

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
JULY 3, 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**

There were no minutes available for approval.

**Payment of County Bills**

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

**Emergency Ordinance – Eastpoint Fire**

*AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, GRANTING TEMPORARY RELIEF TO THE FIRE VICTIMS IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF WILDERNESS ROAD, RIDGE ROAD, AND BUCK ROAD, EASTPOINT, FLORIDA; TEMPORARY WAIVER OF FEES FOR DUMPING CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS; TEMPORARY WAIVER OF FEES FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMITS AND BUILDING PERMITS, AND ALLOWING TEMPORARY HOUSING; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND PROVIDING FOR AUTOMATIC REPEAL ON JULY 15, 2020.*

Mr. Pierce was present via telephone. He provided an update on the Alligator Point project and said the amount of FEMA funds have been increased to \$2.6 million. He said this increase is half way back to where it was in the beginning but they are making progress. He agreed to provide more information at the next meeting.

Mr. Pierce reported there was a conference call yesterday with the Chairman, Sheriff and staff about the Eastpoint fire. He explained they are trying to consolidate damages to see how many people need help. He stated there are various ways of calculating the impact. Mr. Pierce said the Red Cross said 277 people were displaced or impacted by the fire. He explained the office of Mr. Jimmy Patronis, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the State of Florida, had 89 claims filed as of Friday affecting 40 families. He went on to say Duke Energy said there were only 30 power service accounts and the Franklin County Property Appraiser stated there were 36 permanent dwellings affected. He explained they are trying to combine all this information to make sure they serve all the people who have been impacted. He said Mrs. Tress Dameron, Emergency Management Department, has been tasked with putting together a comprehensive list to make sure everyone impacted by the fire gets relief. He stated this is a tragedy and they are trying to resolve it as fast as possible. Mr. Pierce said Mr. Tim Center, Capital Area Community Action Agency (CACAA), was present as well as a representative from the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). He reported the FDEM representative has experience with managing a large disaster on behalf of the state and brought a lot of leadership in the role in getting the statewide approach organized and directed to the county. Mr. Pierce stated the most important part is the housing issue and there is a two prong approach with temporary housing being addressed first and then permanent housing which is uncertain right now. He explained because the State through some federal requirements has imposed zone 3 trailer requirements it could cost \$70,000 to replace a single mobile home. He reported if 40 structures were destroyed and it cost \$80,000 for each one then \$3.2 million is needed and the money is not available. He said the State has organized relief with 24-26 FEMA travel trailers and Mr. Center will be purchasing these trailers with some state assistance and then will be leasing or loaning them to the residents for temporary use. Mr. Pierce explained they are trying to find a way to get the residents back on their property and back into homes so they can rebuild their lives. Mr. Pierce said they appreciate the state trying to find some kind of housing. He reported based on the numbers there may not be enough housing and where the additional temporary housing is coming from is uncertain. He stated the emergency ordinance has been prepared for the Board's consideration and will allow the county to waive the housing standards for temporary relief. Mr. Pierce offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Lockley asked how long it will be before they know the right number of people living in this area. Mr. Pierce stated Mrs. Dameron is working on the number but it is not easy to determine because of accessory houses. Mr. Moron said they may never know how many people were living in accessory structures. Mrs. Dameron stated they are comprising a list from information provided by all the agencies and also from people coming in with unmet needs. She stated the list may be finished today but it is changing as people come in asking for assistance. Mr. Moron reported Mrs. Amy Ham-Kelly, Planning & Building Department, went to Eastpoint yesterday and is on the way today to work at the Eastpoint Volunteer Fire Department issuing permits at

no cost to the property owner for demolition and lot clearing. He explained hold harmless agreements are being signed as contractors, inside and outside of the county, are willing to come in and clean up the areas. He reported they are gathering permits and assigning a zone to each of the contractors. He stated dumpsters will be placed in the area to keep the contractors from having to travel back and forth to the landfill. He stated Mr. Pierce had a discussion with Mr. Patronis and the State should be able to refund the county for the trips they make to the landfill hauling debris. Chairman Parrish said the hold harmless agreement is being done by the property owner so the contractor, free of charge, can come in and take the debris. He asked if they are also signing a hold harmless agreement for the county. Attorney Shuler answered yes; there is one for the county also. Chairman Parrish stated it will be good to have the property cleared so it is ready when the travel trailers get here and people can get back on their property. He said the number one goal right now is getting them housing. Mr. Moron reported when the lots are cleared then Duke Energy will work to get temporary power poles up. He explained in speaking with Mr. Gary Millender, County Building Official, there is a certain way to do this to accommodate the travel trailers. He went on to say in some instances there might be more than one travel trailer on a lot because there were so many families living there. Commissioner Sanders asked if the FEMA travel trailers are all one size or multiple sizes. Mr. Moron replied they are waiting for an inventory of the trailers. Mr. Pierce commented the county is getting everything that is available which is either 24 or 26 travel trailers. He said there are 40 families affected so the county will take all they can get. Mr. Moron reported there is a possibility the county can buy some additional travel trailers outright at auction. Chairman Parrish stated at the meeting on behalf of the Board he directed Mr. Center to get the travel trailers moving here. He explained CACAA has the money to buy the travel trailers and they will be owned by the agency but on loan to the individuals for 6 months. Commissioner Sanders reported Mr. Center has been a part of our community for many years and has always been a partner with the county. Mr. Pierce explained Mr. Center's organization is buying the trailers and will own them but the county will be using them. Chairman Parrish stated the goal is trying to transition these individuals from a temporary trailer to a permanent home in 6 months. He said this is an aggressive deadline but they needed a goal and that is what the state agencies suggested. Chairman Parrish said this is not exactly what the ordinance says as it covers a 2 year time period. Attorney Shuler agreed that is correct. Mr. Moron reported there is a long term plan that will be put together so he will be asking for some decisions from the Board as things occur. He pointed out these travel trailers are temporary and that is the best they can do in such a short time. Chairman Parrish stated another thing that came up was the county contributing the CDBG monies to this area. He reported both he and Mr. Moron thought the Board would use this money to help in the recovery but he would like to know the Board's thoughts on this matter. Commissioner Sanders felt it was a good idea. Commissioner Jones agreed it is a good idea. Chairman Parrish explained he kind of committed to that idea but this action needs to be ratified with the Board. He said SHIP funds were also discussed but he and Mr. Moron hesitated on these funds because some funds have already been allocated and some people have waited for years for help. Chairman Parrish explained the county will help all they can and there may be some SHIP funds they can use. He said the CDBG funds were not obligated yet so he felt like the Board would allocate these funds

to help in the recovery. Chairman Parrish reported he needs a motion to use CDBG funds for the recovery. He said he would also like Mrs. Deborah Belcher to be the administrator over these funds and work with the recovery team. Mrs. Belcher stated the second public hearing is on the agenda today and they could make this part of the hearing. Commissioner Lockley asked what the Board can do to speed up the process. Mrs. Belcher said they cannot guarantee that the County will get this grant because it is competitive and there is a scoring process. She explained payroll reports must be received and she has emailed Mrs. Erin Griffith, Finance Department, to obtain these documents. She said she must calculate the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) score and then she can finish the application and turn it in early. Mrs. Belcher reported the application deadline is August 13th. She stated if the application is turned in early then DEO staff can review the application but cannot do anything else until the other scores are in. She explained if the application is within the fundable range then they would be ready to proceed with it. Chairman Parrish said he has been told they could expedite this quickly as long as the county follows the correct protocol. Mrs. Belcher stated it is her understanding the state will have a little more money this year so hopefully they will fund more projects. She explained there were other funds the county could have accessed if there had been a declaration but without the declaration the county was not eligible. Mr. Center stated they are here to support the county. He explained the DEO on behalf of the State of Florida reached out to them to help provide temporary housing relief to the displaced families. He said they are looking forward to working with everyone to secure trailers and get them to the county. He thanked the Sheriff's Office for providing a staging area. He explained they are working through the process of purchasing and transporting the trailers here as soon as possible. Mr. Center stated they look forward to working with the emergency operations in the county to provide relief to the residents. Attorney Shuler asked if there is any other testimony the Board should consider before they declare an emergency and consider an emergency ordinance. Mr. Moron answered there is no more testimony from staff. Attorney Shuler advised the Board if they wish to move forward their first action will be a motion and second to declare an emergency and waive the 10 day waiting period to adopt an ordinance. He reported the motion must be approved by at least a 4/5 vote by the membership of the Board. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to declare an emergency and waive the 10 day waiting period to adopt an ordinance.** Attorney Shuler stated all five members of the Board present voted in the affirmative to declare an emergency and waive the 10 day waiting period. Attorney Shuler read the caption of the Ordinance for the Board's consideration. He explained Mr. Pierce has already gone over the details of the ordinance. He read the section addressing Prohibitions and Penalties. Chairman Parrish asked for public comment. There were no public comments. Attorney Shuler explained just like the declaration of emergency this ordinance is only effective if adopted by a 4/5 vote of the membership of the Board. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Ordinance.** Chairman Parrish said this vote was by a unanimous vote of all 5 members of the Board. Commissioner Lockley said he still does not know the number of people they are going to help. He questioned if they are just going to help people who own a place because there were other people who lost things and need help too.

Mrs. Dameron stated they are having a meeting at 1:30 p.m. with all the organizations that can help and lists are being compiled so they can make a plan to help everyone recover. She reported they are marking all the lots with their 911 addresses so they make sure everyone is covered. Mrs. Dameron stated at this point she has 32 permanent homes that were damaged but it does not include auxiliary structures. She explained if someone comes in asking for help and lives at the same address then they are noting that on the list and finding out what kind of structure they lived in. She said they should have a number by the end of the week. Chairman Parrish stated the infrastructure on these lots needs to be marked clearly before the contractor comes on the lot to clear the debris so they do not damage the infrastructure. He suggested asking the lot owner to mark the well, meter, etc. so it does not get destroyed. Chairman Parrish commented he likes the idea of zones for contractors so there is a methodical approach and it is done the right way. He stated everyone has been encouraged to come in and let them know if they need help. Mrs. Dameron reported they have been out in the neighborhoods handing out meals and talking with people and sometimes there were 2-3 families living on one lot. Commissioner Lockley said some structures were illegal with the county standards but they were still burned out and need help. Mrs. Dameron agreed they are trying to help everyone. Commissioner Sanders asked for an update on the Lanark Village fire which burned 3-4 units. Mrs. Jennifer Daniels, Emergency Management Department, reported the first two units were completely destroyed and the next two units were fire damaged but also have damage from the fire fighting. Commissioner Sanders stated these units have a common attic. She reported the Board asked for a fire wall during renovation or it would have burned the whole unit. Mrs. Daniels stated the fire passed the fire wall but it did give the residents more time to gather their possessions and get out. She explained Units 1 & 2 are okay but have smoke damage. She informed the Board they are waiting on the Fire Marshal's report. Mrs. Daniels stated they have encouraged anyone that lost items to come to the donation center at the fire house. Commissioner Sanders said this fire is not as large as the one in Eastpoint but one of the units was a family with small children and people here also lost things. Mrs. Daniels stated two of the owners in the Lanark Village area have come in for donations. Commissioner Jones explained it is clear that homes were destroyed in the fire in Eastpoint but there is also an affected area. He stated some people have their homes but the back of the home was scorched and part of the home was damaged. He reported it is not just the 36 families that lost a home because the whole area has people that were affected in some way. He explained there is also some debris that must be cleared that was caused when the fire fighters were trying to stop the fire. Chairman Parrish asked if Emergency Management is also hearing from the people who had damage to their homes. Mrs. Dameron answered yes; she said they are helping anyone that lived in this area. Chairman Parrish said the ordinance describes the perimeter of the area and people who lived within this area are being offered help. Attorney Shuler explained they took the specific list of damaged properties that existed at the time but he also included a geographical map of the general area. He went on to say he provided a procedure so Mr. Moron, in conjunction with the Property Appraiser, has the ability to identify and add properties to the list of properties that are encompassed within the ordinance. He explained if the Property Appraiser and Mr. Moron are in agreement to add a property to the list then the property will be submitted to the Board for ratification. Chairman Parrish said

Sheriff A.J. Smith is present and asked if he had any comments. He stated Sheriff Smith was instrumental in responding to the fire. Sheriff Smith reported this was a great effort by all the county agencies. He stated they received a lot of support from the state officials and the State CFO and the Governor visited the area. He explained everyone made it a priority and came to Eastpoint and made everyone feel like they were addressing their needs as fast as possible. He said all the deputies at the Sheriff's Office were called in to work and there were several life-saving events that occurred during the fire that will be recognized later. He discussed the actions of deputies on Buck Street that saved a family that ran their car into a ditch. Sheriff Smith stated he is proud of how everyone responded and how the agencies in Tallahassee have taken notice and helped. He said if it had not been for the quick response of the fire departments and the Division of Forestry he does not know what would have happened. Sheriff Smith reported the Gulf County and Liberty County fire departments responded and stayed to help. He said the fire moved so fast and they are lucky there was only one loss of life and it was due to a heart attack. He stated the FWC, first responders and the Sheriff's Office did all they could to try and save his life. Commissioner Massey said they appreciate everything Sheriff Smith has done. Sheriff Smith said he will relay the message to staff. Chairman Parrish stated at the meeting yesterday they agreed on one message that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) would be the designated point of contact for the county in a disaster. He reported Sheriff Smith and the state agencies have agreed to broadcast any message that the county wants to send out. He explained they want to make sure everyone is on the same page and they want to be unified in any message that is sent out to the public. Chairman Parrish thanked everyone that came out specifically for this issue. He said it is time for the county to move forward and help these people recover.

### **Department Directors Report**

#### **Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works**

Mr. Nabors reported his department is continuing to cut grass and grade roads throughout the county. He stated Mr. Wes Putnal from Carrabelle was hired in the Equipment Operator position.

Mr. Moron stated during the fire the Division of Forestry called Commissioner Jones and asked for some road materials and he authorized Mr. Nabors to give them 3 loads and they used it wherever it was necessary. Commissioner Sanders reported this can be done under the State of Emergency. Mr. Moron said they wanted to make sure the Board was aware of this action.

Commissioner Sanders asked when Mr. Putnal will start to work. Mr. Nabors said when his test and background check are completed. Commissioner Sanders asked if he is being hired at a higher rate than anyone else or at \$25,000. Mr. Nabors answered \$25,000.

#### **Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director**

Mr. Davis offered his report, as follows:

**REQUESTED ACTION: None**

**FORKLIFT:**

Several meetings ago, I mentioned that the old forklift at the landfill was inoperable and I had to rent a replacement forklift from Ring Power that cost \$1,500 per month, while the other Forklift was being quoted for repairs. The forklift is in need of a new transmission and repair work costing approximately \$10,000. It is already near the end of its useful life and after discussions with Ring Power, we can buy a new forklift off of the Sheriff's State Bid List for \$29,904.10. Ring Power will also provide a trade in value of \$2,000 on the old forklift (as it still needs the \$10,000 repair). This piece of equipment will be used by all three of my departments: Solid Waste & Recycling, Parks and Recreation and Animal Control. **ACTION REQUESTED: Motion authorizing the purchase of a new forklift and to spread the cost over my current budget from all three departments and secondly allow the old forklift, property ID #A004654 be traded in on the purchase.**

Commissioner Lockley made a motion to authorize the purchase of a new forklift in the amount of \$29,904.10 and to allow the old forklift, property ID #A004654, to be traded in on the purchase. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Chairman Parrish asked if the forklift is being paid for out of the current year's budget. Mr. Davis answered yes. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Moron read item #2 from his report, as follows:

2. The Audubon Society contacted Mr. Fonda Davis, your Parks and Recreation Director, seeking permission to install some educational kiosk signs at different County boat ramps. A sample of the kiosks educational content that is attached to my report. There is an agreement that requires the Chairman's signature and has been reviewed by Attorney Shuler. **Board action** to authorize the Chairman's signature on the agreement.

Commissioner Lockley made a motion to authorize the Chairman's signature on this agreement. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Moron said Mr. Davis will work with The Audubon Society on the placement of the kiosks. Mr. Davis reported he visited locations with them and picked locations at the boat ramps around the county. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

**Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director**

Mrs. Dameron stated Mrs. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Director, had surgery yesterday and is doing well. She offered the following item for Board action:

Action Items:

1. Approve and sign the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) for \$53,599.00.

**On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve and sign the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) in the amount of \$53,599.00.**

Mrs. Dameron reported the Local State of Emergency was signed for a week and the extension has been given to the Chairman. Mr. Moron agreed this item needs to be ratified. Attorney Shuler stated the Board can combine these two actions in one motion. He explained pursuant to Board policy when the fire occurred on June 24<sup>th</sup> the Chairman signed a Declaration of a Local State of Emergency which was good for 7 days and it needs to be ratified by the Board. He reported another state of Emergency was declared on Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, and that would also need to be ratified. Attorney Shuler said by the next meeting the Chairman may have signed a second extension of the Local State of Emergency and that will be addressed at the next Board meeting. He explained the Board needs to approve the original Declaration of a Local State of Emergency on June 24<sup>th</sup> and the extension of the State of Emergency on July 1<sup>st</sup>. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the original Declaration of the Local State of Emergency on June 24<sup>th</sup> and the extension of the Local State of Emergency on July 1<sup>st</sup> and authorize an additional extension if one is needed between the Board meetings.**

Mrs. Dameron thanked the first responders who have helped with the response and thanked the county and state agencies for the outpouring of support. She reported the total collected so far by Franklin's Promise for the fire relief is \$166,308.26.

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 the Alert Franklin System.
2. EOC Staff attended the Region 2 meeting in Leon County on 06/07/18.
3. 06/24/18 EOC Staff were Activated for the Eastpoint Fire.
4. 07/02/18 Pamela Brownell had surgery and is out of the office for recovery. She is in contact with EOC Staff as needed.

**Erik Lovestrand – Extension Office Director**



Mr. Lovestrand said he does not have any action items. He presented the Sea Turtle Lighting Grant Project that is listed on his report. He stated they are wrapping up one of the two projects that the Extension Office has been managing for the county. He said this project supported a county employee and a part time employee and has been ongoing for 4 years. He explained this project retrofitted 117 properties on St. George Island with turtle friendly fixtures and amber LED bulbs. Mr. Lovestrand reported a final report is in the Board's packet. He reported there is still one project ongoing which is a multi-county effort and it will run through December.

## **County Extension Activities June 20 – July 3, 2018**

### **General Extension Activities:**

- Extension Director attended ACF Stakeholder's Governing Board virtual meeting on telephone to approve media release regarding upcoming Supreme Court ruling.
- Participated in Board meeting for Florida Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals.

### **Sea Grant Extension:**

- Provided shellfish harvester training requirement for 3 days at the Eastpoint Firehouse and 5 days in Apalachicola at previous ANERR headquarters building.
- Participated in weekly conference calls to coordinate Sea turtle lighting project work.
- The four-year sea turtle lighting grant with Franklin County to conduct lighting retrofits on area beaches to protect sea turtles ended on June 5, 2018. The final report is included with the Board's packet for this meeting. Overall, 136 Good-Faith Pledges were established with owners on St. George Island and 117 properties were retrofitted with turtle-friendly lighting for an 86% success rate. Grant performance measure stipulated a success rate of at least 75% for established Good-Faith pledges with owners.
  - 1,495 amber LED bulbs and 949 shielded, turtle-friendly fixtures were installed to replace traditional lighting. These bulbs will outlast traditional CFL bulbs by four times and traditional halogen or incandescent bulbs by 28 times and burn much less electricity. Owners will realize a savings in replacement costs and electricity bills. Sea turtles will not be disoriented by these shielded amber LED lights.
- Participated in planning call for a Coastal Shoreline Restoration Master Naturalist class.

### **4-H Youth Development:**

- Registration for 4-H summer camp and 4-H University is currently happening
- Donations for camp scholarships are being accepted to offset our youth's camp registration costs. Contact the Extension office to make donations at 653-9337.

### **Family Consumer Sciences:**

- Family Nutrition Program (FNP) Assistant teaching scheduled summer programs in local communities.

#### Agriculture and Horticulture:

- Extension faculty and staff assisted citizens with information and guidance on issues related to a source for sea oats to plant, soil pH and citrus.
- Collected more local citrus samples to send to lab for citrus greening testing.

#### Public Comments (3-minute time limit)

Mr. Alan Feifer, Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, said last week's tragedy and the subsequent giving is amazing. He discussed the right of every citizen to be heard in this chamber and to be able to speak on particular issues prior to the Commission voting. He stated this year there has been a change in how the Commission has limited public involvement of the citizens by restricting their rights to address the Commission before a vote is taken. He said recently he asked Mr. Moron why the county has much more restrictive access to the Commission than Wakulla County, Gulf County or other counties. Mr. Feifer reported he was referred to Attorney Shuler but wished to readdress this matter to the Commissioners. Mr. Feifer read a 1987 opinion by the Attorney General's Office and Florida Statute 286.011 (2). He said another stifling Board policy is to not address citizens' concerns during public comment. Mr. Feifer requested the Board direct staff to survey other counties for their policies and come into compliance with the law and the spirit of the law as discussed in state legislation. He questioned why the Board does not allow comments as this is a small county with just a few people attending the meetings.

Mrs. Tamara Allen, a resident of Carrabelle, stated she has the privilege of serving as the person in charge of the donation distribution/accumulation center in Carrabelle. She discussed the outpouring of love and support sent from the panhandle of Florida, Alabama and Georgia. She explained people are even shipping items in from Amazon. She said they have furniture, clothes and household supplies and she feels confident they will have more than enough to put together a new house kit. Mrs. Allen stated she has a wall of diapers and a wall of water. She reported the Sheriff's Offices from other counties have come in with truck loads of items. She stated organizations in surrounding areas have sent items. She said if anyone wants to come over and volunteer for a couple of hours they will let them help sort the items. Mrs. Allen stated one linen company from Tallahassee sent 300 new sets of sheets and towels and will be arriving today with 300 new pillows and a 50 lb. box of silverware. She said school children are bringing in stuffed animals and money raised by their classes. She stated corporations and local people are contributing.

The meeting recessed at 10:05 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

#### **A. J. Smith – Sheriff – New Inmate Gain Time Policy**

Mr. Moron stated this item will be deferred until the next meeting.

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

Mr. Moron stated Mrs. Ham-Kelly is in Eastpoint this morning assisting the fire victims so Ms. Sharon Stone, Planning & Building Department, will present her report. Ms. Stone presented the following requests:

1. **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL: (Unanimous)** Consideration of a request for a variance to construct a house 11 feet into the Eastern side setback off Illinois Street on Lot 20, Block O, Unit 1, Lanark Beach, 2281 US Hwy 98 East, Lanark Village, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Robert Whitten, Applicant.

Chairman Parrish asked if the reason for this request is wetlands on the property. Attorney Shuler answered no, and said typically the setback is 25 ft. from the right of way. He explained this would require 25 ft. from Illinois Street and 25 ft. from Highway 98 so typically the Board of Adjustment and this Board have granted a variance from one of the setbacks. He stated the request is for 11 ft. on Illinois Street so there will still be a 14 ft. buffer from the edge of the property to the edge of the right of way. Commissioner Sanders reported she talked with staff and last year there was a variance granted in this same area. Ms. Stone said it was for a carport and was 23 ft. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.**

2. **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL: (Unanimous)** Consideration of a request for a variance from Franklin County's minimum lot size "One Acre Rule" to .90 acres on property lying in Section 36, Township 7 South, Range 5 West, 1899 US Highway 98 West, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. The variance is necessary to allow the construction of a Single Family Dwelling due to the reduction in lot size caused by the construction of the Franklin County bicycle/pedestrian pathway on this parcel, thereby rendering this property less than the one acre requirement and would not allow the construction of a dwelling. Application submitted by Rodney and Robin Hilton, owners.

Mr. Hilton was present in the meeting. Attorney Shuler said a similar variance has already been granted for another property owner with similar circumstances and he recommends granting this variance. Chairman Parrish asked if this is the bike path in front of Carrabelle Beach. Attorney Shuler answered yes, and said this is the area where the right of way was originally 100 ft. and then narrowed to a small width and the engineer did not catch that fact and built the bike path along these two properties. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Sanders reported

she does not have a big problem with this as they have the sidewalks and because the owners still have land toward the water. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

3. **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL: (Unanimous)** Consideration of a request to construct a rip rap wall in the 50 foot setback and both 10 feet side setback on the North Boundary of 538 River Road, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted Davis Morgan, Applicant.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.**

#### **Johnny Byrd – Request to purchase County/City parcel**

Mr. Moron presented a handout from the Property Appraiser that provided information about this property. Attorney Shuler stated as he informed the Board previously in writing, Mr. Byrd in the past was a client of his but the matter has now concluded. He said Mr. Byrd is a former client and he has explained to Mr. Byrd that it is a conflict of interest for him to represent the Board in this matter because just recently Mr. Byrd has become a former client. Attorney Shuler reported the nature of the conflict is waivable and he has asked Mr. Byrd to waive the conflict of interest on his part. He said he has presented the Board with the signed document which indicates the disclosure of the conflict and the written waiver of the conflict by Mr. Byrd. Attorney Shuler reported he will also have to request a written waiver of the conflict from the County Commission. He explained the conflict is waiveable as the matter that he was representing Mr. Byrd on is completely unrelated to any matters concerning the county. Attorney Shuler stated Mr. Byrd's petition before the Board today originated with the City of Apalachicola not Franklin County but the City of Apalachicola sent him to the county with this request. Attorney Shuler requested Board action to waive the conflict. He went on to say if the Board does not want to waive the conflict then they would need to hire someone like Mr. David Theriaque, Theriaque & Spain, to advise them on this matter. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to waive the conflict of interest.** Attorney Shuler said a waiver of conflict will be signed. Attorney Shuler stated the Board should listen to Mr. Byrd's presentation and then he will provide clarification as he deems necessary. Mr. Byrd said he would like to obtain the 15 ft. of this lot that the county has. He explained for years his family paid taxes on a buildable lot and when he moved home he found out he could not build on the property. He reported he is not interested in what they paid in the past but he would like to get this matter straightened out. He explained if he gets the 15 ft. then the county would be billing him correctly for a buildable lot as he has agreed to pay back taxes and purchase the other part of the lot owned by the Clark family. Mr. Byrd reported the Property Appraiser went back and readjusted the property because all three parcels were being billed as buildable. Mr. Byrd said he just wants to buy the 15 ft. and it is not worth \$2,500 but he will pay it if he has to. Attorney Shuler asked the location of the property. Mr. Byrd answered the property is at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue I. Attorney Shuler said this is a 60' X 100' platted lot and it was split in the past into three different parcels. He explained Mr. Byrd owned one part of the lot, a third party owned

the second part that Mr. Byrd will purchase and the third parcel is the 15 ft. between the parcels that the county deeded to the City of Apalachicola. He reported there is a reverter clause on the 15 ft. and it says if the City of Apalachicola tried to sell the property it would revert to the ownership of Franklin County. He stated when Mr. Byrd went to the City of Apalachicola about purchasing the property he was told about the reverter provision and that he would need to contact the county about releasing the reverter so the City could sell the property. Attorney Shuler reported this Board's action several months ago was that they were unwilling to release the reverter but if the City of Apalachicola would re-convey the property back to the Board then they may consider selling the property to Mr. Byrd pursuant to Florida law. Attorney Shuler stated the general law says all property must be publicly bid but under Florida Statute 125.66 there is an exception to the general law. He reported the exception has two categories and the one that applies here is if the property is less than \$15,000 in value and not buildable then the county has the right to affect a private sale to the adjacent owners. He was not sure if adjacent meant just the properties abutting the properties or surrounding the 15 ft. parcel. He stated he has not looked into the matter as the Board has not asked him to. Attorney Shuler stated the Board has the opportunity if they choose to affect a private sale. He said the first step would be for the City of Apalachicola to re-convey the property to the county. He reported step two would be if the Board wanted to authorize him to follow the statutory procedure and affect a private sale of the property. He explained if no one shows any interest other than Mr. Byrd then he is by statute allowed to purchase the property for the assessed value which the Property Appraiser informed him yesterday was \$2,500.00. Attorney Shuler stated if someone else comes in and bids then there is a further step where the interested parties have to submit a private bid to the county and the highest bidder wins. Chairman Parrish asked if the City of Apalachicola has deeded this property back to the county. Attorney Shuler answered no. He explained the City has indicated a willingness to do this but wanted to know if the Board was willing to go through the process to affect the private sale. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to direct Attorney Shuler to proceed with the process to get this started so Mr. Byrd can get the property.**

#### **RFQ/RFP/Sealed Bids Opening**

##### ***Sealed Bids – Timber Island Boat Ramp & Indian Creek Park Dock Replacement***

Mrs. Barfield and Mr. Moron opened and read the bids, as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Indian Creek Boat Ramp</u>	<u>Timber Island Boat Ramp</u>	<u>Total</u>
R.J. Gorman Marine Construction Panama City Beach, Florida	\$52,742.78	\$38,088.05	\$ 90,830.83
H.D. Harders & Sons	\$76,475.00	\$47,420.00	\$123,895.00

Panama City, Florida

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to forward the bids to the engineers for a recommendation at the next meeting.**

***Sealed Bids – Gulf Shore Blvd Relocation***

Mrs. Barfield and Mr. Moron opened and read the bids, as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Pigott Asphalt & Site Work, LLC	Crawfordville, FL	\$158,933.50
Roberts & Roberts	Tallahassee, FL	\$187,009.00
North Florida Construction	Clarksville, FL	\$209,851.00
Capital Asphalt	Tallahassee, FL	\$196,564.00
North Florida Asphalt	Tallahassee, FL	\$165,310.00
M of Tallahassee	Tallahassee, FL	\$185,608.24
C.W. Roberts	Tallahassee, FL	\$250,352.00

All bidders submitted bid bonds.

**On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to turn the bids over to the engineers to come back with a recommendation.**

Mr. Moron stated the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for TDC will not have a money amount. He said there is one that is not marked and they will open it first to see what it is for. Mr. Moron opened the proposal and stated the company is Full Moon Creative and they are submitting for the Local Television Air Time and Video Production so he will open the other RFQ's in that category. Mrs. Barfield and Mr. Moron opened the RFQ and read it, as follows:

***RFQ – TDC Local Television Air Time & Video Production***

Mrs. Barfield and Mr. Moron opened and read the bids, as follows:

<u>Company/Individual</u>	<u>Location</u>
Full Moon Creative, LLC	Sunrise, FL
Designer at Large	Tampa, FL
Forgotten Coast TV	Apalachicola, FL

Attorney Shuler explained the Board has already taken action on all the vendor RFQ's and all of RFQ's except the Administrator will go back to the TDC Board for scoring and ranking and they will return the number one ranked applicant to the Board for their consideration. He stated no motion is required since the Board has already made this decision. He went on to say in reference to the Administrator position the Board agreed the RFQ's will go back to the TDC Board and they will rank the top three. He stated the top three will be sent to this Board with no ranking and the Board will interview all three applicants. Attorney Shuler reported no motions are required they just need to read the RFQ's into the record.

***RFQ – TDC Print Media Services***

Mrs. Barfield and Mr. Moron opened and read the RFQ's, as follows:

<b><u>Company/Individual</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Designer at Large	Tampa, FL
Bay Media	Apalachicola, FL

***RFQ – TDC Web Services***

Mrs. Barfield and Mr. Moron opened and read the RFQ's, as follows:

<b><u>Company/Individual</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Designer at Large	Tampa, FL
2K Web Group	Apalachicola, FL

***RFQ – TDC Local Radio and On-line Advertising***

Mrs. Barfield and Mr. Moron opened and read the RFQ's, as follows:

<b><u>Company/Individual</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Designer at Large	Tampa, FL
Live Communications, Inc. (WOCY)	Tallahassee, FL
WOYS	Eastpoint, FL

***RFQ – TDC Professional Executive Administrator Services***

Mrs. Barfield and Mr. Moron opened and read the RFQ's, as follows:

<u>Company/Individual</u>	<u>Location</u>
Forgotten Coast Management Services	Apalachicola, FL
D. Davis & Associates of Franklin County, LLC	Apalachicola, FL

Mr. Moron asked Attorney Shuler to again explain the process for these RFQ's. Attorney Shuler explained all of the RFQ's go to the TDC Board. He reported the Administrator will be ranked and scored by the TDC Board and they will return the top three applicants to the Board without the ranking. He explained the County Commission will then interview the applicants and make a decision on whether they want one or any of the applicants to be the TDC Administrator. Attorney Shuler stated the other (4) RFQ's for services will be ranked and scored by the TDC Board and then the number one applicant only will be sent to this Board. He said if the Board accepts the applicant then they would enter into negotiations with the number one ranked applicant. He stated if the number one applicant is rejected for just cause then the Board would move to the second ranked applicant and if the Board approved this applicant then they would enter into negotiations with the number two applicant. Chairman Parrish said he is disappointed that only two people applied for this position. Mr. Moron stated one of the applicants is the current assistant to the TDC Administrator and the other one is the former Assistant. Attorney Shuler asked how the Board wants to proceed since there are only two applicants and the Board wanted to receive three applicants. He questioned if the Board is interested in rejecting the two RFQ's and re-bidding or if they want to modify their prior decision and move forward with the two applicants they have. He advised the Board to disregard any information about who is applying. Commissioner Sanders stated she will not comment as she is the Chairman of the TDC Board. Commissioner Lockley reported the Board asked for three applicants so they should re-bid. Commissioner Massey asked how long it will take to re-bid. Attorney Shuler replied another 30-45 days and he thinks they can get it done between now and the end of the fiscal year. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to reject the two submittals for the TDC Administration RFQ and return unopened the proposals to the applicants and re-advertise.** Chairman Parrish stated these applicants can resubmit their proposals. Attorney Shuler answered yes. Chairman Parrish said the Board wanted three applicants. Attorney Shuler stated the Board can require three applicants but cannot make three people apply. Chairman Parrish asked what happens if there are more than three. Attorney Shuler explained the TDC Board is going to score and rank the firms and send the top three to the Board. **Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley said if they only receive 2 again then it will go from there. Attorney Shuler said the Board could have modified its decision today but his recommendation is to let the motion stand and reject the bids and direct re-advertising. He explained the Board should leave the minimum at three RFQ's to be returned to the Board from the TDC Board and then see what the facts are at the time. Commissioner Jones asked what will happen if it takes until November or December. He questioned if they will keep it like it is or contract with Mr. Blair on a month by month basis. Mr. Moron said his recommendation is to contract with Mr. Blair. Attorney Shuler stated that was Commissioner Massey's direction to have this process completed before the end of the fiscal year and he thinks that can be done. He reported if they need to start making



contingency plans then his recommendation would be to have Mr. Blair stay on a month to month basis until this gets resolved. Commissioner Jones said this issue is important enough to take the action they are taking today and ask for at least three applicants. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

#### **Final Public Hearing – CDBG 2017 Application (Deborah Belcher)**

Mrs. Belcher reported the County is in the process of applying for a competitive small city Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$700,000. She stated the applications are due August 13, 2018. She said the Board selected the housing category for this grant to provide housing rehabilitation or replacement for income eligible homeowners of single family homes. Mrs. Belcher explained the Board had one public hearing and after the public hearing selected the housing category. She explained the Board already has an existing policy which would be in effect for this grant but it can be modified to address the needs of this emergency. Chairman Parrish asked for public comments. There were no public comments. Mrs. Belcher explained the policy the Board has now addresses the items DEO requires and she does not think it would be a conflict for the Board to direct this money exclusively to the Eastpoint fire zone designated in the emergency ordinance. Chairman Parrish said the state agencies asked at the meeting if Franklin County could find some way to contribute and even though these are state funds they are primary used to assist people with getting out of substandard housing. Chairman Parrish said the state asked if these funds could be allocated for the fire and it is a decision for the Board. He said he told them he thought the Board would agree to this but this decision needs to be ratified by the Board. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the CDBG application and ratifying the action to modify the policy to use the CDBG funds exclusively for the Eastpoint fire zone.** Commissioner Jones reported in some of the meetings last week with the Governor he knows there is not going to be a declared disaster or state emergency but the Governor has said more than once if there is any road block to funds being received he would do an executive order if possible. Commissioner Jones stated he wanted to communicate this information to Mrs. Belcher so she would know. Commissioner Lockley asked how many trailers they are talking about. Mrs. Belcher reported in a normal grant they would commit to a minimum of 10 homes and that is what will be put in the application to get the top score but they can exceed the minimum. She discussed portable classrooms and said if the county can save substantially then they could stretch the money farther. Mrs. Belcher suggested for people that have credit ability the county could give them a certain amount of money if they could contribute also. She stated the Board does not have to decide today but they could contribute \$25,000 for each one and she could waive \$5,000 of her fee and they could help with 24 homes. Commissioner Lockley said the portable classrooms are not petitioned off. Chairman Parrish reported he does not want this money to only help 4 people when all these people need help. He stated it may come down to the Board providing a certain amount for down payment assistance. Chairman Parrish said he wants to treat people fairly and he wants a motion that this money will be used to help the victims of the fire. Mrs. Belcher clarified the funds will be to the homeowners not accessories. Chairman Parrish agreed as they are trying to put a roof over their heads. **Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Commissioner Massey agreed and said he wants the money to go as far as it can go. Chairman

Parrish stated he would like Mrs. Belcher to handle this matter and work with the state agencies. He explained he would like to help as many people as possible and then move forward with a long term plan. Chairman Parrish said he does not want to do what they did last year and only help 4-5 people. Mrs. Belcher reported the county did 10 homes during the CDBG grant last year. Commissioner Massey said they can do 15 or 20 homes if they get the same amount of the money. Mrs. Belcher discussed the green standards that must be promise to follow to get points. She reported they will need to see where the county shows up in the ranking as that will drive some of the decisions. Chairman Parrish stated this money could be used for matching money for another grant to increase the total amount of money the county is going to receive with the state agencies and the Governor working with them. Mrs. Belcher reported the county talked about using \$50,000 of SHIP funds as a match. She explained they pledged those funds as leverage last year and were able to pull the money back out because they did not have to have it. She reported the county needs to do that again for points but DEO has a new position that if you pledge leverage then you are going to spend leverage. She stated Ms. Lori Switzer is on the Citizens' Advisory Task Force and she is supporting using these funds. Commissioner Sanders stated they are headed in the right direction and she agrees with Commissioner Jones that they need to stay on top of the Governor's Office about the executive order. She stated at the same time the Board needs to be realistic and practical that they will never be able to put these people back whole again. She said this makes her sad but maybe they can make their lives a little better in this situation. Commissioner Lockley said 100% of the money needs to be spent on the people and not administrative costs. Commissioner Sanders agreed. Mrs. Belcher questioned the administration fee for the grant. Commissioner Lockley clarified Mrs. Belcher gets her fee as this is her job but no one else will get any administrative money. Chairman Parrish stated there will be additional work for Mrs. Belcher since there will be more people involved. He reported the Governor may create some waivers for how the county can use this money as long as it is going for housing. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

#### **Deborah Belcher – CDBG Administrator – Resolutions Approval**

Mrs. Belcher said the Resolution in the Board packet also needs to be adopted. She explained the Resolution commits the \$50,000 in SHIP funds and authorizes the submission and finds it consistent with the local comprehensive plan. Commissioner Lockley stated last year the Board did not have to spend the SHIP funds allocated for the CDBG program but this year he questioned if the money will go back to SHIP or they will have to spend the funds. Mrs. Belcher answered DEO's position now is if you commit leverage then you must spend the leverage so the \$50,000 in SHIP funds will also be spent in the fire zone toward rehabilitation or replacement. Commissioner Lockley said he does not have any problem with this but just wanted some clarification. Chairman Parrish reported they talked yesterday in the meeting about using SHIP funds but Mr. Moron made it clear and he supported him that there were a lot of people on the list who had been waiting years for the SHIP funds and they are going to try and help those people too. He pointed out the CDBG funds cannot be used in a municipality and they committed to Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Massey that some of the SHIP funds would be used within the city limits so they cannot just use all the money for the fire. He

went on to say there may be some SHIP monies that can be committed to this. Mrs. Belcher reported Ms. Switzer said this would fit with what she has. Commissioner Lockley said they had a disaster with the fire but there was also a disaster before the fire happened. Commissioner Jones stated only 20% of the SHIP funds can be used for mobile homes anyway and they have already taken out \$50,000 so that would only allow another \$20,000 without a declaration from the Governor. Mrs. Belcher agreed that is the normal. Commissioner Massey said he and Commissioner Sanders have been trying to help a couple and in another year they will not have a home because they are not able to fix it. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Resolution.**

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

Clerk Johnson offered the following report:

1. Board action is requested relative to the Value Adjustment Board (VAB):
  - a. Two county commissioners must be appointed;
  - b. A citizen member who owns homestead property within the county must be appointed. The citizen member cannot be a member or employee of any taxing authority. Mr. Donnie Gay has graciously agreed to serve should it be the desire of the Board.

Board action is needed to appoint two commissioners and to appoint a citizen member to the VAB.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to appoint Mr. Donnie Gay as the citizen member on the Value Adjustment Board. On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to appoint Vice-Chairman Lockley and Commissioner Massey to serve on the Value Adjustment Board.**

Commissioner Lockley asked about the dates. Clerk Johnson said there are no dates yet as the appointments are the first step. She explained there is usually one organizational meeting and one day of hearings. Clerk Johnson stated they will be notified of the meetings.

2. For information, please remember the budget workshops are scheduled for Thursday and Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 AM each day.
3. For information, a copy of the county's audit reports for the year 16/17 has been provided to the Board and has been posted on the county's website.

Clerk Johnson stated written copies of the audit can be provided if needed. Commissioner Sanders asked if the Clerk noted any deficiencies in the audit. Clerk Johnson said she has not

reviewed the audit yet but nothing has been mentioned to her. Commissioner Sanders asked Clerk Johnson to bring any deficiencies to the Board like she did last year so the Board would be aware of them. Clerk Johnson said she will bring any deficiencies to the Board.

Commissioner Sanders brought into discussion Clerk Johnson finishing her year as President of the Florida Clerks and Comptroller's Association. She thanked Clerk Johnson for her hard work and said they were proud to have had a Clerk as the President of the Florida Clerks and Comptroller's Association. Clerk Johnson thanked Commissioner Sanders for her comments.

### **Whitney Barfield (Alan Pierce) – RESTORE Coordinator – Report**

Mrs. Barfield read her report, as follows:

1- Inform the Board that FEMA has contacted Alan to say that the FEMA analyst who had been working on the Alligator Project, and who had reduced the proposed funding from \$3.2M down to \$2.1M has been replaced with another analyst. Mr. Will Kendrick, with Congressman Dunn's office, was instrumental in getting FEMA to re-visit the project. We are waiting to see what the new FEMA analyst proposes.

2- Alan met with Mr. David Papin, CD Maguire, on Tuesday, August 26, on Alligator Point to review the projects that are still in the FEMA system. CD Maguire is the firm selected by the county, on the recommendation of Ms. Brownell, to handle FEMA recovery projects. The meeting went very well and Mr. Papin thought it would be a relatively simple process for CD Maguire to handle the reimbursement requests and to close-out the projects on Alligator Point. Mr. Papin is currently handling projects for Jackson County so he is in the area on a regular basis. Alan is waiting for a proposal from Mr. Papin that he can bring to the Board.

3- The Board should be opening bids for the final construction of the relocation of Gulf Shore Blvd. Bids should be turned over to Clay Kennedy for review.

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

Mr. Moron stated this Florida Association of Counties (FAC) conference was Commissioner Sander's last conference and she received several awards. He asked Commissioner Sanders to tell everyone about the awards she received. Commissioner Sanders stated it is hard to talk about. Mr. Moron said the lifetime award is very important but he will start his report and she can interrupt when she is ready to talk.

1. At your June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on the FWC contract grant agreement to remove two derelict vessels, one in the Apalachicola River and the other located in Tucker Creek. Today, board action is needed to authorize the Chairman's signature on the agreement with Morgan Marine Salvage and Recovery, LLC. who will be removing the vessels. **Board action.**

**On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman's signature on the agreement with Morgan Marine Salvage and Recovery.**

2. The item was handled earlier in the meeting.
3. Remind the Board that the Budget Workshops are scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> and July 20<sup>th</sup>. Will the Board require the attendance of the non-governmental agencies or set their next year budget at the current level of funding? ***Board discussion and direction.***

Commissioner Sanders stated for a couple of years the NGO's funding stayed at the current funding but someone wanted the NGO's to attend so she thinks they should appear.

4. As discussed at your previous meeting the Sheriff's budget had a large increase in capital outlay, which was mostly due to repairs and upgrades to the jail and outbuildings. It was suggested at the meeting that those projects be removed from the Sheriff's budget since they are onetime expenditures and be part of a separate prioritized request to the Board for funding over the next few years. Would the Board consider action directing me to remove those items from the Sheriff's budget and then meet with the Sheriff to create that prioritized list? ***Board discussion and action.***

Mr. Moron said he talked with the Sheriff about this and he is in agreement. He reported the Board has said the control panel to dispatch is item number one. Mr. Moron said the Sheriff reported this morning that during the fire emergency the whole telephone system failed. Mr. Moron asked for Board action to remove these items from the Sheriff's budget and then create the prioritized list. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to direct Mr. Moron to remove these items from the Sheriff's budget and then meet with the Sheriff to create the prioritized list. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Parrish reported there is some federal help available to replace the 911 telephone system and the control panel. He said he informed the Sheriff of this matter and that some federal grants are also available. Clerk Johnson pointed out the jail is a county building so capital expenses should be separate and not included in the Sheriff's budget. Commissioner Massey stated the phone system needs to be fixed because he is on the volunteer fire department and the message sent out starts and then just stops. He said the message stopped twice during the response for the fire. Commissioner Sanders reported this is a smart idea because like Chairman Parrish said they might not be able to do everything the first year but they can do a little bit. Chairman Parrish stated they are also finding out there are some grants to help with some of these items. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

5. ***Board action*** to authorize travel and expenses to allow Mrs. Whitney Barfield, the County's Assistant Grant Manager, to attend the Florida Rural Economic Development Summit from October 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>. The Board appointed Mrs. Barfield as the County's point of contact for Opportunity Florida. Ms. Susan Estes of Opportunity Florida recommended that Mrs. Barfield attend this summit.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize travel and expenses for Mrs. Barfield to attend the Florida Rural Economic Development Summit from October 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.**

6. Inform the Board that staff received a letter from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) informing us that Census Tract 9702 has been certified as the County's Opportunity Zone. If you recall, DEO was going to certify Census Tract 9701 which covered the eastern end of the County but at your May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board requested that DEO consider Census Tract 9702 which covers the central portion of the County. Based on this letter, that has been done. DEO is suggesting that a staff member is listed as the point of contact for investment opportunities. I recommend Mrs. Barfield as she is currently your point of contact for Opportunity Florida. **Board action.**

**On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to appoint Mrs. Barfield as the point of contact.**

7. Inform the Board that the Chairman received a letter of thanks for his time and words at the Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition (RCSC) March conference. The RCSC hopes that Franklin County will continue to support the efforts of the six Riparian Counties to restore the Apalachicola River and Bay this upcoming year.

Chairman Parrish asked if they have put in a budget request. Mr. Moron said he will check with Mrs. Griffith but they usually send an invoice.

Mr. Moron informed the Board he is giving the Clerk the audit for the Tax Collector's Office from Roberson & Associates.

Clerk Johnson stated she would like to comment about Commissioner Sanders' awards as she has always been gracious in bringing up things that affect the Clerk's Association. She stated Commissioner Sanders has been on the Small County Coalition since she was elected and she remembers because the first time she went to the Legislature she went with Commissioner Sanders to the FAC Conference in Tallahassee and attended a Small County Coalition meeting and that was in 2005. Commissioner Sanders stated she has been on the Small County Coalition since 2002. Clerk Johnson reported Commissioner Sanders won a Lifetime Achievement Award and a Leadership Award at this year's conference. She stated Commissioner Sanders has been on the Executive Committee as a member of the Northern Gulf Region of FAC Small County Coalition since 2002. She said she knows all the Board members want to thank her but she is also proud and her office has followed Commissioner Sanders all these years and she has been very helpful to the Clerk's Office. Clerk Johnson stated they are going to miss her as a Commissioner but also all the boards she sits on and how important those are. Commissioner Sanders thanked Clerk Johnson. She said this is hard to say because she is a humble person and this is about the people. She reported when she came on the Board in 1998 the county has the opportunity to join these associations. Commissioner Sanders stated no one knew who Franklin County was or where they were but over the years they have

made sure they know. She explained this last week was an example when they got to the conference and counties came up to them offering to help Eastpoint. Commissioner Sanders reported multiple counties have sent items here. She stated it is all about Florida and the people they represent. Commissioner Sanders said she was surprised to receive the Lifetime Membership and Achievement Award because she only knows of one person in 20 years that has received it and that is an honor. She stated it is the pure opportunity to serve the people of Franklin County on these committees and to be able to bring the problems of the county to the FAC Board and help them figure it out. Commissioner Sanders reported she sat on the Curriculum Committee for the Florida Counties' Foundation since 2002 because she felt the need for more education for the Commissioners. She stated you are normally not allowed to speak at the Small County Coalition meeting but they recognized her and allowed her to speak and she received a standing ovation and in her speech she said she can't believe 20 years have gone by so fast. She stated this is a hard job and a heartbreaking job sometimes just like last week when Commissioner Jones stayed here to help out with the fire victims. She said she would not be leaving but she knows she is leaving the Board in good hands because this is a good group of Commissioners. Commissioner Sanders stated she told the Small County Coalition and FAC that they have the best Board of County Commissioners in the whole State of Florida. Clerk Johnson commented Commissioner Sanders sets a good example and it is hard to be from a small county and be involved on the state level but you must be involved with what is going on. Clerk Johnson stated she appreciates what commissioners do and she thinks the Commissioners will look at Commissioner Sanders and get more involved statewide. Commissioner Sanders agreed someone has to stay involved with the associations because they have helped Franklin County. She explained when things are difficult but the people in the association are in the same position and share something. Commissioner Sanders thanked Clerk Johnson.

Mr. Moron stated Mrs. Pam Vathis wrote a thank you note to the Board for the CDBG help. He said he meant to mention this when Mrs. Belcher was present. He reported this is the second thank you note the Board has received from someone that benefitted from this program.

Commissioner Massey brought into discussion the bid for auditors. He stated he would like to leave Roberson & Associates in this position as they have 4 people from Franklin County working for them and 2 are in his district. **Commissioner Massey said he would like to leave it like it is. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley reported they also hang a shingle in his district and he is always talking about jobs. Attorney Shuler asked Commissioner Massey to clarify his action. Commissioner Massey said he would like Mr. Roberson to continue to be the auditor instead of putting it out for bid. Attorney Shuler explained the question is whether the Board has the authority to cancel the RFQ. He stated up until now the Board's action had been to advertise a RFQ for auditing services at the hospital and auditing services for the county. Commissioner Massey said the Board should get another auditor for the hospital but leave Mr. Roberson as the auditor for the county. Attorney Shuler explained it is within the Board's discretion to rescind the RFQ for county auditors and leave the RFQ for hospital services in place. He said the RFQ's are scheduled to be received July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Sanders stated just like the Board had transparency on the TDC they need to have transparency throughout and that was why she made the motion for transparency with the auditor and anyone else that comes to mind. She explained it was not to make people think the company was not doing a good job but they have not revisited the contract since 2012 and you do not know who will submit a bid but she believes in transparency. Commissioner Jones agreed with Commissioner Sanders and said transparency does need to be addressed in the county and it is not just 1, 2 or 3 vendors. He said he is not for making one part transparent and the other part keeps going business as usual. Commissioner Jones said they owe the people of Franklin County the right to know the Board has done their best to be as transparent as possible. Chairman Parrish stated there is a motion and a second and the only way not to vote is to rescind the motion and second. He explained if bids come in on July 6<sup>th</sup> then the Board will be addressing it at the next Board meeting anyway. Attorney Shuler reported the deadline for the RFQ's is July 6<sup>th</sup> so the Board will be opening the RFQ's at the next meeting which is July 17<sup>th</sup>. He stated they will open the RFQ's and then send them to the Audit Committee. He said the Audit Committee is set by statute and consists of all 5 of the constitutional officers or their representatives, one county commissioner which is Commissioner Jones, and Mr. H.D. Cannington, Hospital CEO. **Commissioner Massey rescinded his motion. Commissioner Lockley said to let his second stand. Attorney Shuler advised the Board since the motion was withdrawn the second becomes mute so no action.** Commissioner Massey reported the Board will vote at the next meeting. Commissioner Lockley stated the Board does not get to vote. Chairman Parrish stated the RFQ's will go to the Audit Committee and then it will come back to the Board to make a decision.

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

Attorney Shuler said his last action item is a proposed contractual procedure for the ESF15 function at the county EOC. He said because of the overwhelming response to the fire in Eastpoint he has sent a proposed contract for the ESF15 and the management oversight and accountability for the donations being sent in. He asked if the Board has any questions about this proposal. The Board did not have any questions. He read the contract requirements for the Board. Attorney Shuler reported he came up with the format in consultation with the county auditing firm in relation to how they would recommend structuring this type of process for accountability and oversight. He explained there has been a statewide response and he feels it is best to put this procedure in place to make sure the public trust is protected and there is accountability because the funds are being sent in because this is a county designated entity. He recommended approving this procedure. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve this procedure. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Chairman Parrish thanked Franklin's Promise for being a part of ESF15 and providing this service to the community but stated ESF15 is under the umbrella of the EOC which is under the umbrella of the county. He stated there has been a lot of money donated and they appreciate it but they must have transparency and accountability. He said some people think the Sheriff does not have the same accountability but he is audited just like any other constitutional officer or branch of government. Chairman Parrish reported they will see where the money goes because this is all



public record. He stated he wanted to clarify any false statements that were circulating. He said this is about accountability to the public and these are some of the accountability measures the county has to take. Commissioner Massey thanked Mr. Joe Taylor, Franklin's Promise, for his work. Attorney Shuler reported he talked with each Commissioner individually but in terms of decision making over the funds being received by the ESF 15 the ultimate decision maker on how these funds are managed and expended is Franklin County because these funds are being receipted under the umbrella of the county in mutual consultation and communication with the ESF 15. He asked who the Board wanted to designate as this contact person. He suggested Mr. Moron. **Commissioner Jones amended his motion to include Mr. Moron as the contact person.** Commissioner Jones pointed out transparency is the only thing they are after and making sure that the public trust is that this Board and the county are doing things the right way. He explained they do not need to wait until afterwards when they are tagged with something but take action to head it off now. Chairman Parrish asked if Mr. Moron will be the co-signature. Attorney Shuler stated that is his recommendation. Commissioner Lockley asked if Mr. Moron will be required to sign all the checks. Attorney Shuler reported he is recommending Mr. Moron be an authorized signatory on the account but there will be some conversations between Mr. Moron, EOC and the ESF15 about this matter. He was not sure how a co-signature requirement would work in this situation but there is a lot of oversight that has been layered on top of this process. He suggested letting the three entities talk and make a decision about co-signatures. **Commissioner Lockley amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Attorney Shuler brought into discussion the severance package of Mr. Mike Cooper, former CEO at Weems Memorial Hospital. He reported the severance package is approximately \$84,000 and Mr. Cooper has not been paid any of the money because of some requests he had with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital that took some time. He stated TMH is not going to administer the severance package. He stated there was some discussion that Mr. Cooper wanted a lump sum payment but lump sum payments should not be granted unless there is a discount to the county. Attorney Shuler explained right now staff does not have any authority to direct the hospital to start paying the severance. He asked for the authority to move forward and direct the hospital to begin the process of paying the severance they are under contract to pay. Commissioner Sanders said the two options are to take this money out of the health care tax or the revenue of the hospital and she thinks they need to ask to take this out of the revenue of the hospital. Chairman Parrish asked if they are able to pay a lump sum out of the revenues. Attorney Shuler said he does not have any authority from the Board to address this matter. Chairman Parrish stated the Board needs to authorize Attorney Shuler to go to the hospital and start this process. Commissioner Sanders asked if they are doing monthly installments. Attorney Shuler said that is what the contract requires. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to give Attorney Shuler and Mr. Moron orders to go to the hospital and if they do have the money to pay on a monthly basis pay until Mr. Cooper is paid up on the installments and if not look at the health care tax after that.** Attorney Shuler asked if this would also include moving ahead with processing the payment. Commissioner Sanders answered yes. **Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley reported

the severance package needs to be taken out of the contract. He explained Mr. Cooper was paid well and if he had done his job then the Board would not have to address this matter. He stated travel and severance should be removed from the contract. Commissioner Sanders said when the Hospital Board hired Mr. Cooper this was part of the contract. She stated she would rather not pay too. Attorney Shuler reported it will not be part of a future contract. He explained the Board was informed this was how the Hospital Board and TMH needed this to be structured but now that Mr. Moron is Hospital Board Chairman he had direct communications with TMH and learned this is not the industry standard and is the opposite of industry protocol. Commissioner Sanders asked if the Board is bound to this contract. Attorney Shuler answered yes, because they will spend more money trying to get out of a contract that was created and recommended by the Hospital Board and accepted by this Board. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

**Commissioner Lockley made a motion to take the money bringing them in out of the contract and the severance.** Commissioner Massey agreed. Mr. Moron said there is no contract as they have an interim CEO. Commissioner Lockley stated it does not need to be in the next contract. Chairman Parrish suggested a motion that any future contracts for the CEO and CFO must be approved by this Board so they can see what is in the contract. Attorney Shuler stated he will be drafting the next contract. **Commissioner Lockley rescinded his motion.** He said he trusts Attorney Shuler.

Attorney Shuler said he endorses fully Clerk Johnson's comments concerning Commissioner Sanders. Commissioner Sanders thanked Attorney Shuler.

Commissioner Sanders asked for an update on an important decision from the U.S. Supreme Court. Attorney Shuler said Florida won. He explained the State of Florida filed a petition several years ago against the State of Georgia and the subject matter of the litigation was trying to get more water out of Georgia down the river system into Apalachicola Bay. He reported the U.S. Supreme Court appointed a Special Master who held a hearing on a threshold issue of standing and after the hearing ruled against the State of Florida and said they failed to meet their threshold requirement and should be thrown out of court. He explained this was an important procedural ruling that was adverse to Florida because if they lose that issue this would be over. He said the State of Florida took this ruling back to the U.S. Supreme Court and they ruled the Special Master erred and Florida met its threshold of standing and provided sufficient information to the court to show the possibility that they could fashion a remedy to get more water downstream and that the benefit downstream would outweigh the harm of taking water from upstream. He pointed out Florida is still in the game but the Special Master had not rescheduled the hearing. Commissioner Sanders reported this is a big decision and they are so happy as it affects the area.

### **Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Jones stated he wants to inform the Board of something he knows because he serves on the Eastpoint Water & Sewer Board. He reported their main station is on Twin Lakes

Road which is close to where the fire happened. He explained there are two wells, one on Patty Lane and one at the end of Buck Street where this fire originated. He said during the fire event they lost the well on Buck Street which is salvageable but during the event it was not working. Commissioner Jones said both their wells are calibrated at 640 gallons a minute maximum. He stated during the entire event which was fought for at least 8 hours the station metered 1,500 gallons an hour off one well without any problems. He reported he considers this to be a miraculous event that prevented more loss. Mr. Moron stated Mr. Billy Fuentes, Eastpoint Water & Sewer District Administrator, thanked the County and said if it was not for the Board signing off on the CDBG project ten years ago that probably would not have happened.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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Joseph A. Parrish - Chairman

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts