

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
MAY 2, 2017
9:00 AM
AGENDA**

Commissioners Present: Joseph Parrish – Chairman, Noah Lockley-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, William Massey, Ricky Jones

Others Present: Alan Pierce-Director of Administrative Services, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Parrish called the meeting to Order.

Prayer and Pledge

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meetings held on April 4, 2017 and April 18, 2017.

Payment of County Bills

On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve payment of the County's bills.

Rick Watson – Tax Collector – Presentation

Mr. Watson was not able to appear at the meeting.

Department Directors Report

Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works

Mr. Nabors said grass cutting is continuing throughout the County.

Mr. Nabors reported the Division of Forestry is doing a good job with keeping limerock on the road they are using. Commissioner Massey advised Mr. Nabors to call him if they have any trouble as he has the number for the man who has the grader.

Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Mr. Davis stated a lot of calls are being received about the recycling site at Alligator Point being located at the fire station. He explained the Board voted to move forward and hopefully this will get done this week.

Mr. Davis reported the recycling container on St. George Island is being relocated this week also.

Commissioner Sanders asked if Mr. Davis has checked on canopies for over the bleachers. Mr. Davis said he is waiting on a quote from BS & N Sports.

Mr. Davis reported the playground equipment for Vrooman Park has been ordered and should be received mid month and then the park can be reopened.

Mr. Davis stated in relation to a quote for port a potties at Carrabelle Beach; Miles Plumbing is cheaper per month than Talquin Septic Services.

Mr. Davis pointed out it is costing a lot to run the recycling program as household garbage is being placed in the containers. He said the total revenue was \$39,000 for 2015-16 and the amount is already \$15,000 this year. He explained for all the concerns they are getting, it may not be worth it to keep the recycling program going. Commissioner Sanders asked if Mr. Davis is talking about the whole county. Mr. Davis answered yes. Commissioner Sanders asked if anyone is participating in the program. Mr. Davis answered St. George Island and some of the cardboard areas are doing good but household garbage is being put in the containers at Alligator Point, Apalachicola and Carrabelle. Mr. Pierce said the problem is the value of recyclables has also gone down so what the County is selling is worth less. Commissioner Sanders reported she is not worried about putting the container on the site at Alligator Point. She stated Lanark Village does not have a site and goes to St. James Bay or Carrabelle to dispose of their recyclables. She said she understands Mr. Davis does not want conflict with the recycling site but the container has to be placed somewhere. She agreed as Chairman Parrish suggested security cameras can be placed in this area. Commissioner Sanders said if it does not work then the containers can be removed. She reported they should try the container with the security cameras. Chairman Parrish agreed this container has to be placed in a highly visible area because problems will occur if it is placed in an out of the way place. He said if someone is caught placing household garbage, then they must be prosecuted. Commissioner Sanders agreed and said she told Mr. Davis the same thing. Commissioner Massey said they have caught people in the City of Carrabelle. Chairman Parrish stated people have to pay the consequences if they are

caught. Mr. Eddie Sosebee, Alligator Point/St. Teresa Association, said he did not realize there was so much community disapproval of this location across from the fire station. He asked the Board not to replace this container at this site at this time and give them time to explore the economics of recycling. He stated this matter can be added to the Association agenda a week from Saturday and he can provide the Board with their recommendation. Chairman Parrish asked Mr. Sosebee to take the Board comments to the Association meeting and let them know this container cannot be placed in a low visibility place. He said the community also has to help monitor this container. Commissioner Sanders reported she is ready to move forward with this container. Commissioner Lockley questioned how long the County will continue the recycling program when it is losing money. Chairman Parrish stated it is important to some people to recycle so the landfill will last longer. He explained if they want to move the county ahead then they need to try and recycle. He reported if they continue to have problems, lose money and if the containers continue to receive household garbage then the Board will have to make a decision. Mr. Pierce suggested the Board consider some smaller containers and maybe just for glass and aluminum. Chairman Parrish reported the garbage is being placed at the sites and the volume can be overwhelming. Commissioner Massey stated when the containers are moved then the trash will be thrown out on the road. Mr. Davis presented the amounts the County receives for the sale of recyclables. He said the problem is there is no facility to keep some of the items dry. He explained they were paying to have glass hauled to Jacksonville and now the closest place to take the glass is Atlanta and they have not returned his telephone call. He reported the only market that is good is cardboard and it fluctuates depending on the season. Commissioner Sanders stated the Board needs to look into the economics of the program. She asked Mr. Davis to break the figures down into what is spent recycling and what the County is receiving back and then the Board can make a decision based on those facts. She said she will defer to Mr. Davis to hold off until the APTA meeting but she cannot let an organization determine how she votes on an issue. She said she has tried to be mindful of people but if this is a problem then they need to rectify it. She explained Mr. Davis had a site picked out but people did not like that site or a recycling bin would have been placed there a lot sooner. Commissioner Sanders stated the only reason she is slowing down on Alligator Point is because Mr. Davis is looking into the feasibility of keeping the recycling program going not because of whether Alligator Point votes for it or not. She reported the county also has an issue coming up with the transfer station. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to direct Mr. Davis to come back with a report on recycling. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Chairman Parrish asked if a couple of weeks are long enough to come back with the information. Mr. Davis answered yes. Mr. Sosebee asked to have this economic information when it is available so he can provide it at the Association meeting so they can consider it when they make a decision. **Commissioner Sanders amended her motion to include providing this information to the Association. Commissioner Massey amended his second.** Commissioner Jones questioned if the County makes money on recycling oil. Mr. Davis reported the County usually pays \$1.25

per gallon but this can fluctuate. Commissioner Jones expressed concern as this is the only place in the county to dispose of oil. He explained the change to the regulations and said he is afraid some people are not disposing of the oil properly. Mr. Davis reported they try to work with individuals who have 5 gallons of oil but for large amounts the county charges a fee. Commissioner Lockley said some of these problems would be solved if the County had mandatory garbage collection all over the county. He explained household garbage is being placed in the recycling bins but would be picked up by the solid waste garbage truck if mandatory garbage collection was in place. Chairman Parrish said he does not think the County can stop collecting the oil as it is not good for the environment if people improperly dispose of the oil. He stated the County will just have to continue to pay to dispose of the oil. Mr. Davis reported the County must also address the transfer station issue as the contract is ending next year. He explained they met with Waste Management and they are going to provide some options. Chairman Parrish stated the transfer station keeps the County from filling up the landfill too quickly and having to close the landfill and open another landfill which is very costly to the County. He said the Board will need to work to get the best deal but the options are limited for disposing of the solid waste. Commissioner Sanders reported the Board needs to be pro-active instead of reactive as they know this item is coming up. She suggested Mr. Davis work with Mr. Moron and Attorney Shuler and make a recommendation to the Board. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director

Mrs. Brownell presented her report:

Action Items:

- Sign Contract Modification Agreement between FDEM and Franklin County BOCC for additional funds for the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program.

Mrs. Brownell explained this program has been renamed but it is the residential construction mitigation program. She said one of the comments was that cages are needed for window unit air conditioners and the County did not have funds for these items. She reported her office requested additional funds and an extra \$10,000 was provided for this purpose. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the contract modification agreement with FDEM.**

Information Items:

1. EOC Staff continue to promote our Re-Entry Tag program and encourage all residents to apply for their Re-Entry Tag. Staff are also encouraging all residents to sign up for Alert Franklin our new County Alert system.
2. EOC Staff will be participating in the FireWise presentation on May 8, 2017.

3. Franklin County EOC hosted an After Action review of the East Pine Fire with Florida Forest Service and Franklin County Fire Chiefs. Florida Forest Service stated that the State of Florida is not currently under a burn ban. However, Forest Services are monitoring all conditions and will inform FCEM when a county wide burn ban would be recommended. St George Island burn ban issued by SGI Fire Chief is still in effect.
4. EOC Staff received an email that State of Florida will no longer be supporting counties with Project Worksheets after a disaster. All counties will be dealing directly with FEMA representatives.
5. EOC Staff participated in the Carrabelle Riverfront Festival on 04/21/17-04/22/17.
6. Tress Dameron visited Project Impact sites during Parent night and presented information on how to be more prepared.
7. FCEM will be participating in the Annual State Exercise on 5/1/17-5/2-17.

Commissioner Sanders brought into discussion a burn ban issued by the St. George Island Fire Chief. She questioned if individuals are not allowed to use grills because of this burn ban. Mrs. Brownell explained the fire chief said they are not allowed to use wood or charcoal grills. She said this action was taken after the fire on St. George Island. She reported normally the County follows whatever action is taken by the Department of Forestry and right now they do not have a statewide burn ban. She stated the Department is monitoring the situation and if they get to that point then they will contact her office and ask the County to do a county wide burn ban. Commissioner Sanders reported 26 counties in Florida have already issued burn bans. She asked what people should be told about using grills on St. George Island. Attorney Shuler stated he has never researched the authority of the fire chief but he will be glad to look into it and let the Commissioners know individually. Mrs. Brownell said she would like to know because the fire chief says he has the authority and he has done this in the past. She reported people are calling her but the County did not issue the ban. Mrs. Brownell pointed out this was done because a few years ago a home burned in the Plantation when someone dumped hot charcoal in pine straw. Chairman Parrish stated in that case the individual is responsible and should be held accountable. Commissioner Lockley reported this is the wrong approach because the person was responsible and he does not think this burn ban should have been issued. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to ask Attorney Shuler to look into the authority of the fire chief today and let the Commissioners know individually.** Commissioner Sanders said a lot of people are concerned about this burn ban and want to know what the County has done. Chairman Parrish stated in looking at the map that was provided, there are no counties in northern Florida with burn bans. Commissioner Lockley expressed concern that the fire chief did not contact the Commissioners about the burn ban. He explained people were told of the burn ban and then they contacted the Commissioners. **Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Mrs. Brownell stated she talked with Mr. Abbott after the fire on the island about the County issuing a ban on burning yard debris but he did not want a burn ban issued. She stated later she found out he issued one for charcoal and wood

grills. Commissioner Jones said the Commissioners need to know about the authority and also about protocol going forward. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

4. Adam Putnam, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner, has sent a letter to all County Leaders asking that each County consider enacting a burn ban. He states that debris burning has been the top cause of wildfires this year. Florida Forest Service advises that there are critical areas throughout the State that do not have county burn bans in place. To date, 26 counties have enacted burn bans under emergency ordinances. A map is attached. Board discussion.

Chairman Parrish said this item is referencing debris burning but the ban on St. George Island is for something else. Mr. Moron reported he contacted the Department of Forestry about the average number of days for a burn ban. He said he will report to the Board when he receives a response so they can decide if an emergency meeting needs to be called.

Mr. Pierce presented the following item from his report:

3- Inform the Board that the state of Florida is restructuring its hurricane response. In a memo sent to the counties, Mr. Brian Koon, DEM Director, outlined why the state will no longer use a consultant to assist local governments in writing PWs, but instead are "allowing" local governments to work directly with FEMA. Despite Mr. Koons saying in his memo that this will streamline the process, Pam and I believe this is a big step backwards for the county. This decision has been made retro-active to Hurricane Matthew and Hermine. Franklin County still has a \$3.5M PW under review for repairs to Alligator Drive that was written by the state's consultants at the time. The memo came out last Tuesday and I have been unable to get a clear answer on the status of the PW.

Mr. Pierce reported the state consultant has 20 years experience and knows the history of Alligator Point. He explained they were very cooperative and provided a lot of help with getting the maximum amount of FEMA funds. He explained the consultants write up the PW's with the County's help and then the consultants negotiate with FEMA. He reported in future hurricanes the County will write PW's from scratch and negotiate with FEMA directly which he has never done in 29 years. He stated the PW's from the last storm have already been written but he thinks the County will now have to negotiate with FEMA. Mr. Pierce stated he does not like this change and he is confused why the State of Florida has done this right before hurricane season. Chairman Parrish reported all the declarations of assistance are done from the state to the federal government and now they are taking a hands off approach. Mrs. Brownell pointed out the consensus from the counties is the State is trying to get out of paying their 12 1/2 % because they will not be involved. She explained the state has always had

employees that were PACs (Public Assistance Coordinators) to act as a go between for the County and the federal government. She stated Governor Scott wanted to privatize this item so they fired the state employees and DSI was hired to run the state's recovery system. She explained there was a Recovery Chief and now that person has been asked to resign and the job has been advertised. Mrs. Brownell said the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is in shambles and the exercise they conducted yesterday proved it. She reported they basically did their own exercise yesterday. She said the County employees showed up and they worked through some kinks in the Web EOC. Mrs. Brownell reported they will have to rework the plan for Franklin County on the Web EOC because it will not work. Mr. Pierce explained the state fired their workers and contracted with DSI and has now let DSI go so he is not sure who is doing what. He was concerned there may not be anyone there who has any experience in recovery. Mr. Pierce reported the state provided the names of two people who are now trying to help all 67 counties. Chairman Parrish stated now the County will have to hire their own people. Mrs. Brownell answered yes. She explained the debris monitors are going to have to help the County write the PW's. Mr. Pierce explained on big PW's Preble-Rish has been excellent at providing the numbers for FEMA. He explained the County then provided all the information to PAC and they along with FEMA worked it into a system they use and then the County signed off on the PW. He said with the initial numbers they have assistance but now the County will have to turn this into a product that will satisfy FEMA. Chairman Parrish reported the County will receive less money and response from FEMA and the burden will be on the taxpayers. He explained if Alligator Point Road washes away again then it will all be on the County as the state will not be pushing the federal government for assistance. Chairman Parrish stated this needs to be changed. Mr. Pierce said this action is retroactive to Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Hermine so although all the state is aware of the change, they are not affected by it yet. Chairman Parrish asked how this action will affect the PW's for beach renourishment on the east coast. Mr. Pierce said they will be affected but the PW's may already be approved. Mrs. Brownell said Franklin County has the PW's written but are waiting on FEMA to obligate funds. Commissioners Sanders reported other counties were doing PW's for Hurricane Matthew before anything was done for Hurricane Hermine. Chairman Parrish reported the State just allocated money for beach renourishment on the east coast. He asked if this is in conjunction with the relief FEMA is providing. Mr. Pierce explained the state has a long term beach recovery plan and if a County already has an engineered beach then they can access these funds along with FEMA funds. Chairman Parrish said the County may need to look into something like this for Alligator Point. Mr. Pierce reported the Legislators cannot be contacted to find out why this change occurred as the Legislature is still in session. Chairman Parrish reported this item needs to be a priority with the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) as this will be devastating for a small county. He said the proposed increase in homestead exemption will also need to be considered because they are going to need to make cuts in the budget. Mr. Pierce reported it looks like the local governments will be able to allow the voters to decide on the increase to homestead exemption and it will

be on the ballot in 2018 and enacted in 2019. Commissioner Sanders pointed out the House voted for the \$75,000-\$100,000 amount and the Senate voted for \$100,000 to \$125,000 amount so now it has to go back to the House to see if they will change. She explained the offset for “fiscally constrained counties” is in the proposed legislation. Commissioner Lockley reported the County will not qualify for funding for beach renourishment unless they have done it first themselves. Mr. Pierce agreed and said he is trying to get some options together for Alligator Point. Chairman Parrish said the County would then only qualify for 50% funding.

Erik Lovestrand – Extension Office Director

Mr. Lovestrand said he does not have any additional report today. Mr. Moron read the following item:

1. At the last meeting, I informed the Board that Duke Energy notified the County that they would start spraying herbicide in the areas that they have trimmed vegetation under power lines last year. The Board directed me to contact our Extension Agent, Erik Lovestrand, and ask him to research the herbicide Duke was planning on using. The Board wanted an alternative herbicide that would reduce the ‘scorched’ look, not kill all the vegetation in the sprayed area, and not cause damage if it flowed into the Bay. Included in your agenda packet Mr. Lovestrand’s response to the Board’s request.

Mr. Moron said there been concerns about water wells and Duke Energy spraying too close to their water supply. Chairman Parrish stated they are concerned because the wells are close to the easement. He reported the call he received was from someone who lives between Eastpoint and Carrabelle and this may be one of the target areas. Mr. Lovestrand explained if the chemicals are applied according to the label directions, it will not be translocated into the soils and aquifer and get into the wells. He pointed out if they are using a adjuvant then they should not be applied to water bodies if they are connected to the bay as the adjuvant is toxic to aquatic life. Mr. Lovestrand reported it is listed on the application that it should be applied to ditches with no flowing water or temporary standing water that does not have aquatic life considerations. He explained the chemicals have an immediate impact but degrade very quickly. He explained the quick kill agent gets sprayed and once it gets on the vegetation and dries there is not a concern because it kills the top but does not go into the soil or stay active. He went on to say for the woody brush the chemicals are translocated down to the roots and it stays active longer to be effective longer. Mr. Lovestrand said Duke Energy is using a complicated mix. He stated they are using 3 different products to do 3 different things and they are combining them for economic reasons and maximum effect. He discussed the options available and said something in between like a targeted effect would be better. He suggested Duke Energy needs to be more selective with the chemicals and have a more selective application. He said they also should not spray in all the areas near people’s property and wells. Mr. Lovestrand reported he is not an expert in this field but has access to an individual in Quincy who is an expert and can help with this matter. Chairman Parrish explained the Board is relying on Mr. Lovestrand and his expert to help. Chairman Parrish said people are concerned

about this spraying. Mr. Lovestrand felt like the concern for the water wells is low and if they are not misapplying the chemicals the concern for the bay should also be low. Chairman Parrish stated the Board needs to direct Mr. Lovestrand to get with the expert and come up with a suggestion on how the Board should react and then send a letter from the Board to Duke Energy. He reported they need to provide guidelines and suggestions for this coastal community. Commissioner Lockley said Duke Energy is a large company and they had this same problem last year and will have it next year. He suggested the County try a tri-county approach and reach out to other counties to help with this request. He reported the County will not be successful alone and needs support from other counties such as Wakulla County, Gulf County, and Liberty County. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to direct County staff to get with the neighboring counties and see if they are interested in working with the county to come up with a more suitable product to use. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion.**

Commissioner Sanders said the areas sprayed up Highway 67 are still dead. She said she went looking for parrot pitcher plants up Highway 67 where they sprayed and they are not where they always were. She stated these plants are rare and they are not where they always were. She explained it is dead for 10 ft. along the road where they sprayed last year. **Motion carried; 5-0. Commissioner Sanders made a motion to direct Mr. Lovestrand to contact his expert and come up with recommendations and alternatives for what can be sprayed. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Ms. Lois Swoboda, a resident of Franklin County, reported she went looking for pitcher plants on Brickyard Road where there used to be a large stand and there are none. She stated she has gone there for years to see these plants. Mr. Lovestrand reported usually the areas where the pitcher plants are does not require much spraying. Mr. Lovestrand explained he did see some areas past Turkey Point that had low cover and was sprayed and that was the perfect type of ground cover to leave in this area. He said Duke Energy needs a more targeted approach because there are many options. Chairman Parrish reported the County does not have anyone to monitor what they are doing and what chemicals should be used so they are relying on Mr. Lovestrand. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

County Extension Activities April 19 – May 2, 2017

General Extension Activities:

- Extension Staff assisted local citizens regarding citrus disease diagnosis, pesticide application, soil tests, insect pests, injured wildlife and other topics.
- Extension Director attended an in-service training on technological tools available for delivering Extension programming.
- Extension Director assisted with the Apalachicola Reserve's "Birding the Bay" festival during one of the field trip options for participants.
- Extension Director participated in a planning committee meeting for the annual County Extension Director in-service training workshop.
- Extension office staff attended training regarding the new UF fiscal accounts being used for University business.

Sea Grant Extension:

- Extension Director participated in the weekly planning call for the Dark Skies turtle lighting project.
- Extension Director provided required shellfish harvester training video for the Wakulla oyster lease-holders.

4-H Youth Development:

- Extension staff attended planning meeting for 2017 4-H summer camp sessions.

Family Consumer Sciences:

- Family Nutrition Program Assistant is conducting health and nutrition programs in the local schools.

Agriculture/Horticulture:

- Extension Director provided pesticide licensing exam for the 10 members of the Forgotten Coast Conservation Corps.

Welton Cadwell – Public Entity Specialist - Presentation

Mr. Cadwell, Preferred Government Insurance Trust, provided handouts to the Board. He introduced Mr. Kurt Heyman who also works with Preferred Government Insurance Trust. Mr. Heyman stated their company started in 1999 and they serve cities, counties, special taxing districts and school boards. He explained they have 425 participating entities including 23 of the 67 counties in Florida. He stated the County is currently with the League of Cities and Counties Trust but their company utilizes independent insurance agents. He reported they serve the City of Apalachicola, Gulf County, Wakulla County, Santa Rosa County and Walton County in the panhandle area. Mr. Heyman stated their services are provided out of Orlando. He reported it has been 10 years since they have provided a proposal to the County and they would like the opportunity to provide a quote for October, 2017. He explained they have a two year rate guarantee program so the pricing will remain the same for a two year period. He stated this is a good benefit from the hurricane/storm perspective. Mr. Heyman said they offered the plan in 2015 and 70% of members took advantage of this option. He asked if the Board had any questions. There were no questions. Mr. Cadwell reported they also offer a vigorous online training system and a Human Resources (HR) hotline. He said this feature is important for counties of this size. Mr. Heyman stated they have a safety grant program and if the County spends up to \$10,000 on a safety initiative, they will match \$.50 for every dollar spent on this program. He said this program can help to keep claims down. Commissioner Sanders asked for a copy of this information to be provided to the Finance Office to review.

The meeting recessed at 10:08 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:21 a.m.

Public Hearing – Alan Pierce – Freight Logistic Zone Study

Mr. Pierce said there was a miscommunication at the last meeting when Mrs. Beth Kirkland, BRPH, had a presentation on the Freight Logistic Zone (FLZ). He explained a public hearing should have followed her presentation but a discussion occurred about the economic development study. He explained today is the public hearing for the FLZ. Mr. Pierce reported the FLZ study is a 4 county project including Gulf County, Franklin County, Liberty County and Gadsden County. He informed the Board he attended the summit and referenced page one of the study and the map. He explained there is a spelling error all through the report so they will send a corrected copy. Mr. Pierce discussed a slide of the map and the locations for the FLZ. Mr. Pierce read the following item from his report:

7- Presentation for the Freight Logistics Zone Public Hearing on the agenda.

Board action to approve the Freight Logistics Zone (FLZ) in Franklin County and the associated report. The FLZ is a 5 mile wide corridor along the Apalachicola Northern Railway (ANR) from its southern terminus in Port St. Joe to a point in Gadsden County near Interstate 10. (See attachment.) At Board direction I attended the FLZ Summit in Liberty County last week. The Summit reviewed the FLZ Report, and has asked each county to approve the report and the FLZ in its county.

The approval of the FLZ will allow the FLZ partners to seek funds for improvements in the FLZ. In the case of Franklin County, we would be able to seek funds to extend a rail spur to the airport, or perhaps seek additional funds for improvements at the airport. In the case of Gulf County, which sought the FLZ initially, this will allow Gulf County to seek TRIUMPH funds to assist in the expansion of the Gulf County Port. As the Board might be aware, Gulf County is still short the funds it needs to make the port expansion it desires. The FLZ is a concept approved by FDOT that makes it eligible for funding under certain programs. Liberty County does not have much at this time it needs, but Gadsden County will be using the FLZ status to try to build a connection between the rail line and I-10.

Board action.

Mr. Pierce said as opportunities become available the County would be able to use the FLZ status. He stated it will also give extra points on grant applications. He explained Gulf County asked for the County's support and he does not see any reason not to support them as it may create jobs in Gulf County or Franklin County. Mr. Pierce reported Gulf County is very aggressive in getting their port up and running and the FLZ is part of their program. Mr. Pierce asked for the Board's support on the FLZ report. Chairman Parrish asked for public comments. There were no public comments. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to support the FLZ report. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Sanders asked if they are talking only about the old railroad bed. Mr. Pierce said that is where the railroad spur may go if the County gets one. He reported the FLZ follows the existing railway that is still in place and goes by the Apalachicola Airport. Commissioner Sanders asked if this approval is in concept only because more people are moving around these areas. Mr. Pierce agreed it is in concept but it allows for a solid corridor from Gulf County to the I-10 corridor which is what they are

seeking for transportation along that line. He went on to say Franklin County is not giving up any authority or control over this designation. Chairman Parrish explained if they get a company that is providing manufacturing jobs then they could use the railroad spur or airport to get the products shipped out. He reported there is money available to re-do the railroads but it is being held in escrow waiting on job opportunities or tenants that will use the railway. He said there is \$5.5 million allocated to re-build the railway bridge across the Apalachicola River. Mr. Pierce stated the new owners of the ANR have set aside money contingent upon having a client to use the railway. Commissioner Sanders reported she did not know this was going to a public hearing after Ms. Kirkland made her presentation. Mr. Pierce explained the public hearing should have been done after her presentation. Commissioner Jones asked about the 6 sites. Mr. Pierce reported they identified 995 acres that tie the railroad to the airport. He explained they identified undeveloped sites around the airport that might have economic development potential in the future. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Bid Opening – Airfield Drainage Improvements

Mr. Moron and Mr. Pierce opened the bids as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
Great Southern Demolition, Inc. Alternate #1-\$1,566,781.84	Tallahassee, FL Alternate #2-\$1,351,091.70	\$1,338,624.80 Alternate #3-\$1,074,902.70
Gulf Coast Utility Contractors Alternate #1-\$1,413,111.00	Southport, FL Alternate #2-\$1,201,033.00	\$1,055,667.50 Alternate#3-\$978,925.50
Poloronis Construction, Inc. Alternate #1-\$1,546,886.50	Apalachicola, FL	\$1,261,763.15
BKW, Inc. Alternate #1-\$903,471.02	Blountstown, FL Alternate #2-\$758,084.00	\$ 685,367.97 Alternate #3-\$622,802.39
C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. Alternate #1-\$1,323,137.03	Tallahassee, FL Alternate #2-\$1,179,801.67	\$1,098,511.46 Alternate #3-\$1,037,280.29

Mr. Pierce recommended the Board turn the bids over to Avcon for evaluation and a recommendation to the Board. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to turn the bids over to Avcon for review and a recommendation.** Chairman Parrish reported one bid is very low. Mr. Pierce stated Avcon will review the bids for everything and determine if it is not a complete bid.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report

Clerk Johnson did not have a report at this time.

Alan Pierce – RESTORE Coordinator – Report

Mr. Pierce presented the following report:

1-Board update on State Expenditure Plan (SEP). I have conferred by telephone several times with Melissa Beaudry, Langson Consulting, one of the consultants for the Consortium. It is a little complicated explaining how the consultants are putting together the SEP, but the summary is any feasibility/planning study that a county wants to use its Consortium funds on has to be done by the Consortium consultants. In the case of a new EOC, if the Board wants to use some of its \$12.7M to design and build a new EOC, that description must be put into the SEP, and then the county must use the consultants selected by the Consortium, because only the consultants selected by the Consortium can get paid using Consortium funds. At this time, if the county wants to use its own consultants to design and engineer a new EOC, then the county will have to use its own funds to design the building. In the case of a new EOC design and engineering funds have been estimated at \$200,000. The county did not budget any funds for design and engineering a new EOC. If the Board uses the Consortium consultants, then whatever the fees are will be deducted from the county's own allocation of \$12.7M. Commissioner Sanders and I have talked and we believe not all Consortium members are happy about the position the consultants are taking, so it might be best for the county to not pursue EOC design funding through the Consortium at this time, and let the Consortium work this issue out.

Mr. Pierce reported they thought there was additional planning money but now the counties will have to pay for the planning out of their money. Commissioner Sanders said some of the counties want to make sure they do not pay for other counties.

2- I attended the Northwest Florida WMD Surface Water Improvement (SWIM) meeting in Eastpoint on April 20. Commissioner Jones also attended. Commissioner Jones and I sat with the Executive Director of the WMD, Mr. Brent Seiffert, and had time to discuss issues with him. I said at the meeting that the county would like for the District to focus on projects that would improve the water quality around Eastpoint. The purpose of this refocus would be try to improve the water quality so that any near shore oyster reefs that are currently getting some freshwater, but are closed to do water quality, could be opened for oyster harvesting in the future. The District has traditionally focused on hydrological projects in Tate's Hell Forest, for which we cannot see any demonstrable effect on the water quality in the Bay or River.

Other presentations of note at the meeting were two: Mr. George Wilson, formerly with several environmental groups asked for support for an acquisition of some 40,000 acres of River front property, representing 80 miles of shoreline in counties north of Franklin. His group has put in an application to Florida Forever for the acquisition of this

land, previously owned by the Neal Timber Company and has recently sold to another timber management company. And, Dr. Dusty Mays and associates from Gulf County put in a passionate plea to the District that they pursue installing flood gates on the west side of Lake Wimico to control the water flowing down the Gulf County canal and into St. Joe Bay. Dr. Mays said the water quality in St. Joe Bay is changing because of additional sediments from the Apalachicola River that is being pushed into St. Joe Bay during high River events. And then during low water he believes salt water from St. Joe Bay is flowing into Lake Wimico and decimating the freshwater marshes around the Lake. There was no action on either item.

3- The Board discussed this item earlier in the meeting.

4- Alligator Point Road update- Because of the above mentioned change by the state in letting go the very consultants who had helped Franklin County write the \$3.5M PW, I believe the PW is now going to take longer to get approved. I have asked Commissioner Sanders to re-visit the issue of paving the one lane section of Alligator Drive. I have asked Clay Kennedy to get a current quote from Roberts and Roberts, and for around \$20K that section of road could be paved with one layer of asphalt. I think it will be 9 to 12 months before a contractor is in place working on the repairs as we cannot even begin to apply for a DEP permit until FEMA authorizes the funds. Commissioner Sanders could use some of her repaving funds. Board discussion.

Mr. Pierce said this may be a long negotiation and asked if the County wants to pursue this item. He said the traffic lights are working well but it is very dry and there is a washboard effect going on. He suggested paving about 1,100 ft. of road about 12 ft. wide to stabilize the road until an answer is received on the permit. Chairman Parrish inquired if the lights will be left in place. Mr. Pierce answered yes. He explained Mr. Clay Smallwood, Preble-Rish, provided an estimate for paving the road 18ft. wide but he thinks people may view this as a two lane road. He suggested cutting the road down to 12 ft. wide and then the estimate should be below \$20,000 although he does not have a revised bid. Chairman Parrish asked if they will have to take the road up before the permanent repairs are completed. Mr. Pierce answered yes, but said the County can request reimbursement but he is not sure if the costs will be reimbursed. Mr. Pierce estimated 1,000 cars a day travel this road in the summer. He said there are also 767 houses in this area. Chairman Parrish expressed concern the speed of the cars will increase if the area is paved. Mr. Pierce agreed this may be an issue but said the cars have to stop at the traffic light and then there is a sharp curve in the road. He reported people are complaining about the dust and it may be a year before there is a contractor in place. Mr. Pierce said the County may expend the \$20,000 and not get the money back. Mr. Sosebee reported the road is wash boarding and the county is trying to grade the road but it only lasts about two days before it is back to the same condition. He explained they understand not wanting to put money on the road when it must be torn up for the permanent repairs but he would like to Board to consider this option. Chairman Parrish asked if milled asphalt can be placed on this road. Mr. Pierce

stated Roberts & Roberts estimated 4" of milled asphalt would be needed which cost only \$5,000 less than paving the road. Commissioner Sanders said she will take care of this matter. Commissioner Lockley asked if rock pavement can be used temporarily. Mr. Pierce did not think the base was adequate for rock pavement. Commissioner Sanders stated she does not mind paving the road but she wants to make sure everything is taken care of. She explained people may speed once the road is paved so they are going to need to monitor the situation to make sure there are no accidents. Chairman Parrish said he is looking at the liability issues as many of the people using this area do not live in the area. Mr. Alan Feifer, Franklin County Concerned Citizens, suggested the Board use Portland cement on some type of aggregate for a temporary road that will last about a year or two. He explained there are specifications for this concrete and the engineer could contact the company about these specifications. Mr. Pierce stated they do not know if this kind of soil cement will work in this area but the County can look into this option. Chairman Parrish questioned if it is cheaper. Mr. Pierce said it can be but it depends on how much cement is needed. Mr. Feifer stated cement is about half the cost. Mr. Pierce said the road may not have enough depth to blend the concrete. Commissioner Sanders reported the Road Department is going out there twice a week to grade the road which is a big cost to the County.

4- Inform Board that I am in the final stages of completing the HMGP application to acquire the Bank property. I am waiting for final state review before I submit it, and pending approval from the state it will be submitted by the end of the week. At this time state staff is still favorable to the acquisition.

In a related issue to this section of property, FEMA has re-written part of the PW that was to clean up the debris in front of the property and to fix the small damage at the west end of Alligator Drive and Chip Morrison. At this time, FEMA has approved \$27K for debris removal, but has yet to approve any funds to fix Chip Morrison. Chip Morrison has not necessarily been denied, but FEMA chose to break the PW into different components. This might be because they want to consolidate and identify costs associated with the road in front of the Bank property, and separate out costs for other sections of the road.

5- Inform the Board that there will be a workshop on May 16th for applicants who are interested in applying to the county for inclusion in the first phase of the MYIP. This workshop opens the application period, which at this time will run for 60 days or until July. If the Board or the RAC receives comments that applicants are not going to be able to meet the July 15 deadline it is entirely at the discretion of the Board to extend the application period. The workshop is for applicants and the Board does not need to attend.

Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Pierce to explain what the MYIP stands for. Mr. Pierce stated the Multi-Year Implementation Plan is the U.S. Treasury document that is required before the County receives any Restore money.

6- TRIUMPH update- This update is based upon action that should have happened yesterday afternoon in the Legislature. As of Monday morning there appeared to be consensus on a bill to get TRIUMPH approved. I understand the key points are:

- *Grants will be allowed to the tourism entities for advertising/promoting tourism, and grants to promote workforce and infrastructure on behalf of ALL the 8 counties.

- *The role of BCCs was changed. The county commissions will now recommend projects from their counties, but the BCC recommendation will only be a factor for approval by the TRIUMPH Board, not a requirement.

- * The definition of infrastructure was removed. This means that the TRIUMPH Board will determine the definition.

- * TRIUMPH Board will be expanded to 7 members, with the two additional members coming from the 4 smallest counties. The four smallest counties are Wakulla, Franklin, Gulf, and...Bay. (Bay is not small compared to us, but the legislation says the FOUR smallest counties.) I think the appointments will be by mutual consent of the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House.

Chairman Parrish asked if Bay County will now have two representatives. He explained there are only three counties not represented and this is why the additional two were coming from these counties.

Mr. Pierce said the Board has talked about getting jobs in the County and the airport and referenced an article in 805 magazine where Santa Rosa County is promoting their county. He explained the article says more than 36% of the county's population has an associate degree or higher, local schools are among the best in the State of Florida and local business incentives comprise up to \$800 per position, per year. He reported they are marketing their county with stronger qualifications than our county has and this will be the challenge of the small county. Chairman Parrish asked if Mr. Pierce thinks the Triumph funds will go to these areas. Mr. Pierce answered yes. Mr. Pierce reported the County will begin opening up the MYIP application process. He brought into discussion the road at Alligator Point and said the County has done everything they can to get the state to take this road and they will not take it. He explained the County needs to protect this road and reduce the risk to the County. He asked the Board to consider doing a shoreline protection from the west end of Chip Morrison Drive eastward for 1 mile. He reported this would involve placing some sand and creating an artificial beach to protect the road during the next storm. He explained if the County does this right, it is possible the State would match 50% of the costs. He suggested using part of the Restore funds for the other 50%. Mr. Pierce pointed out the County's permit is still active and they could get a beach but a funding source is needed to maintain this beach. He stated the people who utilize this beach and road should pay for the maintenance. He said the Board has a couple of months to consider this item before an application is due. He reported if the Board is interested in using Restore funds to complete this project then now is the time. Commissioner Lockley said this would be a beach renourishment project. Mr. Pierce answered yes. Commissioner Lockley asked for a cost analysis for beach renourishment and a bridge. Mr. Pierce reported the County would need to use all their own money to build a bridge. Commissioner Lockley suggested

adding a toll on the bridge to help with the costs. Chairman Parrish stated a bridge would cut Alligator Point in half but sand would help stop this problem. Chairman Parrish said his understanding is FEMA will only reimburse 50% if this area washes out so that is why the County needs the funding source for maintenance. He reported the state and federal government are cutting back on their funds and the costs will all fall on the County and the County does not have \$3.5 million to fix the road. Mr. Pierce agreed and said if the County does not receive a waiver this year then the Board will have to use all of the Bald Point Trust Fund to fix the road this one time and there will be no money for future repairs. Commissioner Sanders agreed something has to be done in this area. Chairman Parrish said people need to know it is going to get to the point where the County cannot maintain this road. He explained now the county will not have a consultant to help with the PW's and they will only be funded at 50% if one is approved. Mr. Pierce stated hopefully the PW's would be approved for 75% or 87 ½% but the benefit of doing beach renourishment is 50% of the initial costs are paid by the state. Chairman Parrish reported the problem is how the 25% is paid if the area is washed out again. Mr. Pierce explained this is why the County needs a fund for maintenance. He reported there is an erosion problem in this area so every 8 years sand will need to be replaced. Chairman Parrish stated FEMA will not help with replenishing the sand. Commissioner Lockley asked what the County will do to get the maintenance money. Mr. Pierce answered an assessment on the property owners who are using the road. He said they have not talked to specialists about this assessment but he suggests a single equal assessment to everyone that uses the road. He explained the initial review shows the County would need to generate \$2 million over an 8 year period. He reported the County will need to generate \$250,000 a year and the service area will determine the number of participants. Chairman Parrish asked if some individuals have offered to cost share this project. Mr. Pierce answered yes. Chairman Parrish stated if the County agrees to use some Restore funds to complete this project; there must still be a way to sustain the area. Commissioner Lockley asked how the County can get money from the people who visit the area such as through rental homes. Mr. Pierce said each home will pay an assessment. Mr. Sosebee said they need to look at the options because there are opportunities. Chairman Parrish asked Mr. Sosebee to inform the taxpayers of this situation. He explained if the County does not do something now it will get worse and the funding sources are going away. Mr. Sosebee agreed to present this matter to the APTA. Commissioner Sanders suggested Mr. Pierce attends the APTA meeting. Mr. Sosebee said the meeting is May 13th at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Pierce agreed to attend this meeting. Commissioner Sanders reported this is the only opportunity the County has to do something because of the Restore funds. Mr. Pierce reported if the Board is planning to use money from the U.S. Treasury in 2018; the project has got to be put in the MYIP plan. Chairman Parrish stated it has to be included in the plan as these are the only funds the Board has available but there also has to be a funding source to maintain the road. Mr. Pierce said if the County needs \$8 million for the initial capital investment for the project then half would be beach renourishment funds from the State and the County's portion would be \$4 million in Restore funds. He explained there may only be about \$4-\$5 million available for projects in Phase I so the first and only project in the MYIP will be beach renourishment at Alligator Point. Chairman Parrish asked about the other individuals that submit projects. Mr. Pierce stated they would have to wait until Phase II. Commissioner

Sanders asked if it is possible that a state agency may want to add funding to projects in the MYIP. Mr. Pierce said this will be included in the application as there is a program with DEP that provides a 50% match which is about as high a match as the County can get. Chairman Parrish said without matching money this project will not occur. He pointed out no one else can apply for any money the first year. Chairman Parrish asked Mr. Sosebee to discuss this with the residents as a decision has to be made to include this project in the MYIP. Chairman Parrish reported he would like this project to move forward and be done before the road is built. Mr. Pierce said the legislature has to approve beach renourishment so it will be 2019 before this is done. Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Pierce to contact other counties and see what they do for day trippers. Mr. Pierce said this idea came from Gulf County as they are doing the same thing on Cape San Blas. He stated Gulf County had a beach built by the taxpayers and it washed away before it was certified so now they are trying to do the project again. Mr. Pierce reported their only project in the MYIP Phase I is beach renourishment at Cape San Blas. Chairman Parrish reported FEMA will not help if the beach washes away before it is certified. Commissioner Lockley said the County needs to make sure this work is done in the off storm season. Mr. Sosebee asked how Gulf County is paying for the maintenance. Mr. Pierce stated Gulf County already has placed an assessment on the property owners

7- This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Public Hearing – Ordinance – Restrict Traffic on Duval & Mill Roads

Attorney Shuler said this public hearing is being held for an Ordinance restricting traffic on Duval Road and Mill Road. He requested the Board table this public hearing until he and Mr. Moron can meet with the Division of Forestry. He explained the Division of Forestry has expressed some concerns that the weight limits will adversely affect their ability to perform their duties. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to table this public hearing. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley asked Attorney Shuler to let the Division of Forestry know the County would not have to consider this ordinance if they would fix the road when they tear it up. Attorney Shuler agreed this will be part of the conversation. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Public Hearing – Ordinance – Regulating Animals in Franklin County

Attorney Shuler reported the Board is in a procedural position to consider an Ordinance regulating Animals in Franklin County. He reported this Ordinance is an update of the current 2001 Animal Control Ordinance. He asked if the Board has any questions. Commissioner Lockley asked if this Ordinance will also cover the cities. Attorney Shuler stated the County does not typically enact ordinances that cover the incorporated areas. He said this Ordinance does include all municipal corporations so it covers Franklin County's unincorporated areas and the cities. Chairman Parrish asked if this is a revision. Attorney Shuler stated an inconsistency developed between the current Ordinance and state law in relation to dangerous animals and he has updated this section. He reported there are some people who have too many animals and it creates unsanitary conditions and the prior ordinance did not address this situation

sufficiently but this Ordinance covers it twice. Chairman Parrish explained the Sheriff's Deputies can also be considered animal control officers. Attorney Shuler stated all law enforcement officers will have the ability to help out. Attorney Shuler asked for public comments. Mr. Murray Harrison, a resident of Eastpoint, said there is no mention of excessive barking in this ordinance. He explained there are a number of dogs in certain premises and they are approaching the regulations of a kennel. He stated one of the dogs in his neighborhood barks all the time. He informed the Board he walks 2 miles a day in Eastpoint and there is also a problem with bull dogs. Attorney Shuler stated there is a regulation for kennels in this ordinance. He explained the County relies on state law and if someone meets the requirements of a kennel under state law then they would have to get a license. He read Section 31 which addresses Noise and said this will also come under the heading of a public nuisance. Mr. Harrison asked who these violations would be reported to. Attorney Shuler said the Animal Control Department. Mr. Harrison reported when he calls Animal Control, they refer him to the Sheriff's Department. There were no further public comments. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Ordinance regulating Animals in Franklin County as written.**

Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report

Attorney Shuler advised the Board he did not submit a written report. He stated at the last meeting he asked permission to schedule an executive session today concerning the lawsuit filed by Capital City Bank. He explained as events progressed, he decided now is not the time to hold this session but it may be rescheduled at some point in the future.

Michael Morón – County Coordinator – Report

Mr. Moron presented his report, as follows:

1. This item was handled earlier in the meeting.
2. The St. George Island Business Association met last week and agreed to install directional signs throughout the Commercial District on St. George Island. These signs will be on all wood 4x4 double post. They will be located on specific locations on the County's right-of-way and will not cause any impediments to vehicular traffic or bike path traffic. This is an effort to clean up the business signs posted around the Island and encourage tourist traffic to the businesses. A map with the proposed locations and the proposed design is included in your packet. The SGI Business Association would like the Board to approve the proposed locations and design this morning. Ms. Julie Krontz from the SGI Business Association is here to discuss this request further.

Mr. Moron presented a new map of the locations. Ms. Krontz stated she is representing all the commercial businesses on St. George Island that are part of the Association and not part of the Association. She reported there was a unanimous vote to support this proposal. She explained

the signs are tasteful and in line with what the Island looks and feels like and do not impede traffic. She explained all the other ad hoc directional signs will be removed in favor of these signs. The Board reviewed photographs of the proposed signs. Ms. Krantz stated the signs will be wood, breakaway and easily maintained. She explained the signs will have double posts for wind resistance. She reported the maintenance and cost of the signs will be paid for by the Association as well as the individual businesses with the riders on the sign. Mr. Moron stated at the bottom of the signs is an endorsement from the Lighthouse Association. He explained Attorney Shuler is concerned about the signs being in the right-of-way. Ms. Krantz explained zoning will make sure the positioning of the signs is correct. She reported good locations have been selected that are off of the bike path but not impeding pedestrian or driving traffic. Attorney Shuler said this is the first time he has heard about this and his question is if the Board is being asked to adopt regulations on commercial speech. He inquired if the Board is being asked to take any action today. Mr. Moron reported they would like approval of the sign locations in the County right-of-way. He said they are trying to get an organized manner for directional signs to the businesses on St. George Island. He reported this will stop the need for individual signs. Commissioner Lockley asked if all the businesses on St. George Island belong to the Association. Ms. Krantz answered no, but said 100% of those who participated are in favor of the sign and this includes everyone from retail business owners to rental companies. She explained the signs are a limited use for the tourists. Commissioner Lockley was concerned if a business was not on the sign. Ms. Krantz said they have 100% support from the businesses on the Island. Chairman Parrish questioned if they are looking at one central location and if additional businesses can be included. He wanted to make sure the signs do not impede traffic. Ms. Krantz stated the signs will not impede traffic and additional businesses can be added. Ms. Krantz said Mr. Mark Curenton, County Planner, will help with the zoning, locations and make sure they meet all the regulations. She reported the median is large so they have space to put these signs. Mr. Moron stated he, Commissioner Jones and Mr. Curenton have been involved with this project. Chairman Parrish reported approval should be contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review. Mr. Moron stated two of the signs are on stakes and they prefer the color to be all the same color which is a state requirement. Ms. Krantz agreed they all want some consistency. She said they are seeking approval of the locations and overall design of the signs. Chairman Parrish stated the locations will be done by Mr. Curenton with the attorney's review. Commissioner Jones explained the signs at the top will be the businesses closest to the location. Ms. Krantz reported they have worked through the controversial issues the businesses had in the past and they have 100% support for the signs. She stated they are trying to get the signs up so it does not interfere with the busy season. She explained the Association has a commitment for the installation once the Board approves this matter. Mr. Moron commended the Association for getting everyone to agree on the signs. Ms. Krantz stated they tried to address everyone. She explained the Lighthouse Association has some great ideas for making the sign at the central location look nice and coincide with what is around the Lighthouse. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the signs contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Attorney Shuler said he is concerned because sometimes people think they have entitlement and the public and the Board need to be aware if the Board decides signs in their right-of-way are not appropriate

then they will have the ability to remove the signs. Ms. Krantz stated she does not see an impediment to where the signs are located because of the size of the median but she understands. Attorney Shuler stated if the Board decides to remove the signs, they have the authority to remove the signs. Commissioner Jones reported this all started from a motion to get rid of the signs in the right-of-way which was a good thing but not positive with the business owners. He said this matter will finish as a positive thing. Attorney Shuler brought into discussion a general use or conditional use permit being issued to different businesses and one of the conditions of the permit is the County has the right to revoke it if they choose to. Ms. Krantz reported the Association will be the entity and the County would never have to go to the individual businesses. She said the purpose was not to put a burden on the county and have a central contact. She explained the Association will be responsible for the repairs and will provide the funding. Commissioner Jones stated all of these things were suggestions Mr. Curren advised them would be needed. Attorney Shuler said it sounds like this can be worked out. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

3. Inform the Board that Attorney Daniel Cox is willing to teach the required 4-hour ethics class here in the County Commission meeting room. Having the class here makes it more convenient and less expensive than having to travel a day earlier and pay additional travel, hotel, and registration cost at Florida Association of Counties conferences. Attorney Cox available dates are May 27th, June 10th, June 24th, or July 1st. All those dates are Saturdays. Once a date is agreed upon by the Board I will invite our local Constitutional Officers, elected officials from the Cities of Apalachicola and Carrabelle, and elected officials from our neighboring counties. Board discussion.

Mr. Moron asked the Board to select a date. Commissioner Sanders suggested June 10th as it is before they go to conference. She asked Mr. Moron to invite the same people who invited them last year. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to schedule the ethics training for June 10th.**

4. This item was addressed previously in the meeting.
5. Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on a Safe Boating Week proclamation. A copy of the draft proclamation is included in your packet and we have approved this request from the Coast Guard in the past.

On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Proclamation, as follows:

FRANKLIN COUNTY PROCLAMATION 2017 NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

For nearly 90 million Americans, boating continues to be a popular recreational activity. From coast to coast, and everywhere in between, people are taking to the water and enjoying time together boating, sailing, paddling, and fishing. During National Safe Boating Week, we want to bring special attention to this pastime and remind recreational boaters of a few tips to ensure that they and their loved ones are safe and responsible while exploring our nation's waterways.

Proper planning for a day of boating begins even before leaving the home. Getting a free vessel safety check and taking a safe boating course at the beginning of the boating season, filing a float plan with a trusted family member or friend, and checking the weather before boating are key steps to an enjoyable time boating. Every boater should wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times while boating. Drowning remains the number one cause of death for recreational boaters each year, and the majority of drowning victims in recreational boating accidents are not wearing a life jacket. Safe and responsible boating includes never operating a boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol and knowing basic navigation rules.

Year-round, people continue to enjoy all that our nation's waterways have to offer through the joy of boating. National Safe Boating Week is observed to bring attention to important life-saving tips for recreational boaters so that they can have a safer, more fun experience out on the water.

WHEREAS, on average, 650 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the U.S.; approximately three-fourths of these are fatalities caused by drowning; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets; and

WHEREAS, today's life jackets are more comfortable, lightweight, and more wearable than styles of years past.

WHEREAS, Flotilla 1-2, Apalachee Bay, District 8 Coastal of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary supports safe boating and provides safety programs for the general public which results in our waterways being a safer area.

THEREFORE, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners do hereby support the goals of the North American Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 20 – 26, 2017 as National Safe Boating Week and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating.

IN WHITNESS THEREOF, we urge all those who boat to "Wear It!" and practice safe boating habits.

THIS PROCLAMATION PASSED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION ON THIS 2ND DAY OF MAY 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

s/Joseph Parrish
Joseph "Smokey" Parrish, Chairman

ATTEST:

s/Marcia M. Johnson
Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Court

6. Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on a proclamation recognizing Monday, May 8th as Child Welfare Professional Recognition Day. This request is from Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, Florida District 24. The Board has approved this proclamation in the past. A sample proclamation is attached.

Commissioner Sanders made a motion to approve a Proclamation recognizing Monday, May 8th as Child Welfare Professional Recognition Day and authorizing the Chairman to sign the Proclamation. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. Commissioner Sanders stated Congresswoman Wilson started in the House of Representatives with her brother in 2000 and now she is in Congress. Chairman Parrish reported she also signed letters in the water war litigation. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

7. The Finance Office is preparing to send out the budget letters and forms that are due by June 1st. These letters and forms will be sent to all County departments and Constitutional offices. Unless the Board prefers different wording, the letter will state "Please keep your request at your current adopted budget. Any increases will need to be justified to the Board." A sample copy of the letter is included in your packet. In addition, will the Board fund the non-governmental agencies at the current adopted budgets or should they attend the workshops to review their budgets. Keep in mind that there is legislation, that could have passed at the time of today's meeting, granting additional homestead exemptions. This legislation could reduce the available ad valorem funds by at least \$300,000. Board discussion.

Mr. Moron stated the legislation passed and there will be a local vote. He asked if the Board wants changes to the letter. Commissioner Lockley said non-governmental agencies need to be cut first if the Board has to cut. Mr. Moron asked if the letter is okay and said they can address the non-governmental agencies at a later date as they find out more about the legislation. He stated the Property Appraiser will have an idea about the values around June 1st and he will ask her to address the Board the first meeting in June. Chairman Parrish suggested removing the line "Any increases will need to be justified to the Board". He reported they need to keep the requests at the current budget. Commissioner Sanders agreed this sentence needs to be removed and they need to keep their budgets the same as last year. Commissioner Massey agreed to remove this sentence. Commissioner Jones also agreed the budgets need to stay the same. Commissioner Lockley said they need to keep the same budget. He asked if they know now if the \$300,000 will have to be cut. Chairman Parrish said the budgets need to stay the same now as they could lose this money in another year or two. Commissioner Sanders explained in 2006 they had to start cutting early to prepare the departments for a cut eventually. Chairman Parrish agreed there should not be an increase this year and then have a decrease next year. Mr. Feifer agreed the budgets should be submitted as is and recommended each department and constitutional officer identify 2% in their budget as a potential reduction to be discussed at the budget meetings. Commissioner Lockley asked about mandatory items. Mr. Pierce reported the Finance Department will address the mandatory changes such as health insurance costs and retirement contributions. Commissioner Lockley explained he is talking about state mandates. Commissioner Sanders agreed there are a couple of things that could shift costs to the County and they will not know until the Legislative session is over. Mr. Moron said the Board will know more at the next meeting. Chairman Parrish reported the Board can always send out another letter if needed.

8. Inform the Board that staff has received notification from the Department of Environmental Protection that we can proceed with the construction and installation of the football/soccer field and basketball court at D.W. Wilson Park. A land use and zoning change is required. The area proposed for the new football/soccer field is currently zoned partially R-4 Residential and partially I-1 Industrial. The entire area should be P-2 Recreational. Board action to send a request to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their recommendation. When the Board of County Commissioners hears Planning and Zoning's recommendation then a public hearing can be scheduled. At this public hearing, the Board will hear public testimony and decide on the proposed change.

Mr. Moron stated the Planning & Zoning Commission will meet a week from today. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to move forward on this project and place it on the Planning & Zoning Agenda.**

Mr. Moron stated Mr. Mike Cooper, Weems Memorial Hospital, will appear at the next meeting.

Mr. Moron reported an email was received from the Carrabelle Senior Center that they are having issues getting information from the Area Agency on Aging so they can receive funds for services they provide. He stated this email was forwarded to Ms. Lisa Bretz, Area Agency on Aging, and she commented this is not correct and she just needs clarification. He reported apparently they sent a list of individuals who received services but did not include their ages which is required to verify they can receive services. Mr. Moron explained they are trying to schedule a conference call and work through these issues. He stated there is money set aside for the Carrabelle Senior Center for services they provide. Commissioner Sanders reported they need to find out what is going on. Mr. Moron said hopefully this call will be scheduled next week and he will let the Commissioners know what day the conference call will occur. He stated Ms. Bretz will be at the first meeting in June to provide an update to the Board on how the money is being spent. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to direct Mr. Moron to get with Ms. Bretz and talk about distribution of funds for the Franklin County Senior Citizens in Carrabelle and report back to the Board at the next meeting.**

Commissioners & Public Comments

Commissioner Jones said he has talked with Mr. Moron about the possibility of placing some signs on the Eastpoint side of the St. George Island Bridge showing people they are headed to St. George Island. He reported they are checking with the state about the signs.

Commissioner Jones reported there are several issues about the man that drowned at St. George Island. He stated the red flag was up but the County needs to do whatever needs to be done. He reported signs and charts need to be placed up so people know the water is dangerous. Chairman Parrish asked if there are any educational signs telling them what the flag means. Mr. Moron stated he thought there were signs at the access to the dune walkovers. Mr. Moron stated Mr. Davis, TDC and the Sheriff have been talking about the new sign system. He said he needs to contact them to see where they are on this matter. Commissioner Sanders explained she thought the system was already up. Chairman Parrish stated he was on the Island when the event was ongoing and the red flag was flying. He was not sure if there was an educational sign to tell what the flag means but said there should be. He reported some public service announcements should be broadcast to tell visitors about these signs and direct them to the location of the flag. He asked Mr. Moron to coordinate with Mr. Davis, the Sheriff, Mr. Blair and the state. He reported the state park had a red flag flying and the County needs to ask them how they handle their educational signs. He said they need to make sure the County is doing all they can. Chairman Parrish said he knows Commissioner Sanders will take these comments about doing public service announcements to TDC. Commissioner Sanders agreed and said they need to do all they can. Chairman Parrish asked if flags are flying at Carrabelle Beach. Commissioner Massey said he has not seen

any flags in this location. Commissioner Lockley said they need to be placed everywhere. Chairman Parrish asked Mr. Moron to check all the locations.

Commissioner Sanders asked if Mr. Moron has heard from Community Hospital Consulting (CHC) and if the assessment at the hospital has started. Mr. Moron was not sure but said they did have an email about how this assessment was going to be billed. Commissioner Sanders reported this assessment needs to get started.

Commissioner Sanders stated she was chosen to be on the Southern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee for the U.S.D.A. National Forest and they are meeting next week in Atlanta, GA. She said they will address what uses are best for the national forest.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Moron to get the information for Duke Energy as she is concerned the flowers are not there and it is dead where they sprayed.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Joseph A. Parrish - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts