

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
NOVEMBER 7, 2017
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Joseph Parrish – Chairman, Noah Lockley-Vice-Chairman, 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

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 17, 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.

Department Directors Report

Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works

Mr. Nabors appeared before the Board but did not have a report. The Board did not have any items for Mr. Nabors.

Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Mr. Davis did not have a report at that time. Commissioner Massey thanked Mr. Davis for helping him yesterday. Commissioner Lockley said they did a good job of cleaning up from the Seafood Festival. Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

7. About two and a half weeks ago Mr. Fonda Davis notified me that the compactor at the Landfill was failing to compact the garbage in the manner as it should on a daily basis therefore causing the County to spend more money than necessary to process garbage and waste. Mr. Davis recommended that the County order a new compactor as soon as possible. In addition, Mr. Davis found out that it would take at least six weeks to have a new compactor built. During the budget workshops, Mr. Davis explained that the current compactor was very old and would fail within the near future, so the Board included at least \$85,000 to purchase a new compactor in the current year's budget. Based on the information stated and because there were three weeks instead of the normal two weeks between your meetings, I authorized the \$72,426.04 purchase order for the new compactor. Board action to ratify the purchase of the new compactor.

Commissioner Lockley made a motion to ratify the purchase of the new compactor in the amount of \$72,426.04. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion. Commissioner Lockley asked if the old compactor will last until the new compactor comes in. Mr. Davis responded he hopes so. He informed the Board they must complete some concrete work when the old compactor is removed. Commissioner Massey questioned which employee changed departments to work the transfer station. Mr. Davis answered Mr. Astin Messer. Commissioner Jones asked if they know how much the concrete work will cost. Mr. Davis stated one bid is about \$20,000 and he is waiting for another bid to come in. **Motion carried; 4-0.** Commissioner Lockley said they need to make sure a good foundation is put down.

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director

Mr. Moron reported Mrs. Brownell is sick today but did not have any action items. He suggested the Commissioners call Mrs. Tress Dameron if there are any questions because Mrs. Jennifer Daniels is also sick. He stated Commissioner Sanders is also sick today and will call when she is on the way back from the doctor.

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. 10/20/17 Exploratory Call with Kim Richardson from FEMA regarding Hurricane Irma.
3. 10/31/17 Kick off meeting with FEMA for Hurricane Irma.
4. 10/20/17 Started CERT Class for the Franklin County Alternative School. Class will be held on Fridays through 11/10/17.

Erik Lovestrand – Extension Office Director

Mr. Lovestrand reported he and Mr. Moron attended the UF Engagement Workshop in Marianna and said County Extension Directors from all 16 counties in the district were present along with an administrative person from their county. He explained the purpose of the workshop was to have discussions with deans from some of the other colleges at the University of Florida outside of the IFAS group about the needs in the local rural communities and the services they could provide. He stated Mr. Moron received some good information from these individuals.

Mr. Lovestrand reported he attended the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He stated there is a list of proposals that were considered during the meeting between the regulators at the state level, the Food & Drug Administration (FDA), and also the industry representatives that were present. He stated Mr. Tommy Ward, Buddy Ward & Sons Seafood, was present representing the community and was on one of the Task Force groups considering items on the regulatory side. Mr. Lovestrand informed the Board he will prepare an executive summary for their information. He explained some of the changes relate to dealer requirements, tagging requirements on shell stock and time and temperature controls. He said the summary will also be provided to the seafood dealers. Mr. Lovestrand explained the items that were approved will go into effect when the new national Shellfish Sanitation Program Manual is printed. He reported these changes are usually effective about 6 months after the meeting. He stated this is a bi-annual meeting and only occurs every 2 years. Chairman Parrish said he appreciates Mr. Lovestrand putting together a summary. He asked Mr. Lovestrand to provide the summary to Mr. Moron and he will email it to the Commissioners. Commissioner Lockley asked if anyone from the State of Florida was present. Mr. Lovestrand reported the individuals present from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) were Mr. Kal Knickerbocker, Ms. Kim Norgren and Ms. Jill Fleiger. Mr. Lovestrand stated Ms. Norgren and Ms. Fleiger are the ones that complete inspections here in the county. Mr. Lovestrand reported Mr. Knickerbocker is the voting member for the State of Florida. Mr. Lovestrand explained this is the only forum where the industry gets a voice and sometimes it does make a difference in the regulations that are approved.

The following report was submitted by Mr. Lovestrand:

County Extension Activities October 18 – November 7, 2017

General Extension Activities:

- Attended ACF Stakeholders Governing Board meeting in Phenix City, AL. Extension Director has joined the Board as an at-large member of the Apalachicola Caucus.

- Extension Staff assisted local citizens regarding turf weeds, injured wildlife, sea turtle lighting, gardening, publications and other topics.
- County Coordinator and Extension Director attended the UF Engagement workshop in Marianna to explore connections for local communities with the Deans of UF Colleges outside of IFAS Extension.
- Hosted all 5 UF District Extension Directors in Apalachicola for the annual meeting.
- Office Manager/Program Assistant completed requirements for launching new Franklin County UF/IFAS website project (T-4).

Sea Grant Extension:

- Extension Director participated in the weekly planning calls for the Dark Skies turtle lighting project.
- Attended biennial meeting of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference in South Carolina to stay current on industry standards and changes to the Model Shellfish Ordinance requirements.
- Set up exhibit to represent County Extension and Florida Sea Grant at the Tallahassee Science Festival in Tallahassee.
- Participated in Master Naturalist program hosted by the Estuarine Research Reserve.
- Submitted amendment request to FWC to add budget and extend timeframe on multi-county sea turtle lighting project (Franklin, Bay, Gulf). Also submitted year-4 budget amendment for Franklin County turtle lighting grant to continue.

4-H Youth Development:

- Dates have been selected for local schools to implement Tropicana Public Speaking Contest this school year.
- Local 4-H club set up their booth at the North Florida Fair in Tallahassee.
- Local teens participated in planning meeting for upcoming Teen Retreat Event

Family Consumer Sciences:

- Participated in interviews for new Family Nutrition Program Assistant. Heather will be leaving us in December to finish her M.S. degree.
- Franklin County FNP Program Assistant continues to conduct nutrition programing in the schools and at the local food pantry.

Bubba Branch – EXP – Presentation

Mr. Branch appeared before the Board and said they submitted a booklet of information about their company. He introduced Mr. Jonathan Parramore who also works for their company. Mr. Parramore stated EXP US Services is an engineering company in the United States and Canada. He reported they keep in touch with local areas and employ local people. Mr. Parramore explained their Construction, Engineering and Inspection (CEI) Services Division has worked in other states and in the last year started working in Florida. He explained they have been selected for a project in South Florida and are also looking for work in North Florida. He said they are qualified by DOT for CEI services. Mr. Parramore listed the services their company

provides. He stated their office in North Florida is in Tallahassee. Mr. Parramore explained their team has actual construction experience and inspection experience. He stated as opportunities become available for CEI contracts, they will be submitting applications and would appreciate any consideration. He thanked the Board for allowing them to appear today. Chairman Parrish stated their company offers a broad amount of services. He thanked them for appearing and letting the Commission know the services they provide.

Sarah Hinds – Health Department – Update

Ms. Hinds said the Health Department will appear at a Board meeting once a month and highlight one of their programs. She reported at this meeting they will highlight the clinical program. She introduced Ms. Helen Cook, ARNP, and said she will make the presentation. Mrs. Cook explained they work regular hours at the clinic but they are also out in the community providing other services. She pointed out during Hurricane Irma the clinic nursing staff worked with EOC and also manned the ESF8 help desk. She stated they work with Mrs. Jennifer Daniels, Special Needs Coordinator. She reported when someone applies for a special needs shelter application, they review their application and contact the individual and go through their health problems and medications to determine if they are a special needs client. She said once this work is completed then they go on the list for the special needs shelter. Mrs. Cook reported when there is a hurricane and it looks like the County may be evacuated, they contact the individuals days ahead to prepare for the storm. She stated they inform the individuals there will be arrangements made to evacuate them if it becomes necessary. Mrs. Cook reported they encourage individuals to evacuate with their family to a place of safety but the shelter is available if needed. She introduced the nurses with her as Ms. Lisa Hogan and Ms. Emerald Larkin and said they work the special needs shelter. Mrs. Cook explained she sent three teams to the special needs shelter in Leon County and they were there to take care of the Franklin County residents. She stated Mrs. Vanessa Edenfield, School Health Coordinator, was also present at the special needs shelter in addition to other support staff. Mrs. Cook reported they were there to meet the people at the shelter and staff stayed with the people until they were put on the bus home. She went on to say the special needs citizens were cared for at the shelter by Franklin County staff. Ms. Larkin reported for the past month and a half they have given flu shots at the Courthouse, Carrabelle Senior Center and the Apalachicola Senior Center. Ms. Larkin stated she attended the Body & Soul Class that promotes health education and healthy lifestyles. She said they provided breast cancer awareness in October. She explained some of their staff attended World Breastfeeding Day and the Walk to Remember. She stated they collaborated with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to improve the health of the community. She reported they also worked a car seat event for Franklin County and Gulf County. Chairman Parrish thanked the staff for coming in. Commissioner Massey thanked the staff for their work. Commissioner Jones said it sounds like they stay busy. Chairman Parrish reported their work with the special needs residents during a hurricane is a valuable service. He stated the Board understands their contribution to the community and appreciates it.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report

Clerk Johnson did not have a report at this time.

Alan Pierce – RESTORE Coordinator – Report

Mr. Pierce read the following report:

1- The Board had appointed a ranking committee of me, Michael Moron, and Mark Curenton to review and make a recommendation for selecting a consulting firm to assist the county in FEMA recovery projects. Two firms responded - Gortemoller Engineering, out of Panama City, and Dewberry/Preble-Rish, out of Port St. Joe. The committee has ranked Dewberry/Preble-Rish as the top firm and recommends the Board negotiate a contract. Per FEMA guidelines this will be a 2 year contract with an option to renew for 5 more years. Board action to accept committee recommendation and to direct County Attorney to negotiate a contract with Dewberry/Preble-Rish.

On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to accept the committee recommendation and direct Attorney Shuler to negotiate a contract with Dewberry/Preble-Rish.

2- Update on Alligator Drive Environmental Assessment (EA). The FEMA consultant has finished the EA, and starting on Nov. 9 the EA will be available for public comment. A notice board will be installed on Alligator Point providing information on where to find the EA. There is a 30 day comment period, and then the consultants have time to review the public comment and take appropriate action. The EA is still on schedule to be completed and issued sometime in early 2018.

Mr. Pierce stated the preferred action on the EA is to rebuild the road in the current location with armoring of vertical sheet pile, concrete on the sides of the road and rocks outside of the concrete. He explained once a contract is done then they can begin the design phase. He explained the County must still get a permit and there could be problems. He reported this project is still on schedule but construction will not start until next summer or after hurricane season next year. Chairman Parrish reported the EA was expected to take a year and it did not so the timeline for the EA has moved up. Mr. Pierce agreed the EA was available earlier than expected. He said hopefully DEP will be responsive when the County requests the permit. Commissioner Lockley asked if the rocks had to be used. Mr. Pierce explained the rocks were part of the design but now that the road has been destroyed, the rocks are considered debris. He stated some of the rocks may be used.

3-Update on TRIUMPH- the Board will continue this morning's meeting into an afternoon session, starting at 1:30 PM, which will deal with TRIUMPH funds. Initially the Board had learned that the TRIUMPH Board had set a very aggressive schedule for submitting applications for at least some of the TRIUMPH funds, with a deadline of Nov. 15 for pre-applications to be

submitted to the TRIUMPH Board. As the Board is aware, Franklin County will receive at least \$15M of TRIUMPH funds out of the initial allocation. This afternoon had been planned to be a session to review pre-applications but I have been given some additional guidance by Ms. Susan Skelton, TRIUMPH Executive Director. She said the TRIUMPH Board wants applications and projects to be done correctly, and not in a rush, so the date of Nov. 15 as a deadline for all pre-applications is not as firm as initially indicated. Ms. Skelton offered to send Mr. Scott Remington, TRIUMPH Board attorney, to our meeting. Mr. Remington attended the Wakulla County workshop last week and did an excellent job of advising and guiding Wakulla County, and I have asked for the same information to be presented to Franklin County.

Mr. Pierce said he talked with Mr. Remington and he will present a power point this afternoon. He stated the County can move forward with their projects if they want to but the \$15 million will be there for Franklin County and every month there will be a window for additional applications. He explained if the applications are not submitted by November 15th, the County will still have time to submit the applications. He stated the Triumph Board will meet almost every month because they are not sure how long it will take to process the applications. He reported this Board can take action today if there are projects they are sure about and address the ones they are not sure about at a later date. He explained the finished applications are on the Board's IPADS for the meeting this afternoon. He said there were 4 applications submitted by the City of Carrabelle and 4 applications submitted by the City of Apalachicola. He reported two came directly from the County and one was a regional application. Mr. Pierce stated the applicants will be here today and the Board can talk with them about their projects.

4- There is a TRIUMPH Board meeting in Wakulla County tomorrow, Nov. 8, that I can attend at the direction of the Board. There will also be a TRIUMPH Board meeting on Dec. 7 in Panama City that I can attend. Board direction.

Chairman Parrish stated Mr. Pierce needs to attend these meetings. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Mr. Pierce to attend the Triumph Board meetings on November 8th and December 7th.**

5- Provide Board with copy of time extension for the completion of the Gulf Shore Blvd project. I have asked for an extension till July 2018. We are waiting for FEMA to approve the change in the scope of work so that we can access the \$456K worth of FEMA funds already obligated for that project to build a permanent road.

Mr. Pierce stated the Project Worksheet (PW) was written after one of the storms as the storm surge wiped out the road. He said the county is interested in rebuilding the road in the current location but the State said no as the road would be on the beach. He explained the County has gone through the long process to relocate the road and now FEMA has to change the scope of work. He reported an easement had to be received from the State of Florida and the EA had to be completed before FEMA would change the scope of work. He stated FEMA has agreed the

road needs to be relocated but now the scope of work has to be changed for the funds they already have allocated for the project. Mr. Pierce said the County has been waiting since August for FEMA to change the scope of work and hopefully it will be changed by December so the County will have time to finish the design, go out to bid and complete the project by July, 2018. Mr. Pierce expressed frustration that this process has taken at least 7 years.

6- Inform the Board that I was in contact with the state hazard mitigation personnel and they recommend the Board submit an application to purchase the Alligator Point Fire Department building on Alligator Point and the lot next door. The purchase would allow the county to relocate the west end of Tom Roberts further away from the shore. The west end was slightly damaged during Hurricane Hermine and is exposed to continued damage. The purchase would remove two curves in the current alignment of the road. The purchase would also provide the Fire Department with some funds to begin construction of a new fire station in a safer location. The purchase would be contingent upon an appraisal acceptable to the Fire Dept. Board direction.

Mr. Pierce reported the Board can wait for Commissioners Sanders to be present but he did talk with her about this matter. Mr. Pierce said the first step will be to get an application from the state hazard mitigation personnel and then a suitable appraisal must be done. Chairman Parrish asked if Commissioner Sanders was in favor of the Board moving forward. Mr. Pierce stated he talked with her before placing this on his report and she thought it was a good idea but he did not know she was going to be absent today. Chairman Parrish asked if this application is time sensitive. Mr. Pierce answered no, so the Board can wait until this afternoon if Commissioner Sanders appears or table this item until November 21st. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to table this item.** Mr. Pierce said he will address this item on November 21st.

7- As I have previously reported, the county was subjected to a US Treasury compliance review of our RESTORE program. The review took place last in Feb/March 2017; the findings were received at the end of September. The county is required to respond and address each finding so for the past few weeks the county staff has been developing responses. One of the findings involved the Dewberry contract. The initial Dewberry contract listed some of the subcontractors Dewberry intended to use, but not all. Treasury requires all the subcontractors be in the contract, along with their cost of services. The two subcontractors left out were: Environment and Ecology, and Univ. of West Florida. Both these subs have provided services, and were paid, but in order to prevent a "clawback" by Treasury of those funds, the Dewberry contract needs to be amended to include these two subs and the rates they were paid. Board action to amend the Dewberry contract contingent upon the county attorney approving the amendment.

In the event I did not provide a copy of the compliance review when it arrived (because I might have been out of town), it is attached to this report. The county has until Nov. 30 to respond and we are working on the response, and intend to meet the deadline.

Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve amending the Dewberry contract contingent upon Attorney Shuler approving the amendment. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Chairman Parrish reported he read this review and wondered if steps were being taken to address these findings. Mr. Pierce said there will be a conference call with the U.S. Treasury next week and they will review these items. He explained there are no structural problems with the way the County is handling RESTORE. Commissioner Lockley asked if this action will take care of all the findings. Mr. Pierce stated there are other things the Board does not have to act on that are internal items. He pointed out a grants manual is being created that will address most of the other comments. Mr. Pierce said the Board may have to take action later to adopt the grants manual which will be applicable to all federal grants. He stated most counties are doing this or have already done it. He reported Mrs. Debbie Belcher is working on the grants manual but they have not seen a draft yet. Mr. Pierce was not sure if the grants manual would be presented before the November 30th deadline. Mr. Pierce said he does not know if the U.S. Treasury will want to review the grants manual first or have the County approve it first. Mr. Pierce stated in relation to RESTORE, the money will come to the County and the County will be responsible for all the applicants and sub-applicants and it is going to be a financial burden to keep all of these projects straight. He said the timeline for RESTORE has been put off until January so the Board will not hear much about RESTORE until then. **Motion carried; 4-0.**

Commissioner Massey asked Mr. Pierce to explain to the public where the money came from for the Ell's Court property. Mr. Pierce stated two grants became available which the County was not expecting. He explained a federal grant was received to buy and preserve the wetlands and coastal marine hammocks and this was not part of any grant Franklin County has ever received before. He explained Florida used to have oak stands everywhere but because of overdevelopment along the shore the coastal hammocks have become an endangered ecosystem. He explained the federal government allocated money to save the marine hammocks. Mr. Pierce stated the Ell's Court Property had lost most of the coastal hammocks but the property on either side still had hammocks present so with the help of Mr. Doug Hattaway, the Trust for Public Lands (TPL), the County applied for federal money to buy the property. Mr. Pierce explained the County does not usually purchase land or look for money to buy land but it was in the best interest of the public to buy this property. He reported initially the County was not in the ranking to receive the grant but one of the projects dropped out and the County received the federal money at no cost to the taxpayers to purchase this property. Mr. Pierce stated the County planned to plant some oak trees on the 3 acres on the Ell's Court side of the property and also on the 4 acres across the street. He explained this was also being done at no cost to the County as TPL was managing the project. Mr. Pierce explained after the property was purchased the State of Florida received early restoration money and selected Franklin County to receive \$1 million for this site but the State of Florida has to manage the project and control the design in accordance with the BP settlement. He explained the County agreed to have these improvements done at no cost to the County and the property will have a driveway, pavers that percolate the stormwater, the piers will be rebuilt and it will have a parking area. He explained on the north side there will be more vegetation planted. He said

5 projects were completed in the panhandle with this restoration money. Mr. Pierce stated since the County had just purchased this property, it was a prime opportunity for the state to complete this project. Mr. Pierce explained originally he did not want this project and wanted to use the money for Alligator Point but the project was too small and complicated so the state was not interested. He stated the County either had to say yes to this property or not receive the money for the County.

Steve Rash & Shannon Hartsfield – Apalachicola Bay Oyster Task Force-Discussion

Mr. Shannon Hartsfield, Seafood Workers Association, and Mr. Steve Rash, Water Street Seafood and the SMAART Group, appeared before the Board. Mr. Rash explained about three years ago an industry group of oyster representatives tried to form a group to address the changing conditions (water flower in the river) in Apalachicola Bay but the State did not support this idea. He reported effort and money have been put into the bay and there have not been any good results. He said they are trying to bring everyone together to meet every 2 weeks. He reported there will be representatives from the FWC, DACS, DEP, seafood workers, SMAART Group, Seafood Dealers' Association and Apalachicola Riverkeepers. He requested the Board appoint Chairman Parrish to attend the meetings and participate. He reported there will also be a member of the UF Oyster Recovery Team. Mr. Rash said the name of their group is the Apalachicola Bay Oyster Task Force and they are an advisory group. He read their mission statement as follows:

“The mission of the Apalachicola Bay Oyster Task Force is to design and support implementation of a comprehensive oyster recovery plan and a long term management plan to increase the oyster populations in Apalachicola Bay to the maximum levels possible.”

Mr. Rash explained they are trying to bring together people to evaluate and come up with a solid plan to address the situation in the bay. Mr. Hartsfield informed the Board there are less than 30 oystermen working in the bay. He said a change needs to be made to rebuild the bay so they want to come up with a good plan and so they can have something in the future. Attorney Shuler asked how the advisory group is being created. Mr. Rash explained it is just a panel of people getting together and they have no authority or official designation. He said they are asking various scientists to participate. Attorney Shuler asked if they would like Chairman Parrish to be a voting member of the group. Mr. Rash answered yes, but on some issues he would not be able to vote as it may be a conflict. Attorney Shuler explained the County has a policy that does not allow a County Commissioner to sit on an advisory board and vote and also vote as a County Commissioner on those recommendations. He said the Board must decide if Chairman Parrish will be a voting member or not on the advisory board. He stated the Board should also include in their motion a waiver of this policy if they would like him to vote. Chairman Parrish reported there will be 5 voting members on this advisory board but there are also a number of ex-officio members that will not be voting members. Chairman Parrish said the ex-officio members will be bringing expertise about shelling. Chairman Parrish

was not sure if the Board should take action since Commissioner Sanders is not present. Attorney Shuler stated the Board is reconvening at 1:30 p.m. and can defer the decision until then in case Commissioner Sanders is present. Chairman Parrish asked if any other Commissioners have questions. There were no questions. Mr. Rash reported the first meeting will be on Thursday at 3:00 p.m. and they would like the County Commission to participate. He said they are hoping when decisions are made, the decisions will not have to be presented to the other agencies since these groups will already have representation on the task force. Chairman Parrish stated they are trying to put together a comprehensive plan to restore Apalachicola Bay. He reported what has been done is not working and they are going to lose the bay if they do not make some changes. He explained some statistical data was sent out to the Commissioners about the amount of money that has already been spent in the bay and the bay is in worse shape now. He reported they can just let it happen or try and make some changes to the environmental conditions. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to table this matter until Commissioner Sanders is present at 1:30 p.m.** Chairman Parrish clarified the Board will have to decide if he will be the representative or if they would like to appoint someone else. Commissioner Lockley asked if the meetings are open to the public. Mr. Rash stated anyone can attend the meetings because this group has no authority. He explained they are a group trying to get a plan together and then they will try to get this plan accepted by the state. Mr. Hartsfield reported they hope to have a short term plan and also a long term plan. He said East Hole was shelled and then closed for 16 months and when it opened for 4 days (one day a week) in the month of May, 8,200 bushels were harvested. He reported this proves the bay wants to survive but they have to find out how to help it recover. **Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Jones said this is a good or better approach than has been used in the past. He reported they need to get everyone there and he hopes everyone takes it seriously. Chairman Parrish explained he made it clear if restoration of Apalachicola Bay was not in the mission statement and not the purpose of this group then he would not participate. He stated if the bay loses the oysters then they will lose the entire bay. Commissioner Lockley said he is in favor of this and wishes them good luck. Mr. Rash stated everything will be done for the good of the bay. He reported the group is all voluntary and everyone's intentions are straight forward and pure. He stated if they take care of the bay then the bay can take care of a lot of people. Commissioner Lockley said this is why he wants the meetings to be open. Mr. Rash reported anyone is welcome and they will take all the help they can get. Mr. Rash asked if someone can attend the meeting in some capacity if the Board does not vote today. Commissioner Lockley asked if Commissioner Sanders can vote over the telephone if she cannot attend. Attorney Shuler answered no, but said the Board does have a quorum present. Attorney Shuler reminded the Board he recommended they waive the current policy which would prevent the Board's representative from voting on the advisory board and then voting as a County Commissioner on any issue that may come from the advisory board. He stated this is an extraordinary circumstance and they can wait and see if Commissioner Sanders appears and if she does not appear then the Board is in a position to make a decision if they need to. Chairman Parrish reported the Board can address this issue at 1:30 p.m. **Motion carried; 4-0.**

The meeting recessed at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Michael Morón – County Coordinator – Report

Mr. Moron reported Commissioner Sanders will not be present at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Massey asked Mr. Moron if he asked her about making this appointment. Mr. Moron stated he did not ask her but he will ask her before 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Moron presented his report, as follows:

1. Request for Proposals to replace the small HVAC units above the Judicial Suites on the east side of the Courthouse was opened and read aloud at your October 17th meeting. The project architect, Barnett Fonczak Barlowe and Shuler (BFBS), explained that P & P Heating and Cooling appeared to be the lowest bidder, however after discussing the project with one of P & P Heating principles Mr. Powell, it was determined that Mr. Powell only used the “Front End” Spec and bid form to prepare his bid which did not include many of the features the architect had included for the entire bid. Because of this, Mr. Powell stated that he would not be able to do the project as designed for the cost he submitted. BFBS then contacted the next lowest bidder, G.W. Services, and confirmed they did bid the project as designed. Board action to accept the recommendation of BFBS and allow staff to enter into a contract with G. W. Services.

On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to enter into a contract with G.W. Services, Inc. for the small HVAC units at the Courthouse.

2. The Board, at your October 17th meeting, opened and read aloud Request for Proposals for approximately 1.67 miles of widening and resurfacing and 3.10 miles of new construction, striping, signs, minor drainage improvements and grassing along Mill Road beginning at the intersection of State Road 30 and continuing towards Burnt Bridge Road. The lowest bid received \$2,189,047.13 is \$644,734.13 more than what is available for this FDOT SCOP funded project. Mr. Curenton requested additional funding but was informed by FDOT that none were available. Dewberry | Preble-Rish has started the process of changing the scope of the project to fit within the budgeted \$1,544,313.00. As soon as the changed scope has been approved by FDOT I will bring this item before the Board for action.

Mr. Moron said this project is basically underfunded so the scope is being changed. He said once the DOT approval is received then it will be presented to the Board. Commissioner Massey asked how long this will take. Mr. Clay Kennedy, Dewberry/Preble-Rish, said it will take a couple of weeks. Commissioner Massey stated this project is in his district and he is getting a lot of calls.

3. Based on my request at your last meeting the Board authorized me to engage Attorney Stephen Meck, our labor attorney, to rewrite the staffing policy for the Emergency Operation Center once there has been a declared state of emergency. While discussing this matter with the Clerk's Office we realized that the County's Personnel Policy & Procedures manual needs to be updated to incorporate this new policy and policies the Board has approved since the last update. Board action to allow Attorney Meck to update the Personnel Policy and Procedures manual as he rewrites the Emergency Operation Center staffing policy.

Mr. Moron said they want to incorporate all the policies the Board has approved in the past in this update. Commissioner Massey asked how often these updates are done. Mr. Moron stated it is at the Board's discretion. Clerk Johnson responded the last time it was done was 4-5 years ago. Mr. Moron explained when the Board approved leave for the death of grandparents the policy was changed but it needs to be incorporated into the County's Personnel Policy & Procedures Manual. Clerk Johnson said sometimes laws change and the manual has to be changed. She reported a change about overtime was mentioned to the Finance Department and may need to be reviewed. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to allow Attorney Meck to update the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual as he rewrites the Emergency Operations Center staffing policy.**

4. At your last meeting, I informed the Board that there is proposed legislation removing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as the agency responsible for issuing and collecting the fee for oyster harvesting licenses for the Apalachicola Bay and naming the City of Apalachicola as the new agency. The Board discussed this matter at length and decided to continue the discussion today. During that discussion, the Board directed me to contact CareerSource|Workforce to find out what would be an estimated daily amount for an Apalachicola Bay shelling program. Based on the information I received it would cost about \$50,000 per day which would include shell material, oystermen wages, material handler, cost of supervision, and payroll processing fees. Board discussion.

Commissioner Lockley reported the reason he asked about this was they estimated \$80,000 is collected for the license fees but it costs \$50,000 for one shelling and administration fees also must be paid. He said the money collected will only pay for 1 shelling and it is not worth it. He expressed concern that people are going to want money for a shelling program. He reported one shelling will be done and the State will be out of the program. Commissioner Lockley expressed concern that people are going to want to county to come up with money for shelling programs. He said the state is not going to do a shelling program and the cities and county do not have money to have shelling programs. Commissioner Lockley reported the state should do what they are supposed to do because they own the bay and they are responsible for it. He said they take care of the rest of the oyster bars up and down the coast from Pensacola all the way down south and they are turning this one bay lose and it is not right. He said the County needs to contact the state because they cannot just let the bay go like this. Mr. Pierce inquired if the new committee might want to address this issue. Chairman Parrish answered yes and said there are also state agencies participating on this committee. Mr. Pierce stated DACS has

been trying to dump this program on FWC for year as the program does not generate enough money to warrant running the program from the agency perspective. Commissioner Lockley reported they should get rid of the license since no one else in the state is required to have one. He said the issue is DACS not putting any more shells in the bay. Mr. Pierce stated the Secretary of DACS like aquaculture and he may be pushing it to the detriment of Apalachicola Bay as he is not in favor of re-shelling natural bars. Commissioner Massey asked if a County employee could be assigned for one month to issue the oyster licenses. He said they only have 1 month to pay for the license or they have to pay a \$500 late fee. Chairman Parrish reported the County would need one employee dedicated to this job as they must also show videos and complete some training. He stated this position would be needed all year and the program only generates \$88,000. Mr. Moron volunteered to find out what this program entails and present the information to the Board. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to direct Mr. Moron to check into this program and see what it entails to determine if the County can take care of this item. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley stated they should also check and see why they cannot get rid of the license so they will know everything. He reported no other bay has this requirement. **Commissioner Massey amended his motion to include Mr. Moron checking to see what is required to get rid of the oyster license. Commissioner Lockley amended his second.** Commissioner Jones said there are several options and they talked about limiting the administrative fee or making the license good for more than one year. He expressed concern about doing away with the license because the oysters may get better in the future and then anyone can come in and take the oysters. He explained the County has been trying for a long time to protect the bay and the license in some ways does offer some protection. Commissioner Massey agreed and said before the license was in place people came in from all over and took the oysters and left but never bought anything in Franklin County. Attorney Shuler explained the oyster license was approved by state law so there would have to be a bill in the Legislature to eliminate the license. He reported the deadline to file a bill this year has expired. Commissioner Lockley said people from here go other places to oyster and they do not stop them from oystering. He reported in other areas they monitor the bays and either people do what they should or they receive a ticket. **Motion carried; 4-0.**

5. The issue of *if roof eaves and overhangs have to meet the required setback* has come up. The way the zoning code is currently written they do, but in the past the building department did not consistently enforce this requirement. This issue was added to the October 10th Planning and Zoning Commission agenda and after some discussion they agreed that the current language in the zoning code requires eaves and roof overhangs to meet the setbacks. Does the Board want to consider amending the zoning code to make an exception to the setback requirements for eaves and roof overhangs but restrict this exception to lots that are below a certain size platted before a certain date? Board discussion.

Mr. Pierce recommended the Board not make this requirement site specific. He said that will confuse everyone so the Board should either allow it or not. He explained the reason they were not consistently enforced was sometimes the site plans included the eaves and

sometimes they did not. He reported some contractors repeatedly did not include the eaves. Mr. Pierce stated this should apply to all lots and the only exception should be the 25 ft. lots. Mr. Moron asked if they should require the contractors to show the eaves. Chairman Parrish inquired if it should be the same on any size lot from 100 ft. to 25 ft. Mr. Pierce stated a variance will already be needed on the 25 ft. lots due to the 10 ft. setbacks on each side. He explained the only exception may be for the 25 ft. commercial lots. He still felt the requirement should not be site specific. He suggested the Board require eaves to be included in the site plans for all lots narrower than 50 ft. no matter when they were created. Mr. Pierce stated the County is not creating 25 ft. lots anymore. Chairman Parrish reported this is where the dates come in because they were created before the zoning code. Mr. Moron asked if the County will now require the eaves to be shown in the site plans. Mr. Pierce said they should be because it has been in the zoning code all along and they assumed everyone was showing them but some builders were not. Chairman Parrish asked for a recommendation. Mr. Pierce stated he does not have a problem with the eaves in the setback except for the 25 ft. lots. Commissioner Lockley inquired what the smallest size lot is in the county. Mr. Pierce said he believes under the subdivision ordinance the lots are required to be 60 ft. Attorney Shuler stated he thinks it is 100 ft. but he will check. Commissioner Lockley reported they should be required to show the eaves on the site plan as they are part of the house. The Board discussed the size of the eaves. Mr. Pierce reported the standard size of the eaves is 18" or 24". Mr. Moron asked if the eaves only go 2 ft. into the setback. Mr. Pierce said 2 ft. is the largest encroachment into the setback that he has seen. Chairman Parrish explained on 25 ft. lots the eaves being allowed into the setback could cause a problem with fire protection. He went on to say the setback allows room for a fire truck to get between the houses. Chairman Parrish reported the Board has to decide if they want to allow the eaves into the setback or not. Mr. Moron stated if they allow it, they must limit what size lot they allow it on. Mr. Pierce suggested they do not allow eaves into the setbacks on lots less than 50 ft. wide. He went on to say if the lot is greater than 50 ft. then the County will allow up to 24" for encroachment of eaves into the setback. Commissioner Lockley reported there is also a problem with the eaves throwing water. Mr. Moron suggested the Board allow Mr. Pierce, Mr. Curenton and Attorney Shuler to talk before the next Planning & Zoning meeting and come up with language that explains what they want to do. He reported this language can also be reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission and a recommendation presented at the next meeting. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to allow Mr. Pierce, Mr. Curenton and Attorney Shuler to meet and prepare language to present to the Planning & Zoning Commission for review and a recommendation to the Board. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley said this is part of the house and it was not included in the plans because it is in the setback. Commissioner Jones said he understands the eaves overhangs in the setback but the problem is for the smaller lots not the bigger lots so the size of the lot does matter. **Motion carried; 4-0.**

Attorney Shuler asked if there is anyone present for the 11:00 a.m. public hearing. Some individuals raised their hands. Mr. Moron stated he only has a couple of items left. Attorney Shuler asked Mr. Moron to proceed because the notice says 11:00 a.m. or as soon as the Board can address it.

Mr. Moron continued with his report:

6. Inform the Board that staff has received and I have attached to your packet the tentative FDOT 5-year work plan (FY 2019 – 2023) which will probably be adopted as their final plan. Of the listed twenty-five projects, six (highlighted) have been changed from last year. Contact Mr. Mark Curenton with any questions you may have regarding the plan.

7. This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

8. Mr. Mike Cooper, Weems CEO, informed me that the repairs and upgrade to the generator project has been completed. The Board approved up to \$20,000 for the repairs and upgrades however Mr. Cooper has assured me that the final total cost is below that amount. The generator has been tested and is online and the rental generator is no longer at Weems.

9. Inform the Board that I have received a copy of the Annual County Commission report from the Florida Forest Service. I am attaching an electronic copy to my report and forward paper copies to the Clerk of the Board's record.

Public Hearing – Final (Local Planning Agency) – Comp Plan Amendment

An ordinance amending Policy 2.2 of the Future Land Use Element of the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan to create the Carrabelle East Village Future Land Use Category; amending Policy 11.11.5 of the Future Land Use Element to delete boat ramp as a prohibited use therein; amending the Future Land Use Map of the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan to apply the Carrabelle East Village Future Land Use Category to certain property; providing for severability; providing for a repealer; and providing for an effective date

Chairman Parrish recessed the regular meeting of the County Commission and the Board reconvened at the Local Planning Agency (LPA). Attorney Shuler stated the Board is convened as the LPA for the purpose of taking public comment on the final vote to adopt the Comprehensive Plan Amendment which will adopt and create the Carrabelle East Village and remove the prohibition on a boat ramp in Summer Camp. Attorney Shuler asked if the Commissioners have any questions. There were no questions from the Commissioners. Attorney Shuler asked for public comment. There was no public comment. Attorney Shuler recommended the Board close the meeting of the LPA and reconvene the meeting as the County Commission. Chairman Parrish recessed the meeting of the LPA.

Public Hearing – Final (Board of County Commissioners) – Comp Plan Amendment

Same description as item above

Chairman Parrish reconvened the meeting of the County Commission. Chairman Parrish asked for public comment. There was no public comment. Chairman Parrish asked for comments from the County Commissioners. There were no comments from the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. Attorney Shuler stated this is the final step in resolving the litigation with the St. Joe Company. He explained this matter was addressed at the transmittal hearing and the plan was submitted to the other state agencies and comments

were received but there were no objections, recommendations, changes or restrictions. He reported this public hearing was scheduled as required by law and the Board is within the 6 month window. He stated this hearing was duly advertised and the public meeting was duly conducted so the Board is in a procedural position to take a vote to approve the Comprehensive Plan Amendment. He reported the Amendment will then be sent to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for final revisions and it will become effective in about 30 days. Commissioner Lockley asked if St. Joe can then start building. Attorney Shuler reported they can start pulling permits as soon as their plans are in place. **Motion carried; 4-0.**

Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report

Attorney Shuler brought into discussion the County Court Probation Contract. He said the Probation Officer is currently receiving \$50 per month for probation services and has requested an increase to \$60 per month. He stated Judge Van Russell, County Judge, was contacted and the increase is fine with him but the contract is with the County Commission. Attorney Shuler recommended the Board allow this change effective January 1, 2018. Commissioner Lockley asked why the cost is going up. Attorney Shuler reported there has been an increase in the cost of operating. He said the insurance costs have gone up and the number of people going on probation has decreased. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this increase from \$50 per month to \$60 per month.**

Attorney Shuler reported he has settled the litigation with Bank and it resulted in the use of other people's money to purchase the old KOA site at Alligator Point. He presented the original settlement documents to the Clerk.

Attorney Shuler stated the Board approved a lease with the U.S. Air Force until 2030 at the Apalachicola Airport radar site. He said the U.S. Air Force has contacted them and asked if the Board would consider instead of renewing with a lease to renew with a supplement to the old, expired lease. He went on to say a supplement to the lease extends the term but does not change any of the other conditions and can be handled in-house but if it is an official new lease then it must go to Washington, D.C. and may take a year to get signed. He stated this may be a quicker route to give the U.S. Air Force the lease. Chairman Parrish said the Board has already approved the lease. Attorney Shuler agreed and said this is a technical change on how they process their paperwork. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to approve the supplement to a lease for the U.S. Air Force. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Attorney Shuler said this will not change any of the terms. Commissioner Lockley asked if there is any money involved. Attorney Shuler said maybe \$1.00 a year. Attorney Shuler reported they have to have this lease for their radar installation as part of their military use of the air space. Commissioner Lockley asked if they maintain the equipment. Attorney Shuler stated it is their equipment. **Motion carried; 4-0.**

Attorney Shuler discussed PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Programs. He stated Resolutions have been brought to this Board numerous times and the Board has always refused

to approve them. He explained this allows someone to have a non-ad valorem assessment on their property to pay for potential solar panels. He reported the Board has always opposed this matter. He stated there is a statewide effort that includes Franklin County to impose a PACE program called Green Corridor Property Assessed Clean Energy Special District. Attorney Shuler said more information has been requested from the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) on why this is being considered statewide but he has not received a response yet. He reported the deadline for making a comment or opposing this program is November 13th which is before the next Board meetings so he recommended the Board authorize the Chairman to sign a letter if necessary objecting to this Green Corridor Special District so they will know the Board's position. He explained they are holding the public hearing on November 17th. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to authorize Chairman Parrish to sign a letter if necessary objecting to the Green Corridor Special District. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Chairman Parrish reported if this law passes it is another way of superseding the Board voting on this issue. He stated then they will not have to pay ad valorem taxes on this property. Attorney Shuler said he informed the Property Appraiser of this proposal and she has not received any information from the Green Corridor Special District about undertaking this program in Franklin County. Attorney Shuler said the Property Appraiser is in consultation with her counsel from the Property Appraiser's Association to determine what position her office will take. **Motion carried; 4-0.**

Commissioners' & Public Comments

There were no Commissioner comments.

There were no public comments.

The meeting recessed at 11:15 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Triumph Pre-Application Submission

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will compile and review the list of projects and programs pre-applications that are eligible to be submitted to the Triumph Board for funding consideration.

Mr. Pierce reported this meeting is to talk about the Triumph funding opportunities. He stated Mr. Scott Remington, General Counsel to Triumph, is present and will explain the process. He said Triumph got organized about 8 months ago and two new Board members were appointed. He commented Mr. Jason Shoaf, one of the new Triumph Board Members, is also present today. He explained this meeting was prompted because the Triumph Board announced it is ready to receive pre-applications for projects. He said the mandatory pre-applications are to make sure the applicants are on course for their projects and know what to expect. He reported the purpose of the meeting is to hear from Mr. Remington about the process Triumph has in place as well as to deal with the first opportunity for Franklin County and projects in Franklin County to be sent to Triumph. Mr. Pierce said this is the first round but not the last

round. He stated the deadline for pre-applications is November 15th but everyone thought this was the only pre-applications process but it is not. He reported there is \$15 million reserved for each of the 8 counties. He said the \$15 million is there for Franklin County when they get good projects that are vetted and supported by the community. Mr. Pierce explained of the \$300 million Triumph has, only 40% is allocated to the counties and the other 60% is not allocated and is competitive. He reported the County does feel like they are under a little pressure because they do not want to be the last one in line when they have more than \$15 million worth of projects and all the money get allocated before they can request more. Mr. Pierce pointed out all of the counties would like to see more than \$15 million in their county. He explained the County wants to work expeditiously to get projects to the Triumph Board so they have time to review the projects. He handed out a summary of the projects that came in as of 4:30 p.m. yesterday and read the projects. Mr. Pierce said in addition to those projects the School Board has submitted a Workforce Housing/Vocational Training project for \$2 million and a Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) educational project for \$1.8 million. He reported the County now has a total of \$21.5 million in applications. He informed the Board the Pumpout USA project submitted is \$39 million for a regional project for all 8 counties that alleviates marine sewage spills in holding tanks. He said they provided a brief presentation but it is not clear how much money they want from each county. He reported the request was sent to all 8 counties requesting a letter of support. Mr. Pierce said he is fearful of doing this and then Triumph misunderstands and \$39 million of Franklin County's money is gone. He said this is a regional project and he is not going to address it today unless there is interest from the community. Mr. Pierce presented the Board with the applications from the School Board. Mr. Pierce introduced Mr. Remington. Mr. Remington thanked the Board for allowing him to appear today and for being so engaged in the process. He provided a slide show of where Triumph has been and where they are going. He explained the reason Triumph exists is because of the 2010 BP Deep Horizon Oil spill tragedy. He explained the areas was severely impacted as tourists did not visit the areas and it showed how fragile the economy was as it is based primarily on tourism, the seafood industry and the military. He explained shortly after the oil spill happened RESTORE was created and federal money begin to flow in and that was a result of criminal penalties for BP and monies that were appropriated from the federal government at different levels. He went on to say this created very complicated webs of how this money would be distributed and what it could be spent on and it was all primarily designed for projects that would enhance or remediate the environmental damage that occurred as a result of the spill. Mr. Remington said what it did not address was how to fix the economic problems going forward. He stated after the spill Attorney General Pam Bondi filed a lawsuit against BP as part of the class action lawsuit. He explained one of the elements of damages that she maintained were sustained by the State were economic damages. He reported they hired a law firm to pursue the claims for economic damages in addition to nature resource claims. He stated the Gulf Coast Economic Corridor Act or Triumph Act was passed and it said if they were successful in recovering any economic damages, the damages would be divided between the 8 counties in the panhandle that were most disproportionally effected by the spill and the rest of the state. He explained the damages for the natural resources and habitat went into another pot of money. Mr. Remington reported the division the Legislature agreed for the

economic damages was 75% of the funds were to go to the 8 counties and 25% to the rest of the state. He reported the legislation went through and the settlement received was \$2 billion for economic damages. Mr. Remington stated 75% of those funds which was \$1.5 billion is set aside for the 8 county area from Escambia County to Wakulla County. He explained the rules were adopted and then the rules changed in the last legislative session and he will provide the priorities of how the money should be spent and the special awards that the legislature has authorized. He reported it is important to follow the legislature's guidance as the money coming in the future is dependant on future legislative action to allocate the money. He stated if the counties are not good stewards of the money then the legislature can take the money back and put it in the state's general operating fund. Mr. Remington presented a slide that showed the priorities of the legislature and the types of awards that are eligible for funding. Mr. Remington showed a slide that explained what the Triumph funds can and cannot be used for and how these rules changed from 2013 to 2017. He stated \$15 million will be spent in Franklin County and the Triumph Board will select the projects but one the priorities is to select projects that are recommended by the County Commission. He said there is no language asking the County Commission to prioritize or rank the projects but just to recommend the projects or not. He clarified the Triumph Board has indicated they would like the County Commission to rank the projects so they know what is most important to the county because they have the best local knowledge of what is important in the County. He said the money will come to the county starting in 2019 and will continue until 2033. He stated there is a long way to go and a lot of opportunities to use this money. Mr. Remington provided a slide showing the names of the Triumph Gulf Coast Board of Directors. He said Mr. Shoaf is present. Mr. Remington commented in addition to the legislative priorities, the Gulf Coast Economic Corridor Act or Triumph Act also gives the Board of Directors the discretion to set its own priorities. He explained the Board of Directors has published a set of discretionary priorities and he presented a slide showing the priorities. He reported they are looking at projects that align with Northwest Florida's FORWARD proposal which is part of Florida's Great Northwest. Mr. Pierce stated the County is not a member of this organization. Mr. Remington said Florida's Great Northwest has published on their website the results of a multi-year study that they believe shows what the most effective economic development methods and tools will be for this region. He stated this is one of the priorities the Board of Directors has identified to look at for support and assistance. He said Franklin County is part of a Rural Area of Opportunity which is one of the priorities. Mr. Pierce asked if all 8 counties are part of this designation. Mr. Remington answered no, only 3 counties which are Franklin County, Wakulla County and Gulf County. He stated Walton County may also be included but he is not sure. He reported the Board of Directors is looking for projects that will have funding sources beyond just Triumph. He explained projects that are seeking 100% financing are going to have trouble because the members have said they want to leverage other monies as much as possible. Mr. Remington said he thinks the Board will be more friendly to counties that come together for regional transformation than counties that are just trying to get funds for their county. He presented a slide showing the Triumph timeline. He stated the Triumph Board continues to work on the application and scoring criteria for the proposals that will be submitted. Mr. Remington reported the Triumph Board last met in October and approved a pre-application process and it

is mandatory. He explained the 2-3 page pre-application is a summary of what the projects is. He reported if multiple counties submit similar projects then they may put the counties together and see how they can work together to make the most out of what they have. He reported the Triumph Board is also trying to make sure a county does not spend a lot of time on a project that will not get funded in the end. He stated they want people to know early on if their projects fit the criteria under the statute and how they can work together regionally to get the most money. He said the Triumph Board is in the process of selecting an economic advisor and scoring entity. Mr. Remington stated November 15th was the deadline set for the first pre-applications. He said there was a deadline but all the money will not be given away at one time as it will be coming in over time. He stated the November 15th date is a consideration deadline. Mr. Remington pointed out if an application is ready to go, the first time the Triumph Board will consider them is at the December meeting. He explained anything to be considered in December was needed by November 15th so the Triumph Board has time to review the proposals. Mr. Remington highlighted the items he hopes the Triumph Board will address at their meeting tomorrow. He reported only 1 pre-application has been filed at this time so there will not be much action on pre-applications at the Triumph meeting tomorrow. He explained their meetings are noticed to the public and their next meeting is in December. He stated the Triumph Board will report to the Legislature on pre-applications. He explained the December meeting is the first time the Triumph Board will act on applications or pre-applications but it is not very likely. Mr. Remington felt like the Triumph Board would make final decisions on applications in January and February. He stated the Triumph Board is not looking to spend all the money the first meeting or the first year. He expected the Triumph Board to select some projects to run through the system to see how they work and then adjust the system if any changes are needed. He explained just because a project is not funded now does not mean it will never be funded. He reported if the Board wants to prioritize the projects to the Triumph Board then they can continue to update their list as opportunities are presented. He said they do not know what will happen in January, 2018 during the legislative session so they need to be diligent in the projects they suggested and in staying in contact with the elected officials from this region to make sure they are reminded this allocation needs to continue and that this money belongs to Northwest Florida not the citizens or the legislature. He presented a slide of the House Representatives for this district and a slide of the State Senators from the Triumph district. He stated Congressman Matt Gaetz is also needed to leverage Triumph money into federal dollars and federal infrastructure money to magnify the impact of these funds. He reported the counties need to make sure their federal elected representatives are fully engaged with what is going on with Triumph. Mr. Remington said additional resources can be found at www.myfloridatriumph.com. He reported the Triumph Board operates under the Sunshine Law and all of their agendas, meeting minutes and presentations are online. Mr. Remington offered to answer any questions. Chairman Parrish asked when the next round of funding is after the initial \$300 million. Mr. Remington answered 2019. Chairman Parrish said the Triumph Board has a year to prove themselves before the next funding is available. Mr. Remington agreed that is correct. Chairman Parrish stated \$300 million will be received this year and then only \$80 million a year so the major funding is this year. Mr. Remington pointed out there is not a requirement that all \$300 million has to be spent before the next allocation.

He said the money could be allocated or committed to projects but the funding may be contingent upon meeting performance metrics. He explained the Triumph money could be the last portion of money used in a project after they have exhausted the state and federal money. Mr. Remington stated some of the Triumph Board members want the legislature to see that they can be successful and they want to make sure their process is working effectively since it is a new process. He explained even though all the infrastructure for Triumph will be in place by January, he will be surprised if all the money is spent the first three months. He expressed his opinion that the Triumph Board may want to hold some money back for opportunities that may arise. He said something could happen just like the oil spill did and transforms everything you think about economic development in your region. He stated a major storm or unfortunate incident could occur. He said there will be a deliberate evaluation of projects and they will select the best of the best and move those forward. He explained as they get more comfortable with the process then more projects will get approved and receive funding. Mr. Remington explained these projects are not going to be funded 100% and they will require some match money up front. Chairman Parrish brought into discussion an application with a co-applicant and how the clawback measure works in this situation and who is responsible for the money. Mr. Remington stated the Triumph Board will ask him to draft contracts and agreements that will contain the metrics and that will explain the conditions of the clawback and who will repay the money. He explained once the applications are made, a Program Administrator will put the applications together and they will have input from an economist who will look at the projects and offer advice on what they think the realistic economic benefits of the project would be. He reported the Triumph Board will then look at their priorities and select projects that meet their priorities, the legislative priorities, are in compliance with the law and then those projects will move forward. He reported if there are multiple applicants on one project then all of them would enter into a contract with the Triumph Board. He stated if they do not meet with metrics then they will not get money in the future or they can clawback money that was given. Chairman Parrish stated he understood the Triumph Board wants to use these funds to leverage other funds. He said his understanding is they cannot take Triumph dollars and replace money that was already allocated for a project to try and move the timeframe up on the project. Mr. Remington reported from a policy perspective Triumph funds should not replace monies that are coming to the County already from any other entity. He stated they are not meant to replace or supplant what the county should ordinarily get from the State of Florida. He went on to say this is something extra to recognize the fact that the counties were disproportionally effected. Commissioner Lockley asked in reference to training for a job, the requirement says the income would need to be more than the national average. He questioned if there is a scale used to determine this income level. Mr. Remington said anyone putting in a vocational grant should work with an economist or someone to show how these occupations they are training people for would provide a higher wage than what the average is in Franklin County. He stated it may not be an accurate measure to say the national average wage because it could be higher or lower in Franklin County. He explained in order for the county to transform their region, they need to know their base line economic numbers are and how their project will impact those numbers. Commissioner Lockley asked if the Triumph Board will go along with what the County chooses as a base line number. Mr. Remington said

maybe because the Triumph Board is hiring an economic person to assist them as they do not know the national average household income in each region and what the difference is between the counties. He reported they are looking to find someone who is an expert to tell them the average wage throughout the counties, what the average family income is, and how projects that create new jobs can increase that number. He encouraged anyone who has this kind of project to employ someone who can help them demonstrate it but all the projects will be vetted by the Triumph Board as well. Commissioner Massey asked who reviews the applications when the cities turn them in. Mr. Remington reported the formal application will come to the Triumph Board and as part of the formal application it will ask if the project is recommended by the Board of County Commissioners. He said if the answer is yes then they attach a letter from the county. He reported the application will then go to a Project Administration Team that will score the project in ranges. He explained the application will then go to an economic advisor who will look at the project and determine which projects scored high, have the biggest impacts and can demonstrate measured results quickly. Mr. Remington reported these projects will likely get funding first. He stated if they feel like the projects are not good then they may ask the applicant to submit something else. Commissioner Massey asked who issues the money the Triumph Board or the county. Mr. Remington said the Triumph Board will send the money to the applicant. Commissioner Jones stated he would like to see more clarification on what the requirements are for the metrics. He explained no one can meet the criteria if they do not know what it is. He expressed concern that this could be a problem with the clawback measure if they do not know the standard they are supposed to meet. Chairman Parrish stated this is the reason for the pre-application process. He explained once the pre-application is reviewed and the Triumph Board asks for more information then the applicant must go through the full application process and provide the details. He reported if the project has more matching money then the project will be elevated through the selection process but if they are submitting a project with no matching funds then it will be scored down on the criteria list. Mr. Remington agreed this is what the Board has said and the legislature said it should not be used to fund 100% of any project. He stated leveraging funds is very important to the legislature and the Triumph Board. He explained there are discussions going on now that if President Donald Trump is successful in getting an infrastructure bill passed, the first people to receive federal funds will be the ones who have matching funds. He stated there are not many communities now that have this type of matching money available. Mr. Remington reported this is a unique opportunity for this region to possibly receive some big grants from other entities because of the ability to come up with a quick match. Mr. Pierce agreed the Triumph funds are important to Franklin County because they can be used as a match to secure other funds. Chairman Parrish stated when he spoke to the Triumph Board he told them Franklin County does not have the large amount of money in reserves like some of the larger counties or staff so it will take more time for the County to get started on their projects. He reported they talked about getting someone to help with planning and to help generate some good projects and then they received an email from Mr. Remington that the DEO had money available but only if a lot of jobs are being created. Chairman Parrish reported the county is trying to sustain jobs with the oyster industry because it is important to the local economy. He stated they need to do some major planning and have some major

projects to bring the bay back so 1,500-2,000 in the community can continue to make a living. He inquired if job retention is as important as job creation. Mr. Remington stated this is an important question and it is all in how it is presented to the Triumph Board. He reported sustainability of the oysters is of interest to everyone in the community and the state has spent a lot of money fighting with Georgia and Alabama to make sure Florida gets their fair share of the fresh water coming down the rivers. He said the state is committed to this issue and the Triumph Board is committed to preserving their way of life that everyone enjoys as much as they can but they are also looking at ways to diversify the economy so they are not crippled if the oyster population goes away. Chairman Parrish reported the smaller counties are different from the bigger counties but still have needs and sustainability issues. He explained 90% of the county is owned by the state and federal government so there will not be any explosive growth. Chairman Parrish said everyone in this area wants to maintain the environmentally sensitive area for the oysters and seafood. He reported tourism is doing well so the County has diversified. He explained if the oysters die then the bay will lose its filter so the other items will die and the whole bay will be lost. He stated everyone here is trying to protect this area. Commissioner Lockley asked if there is a scale of how much the match should be for these projects. Mr. Remington was not sure if there was a scale on the amount the match should be. He commented the statute says they have a right to request a 100% public sector match if the public sector is engaged in the project but it will be determined on a project by project analysis. He said \$15 million will be spent in Franklin County and it will be spent largely on the Board of County Commissioner's recommendations. Mr. Pierce inquired if an in-kind match will be treated the same way as a cash match. Mr. Remington said it can be used but it will be determined on a project by project analysis. Chairman Parrish thanked Mr. Remington for appearing and giving them some insight into this process. Ms. Bonnie Davis, a resident of Franklin County, asked if the Triumph Board has given any consideration to making advice and resources available at the Triumph fund level to help small counties develop applications that meet the criteria and have acceptable metrics instead of forcing small counties to spend a substantial amount of money hiring people to develop applications that will meet the standards. She stated a good way to insure the \$15 million gets spent prudently is for them to assist the County to make sure they have projects that are acceptable to the Triumph Board and asked if they are considering this issue. Mr. Remington agreed there has been some discussion at the Board level about the best way to do this and he sent the email about applying to DEO for funds. He said there has also been a discussion about applying to the Triumph Board if DEO turns you down for this purpose but the question is still open at this time. He felt the Board would be amenable to this issue. Mr. Remington said right now the Triumph Board are taking the assets they have and putting him and the Triumph Board members on the road to appear and answer questions the best they can. He explained he receives calls everyday asking questions about applications and they are doing their best to answer the questions. He stated if someone put in a pre-application or applications asking for this type of assistance then the Triumph Board would take up the matter and make a decision on whether they can do it or not and whether they feel the legislation authorizes them to do it. Mr. Bill McCartney, a resident of Franklin County, asked if the County will accept any more pre-applications between now and the deadline on the 15th. Chairman Parrish reported they cannot answer this question because

right now the County has \$21 million worth of projects and are not receiving but \$15 million. He said as stated by Mr. Remington this process will go on for the next year. He reported if the County submits all these projects and some are turned down then he assumes they will be accepting more applications. He explained when applications are being completed, the applicants need to know what the criteria is and that the projects meet the criteria or the projects are not going to get funded. Chairman Parrish said there will be more time to submit applications. He expressed concern that there are so many different entities applying for these funds. He went on to say there were about 200 people that attended the Triumph meeting he attended. He explained some of them were wanting funds that day and the County was not even ready to submit an application which is why he spoke about small, rural counties having limited resources. He said the cities and School Board are in the same situation with resources. He explained the applications now exceed the \$15 million available but the Triumph Board will select the projects. Mr. McCartney asked again if the County will accept any additional pre-applications between now and the 15th. Chairman Parrish said they will but the pre-applications have to meet the criteria and the more matching funds they have the better the chance of being funded. Mr. Remington explained anyone can submit a pre-application to the Triumph Board directly as pre-applications do not have to flow through the county. He reminded everyone the approval of the County Commission is a question on the full application. Mrs. Brenda LaPaz, Mayor of the City of Carrabelle, said on the questions and answers on the website it says the Triumph Board is prohibited from disbursing 100% of any award in a single year but they want the projects to be shovel ready and completed quickly. She said some of the projects that are ready can be completed in 6-8 months. Mr. Remington asked for some time to look up this item. Mrs. LaPaz inquired if the Board of Directors do not see any projects they like, are they not mandated by the legislature to allocate all of the funding in one year and are allowed to roll the funds over from year to year. Mr. Remington answered this is correct. Mrs. LaPaz said in the minutes from the Board of Directors they discussed income and the legislature requiring it to be above the national average and she asked if there is any indication the Triumph Board may seek reconsideration on this provision by the legislature as it will be difficult in rural counties to have projects that produce jobs that are above the national average in pay. Mr. Remington said there has been a lot of discussion about this by the Triumph Board and they are looking at it closely. He stated these are discretionary priorities in the legislature but it does not mean that a project has to meet that priority. He reported the Triumph Board is working hard to find out what is going on on the ground particularly in rural counties. Chairman Parrish stated if the Triumph Board are going to expend the money then they want a guarantee from the employer that they will provide good wages. Chairman Parrish said he hopes there will be some discretion for rural counties because he does not know if they will meet this requirement. Mr. Remington addressed the question asked earlier by Mayor LaPaz by stating the statute says awards may not be used to finance 100% of any project or program, Triumph may require a 1 to 1 private sector match or higher and an awardee may not receive all the funds available in a given year. He explained it is open to interpretation whether it means all the funds given to Triumph or all the funds available to that awardee but he would lean towards all the funds available to Triumph. He reported the goal being Triumph does not

want to run out of money and they do hope some of these projects are long term funding projects so that other monies come in first and Triumph money comes in last.

The meeting was recessed at 2:46 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:53 p.m.

Mr. Pierce thanked Mr. Remington for his presentation and said they learned a lot of information. He said some of the applicants may want to re-visit their pre-applications after hearing this presentation. He explained there has been information received about things Triumph is emphasizing that the county did not emphasize to everyone because they did not know. He questioned if the County should go through the 12 pre-applications or let the applicants review them. Mr. Pierce reported he can address the County projects the Armory and the oyster hatchery but some of the other applications may need to be revised in the amount, cash match or metrics. Chairman Parrish reported in this presentation they found out the pre-applications do not have to go to the county first and can be turned in directly to Triumph. He explained the Triumph Board would review the applications and then return the applications to the county or not. Mr. Remington explained the pre-applications will come back to the applicants but ultimately the application will ask if it is recommended by the County Commission. Chairman Parrish asked if the County should review the pre-applications and prioritize them. Mr. Pierce suggested they let all the pre-applications go directly to the Triumph Board and let them make the initial cut. Mr. Remington said this is a good way to do it but there may be some applications that come directly from the County. Chairman Parrish questioned if the County has all the information they need for reviewing these pre-applications. He explained every one is still learning this process and the Triumph Board is still getting everything set up. Mr. Remington explained a lot of the County Commissions are taking the pre-applications and looking at pre-applications other government entities have provided and making decisions on how to help with the project if it is a good project. Mr. Remington said the county may join as a co-applicant to some of the projects. Chairman Parrish stated the Board does not usually take a vote on these kind of items without a full Board. Mr. Remington said no pre-applications will live or die based on a vote the Board takes today as these projects must be vetted more. He explained if the Board sees a project that is important and transformative to the region then they can recommend the project officially or unofficially but there is not a requirement. Mr. Pierce explained there is not enough information in the pre-application to make a recommendation. Chairman Parrish agreed the pre-applications should be sent to Triumph. He reported if the Triumph Board requests a full application then the project would come to the County for a letter of objection or support. Mr. Remington explained there is a question on the application asking if the proposal is recommended by the County Commission. He reported if yes is answered to this question then they will need to attach a letter from the County Commission. He stated the County can also send a letter stating which applications they think are the most important. He said the Triumph Board would love to have the Board of County Commissioner's opinion. Chairman Parrish explained that does not mean the project will be funded. Mr. Remington agreed that is correct. Mr. Pierce reported some of the

applicants may want to change their pre-applications and the County should allow them to do that and then all the pre-applications can be sent directly to the Triumph Board. Chairman Parrish reported the Triumph Board will see the pre-applications either way. Mr. Van Johnson, Mayor of the City of Apalachicola, agreed they were rushed to get these pre-applications together and they would like to have time to get another look at their pre-application before it gets re-submitted. Chairman Parrish stated the pre-applications can be submitted straight to Triumph and if the projects meets the criteria then the applicant will be asked to submit a full application. Mayor Johnson agreed they will take back their application and submit it directly to the Triumph Board. Chairman Parrish reported if the Triumph Board asks for the full applications then it should be presented to the Board and they will decide if they recommend it or not but the application will still go to the Triumph Board. Mayor LaPaz concurred with Mayor Johnson and said the City of Carrabelle will do the same thing. Mrs. Traci Moses, Superintendent of Schools, agreed they will go back and review their applications before submitting them. Mr. Pierce thanked everyone for appearing at the meeting. He state one applicant, Florida State University, came from out of town and the Board can decide if they want to hear about this project. Chairman Parrish reported he would like the two County projects to move forward. Chairman Parrish said one is the oyster hatchery for Apalachicola Bay and the other is for completing the Armory and both are county wide projects and he would like the Board to vote to move these two pre-applications forward. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to move the two county pre-applications the oyster hatchery and the Armory forward.** Mr. Pierce stated the power point presentation provided by Mr. Remington will be available and anyone needing it should contact Mr. Moron. Commissioner Lockley asked if there will be another meeting like this in the future. Mr. Pierce said this is an item for the County Commission to discuss but they may also get some feedback from the Triumph Board. He said at this point there may not be another meeting as the pre-applications will go directly to Triumph and they will vet them to determine if they meet the basic criteria. He said if the projects do not meet the criteria then that will be the end of the project and if they do then the applicants will come to the County and see if they recommend the project. He stated the Board will not have another pre-application meeting. Chairman Parrish reported the Board will see each application because they will have to come to the Board for a recommendation. Mr. Pierce was not sure how often this would occur as it depends on the process the Triumph Board has to go through. Mr. Jason Shoaf, Triumph Board Member, reported these applications will not automatically be sent to the Board of County Commissioners but one of the questions on the application is do they have the approval of the Franklin County Commission. He said this will force the applicant to bring the application to the Board but there is no mechanism in place for the Triumph Board to automatically return the applications to the County. Chairman Parrish agreed they will not get a letter of support if the application is not submitted to the County. Mr. Shoaf said that is how the process is now. Chairman Parrish announced to the public once the pre-apliation is submitted, if the Triumph Board asks for a full application and it is not submitted to the County Commission then the application will go back without a letter of support. He felt the letter of support would elevate the application but the applicant has the option of not bringing it back but they will not receive

the letter of support. Ms. Pam Richardson questioned how the pre-application can be submitted without the letter of support. Mr. Pierce clarified the letter of support is submitted with the full application not the pre-application. Chairman Parrish reported if the project has merit and meets the criteria then the Triumph Board asks for a full application and then the applicant will then contact the Board for the letter of support. Chairman Parrish stated everyone is learning this process together.

The meeting recessed at 3:15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:25 p.m.

Chairman Parrish brought into discussion the appointment requested for the Apalachicola Bay Oyster Task Force. Mr. Moron stated Commissioner Sanders was contacted and she prefers to hear more information before the appointment is made. He explained Mr. Rash may contact her and provide more information. Commissioner Jones asked if this will be addressed at the next meeting. Mr. Moron answered yes. He asked if anyone can attend this meeting as a non-elected official. Attorney Shuler stated elected or non-elected officials can appear at the meeting but it would not be sanctioned at this time. Chairman Parrish reported he has already attended one meeting. Mr. Pierce said Chairman Parrish should continue to go to the meetings because at some point some guidelines may be prepared to send to DACS and if some money is needed it may come from the Board. Chairman Parrish explained the committee is still in the process of organizing so no pertinent decisions will be made at this meeting. He reported a chairman and vice-Chairman will be elected but neither one will be a County Commissioner. Attorney Shuler stated all these items can be addressed when the appointment is made at the November 21st meeting. He advised the Board this meeting may not have been properly advertised. He said all of the Commissioners can attend but cannot talk to each other. He said if there is a question and answer session the Commissioners cannot interact with each other unless it is a duly advertised meeting. He stated because of the Sunshine Law, he recommends only one County Commissioner attend this kind of meeting. Chairman Parrish said he will attend this meeting even though he has not been official appointed. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to authorize Chairman Parrish to attend this meeting and the last meeting.** Attorney Shuler reported it is not necessary to have a motion for Chairman Parrish to attend but he cannot act on behalf of the Board because the Board has not appointed anyone. **Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Chairman Parrish reported they will address this appointment on November 21st. **Motion carried; 4-0.** Commissioner Massey asked where the meeting will be held. Mr. Hartsfield answered the Community Center at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday. Commissioner Lockley asked them to advertise these meeting in the newspaper in the future.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Joseph A. Parrish - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts