

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
MARCH 1, 2019
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Noah Lockley-Chairman, William Massey-Vice-Chairman, Joseph Parrish, Ricky Jones, Bert B. Boldt, II.

Others Present: Mrs. Erin Griffith-Assistant Finance Director, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Alan Pierce-RESTORE Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

Mr. Moron explained Notice was given of this special meeting and the items were listed that will be addressed.

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

1. As the Board is aware, the Franklin County Seahawk boys' basketball team won both regional games and are on their way to compete for the State championship in Lakeland. These games will be held on Monday, March 4 and Tuesday, March 5. Some of the County Commissioners, along with a better part of Franklin County, will be traveling to Lakeland to support our players. With that in mind, would the Board consider moving the regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 5th to Wednesday, March 6th at 9:00 a.m. **Board action.**

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to change the regular meeting scheduled from Tuesday, March 5th at 9:00 a.m. to Wednesday, March 6th at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Pierce said he will not be here next Wednesday so he is presenting his full report, as follows:

1- TRIUMPH update- Inform the Board that the TRIUMPH Board did approve at their Feb. 25 meeting an application form and process for Franklin County to seek ad valorem tax relief because of Hurricane Michael. A copy of the application form is attached to my report. The important facts are: only the county can be the applicant- but we can apply on behalf of the school board and the two cities; the county would receive the funds and then distribute the appropriate amounts to the school board and the cities; TRIUMPH is requesting the applications be turned in by March 20 as they want to provide their funds before July 1. All the taxing authorities need to be aware that TRIUMPH will only provide up to 50% of the loss of tax

revenue, as the TRIUMPH Board has publically stated they expect the Legislature to provide the other 50%. Also, because the TRIUMPH Board will be releasing funds based upon estimated tax valuations, when the certified tax roll is released on July 1 by the Property Appraiser there might be some adjustment in TRIUMPH funds. If the July 1 certified tax roll shows a smaller loss than what was estimated in the March application then appropriate funds might have to be returned to TRIUMPH because TRIUMPH is only providing up to 50% of the loss. The county should probably hold on to some of the TRIUMPH funds until the certified tax roll is released because it will be easier for the county to refund the money that has not be distributed than the county seeking a claw-back from the cities and the school board. The amount of funds the county should withhold can be discussed at a later meeting as the funds probably will not be received from TRIUMPH until sometime in April/May.

Mr. Shuler and I are meeting with the cities and school board later this morning to go over the application process with them.

Mr. Pierce explained the way they will calculate this number is to take the current millage rate times the loss of tax roll the Property Appraiser provides and that will be the number Triumph will use. He reported they are waiting to hear from the Property Appraiser about what the number is. He stated she provided a number before but it was market value which is different than tax value. Mr. Pierce said they cannot make an application until they receive this number from the Property Appraiser.

Since the next regular Board meeting is March 19, a day before the March 20 TRIUMPH deadline, does the Board today want to authorize the application for TRIUMPH funds based upon the tax base numbers provided by the Property Appraiser? Board discussion.

Commissioner Parrish said after attending the Triumph meeting he still does not have a clear understanding about these funds. He explained the funds are being provided based on the loss of ad valorem taxes from Hurricane Michael and if they distribute the funds before next year's budget how will they do it. Mr. Pierce stated these are unrestricted funds. Mr. Pierce stated he has discussed this with Attorney Shuler and Ms. Susan Skelton, Triumph Board Executive Director, and they will view these funds as unanticipated revenue. He explained some areas that need cash now will be able to use the money now. Commissioner Parrish pointed out if they use the money now then they could have a shortfall next year and not have any additional money. Mr. Pierce agreed this could happen. Commissioner Parrish stated if they make application and receive so many dollars and then next year they do not show the loss will the two cities and the School Board have to give the money back to the county or is the county responsible. Mr. Pierce said the county should not give the money away until they have the certified tax roll. He stated even in November the Value Adjustment Board could still change things. Mr. Pierce commented he is not sure what the Triumph Board will do but they are there to be supportive and helpful. He pointed out Ms. Skelton said the claw back in this situation is not as great a risk as if they were just doing economic development. Commissioner Boldt said things are not clear and he wants to know if there is any way to get a working number on how much is being spent and how much they are going to have to make back up in property taxes. Mr. Pierce reported the Board will receive that number from the Property Appraiser. Commissioner Boldt inquired when the number will be received. Mr. Pierce stated the number

is needed before March 20th and they will probably have it in about 2 weeks. He reported staff is working hard to certify the number and be consistent. Commissioner Boldt reported the money is so important and they want to make sure they avoid any slippage with the budget. Chairman Lockley reported the county does not have to spend the money. Mr. Pierce said the county is through half of their reserves but 90%-100% of the things like overtime have stopped so the reserves are not being reduced like they were. He reported FEMA will start reimbursing the Road Department which probably had the biggest draw on reserves. Mrs. Griffith stated the landfill had the biggest draw. Mr. Pierce reported hopefully in the next few weeks some money will start coming back in. He explained the Clerk's Office did an estimated summary for Senator Bill Montford and there is approximately \$8 million in damage to county facilities. Mr. Pierce stated if they do not get any reduction of the match then 12 ½% of the \$8 million is \$1 million and that is what is in the reserve account. Mr. Pierce explained hopefully the county does not spend \$8 million on the repairs. He reported the estimate he provided for Alligator Point was \$4 million so if the road is not put back then the county will not have to spend this money. He went on to say it will probably be 2 years before they spend the money on Alligator Point Road so the impact to the reserves will be gradual. Mr. Pierce stated hopefully they will not have to spend that much but they will have to make up what is spent. Commissioner Boldt said the county has to maintain good control through good practices and monitor the money and where potential reimbursements are. Chairman Lockley suggested writing a letter to the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) asking for small impacted counties to send the state a letter asking to waive the 12 ½%. Mr. Pierce reported the Clerk sent the letter right after the hurricane but they have not heard anything. He pointed out after Hurricane Hermine it took 6-8 months to hear from the Governor's Office. He explained if the Governor wants to give a waiver he needs to know the amount and they are probably still compiling the number. He stated the request was submitted through FAC in November. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to proceed with submitting the Triumph application.** Mr. Pierce reported Mr. Moron will report at the regular meeting if there is any more news on this issue.

2- Island View update- Inform the Board that I had a teleconference with Wood Partners regarding the possibility that they provide a quantitative analysis of the damage caused by Hurricane Michael. They were the general contractors who built the structure so they have a better idea of how it all goes together. I am waiting on a quote from them as the maximum price for this work as authorized by FDEP is \$20K.

Mr. Pierce said he will see if Wood Partners can do this work for less than Dewberry.

3- Remind Board that responses for RESTORE Consultant have been advertised and are due in the Clerk's Office by 4 PM, Monday, March 4. The ad did say the RFQs would be opened on March 5, so I will defer to the County Attorney on what action, if any, is necessary to allow the Board to open the responses on March 6.

I will not be at the March 6 meeting, so the Board's action on March 6 will be to turn the responses over to the ranking committee for review and a recommendation to the Board. The

ranking committee will be comprised of me, Whitney Barfield, and Mark Curenton, unless Michael Moron wants to serve in some capacity.

Mr. Moron agreed to tally the RFQ's if needed. Mr. Pierce asked Attorney Shuler about opening the RFQ's on Wednesday. Attorney Shuler said it will be fine to wait until March 6th to open the RFQ's because the county is not allowing anyone to submit proposals after the deadline.

4- Inform the Board that Commissioner Jones and I attended the repeat legislative delegation meeting on Wednesday evening, Feb. 27. Commissioner Jones reiterated the issues previously approved by the Board, being the need for a new EOC and funding to complete the fire system at the Armory. I spoke about the need for the Legislature to fund the 50% of the Hurricane Michael tax loss that TRIUMPH is not funding, and that the county is putting in a \$20M request through FDEP for dune restoration. I also spoke of the hardship the county will be under if the Governor does not propose a waiver to the local FEMA match of 12.5%. In the case of Franklin County, if in fact we end up with \$8M worth of FEMA authorized repairs, then 12.5% of \$8M is \$1M, and since there is no other funding source that \$1M would come out of the county's reserves. To add to the Board's concerns, the county's reserves are currently around \$500,000 so there could easily be a cash crunch if the county has to pay out a full local match. On the good side, of the \$8M worth of damage, we projected \$4M going to rebuild Alligator Drive in its current location. We, of course, do not anticipate rebuilding the road in its current location so it is possible the county would not have to match that \$4M project, but I had to list it in the event the road is not relocated.

Senator Montford talked about the hardship all of north Florida is under because of the hurricane and he did think the legislature would be responding. Related to this, the county finance office prepared a list of hurricane damages and has sent that to Senator Montford. A copy of the letter from Ms. Johnson to the Senator is in the Board packet.

5- Alligator Point update- Clay Kennedy and I attended another FEMA site visit on Alligator Point on Feb. 21 to do a write-up of the 150 feet at the west end of Alligator Drive that was damaged. This is the section down by the fire station. We did have a number of residents stop and thank the county for being there, and that they are happy to be in Franklin County. I did sign the site report to repair that section of Alligator Drive after consultation with Clay Kennedy. Ms. Sarah Kelty, FCMC, was there and she says FCMC has some 7 property owners who have signed a willingness to sell form, even though not all of these 7 are in the new right of way. After consulting with Commissioner Boldt I advised Ms. Kelty to get started on acquiring those 7 lots. Of the 16 lots critical to the relocation of the road, FCMC has not had responses from all of them, but Commissioner Boldt and I agree that if the acquisition process starts it may cause others to come around. And, at this point, any lot acquired on Alligator Point is one less property owner to deal with during the next hurricane.

Mr. Pierce said Ms. Kelty is just getting started and the grant application will be signed by the county. He reported on March 19th he will have a report about the actual acquisition. Commissioner Boldt asked if the county has money saved to buy the lots. Mr. Pierce said Ms. Kelty is trying to get 2 funding sources so there is no cost to the county. He explained the county needs to save their money in the event someone does not want to sell.

Then, yesterday, Feb. 28, Pam Brownell and her staff, and I, met with FEMA staff to go over the status of the county's projects. Pam may want to report her projects later, but I am going to report on Alligator Point now. Yesterday's meeting did provide better direction on what the county is going to be allowed to do under Cat B- emergency protective action. The county is going to submit a project for widening the current temporary road so that it becomes two lanes, and put an asphalt cap on the road to minimize erosion and for dust control. The county will also seek a time extension so that we can continue to submit reimbursement on road maintenance for the next 18 months. FEMA will expedite the review and reimbursement of the expenses the county has had so far on Alligator Drive.

FEMA staff will have an internal discussion about whether to support the county applying for an emergency sand berm, and they will let us.

Mr. Pierce stated the issue with the sand berm is if it is cost effective. He explained there are sections of road that only have water a few feet away at high tide. He stated how long the sand stays there depends on the wave action. Mr. Pierce said one of the FEMA representatives asked the county to consider a gabion basket. He explained the gabion basket is made of wire mesh and can be filled with rocks, stones, oyster shells or whatever material is available and then the baskets interlock. He stated they will look at gabion baskets because FEMA thinks they will fund that instead of a sand berm. Mr. Pierce reported they called DEP yesterday and initially they said it sounds like hardening of the shoreline which is not what they want to do so they may not be supportive of gabion baskets. He explained this is the battle of what FEMA will fund and what the state policy wants the county to do. Mr. Pierce said he has a conference call today with FEMA to talk about gabion baskets. He reported he asked Mr. Clay Kennedy, Dewberry, to call DEP and tell them this is the direction FEMA wants to go and see what happens.

Mr. Pierce stated FEMA wanted validation from the county that DEP is requiring them to move the road. He clarified DEP is not requiring the county to move the road. He stated the county can keep the road on the beach but DEP may take 5 years to permit it. He explained they cannot make the county move the road but they do support the road relocation. Mr. Pierce stated he told FEMA the county can get a letter saying DEP thinks it is a good idea and encourages the county to relocate the road but they will not issue a statement saying the county is prohibited from building the road back in this location. Chairman Lockley asked if this will interfere with the funding. Mr. Pierce reported it will slow the process because FEMA will wonder why they are spending the money if the county does not have to move the road. Commissioner Boldt said Senator Marco Rubio came here after the storm and expressed support for the county's issues. He stated the county needs to start lobbying Senator Rubio on this issue. He questioned if DEP is going to approve the asphalt cap. Mr. Pierce said that is another issue but since asphalt was there before they cannot stop the county from putting it back. Mr. Pierce referenced a concrete road by the fire station and said the county had to spend more money on concrete because the road had been limerock and they would not allow asphalt there. He said if asphalt has already been there then DEP will let you put it back. Commissioner Boldt asked if FEMA has another meeting coming up on Alligator Point. Mr. Pierce said not that he knows of. Chairman Lockley inquired if the cap is a quick fix or

permanent. Mr. Pierce agreed usually when you place asphalt they consider it a final repair but under a Cat B Emergency Repair they can put the minimum to stabilize the road. He said he thinks it will be 1" and will satisfy the emergency response.

Mr. Moron continued with his report:

3. As stated earlier, the Franklin County Seahawks boys' basketball team won the regional games, which were hosted in Franklin County because of their winning record. They will be traveling to Lakeland to compete in the State Finals. By winning regionals and traveling to Lakeland to compete in the State Finals, the team will receive a \$2500 check from your Parks and Recreation Department to assist with team expenses. Unlike baseball, there are no additional tournaments or championship series for this team to compete in. With that in mind, would the Board consider waiving the National Championship requirement in your "Youth Sports Teams or Individual Funding" policy, and award the Franklin County Seahawks boys basketball team the full \$5000 from the Parks and Recreation budget, to assist with team expenses. This is the same amount that would be awarded to any baseball team that competes in their final level of tournaments. **Board action.**

Mr. Moron said if the Board approves this action then the motion should also include a request for a manual check. He explained the policy was written with baseball in mind and unfortunately not every sport has their final tournament in the same manner. He asked the Board to approve the additional \$2,500 to help with their expenses and travel. Chairman Lockley said the Board should approve it because they should not give to one sport and not the other. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion to approve waiving the National Championship requirement in the "Youth Sports Teams or Individual Funding" policy and award the Franklin County Seahawks boys basketball team the full \$5,000 from the Parks & Recreation budget to assist with team expenses and request a manual check.** Commissioner Boldt said they are providing equity for all sports in the county. **Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Jones said before he was a Commissioner he came with the Summer Basketball team to the Board and got money to travel to a national tournament in Virginia Beach and some of the players on that team are now seniors on this team. He stated the money has gone to good use because the children have continued to excel in their sport. Chairman Lockley said he likes the way the Parks & Recreation Department does this because they invest in all sports and in the children and this is the return on the investment. Chairman Lockley reported he wants to see them bring back a sign for each end of the county saying they are state champions. Attorney Shuler suggested the Board consider rewriting the policy since different sports have different tournament levels. **Commissioner Boldt amended his motion to include a requirement to rewrite the policy and bring it back to the Board for consideration.** **Commissioner Jones amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.**

4. Currently, the HVAC unit that services the County Judge, State Attorney Office, and your Administrative Offices, as well as your Planning and Zoning Offices is out of service. The proposed cost to repair this unit is about \$10,000. Not including this current proposal, the County has spent at least \$15,000, if not more, repairing this unit over the last few years. Rather than spending another \$10,000 on repairs for this HVAC unit, would the Board consider replacing this unit. If the Board agrees to replace this unit, which would be paid from Courthouse

Maintenance, and would like to expedite the purchase and installment of this new unit, Board action is needed to determine that this is an emergency situation and waive the normal bid advertising requirements. Staff would create specifications, then send these specifications to local HVAC contractors for quotes. A review committee of Mark, Shane, and myself will select a quote from what is received and proceed with the purchase. I will notify the Board at the March 19th meeting which quote was selected and request Board action to ratify this action.

Board action.

Chairman Lockley asked if there is enough money in Courthouse Maintenance. Mrs. Griffith answered yes. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to declare this is an emergency situation, waive the normal bid advertising requirements because of the emergency and request bids. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked if they did some of this work recently. Mrs. Griffith agreed they did a big project on the Courthouse last year. Chairman Lockley asked how many units there will be. Mr. Moron said he will see what the contractors say. He stated some contractors think there should be two separate units but there is one now. Attorney Shuler reported the written bids need to be established so everyone is bidding on the same thing and not different things or they can give them two items to bid on. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Commissioner Boldt asked if they need an HVAC engineer to plan their proposal first before it is presented publicly. Mr. Moron stated he will look for the old specifications from when the building was constructed and if they are not located then he will need to look for a professional to assist him. Commissioner Boldt said he just wants to make sure they have up to date engineering when they request the proposals. Mr. Moron commented the duct work is already in place so they just have to decide on the size of the unit.

5. At your February 19th meeting, I relayed to the Board that your Building Official informed me that he was planning to accept a contract from another County to provide Building Official services as a contractor. I explained to the Board that based on the County's Personnel Policy, your Building Official could not continue as a County full-time employee while providing these services to another County. The Board, by motion, directed me to advertise for a full-time Building Official. The first ad ran in yesterday's Apalachicola Times edition and the other will run in next Thursday's newspaper. It will take a few weeks to run the ad, receive the applications, then interview and select a candidate. Until then, I recommend changing your current Building Official status to part-time from full-time for 90 days, which should allow staff enough time to complete the selection process. If the Board is willing to authorize this recommendation, there are three hourly rates for consideration. The first would be an hourly rate \$26.20 which is determined by using his \$48,410 base rate of pay, the second would be an hourly rate of \$35.00 per hour which is determined by adding his base rate to full-time County paid benefits (Health, Life, Dental), and the third is my recommendation, \$30 per hour. A number I consider somewhere in the middle. I would ask the Board to keep in mind that if we are unsuccessful with our search for a certified Building Official, the County will probably have to advertise and hire a full-time Building Inspector. This Building Inspector will work alongside your current part-time Building Official and will have to pass the appropriate State test to become a certified Building Official. This could take up to a year or more and would require an increase to this department's budget. ***Board action*** to authorize a change of status for your

current Building Official from full-time to part-time, at an average of 21 hours a week, for 90 days at a rate of \$30 per hour.

Mr. Moron explained if they have to hire a part-time inspector to work with the current inspector then he will have to ask for money at budget time. He reported the higher the rate of pay the more money he will have to ask for. Chairman Lockley asked if they are sure the Building Official is leaving. Mr. Moron stated the dates he gave were wrong because the other County Commission does not meet until next Thursday and they will officially offer the contract at that time and determine a start date. Mr. Moron reported the Building Official said he was taking the position and then asked what will happen if he does not take the position. He stated he cannot wait until that date because the county does not want to get in a situation where they cannot issue building permits. Commissioner Massey said the Building Official is planning to still work for the county and is not leaving. Mr. Moron explained the personnel policy does not allow him to offer to work as a contractor doing the same services he does for the county so he cannot continue in the full time position. Commissioner Massey stated he did not resign; he just applied for another part-time job. Mr. Moron reported the personnel policy is going to force a decision to either stay here full time or take the contract. Chairman Lockley asked if they are voting ahead of the issue. Mr. Moron stated they need to prepare for the future so they do not get in a position of not being able to issue building permits. Chairman Lockley said they need to do this right. Commissioner Jones asked if it would be appropriate since nothing has happened yet if they made a motion that everything is the same until he declares that and once he declares it then they decide as a Board they will move to that. He explained then they will not be moving until he turns that in. Mr. Moron agreed all action could be based on the Building Official accepting the contract because nothing will change until the contract is accepted. Commissioner Jones clarified they are not voting today to make him a part time employee. Mr. Moron agreed they are not. Attorney Shuler requested the Board make whatever action they take contingent upon the attorney's review because they are talking about taking action today that will not stream into effect until another future condition occurs. He said if the condition occurs which is the Building Official taking the contract then the board would be authorizing Mr. Moron to convert Mr. Millender's status to something else and he is not sure right now what that should be if they accept the hourly rate and move forward to a certain pay scale for certain hours. He explained he will have to determine how to categorize his employment so they comply with the current personnel rules. Commissioner Jones said his understanding is the biggest problem is this is the same kind of job. Chairman Lockley stated the Board needs to look into this policy. He said Liberty County and Gulf County are our neighbors and Liberty County bailed the county out on the senior citizens item. He explained this is sending a bad message that they can help us but we cannot help them. Chairman Lockley said this is a bad time since the storm affected the area and Building Officials are not going to be easy to find. Mr. Moron stated the difference is Liberty County came to the county for services but Mr. Millender is provided a contract independent of the county. He said it is different than two counties merging together. Commissioner Parrish explained if he is working in Liberty County and contractors need a permit then the county will not have a Building Official here. He stated the county needs a full time Building Official here not a part-time one. He explained if the contractors cannot get permits then the people who work for them will go

home and not work. He said if Mr. Millender changes his mind and wants to stay that is fine but they need a full time Building Official. Commissioner Parrish stated it is not about partnering with Liberty County but is about looking out for Franklin County and the municipalities. He said they need someone to move these matters forward to keep people working. Commissioner Boldt applauded Mr. Moron for doing this proactively and said the county needs a contingency plan if Mr. Millender leaves. He questioned if they can consider a staffing service that might bring in a Building Official during the interim gap while they are trying to fill the position. Mr. Moron stated the county had to go to a company before Mr. Millender was here. He explained the issue with that company is they will only provide 2 specific days a week so inspections cannot occur on other days. He reported this is the same company the City of Apalachicola uses. Chairman Lockley clarified the policy does not need to be there. He said a person cannot have an extra job because they are working for the county. He expressed his opinion that after someone works his 40 hours with the county then he should be allowed to work inspecting for someone else. Commissioner Jones stated the Building Official works 35 hours a week now and wants to move to part-time (3 days a week) here and work the other 2 days in Liberty County. Chairman Lockley said that is different but it needs to be addressed because people cannot work in the evenings when they get off work from the county. Mr. Moron explained he wanted to shift his hours during the week and they cannot do that. He reported the second job will interfere with his job here. Commissioner Boldt said he is mixing his availability between 2 counties and for the people that cannot be tolerated. Mr. Moron reported the policy does not appear to stop people from working in another job after work. Commissioner Parrish stated the issue is not what happens after they work their hours for the county because Mr. Millender wants to work 2 days in another county. Commissioner Parrish explained the issue for him is a contractor not being able to get a permit and his workers have to go home and stop work. He stated he wants a full time Building Official. He went on to say if they allowed this they would be in the same situation as hiring a company 2 days a week. Commissioner Parrish reported Mr. Moron is asking for the authority to move forward if this happens before the next Board meeting. He agreed if this happens the county needs to immediately advertise and start looking for a new Building Official. Commissioner Parrish said if it costs more for a new Building Official then the county may need to look at the cost of the permit fees. He suggested Mr. Moron look at what other counties are charging for permits. Mr. Moron stated the company he was talking about sets the permit fees and collects all the money and then sends the county a percentage. He said the Board would have no control over fees being imposed on the contractors. Commissioner Massey stated if they are going to raise the fees and hire someone else then they should raise them and give the money to Mr. Millender and then he would not need a second job. Commissioner Parrish explained they do not know what they are going to have to do until they advertise and negotiate. He said they may be paying the same thing. Mr. Moron reported this is all contingent on that county making an official offer and Mr. Millender accepting the offer. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to proceed. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt said Mr. Millender needs to be specific about his plans. Attorney Shuler stated Mr. Moron provided three options. Commissioner Parrish reported his motion is based on Mr. Moron's

recommendation of \$30 per hour. Commissioner Jones said that is also what his second was based on. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mrs. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Director, provided an update on when the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) assumed the contract. Mrs. Brownell stated Attorney Shuler asked her to get a list from other counties on when FDOT assumed their contracts. She said when Attorney Shuler was negotiating they thought FDOT would retroactively assume the contract back to the 14th of October which was when the Memorandum of Understanding came out. She stated she then received an email that FDOT assumed the contract on the 18th. Mrs. Brownell said on the list it says the contract was assumed on the 20th. She explained an email was sent asking them to clarify what date they assumed the contract because if they assumed it on the 18th then the county owes the debris management company, the monitor and debris companies about \$126,000. She explained they can file this as a Cat A Small Project and get a quick turnaround but if they add the other 2 days then it will put the county over the threshold and it would be considered a large project and will take longer. She asked the Board to approve contacting the FDOT Secretary. Attorney Shuler agreed and said they also need to contact the Governor and the other affected counties who were supposed to be benefitting on the financial responsibility from the MOU of October 14th. He stated they need to explain our county had their debris contracts in place and the other counties did not have contracts in place and started collection later than Franklin County. Mrs. Brownell explained the county already had pre-contracts for debris monitor and debris removal in place. She reported some county's debris was assumed the same date and it looks like some counties are being punished for having their contracts in place. She stated FEMA says they should have their debris management plan approved by them which the county did and pre-approved contracts in place. She reported as soon as the storm hit she and Chairman Parrish decided to commence so the contractors started coming in. Mrs. Brownell said they would like to try and get the state to retroactively do this. She explained the county will still get 100% back but the county has to pay the bills first because they cannot file for reimbursement until the bills are paid. Chairman Lockley said FEMA and the state requires the county to be storm ready and now they want to renege. Mrs. Brownell stated she has been fighting this for 2 months. Commissioner Parrish reported when this first came to the Board they were a little late accepting FDOT taking over collecting the debris 100%. He explained in looking at the list the earliest assumption date was on the 20th and that is our county so the other counties have later dates. He reported if they went back to the date the county requested the date would be the 18th. Commissioner Parrish said some counties have a gap of 6 days. He reported if they cannot get this worked out then they need to go back even if it is a liability for the county and get reimbursement from FEMA. He explained they can keep asking but do not need to wait and miss the deadline on getting reimbursement from FEMA. Mrs. Brownell said this has already been done but has not been pushed forward because if the date is the 18th then it will be on the threshold of a small project which will be a quick reimbursement but if the date is the 20th then she will have to add the additional 2 days. Mrs. Brownell stated her emails say it was assumed on the 18th and the list says the 20th so she has asked for clarification. She reported this makes a huge difference to the county. Commissioner Parrish explained he does not want to let the time lapse and then

the county does not receive reimbursement for the other 2 days. He stated the county can ask but cannot make FDOT do this. Attorney Shuler commented they have been asking for 3 months. Mrs. Griffith asked how slow the reimbursement is if it is a large project. Mrs. Brownell said large projects are slow and it took almost a year for Hurricane Hermine. Chairman Lockley stated he can understand the inland counties not being storm ready but counties on the coast have to stay storm ready. Attorney Shuler asked how many counties on the list were storm ready and activated their contracts the day of or the day after the storm. Mrs. Brownell reported she would have to call each individual county to find out. Attorney Shuler stated it is not fair to counties that were prepared and had their contracts in place. He explained when he talked with the general counsel for FDOT the date was the 14th and when Mrs. Brownell got her email the date was the 18th and now the list says the 20th. Attorney Shuler requested permission to communicate with the FDOT General Secretary and the other counties on the list and maybe they can jointly ask that the FDOT pay retroactive to the date they activated their contracts. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Attorney Shuler and Mrs. Brownell to communicate with the FDOT General Counsel and the other counties on the list and jointly ask that the FDOT pay retroactive to the date the county activated their contracts.**

Mrs. Brownell informed the Board she will not be at the meeting next Wednesday but Mrs. Tress Dameron, Emergency Management Department, will be there to present her report. She explained they are going over the final numbers on the Cat B for overtime today and they will hopefully submit it. She said the biggest thing was making sure they had all the damages in and now they are going back and adding the required documentation.

Chairman Lockley asked Mrs. Brownell to go ahead and contact the contractors to get the invoices for the 2 days so the county will have them in case they are needed. Mrs. Brownell agreed to get the invoices and said they just have to be added because everything is just sitting there. She said the contractor has all the documentation they need for FEMA reimbursement. Chairman Lockley and Commissioner Jones asked about the deadline for submitting the reimbursement. Mrs. Brownell explained they put the project in as a Cat A so it is sitting there and for the Project Worksheet (PW) there is no time limit. She stated there is a deadline for the damages so they asked all the department heads to look at the spreadsheet and make sure everything is on there. She reported they cannot come back later and add items because there is a set cutoff date. Chairman Lockley said they need to go ahead and get the invoices. Mrs. Brownell agreed to get the invoices.

Chairman Lockley stated on behalf of the County Commission he wants to wish the Seahawks Basketball Team all the luck in the world. Commissioner Jones said he will be with them the whole time so they will know how he feels.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts