

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017  
9:00 AM  
MINUTES**

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

**Others Present:** Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Alan Pierce-Restore 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**

There were no minutes presented for approval.

**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.**

**Department Directors Report**

**Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works**

Mr. Nabors reported the County did not have any road damage during the storm. He stated they are continuing to cut grass throughout the county. Commissioner Lockley asked if there was a lot of debris. Mr. Nabors answered there was some trees but not much debris. Mr. Pierce said this is the first time in 30 years that Alligator Point Road did not wash out.

**Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director**

Mr. Davis presented his report, as follows:

**HURRICANE DEBBY FEMA FUNDS:**

FOR BOARD APPROVAL: FEMA reimbursement has been received from Hurricane Debby in the amount of \$99,766.80. I am asking Board approval to use these funds to purchase equipment for the Landfill.

**ACTION REQUESTED: Motion approving the use of FEMA funds from Hurricane Debby to purchase equipment for the Central Landfill.**

Commissioner Lockley asked what kind of equipment will be purchased. Mr. Davis answered a small compact loader and described the work that can be done with this equipment.

**Commissioner Lockley made a motion to use the funds from Hurricane Debby to purchase this equipment. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Sanders questioned if these funds are from Hurricane Debby. Mr. Pierce reported these funds must be from Hurricane Hermine. Commissioner Sanders stated they are just starting to receive funds from Hurricane Hermine which occurred last September. Mr. Davis agreed the funds are from Hurricane Hermine. **Commissioner Lockley amended his motion to reflect the funds are from Hurricane Hermine not Hurricane Debby. Commissioner Jones amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Davis reported the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has come up with a waste tire amnesty day and residents can bring up to 8 tires. He explained the County can receive up to \$25,000 for waste tires but he is not sure if the County will collect that many tires in one day. Mr. Davis explained a proof of residency must be provided. He reported this waste tire amnesty day will be conducted with the regular amnesty date on October 14, 2017.

Commissioner Lockley asked if this is 8 tires to a household. Mr. Davis said this is correct and no businesses.

Mr. Davis brought into discussion the transfer station contract. He reported Mr. David Steinmetz and Mr. Ronnie Bell with Waste Management are present today. Mr. Davis explained they are terminating the contract for the transfer station and he asked the County to take over the transfer station effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Parrish stated the County just received the 180 day notice to terminate the contract and questioned if the County is prepared to take over the transfer station. He said the notice was just received 2 weeks ago and now the County only has 30 days to take over the transfer station. Mr. Davis explained the reason they want to take over the transfer station now is to lock in the \$17/ton disposal rate. He stated if they wait until the end of the 180 days, the tipping fee will go to \$28/ton. Mr. Davis reported they are not completely prepared but they can make it work. He stated he would rather do it now to lock in the \$17/ton rate and the company will leave the equipment on site. Mr. Davis reported if the County waits the company may have to remove their equipment. He explained even though the equipment is worn out, they could use it until the new equipment is received. Mr. Davis said according to the contract they will leave the equipment if the County takes the transfer station by October 1<sup>st</sup> but if the County waits they may change their mind and the

contract. Mr. Steinmetz said the 180 day letter was separate from the negotiations to give the county back the transfer station. He explained the notice was required by the contract. He reported if the county takes over the transfer station on October 1<sup>st</sup> then they will leave the compactor on site, the truck and provide another compactor that he can ship over tomorrow in addition providing the \$17/ton disposal fee at the landfill. He explained if they wait until March then the contract will be expired and they would need to have negotiations. Commissioner Lockley asked if the \$17/ton rate will increase to \$28/ton when the County negotiates again. Mr. Steinmetz answered no and said they have been negotiating with Mr. Davis and Attorney Shuler and the County has a good Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase protection for 5 or 10 years. Attorney Shuler said the negotiations are for 5 years but he would like 10 years. Mr. Steinmetz stated the CPI is not annually but every other year in the County's contract. Mr. Bell stated \$17/ton is an excellent disposal rate. He pointed out the lowest rate is in their home county at Springhill Landfill and it is \$28/ton. He expressed concern that the requirement to send the 180 day notice caused some confusion. He reported if the notice had not been sent then the County could have required them to extend the contract for another 5 years. He explained if they have to wait until March then the disposal fee will be \$28/ton at the least. Mr. Bell said it has been great to work with Mr. Davis, Mr. Moron and Attorney Shuler but there are still a couple of items they are working on. He explained Attorney Shuler will be sending some language changes and their attorney will make the changes and then they will have a finalized contract. Commissioner Massey asked who will haul the garbage. Mr. Davis responded Aggregate. Mr. Steinmetz said it is the same hauler that is being used now and he agreed to work for the County at the same rate. He stated they are supplying the roll off containers that are currently there. Mr. Davis stated the rate for hauling is \$397.80 a load. Commissioner Massey asked how many loads they take. Mr. Davis estimated about 10 per week but it could be more during the summer. Commissioner Sanders asked if anyone is certified at the Solid Waste Department now. Mr. Davis answered no, but someone will be sent to school as soon as the approval is given. Commissioner Sanders inquired if the County can use someone who is not certified until this is done. Mr. Davis answered yes. Commissioner Sanders asked if this is through DEP. Mr. Davis answered yes. Commissioner Jones asked how much is charged at the scales for this waste. Mr. Davis responded \$65/ton. He went on to say Waste Management charges \$63.59/ton for all outgoing garbage. Commissioner Lockley questioned how many people will be sent to school to become certified. Mr. Davis said 2 employees will be sent. Chairman Parrish said his only concern is taking this over on such short notice. He stated he hoped to have an extra month to get set up. Mr. Davis explained at the last meeting with Waste Management a month extension was requested but they did not think they could do it. Commissioner Sanders asked if Waste Management has met all the terms for canceling the contract. Attorney Shuler said they have met all the terms. Commissioner Jones said the proposed rate is \$17/ton and asked what the rate is now. Mr. Steinmetz said it is \$15.89 now. Chairman Parrish asked what action Mr. Davis is asking for. Mr. Davis stated to have Attorney Shuler get the contract ready. Attorney Shuler stated if the Board is willing to accept the proposal then the Board can make a motion to accept the proposal from Waste Management that was explained to the Board this morning and authorize him to prepare the contract and have the Chairman sign the contract effective October 1st. Commissioner Lockley

asked how long it will take for someone to go to school. Mr. Davis said the training is for 2 days and a class is scheduled in Tallahassee in October. Commissioner Jones said Attorney Shuler is trying to extend the rate from 5 to 10 years and asked if this action would preempt these negotiations. Attorney Shuler said no and he will still try to get a longer term. He reported it is a good rate with a 3.5% CPI increase every two years. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to enter into the contract.** Mr. Bell said the county staff represents the Board well.

Mr. Davis said in relation to the Parks & Recreation Department, the opening date for soccer season is September 30<sup>th</sup>. He reported there are 135 children signed up from ages 4-12. He stated the season will last about 6 weeks and a schedule will be prepared and sent out.

Mr. Davis reported a football jamboree was conducted last week and the first game will be next week. He said they helped them out with some gear.

Mr. Davis stated the football/soccer field is ready at Kendrick field. He explained there is a scoreboard issue but they are working on it.

Mr. Davis informed the Board the Animal Control facility was remodeled on the inside and the cages and pens are new. He stated when people come out to look at the animals they will be pleased.

Mr. Moron presented the following item from his report:

6. Board action to approve a Dewberry | Preble-Rish Professional Services Proposal for \$5,250.00. This proposal is for the design and stormwater permitting for a new soccer field (300' x 165') along Pal Rivers Road as part of D. W. Wilson Park.

Chairman Parrish said the County is doing some work and the field looks good but they have been delayed by a permit issue. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Dewberry/Preble-Rish Professional Services Proposal for \$5,250.00 for the design and stormwater permitting for the new soccer field.**

Mr. Davis reported the Board approved advertising for the position for the transfer station. He said he is trying to do this in house and someone may want to move up but he is not sure how they are going to address it. Commissioner Jones asked if they have time to go through the normal process for advertising. Mr. Davis answered no; they are going to have to use in-house personnel. He reported no one wants the position and he mentioned the County offering an incentive for this position. He stated an inmate can be assigned to work with this person. Commissioner Lockley asked if this is an entry level job. Mr. Davis responded he does not think so since the person must be certified to run the transfer station and certified to work with an inmate. Chairman Parrish said two people must be certified in case one person is out.

Commissioner Massey asked if Mr. Davis is also going to school so he can be a backup person. Mr. Davis said he will. He explained it will be hard to hire a new employee and expect them to get both certifications but if they move someone up and pay \$500 to supervise the inmate and a \$2,000 or \$2,500 incentive to run the transfer station then it will be easier. He reported these incentives will go with that job and will not transfer if the person transfers to another job. Commissioner Jones explained this is why some of the problems happened in the past when people changed jobs and thought they were losing pay so this must be clearly understood. Mr. Davis stated he would like the Board to allow him to use an incentive to get someone in house for this position. Mr. Davis asked the Board to allow him to give the primary operator \$500 for the inmate supervision and \$2,000 for the certification for the transfer station and \$1,000 for the backup person. Commissioner Massey stated the Board did not budget for these items and asked if these items can be covered. Mr. Davis reported an employee left so they have this money in their budget. Commissioner Lockley asked if all the employees are certified for inmates. Mr. Davis agreed they are all certified but only receive the pay if they supervise inmates 90 % of the time. Mr. Davis said the salary is low and this would be an incentive for someone. Commissioner Lockley asked what the starting pay will be and what the person moving up is making. Mr. Davis clarified in house means this person will come from the Solid Waste Department. Commissioner Massey asked how much the starting salary would be if a new employee was hired for this job. Mr. Davis answered \$25,000 as that is the starting rate for the county. Mr. Moron said the person would then receive the incentives after they are certified. Chairman Parrish described the work the person in this position must complete. He reported no one wants to transfer to this position for the same money and do this kind of work. He stated he does not have a problem with the incentive to try and get someone who already knows something about solid waste. Commissioner Sanders reported she looked at the budget for Solid Waste and their lowest paid person is \$27,200 and the highest is \$33,000. She said she does not have a problem with offering an incentive. Chairman Parrish stated this is a new position and the County has never had to do this before but they need someone to do the job right. He said the problem is the Board will not meet again before October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Pierce pointed out the Board will conduct a special meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> to pay the end of the year bills. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to give the \$2,500 incentive (\$500 for inmate supervision and \$2,000 for certification for the transfer station). Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

### **Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director**

Mrs. Brownell appeared before the Board and offered the following report:

Action Items:

NONE

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, ESF & Volunteers worked Hurricane Irma from 09/04/17-09/12/17. Approximately 3000 Re-Entry Tags were issued along with the instruction on how to sign up for Alert Franklin. All sandbags were given out from the EOC and staged areas in the county. Evacuations, Voluntary & Mandatory, were issued on 09/09/17 and ended on 09/12/17. Webinars/Conference Calls were held multiple times daily.

Mrs. Brownell reported Hurricane Maria is a Category 5 storm and her department is monitoring the storm. Commissioner Massey thanked Mrs. Brownell and her staff for the work they did on the last storm and said they did a very good job. Mrs. Brownell thanked the County employees that came in and worked the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). She said the Health Department did a fantastic job of moving special needs individuals and working the special needs shelter. She stated the School Board came in and helped with moving people. She reported the Transportation Disadvantaged came in and helped move special needs individuals. She stated she would like to especially thank Ms. Beth Brinkley who worked all weekend and did many jobs. Mrs. Brownell reported food was prepared and provided to them at EOC. She stated CERT gave out over 3,000 re-entry tags. She requested people keep up with their re-entry tags and try not to request tags when a storm is about to hit. She said these are important documents and it takes time to make sure everyone is served. She reported there were a lot of people who helped and she thanked everyone. Mrs. Brownell also thanked the residents for listening and doing what they should. Commissioner Massey reported the City of Carrabelle Mayor did a good job. Chairman Parrish stated he was at the EOC and told everyone he would hold a round table discussion after the event was over with the Sheriff's Department, the Hospital, department heads, Mrs. Brownell and all the essential personnel in the County to address a few issues. He stated some people are not sure what their roles are and they need to make sure everything runs a little smoother. He reported everything went good but these things need to be discussed when they are not in a crisis situation. Chairman Parrish asked what the Board thinks before he calls this round table discussion. Mrs. Brownell stated she is required to do an action report. She explained this is what they call a hot wash and they talk about the 5 ups and 5 downs. She reported this tells them what needs to be done better next time. Mrs. Brownell explained if they are activated then they are required to do an after action report. Commissioner Sanders stated it is good to revisit these matters and see what they can do better because it has been a while since there were a lot of storms. She said the County was fortunate to have a reverse surge instead of a storm surge. She reported they need to see where the County can do better and how they can communicate better with other agencies. Commissioner Jones asked if there is any way to use technology and send out a survey that can be answered anonymously so people could ask questions that may be confrontational. Chairman Parrish said he doesn't know much about the technology but this is the reason he was going to facilitate this roundtable discussion. He explained they need to make sure everyone knows their role and how the protocol works. Commissioner Sanders reported she know that everything during a storm runs through the Emergency Management.

**Commissioner Sanders made a motion to direct staff and the Chairman along with Mrs. Brownell to hold a roundtable discussion with all the parties affected to see what they can do to make it better. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley said to make sure all of the parties are present and participate. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Pierce discussed DOT and the collection of debris on Highway 98. Mrs. Brownell reported the rules have changed and the County can pick up storm debris on federal highways and claim the debris for reimbursement. Commissioner Sanders stated she understood this was the reason the landfill did an amnesty day for storm debris last week. Mrs. Brownell said there is very little storm debris. Mr. Pierce said he is concerned if there was a lot of storm debris and individuals place it long the road on their property, it would not be collected by DOT. Mrs. Brownell reported that happened last year and the County picked it up and got paid for it. Mr. Moron stated Mr. Davis was trying to prevent his department from having to do curbside pickup by encouraging everyone to bring the debris to the landfill. Mr. Moron said everyone needs to be reminded to keep their sandbags. Mrs. Brownell agreed and said they gave out 10,000 sandbags. She reported DOT has been contacted to get new sand bags filled and they were informed today that it must be put in EM Constellation so there is some confusion. Commissioner Sanders stated this is not what was discussed with Mr. Bryan Koon, State Emergency Management. She pointed out sandbags were a big issue in June. Mrs. Brownell reported they now have an Authorized Equipment List (AEL) number to buy sandbags. Mrs. Brownell explained the sandbag is purchased from grant funds but the sand and the expense to haul the sandbags is an expense of the county's that is not reimbursed. She requested anyone who got sandbags to store them out of the sun and keep them until the end of the season. She said it takes a lot of manpower and volunteers to supervise the sandbags and make sure one person does not take all of the sandbags.

### **Erik Lovestrand – Extension Office Director**

Mr. Moron stated Mr. Lovestrand is not present as he is co-hosting an event with Gulf County.

## **County Extension Activities September 6 – September 19, 2017**

### **General Extension Activities:**

- Extension Staff assisted local citizens regarding St. Augustine turf issues, invasive weeds, sea turtle lighting, and other topics.
- Extension Director participated in UF/IFAS Extension network during Hurricane Irma to assess issues and gather information at Extension facilities statewide.

### **Sea Grant Extension:**

- Extension Director participated in the weekly planning calls for the Dark Skies turtle lighting project.
- Partnered with Gulf County UF/IFAS Extension to host a two-day Waterschool workshop to teach about a local watershed.

#### 4-H Youth Development:

- Coordinating with schools to implement Tropicana Public Speaking Contest and Ag Adventures programs in Franklin County Schools this year.
- Extension staff participated in planning meeting for 2018 Summer Camp sessions.

#### Family Consumer Sciences:

- Franklin County FNP Program Assistant continues to conduct nutrition programing in the schools and at the local food pantry.

#### Agriculture/Horticulture:

- Extension Director participated in planning for Ag Adventure event at the UF Quincy research farm in September.

### Lisa Lance – Library Director

Mrs. Lance read her report, as follows:

- The Libraries weathered the storm; no damage or outages – a few monthly programs were cancelled and those will resume in October
- Carrabelle Branch is hosting free Ancestry Research workshops on Saturdays from 11-1 pm.
- Adult Gardening Event Program: Carrabelle **(Tuesday, September 19) at 1:30**, Grow Citrus and other Fruit Successfully; same topic will be presented in Eastpoint on October 10 at 1:30
- Today is Talk Like a Pirate Day; events at 4:00 pm at both Eastpoint and Carrabelle; Mango Languages an Online Resource will be introduced; more than 70 languages can be learned, including pirate talk
- New: Eastpoint STEAM 2 program (ages 5-7) started September 18, scheduled Mondays at 3:30 in Eastpoint
- New: Read With Me Storytime – kickoff was September 6 at Eastpoint and September 8 in Carrabelle; Wednesdays at 10:30 in Eastpoint, Fridays at 10:30 in Carrabelle
- New: MakerSpace Club (ages 5-13) is available in Carrabelle, Thursdays at 4:00
- Steam program (ages 8-12) available Thursdays at 3:30 pm at Eastpoint
- Free Friday Night Movie (twice monthly) at the Carrabelle Branch; next event Sept 29 – doors open at 6:45, seating is limited (no registration required)
- Eastpoint –graffiti incident to the back of the building, two areas spray painted with inappropriate language; reported 8/25 – was removed on Saturday 8/26, FC Sheriff Smith had the building pressure cleaned on Sunday to remove any residual marks
- Upcoming event: Woodmen Life approved the Eastpoint branch as a recipient of a US flag (and 25 ft pole). Supplies have been delivered, pole location to be determined and will need to be installed - ceremony date to be determined
- FC Friends of the Library are sponsoring the annual Putt Masters Mini Golf Tournament fundraiser on Saturday, September 30 at the Red Pirate Family Grill and Oyster Bar
- Attached is the FCPL At a Glance Calendar listing weekly and monthly continuing events

#### Eastpoint Events:

5 – Book Chat at 1:30 pm – Meet, greet and discuss great books you are reading or read

\*1<sup>st</sup> Monday each month at 1:30 at Eastpoint



6 – **NEW**: Read With Me Storytime at 10:30 am (ages 1-4), must be accompanied by parent/caregiver; Stories, puzzles, arts, and fun

**\*Weekly on Wednesdays at 10:30 at Eastpoint**

7 – **STEAM** (ages 8-12) at 3:30 pm – A program to inspire the older children's minds in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math

**\*Weekly on Thursdays at 3:30**

11 – **NEW**: **STEAM 2** (ages 5-7) at 3:30 pm – A program designed for the younger minds in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (Note: Cancelled due to hurricane – next event Sept 18 at 3:30)

**\*Weekly on Mondays at 3:30**

11 – **NEW**: Diabetes Workshop at 4:30 pm – Presenter is a Consulting Nutritionist & Diabetes Educator, classes designed for people with Type 1, Type 2, and Pre-diabetes and their family. Program is patterned after the American Association of Diabetes Educators 7 Self-Care Behaviors, Class one = Healthy Eating

Note: September program cancelled due to hurricane; next event Oct 9 at 4:30 pm

**\* 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month at Eastpoint**

12 – Gardening Event at 1:30 pm, Getting Ready for Your Fall Garden, presenter Les Harrison with the Wakulla County Extension Office (CANCELLED due to hurricane)

19 – Talk Like a Pirate Day, 4:00 pm (Ages 5+ suggested) – Children can dress as a Pirate, there will be a treasure hunt, and an introduction to MANGO Languages, an online resource to learning more than 70 languages, including Pirate Talk – “Arrr”

22 – **NEW**: Basics of Better Living: Topic – Couponing at 1:30 pm, presented by the IFAS Extension of University of Florida, new topic each month

**\*3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month at Eastpoint**

#### Carrabelle Events:

Yoga Classes: Monday – Wed, and Friday at 4:00 pm, no registration required

7 – **NEW**: MakerSpace Club (ages 5-13) at 4:00 pm, a place where students can create, invent, and tinker and discover using a variety of tools and materials

**\*Weekly on Thursdays at 4:00 at Carrabelle**

8 – **NEW**: Read With Me Storytime at 10:30 am (ages 1-4), must be accompanied by parent/caregiver, Stories, puzzles, arts, and fun

**\*Weekly on Fridays at 10:30 at Carrabelle**

8 – **NEW**: Basics of Better Living: Topic – Couponing at 1:30 pm, presented by the IFAS Extension of University of Florida, new topic each month (CANCELLED due to hurricane)

**\*1<sup>st</sup> Friday each month at Carrabelle; next event Oct 6**

15 – **NEW**: Free Friday Movie Night, doors open at 6:45 (limited seating), All children must be accompanied by an adult. Showing this month, ‘Gifted’ - Movie rating PG-13, no other Library services available on movie nights

**\*Twice monthly, next free Friday movie night September 29**

19 – Gardening Event at 1:30 pm, Grow Citrus and Other Fruit Successfully, presenter Les Harrison with the Wakulla County Extension Office

19 – Talk Like a Pirate Day, 4:00 pm (Ages 5+ suggested) – Children can dress as a Pirate, there will be a treasure hunt, and an introduction to MANGO Languages, an online resource to learning more than 70 languages, including Pirate Talk – “Arrr”

27 – Sacred Heart Mission in Motion Health Screening, 9:00 – Noon, Free to the public, no registration required (Blood pressure, Blood Sugar, Anemia, and Cholesterol Screening)

View the website at <http://fcpl.wildernesscoast.org/> for all calendars of events and available online resources  
All events are posted on Facebook.

#### **Curt Blair – TDC – Report**

Mr. Blair presented the following report:

#### **Hurricane Irma:**

**As a result of Hurricane Irma, The September 13, 2017 TDC Board meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for Wednesday September 20, 2017. Therefore my report will be abbreviated.**

Mr. Blair said Public Works and the EOC staff did a great job during the storm event and TDC relied heavily on the notices that are sent out. He thanked Mr. Davis and his department for helping to secure the visitor's centers.

We are happy to report that the Visitor Centers in Franklin County received no damage from Hurricane Irma and are up and running.

This hurricane was particularly hard to prepare for in that its course never really was clear. So our staff prepared for either a large number of visitors due to evacuations elsewhere, or reduced visitors and emergency preparations in the event of nearby land fall. Initially we implemented our lodging company and RV park referral programs with the cooperation of the Cities of Carrabelle and Apalachicola and local lodging companies. Our staff surveyed available vacancies and posted those locations on our web site. As Franklin County continued to be included in the cone of contact and we saw bridge closings and evacuation orders, we moved to preparing for local landfall. We are now working with our lodging companies and Visit Florida in an effort to forge a unified message during this period of recovery for other parts of the state.

**Numbers : (Attached)**

Collections: Our collections in June were back up again. We saw collections peak at \$226,795.48. This is a new record for collections in June and have begun to raise our annual collections from the flat line we saw last month to 1.6% increase so far for the year. We are looking for a continued increase the rest of the fiscal year.

**Northwest Florida Tourist Agencies:**

By your meeting on Tuesday, I will have attended a meeting of the Coalition of Tourist Development Councils throughout northwest Florida. These are the original six counties that were affected by the BP oil spill back in 2012. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the possibility of the Coalition submitting an application for Triumph moneys for tourism. I will report to you the outcome of that meeting when I report to you on Tuesday.

Mr. Blair commented this meeting was conducted yesterday with Visit Florida and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) with an idea of developing another trail activity in Northwest Florida. He said Visit Florida and DACS are committed to funding this project. He reported more information will be presented to the Board as this develops. He stated they are talking about a joint application with Visit Florida and the Coalition for the tourism portion of the Triumph money. He reported hopefully it will be another opportunity to direct people this way.

**Florida Association of Counties Photo Contest**

At the request of the County Administrator we provided a series of photos for consideration in the annual Florida Association of County's calendar photo contest.

**Lodging provider Sessions:**

We had our first Lodging Provider workshop last month and will continue these meetings through September and October. Our next meeting will be on September 27, at 1:30 at the Community Center in Battery Park.

Mr. Blair said there was successful meeting in Carrabelle last month and there will be a meeting on St. George Island in September.

**Visit Florida:**

We are continuing to review, with the County Attorney, the recently passed legislation affecting Visit Florida and Tourist Development Councils. You have received copies of correspondence from the Speaker of the House and Representative Beshears. We are grateful for the help Commissioner Sanders provided in reaching out to our legislative delegation. I had phone calls last week with both the Director of Visit Florida and their General Council. They have been able to give us some comfort on the legislation but there are significant issues that are still to be resolved. The TDC Board will be considering the latest information at their meeting tomorrow.

Most of the issues have been resolved and hope will not affect their working relationship with visit fl. Not concerned about reporting but have to see about time schedules and vendors being affected.

Mr. Blair said the legislation took effect July 1<sup>st</sup> and they did not have much time to review the legislation so they were 1 of 12 TDC's that withdrew from Visit Florida until they had time to understand the legislation. He informed the Board he has been working with Attorney Shuler as there were some issues he was concerned about as it is in relation to the local organization and how they report information and their transparency. Mr. Blair reported he is close to having his issues resolved and the TDC Board will discuss it tomorrow. He said he hopes this does not stand in the way of working with Visit Florida but they are working out the details of how to conform with the new requirements for the TDC's.

**Florida Association of Destination Marketing Organizations (FADMO)**

In addition to our partnership with Visit Florida, which has temporarily been suspended, we are also members of FADMO, This is the industry association of the state's TDCs. The group will be holding their annual meeting in Amelia Island on October 11-13. In light of our current hiatus from Visit Florida and efforts to recover tourism marketing following Hurricane Irma, I thought it might be important to attend this meeting where both topics will be covered. I generally cover travel expenses on my own, but as this meeting will include several overnight stays, I would like the approval of the Commission both to attend the meeting and to cover the cost from our promotions budget.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Mr. Blair to attend the meeting and pay his travel expenses to attend the FADMO meeting at Amelia Island on October 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.**

**Clifford Millender Memorial Highway:**

You have received updates periodically on efforts to obtain a memorial designation for Spc Clifford Millender on a portion of Highway 98 in Carrabelle. The legislature approved that designation during this year's regular session and the sign dedication will be held on Monday

October 2 beginning at 3:00 P.M. I am assisting the family in making the event preparations. We will be inviting the Commission and Constitutional Officers along with the Delegation.

Mr. Blair said this ceremony will be held at the end of the bridge and the Board will be included in the program and invitations.

### **Mike Cooper – Weems CEO – Report**

Mr. Cooper presented the financials for July. He said there was a large loss which he will explain and revenue was down. He referenced the bad debt amount and reported it is due to shoring up the Legacy computer systems. He stated there are 2 of these systems on the hospital side and 1 on the ambulatory side and there are a lot of accounts receivable these systems although they were fully reserved. He stated Mr. Jordan Fulkerson, Interim CFO, is trying to reconcile these adjustments. He said the loss was created by Mr. Fulkerson trying to clean up these systems. He reported they were ultra conservation in completing this work so by the end of the fiscal year some of these funds may come back. Mr. Cooper said the hospital is still year to date at a positive \$144,000. He reported day's cash on hand is close to 36 with a 2.8 current ratio. He stated the trending for collections is still good but there are some things they would like to do.

Mr. Cooper said they were first told by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) that they would do a desktop review for the generator but now a full review will be conducted which requires an engineer. He reported the first bid for the electrical engineer came in at \$40,000 and the bid was declined. He said they are talking with Mr. Moron about trying to get a more reasonable bid. He explained the electrical engineer will have to draw up plans and submit them to AHCA and then go to AHCA for a full review which the hospital has to pay for. He said they do not know when it will get completed. Commissioner Lockley asked why this has to be done. Mr. Cooper said AHCA commented they want to make sure it is done right because it was done wrong in other places. Commissioner Lockley asked if the current generator is holding up. Mr. Cooper stated it is doing very well. He explained they are required to run it every Thursday and this generator is much quieter than the old one. He said the problem is the unit is just in the way. Mr. Cooper stated they took some precautions for the hurricane by strapping the generator down and getting the electrical cords off the ground. Mr. Cooper brought into discussion the radiology equipment and said they are promoting Option #6 in the proposals submitted to the Board. He explained there is hardware and software for the equipment and they are proposing implementation of the software which will bring the current equipment up to the expectations that go into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>. He explained the picture will then be digital instead of digitized. He stated the cost for the software is \$175,000. He reported the cost to move to new equipment is \$75,000-\$100,000. Mr. Cooper stated they also looked into the option of doing nothing and taking the penalties. He reported if they buy the hardware then there are additional costs to install the equipment and then relocate it if they have a new hospital. Commissioner Lockley asked if AHCA is involved in this matter. Mr. Cooper said no but they will be involved with the new facility. Commissioner Jones asked how long this software upgrade will be good for. Mr. Cooper said the best technology now is digital

so they will be at the top. He stated the equipment would need to be replaced every 3 years to stay at the top. He expressed his opinion that this will be a decade's long purchase for the hospital. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the purchase of the radiology software at a cost of \$175,000.** Mr. Cooper pointed out the quote includes the big unit at the Hospital, portable unit for the ER and patient rooms, and equipment for Carrabelle. He said the equipment in Carrabelle may have some extra costs because a tube needs to be replaced.

Mr. Cooper referenced an email he sent on September 8<sup>th</sup> listing all the things the hospital did in preparation of the storm. He said they did everything they are required to do through AHCA. He stated the generator was fueled and ready and they took the extra precaution of calling the manufacturer to determine how to secure the generator to the ground. Mr. Cooper stated they were able to discharge their inpatients on Saturday. He explained they contacted Sacred Heart in advance to coordinate plans. He reported St. James nursing home was contacted about patients being transported out. Mr. Cooper stated additional supplies were brought in and non-essential staff and clinics were told they would be closed on Monday. He reported beginning on Saturday they started an additional ambulance in the county. He explained there were 2 units at the Eastpoint station, 1 at the Lanark station and 1 in Apalachicola. He reported they operated through 7:00 p.m. Monday night. Mr. Cooper said the narcotics were stored off site in a locked vault when the hospital closed. He stated the information technology was saved off site every day. He said their staff responded well. He reported their plan could be amended for some items. Commissioner Massey asked if there is a generator at Weems East. Mr. Cooper answered no. Commissioner Massey said there was no power to the facility and no one knew it for 3 days. Commissioner Sanders asked what the policy protocol and procedure is during a storm. She questioned if the hospital stays open and asks for volunteers to stay. Mr. Cooper reported the policy says when the County goes to mandatory evacuation, the Hospital closes and this policy has been that way since 2010. He explained this is one of the areas they are going to address. Mr. Cooper pointed out it cannot just be volunteers, it must be specific employees and some of the individuals are not local. He stated a meeting is being conducted tomorrow to address this matter so they do not have to close. He explained they will also address how to maximize the time they are open if the county goes to mandatory evacuation. Commissioner Sanders said she does not remember the hospital ever closing during a storm event except closing partially when a tornado went through it. She said in looking at what happened in South Florida, the hospital there was still up and running. She asked if there were patients in the hospital when they closed. Mr. Cooper responded there were no inpatients. He said when the decision was made there were 2 patients in the ER and one was getting ready to be discharged and the other one was transported to Bay. Commissioner Sanders stated this is why she supported Chairman Parrish's request for a round table discussion. She said she is concerned and questioned what they would have done if a Category 5 storm hit. She expressed concern that the clinic had no electricity for 3 days. She said it is in their best interest to have the engineer look into a generator at Weems East. Commissioner Sanders reported under no circumstances do they need the hospital completely shut down. She stated there is one ambulance from the city limits of Carrabelle east to the Wakulla County line and north to

Liberty County. She said there is one ambulance in Eastpoint and one for Apalachicola. She pointed out the bridges are closed when the wind reaches 45 mph so they cannot travel over the bridges. Commissioner Sanders said she is concerned that everyone was pointing out on social media that Sacred Heart Hospital was open and Weems Memorial was not. She said she is glad Mr. Cooper is going to address these issues. Mr. Cooper stated when the wind speed gets to 40 mph, the ambulances do not respond. He went on to say this is a DOT regulation and the ambulances are grounded. Commissioner Massey reported the clinics could be open but no one responded to the lack of power for 3 days. He said no one even came over to check on it. Chairman Parrish stated these are some of the issues that will be discussed. Commissioner Lockley asked if the state or AHCA has anything to do with closing during a storm. Mr. Cooper answered yes, and said 25 hospitals closed during the storm. He stated once they go into emergency mode, the hospital must report to the state multiple times a day and tell them where they are in the process. He explained they must let them know if they will take evacuees from other hospitals that are closing. Mr. Cooper said the hospital is in constant contact with AHCA during these events. Commissioner Lockley asked if the hospital closed when Emergency Management called for the evacuation. Mr. Cooper answered yes, and said it was in the plan since 2010. He stated they need a plan because there is a point where the hospital has to close. Commissioner Lockley asked if they have a different plan than Emergency Management. Mr. Cooper said they have a plan and they submit their plan to Emergency Management and AHCA. Commissioner Lockley questioned what their plans call for. Mr. Cooper reported the plan says when the county goes to mandatory evacuation, they close the hospital.

The meeting was recessed at 10:37 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:47 a.m.

#### **Amy Ham Kelly – Board of Adjustment – Report**

Mrs. Kelly presented the following request for the Board's consideration:

1. **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL: (Unanimous)** Consideration of a request for a variance to construct a 270 foot long Vinyl Seawall along three contiguous lots owned by Rudy Rowe, and also a 10 foot setback on each property and, as to Lot 7, a 25 foot setback off of West Bayshore Drive described as follows:
  - A) **Lot 5, Block 51, Unit 5, 309 Gander Street, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida.**
    - 309 Gander Street, Lot 5, Block 51, Unit 5, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida requests a variance to place a Vinyl Seawall 48 feet into the Critical Habitat and place five feet of fill behind the vinyl seawall in keeping with natural grade height with a 6" - 12" high cap on the top of the seawall in order to prevent backwashing and also requesting a 10 foot variance into both side setbacks.

Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Agency, Dan Garlick, agent, Rudy Rowe, applicant.

**B) Lot 6, Block 51, Unit 5, 305 Gander Street, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida.**

- 305 Gander Street, Lot 6, Block 51, Unit 5, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida requests a variance to place a Vinyl Seawall 48 feet into the Critical Habitat and place 1.5 feet of fill behind the vinyl seawall in keeping with natural grade height with a 6"- 12" high cap on the top of the seawall in order to prevent backwashing and also requesting a 10 foot variance into both side setbacks. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Agency, Dan Garlick, agent, Rudy Rowe, applicant.

**C) Lot 7, Block 51, Unit 5, 401 West Bayshore Drive, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida.**

- 401 West Bayshore Drive, Lot 7, Block 51, Unit 5, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida requests a variance to place a Vinyl Seawall 48 feet into the Critical Habitat and place five feet of fill behind the vinyl seawall in keeping with natural grade height with a 6"- 12" high cap on the top of the seawall in order to prevent backwashing and also requesting a 10 foot variance into the north side setback and 25 foot variance into the south side setback off of West Bayshore Drive. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Agency, Dan Garlick, agent, Rudy Rowe, applicant

Chairman Parrish and Mr. Garlick discussed placing the seawall into the critical habitat zone. Mr. Garlick reported when a seawall is re-done, it will always be in the critical habitat zone. Mrs. Kelly presented a diagram of this project. Mr. Garlick said the seawall is landward of mean high water at the shoreline. Chairman Parrish inquired about the setback. Mr. Garlick explained Mr. Rowe owns all three lots and just wants the seawall to go straight across the property and pointed it out on the diagram. Commissioner Jones asked about the 25 ft. variance into the south side setback off of West Bayshore Drive. Mrs. Kelly stated there is a 25 ft. variance off of all roads. She explained to get the 270 ft. from property line to property line, he will need the variance. Mr. Garlick commented they are not going into the right-of-way. Commissioner Massey asked if the seawall will be level all the way across or stagger. Mr. Garlick said it will be straight across. Mrs. Kelley explained the house is close to the water so there will only be 1 ½ to the seawall instead of 5 ft. in this area. Mr. Garlick reported the slab has been undetermined so the house is in peril but they can only get about 1 ½ feet of fill in this area. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.**

Mr. Moron stated the Planning & Zoning Commission did not meet because of the hurricane so all the items will be moved to next month.

**Lesia McDaniel – Health Department – Request**

Ms. Sarah Hinds, Assistant Director for the Florida Department of Health in Gulf County and Franklin County, appeared before the Board. She reported Ms. Marsha Lindeman, Administrator, and Ms. Sandy Martin, Business Manager, could not be here as they were deployed last week to Monroe County to assist in the post Hurricane Irma response. She stated they appreciate the leadership of Mrs. Brownell and they were at the EOC insuring the special needs patients were provided shelter in Leon County. She reported their employees were there to help provide medical coverage. Ms. Hinds stated it was very successful and they were proud to be part of it. She discussed the County's contribution to the Health Department and said the funding helps to support clinic services. She went on to say these services are provided regardless of the person's ability to pay. She provided an overview of how the County's contribution helps the Health Department. She explained they focus the money received directly on services into the community. Ms. Hinds presented an annual report she drafted and highlighted the items on this report. She also provided a budget breakdown. She stated most of their funding comes from grants. Ms. Hinds presented the Core Contract and fee schedule which will be effective 10/1/17. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to approve the Core Contract contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Clerk Johnson reported the County is paying insurance on 10 vehicles and 1 cargo trailer for the Health Department. She reminded the Board last year they asked about the cars at the health department. She stated the insurance is in addition to the money the County is providing. Chairman Parrish said the contract did not say the number of cars but did say once the cars are unable to be used anymore they will be sold and the money put into the trust fund for the health department. Commissioner Lockley asked how many vehicles are at the Health Department. Ms. Hinds said she will need to look up the number of vehicles but most are through their environmental health program for inspections. Commissioner Sanders said since there is a discrepancy in the vehicles, she is going to rescind her motion and ask that they check into the number of vehicles and how many vehicles Gulf County provides to the health department. Chairman Parrish said this contract has to be executed by October 1<sup>st</sup> and there will not be another meeting before then. Commissioner Sanders reported the cars are in the contract but it does not say how many. Mr. Moron said there will be a meeting on September 29th to pay the end of the month's bills and this item can be added to the agenda for that meeting. Ms. Hinds reported she can have the number of vehicles by the end of the meeting. Commissioner Sanders stated in the meantime the attorney can look at the contract and make sure there are no other problems. Commissioner Sanders said this item can be addressed at the end of the meeting.

### **Jim Coleman – CHC – Presentation**

Mr. Jim Coleman, Senior Vice President of Community Hospital Consulting (CHC), appeared before the Board. He said in June they were asked to do a full operational assessment of the Hospital and he will present the findings today. He explained after they got the initial results he met with each Commissioner individually and addressed their questions. He stated after that they went back internally at CHC and discussed the findings and decided what proposal to make. He presented a map of the location of hospitals affiliated with CHC. Mr. Coleman said



the key considerations from this assessment are Weems should focus on emergency care, outpatient services and evaluate various models of inpatient care. He stated this is consistent with the plans they have on the books now for a new facility but they think the facility being designed with focus on outpatient services would be well served. He reported physician recruitment is a top priority and TMH or another tertiary care partner could be very helpful in this area. He stated conversion of the clinics to Rural Health Clinic (RHC) status would be helpful with reimbursement increases and the Hospital is in the process of taking this action. He said they also need some volume growth and efficiencies are needed to get them performing at a better level. He suggested partnering with a professional management firm or a tertiary care facility to help guide Weems into the future. He stated in these days this is almost a necessity and the relationship with TMH is strong and could be beneficial in a partnership going forward. Mr. Coleman referenced a savings sheet and explained the items for each area. He reported some of these numbers are estimates due to the conversions with some of the Legacy systems and this has also limited their ability to pull good data to make a good analysis. He said government programs are not included and they did not include a number for the cost report as they need to do a more thorough review and get more data. Mr. Coleman reported an inventory has not been done at Weems and typically CHC completes inventories twice a year. He explained the key considerations by department. He said these recommendations were taken from the 184 page report that was prepared and given to the Commissioners. He explained their proposal was discussed with Mr. Mark O'Bryant, TMH. Mr. Coleman said they are recommending a short term management agreement where during the first 6-9 months these problems can be addressed and then they can complete a cash flow analysis for the new facility. Mr. Coleman explained once these items are working well then they will have a true picture of the financial performer for the facility so the County will know what they are getting into. Chairman Parrish reported one of his main concerns is bills being returned for coding errors and needing to be re-submitted. He stated getting money that is owed is a big issue and they are losing revenue. Mr. Coleman estimated there are seven figures on hold and they do not know what the net would be coming back but it would be significant. Chairman Parrish said moving forward this is one item they are going to try and clean up. Mr. Coleman stated Mr. Fulkerson has a lot of experience in this area but is now working as the CFO so he needs some support to get this item cleaned up. Chairman Parrish reported if the Board does accept this proposal, one of the main responsibilities of CHC would be to clean up these items so they can see where the County is and how economically sustainable the hospital can be if everything is done properly. Mr. Coleman said complete management does not mean just putting a CEO and CFO in because they will also be actively engaged in the management of the facility. He explained in all the areas they have discussed they have subject matter experts back in Plano, TX that lead these areas. He stated they will first make an action plan of all the items they found in the report and a spreadsheet of each individual area and who is responsible for this area. He said these items are prioritized and typically every two weeks they will have a call and review the action plan and progress with Weems. He stated in a Critical Access Hospital within 6-9 months they will work through the plan, about 80% of the items will be implemented and they will know what the true performance capabilities are. He said they are discussing getting physicians in the community and getting physicians re-engaged that are in

the community. He explained a monthly operating report will be completed with the team after the books are closed and before the Board meetings. Mr. Coleman stated he will attend the Board meetings. He reported the monthly operating report is about a 17 page document and the clinics would be broken out separately, the hospitals separately and then a consolidated financial statement. He said these reports are reviewed on a monthly basis with their entire team from Plano, TX on the conference call. He presented the proposal of a short term management contract for no more than 2 years at \$30,000 a month with pass through salaries on the CFO and CEO. Mr. Coleman stated he knows there is a current relationship with TMH and he has not received a response from Mr. O'Bryant but will contact him today. He went on to say he will let Mr. O'Bryant know they have made the presentation and see what interest TMH has in partnering with them. He said they will conduct a feasibility cash flow projection for the new facility after things are moving in a good direction and then look for a partnership, relationship with a tertiary facility like TMH. Commissioner Lockley inquired about the pass through salaries. Mr. Coleman explained they will be on the CHC payroll but the salaries are passed through to the facility. He stated any questions or negotiating points could be offered through Mr. Moron and then he will let the Board know what he hears from TMH. Commissioner Lockley asked what happens after the 2 years. Mr. Coleman explained hopefully they will make a decision to extend the contract or look at a lease arrangement. He said hopefully the new facility will be coming along if they make that decision. He estimated a decision could be made on the facility after 9 months. Commissioner Lockley asked if they are ready for this step. Mr. Coleman said this is what they do and there is not a lot of opportunity at Weems but the staffing is in good shape. He stated the big issue is strategic growth which is not easy in a rural area. He went on to say one of the things that drives CHC is Weems is the only point of care here for an hour in each direction. He reported it is important they do all they can to make sure the county has a viable facility. Commissioner Lockley asked if they can reduce the \$30,000 a month. Mr. Coleman agreed to take this information back to his leadership for discussion. Mr. Moron said he asked Mr. Coleman to ask Mr. O'Bryant if TMH would consider not billing the County for the CEO and CFO salaries for these two years so the outstanding debt will not increase. Commissioner Sanders asked if this will be presented to Mr. O'Bryant. Mr. Coleman said he is not sure. He commented TMH has a serious interest in the county but he is not sure what level they are considering. He reported if they will bring in a clinic or rotates physicians; it would be as valuable as the salaries. Commissioner Sanders thanked Mr. Coleman for meeting with them because it was very informative. She said the County has a good facility that they think can do better. She said she read the assessment and she likes the suggestions but they need to reduce the price. Commissioner Sanders stated they want to grow the hospital and have a better facility for the people but the numbers have to be right to support a new facility. She encouraged the Board to move forward with something and see what they can do to get things resolved so they can build a better facility. Commissioner Sanders stated Mr. Coleman answered all of her questions. She said the staff is good but they need to work on the numbers and need oversight. Chairman Parrish reported the problem is they are not part of a larger network and this opportunity will allow them to become part of a larger network that has expertise in a lot of the areas. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to go forward with this company. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion.** Mr. Moron

clarified the motion is to allow him and Attorney Shuler to start negotiations with CHC. Commissioner Lockley agreed they need to start negotiations. Commissioner Sanders said they need to get the price down. Commissioner Jones reported he had some questions that he purposely did not ask so he could see what came out during the discussions. He explained several of these questions were answered during the discussions with Mr. Coleman. Commissioner Jones stated he is very pleased at where they are at this point with the assessment. Chairman Parrish asked for clarification on the motion. Attorney Shuler explained there is a motion and second to authorize the beginning of the negotiations of a proposal between the County and CHC based on the general terms that have been discussed here today with particular emphasis on negotiating down the professional service fee. Commissioner Sanders agreed this is correct. Commissioner Lockley agreed this is the motion and also moving forward. Commissioner Sanders said Attorney Shuler could have the contract ready at the next Board meeting if things are worked out. Attorney Shuler was not sure it could be negotiated before the next Board meeting. Chairman Parrish suggested the contract be presented the second meeting in October. Commissioner Sanders stated in the meantime Mr. Coleman can get the questions answered from Mr. O'Bryant. Chairman Parrish reported any questions the Commissioners have can be given to Mr. Moron and he will get in touch with Mr. Coleman. Commissioner Lockley said the County has been dealing with this for 10-12 years and need to move forward. He explained this sounds like a good proposal to get the proper people in here and get something done. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

#### **Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report**

Clerk Johnson said she does not have any action items but submitted her report with two information items. The Clerk's report is, as follows:

#### **Clerk's Report 9/19/17:**

1. For information, my office is authorized by law to pay into the Clerk's fine and forfeiture fund all unclaimed money deposited or collected. A list was published in The Times, and pursuant to the law, proof of the publication is to be filed and recorded in the minutes of the county commission. The list totaled \$90.00 and represented checks issued that were never cashed pursuant to FS 116. The cost for the advertisement was \$47.50 and the proof of publication is attached.

2. For information, the following days have been set for holidays for my office for 2017:

New Year's Day	Monday, January 1, 2018
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	Monday, January 15, 2018
Good Friday	Friday, March 30, 2018
Memorial Day	Monday, May 28, 2018
Independence Day	Wednesday, July 4, 2018
Labor Day	Monday, September 3, 2018
Afternoon Seafood Festival Friday	Friday, November 2, 2018

Veteran's Day	Monday, November 12, 2018
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 22, 2018
Friday After Thanksgiving Day	Friday, November 23, 2018
Christmas Eve	Monday, December 24, 2018
Christmas Day	Tuesday, December 25, 2018
Day After Christmas	Wednesday, December 26, 2018

Commissioner Sanders reported back in June when the Board received the audit there were two discrepancies. She said one was with the Tax Collector's Office and one was with the Supervisor of Elections' Office and asked if this money has been paid back. Clerk Johnson stated the money has been received from the Tax Collector but the money has not been received from the Supervisor of Elections at that time. She said she did receive a copy of a letter that the current Supervisor of Elections sent asking for the money. She stated unless the money was received recently she was not aware that it has been paid.

Clerk Johnson reminded the Board the final budget Public Hearing will be held this afternoon at 5:15 p.m.

Ms. Hinds said in response to the previous discussion, Gulf County Health Department has 15 vehicles and Franklin County Health Department has 11. She stated there are 3 Chevy Trucks (Environmental Health and Preparedness), 2 Ford Fiestas (Healthy Families), 1 Fusion (IT), 2 Explorers (Tobacco, backup for Healthy Families), 2 Camrys (Healthy Start, Helen Cook), and 1 Focus (School Health). Commissioner Sanders asked how many people work in Environmental Health. Ms. Hinds answered 5. Clerk Johnson pointed out when the Board agreed to start paying the insurance there were 1-2 vehicles and it keeps going up. She said this is a decision the Board has to make. She stated when the vehicles are sold the County is not receiving any benefit. Clerk Johnson reported the Board has to decide if they want to provide the insurance in addition to the contribution they are already providing. Commissioner Sanders asked if the vehicles are driven home. Ms. Hinds answered no; they stay at the Health Department. She reported not every person has a vehicle and they are mindful of the use of the vehicles. She explained the services have grown so they need more vehicles to provide the deliverables. Clerk Johnson said between Calhoun County and Liberty County they have 7 vehicles. Commissioner Lockley asked if the vehicles are only used in Franklin County or they go back and forth between the counties. Ms. Hinds stated they are mostly used within the county unless someone has to travel to another facility. Commissioner Lockley asked how much money this cost. Clerk Johnson said she does not have the amount of money but there are 11 vehicles. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to take this item up at the end of the year meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> because the Board needs some clarification, directed Mr. Moron to get with the Health Department and see what they can do to eliminate some of the vehicles because it is way too many vehicles, and direct Attorney Shuler to look at the contract between now and then. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley asked if the Health Department covers any of the vehicles with insurance. Ms. Hinds explained they pay for the vehicles and the County provides the insurance and the vehicle becomes county vehicles. Commissioner Lockley asked where the funds go when they sell a vehicle. Ms. Hinds was not

aware of the vehicles being sold and said the vehicles are given back to the County. Chairman Parrish said the contract calls for the money to go back into the trust fund which provides a contingency fund for the Health Department. He said the trust fund has very little if anything in it. Commissioner Lockley said the County is on a budget and provides \$49,000 plus insurance to the Health Department and the money is tight. Ms. Hinds said they understand and are applying for grants. She explained the vehicles have been helpful to increase the numbers of people they deliver services to. She said if they are cut then they will have to look at the programs and what they provide to the community. Ms. Hinds stated they want to make sure they are working in close partnership with the County. Ms. Hinds reported there are more grants in Franklin County than Gulf County and they also look to other revenue opportunities.

**Motion carried; 5-0.**

### **Alan Pierce – RESTORE Coordinator – Report**

Mr. Pierce read the following report:

1- As I previously reported at the last Board meeting, the RFQ for engineering services related to hurricane recovery will run until Oct. 16. The Board will open the RFQs at the Oct. 17 Board meeting and then assign them to the review committee for a recommendation.

It is my expectation that the review committee will make a recommendation to the Board at the Nov. 7 meeting, and then the Board can proceed to negotiate with the most qualified firm. All recovery efforts requiring engineering services are on hold until a firm is selected consistent with FEMA regulations.

2- Update Board on property acquisition on Alligator Point.

Mr. Pierce stated he and Attorney Shuler are still working to acquire the property on Alligator Point and hopefully it will be done quickly.

3- Provide Board with copies of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Gulf Shore Blvd. To remind the Board and the public, this EA and FONSI was started in November of 2016. Now FEMA must update the Scope of Work to allow the county to spend money FEMA has already allocated for Gulf Shore Blvd. I don't know how long that will take since FEMA is very busy with current disasters.

Mr. Pierce reported the Alligator Point project may begin in February or later because of the storms.

Mr. Pierce presented an easement between the County and Duke Energy for the power to be serviced to the Island View Park. He said this is consistent with the easement on the site plan. He explained this will supply electricity so they can begin construction. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the easement with Duke Energy.**

## **Michael Morón – County Coordinator – Report**

Mr. Moron provided the following report:

1. Board action to award the Ellis Van Vleet paving project. This is a FDOT CIGP project that is for the widening and resurfacing of approximately 0.65 miles of Ellis Van Vleet and 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Dewberry | Preble-Rish reviewed the bids and determined of the four bids received, C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. is the lowest, responsive bidder at the amount of \$140,415.85.

Commissioner Lockley asked if the County had trouble with this contractor. Chairman Parrish answered yes, but there is nothing the County can do about it. Chairman Parrish stated the County needs to move forward as this is DOT money and it could get complicated because the County did not take action the last time they had trouble with the contractor. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by the following vote of the Board present, it was agreed to award the Ellis Van Vleet and 17<sup>th</sup> Street Paving Project to C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$140,415.85:**

**AYE: LOCKLEY, JONES, PARRISH, MASSEY**

**NAY: SANDERS**

2. At your last meeting I recommended, and the Board agreed, to reorganize the Airport Advisory Committee (AAC). Presently all of the Commissioners are not ready to submit their candidates, however until we have a complete list of candidates, I am recommending that the current AAC is disbanded. I also recommend appointing a committee to review the Fixed Based Operator proposals and have their recommendation forwarded to this Board for further review and action.

**On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to disband the AAC and appoint a committee to review the Fixed Based Operator proposals and have their recommendation forwarded to this Board for further review and action.**

3. Board action to approve Alday-Howell Engineering/Southeastern Consulting Engineering Construction Engineering & Inspection CEI contracts for the Ellis Van Vleet and Mill Road paving projects. Alday-Howell Engineering/Southeastern Consulting Engineering was selected at previous meeting by the Board to provide CEI services for both of these projects. Attorney Shuler has a copy of each contract.

Attorney Shuler reported he has proposed some changes but has not received a revised contract. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the contract with Alday-**

**Howell Engineering/Southeastern Consulting Engineering for the CEI services for the Ellis Van Vleet and Mill Road Paving Projects contingent upon Attorney Shuler's approval.**

4. Board action to approve a Carrabelle Beach Park Bathroom Project Change Order. This Change Order, approved by Mr. Doug Shuler, is for the removal of 2.5 layers of comprised concrete from the roof of the restrooms. The total amount of the Change Order is \$2,544.00 which increases the total amount of the project to \$122,544.00. The renovation project is completed and Mr. Doug Shuler plans to do the final inspection later this week.

Commissioner Massey asked why the contractor did not see the concrete in the beginning. Mr. Moron replied he did not see the concrete and Mr. Shuler who drafted the plans agreed. He reported the contractor had to manually remove the concrete and haul it away. Mr. Moron was not sure why this item was not part of the original plans. Commissioner Lockley asked if the County will breakeven after something is done about the additional days. Commissioner Sanders agreed they want something done about this project being late. Mr. Moron said they are working on this item. He stated the project has been completed but there may be a small punch list. Commissioner Sanders said they want to know what they can do about this project being so late. Mr. Moron stated the work is completed and Mr. Shuler will complete a final inspection and once he notifies the County, the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) will be issued.

**Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve the change order in the amount of \$2,544.00 on the Carrabelle Beach Park Bathroom Project. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley discussed the late fees. Commissioner Jones said this matter has to be finalized before they can address the other issues. Commissioner Massey reported this project has been 8 months long and it was supposed to take 60 days. Chairman Parrish stated Mr. Shuler probably approved this matter and told them to complete the work so the bathrooms could be finished. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

5. Board action to approve a paving project Change Order. The Change Order extends striping on CR 67 to Crooked River Bridge, the deletion of CR 67 guardrail repair cost, additional paving at the Sheriff's Office, additional work on Cornelius Rizer, and additional paving on Chapman Road. The total amount of the Change Order is \$88,387.09 which increases the total contract price to \$287,418.45.

**On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve a Change Order in the amount of \$88,387.09 for the paving project.**

6. This item was handled earlier in the meeting.
7. Board action to approve the Franklin County SHIP Program annual reports. This will be the close out report for FY 2014 – 2015 and interim reports for FY 2015 – 2016 and FY 2016 – 2017.

Mr. Moron explained after 3 years they must close out the SHIP Report but they must also provide interim reports for the current years that are open. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Franklin County SHIP Program Annual Reports.**

8. Inform the Board that Senator Bill Montford and Representative Halsey Beshears will be in Franklin County here in the Commission Meeting Room on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm for the Annual Legislative Delegation Meeting. This meeting is being held early this year due to the early start of the 2018 Legislative Session.

Mr. Moron reminded the Board earlier that day they will also have the highway dedication at 3:00 p.m.

9. Inform the Board that I will be attending the Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> Apalachee Regional Planning Council Board (ARPC) meeting with Commissioner Jones. This will be Commissioner Jones' first ARPC meeting and Mr. Curt Blair, your TDC Administrator, will be giving a presentation on the Old Florida Coastal Trail at this meeting.
10. Board action to schedule a Special Meeting ("End of the Fiscal Year Meeting") on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. At this meeting, the Board will approve the final bill list for FY 2016-2017. This action will reduce the amount of bookkeeping transactions for the Finance Office.

**Commissioner Lockley made a motion to schedule a special meeting on September 29th at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion.** Mr. Moron stated other items will also be addressed. Attorney Shuler advised the Board special meetings are required to list the items that will be discussed. He reported the Health Department contract will need to be added to the notice of special meeting. **Commissioner Lockley amended his motion to include additional items at the special meeting. Commissioner Sanders amended her second. Motion carried; 5-0.**

11. Inform the Board that Mr. Jim Oskowis met with Jacob Harders, of H. G. Harders who was awarded the construction contract, at the Indian Creek Boat Ramp site on Wednesday, September 13 for a pre-construction meeting. Because the boat ramp is currently being used by crabbers, mobilization of equipment and materials won't start until Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and construction will start one week later on November 6<sup>th</sup>. During construction, there will be allowances for the crabbers so that they can continue to use the new wooden finger dock, however navigating the narrow creek channel during construction may present an issue. In addition, there might be occasions where the crabbers might have to park their vehicles further away from the construction area. If necessary we may have to meet with the crabbers during construction to work out any issues that may arise. Mr. Oskowis says that because the project will take us over a series of holidays it should be completed by early April 2018.



Commissioner Massey reported his constituents and the City Commission from Carrabelle want the County to continue to do the building permits. He stated numerous calls are being received and they are not happy. Commissioner Sanders said she brought this up at the last meeting. Commissioner Massey stated they have requested an open meeting so they can speak and tell the reasons why. He explained the two people who are going to do this work are going to do it after 4:30 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. Mr. Moron said he does not know what the city's plan is but this was an action of the Board. He stated the Board would have to make a motion and then they would have to enter into an agreement so they do not get into the problems and the liability issues. He reported there is also a problem with determining whose FEMA rules they are going to follow. Commissioner Massey suggested they work with the mayor or city commission about these issues. Chairman Parrish pointed out it is not the County's responsibility to do this work. He said the County did this work for both cities but they no longer do it for the City of Apalachicola. He explained there are issues if building picks up and there is only one inspector to do the County and city inspections. He questioned how the building inspector determines what inspections have priority. Commissioner Parrish stated they have always tried to treat the two municipalities equally. He reported the City of Apalachicola has made arrangements to do their own inspections because of the issues Mr. Moron mentioned. He explained this becomes a liability issue for the County and the County should not have liability with relation to the two municipalities. He reported the cities have different rules than the County in relation to planning & zoning, FEMA, and flood management. He stated one County Building Inspector cannot do all of this and know all the different rules. Commissioner Sanders stated she did not know they ever had any problems with the City of Carrabelle. Mr. Pierce reported there was a problem with the rv park and they disagree with the City's interpretation of the flood plain. Commissioner Sanders stated about 50 contractors have contacted her and they want to County to handle this. She said it would be a good thing to have a meeting to discuss this because they said they do not get a timely response from the people who were recommended to the City of Carrabelle. Commissioner Sanders reported she does not have any problem doing this work if the Building Inspector does not have a problem with it but the Board has to make a decision. Commissioner Lockley asked what the charge is for an inspection. Mr. Pierce responded the building inspections are free when the permits are purchased. He presented a list of the permit fees. Mr. Moron stated the City of Carrabelle defaults to the County fee schedule. Commissioner Lockley explained they are not making enough money off the building permits and need to go up on the price. He suggested the County check the prices in surrounding counties. Commissioner Jones explained the schedule will only affect the unincorporated areas of the County and the City of Carrabelle. Commissioner Lockley said it will help with the budget. He explained the City of Carrabelle would increase their fees and then they would be able to hire someone. Mr. Pierce said the City of Carrabelle does not issue a lot of new home permits so the amount will not go up significantly. He estimated the County collects about \$50,000 a year so the City of Carrabelle probably collects between \$5,000-\$10,000. He explained raising the fees will not significantly affect the amount of money they are going to generate. Mr. Moron stated the company being used by the City of Carrabelle is the company the County would use if the County did not have a building inspector for any reason. He reported the company they are complaining about has a standing contract with the

County. Commissioner Sanders pointed out the contractors are complaining about this matter. Commissioner Massey stated they have been calling him for 2 weeks. Mr. Moron reported this company works for the City of Apalachicola and apparently it works well. He stated this company is the County's backup in the event the Building Inspector is not available. Mrs. Brenda LaPaz, Mayor for the City of Carrabelle, explained this has become an issue with the contractors and private developers because there is not much growth in the City of Carrabelle at this point and the company, EPCI, can only guarantee one day a week. She reported this will slow down service to the contractors, building permits and building inspections and will stifle growth. Mayor LaPaz stated she is not sure how the FEMA and flood rules are different but she knows the planning and zoning rules are different. She reported their Clerk is a Certified Flood Plain Manager and she will handle that item. She said if there is anything they can do on their side to work with the Planning Office to provide timely service to the City of Carrabelle they will do it. She reported the County gets all the revenue from the building permits. She stated they are considering a fee when the services of the Flood Plain Manager are used. Mayor LaPaz explained once this is turned over to the City of Carrabelle, the revenue will be going to Bay County and not staying in the county. She said they have 4 residential applications this week (2 mobile homes and 2 stick built homes) and her understanding is the County will handle the mobile homes but not the stick built homes. Mayor LaPaz said they have had about 60 permits this year and had 100 permits last year. She stated there is an issue with people being issued development orders on the city side and thinking that is the actual building permit so they do not go to the Building Department to get their permits. She stated this issue was discussed with EPCI and if the Board would reconsider, they could consider emailing the development orders and the City would follow up to make sure the building permits are issued. She said this also represents a loss of revenue. Mr. Moron explained one of the issues is the County Flood Plain Manager says one thing and the City Flood Plain Manager says something else. Mayor LaPaz reported they would have to work together to create some standards and guidelines. Chairman Parrish said the County does not want the liability of being caught in the middle. Mr. Moron asked the Board to let him know if they want him to schedule a workshop. Mayor LaPaz said she will speak with their attorney about the liability. Chairman Parrish reported the Building Inspector is trained and knows the County building code but these are different governments with different rules. Mayor LaPaz explained they will also have to discuss the order of service and how the priority is set. Mr. Moron asked if the main problem is timely inspections or the permitting process. Mayor LaPaz stated if they contract with EPCI then inspections would be the main issue. She explained people can come in any day of the week and get their development order and the development order would be emailed to EPCI and they would issue the permit but she is not sure who would take the photographs as that item has not been worked out. Commissioner Sanders reported the issue she heard about was the time of the inspections. Mayor LaPaz asked the Board to give this item some consideration. She stated the City will have their next meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report**

Attorney Shuler said he delivered to the Clerk the deed from the FSU Foundation for the partial lot at Alligator Point.

### **Commissioners & Public Comments**

Commissioner Jones said he knows everyone is busy and there is a lot going on but he is thankful today they made a big step in doing something with the hospital.

Commissioner Jones asked when they can expect to see something with the traffic ordinance or golf carts. Attorney Shuler stated he has the draft of the traffic study for Alligator Point but he has not received the draft for the traffic study for the road in Apalachicola yet. He said he can let the engineering company know the Board has asked him about the study. Commissioner Jones said this is going on 7 months.

Commissioner Lockley asked the status of the nursing home for veterans. Mr. Moron said Ms. Mathis sent him some information but because of the storm he has not sent the letter yet. Mr. Moron said he will send the letter this week asking for the Bay City Work Camp to be used as a veteran's nursing home or rehabilitative facility. Commissioner Lockley thanked Ms. Mathis for helping but said they need to get in contact with the federal agency that was looking for facilities.

Chairman Parrish reported he will not attend the first meeting in October so Commissioner Lockley will be filling in as the Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner Sanders stated the Gulf Consortium will be meeting this next week in Kissimmee and she will be traveling to the meeting. She reported they need to do something about rooms and lodge a complaint because the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) is taking care of rooms once you register and it is not working out. She said she will tell them next week it is causing a problem. Commissioner Sanders reported the County needs to reserve their rooms and then register with FAC.

Commissioner Sanders stated she feels like they are on a new road for the hospital and she hopes it continues the same way.

Mr. Alan Feifer, Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, said he is disappointed today concerning the CHC Contract. He questioned the lack of critical review and stated this is a change from the County's desire to try to find a risk sharing partner. He explained all the proposed revenue enhancers are likely to be used up by the CHC fees including people working in Plano, TX whose salaries will be passed through to Weems. Mr. Moron reported Mr. Coleman meant the CEO and CFO salaries. Mr. Feifer disagreed and said it will include pass through costs for these employees and asked if there is a cap on these costs. He inquired if there is a termination for convenience provision. Mr. Feifer stated the company is good but he has a problem with rushing. He reported the County is giving up all their leverage for negotiating by being anxious to sign a contract. Mr. Feifer asked the Board to slow down and take extra time to get the best,

possible contract and make sure they have an out if this does not work out. He said this is the single, most financially relevant issue the County faces. He discussed the amount of current payables the Hospital owes. Mr. Feifer reported the County is now adding \$30,000+ a month. He asked the Board to get the professional oversight that a third party can provide.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

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Joseph A. Parrish - Chairman

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts