

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
JULY 9, 2018
2:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Parrish called the meeting to Order.

Mr. Moron explained the original plan was to have Mr. Tim Center, Capital Area Community Action Agency (CACAA), purchase the trailers and then loan them to the residents but GSA told Mr. Center his organization was not authorized to purchase the trailers. Mr. Moron said they suggested the county purchase the trailers and Mrs. Erin Griffith, Assistant Finance Director, filled out the application and the Chairman signed the application and the county got almost automatic approval. He went on to say the county will purchase the trailers and then CACAA will reimburse the county for the trailers. He said there is another location with additional trailers if more are needed but they will have to find funds. Mr. Moron reported since Friday Attorney Shuler has been talking with GSA and Mr. Center about the agreement. Attorney Shuler stated a contract has been prepared and will be signed by Mr. Center and he will purchase the 24 trailers when the County receives the titles. He reported Board action is needed to purchase the trailers from the Reserve for Contingency account. He explained originally the CACAA was going to purchase the trailers but they are not eligible for purchasing from GSA. He reported GSA said the 24 trailers were used for Hurricane Irma and have a retail value of \$15,000 but will be sold for \$8,500.00 each. Attorney Shuler stated Ms. Kelly Ferrell, Department of Management Services, has additional trailers they can hold for the county. He explained he does not want to hold the trailers yet as they must have funding. He said the trailers can be held for 30 days and the county would have 30 days to pick up the trailers and that time runs concurrently. He reported that would provide a total of 44 trailers. He stated the hold on the trailers would be on the system for 10 days so they could make a decision on staff finding additional funding. Chairman Parrish said the state is not going to help and the county should not buy more trailers because there is no funding. He explained if the county responds and spends money on additional trailers then people are always going to want help during a disaster and this will set a precedent. He said the county should buy the amount of

trailers CACAA can reimburse the county for. He expressed concern if the county has a storm and needs money and has spent it on the trailers then they will not have money to address the storm. He stated Sheriff Smith had 5 fifth wheelers donated. He explained on the list only 25 people have signed authorization to have their lots cleaned so the county does not need 44 trailers. He stated if they are needed then the county needs a funding source. Commissioner Sanders asked if the 24 trailers are in South Florida. Attorney Shuler answered the trailers are in Homestead. Commissioner Sanders asked who is bringing the trailers here. Attorney Shuler reported they will be delivered. He reported the contract with CACAA is for \$8,500 per trailer plus transportation costs. Commissioner Sanders asked if the county has information about how many trailers are needed. Mrs. Tress Dameron, Emergency Management Department, said they have documented a total of 29. Commissioner Parrish asked what government can do about the people that rented. He stated they could go somewhere else to rent. Mrs. Dameron explained some of the 29 were renting the land so 29 trailers should be given. Commissioner Lockley said there is a problem because the people did not ask for this and the state should be doing something. He went on to say the State of Florida hired a contractor to do a controlled burn and that started the fire. He said someone should check into the State of Florida telling people who started the fire. He reported the State should have insurance. Commissioner Sanders stated the Wildlife & Environmental Area (WEA) behind Buck Street was managed by the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) and instead of going to the Division of Forestry they went outside and hired a private company and if the private company caused the fire then they should be responsible. Commissioner Massey said the state is not putting money in to help and is trying to put this matter on the county. Commissioner Sanders stated she agrees with Commissioner Lockley but they still have people needing help. She said the burden has been put on the local government. Commissioner Massey suggested writing a letter and telling them they need a response and some help. Commissioner Lockley reported the State of Florida did not let them burn the area without having insurance. Chairman Parrish reported as soon as they said it was a controlled burn they hired attorneys and have up to 4 years to settle everything. He said the state agency has done nothing to help. He stated the Board can write a letter. Commissioner Sanders reported no matter what gets done it will not make these people whole again but they need to take responsibility. Commissioner Massey expressed his opinion that people that were renting will not get much. The Board discussed the rentals in this area. Attorney Shuler said the county has no ability to tell a landowner they must make their land available free of charge. He explained the county will transfer the title of these trailers to CACAA and they will be responsible for answering these questions. He reported the contract will require CACAA to purchase the trailers from the county immediately. He stated since the county has all the trailers they need he will tell FEMA to release the additional trailers. He said the County will get 24 trailers and the Sheriff has 5 fifth wheelers so they have enough. Mrs. Dameron reported a couple of people have already secured their own travel trailers. Commissioner Lockley reported he is not against the contract but there must be a way to have the people that caused this pay. Commissioner Sanders asked how long it will take for the county to be reimbursed. Attorney Shuler stated immediately. Commissioner Lockley reported the county has a lawyer and can send something to the state. Chairman Parrish reported the statute gives them 4 years to settle. Commissioner Lockley said the county needs to let them

know they are not playing and write a letter. Commissioner Massey said the Eastpoint Water & Sewer District put money into Buck Street and now it is torn up and the control burn contractor and the State of Florida need to fix the road. Commissioner Jones reported \$15,000-\$20,000 was spent on this road. He said he understands the road was torn up in the fire so they could get to the houses. Attorney Shuler stated this is a private road and not the county's property. He said when people contact him for representation; he recommends that people use the same firm he used when his property was burned. He stated they are not going to voluntarily pay. Attorney Shuler reported the state or their contractor can remediate where the fire fighting caused the damage. Commissioner Sanders asked who paid for the titles to be changed over. Attorney Shuler reported CACAA will. Commissioner Massey asked if the trailers must be insured before they are moved. Attorney Shuler stated the freight company will have coverage and the trailers will be under the county's insurance. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve the money to purchase 24 trailers in the amount of \$204,000 plus transportation costs and authorize the Clerk to take the money out of Reserve for Contingency. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Sanders asked how much money there is in Reserve for Contingency. Mr. Moron stated Mrs. Griffith said there is enough. Commissioner Lockley said they need to let people know that the Board is helping. **Motion carried; 5-0. On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the GSA contract.** Attorney Shuler informed the Board the county can now purchase items in the GSA building in Starke, Florida. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to authorize the Chairman's signature and approve the contract with Capital Area Community Action Agency to resell the trailers. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Sanders asked about the timeline for delivery of the trailers. Mrs. Dameron said maybe by the end of the week. Commissioner Sanders reported the Board of County Commissioners stands up for the people. Mr. Moron reported Mrs. Traci Moses, Superintendent of Schools, is checking into storing the trailers on their property next to the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Lockley asked what the system is for distributing the trailers when they get here. Mrs. Dameron said Mr. Center and his case workers will be responsible for the distribution. Commissioner Massey thanked the staff from the Emergency Management Department for their work. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Attorney Shuler read an email from GSA that included payment instructions. Commissioner Massey said some of the trailers that were destroyed were not on the tax rolls. Mr. Moron stated there is nothing the county can do about that. Mrs. Jennifer Daniels, Emergency Management Department, said they are trying to assist them with other places to live. Commissioner Massey stated the lowest rent was \$600-\$800. Mrs. Dameron reported they are working to meet their needs and long term recovery and looking for resources to make everyone whole. Mr. David Adlerstein, The Apalachicola Times, asked who the trailers are being given to. Chairman Parrish stated the county is assisting with the trailer purchase but CACAA will determine who will receive the trailers. He said the items in Carrabelle in the donation center will go to furnish the trailers. He stated there are also two different funds that have been set up. Attorney Shuler reported he will be meeting with staff about the funds. Mrs. Dameron stated the debris cleanup will be done by tomorrow afternoon. Chairman Parrish said people need to sign the form and get this clean up done because people are going to call after

the contractors are gone and by then it will be over. Commissioner Sanders explained she noticed a lot of trees that are going to be dead and questioned what is going to be done about them. She said they need to cut the trees down. Commissioner Sanders stated this is a very important issue and what Division of Forestry calls urban interface. She said this property must be cleared like this if it butts up to the forest. Chairman Parrish agreed and said the ones that were cleared did not burn. Mr. Moron said Chairman Parrish suggested spray painting the addresses on the cars that are moved so they will know where they came from. Commissioner Jones asked if the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is also being used. Chairman Parrish agreed they can get the VIN and go to the Tax Collector's Office and see who owns the car. Mrs. Dameron said they are spraying the addresses on the cars today. Chairman Parrish reported later a salvage company can purchase the cars but at this time they must be moved out of the way due to the debris cleanup. Mr. Adlerstein asked how many cars there are. Chairman Parrish said he does not know. Commissioner Jones stated after going through this kind of disaster it is exciting to see something happen to help the people. Chairman Parrish stated he had the same discussion with the contractors and said not to get frustrated but think of the people they are trying to help. He stated debris removal went well today. He explained people need to understand once the contractors are gone they cannot call them back. Mrs. Dameron stated they have instructed people to take advantage of having this work done. Commissioner Jones asked if they are only clearing the lots of people who lost homes. Mrs. Dameron said they are clearing for everyone. Chairman Parrish reported the first priority is people who lost homes. Commissioner Jones stated no disaster exercise training can prepare you for this. Commissioner Lockley reported the people did not ask for this to happen.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Joseph A. Parrish - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts