Commissioners Sanders, Putnal and Williams for. Chairman Creamer and Commissioner Mosconis against. 3-2 **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **GARY BARBER-COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUES**

(Tape 2-359) Mr. Barber appeared before the Board at this time and presented each Commissioner with a chart reflecting the proposed increase, 9.2%, in the County's health insurance, BCBS Blue Choice PPO Physician Co-Payment Plan 919, and how it would change the current premiums. He said the employee health insurance paid fully by the County would be increased from \$284.70 to \$310.70 per month. He said the employee/family coverage which is paid by the employee would increase from \$745.50 to \$813.70 a month costing the employee \$503.00 each month. He stated the current contract expires on October 31, 2002 and the contract has to be renewed. Chairman Creamer asked Mr. Barber if the County could get any other company than Blue Cross & Blue Shield to give the County a quote. Mr. Barber replied there are a few other

companies such as HMO's and self-funding insurance companies. He informed the Board there are a limited number of companies who furnish small group coverage. He said the other alternative would be an HMO, Health Plan Southeast. He said BCBS has the best network of physicians, hospitals, etc. He stated some physicians, etc. have not been able to reach an agreement with BCBS and sometimes they just can't come to an agreement. Commissioner Mosconis said he wanted to know what would happen if someone, under Health Plan Southeast, were visiting Montana and had a heart attack. He asked if he would receive immediate care. Mr. Barber said coverage for acute care would be provided, but something like the flu, sore throat, etc. would not be covered. He stated only life threatening, broke arms, etc. would be covered. Commissioner Mosconis said he had a lot of questions about health insurance. Commissioner Putnal said it just wasn't fair to the employees who have family coverage because it costs so much and there are a lot of doctors who don't want to accept BCBS. Mr. Barber said he thought Franklin County had a very good contract compared to a lot of other counties or groups. He said he was also proposing a new Two Tier or Four Tier proposal, which would help employees who are single yet have children to raise. He said it offers an employee/spouse rate, an employee/children rate and an employee/family rate. Commissioner Putnal said he didn't know of any county employee who could afford the proposed rates Mr. Barber submitted this morning. He suggested the County form a committee to review other insurance companies for their benefits. He said then maybe next year during the budget process the County could accept proposals, bids, etc. from different companies. Commissioner Mosconis said he knew other groups who had received an extension so they could think about renewing their contract with BCBS. He said he would make a **motion directing Mr. Barber to request a two-month extension on the County's Health Insurance Provider Contract with BCBS so the County could consider other possibilities.** Mr. Barber said he would request the extension, but didn't know if BCBS would approve it or not. Commissioner Mosconis said if the two-month extension is granted then he wanted Mr. Barber to work on some different plans at different or lower prices. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MICHAEL SHULER-COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

(Tape 2-970) Mr. Shuler said he wanted to inform the Board that he would be attending alternate Board Meetings with his dad, Alfred Shuler to represent the County Attorney's Office.

(Tape 2-973) He stated he has reviewed the contract, given to him by Mr. Pierce this morning, regarding the request SGI Limited has made to use County right-of-way. He explained he has already made some changes and has some comments he would discuss with Mr. Pierce.

(Tape 2-982) He said the Chairman was served with a foreclosure suit filed by Apalachicola State Bank in which there is a MSBU Lien on the property. He stated he was advising the Board to take no action in this matter since the lien is subordinate to any of ASB'S liens.

(Tape 2-1067) He stated he was directed, at the last meeting, to schedule a meeting with Nick Yonclas, attorney for Mr. Bloodworth, in reference to the SGI Canal on Porter Street. He reported Mr. Yonclas has been on vacation and wouldn't be back until next week.

(Tape 2-1078) He said there has been some communication with the Liberty County Attorney, Sharlene Grover, about the Sumatra Cemetery issues. He stated he did not talk to her, but his dad did update her on everything Franklin County had learned about the matter. Mr. Wade said he had invited Ms. Grover to the next Board Meeting to allow her to give an update from Liberty County's point of view. Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Wade to contact the Sumatra Cemetery Committee, Bill Bouington, Willie B. Lewis, and Robert Hill, Clerk of Courts for Liberty County, and asked them to be at the next meeting as well. Mr. Wade informed the Board he would be glad to call them and invite them to the meeting.

(Tape 2-1108) Mr. Shuler said, at the last meeting, the County Attorney's Office was directed to send a letter to Bob Allen, the owner of the property being discussed, concerning some poles he had erected within ten-feet of his side lot line. He stated his office has drafted the letter, but has not mailed it. He explained they wanted to wait until this meeting since his office had given the matter further thought. He said they gave the matter some thought as to whether or not the Board wanted to at least consider giving Mr. Allen an opportunity to come before the Board to explain his side of the situation. He stated he felt it was a neighborhood dispute and wanted further advice before he sent the letter to Mr. Allen. He said either option would work. Commissioner Mosconis asked what the County staff had to say about this matter? Mr. Pierce said he agreed it was a neighborhood dispute. Commissioner Mosconis said this was obvious to him, but has a law or ordinance been broken. Mr. Pierce said Mr. Allen's response is probably going to be that he didn't put the poles down. He said Mr. Allen is the property owner, but did not erect the poles. Mr. Shuler said unless Mr. Allen's position is that someone just went on his property and put the poles down this is not defensible by Mr. Allen since he is the property owner. Mr. Pierce stated he knew that didn't happen, but he didn't want to forecast the result of this thing. He said generally if a property owner has someone do something on his property then you try to get the property owner to comply and if that doesn't work then the County Commission has to act. He said the County Commission has never taken anybody to court. He said if Mr. Allen doesn't remove the poles then the County would have to get a Court Order to have them removed. Chairman Creamer asked what the Board of Adjustment did. Mr. Pierce said they did not grant Mr. Allen or the person who erected the poles a variance for the poles. He stated the BOA thought there was room for the fence to be placed off the property line and it didn't need to be constructed right there where they were so close to the property line. He said this was not a hardship case since there was plenty of property to put the poles on. Michael Allen, the son of Mr. Allen, was asked how much property was there. Mr. Allen said he thought maybe one-half acre. He stated he was told these poles were going to be used for a fence. Commissioner Mosconis asked if this was an allowable use of a person's land. Mr. Pierce replied it was. He said he was sure these poles were going to be converted into a fence. Michael Allen said he didn't know who was going to build the highest

fence. Chairman Creamer stated he knew there was a height limit on fences. Mr. Pierce informed the Board there is a height limit on a fence; it was a limit of eight-feet high. He said this whole issue would get resolved one way or another, but probably not by the County Commission getting in the middle of it. Chairman Creamer said if it was fence poles then the County shouldn't have him remove them. Mr. Pierce stated if Mr. Allen is building a fence then he can as long as it is not over eight-feet. He suggested the Board direct him to send Mr. Allen a letter and verify he owns the property and he is just going to build a regular fence. Michael Allen asked if it would help if he had his father, Mr. Allen, send a letter to Mr. Pierce explaining he is going to construct a fence with this material. Mr. Pierce and the Board said that would be fine. Michael Allen said he told his father about the conversation the Board had at the last meeting. Mr. Shuler stated this is why he thought Mr. Allen should get his chance to address the Board to inform everyone of what his true intentions are for the poles. He said if he is building anything other than a fence structure in that ten-feet then the Board's remedies are multiple including complaints to the State Attorney's Office or a mandatory injunction requiring the removal of the posts and perhaps damages might be included. He stated if he is building a fence it is allowable as long as he is within the eight-foot height requirement. Chairman Creamer asked if the motion made at the last meeting directing the County Attorney send this letter to Mr. Allen be rescinded. Mr. Shuler stated it wouldn't hurt to clear the record. Commissioner Sanders made a **motion to rescind the previous action taken by the Board on October 1, 2002 directing the County Attorney to send a letter to Bob Allen informing him he must move the posts and structure on this property in thirty days and directing the County Attorney's Office to take whatever appropriate action was needed to have the posts/structures removed.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-1277) He said he had one final comment about the Commissioners action this morning regarding the Judge's chambers being moved to the new annex. He stated the Board must maintain a line of communication with the Judicial System and what the Board did this morning was appropriate. He said he has done some research into this matter and if the action were not appropriate he would have spoken up and advised the Board to do something differently.

(Tape 2-1292) Commissioner Sanders said she would like to bring the matter of appointing Ronald Gray and Robert Nicholson to the Construction Licensing Board. She stated, at that time, she didn't know who Robert Nicholson was. She stated the Board has already approved the appointment of Ronald Gray, but held off on appointing Mr. Nicholson. She said she has met with Mr. Nicholson and realized who he was so she wanted to make a **motion appointing Robert Nicholson to the Construction Licensing Board.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **ALAN PIERCE-EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

(Tape 2-1319) Mr. Pierce said Tim Turner, Emergency Management Director, was present this morning to discuss two options he has made regarding Emergency Management. He said in one way Mr. Turner is a department head, because upon activation of an emergency situation, Mr. Turner reports directly to the Board, but in

other ways he is an employee under his general supervision as Director of Administrative Services. He said Mr. Turner is here because of his ability to report directly to the Board. He said he has informed Mr. Turner to return to his previous work schedule of five days a week just like other courthouse employees. He stated he has previously allowed Mr. Turner to work four days a week, ten hours a day, but he is now directing him to return to the five day a week work week. He said he also believes that from an administrative standpoint the daily affairs of Emergency Management should be run out of the Courthouse Annex, with the Airport Office left open for the EOC operations. Chairman Creamer said Mr. Pierce was Mr. Turner's supervisor. Mr. Pierce agreed. Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Pierce if he and the previous EOC Manager hired Mr. Turner. Mr. Pierce replied yes he did. Commissioner Mosconis said then Mr. Pierce had answered his own question then. Mr. Pierce said this was his feeling too. Mr. Turner said he wanted to inform the Board that when this originally came up Mr. Pierce told him this had to go to the Board for final approval. He said he would still like to ask the Board for permission to continue the practice of working four days a week, ten hours a day. Chairman Creamer stated he has discussed this in length with Mr. Turner and also about the other issue of Mr. Turner moving to the new Courthouse Annex to work with Mr. Pierce. He stated it is not a good policy for the Board to override a supervisor when he makes a decision. He said if Mr. Pierce was doing anything wrong then he would agree to change the decision, but he is supervisor and he thought the Board needed to stick behind supervisors. He stated they stand behind the Road Department, the Landfill, etc. supervisors. Commissioner Sanders said she agreed with standing behind the supervisors. Mr. Turner said he would abide by the Board's decision then and work a five-day workweek. He said the other question concerned the Emergency Management Operation being moved to the Courthouse Annex. He explained the EOC office could not be housed in a flood area and the whole area around the Courthouse is a flood zone. Mr. Pierce replied there was some complaints about the roof at the EOC building at the Airport and now there is additional problems with the plumbing at the office. He stated the Board, in this budget year, did not allocate any more money for repairs at the Airport Office. He said he thought one solution to the problem of maintaining that Airport Office was there was office space available at the Courthouse Annex and the Main Courthouse. He said, admittedly, there was not room for Bill Mahan and his secretary in the annex, but there might be in the Main Courthouse. He said the Airport Office could be operated strictly as an EOC operations building. He stated this would mean there would not be people in there everyday. Commissioner Putnal asked why this Courthouse Annex was built. Mr. Pierce replied it was built to serve the County Commission needs as well as a Courthouse. Commissioner Putnal said room, more room and now there is more room why are we trying to fill it back up again by shutting a building down to crowd this one up. Mr. Pierce stated the Board did not budget to maintain the Airport Office building. Mr. Turner said the County has not maintained the Airport Office. He stated the money has come out of EOC Budget for three years. He said he just didn't understand why there is even a question of funding. He stated in the last two quarters of his budget he allocated \$11,055.03 in repairs and maintenance for that building from the EOC Budget. He said he has never asked the County to maintain the building. Mr. Pierce agreed and stated that was true. Chairman Creamer said the way he looks at it is this, if Van Johnson told one of his employees to work a certain area today, then that employee should work that area

and not question Mr. Johnson. He stated the Board doesn't step in and tell Mr. Johnson what to do if the employee refuses to work that area. He said Mr. Pierce is Mr. Turner's supervisor and Mr. Pierce wants him to move to the Courthouse Annex then Mr. Turner should move without question. He said the Commissioners should not go against Mr. Pierce's decision. Mr. Turner said the Chairman didn't understand the function of Emergency Management. He stated he is required to maintain the equipment, which is extensive, in his office continually. He said the satellite link with the State EOC Office would have to be moved down to the Courthouse at thousands of dollars of expense. He stated he also has to maintain one at the EOC Airport Office too. He informed the Board he has five computer systems that would have to be maintained. He said the EOC has to be operational within an hour after be notified of an emergency situation. He stated the e-mail capabilities would have to be moved to the Courthouse Annex because he receives emergency e-mails from the State EOC and it is not possible to operate an EOC Office from a remote location because there are so many duties that have to be addressed on a daily basis. He stated his job only starts when he has an emergency, but preparation is the biggest part of his job and staying prepared as well. Mr. Pierce said he does realize the EOC Office does need to be maintained since it is functional at the Airport. He stated there is additional work in his office that can be done by Mr. Turner's secretary. He said for the first time the County has two employees in the EOC Office. He stated Melanie Hutchinson is the secretary/clerk. He explained he believed there are additional Emergency Management related functions to be done that he could better supervise if the office was moved to the Annex. He said there are four aspects to Emergency Management: Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation. He stated mitigation is not something the County has done as well as it could do. He said he felt this could be handled with Ms. Hutchinson assisting him in keeping more specific records. He stated he doesn't want to take Mr. Turner's employee or assistant. He said with both of them at the Annex they can all work together. Commissioner Mosconis asked about the issue Mr. Turner raised about the equipment. Mr. Pierce replied they would have to know the equipment is up and running, but he didn't propose moving the satellite link down to the Courthouse. Mr. Turner explained he has to reset the satellite link approximately seven or eight times during the day and answer messages from it. He said it is a daily operation function of Emergency Management and would be impossible for him to do it from the Courthouse Annex or a remote location. He said he has seen the time he has had to receive and respond to messages from the link at least twelve or fifteen times a day. He stated this is part of the Emergency Management Operations. Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Turner if the other EOC personnel work only four days a week. Mr. Turner replied he had no idea. Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Turner what happened to those messages on Friday's or the fifth workday he has not been working on. Mr. Turner answered he comes into the office and takes care of them since they are so important. He stated he is in and out of his office all the time. Commissioner Mosconis said this is an in house thing Mr. Pierce could handle and should handle. Mr. Turner said if the Board directs him to do this he will, but he felt he had to make his recommendations known to the Board too. He stated he is trying to keep an excellent EOC Office operational, but it is going to be difficult if he has to operate it from a remote location. He stated he would like to keep the EOC Office in as good of a condition as it is presently in. Commissioner Mosconis said he was sure this would happen. He stated Mr. Pierce was EOC Manager

first then a part time was hired and now it has gotten into a full time position. He said the County just didn't get into this business, however he does realize the job has gotten bigger and more complex. He again said this issue could be handled in house by Mr. Pierce. Commissioner Sanders said she didn't think anybody was willing to jeopardize the safety and welfare of the people of Franklin County. She agreed with Commissioner Mosconis that this is an in house decision by Mr. Pierce. She said everyone does have an opinion, but Mr. Pierce is the one to make the final decision. Mr. Pierce stated he didn't want to diminish the response capabilities of Emergency Management, but there are many other facets to the job. Commissioner Putnal said he didn't want Mr. Mahan moved back to the Courthouse, but he felt this was the direction it was headed. He said he knew Mr. Pierce was trying to shut the building down and make all of them move. He stated he didn't understand why anything had to be changed especially since everything is running so smoothly out there. Commissioner Mosconis assured Commissioner Putnal the building was not going to be shut down. Commissioner Putnal said he thought this was creating problems where there really weren't any. Mr. Turner reiterated he didn't know how an EOC Office could be operational in a designated Flood Zone. He said the EOC Center cannot be put in an area subject to Tropical Storms or Hurricanes and also subject to storm surges, which is the area the Courthouse is in. He said all of the buildings in this area are in that category. Chairman Creamer stated this is the reason the equipment is going to remain out at the Airport. Commissioner Mosconis said that is not going to change and the issue does not need to be clouded. He stated that is not what the Board is talking about, but the fact of the new duties being piled on the County. He said the new comp plan, the maintenance of buildings, Mr. Pierce needing more office help, etc. He said Mr. Turner and Ms. Hutchinson could help with these local mitigation projects. Commissioner Mosconis said Mr. Pierce needed these people to help him with the local mitigation projects the County now has in progress such as the one in Eastpoint. Commissioner Putnal asked why couldn't Mr. Turner just come down to the office and not move the whole office down to the Annex. Commissioner Sanders said that would be a good idea and she felt like this is what is going to happen anyway. Commissioner Putnal said Mr. Turner couldn't leave that important equipment out the Airport without having to oversee it on a daily basis. Mr. Pierce and Commissioner Mosconis said that wasn't the issue. Commissioner Putnal said it was too when you have important equipment at the Airport and Mr. Turner is down here at the Annex. Chairman Creamer said Mr. Turner would still be going out to the Airport Office. Commissioner Putnal asked why would the Board want to mess with them. Chairman Creamer said because it was Mr. Pierce's decision. Mr. Turner said he just wanted the Board to tell him what to do. Chairman Creamer replied Mr. Pierce had already told him what to do. Mr. Pierce said if they think of a better idea then they would pursue that also. Commissioner Sanders said she thought Mr. Pierce knew about all of the issues.

#### **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

(Tape 2-1814) Commissioner Mosconis asked if the Courthouse was closed a day last week and if so why one of the Board's employees took the day off. He asked if that employee got docked. Chairman Creamer asked if it was one of the Board's employees or one of the Constitutional Officers employees. Commissioner Mosconis replied one of the Board's employees. Mr. Pierce said it would be more accurate to say a half of a day.

Commissioner Mosconis said it didn't matter if it was a day or half of a day. He stated the Courthouse was closed because the City of Apalachicola was out of water and the Board's staff over here continued to work, but one of the Board's employees in the Courthouse left. He said his question was if this person was getting paid or not. Chairman Creamer asked if this was a maintenance person. Mr. Pierce said he couldn't answer this question. Chairman Creamer said he just heard there was a mix up. Mr. Pierce stated several of the Courthouse offices closed at the discretion of the people who run those offices. He explained he did not close his office in the Annex and his employees worked the entire day. He said a Board of County Commission employee who works in the Courthouse did leave when the Courthouse doors were closed at noon. He said if the Board felt that person, and he said he wasn't disagreeing since the Board did not authorize their employees to leave, should be docked then they should instruct the payroll department. He said one of the employees did go home while the other Board employees worked. He informed the Board the employee went home because she thought her duties could not be performed. He said he didn't authorize her to go home. Commissioner Mosconis asked if there was a plan if the Courthouse runs out of water. Mr. Pierce said the plan is "to go down to Dakie Ward's and use his toilet because he has a deep water well." He stated there is no plan and there are some things that cannot be easily responded to. He said the Courthouse opening and closing is the responsibility of the Clerk since he is the custodian. He stated if he felt it was unsafe or unsanitary he could close the Courthouse. He asked if the Board employees of the Courthouse should follow the Board's direction or the Clerk's direction. Commissioner Sanders said this is something that needs to be addressed. Commissioner Mosconis said if somebody took off from work for that reason they need to be docked whether they had permission or not. He stated this was not a paid holiday and not budgeted. Commissioner Mosconis said this needed to be passed on to the Clerk. Commissioner Sanders asked if this person that works in the Courthouse could come over to Mr. Pierce's office when the Courthouse closes and work. Mr. Pierce stated there are janitorial duties in the Annex someone could do. Commissioner Sanders said she agreed. Commissioner Mosconis said he knew there was a lot of vacuuming to be done since there was electricity in the buildings. Commissioner Sanders said she left a piece of paper on the floor of the new Annex purposely to see if would be picked up. She stated that was two weeks ago and it still hasn't been picked up. Commissioner Sanders said she agreed with Commissioner Mosconis. Mr. Pierce said the Board employee the Board is discussing this morning does not work for him since she is in the "gray" area. He stated they are Board employees, but are supervised by the Clerk since he is the custodian. He said they are not his employees, they are Board employees, and if the Board wants to set a policy to have someone else supervise them then they can. He stated he is not asking for responsibility, but somebody does need to supervise them. Commissioner Williams said someone had to be in charge of these employees. Commissioner Mosconis asked what would happen if everybody just walked out? He stated he knew what happened; somebody just decided they needed a day or a half-day off. He stated they got a half-day off and got paid for it. He stated the "child's play" at the Courthouse has gotten out of hand. Mr. Pierce replied each Constitutional Officer is responsible for their employees and their office and the Board doesn't have anything to say about it. He stated the Board employees are different. He said if the Board wants to, in the cases where the Courthouse is closed for one reason or

another, to direct him to have those employees report to him, since he is the nearest department head, and let him judge whether they need to leave or stay at work to perform other duties. He said he would do this if the Board directed him to. He stated he didn't want to do this on a daily basis, but just if the Courthouse is closed such as it was the other day because the sewer system was out of order. Commissioner Mosconis said they need to go through a channel to be excused. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion directing the Board employees that work in the Courthouse to report to Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services, in the event the Courthouse is closed on a regular working day for one reason or another and directing the Payroll Department to dock this Board employee for one-half day.** Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis said he wanted the person who left the Courthouse that day to be docked for a half day. He stated they should report directly to Mr. Pierce for instruction as to what to do if the Courthouse is closed.

### **VAN LEWIS-MOSQUITO CONTROL ISSUES**

(Tape 2-2066) Mr. Lewis asked the Board to adopt a policy regarding speakers from the public. He said this policy would assure speakers they are welcome to speak to the Board and the audience for a minimum of three minutes.

(Tape 2-2096) He presented a ten-page report "Public Health Mosquito Management Strategy" to the Board. He asked them to read it thoroughly and think about the issues. He related several instances where the mosquito truck sprayed his house and him with spray when he really didn't want them to. He said the Board should really rethink their policy of mosquito control.

### **VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

(Tape 2-2463) Commissioner Mosconis asked what the VFD representatives were doing in the meeting today and asked them if someone would like to speak. George Pruitt, Franklin County United Firefighters Association, said they were here this morning to inform the Board they started a media blitz to try and have the Board raise the MSBU fees more than the Board did. He said the problem is as the County grows high rise fires become more a reality. He stated the County does not have a truck that could reach third and fourth story buildings. Commissioner Mosconis said he wasn't aware the County had changed their policy or requirements that a person could only build a 35-foot high residence. He said a person couldn't build a house any higher unless they received a variance, which he knows the Board hasn't granted in fourteen years. Chairman Creamer asked if this media blitz was for public awareness or to bash the Commissioners. Mr. Pierce said the ordinance contained a height restriction of 35 feet from the first floor. The Board informed Mr. Pruitt they were not happy with the publicity the VFD had caused the Commissioners. Chairman Creamer said he thought raising the MSBU from \$28.00 to \$42.00 made all of them happy. He stated Mr. Pruitt even shook his hand after the increase was approved. He said many people in Franklin County couldn't even think about paying the \$70.00 the VFD's wanted approved. Mr. Pruitt invited all of the Commissioners to a meeting at the Lanark Village Volunteer Fire Department tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. to discuss this matter further.

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

Eddie Creamer **EDDIE CREAMER, CHAIRMAN**

Kendall Wade **KENDALL WADE, CLERK**