

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
JANUARY 2, 2018
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Alan Pierce-Restore Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Parrish called the meeting to Order.

Prayer and Pledge

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meeting held on December 5, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

Payment of County Bills

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

Department Directors Report

Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works

Mr. Nabors reported there have been people off work during the holidays but this morning they have a full crew. He stated there is a lot of litter to pick up and they are starting to fix the messy, limerock roads today. Chairman Parrish reported someone ran off the road at the curve on Bluff Road and knocked down the signs. He stated Mr. Nabors will need to look at the cost

of replacing the signs. He suggested County staff contact the Sheriff's Department and make sure the person pays for the signs. He explained the taxpayers should not have to pay to replace the signs.

Mr. Nabors said at budget time they discussed the dump trucks and he requested Board approval to lease two dump trucks and trade in one dump truck. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to approve leasing two dump trucks and trading in one dump truck.** Mr. Nabors estimated it would cost \$45,000-\$60,000 to repair one of the trucks and the county would still have a 15 year old truck. Commissioner Lockley asked if this item is in the budget. Mr. Nabors explained they will trade in one truck and then lease two dump trucks for \$24,000 a year. He said the County will keep the dump trucks for 13 months and at the end of the 13 months, the company will provide two new trucks. **Commissioner Massey seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Mr. Davis reported the compactor for the transfer station is in and will be operable by the end of the month.

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director

Mrs. Brownell said she does not have any action items but her department will be out in the community handing out blankets to anyone that needs them. She explained the Baptist Church and Franklin's Promise donated a trailer full of blankets and they will distribute them. She stated they already provided blankets to the two homeless individuals in Eastpoint during the first cold spell. Commissioner Massey reported there are also two homeless individuals at the pavilion in Carrabelle. Mrs. Brownell said she heard one of them will not take anything. Commissioner Massey said to leave the blanket on the table and he will take it. Mrs. Brownell reported some ready meals will also be provided.

Mrs. Brownell informed the Board they received payment from the Wakulla County Sheriff's Department for the cots and linens that were loaned to them during Hurricane Irma. She reported these items are backordered so they cannot get the bedding or the new cots they need. She said these items were for a cold weather shelter so they do not have supplies to open a cold weather shelter and Red Cross will not open one either. She reported people can come to their office if they need a blanket. Commissioner Lockley asked Mrs. Brownell to advertise this on the radio. Mrs. Brownell agreed to advertise it. Commissioner Jones said the school has a homeless liaison person that may be able to help. Mrs. Brownell agreed to check on this matter.

Action Items:

NONE

Information Items:

1. Franklin County EOC Staff continue to promote our Re-Entry Tag program and encourage all residents to apply for their Re-Entry Tag.
2. EOC Staff is updating our Special Needs Database to verify current information of our Special Needs Residents.
3. EOC Staff continue to promote the Alert Franklin System and encourage residents to sign up to receive updates and information from Emergency Management.

Erik Lovestrand – Extension Office Director

Mr. Lovestrand did not have any additional items.

County Extension Activities December 20, 2017 – January 2, 2018

General Extension Activities:

- Extension Director participated in annual performance evaluation with District Extension Director.
- End of year reporting completed for UF Plan of Work and Work Load information.

Sea Grant Extension:

- Processing amendment to extend timeframe and funding for Dark Skies sea turtle lighting work across Franklin, Gulf and Bay Counties.
- Extension Director participated in the weekly planning calls for the Dark Skies turtle lighting project.

4-H Youth Development:

- Planning is underway for next year's 4-H Teen Retreat weekend workshop.
- Planning underway for Tropicana Public Speaking contest in local schools.

Family Consumer Sciences:

- New Family Nutrition Program Assistant completing training modules to begin nutrition programming in local schools.

Public Comments

Mrs. Donna Butterfield, a resident of St. George Island, said it is nice to have public comments at the beginning of the meeting so residents do not have to wait until the end of the meeting to be heard. She suggested when staff has a request for action; they put the request on the agenda so it can be accessed on the website. She reported the public does not get Mr. Moron's report and he sometimes has requests that require a vote from the Board. She requested Mr.

Moron's report be included with a dot on the agenda so the public can be aware of what is happening. Mrs. Butterfield used the example of Mr. Moron presenting the request from the Weems Memorial Hospital CEO to access several hundred thousand dollars worth of the Health Care Trust Fund money. She said Commissioner Lockley also moved to close the contract with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) and both of these items are big deals. She requested these items be placed on the agenda so the public will know what is coming up. Mrs. Butterfield asked that Mr. Moron's report be added to the website before the meeting. Mr. Moron reported this will not be a problem but his report is not done until Monday. He explained his report is always changing and sometimes holds up the Board packet. He said his report could be placed on the website and then overwritten with the new version on Monday. Mrs. Butterfield said the agenda could reference action items on Mr. Moron's report. Mr. Moron reported if his report says board action then the public will know. Mr. Moron said sometimes his report is done after 5:00 p.m. and he provides printed copies at the meeting. The Board did not have any problem with adding this to the website.

Ginger Coulter – Sheriff's Department – Request

Mrs. Ginger Coulter, Franklin County Sheriff's Department, said she forgot to bring information about the FEMA amount from the last fiscal year and the School Board. She stated this item has been there from last year and they are asking to have it remain in the budget for last year. She reported the FEMA funds as well as the School Board reimbursements will be used to offset the overtime from the most recent storm. Mr. Moron said there are 2 payments of \$15,000 from the charter school. Chairman Parrish stated the Board does not have this information in their Board packet. Mr. Moron reported he requested this information last week but did not know Mrs. Coulter was on vacation. He explained the last time Mrs. Coulter appeared before the Board she provided a list of funds she wanted to keep and an explanation of what project they wanted to keep the funds for. Mr. Moron said the Board needs to see a list. Mrs. Coulter reported she has a list with her for this budget year but she does not have one for the previous year with her. She stated the Board has already approved the previous year but she did not have the FEMA reimbursement amounts at the time. Mr. Moron recommended Mrs. Coulter meet with him and Mrs. Linda Phillips, Finance Director, and present an accurate list of what they want to keep and what they want to spend the funds on. He suggested Mrs. Coulter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Mrs. Coulter said she has a list of the proposed changes for this year but forgot to bring the list from last year. Chairman Parrish asked if they are still doing things from last year. Mr. Moron answered yes. Mrs. Coulter explained the FEMA payment came in at the end of September. Mr. Pierce reported that money received was from Hurricane Hermine in 2016. Mrs. Coulter reported they are in the process of filing their FEMA claim for Hurricane Irma. Mr. Moron stated when that money comes in; it will go to the Board. Mr. Moron explained he was not aware the Sheriff had started the process of reclaiming money for the resource officers. He said this process was stopped under a previous Sheriff because the schools did not have enough money to pay for the officers. He reported Sheriff A.J. Smith found out the schools now have the money so he started the process again. Mr. Moron stated this money would come to the County because the Board funds these positions in the

Sheriff's budget. He reported if the Sheriff would like to use this money, then he will have to request it. Commissioner Sanders stated the Board will have to approve it. Mr. Moron said he does not want this to be confusing so he prefers to have a list of all the funds, the sources they are coming from and what they want to spend the funds on. Chairman Parrish reported the Board cannot take action without having some information. Mr. Moron informed the Board the next meeting agenda is already full with Board of Adjustment, Planning & Zoning and two public hearings. He said the Board can address what Mrs. Coulter has today or address all of it at the same time. Mrs. Coulter stated she has the items from 2018 if the Board would like to look at the list. Commissioner Sanders stated she would like to look at all of the items at the same time at the next meeting. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to table this item until the next meeting and place Mrs. Coulter on the agenda as early as possible.** Mrs. Coulter stated she will leave the information she has with her for the current year so if the Board has any questions they will know in advance. **Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.** Chairman Parrish asked Mr. Moron to forward this information for each year before the meeting so they have time to review the documentation. Mr. Moron agreed to submit this information. Commissioner Lockley inquired if all of the money goes through the county office. Mr. Moron answered yes. Mr. Pierce pointed out the money being received from FEMA is for 2016. He explained either the Sheriff's Department or the County fronted this money at the time for overtime and is finally receiving reimbursement. He stated the Sheriff's Department wants to use the funds received from Hurricane Hermine to reimburse his office for funds spent during Hurricane Irma. He explained the Hurricane Irma funds will then come to the County. He reported FEMA is almost a year behind in reimbursements so they are almost a budget behind every year with FEMA. Commissioner Sanders stated on some projects they are over a year behind. Mr. Pierce explained when the Clerk's Office gets FEMA money at the end of the year, budget amendments will be completed and that is basically what is being done with the Sheriff.

Deborah Moore – Guardian ad Litem Program – Presentation

Mr. Michael O'Connell and Mrs. Pat O'Connell appeared before the Board. Mr. O'Connell stated Ms. Moore will be present a little later in the meeting but he will provide some information about the program. He explained they work as Guardian ad Litem volunteers and are appointed by the judge to look out for the best interest of the child when the children are removed from the home or placed in foster care. He reported Ms. Moore is going to discuss the need for more volunteers for the program, especially people who are retired. He said he and his wife do this as a team and it is a big commitment but it is not overwhelming. Mr. O'Connell explained they provide a written report every month to the judge and the Department of Children and Families. He thanked the Board for their support for this program.

Alan Pierce – RESTORE Coordinator – Report

Mr. Pierce presented his report to the Board, as follows:

1- Inform the Board the TRIUMPH Board meeting will occur here on Jan. 29, starting at 1 PM. It will be Senator Don Gaetz's first meeting as TRIUMPH Board Chairman. I am not sure if all the TRIUMPH staff has been hired so I do not know if there has been any review of any of the pre-applications.

Mr. Pierce reported he has not received any information indicating there has been action on any of the applications. He was not sure how much activity would occur at the Triumph meeting. He asked Chairman Parrish to attend this meeting to welcome everyone. He said this meeting will last about an hour.

2- Inform the Board the consultants for the Consortium filed the State Expenditure Plan (SEP) on Dec. 22. There is a 30 day window for public comment, and then depending on the volume of public comment the consultants may have to do more work before the Consortium can submit the SEP to the Governor.

Once the Governor receives the Plan, then his office submits the SEP to the Gulf Council for approval. The Governor has said he wants to submit the SEP by the spring, but there is no timeline on how fast the Gulf Council will approve the Plan.

Mr. Pierce reported Commissioner Sanders will receive one copy of the SEP. He said an electronic version will also be received. He was not sure when the next Consortium meeting would be held. Commissioner Sanders stated it may be a telephone conference. She said everyone is reviewing the SEP.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Pierce to explain the situation with the Eastpoint Channel as the Board is getting blamed for this matter. She said the Eastpoint Channel is one of the projects in the SEP. Mr. Pierce explained the Eastpoint Channel has a Corps of Engineers (COE) permit and a State of Florida permit to dredge the channel and it was extended so it is good until 2020 or 2021. He reported there is a \$3 million request in the SEP to dredge the Eastpoint Channel. He explained they hoped Congress or the COE would allocate money in their budget for this project but he believes they are not because they know Franklin County is one of the eight counties getting money. He explained the County is now going to have to use money for what has always been a federally funded project. Mr. Pierce reported this is a pattern he thinks will continue for a few years as the Consortium and RESTORE money comes in. He said the timeline for this project is contingent upon the SEP getting to the Gulf Council, how fast the Gulf Council approves the plan and how fast the money flows into the county projects. Mr. Pierce reported if the Governor gets the SEP in the spring and the Gulf Council reviews it until summer then it will be 2019 until the County knows where things stand. He stated they probably have another year to wait until they know the timeline for getting the Eastpoint Channel dredged. Mr. Pierce stated the Two Mile Channel is the next project in the SEP and they must get a permit and prepare a spoil disposal area. He said this project will be addressed after the Eastpoint Channel. Commissioner Sanders commented it took a long time to negotiate with the state and federal government for them to allow the spoil to be placed on the back side of the breakwater. She explained the Board has accomplished a lot but cannot

complete the project until the money comes in. Mr. Pierce reported everyone who lives here knows the COE always dredged the channel with federal money. He explained the money was allocated before Hurricane Katrina but the COE used the money dedicated for the channel in Hurricane Katrina and never put the money back. He explained now the project is not being funded because they know the county has a funding source. Commissioner Sanders stated the \$1.5 million was appropriated for the Eastpoint Channel and then it was given to the COE when Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. She explained after that they decided the money would not be shifted back. She said the Eastpoint Channel has always been a federally funded project and now the cost has been shifted to the local government. Mr. Moron reported the county has been criticized for spending money in other places in the county but those are different funding sources that the county does not control. Mr. Pierce agreed the projects going on in the county such as the improvements to Lombardi, the boat ramp on St. George Island and the boat ramp in Eastpoint are projects the state negotiated with BP to fund five years ago and they are just getting started. He reported the state is determining what the improvements will be in the county. Mr. Pierce stated there were no Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) projects at the east end of the county and they would not address Alligator Point or Carrabelle. He explained they gave the county a list of ideas and the County picked the best ones. He reported projects at Alligator Point were not funded and the Eastpoint Channel was not funded. He said the County has just taken what projects they can get. Commissioner Lockley stated the public needs to know that the County Commission did not have anything to do with it and that it is the State of Florida that is determining the projects. Mr. Pierce explained the county was not receiving any money for Ell's Court until they purchased the property and then the state contacted them and offered \$1 million. He stated the County did not even know about this opportunity. He reported the county is trying to get as much BP money in the community as possible but they are somewhat restricted on what is being done. He said the county tried to get BP money for the Armory and were turned down because other projects had already been negotiated. He said the county has to either take what the state selects or not get the money.

Public Hearing – Amend County's Zoning Code – Eaves and Overhangs

An Ordinance amending Section 220.56 of the Franklin County Zoning Code to provide that roof eaves and overhangs that do not extend more than 30" from the outer face of a wall are allowed to intrude into the air space of the required setback; Repealing all ordinances which are inconsistent and establishing an effective date.

Attorney Shuler asked Mr. Pierce to provide some testimony on the history of this matter. Mr. Pierce said Mr. Mark Curenton, County Planner, should be present. Mr. Pierce explained this matter could have come up years ago. He reported this was an oversight and they did not realize that some builders pulling permits were not showing the eave overhangs on the site plans. Mr. Pierce said this practice has been going on a long time possibly before he and Mr. Curenton were employed here. Mr. Curenton appeared before the Board. He reported the Planning & Building Department is now requiring all eaves to be shown on the site plans. Mr. Pierce reported this came to light because a house was being sold and the new survey showed

the eaves into the 10' setback. He stated they now have to address it because it has happened repetitively in the past. He reported in some other communities people are allowed to have a 2 ft. eave overhang without a variance. He recommended the Board allow the eave overhang 30" into the setback without a variance. Mr. Pierce stated a lot of homes are going to come up over time with this issue. He reported they are trying to solve this at one time because they did not know it was going on. Mr. Pierce reported he supports the language drafted by Mr. Curenton. He explained it basically says you can have up to a 30" overhang without a variance just for the eaves. He stated if anything other than the eaves encroaches then the person will need a variance. He said the 25 ft. lots at St. George Island will be dealt with through a variance process as the houses will need a variance anyway since they are in the setbacks. He reported they do not know how many houses are affected because the eaves were not shown on the site plans. Attorney Shuler asked for public comment. There was no public comment. Attorney Shuler reported Mr. Curenton prepared the draft ordinance and he reviewed it and it is in legal form if the Board wants to adopt it. He explained it will allow encroachment of the roof overhang up to 30" into the side setbacks or front setbacks. He stated language will need to be added to adopt this Ordinance retroactively. Mr. Curenton explained how this matter was discovered and said they had not realized the plans did not show the roof overhangs. He stated the current Ordinance did not allow this encroachment so they took this matter to the Planning & Zoning Commission to determine what their recommendation was. He reported the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended adjusting the ordinance to allow the roof overhangs into the setback with a limitation and they choose 30". Mr. Pierce said they would like to resolve this matter before there are title issues and they would like to make it retroactive for all houses that were already permitted. Chairman Parrish stated the ordinance still does not require them to show the roof overhangs. Mr. Pierce said this is being done administratively in the Planning & Building Office. Commissioner Lockley asked what will happen if the overhang is over 30". Mr. Pierce said they do not know what is out there but there should not be anything in the side setbacks except eave overhangs unless a variance was issued unless there is something they did not catch in the past. Mr. Pierce reported St. Teresa is an area where they do not know what has been done as people have built everywhere. He explained they have done everything they could to keep the structures in the lot space. Attorney Shuler stated if the overhang exceeds 30" then the person would need to apply for a variance to the Board of Adjustment. Commissioner Sanders reported they are talking about setbacks not lot lines. Attorney Shuler said if they accept staff's recommendation that the ordinance apply retroactively then they need to include this specifically in the motion as it is required by law. Mr. Pierce reported that is what the Planning & Zoning Commission and staff are recommending and he feels like the building community also supports this change. Chairman Parrish questioned the ordinance applying retroactively. Mr. Pierce said it will apply to all houses that are already built so those people will not have to come in and get a variance when they sell the property. Attorney Shuler stated apparently the lenders are tightening up their lending requirements. He explained when the lenders receive a survey and the overhangs are in the setback then they want to see a variance and if there is not one then it is creating problems. He stated the Planning & Building Department is trying to solve the entire issue moving forward and retrospectively for houses already completed county wide that may be affected. He reported

they could technically be considered lending violations as far as the lenders are concerned. Commissioner Lockley asked how far back this should go. Mr. Pierce said all the way back. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Ordinance including the Ordinance being applied retroactively.**

Ms. Deborah Moore, Director of the Guardian ad Litem Program for the 2nd Judicial Circuit, appeared before the Board. She informed the Board they have seen a surge in the number of children coming into the system locally. She reported this was happening last year in South Florida but now it is happening here. She explained there is usually an average of 15-20 children on a regular basis in Franklin County. Ms. Moore said she is trying to be pro-active and make sure they continue to serve 100% of the children. She presented the Board with folders including a new brochure and asked the Board to help her recruit more Guardian ad Litem volunteers in Franklin County. She reported historically they have 315 advocates in the circuit to serve over 520 children. Ms. Moore stated there are only 6 volunteers to serve children in Franklin County which is not enough to make sure the children are served immediately. She said currently all children they are serving in the county have the benefit of an attorney, a child advocate manager who is on staff and an advocate who is a volunteer in the community. She explained they need people who live here, know the community and can provide support. She stated they have had to pull individuals from other areas to serve the children in Franklin County. Ms. Moore said the Board may have some ideas for recruiting more volunteers. She reported this is not an easy role because these volunteers are assigned to children that have experienced unimaginable trauma. Ms. Moore stated some children have experienced domestic violence and neglect because of substance abuse. She said the brochure explains the role of the advocate and also includes her business card. She asked for the Board's help in finding a place to display the brochures. She stated the community needs to understand how important this program is and they need the community to step up and be there for these children. Ms. Moore reported Sheriff A.J. Smith helped coordinate a coffee and visited with the advocates. She stated they did not recruit any advocates but it was a good opportunity for the Sheriff to show his support. She said they are still hoping to get an article in the newspaper very soon. She reported if they could double the number of advocates to 12-15 then that would allow them to meet the need. Ms. Moore asked Mrs. O'Connell to speak about her work as a Guardian ad Litem volunteer. Mrs. O'Connell reported there are many volunteer activities but nothing changes the life of a child like working as a Guardian ad Litem volunteer. Mrs. O'Connell stated in the courtroom the mother, the father and the state have lawyers but the child has a volunteer that works with paid staff. She said the purpose of the volunteer is to be the voice of the child. She reported the judge listens and this program works. She stated she hopes the county continues to support this program. Ms. Moore thanked the Board for their financial support to support the children but said they need more advocates. She stated the children are coming in more rapidly and they need to be prepared to have a support system for them. She offered to answer any questions and said she will be glad to meet with them individually. Chairman Parrish stated he read that 647,000 children are in the same situation across the United States. He said a lot of this is due to the opioid addiction crisis and domestic

violence and the children are not being taken care of. He pointed out just about every state is out of foster homes so there is no place for these kids. He reported he understands the need and supports the program. He suggested placing an advertisement in the newspaper and setting up a place where Ms. Moore can meet with individuals and explain the program. He suggested Ms. Moore get with staff and coordinate a place to meet with people who may be interested in volunteering. Chairman Parrish reported the Board will continue to provide whatever support they can. Ms. Moore reported they are working more aggressively in 3 counties including Franklin County and they will conduct an orientation with individuals that may be interested. She explained there is a comprehensive training and they will do the training individually so people will not have to travel to Tallahassee to be trained.

The meeting recessed at 10:04 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

Deborah Belcher – CDBG Administrator – Request

Mrs. Belcher said she provided a report for the Board packet. She reported the Board asked for the income limits for this grant and she has provided a handout with the limits. She stated a list was also presented of the individuals that have been approved up to this point. She explained the items on this list. Commissioner Sanders pointed out that Patton Drive is in Eastpoint and Marilyn Avenue is in Lanark Village and they are listed wrong on the list. Mrs. Belcher said the mailing address for Marilyn Avenue is Carrabelle.

Activities August 10, 2017 – December 29, 2017

1. Continued taking calls from homeowners and others inquiring about the CDBG housing rehabilitation/replacement program. Continued processing homeowner applications, follow up on inquiries.
2. Oversaw completion of 2 mobile home replacement (Hunnings 323 Patton Drive, and Moses, 63 Shuler Street, Eastpoint).
3. Oversaw rehabilitation of 2 mobile homes: Vathis, 109 Long Road, and Rose, 71 SR 65. The Rose project is not complete due to a delay in getting the FDOT permit to bore under SR 65 for the sewer connection, but the permit was received and the septic conversion will be completed during the next week or two.
4. Processed partial and final payments, prepared the County reimbursement requests (RFF#8-10).

5. Prepared a change order for the Rose rehabilitation contract, deducting \$1,000. Eastpoint Water and Sewer paid for the state permit to bore under SR 65, did not charge the cost to the owner/project.
6. Conducted feasibility inspections (Tindell, Gilbert).

Recommendation:

Approve the CDBG mobile home rehab application for Donnie and Tammy Nichols, 571 Ridge Road, Eastpoint, subject to final verifications and DEO approval.

Mrs. Belcher stated this is a good rehabilitation project. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the CDBG mobile home application of Donnie and Tammy Nichols, 571 Ridge Road, Eastpoint, subject to final verifications and DEO approval.** Mrs. Belcher reported she is going to review another property with the Building Official today. She said she would like to tear it down and replace the structure but she does not have this option. She stated this application is for two elderly individuals and one of them is disabled. She reported this property is outside the city limits of Apalachicola. She reported there is one more rehabilitation to choose and if it does not work out then she will choose another one. Mrs. Belcher said the one she is looking at today will meet the priority system but is a feasibility question. Commissioner Lockley asked if these are on last year's program. Mrs. Belcher answered yes. She explained the Nichols project will be sent out to bid and whatever money is left is what they will have to spend on the last one. Commissioner Lockley asked if they will apply for next year. Mrs. Belcher explained this grant must be closed out before the county can apply again but the grant cycle has not occurred yet. Mrs. Belcher reported they do not know when the next grant cycle will be because the state is conducting some rule changes. She explained they need to move on the last one so they can get this grant closed out. Commissioner Lockley asked if this grant will be closed out so they can apply for the next year. Mrs. Belcher answered that is her plan and she has to make sure they do not have a long environmental clearance on the last one. She stated the environmental clearance has already been done on the Nichols project. Chairman Parrish reported she is trying to spend the little amount left in the grant before it is closed out. Mrs. Belcher stated there are several individuals she wanted to help and they would be good candidates if the county gets funded in the next cycle and if the county chooses housing. She reported these individuals could be brought forward for replacement mobile homes. She said the county may not want to do any mobile homes in the exposure d areas. Commissioner Lockley asked if these individuals will have to reapply. Mrs. Belcher stated they are keeping a list of all the people who inquired about the program but she does not have formal applications from all of them. She commented some people were in the city limits and she referred them to the SHIP Administrator. She explained if the Board gets another CDBG grant; they will go through the list and advertise for new applicants. She reported the Board will go through the priority system and income levels and they will bring the cases to the Board. Mr. Moron said they are also trying to bring the USDA into the loop because they work on mobile homes and would be a third choice. Mrs. Belcher reported they offer loans and the

owner applies directly to USDA. Mr. Moron said the Board may want to adjust some of the rules and regulations if they receive another grant. Chairman Parrish stated individuals will need help applying for the USDA funds. Mrs. Belcher stated sometimes the USDA is a loan program. Mr. Moron said if people inquire about that program then USDA will send a representative here. Commissioner Lockley reported the problem with loans is the applicants do not have money to pay the loan.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report

Clerk Johnson did not have a report at this time.

Michael Morón – County Coordinator – Report

Mr. Moron presented his report, as follows:

1. Inform the Board that Mrs. Whitney Barfield and I met with Mr. Jim Oskowis (FDEP), Ms. Tiffany Castricone (VBA – Project Architect), and Mr. Alan Floyd (Anderson Construction – Project Contractor) for a pre-construction meeting for the Lombardi's Park Improvement \$509,000 Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funded project. At this meeting, it was stated that the Notice to Proceed will be issued and mobilization should start on January 26th. The Chairman, Mrs. Barfield, and I will review items such as access to the park, boat ramp, and bathrooms, during the project, then these comments and concerns will be forwarded to the contractor as he finalizes the project timeline. Mrs. Barfield will attend the monthly update meetings which will be held on the last Friday of every month.

Mr. Moron said the reason they have to discuss access is when the metal building is torn down the ramp will be closed. He explained they want to know about advertising for this. He said there are other times they want to close the ramp but will defer to what the county wants done about access to Lombardi's. Chairman Parrish said this project was funded because the Lombardi's park was closed when the boom was stored. He explained the boom had to be secured and BP had to cover the loss since the public could not use the park, boat ramp and bathrooms. He stated this project was selected because the facility could not be used for 4-5 months. Mr. Pierce agreed the projects Franklin County received were all due to loss of human use. Mr. Pierce stated if the county had a choice they might have chosen another area to spend the money on but they did not get to decide. Commissioner Lockley asked if this area will be closed during oyster season. Chairman Parrish said it will be closed starting January 26th. Commissioner Lockley reported the oystermen launch at this property. Mr. Moron stated they need to tell the contractor when they would like to close and then they will work out a schedule and check with him. He agreed to check with Commissioner Lockley on the timeline for when they have to close. He said the Board can decide when they want to close and he will forward it back to the contractor. Commissioner Lockley reported they do not oyster in this area but do launch in this area. Chairman Parrish said they will try to accommodate them. Mr. Moron stated they will advertise the closing ahead of time.

2. Inform the Board that I received the bid tabulations (included in your agenda packet) for the Eastpoint Fishing Pier Improvement NRDA funded project. There were four vendors that submitted bids and North Florida Construction, Inc. of Clarksville was the lowest bidder with a base bid of \$259,000. Based on the information received from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) North Florida Construction is anticipated award of this project. As I stated at a previous meeting, even though this is over the \$241,844.35 project budgeted amount, the State will seek supplemental funding.

Mr. Moron reported the state told him they will receive this supplemental funding. Chairman Parrish asked if they determined who owns the property. Mr. Moron said that problem was on the St. George Island project and this is on the Eastpoint project. Chairman Parrish asked when this project will start. Mr. Moron stated he will update the Board when he knows which could possibly be at the next meeting.

3. FAC President and Charlotte County Commissioner Christopher Constance has asked that all Florida Commissioners, Administrators, and Lobbyists, consider making the protection of the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Funds a priority as we finalize our legislative action plans in preparation for the 2018 Legislative Session. Since 1992 the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Funds has been a dedicated revenue source for affordable housing. As the Board is aware, the County receives \$350,000 annually from these funds which is used to assist residents with repairing and renovating their homes and also assist new home buyers with down payment assistance. However, in recent years, the Legislature has consistently swept money from these trust funds. Last year a resolution, adopted by FAC members, was included in the Legislative Affordable Housing Workgroup final report to the Legislature and bipartisan legislation was filed in both the House and the Senate to prohibit future sweeps of the housing trust fund. Commissioner Constance is asking the Board to remind our State Legislative Delegation of the importance of these funds. Board discussion.

Mr. Moron stated it is important to try and keep the money for affordable housing.

Commissioner Sanders made a motion to send the Legislative Delegation a letter supporting the state and local housing trust fund and asking them to keep the program as whole as they can and give a brief description of how the funds help Franklin County so they will understand. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.

Chairman Parrish stated he supports this. He reported they have been taking money from the trust fund for a number of years. Mr. Moron said this has been going on for 10 years. Chairman Parrish reported they take money out each year to use for other purposes. Commissioner Jones asked if these are SHIP funds. Mr. Moron answered yes. Commissioner Lockley said SHIP and the down payment assistance helps a lot. Chairman Parrish reported if they stop sweeping the money then there would be more to help people. Commissioner Sanders reported it is hard to get a down payment and she knows families this program has helped. Mr. Moron suggested the Board remember to mention this item when they go up to Tallahassee for Legislative Day. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

4. Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Department of Air Force twenty-five (25) year lease between Franklin County and Tyndall Air Force. The Board approved this lease, based on a request from Attorney Shuler, at your November 7th regular meeting. Attorney Shuler has reviewed the final draft.

Commissioner Sanders asked if this is the same land they have leased to Tyndall Air Force since the 1940's or 1950's. Mr. Moron answered yes. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the lease with Tyndall Air Force.**

5. Included in your packet is the annual Wilderness Coast Year End Report. This report includes FY 16-17 annual statistics, the Annual Plan of Service and the FY 17-18 Budget for the libraries within the Wilderness Coast Public Libraries cooperative. No Board action is necessary as this is an information item that will be given to the Clerk for the Board records.
6. At last meeting allow county attorney to assist the Supervisor of Elections about money overpaid. Need to be clear county did not overpay this person. Each constitutional officer pays themselves. She overpaid herself. County attorney to assist. Current one is frustrated and she does not have to get legal counsel. Suggested using county attorney. When auditor does audit and did not try to get money back they will cite the county. reflection on entire county.

Mr. Moron said he wanted to clarify this and any questions can be directed to him. Chairman Parrish said the current Supervisor of Elections is now short funded and hiring legal counsel is not in the budget so he agrees the best thing to do is use the County Attorney to resolve this issue. Chairman stated the current Supervisor of Elections did not cause this issue but she is trying to solve the matter. He clarified the Board and the Finance Department did not overpay this person. Commissioner Sanders asked if the problem is being rectified. Attorney Shuler stated he has been in communication with the current Supervisor of Elections and he will get an update from her today. He said this matter is being looked into but he has not completed his due diligence at this point and is not ready to proceed forward but he is gathering information. Commissioner Sanders directed Attorney Shuler to rectify the situation because she does not want this coming back on the Board.

Mr. Moron informed the Board the agenda for the next meeting may take a long time as there are two public hearings that may be long. He explained the St. George Island Business Overlay District is on the agenda. Chairman Parrish questioned if the Planning & Zoning Commission has looked at the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Moron stated they will review it next Tuesday. He said this meeting may go until 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. and so the Board will have to decide if they want to break for lunch or go straight through that day.

Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report

Attorney Shuler said he does not have any action items. He reported he received and recorded the quit claim deed from Capital City Bank to Franklin County for the South Shoal Court property south of the road. He explained this settlement is now concluded and they filed a dismissal of the lawsuit. He said the deed was recorded December 22, 2017 in Official Records Book 1208, Page 456.

Attorney Shuler reported he will present information at the next meeting about joining a lawsuit due to the opioid crisis so the County may be able to recapture some of the costs associated with this issue.

Commissioner Sanders asked Attorney Shuler if they are proceeding ahead with the CHC contract. Attorney Shuler reported they are still discussing the contract. He said communication was sent out and he will call the Commissioners this week and let them know what the issues are and where they have made progress. Mr. Moron stated he contacted Mr. Jim Coleman last week and Mr. Coleman will contact him this week with an update and he will inform the Board. Commissioner Lockley referenced an email from another hospital and asked if Attorney Shuler has talked with them. Attorney Shuler reported he talked with their attorney and had Mr. Moron sit in on a telephone conference. Commissioner Lockley said he is referring to Capital Regional Medical Center. Attorney Shuler reported he has not talked with them since the email was received because there has been no direction from the Board but he planned to discuss it with the Board when he conducts phone conferences with them individually. He explained they did reach out and want to have communication with the Board. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to direct Attorney Shuler to talk with Capital Regional Medical Center.** Commissioner Jones clarified that the Board needs to take action for Attorney Shuler to talk with the other hospital. Chairman Parrish agreed the Board needs to direct staff.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0. Attorney Shuler reported he will also include Mr. Moron in these communications.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Lockley said the Board made a motion at a previous meeting and he is not asking to take the motion back but the people involved were not present and he does not want anyone to feel like a decision was made without them being heard on the issue. He explained they should be able to talk to the Board if they want to. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to let the people come back and talk to the Board.** He reported he would like the people to be placed on the agenda so they can be heard. Mr. Moron asked Commissioner Lockley to clarify if this can be at one of the February meetings since the next agenda is full. Commissioner Lockley said February will be fine and it is Mr. Chris Langston who will appear. Mr. Moron asked Commissioner Lockley to amend his motion for Mr. Langston to get with him and set this on a February meeting agenda. Mr. Langston stated this is fine with him. **Commissioner Massey seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioner Jones stated there are a lot of negative things going on in the community but he would like to share a positive thing. He reported during the month of December his father got

sick and was taken to Weems Memorial Hospital. He said his father was eventually transferred out but he wanted to share that his father was satisfied with the level of care he received at Weems Memorial Hospital. He explained his father did not feel like he was slighted in any way or that things were drawn out so money could be received from his insurance provider. He reported his father was happy with the care he received at Weems Memorial Hospital.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Joseph A. Parrish - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts