

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
FEBRUARY 5, 2019  
9:00 AM  
MINUTES**

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

**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 Lockley called the meeting to Order.

**Prayer and Pledge**

Commissioner Jones said a prayer and it was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meetings held on December 4, 2018 and December 11, 2018.**

**Payment of County Bills**

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

**Public Comments** – *(This is an opportunity for the public to comment on agenda or non-agenda items. When you are recognized to be heard by the Chairman, please sign the speaker's log and adhere to the time limit. An individual will be allowed to speak for three minutes whereas a designated representative of a group or faction will be allowed to speak for five minutes.)*

Mr. Chris Langston, Coastline Environmental Materials, discussed a proposal for a 30,000 ton deployment for creation of an artificial reef just outside Bob Sikes Cut at the Buddy Ward

Memorial Reef Site. He explained the material size is from 500 lbs. to 3-4 tons and coming from Taylor County but is under ownership in Jefferson County. He stated he is here this morning to make the Board aware of this project. He reported he has been in touch with Mr. Moron and he has emailed some of the information that has been submitted to the Gulf Triumph for funding. Mr. Langston said he is available to answer any questions prior to the next Board meeting. He reported he has more information, location maps and the type of materials and is asking for a letter of support. He reported he is not asking the county to buy anything or pay for anything. He stated this is going to Gulf Triumph and they are looking at building 5-6 different sites in this one square mile. He explained data sheets and deployment sheets have to be filled out for each site for the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) and at the same time they will be here to make the Board aware of the sites before deployment to get the Board to sign off on it. Mr. Langston said he thinks everyone has his contact information but if not then they can get it from Mr. Moron and he will share the appropriate information.

Commissioner Boldt said the Board welcomes public comment and this is a special time to speak.

## **Department Directors Report**

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

Mr. Nabors stated the Board asked about the Welcome to Franklin County signs and all the signs are back up except for one. He explained the one sign on the west end of the county was damaged and is being fixed. He reported the road work and everything else is going good.

Commissioner Boldt presented Mr. Nabors with an email he received about business signs allegedly being on the right-of-ways. He said he affirmed the issue and talked with county staff about this appropriate way to manage it which is internally and remove them if appropriate. Mr. Pierce stated this problem happens periodically during elections and they want the candidates to remove their signs. He went on to say this year because of the hurricane there were a lot of mobile contractors coming through and putting up signs and they may not have picked up their signs. Mr. Nabors said they are talking about signs on telephone poles. Commissioner Boldt asked if they want to touch the telephone poles. Mr. Pierce reported the county does not want to take signs off of telephone poles. Commissioner Boldt questioned if they should contact the power company and ask them for this consideration. Mr. Pierce stated the power company does not allow this and the issue is theirs since they own the poles. Commissioner Boldt reported the corner of Alligator Point and Highway 98 is loaded with commercial signs. He inquired if it is appropriate to write the power company. Mr. Pierce suggested Mr. Moron contact the company. Commissioner Boldt agreed that would be good. Mr. Nabors commented most of the signs they pick up are on the shoulders of the road.

Mr. Pierce read the following item from his report:

8- At the request of Commissioner Boldt, I called Mr. John Murphy, Alligator Point VFD, and asked him if the county could stockpile the limerock and other road material that is currently on CR 370 on the cleared land the VFD owns on CR 370. Mr. Nabors has informed Commissioner Boldt that there is somewhat of a safety issue with the county trucks turning and loading material on the road with vehicles driving down CR 370. Mr. Murphy has talked to the VFD Board and they have agreed to let the county store material. I told Mr. Murphy that this would not be a permanent request because once Alligator Drive is relocated/rebuilt then the county would not need to continue to stockpile material. I have given Mr. Nabors' cell phone number to Mr. Murphy so the two of them can talk directly. I showed the site to Clay Kennedy when we were on the Point and he thought the site would work also. Board discussion.

Mr. Pierce explained this is in the process unless the Board has an objection. He suggested letting Mr. Nabors coordinate this matter. Commissioner Boldt said it will also beautify the area. He asked Mr. Nabors if he will make a site visit to see if they can move their equipment in this area. Mr. Nabors answered yes, and said they will be glad to get off of the main road because the big trucks are tearing up the shoulders. Mr. Pierce said the Alligator Point VFD want to make sure the county does not rough up the site and he told them we would not do that. Mr. Nabors agreed when they are finished they will level and clean up the area.

Commissioner Jones asked Mr. Nabors to get with him so he can show him some issues with signage in his district. He explained there are street signs, roads signs and stop signs that need to be addressed. Mr. Nabors explained there are a lot of twisted signs and posts from the storm. He reported they have pictures and hope to get reimbursed for these items. He stated posts and signs have been ordered but have not come in yet. Commissioner Jones asked Mr. Nabors how long this order will take. Mr. Nabors stated it will be awhile. Commissioner Jones asked Mr. Nabors between now and when they meet to call and see if they can give him a better estimated time of arrival. Mr. Nabors reported they also got a lot of signs for the city and they are ready. Commissioner Massey said he will put those signs up.

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

Mr. Davis said he has a couple of items that did not make his report. He said at the last meeting he asked for bids to grind the hurricane vegetation. He reported since then they had a disaster debris management site inspection. He explained these are the areas that they are allowed to stage debris in throughout the county. He reported one of the sites is at the landfill and the inspection showed they are near or in the wetlands which is a violation. He stated in order to correct this they need to get the chipping done immediately. Attorney Shuler asked if this is an emergency situation. Mr. Davis answered yes. Attorney Shuler questioned if the county is in violation of a wetland setback. Mr. Davis answered yes. Attorney Shuler stated the Board can waive the bid requirement in the event of an emergency and it sounds like this qualifies. He asked if the grinding cost will be more or less than \$10,000. Mr. Davis responded more. Attorney Shuler asked for an estimate of the costs. Mr. Davis said the initial estimate was \$40,000 but there is more storm debris now. Attorney Shuler questioned if this is reimbursable to the county. Mr. Pierce reported the county has been reimbursed so they can use some of

the revenue they have received for this item. Mrs. Erin Griffith, Assistant Finance Director, reported approximately \$400,000 was received from Ferrovial who was the state debris contractor. She explained that means there are funds in the Tipping Fee fund to pay for the chipping. Chairman Lockley asked if the county is in violation anywhere else. Mr. Davis replied not that he is aware of. Commissioner Boldt asked if the county can get a waiver under the emergency disaster situation they have or if they are that strict. Mr. Davis agreed they are. Mr. Pierce stated Mr. Davis will still get fair and competitive quotes but this must be dealt with even if they got a waiver. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to direct Mr. Davis find someone to chip the debris. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Attorney Shuler stated the motion needs to include a finding by the Board that this is an emergency situation. **Commissioner Massey amended his motion to include a finding that this is an emergency situation. Commissioner Jones amended his second and said to also include keeping them from incurring any DEP fines for the county. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Davis reported he was under the impression they were going to bill each city for the tipping fees from the storm debris but they were told to bill Crowder Gulf who did the hauling for the cities. He explained they were not clear so he spoke with Attorney Shuler about it. He reported FDOT is telling them to bill Crowder Gulf and they will get their money from the state. Mr. Davis stated he thought they should bill each city individually but he needs to know what the Board wants him to do. Attorney Shuler said he suggested Mr. Davis get the Board to authorize the direct billing to FDOT for debris removal subject to them receiving written instructions from FDOT in this matter because the billing structure being suggested now is inconsistent to the billing structure that was agreed to up front. He explained they need something in writing from FDOT telling the county what they want them to do so they do not end up being responsible for the cost of the tipping fees for the two cities. He said Mr. Davis is asking for conditional authority to submit a bill once they receive clarification and written instructions from FDOT. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to authorize the direct billing to FDOT for debris removal subject to them receiving written instructions from FDOT in this matter. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt clarified each city will be able to funnel their bills to Crowder Gulf and the county will focus on Crowder Gulf. Attorney Shuler explained that is what they are trying to get clarification on from FDOT because the contract was between FDOT and the cities and Crowder Gulf. He stated they piggybacked on the local contract but they were all direct contracts with the county. Attorney Shuler said the Interlocal Agreements stated the county would have zero responsibility for the financial costs of removing debris from the two cities. He reported what the county needs from FDOT is a written directive that the county can rely on that says this is the structure for submitting the bills for the cities tipping fees but they are not accepting any financial responsibility so either the cities pay it or the state pays. Attorney Shuler stated he prefers a system where the county directly submits bills and receives direct payment. He explained this is just inconsistent with how the billing structure and financial responsibility have been structured since the middle of October. He reported he has been in contact with the FDOT General Counsel and it is just taking some time to receive this clarification. Attorney Shuler said he understands as they are dealing with devastation in 8 counties. Chairman Lockley stated the Emergency Management

Department and the consultant are not present but should they address this matter also. Attorney Shuler stated the consultant sent a termination notice on Saturday so they are no longer on board. He said Mrs. Brownell is working with DEM and DOT but he does not know if she has received a response yet. Commissioner Jones pointed out the state has never done this before so that is why some of these issues are going on. Mr. Pierce reported the City of Apalachicola has paid some money for tipping fees. He explained they need to resolve internally the best way to proceed as the City has asked for their money back assuming the contractor will pay the entire amount. He reported the county has not received anything from the contractor so they are not sure what to recommend. Attorney Shuler stated they is why they need written instructions from DOT clarifying the billing structure and the fact that the bill will be submitted as a convenience to FDOT and the contractor as opposed to the county accepting financial responsibility for the debris removed from the two cities. He explained his concern is if the county starts submitting bills for their debris then an argument could be made that the county has accepted financial responsibility for not collecting the tipping fees from them. Attorney Shuler stated he thinks this matter will be resolved in a week or two. Commissioner Jones said the county will not do anything until hearing from DOT. Attorney Shuler agreed that is correct. He reported Mrs. Brownell is also working with Ms. Renee Sanders, DOT, on this item. Chairman Lockley asked Attorney Shuler to keep a close eye on this matter. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Davis read the outstanding tipping fees from his report, as follows:

**FOR BOARD INFORMATION:**

**Outstanding Tipping Fees from Hurricane Michael:**

<u>Crowder Gulf-</u>	<u>\$322,093.85</u>
<u>Ferrovial-</u>	<u>\$67,982.83</u>
<u>City of Carrabelle</u>	<u>\$58,132.44</u>
<u>City of Apalachicola</u>	<u>\$165,524.25</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$613,733.37</u></b>

Mr. Davis reported if they are required to bill Crowder Gulf then it will be \$613,733.37.

Commissioner Davis questioned the status of fixing the leaning telephone poles on the baseball fields as the fields will need to be used in the next month. Mr. Davis stated hopefully Cates Electric will start this week. He pointed out they were waiting on the parts to come in and it will take a crane to straighten the poles.

Mr. Pierce presented the following item from his report:

3- Inform the Board that I have asked Dewberry Engineers to create 2 Task Orders for engineering work associated with the two county parks that were heavily damaged by Hurricane Michael- Island View and the Eastpoint Fishing Pier. Because these parks were structurally

damaged an engineer needs to quantify the repairs to be done, and then a PW can be written for FEMA to reimburse the county for the repairs. In the case of the Eastpoint Fishing Pier, we will use the Fishing Pier fund that was created by the funds DOT gave the county, and not the county's reserve fund. The Task Order for the Fishing Pier is \$6500, and will involve quantifying the damage, writing up the bid documents, and then overseeing construction of the contractor hired to make the repairs.

Mr. Pierce reported they are not going to hire a contractor or go out to bid unless the Project Worksheet (PW) is approved by FEMA but he cannot get it written until they know the volumes. He said this information will be handed over to Mrs. Brownell to get the PW written.

In the case of Island View, it is a lot more complicated. FDEP has agreed in concept that the funds set aside for the maintenance of the Park (\$170,000) can be used to develop re-construction plans, but I am waiting confirmation on the amount. At this time Dewberry estimates the cost of quantifying the damage, and creating bid documents will be \$20,000. The reason the cost is a lot higher than at Eastpoint is that Island View suffered damage in ways that is hard to quantify. It is going to take a lot more work to rebuild a Park where a substantial amount of land was shifted around. As an example, the parking lot has a central drain system with a collection pipe under the asphalt. The asphalt is in place but the drain system is completely clogged with sand so it is impossible to tell right now whether the pipe still works. I will be asking Howard to get out there with a loader and some inmates and do some preliminary excavation to see how much of the parking lot and brick pavers can be saved. The Board can either wait for confirmation from FDEP on the amount, or it can approve the amount now but I will not have the Chairman sign the Island View Task Order until FDEP approves the amount.

In both cases we will seek FEMA funds to reimburse the county for the Task Orders, but we need the assessments in order to get the repairs done so we need to move forward with the Task Orders whether or not FEMA reimburses us for the assessments. Board action.

Mr. Pierce said he now has an email from DEP confirming the amount in the maintenance fund and stating the county can use the maintenance fund to rebuild the park. He stated DEP has confirmed spending up to \$20,000 to quantify the damages and create the bid documents. Mr. Pierce explained the risk with getting reimbursement from FEMA is he is not hiring Dewberry through their protocol. He reported this might be an argument with FEMA later but the county needs to move forward with the task orders. Mr. Pierce stated they will have \$6,500 from the Fishing Pier Fund and up to \$20,000 out of the Island View Maintenance Fund. He explained because the \$20,000 is so much higher he has been in contact with Mr. Doug Hattaway who has now given the county some documents they could not get before. He stated Dewberry is willing to do the work but it is a precarious situation because they are not sure what is involved. Mr. Pierce stated Dewberry understands that he is going to ask the contractor that built the park to see if they want to try and give the county the construction plans and rebuild it for less money. He explained he will try to get this work done for the least amount of money because the maintenance fund is to be used for the next 10 years and he does not want to spend it now. Mr. Pierce asked if he should get two quotes and come back to the Board. Attorney Shuler agreed to discuss this matter with Mr. Pierce after the meeting. Mr. Pierce asked the Board to approve spending \$6,500 of the Bridge Maintenance money for the Eastpoint Fishing Pier.

**Commissioner Jones made a motion to spend \$6,500 out of the Bridge Maintenance Fund for the Eastpoint Fishing Pier. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt asked Mr. Pierce to gather the site survey drawings, field work and construction drawings historically to the park so they do not spend extra money to do this again. Mr. Pierce stated they have all the documents from the state and the damage to this area is much easier to quantify. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Pierce read Item #4 from his report:

4-The Eastpoint Pavilion has been declared a total loss by the county's insurance carrier. Commissioner Jones is mulling over the future of that space as one suggestion from staff is to keep the insurance money, demolish the remaining structure, and use the site for parking for the boat ramp. As the Board is aware, the Eastpoint Channel should be dredged by 2020 so I recommend the site remain open until after the dredging in the event USACOE needs an access point from the land for the dredging operation. And it is certainly possible the property might have a better use, or a better design for a structure, once the dredging is completed.

Mr. Pierce recommended the Board direct the Parks & Recreation Department to knock down the rest of the pavilion and then leave the area vacant until they get the channel dredged and decide how to proceed. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to do away with the Eastpoint Pavilion but not dig up the rest of the pier because he would like to attach it back to the land.**

Commissioner Jones reported he talked with Mr. Davis and the Finance Department before the hurricane about the project at Indian Creek. He said the state was fixing the boat ramp and the gangplanks and they were in between fixing the docks that the crabbers pay rent for. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to direct Mr. Davis to go out and get the quotes necessary to replace the finger piers on the east side closest to the road of Indian Creek as the money is in the fund and people are paying rent and have insufficient docking to be there. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked if this is the only damage they had there. Commissioner Jones replied no, he explained this was something they were in the process of doing but it has been forgotten since the storm. Chairman Lockley inquired if they had any more damage during the storm. Commissioner Jones answered no, not that he is aware of. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

#### **Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director**

Mr. Pierce stated Mrs. Brownell is not here but sent in her report with no action items. He said when she is present they will discuss the After Action Report. He explained this report was prepared by her staff and whoever they consulted based upon their review of how they performed during the storm. He stated they also responded to the Community Scope of Work he provided to the Board. He said the Board received this report yesterday and it was distributed to the community who was interested. Mr. Pierce explained he is waiting for

feedback but in regard to the community response he has asked for two quotes to see if additional work must be done. He stated this is a document Mrs. Brownell has prepared for the Board to review. Commissioner Boldt reported he was impressed and pleased to take a field trip to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to see the building as it exists today. He said they adapted under hard strain and in crowded situations during Hurricane Michael. He stated this is an older building and needs work. He agreed this is a good subject to focus on at the upcoming Legislative Day with the Florida Association of Counties. He emphasized their talking points as they prepare for that day should be on their future planning for where it will be and what it will look like. Mr. Pierce offered the following item from his report:

5- Inform the Board that I did assist Michael Moron in preparing the request to Senator Montford for a new county EOC. Ms. Pam Brownell wrote the narrative but I did discuss with Pam an estimated cost. In order to increase the chances of legislative funding it is always good to show a local match, so in the legislative request I suggested to Michael use the \$1M the county has in Consortium funds for an EOC as a local match, and then request \$3M of legislative funds. I did discuss with Pam Brownell an estimated cost for an EOC and we agreed that \$4M should build a reasonable facility, so a 25% match from the county should help convince the legislature that we are serious about needing an EOC.

If commissioners go to the Legislative Day during the session it would be beneficial to personally lobby for the EOC funds because I do not believe the \$1M set aside in the Consortium is enough for a new building considering the cost of construction.

Mr. Pierce stated the previous state Emergency Management (EM) Director said he would put money in the state Department of Emergency Management (DEM) budget for a new EOC for Franklin County but he is no longer with the state so he does not know if this request was carried forward with the new management so they need to continue to lobby on the county's behalf. He explained \$4 million is a ballpark figure as there is no floor plan or building layout. Commissioner Boldt said Franklin County is one of the few counties that do not have an updated EOC. Mr. Pierce agreed Franklin County is the last coastal county that does not have a new EOC. He reported they need to let everyone know that Franklin County needs an EOC too. Commissioner Boldt said this demonstrates what a good steward Franklin County is and adapts to what they have. He reported he believes when the state does allocate money to the county they have shown they take care of good money and they will do so in the future. Chairman Lockley explained since that building was constructed the building code has changed and the building is not up to code. Mr. Pierce agreed the building is too crowded and was not built to be an EOC. He stated it was a national weather service building and was built in the mid 1970's. He said the county has done their best with a building that was not designed to be an EOC. Chairman Lockley reported it is not going to withstand that kind of wind for much longer.

Action Items:

None

Information Items:



1. Hurricane Michael After Action Report and Improvement Plan is completed
2. Community Scope of Work addressed with support documentation.
3. 2/3/2019-2/8/2019 EOC staff will be attending the Annual Florida Emergency Preparedness Association for training.
4. Jennifer Daniels will be receiving her FEPA FPEM certification at the conference
5. EOC staff continue to address Hurricane Michael and the Recovery of Franklin County.

**Erik Lovestrand – Extension Office Director**

Mr. Lovestrand stated the Board has his written report but he does not have any action items. He presented the Board with a report of the 2018 Program Accomplishments for the Extension Program in the county.

**County Extension Activities January 16 – February 5, 2019**

**General Extension Activities:**

- Assisted local citizens during field visits by providing information about bats, citrus fertilizer, soil tests, salt spray damage post-Michael and more.
- Extension office renovation project is progressing. The invitation to bid for contractors was published last week.
- Extension staff served as a judge and a record-keeper for the County spelling bee competition.
- Extension Director attended the district Promotion and Permanent Status workshop. Plans are underway to submit for promotion and permanent status with UF during 2019.

**Sea Grant Extension:**

- Weekly coordinating calls for the sea turtle lighting grant took place with the project team.
- UF IFAS hosted a meeting to update the public regarding the NFWF 5-year shelling research project in Apalachicola Bay.
- Attended Sea Grant meeting to discuss development of HACCP training program related to teaching about seafood safety in the region.

**4-H Youth Development:**

- 4 Franklin County youth attended the District III 4-H Council meeting in Wakulla County to plan the annual Council retreat in April.
- 3 youth attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Board meeting in Madison, FL.
- 4-H Making Strides club exhibited their photography in the Apalachicola Center for History, Culture and Art during the annual Oyster Cook-off event.

**Family Consumer Sciences:**

- Congratulations to FNP Program Assistant Kayle Mears and her husband Jeremy, who welcomed the newest member of the team into this world; a healthy, 6 pound, 14 ounce baby boy.

- Family Nutrition Program (FNP) Assistant is away on maternity leave at this time😊.

#### Agriculture/Horticulture:

- Master Gardener course in Franklin County is underway with classes taking place at the Eastpoint branch of the Franklin County library.

#### **Ken Moneghan – Florida Association of Counties Trust (FACT) – Presentation**

Mr. Moneghan introduced Ms. Anna Daughtry, Florida Association of Counties (FAC), and Mr. John Pat Thomas, Pat Thomas Insurance Agency, the county's current insurance agent. He explained the FACT Program is a pooled risk sharing program that was formed in 1989 under Florida Statute that allows counties to pool their funds to pay claims. Mr. Moneghan said FAC provides the county's coverage for general liability, public official's errors and omissions and employment practices. He reported Franklin County has been a member of the program since 1989. He explained in 1989 when the program was set up they created an extraordinary loss fund called surplus to help make the program financially strong and each county that became a member paid premiums but in the first year they also paid into the loss fund so each county that is a member has equity interest in the program. He reported the program is managed by an 11 member board of trustees from the member counties so a county is managed and owned by the member counties. Mr. Moneghan said it is an enterprise program for FACT and they are the largest corporate sponsor for the Small County Coalition. He explained the FACT Board is constantly looking at the services and coverage they supply for their member counties to make sure they have the best and strongest programs out there. He said cyber liability insurance has been added due to the changes in technology. Mr. Moneghan stated they are also always making sure they are providing the best service. He explained the FAC has always been part of the FACT Program but recently the FACT Board has made the FAC the administrator for the program which helped them get closer to the member counties. He explained the FACT Board did not feel like the services provided were the best from an underwriter claims standpoint so they changed their administrative services provided to the Florida League of Cities. He reported it allows them to team with the Florida League of Cities and Pat Thomas Insurance Company to provide workers compensation, auto and property coverage for the county. Mr. Moneghan read the plaque and presented it to the Board in appreciation of the county being a member for the past 30 years. Mr. Pierce asked if Mr. Moneghan has been with FACT for 30 years also. Mr. Moneghan stated it will be 30 years in May.

#### **H. D. Cannington – Weems CEO – Report**

Mr. Cannington provided a report, as follows:

**Fiscal Year 2019 Budget** – The Hospital Board approved a budget for the fiscal year ending 9/30/2019, which is presented for your review and approval. Assumptions include a 5% increase in volume, plus an average of 2 swing bed patients per day, a 4% increase in charge rates, and a 3% cost increase in expenses. The budget includes County subsidies of \$1.08M for hospital operations, \$723K for EMS, and \$410K for Weems East and West. **Action requested.**

Mr. Cannington pointed out this budget is for planning purposes. Commissioner Boldt asked how the proposed subsidies compare to last year. Mr. Cannington reported they are \$200,000 more than what was received last year. He offered to break down the amounts if needed. He stated EMS is doing quite well and better than budgeted. He reported a lot of the increase was with the medical offices and providing extended care especially at Weems East. He said it will be very difficult for them to break even on that item but they were providing services to the community. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the hospital budget for the fiscal year ending 9/30/19.** Mr. Moron asked Mr. Cannington to explain the accounting used for the hospital. Mr. Cannington reported typically hospitals use accrual accounting. He stated they put down what they think they will receive and what they will spend and each month they are over budget or under budget they make adjustments as needed. He said fund accounting or governmental accounting is based on cash and typically you know what the revenues will be and the expenses which are what has actually been allocated to spend. Commissioner Boldt affirmed with regard to cash flow, income and accounts receivable they are comforted in knowing he is engaging in denial management when the insurance claims come in. He explained someone is analyzing the explanation of medical benefits to be certain a payment they should have received was not dropped and that a re-submission claim is filed. Mr. Cannington said they are doing that and it is called revenue cycle and it starts when a patient comes in and they make sure they have copies of insurance cards and if there is no insurance they collect the payment upfront which is not always easy. He reported they have a coding company on the outside and they try to get the bills out within 5 days after a patient is discharged or seen. Mr. Cannington stated they do insurance follow up at the hospital and also the company that provides the hospital information system also provides a lot of follow up. He explained once they get to the point that insurance pays and it becomes a private pay account then the outside company handles it. He stated they make sure they can collect as much as possible but if someone does not have the ability to pay and are indigent or meet their charity care guidelines then they are encouraged to fill out the paperwork. He went on to say they make a determination because it is better to write an account off to indigent care or charity care if they cannot collect it because they can claim it on the disproportion share hospital survey which is where the DISH and LIP funds come from. He said if they cannot collect it then they have to make sure they are legally writing it off to the correct place and not to general bad debt. Mr. Cannington reported a senior Athena representative will be here today and tomorrow doing the same thing they are discussing. He explained this person will be making sure nothing is slipping through the cracks and when the representative leaves hopefully they will have benchmarks in place to look at every week or month to keep this on track and see where they need to make adjustments. Commissioner Boldt reported these are the constructive comments relative to the hospital. He said they heard the word subsidy but there is a foundation relative to the subsidy and they are working the insurance claims and making sure they can account for every penny that the hospital did or did not receive as they make decisions on this Board about subsidizing the hospital. He explained this is subsidy with a factual base foundation and that is important.

A Capital Budget totaling \$286,970 was also approved by the Hospital Board and serves as a planning tool. None of the items are approved for purchase without prior approval of the Hospital Board and BOCC. In December, you approved the purchase of an ultrasound system for \$72,270 but we were able to negotiate it down to \$69,975. Also, you approved the Hematology Analyzer for \$42,275 but we got it for \$40,000.

#### **Important Dates - Hurricane Michael**

- Sun, Oct 14 - Weems East and West Clinics were opened 4 days after hurricane (Noon Sunday, 10/14)
- ER opened at Weems West one week after storm with 24/7 physician coverage (Wednesday, 10/17)
- Inpatient wing opened 4 weeks after storm (Wednesday, 11/7)
- All services, including Outpatient diagnostics, available 7 weeks after storm (Lab 11/17 and Rad 11/28)
- Currently, all departments are permanently located with improved efficiency and easy access for patients except Dallas Shiver Chapel and Administration, which will be located in the West Wing shortly.

Mr. Cannington commended the hospital staff and people doing the insurance work. He stated there was not a lot of health care in the community and the hospital staff worked together and got the hospital opened back up.

Mr. Cannington stated when the Emergency Room (ER) was moved they had a surprise visit from the Agency for Healthcare Management Administration (AHCA) in response to a complaint that was filed by a patient that came to the ER. He detailed the complaint. He explained when the AHCA surveyor realized they were operating in Weems West she did her survey and dismissed the complaint. Mr. Cannington said she stated the hospital staff and leadership did a great job of providing emergency services and seeing patients so soon after the hurricane. He pointed out the complaint was for services provided the day before Thanksgiving which was a little over a month after the hurricane.

#### **Financial Highlights of the Quarter Ended December 31, 2018**

- Revenues were \$3.1M. This is \$647K, or 22% under budget. Net Patient Revenues were \$1.6M, or 32% under budget. And, expenses were on budget at \$2.0M. County subsidies were \$535K to leave us with a \$362K loss for the first quarter of the fiscal year. The variances were due to reduced services in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.
- Cash at December 31 was \$371K, which is \$407K less than it was at 9/30/2018. This is not bad considering our collections were down significantly due to the storm while we had to continue to pay employees, suppliers, and other vendors as before.

#### **EMS**

- Richard "Loui" Lewis has been appointed as the EMS Director and will be on the QRV full-time. He has 8 years of experience as a Paramedic, has worked for Weems for 7 years, and plans to

move back to the Alligator Point area. Kenny Gilbert did a great job in the interim and plans to attend nursing school this summer. **Introduce Loui.**

Mr. Cannington introduced Mr. Lewis and said he will be very visible in the community which is one of the things the consultant recommended. Mr. Lewis was present and said he is grateful for the opportunity and looks forward to EMS being more integrated into the community. He thanked the Board for their support. Commissioner Boldt asked if he is living at Alligator Point now. Mr. Lewis said they are looking for a place at Alligator Point but are currently in Crawfordville and he commutes. Mr. Cannington reported they must have a medical director over EMS and that is Dr. Patrick Conrad and he wanted an operational review done. He stated Mr. R.C. Pippin was hired and conducted the review and presented several recommendations.

- An operational review of EMS was conducted November 29. The final report was presented on January 22 and included several recommendations. Routine reviews of run reports, truck maintenance, and drug/supply inventory have already been implemented. We are now in the process of updating our clinical protocols and departmental policies and procedures.
- We are getting updated quotes for a new ambulance to be requested this quarter. Our third regular unit has 275,000 miles on it and needs to be replaced and moved to backup. The other two have about 95,000 and 110,000 miles on them. We have also applied for a State grant to fund a remount that should be approved in July or August.

### **Weems Medical Offices**

We continue to make improvements at the Medical Offices. These include patient satisfaction, revenue cycle, and trying to serve more patients. We currently treat between 4 and 7 patients at Weems East each Saturday morning and it seems to be increasing.

### **Fiscal Year 2018 Audit**

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, our independent audit firm, has completed their field work and will make a presentation to the Hospital Board when the audit is complete. The firm will also be completing our cost report to be filed in February. They have extensive experience in rural hospital reimbursement.

Mr. Cannington explained the cost report determines how much the hospital will be paid by Medicare and Medicaid. He expressed his opinion that Carr, Riggs & Ingram is one of the top two firms in the southeastern United States and the fact that their office is in Enterprise, Alabama allows them to provide other consultation services for the hospital.

### **Ultrasound Services**

Amanda (Wilson) Byrd did an ultrasound on our first patient last Friday and will start doing scheduled outpatients and emergency procedures February 7. She is from Apalachicola and has over 8 years of experience as an ultrasound sonographer. The Foundation is assisting the County with the cost of the equipment. **John Solomon**

Mr. Cannington asked Mr. Solomon to come forward. He explained The Foundation has been very active in working with the hospital. Mr. John Solomon, President of the Weems Memorial Hospital Foundation, said during the inception of The Foundation their main goal was to get a

mobile ultrasound machine at Weems Memorial Hospital to be used at the clinics and the hospital. He stated they will give as much as possible toward the purchase of the ultrasound machine and still stay viable to raise more money. He thanked Mr. Cannington, the Hospital Board, the staff at the Hospital and the County Commission for this goal becoming a reality because for so long it felt like it was not going to happen.

**Director of Nursing** – Becky Gibson, RN, resigned as the Director of Nursing and all other clinical/administrative duties effective 2/15/2019. She has been on medical leave since February 2018 and has been assisting us with risk management and other administrative duties. We are currently seeking candidates to fill this role and will be looking at reorganizing nursing and nursing-related functions within the hospital.

Mr. Cannington reported they are seeking candidates for the Director of Nursing (DON) position. He explained they are looking at a reorganization of the nursing department which will redistribute the workload and help the other staff nurses increase their skills. He stated Mrs. Courtney Alford has been doing a great job as the Lead Registered Nurse (RN) and hopefully they will have a full time DON within the next couple of weeks.

**Plant Operations Director** – Craig Gibson went on medical leave for 3 months due to surgery in December and then resigned as Plant Ops Director effective 2/15/19. I have hired Nikol Tschaepe as interim director to work on the renovation project; provide management for maintenance, housekeeping/laundry, and dietary; and perform other plant operations duties. She has experience as the project manager for large construction projects, general management/leadership skills, and a clinical background. We are seeking candidates for the permanent position as we look at the leadership structure of the hospital.

Mr. Cannington reported Ms. Tschaepe was already working as a part time EMT and had just completed her Associate Degree in Nursing. He said she is looking at the plans and the architect that the county has for the hospital. He explained the hospital has a good design and they want to continue with that but they are making small tweaks. He reported they are also in contact with the construction people at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) to see how they can assist the county or make suggestions.

**Chief Financial Officer** – Jenny Myrick stepped down as CFO to spend more time with family, pursue her education, and learn more about the financial management of hospitals. She did a great job after our former CFO left and will continue to work in our finance department. Bill Storck, who has over 15 years of experience in hospital financial management and is moving to Eastpoint, assumed the position February 4.

Mr. Cannington said hopefully they will be able to hire a local DON since they have a local Plant Operations Director, Ms. Tschaepe, who lives on St. George Island and a local CFO that lives in Eastpoint. He reported all of these people are extremely qualified.

Mr. Moron stated the other change is the Hospital Board elected a new Chairman-Mr. Doug Creamer. Mr. Moron asked Mr. Creamer to stand and introduce himself. Mr. Creamer said he looks forward to working close with Mr. Cannington and the County Commission. He encouraged the Board if they have a concern or question about the hospital to contact him, Mr. Cannington or a Hospital Board Member. He stated communication is the key to the success of the hospital and they are a reflection of the Board. Mr. Cannington questioned if the Board needed to take action according to the bylaws. Attorney Shuler asked if they looked over the amendments to the bylaws and if they were okay with the changes. Mr. Cannington answered yes. Attorney Shuler asked for the Board to adopt the amendment to the current bylaws because the current bylaws allowed Mr. Moron as the County Coordinator to be the Chairman of the Hospital Board and authorize the Chairman to sign the Amendment. Attorney Shuler stated the Board can also ratify Mr. Creamer as the new Hospital Board Chairman. He reported a Vice-Chairman could also be appointed. Mr. Cannington said they did make a recommendation at the Hospital Board meeting to change the bylaws. Mr. Moron said Mr. Mikel Clark is the Vice-Chairman. Mr. Cannington stated Ms. Kristen Anderson is the Secretary. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the amendment to the bylaws removing the County Coordinator as the Chairman and allowing the Hospital Board to select their own Chairman and Vice-Chairman annually, authorize the Chairman to sign the Amendment, and ratify the appointment of Mr. Douglas Creamer as Chairman of the Hospital Board and Mr. Mikel Clark as Vice-Chairman of the Hospital Board.**

**AHCA Investigation** – A patient that visited the ER on 11/23/18 complained to AHCA about the ER. A surveyor showed up unannounced and investigated the incident. She totally dismissed the complaint. She then complimented our staff and facility on making services available to patients so soon after a major hurricane.

**COLA Survey** – COLA performed its bi-annual survey of our Laboratory and Blood Bank on 1/23/2019. Preliminary results looked very good and the surveyor commented “Excellent job!” on the survey form. After a review of the surveyor’s findings, COLA will send us a “Plan of Required Improvement” based on the findings.

**FLEX Assessment** – We have agreed to participate in a quality and operational assessment paid for under the Federal Flex Program. An on-site review will be conducted in March and then we will receive findings, recommendations for improvement, and benchmark comparisons to other CAHs in Florida. North Highlands, a healthcare consulting firm, is doing the work under a contract with the Florida Office of Rural Health.

**Faith-based Initiatives** – We have scheduled a Chaplains Association luncheon for February 22. We will honor Dr. John Sink, discuss the Chaplains Program, and discuss faith-based initiatives, which will include the Department of Health.

**EMS Scholarship** – The Hospital Board approved the first recipient of the EMS Scholarship.

**Beautification** – We are starting a beautification project and will begin by improving the grounds and landscaping. We also plan to update our front lobby and upgrade our signage.

Mr. Moron asked the Board to amend the Agenda and allow Mr. Frank McColm to go first and then Mr. John Solomon. The Board agreed to this change.

The meeting recessed at 10:21 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

### **FCMC – Alligator Drive – Presentation**

Mr. Pierce introduced Mr. Frank McColm and Ms. Sarah Kelty, Frank McColm Consulting, Inc. (FCMC) and said they will provide a brief presentation after his remarks. Mr. Pierce read the following item from his report:

1- Inform the Board that FCMC is here to speak directly to the Board regarding their work on Alligator Point. They will describe their progress, but I wanted to explain to the Board that FCMC, Pam Brownell, and I have agreed to a division of duties. FCMC will be responsible for developing the long term recovery plan, and for writing any PWs associated with it. I will consult with FCMC but I will take the lead on any short term issues with the road. The reason that it is more logical for me to be involved on the short term problems is that I am here in the county, and am more knowledgeable about county resources in an emergency. I will use Pam Brownell's consultants when appropriate but at this time I am working directly with the FEMA representative who is coming to county once a week. I met with the county's FEMA representative at the EOC on Wed. Jan. 30. Clay Kennedy and I also spent some time on the Point on Thursday, Jan. 31. I recommend the Board take the following action:

Board approval to direct Dewberry to develop the bid specs, and an FDEP permit if necessary, for the emergency beach berm to protect Alligator Drive. I have already turned the berm information into the FEMA rep to write up the PW. The FEMA rep advised me the county can move towards building the beach berm at the same time she is processing the draft PW and scheduling a site visit, so I am trying to collapse as much time as possible. We would not sign a contract for construction until the PW is approved but I am trying to get all the other steps completed. Clay Kennedy, and I, and our coastal engineers have talked through several issues associated with the beach berm and we think it can be built, but all of the debris will have to be removed so that we are not burying any debris. One of the factors affecting how fast we can build it is whether DEP will extend its emergency order for Hurricane Michael, and the Emergency Order was extended yesterday so we now have to inform DEP about what we are building, and we have to file an application, but we do not have to have the permit in hand now.

Mr. Pierce reported Mr. Clay Kennedy, Dewberry Engineers, is not present today as he is sick. Mr. Pierce referenced a drawing showing what was there before Hurricane Michael, what is remaining after the storm and the location of the sand berm. He explained the sand berm will be sacrificial and will be difficult to maintain. He reported the challenge will be removing the debris that is in the location as the debris cannot be buried on the beach. Mr. Pierce stated DEP



has extended the emergency order for all counties that were affected by the storm so the county is going to try and get this done within the next couple of months.

Secondly, the engineers think that we should file for another PW to remove all the debris in the existing ROW (where the temporary road is now), and then build a two lane wide temporary road and get rid of the traffic signals. The benefit would be the area would begin to get cleaned up, a two lane road would appear and the traffic lights would go away. We need to move this debris anyway, even if we relocate the road to private property because DEP is going to make us at some point. By no means will this 2 lane road be the permanent road, but it would help the Point return to normal. This PW is a little harder to write because the engineers need to figure out a way to quantify what it is a contractor is bidding on as the debris to be removed has some value to it. For the Board to understand, there are basically three kinds of debris mixed together- large granite boulders from the original revetment that cost \$1M to put there some 15 years ago- that granite needs to be extracted from the debris and saved- the hundred or more concrete pre-cast barriers the county used to keep cars on the road, and then true debris- asphalt, concrete with rebar, and housing debris that needs to be hauled away.

Mr. Pierce showed where this road would be on the drawing. He said this two lane road would be used perhaps as the bypass while the new road is being constructed as they will need some way to get in and out. He stated this is the goal and the two projects he will be involved in. He explained this can certainly be modified as issues come up. Mr. Pierce invited Mr. McColm and Ms. Kelty to present their report. Mr. McColm, President and CEO of F.C. McColm Consulting, Inc., said they do disaster recovery, disaster management work and focus on resiliency and hazard mitigation. He explained the State of Florida retained his company for Hurricane Michael to serve as the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator (SDRC) Representative. He explained that role is to help local jurisdictions characterize their needs for disaster recovery to recover more fully, more comprehensively and more resiliently and identify resources to be able to fund the needs. He reported his firm is performing this service throughout the entire disaster area for Hurricane Michael so they are supporting every county and local jurisdiction with putting together plans of action and helping them get on the path to developing eligible and compliant projects. Mr. McColm reported as the SDRC Representative he spends a lot of time in the joint field office in Tallahassee which is the nerve center for all things related to Hurricane Michael Disaster Recovery. He said he has a federal counterpart who is the Federal Disaster Recovery (FDR) Coordinator and their role is to deploy every federal executive agency that has any dealings with the environment. He reported their team is Housing & Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the Department of Interior, the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Health & Human Services and a few others. He explained they have a team of about 50 advisors in Tallahassee that are working on the disaster. Mr. McColm explained his role is to do the same thing on the state side and he is coordinating with DOT, DEP, FWC and other agencies to make sure all the resources across federal and state government come together in an efficient way that is executable. He said the way they got involved was before the change in the administration in Tallahassee the Deputy Director of Emergency Management asked them to come down shortly after Thanksgiving and meet with Mr. Pierce and Commissioner Parrish on site at Alligator Point

which they did. He stated clearly Alligator Point has a long history of repetitive damage and a high erosion rate. Mr. McColm explained the Division of Emergency Management that they are under contract with to perform the State DRC services directed them to support the county throughout the life cycle and in whatever they need to do to get there. He reported there has been a change in the administration but they have given them the same directive. Mr. McColm thanked Commissioner Parrish for the comments that day and for meeting with them and said they look forward to working with the citizens at Alligator Point and Franklin County to get a fix once and for all for the road. He said they appreciate Commissioner Boldt's involvement to date as it has been very helpful in having him engaged in meetings. He reported they are working with the citizens at Alligator Point and attending some of the APTA meetings and will continue to coordinate with the citizens so they are involved in the process. Mr. McColm said their goal is to identify resources available to help make Alligator Point a better place in terms of avoiding future damage, stabilizing the area and making it more resilient from an infrastructure and housing standpoint. He explained they have met with citizens and county stakeholders to help identify the history and what has happened to date and collect the information that is available. Mr. McColm stated Friday they met with DEP senior leadership and got a download of all the permits DEP has dealt with at Alligator Point. He reported they look forward to helping navigate the process. He explained after the site visit meeting after Thanksgiving they had another meeting in a real estate office that Mr. Pierce and Commissioner Boldt attended and they brought some of the federal and state partners with them to allow them to review the current situation and what needs to be done to repair it. Mr. McColm reported they are looking at a variety of funding sources across federal and state agencies. He stated they are experts in knowing how the flow of funds works and how to pursue and secure the funds. He said he worked with some people here shortly after the Eastpoint fire and it is similar to what they did then. Mr. McColm explained the Eastpoint fire was not a federally funded disaster but they were glad to provide a level of support to move it forward. He stated with Hurricane Michael there are a lot more federal resources and FEMA's public assistance program is very large and provides funds for things like Alligator Point. Mr. McColm explained throughout this process they will need to work closely with county executive staff and officials on the decision making process because the road is still county owned. He reported they will also be working with the engineer of record to coordinate and advise them on the critical path forward in terms of designs and steps to maintain compliance and maximize the amount of money they are able to get to fix the problem at Alligator Point. Mr. McColm said he will pause for any questions before beginning his presentation. Mr. Pierce asked if Mr. McColm has a contract with the State of Florida for 3 years. Mr. McColm confirmed they have a contract with the Florida Division of Emergency Management until 2021. He said right now they have been given a directive by state leadership to continue to move forward and some elected officials with the state have reached out to get updates. Mr. Pierce expressed concern about the timeline. Mr. McColm agreed the timeline is one of the most challenging things and part of it is driven by the availability of funds. Mr. McColm reported the regulatory environment impacts the timeline and there is a lot of history with permits, regulations and environmental assessments slowing down the process. He stated they are working hard to streamline the process across the Interagency Recovery Coordination Group which is the name of the body

that he is co-leading. He reported they are trying to streamline reviews and are working with the federal partners on the federal process where hopefully a lot of money will flow through. He said they get pre-approvals when they can, identify obstacles early in the process and then do the same thing on the state side. Mr. Pierce inquired if Mr. McColm gets any feeling that the state is supportive of the road being relocated or they want to build the road back on the beach. Mr. McColm said his feeling is they like the idea. Mr. Pierce stated hopefully that will help get the permits pushed through. Mr. McColm stated he hopes so because it is definitely the best option in his opinion to set the road back some and also put together some redundant resiliency options such as offshore living shorelines and additional dune restoration. He reported they worked with the COE to have some site inspections to see about beach renourishment and restoration and said that was discussed with DEP on Friday. He explained they are looking at a holistic and comprehensive approach. Mr. McColm stated part of it is voluntary land acquisition and there are programs at the federal and state level that help with this. He reported some land acquisition would need to occur to relocate the road. Chairman Lockley stated they are the experts in these matters but he would like to see a good fix not a quick fix. He said you cannot beat Mother Nature but they see the situation the county is in and it has been like that over the last several storms. He explained before they can get work done another storm comes and tears the road up worse. He said hopefully they can get together and get this situated so they have something better and it will last longer than one storm. Mr. McColm said with this being the only ingress and egress for Alligator Point residents it is critical to build it stronger than it was before. He explained they are looking at every option available using the best management practices and bringing all the expertise across federal, state and private partners so it is a comprehensive and total solution. He reported there are a lot of programs at the federal level that promote hazard mitigation and resilience. Mr. McColm stated in the public assistance program there is a portion known as 406 Mitigation to build the road back stronger. He said they are also pursuing Section 428 which would allow the county to use funds to relocate the road and combine it with the voluntary property acquisitions to have the right-of-way to do it. He explained there are a lot of funding sources and there have been a lot of projects discussed as a conceptual plan. Mr. McColm said they are also working with the residents to make sure their voices are heard and that they are involved in the process which is critical. He reported he will be back as things continue to mature over the next few months. He stated they will also stay engaged with APTA and attend their meetings even though they provide them with regular updates which hopefully they will start placing on their website very soon so the citizens can see what is happening. Chairman Lockley said they will be dependent on Mr. McColm. Commissioner Parrish stated they appreciate Mr. McColm and appreciate the state hiring him to help the county. He explained they met on several occasions and he informed Mr. McColm they will have to help because the county does not know how to access these different pots of money. Commissioner Parrish reported Mr. McColm knows how to access these pots of money to make a better solution for the road. He said he is very encouraged that they will get to where they need to be. He welcomed Mr. McColm to their team and said he has the expertise to find a good solution for the road. He agreed the road must move away from the beach because it will not survive on the open Gulf of Mexico. Mr. McColm thanked Commissioner Parrish and said his company is

helping the whole declared area but they have an increased focus in Franklin County due to some of the meetings and requests by the county. Mr. McColm started his slide presentation at this time. He stated the FEMA site visit will be on Monday and there will be a team of FEMA inspectors out there to formally assess the damage. He explained they will write descriptions, take measurements and photograph the damage and then they will start writing the Project Worksheet (PW) to insure the road is stabilized. Mr. Pierce asked if Mr. McColm wants the county and the engineers there on Monday. Mr. McColm answered yes. Mr. McColm discussed the potential funding sources. He stated letters were sent to property owners to determine who was interested in selling their home for pre-event market value. He explained there was a good response for the residents out there. He went on to say some were curious about the program and some had serious damage and were interested in the pre-event market value. McColm reported they will work closely with the county on the land acquisition. Commissioner Boldt stated they may also be looking at beach renourishment to the entire peninsular relative to the COE looking at the big picture as a way of preserving this problem. Mr. McColm said absolutely and explained even though they are engaged for the Alligator Point damage if they find solutions that will provide a secondary or tertiary benefit to the entire point or county they will propose it and explain the process on how that would work through some of these programs. He reported they are looking at the entire system to see what they can do. Chairman Lockley asked if they have ever considered a bridge and what it would cost. Mr. McColm stated this is a good question and the bridge option did come up during data collection but at this point they are just working through the conceptual plan and the scoping. He explained they are working to get some expertise through the federal partners and private partners to help characterize the situation. Commissioner Massey asked if they have thought about dredging the dirt back up. Mr. McColm stated that has been a consideration and there are existing permits that are still active for beach renourishment which would entail some kind of dredging. He said they also looked at an engineered beach. Commissioner Massey reported in looking at the map off Alligator Point there is a channel that use to run from Dewey's Channel to Mud Cove. Mr. Pierce stated if there was beach renourishment the sand source is there and it is the area Commissioner Massey was discussing. He explained they kept the permit open to use the sand source but there is no use in pumping sand up on the beach unless there is some way to maintain it on the beach. Commissioner Massey stated this used to be an open channel the boats used. Mr. Pierce agreed the sand went and filled in the channel. Commissioner Massey stated a lot of people do not know the channel was there. Mr. Pierce explained there must be an obligation from someone to put the sand back regularly and that is the challenge. Mr. McColm said they are working to identify all of these obstacles and look at the pros and cons of each solution. He reported they will perform due diligence on each option to make sure they have been fully vetted. Commissioner Boldt stated the history of this impaired road probably goes back in this county at least 30 years and it has been a financial burden for the county. He said as they begin to stabilize the emergency situation is there a way they can predict there will be a time that the county Road Department is not burdened with the financial repair of the road in an emergency situation. Mr. McColm stated his understanding is DOT is not able to bring this road into the state system. Commissioner Boldt reported they know that once they get this temporary fix stabilized then he wants the county to save some

money. Mr. Pierce stated it depends on how much sand they can put on a sand berm and how often the sand must be replaced. Commissioner Boldt said if they are thinking about matching funds can Mr. McColm give a long range prediction about the potential they need to match so the county can be prepared. Mr. McColm stated in the past they have aligned this with the Capital Improvement program to make sure there is budgeting and funding into the future. He pointed out as Mr. Pierce mentioned they hope to have designs done and ground breaking within the next couple of years. He explained as grants are approved and applications are pursued they must be approved by the Board and all that information would be contained in it. Mr. McColm stated they would be glad to explain how each of the funding sources is leveraged with one another, how the timing works and what it takes for compliance. He reported all this information would be available well prior to any required expenditure by the county. Commissioner Boldt said the county has been a great caretaker of that road in many ways and on behalf of these funding sources he would like that known. Mr. McColm explained as part of the data collection they met with Mr. Pierce to characterize all the cash expenditures historically the county has contributed. He reported not only did they want to tell that story but also see if there is an opportunity for it to be recognized as a match for some of the grants. He stated the inspection Monday is to start the emergency repair process. He said they will be working to support the county through the public assistance process for Alligator Point. He clarified FEMA will write the PW but his company will provide the information. Mr. McColm stated they will be working to get the essential elements of information (EEI) as FEMA will need this data and information to formulate and fund the PW. He explained the PW is the grant that identifies the scope, the schedule and the budget of what FEMA will pay for and any cost share associated with local match to be able to complete the project. Mr. McColm reported they will support Mr. Pierce and the engineer through this process. Mr. Pierce asked if there has been any effort by the Governor's Office to provide a waiver for Hurricane Michael. Mr. McColm reported the waivers have to be requested through the Office of Policy and Budget which is part of the Governor's Office. He said they can discuss it and help the county understand the process. He reported his understanding is the county is required to take action to request the waiver. He explained on the debris side with DOT assuming the responsibility for the debris part of that was through a waiver mindset. He said rather than having fiscally constrained counties pay and wait for reimbursement the state agreed to take on that responsibility. He stated there may be at least an opportunity to apply for the waiver and they will help coordinate it. Mr. Pierce explained the Clerk's Office, on behalf of FAC who requested the counties submit some data, sent a request but has not received any response. He stated the last time the county got a waiver it took 6-8 months to get a response from the Governor's Office. Mr. McColm reported he cannot speak for the state but his company will be happy to help them understand the process and follow up. Mr. McColm provided his contact information as telephone number (850) 518-4124, email AlligatorPointRecovery@gmail.com, and website [www.fcmmccolm.com](http://www.fcmmccolm.com). He reported the telephone number is assigned to Alligator Point. He introduced Ms. Sarah Kelty and said she is the Project Manager so she will be the central point of coordination and there are other members of their team dedicated to Alligator Point. He offered to answer any questions. Ms. Kelty said she will provide their business cards after the meeting. She thanked their partners at the state and federal agencies for attending

this meeting with them. She offered to answer any questions. Chairman Lockley thanked Mr. McColm and Ms. Kelty for helping the county as they are the experts. Commissioner Boldt reported this is a defining moment in the history of Franklin County and Alligator Point. He stated the county has been dealing with this road for over 30 years and now he wants the public to know they have traction, disaster recovery and specific sponsorship by the Governor's Office with defined goals and plans. He explained the citizens can relax a little because they are on the way for a good recovery. Mr. David Adlerstein, The Apalachicola Times, asked what the response has been to the acquisition of property. Mr. McColm reported they are still working through the process and it is entirely voluntary so no one has to sell. He stated some people have been positive and some inquisitive but as far as he knows there has not been any major pushback. He explained they have just been providing information on how the process works and then it is up to citizens on how they want to move forward. He pointed out some of the federal programs that come in are unable to use eminent domain for acquisition in some circumstances. He reported it is a voluntary process. Chairman Lockley thanked them for being at the meeting. He said there are some good people at Alligator Point but anyone would get upset if they could not get home. He asked Mr. McColm to try and help them.

#### **John Solomon – TDC Administrator – Report**

Mr. Solomon read his report for the Board:

#### **Collections Report:**

**The October (2018) collections were \$38,426.89. This amount was based on approximately eight (8) days of collections in October due to Hurricane Michael. In addition, during the month of November (2018), the reported collections were \$87,784.31, which is an increase of 83.3% above the \$49,440.74 collected in November (2017).**

#### **Visitor Center Stats:**

**In December we recorded 1,723 visitors to our Visitor Centers which makes the final year total 31,398.**

#### **Web Site Activity:**

**We had 30,331 web hits in the month of December which is 9,755 more than the same time period in 2017. The total Website activity for the 2018 calendar year is 366,336 which is up 142,802 from the previous year.**

#### **Financials:**

**The TDC approved the following expenditures at their January 9th regular meeting:**

- 1. \$500 for new signs for both the Carrabelle & Eastpoint Visitor Centers**

2. **\$1,487.99 for a new canopy tent that will have the full color images of the TDC logo and TDC website on it. The tent will be used to advertise Franklin County at County, as well as out of County events.**
3. **Up to \$4,500 for a storage shed. The total amount will include the shed, a small window air conditioning unit, and power hook up. This storage shed will be located at the TDC office/Eastpoint Visitor Center and will eliminate the \$113 .33 monthly rent paid for a very small storage space at the Old Apalachicola High School. The shed will be used to store visitor guides, maps, and other TDC items.**
4. **Up to \$500 for a desk at the TDC office. This will replace the current desk that is owned by the former administrator, Mr. Curt Blair.**

Mr. Solomon reported the desk was purchased last Friday for \$284.00. He explained the shed and the desk will be purchased out of the maintenance fund for the Visitor's Center.

### **Meetings:**

**The next FCTDC meeting is February 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 2:00pm  
We have an organizational meeting scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm followed by  
scheduled board meeting at 2:00pm**

Commissioner Boldt asked if the shed is strapped down to be wind resistant. Mr. Solomon answered yes, but said it has not been ordered yet because of this item. Commissioner Jones reported he and Mr. Solomon are new at this so they will learn a lot of things together. He stated he wanted to make sure all these items were brought up so this Board was aware of the actions the TDC Board has taken and they make sure everything is open and everyone knows what is going on. He reported these things are in their budget. Commissioner Jones stated the first month has been bumpy but they will make it together. He said they have only had two meeting but he cannot see the TDC Board having any issues as a whole.

Chairman Lockley reported it has come to his attention that Attorney Shuler may need to look over the TDC contract and redo it. He explained they need to set up it so the money is getting there every month like it should be. He asked if they do things different than the previous TDC Director. Mr. Solomon answered yes. Chairman Lockley said they need a motion to look at and amend the contract. Clerk Johnson questioned what they mean by amending the contract because the contract was presented to all five Board members and to the TDC by Mr. Pierce who negotiated the contract. Clerk Johnson asked what they want to re-negotiate. Chairman Lockley stated they are not changing the money but they are not getting their money hourly. Clerk Johnson stated they saw the contract and it was approved. She explained Attorney Shuler was not involved with this contract but Mr. Pierce negotiated with their attorney. Mr. Pierce explained he negotiated the contract as a non-attorney. He went on to say he took the existing contract Mr. Blair had and made some modifications but did not change the structure of the contract or the compensation except in one aspect. He stated this may need to be reviewed but he is not a lawyer and does not draft contracts. Mr. Pierce explained he did what he

thought he was directed by the Board to do which was to get a contract between the county and the Chamber of Commerce with a minimum change to the structure that was already in existence. Commissioner Parrish asked what the issue is. Mr. Solomon explained that Mr. Blair and his administration were covered under the same hourly basis and the new contract for them is not that way. Mr. Pierce agreed there is a separation and he thought that was fair as to the way things operate. He said he did not realize there were 2 employees and Mr. Blair and Mrs. Deb Davis were being billed at one rate. He explained with all the staff the county has in the secretarial positions he put in a lesser amount for assistants and secretaries. He stated the Director's salary was \$42.00 an hour and the other amount was \$21.00 an hour but he did not define which position got which hourly rate. Clerk Johnson stated Mr. Pierce pointed this out when the Board approved the contract. She said none of her secretaries are getting \$42.00 an hour nor is anyone who works for the county getting \$42.00 an hour. Chairman Lockley said the contract says they are doing the job for \$112,000. Mr. Pierce reported the amount of the contract was reduced because Mr. Blair stayed for 3 months so it was ¼ less which was \$84,000 available for TDC Administration. He explained how this money is used is up to them. Mr. Pierce stated the money is there if they accrue that amount of costs. He explained this is TDC money and the decision on the breakdown should be between the TDC Board and their administrator. Clerk Johnson stated they agreed to this split of the money and their lawyer signed off on the contract. Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Solomon how they bill. Mr. Solomon stated they have to put the hours they work for the month and the Finance Department pays to that structure. He explained Mr. Blair would never have been able to reach the money he did with this structure and he even had other contracts that they are not requesting. He reported this contract covers the cost of doing business as TDC but no other bills. He stated no other vendors Bay Media, Forgotten Coast TV, 2K Web Group have to put in hours for their time. Mr. Solomon said they have a set amount they get the contract for and they bill for anything over the contract and get reimbursed. Commissioner Parrish asked if he does the same thing. Mr. Solomon answered no, his contract is hourly. Mr. Pierce said this contract was modeled after Mr. Blair's contract and he also was hourly. Commissioner Massey asked Commissioner Jones about this since he is the TDC Chairman. Commissioner Jones stated they need to discuss this at the next meeting and try to work something out to bring back to this Board as an advisory opinion of what needs to be done. Commissioner Jones said the wording of the contract said it is up to \$112,000 per fiscal year. He reported they currently have several contracts the TDC has done with vendors that also say up to and that is what it means. Commissioner Jones said the TDC Board will address this matter. Mr. Pierce pointed out this contract was negotiated between the Board of County Commissioners and the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce and the TDC Board did not have any input so this is an opportunity for them to have some input. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to table this item until the next meeting so Commissioner Jones can come back with some information.**

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

Clerk Johnson did not have a report at this time.



## **Alan Pierce – RESTORE Coordinator – Report**

Mr. Pierce read the following report for the Board:

1-Mr. Pierce addressed this item earlier in the meeting.

2- Inform the Board that Commissioner Jones and I had a tele-conference with the Mobile office of the USACOE on January 16 regarding the status of the Eastpoint Channel and the Two Mile Channel dredging projects. I will defer to Commissioner Jones for any comments he would like to make regarding what the Corps said, but both projects are moving forward. The USACOE did confirm they thought it feasible the Eastpoint Channel dredging would commence this fall. I asked the Corps to try to schedule the projects so that the Two Mile Channel is dredged under the same contract for the Eastpoint Channel. At this time there are no congressional funds for the Two Mile Channel so it will have to be dredged using only Consortium funds, but since the county did not know Congress would appropriate \$2M for the Eastpoint Channel there should be enough funds between the congressional allocation and the Consortium to have both channels dredged to their original designs. What still has to be worked out is how the county will make available our Consortium funds at the time the Corps needs them.

Mr. Pierce stated the COE should be out in the Eastpoint Channel soon.

3- This item was addressed earlier in the meeting

4-This item was handled at the beginning of the meeting

5- The Board addressed this item during the Emergency Management Report.

5B- Inform the Board that I have completed the Request for Qualifications for seeking a RESTORE Consultant The ad will run during February, and the Board should be opening the RFQs at the March 5 Board meeting.

Mr. Pierce said this is a much more streamlined approach now.

6- Inform the Board that the Sheriff does not think the county ordinances regulating activities in Lanark Village provide him with the authority to remove abandoned vehicles along the county roads in Lanark Village. Have the Board direct the County Attorney to investigate and report back.

Mr. Pierce said they think the Sheriff can red tag vehicles but he does not think he can. Attorney Shuler questioned what issue he is being asked to investigate. Mr. Pierce said there are abandoned vehicles in Lanark Village and the Sheriff says he cannot remove them. Commissioner Boldt explained the abandoned vehicles appear to be on commonly used county property as parking spaces for residents. He said he made an example of three trespasses for people at Lanark Village last night. He reported these are abandoned vehicles that are not properly licensed and have been sitting in these addresses for quite some time. Commissioner

Boldt said the Sheriff needs specific direction on removing this kind of vehicles relative to county property that is uniquely used by people who also live there. Commissioner Jones asked if these are vehicles parked in the right-of-way or in front of a house. Commissioner Boldt said both. Commissioner Jones stated these are two completely different things. Commissioner Boldt explained Lanark Village is a unique situation because in some places the right of way starts at the center line of the road and goes for 30 ft. on each side. Mr. Pierce reported all of the parking is in the right-of-way. Commissioner Massey stated any city has the right of way 60 ft. and they are parking in the right-of-way. Attorney Shuler stated the current ordinances in Lanark Village do not regulate the length of time someone can park in a designated parking area. He explained apparently some people have been parking certain vehicles along a road he thinks may be Heffernan Drive and the vehicles are being left there for a substantial time in excess of 6 months. Mr. Pierce said the question is if the vehicle has a valid tag and if it doesn't then it is an abandoned vehicle. Attorney Shuler stated county ordinances do not address this but state law addresses abandoned vehicles within the right-of-way. He explained this is the law the county relied on in the past to remove vehicles from the county right-of-way, mainly and most recently at Alligator Point. Mr. Pierce agreed and said if the vehicles have valid tags and are just stored there then there is no time line and the Sheriff cannot remove them. Commissioner Boldt stated the examples he gave did not have a valid tag and are deteriorating. Attorney Shuler reported the Board has always relied on the discretion and training of the Sheriff's Department to determine when a vehicle should be red tagged in the right of way. He stated if the Board will direct him by motion, he will look into this issue. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to direct Attorney Shuler to investigate and report back.**

7- I have been consulting with Ms. Rhonda Skipper, Property Appraiser, on the loss of county tax base related to Hurricane Michael. I confirmed with her on Friday, that she and all the affected county Property Appraisers have been asked by the Dept. of Revenue to provide DOR with estimates on property losses. I have attached to my report the a letter from Ms. Skipper with the amount of property loss that she will be turning into DOR. The current estimate of loss is \$44M. It is my suggestion that the county use these numbers as a basis for our request to TRIUMPH for tax assistance. I have spoken to TRIUMPH staff and they are verifying what DOR is collecting as they agree that might be a common starting point for determining how TRIUMPH reimburses all the counties. TRIUMPH is having a special meeting on Feb 8 in Panama City to discuss tax relief and I plan to attend. Does a commissioner want to go, or does the Board have any direction for me if there is an opportunity to speak at the meeting?

Mr. Pierce said he wants to be there to make sure the county is treated fairly and equitably with the other counties. He explained right now there is no guidance from Triumph so he would like to go and monitor the situation. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to direct Mr. Pierce to go to this meeting and speak for the county if he needs to. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley said he wants to attend this meeting. Mr. Pierce stated the meeting is Friday afternoon and he will get the time. Commissioner Boldt asked Mr. Pierce to let him know as well. Commissioner Boldt asked if this motion includes funding for Mr. Pierce to attend. Mr. Pierce said he does not charge mileage. Commissioner Jones

reported he cannot attend but he is thankful someone will be there to speak on the county's behalf if the opportunity presents itself. He explained in regard to Triumph until the county gets money it is all up in the air and a lot of people will be asking for a lot of things right now after the storm. Commissioner Massey stated Mr. Pierce has been onboard since this started and he needs to stay involved because he knows what is going on. Chairman Lockley said he does not want to go in Mr. Pierce's place but he wants to see what is going on. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

8- The Board addressed this item earlier in the meeting.

9- Inform the Board I am working on a pre-application for TRIUMPH funding for a new fuel delivery system at the airport. As the Board may recall, our airport was the only airport able to deliver fuel during the hurricane recovery for an area between Tallahassee and almost Pensacola. The airport drew rave reviews for its role, but one of the weaknesses that could have caused a problem was our very old fuel farm. Fortunately, Centric did a great job of holding everything together but now is the time to get some assistance to replace what is an aging fuel delivery system. We will be seeking some \$920K of TRIUMPH funds with a match of \$150K from FDOT for a back-up generator for the fuel farm, and a match from Centric of \$120K, which is the value of their fuel trucks. The TRIUMPH Board seems eager to provide assistance to the airport since it played a key role in the region's hurricane recovery, and since I can now list matches for TRIUMPH funds now is the time to apply. The total value of the project would be \$1.190M, with \$920K of TRIUMPH funds, and \$270K of non-TRIUMPH funds. The non-TRIUMPH funds represent 22.7% of the project which I think is a good enough match for TRIUMPH to support the project. The next regularly scheduled TRIUMPH meeting has not been announced, but if the Board wants to authorize this pre-application submission now then I will get it in as soon as I get some additional confirmation from FDOT, AVCON, and Centric regarding some details. Board direction.

Commissioner Boldt asked if this means the county will not have spent any money if they get these matching funds. Mr. Pierce agreed they will get a new fuel farm at the airport at no cost to the county. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.**

Commissioner Massey said if the Board agrees he would like Mr. Pierce to write a letter to FWC to see if they can start Franklin County's hunting season at the same time as everyone else's hunting season. He reported when they close in south Florida two weeks earlier then so many hunters come here to hunt. He stated one of the hunters shot a tame duck out of the City of Carrabelle pond and was arrested. Commissioner Massey reported they also went in the closed area behind Lanark Village and shot a bunch of tame deer. He said another issue is if the oysters bars ever open he would like it to be for just the county people. He explained when the residents here went down south they burned them out, stole their boats and cut their tires. Commissioner Massey said the residents here are not allowed there but when the bars here open people from other areas can come here. Mr. Pierce asked for Mr. Moron to write this letter. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to write a letter to FWC asking that the**

**county's hunting season be consistent with everyone else's hunting season and that only county residents be allowed to work on the oyster bars. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Jones said they can ask about the oyster bars. Commissioner Massey stated it was on the news and their County Commission is standing behind their oystermen and do not want anyone from Franklin County down there oystering. Chairman Lockley reported the county will stand by our oystermen too. Commissioner Massey suggested bag limits for people who do not live in the county. Commissioner Jones said there is no way to enforce it. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

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

Mr. Moron presented his report, as follows:

1. At your December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board directed me to contact the City of Apalachicola regarding their interest in submitting a candidate to serve as the County's Municipal representative on the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. The Board attempts to rotate that seat every year between both Cities. I sent an email to Apalachicola's City Manager, as well as followed up with a call, and as of yesterday, the City of Apalachicola hasn't responded or shown any interest in serving. Mrs. Brenda LaPaz, Carrabelle' Mayor, would like to continue serving as she recognizes the value of that seat for the City of Carrabelle. **Board action** to appoint Mayor LaPaz as the County's Municipal representative on the Apalachee Regional Planning Council for another year.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to appoint Mayor Brenda LaPaz as the County's Municipal representative on the Apalachee Regional Planning Council for another year.**

2. At your January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting I informed the Board that the County received the 2019 Legislative Budget request forms from Senator Montford's office. Senator Montford requested that the forms are submitted to his office no later than Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and "County and City governments combine and rank each budget request in one priority order." At the "unofficial" Legislative Delegation meeting, which was held on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, I discovered that the City of Apalachicola planned to submit its funding request directly to Senator Montford's office. Apparently, Senator Montford's staff didn't object to the City's direct submission. Based on that information, I recommended to Mayor LaPaz that the City of Carrabelle submit their request directly to the Senator's staff. It would be unfair if we ranked Carrabelle's request without the opportunity to rank Apalachicola's request. I also learned that same evening that the Florida House of Representatives deadline for submitting these Legislative Budget request forms is today, therefore, I submitted both of our requests, the new EOC funding and Armory fire sprinkler system funding, last week to Ms. Melissa Durham, Senator Montford's Legislative Assistant and to Ms. Vicki Summerhill. Ms. Summerhill is continuing in the role of the Legislative Assistant to the vacant House seat formally held by Representative Halsey Beshears. I provided a brief history on both requests and explained that each of these requests are very critical to our community as a whole and not restricted to any city geographical boundaries. **Board action** to

ratify my submission of both funding requests to Senator Montford and our House Representative's offices.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the submission of both funding requests to Senator Montford and our House Representative's Office.**

3. As I just referenced, due to advertising issues the January 30<sup>th</sup> Legislative Delegation meeting could not be considered the official meeting. The official Legislative Delegation meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm (ET) here in your Commission meeting room. I will update you if there are any changes to this meeting date.
4. Mrs. Lori Switzer, SHIP program Administrator, has applied for and will receive \$142,075 in Disaster Recovery funding from the State. Mrs. Switzer, in an attempt to better serve the qualified residents, amended the Disaster Strategy to raise the maximum award amount to \$10,000 from the previous \$5000 cap. Florida Housing approved the amended strategy. As a reminder, the SHIP program does not repair mobile homes. **Board action** to approve the amended strategy.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the amended Disaster Strategy.**

5. On another SHIP Program item, Ms. Pam Vathis is interested in serving on the Housing Board. Ms. Vathis would fill the vacant District 4 seat (Commissioner Parish) on that Board. There is a candidate from District 1 (Commissioner Jones) that is considering serving, however, District 5's (Commissioner Massey) seat is still vacant. Board action to appoint Ms. Vathis to the Franklin County Housing Board.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to appoint Ms. Pam Vathis to the Housing Board.**

6. Tal Whiddon, of Williams Communication, and I met on Thursday January 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the FireNet Tower report which I sent to each of you. We both agreed, based on the report; the Board might want to consider not investing any funds to repair the current tower. Williams Communication and Southeastern Towers are looking at the cost to repair the current tower, replace the current tower, co-locate the equipment on another existing tower, along with other options, for this Board's review. Since the FireNet is performing with the loaner equipment in place and the County is looking at options, I informed Mr. Whiddon not to proceed with any items on the quote, such as the new fiber run, that would possibly become unnecessary or perhaps obsolete, based on the direction the County may choose as it relates to the tower.

Commissioner Boldt asked if they need a big picture on how the communications system needs to be looked at. Mr. Moron stated once the Board decides on the tower then he will have Williams Communications present a long term picture on communications. Commissioner

Boldt inquired if they have money set aside for this. Mr. Moron answered no. He explained he is trying to get some numbers together for Mr. Pierce so he can file an application with Triumph. Mr. Pierce reported Triumph might be able to fund the project if they have the right specifications but they do not want to be the only funding source so they would not fund 100%.

7. Mr. Lon A Wilkens, a St. George Island resident, is interested in serving on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Wilkens education and experience (see attached email) would allow him to fill the vacant "science" seat. If approved by the Board today, Mr. Wilkens will serve as an alternate for three months then sit as a regular member of the Commission in the science seat. **Board action** to appoint Mr. Wilkens to the Planning and Zoning Commission as an alternate member.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to appoint Mr. Lon A. Wilkens to the Planning and Zoning Commission as an alternate member.**

8. There has been quite a bit of progress at the Lombardi (Waterfront) Park project. The pavilion is complete and pending weather conditions, the decking portion of the project should be moving along this week. Based on the most recent schedule, the entire project should be completed by mid-April. I will update you if there are any changes to the current schedule.

Mr. Moron stated he has tried several times to get in and see the pavilion but the gates are locked. He said he will contact the contractor to gain access. Chairman Lockley asked for this to be in the paper in large writing as people have been asking about this. Mr. Moron reported there is a possibility that once they finish the deck they will move the lumber and even though the project will not be complete they might be able to allow launching from the boat ramp while they are finishing the other parts of the project. Chairman Lockley explained not only oystermen but also fishing guides are losing money if they have to go to the other launch because it takes more time.

9. Staff has received your invitation to participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Camp Gordon Johnston Parade on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am (ET). This year's parade should include CGJ Museum vehicles, vintage WWII vehicles, vehicles from more recent conflicts, area JROTC Units, color guards, veteran and auxiliary units, floats, antique cars, and beauty queens. After the parade, you are invited to visit the CGJ WWII Museum.

Mr. Moron said he will fill out the applications and he wants to know if everyone is going so he makes sure there are enough vehicles.

10. Florida Association of Counties Legislative Day is on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee. "Florida's counties are facing numerous challenges this year with prolonged disaster recovery from the last three hurricane seasons, the widespread water crisis facing our state and the

normal business and obstacles of running an efficient and effective government. It is imperative for local leaders to participate in the legislative process so you can educate your peers in the Legislature on the issues affecting their hometowns and advocate for your citizens and communities.

Commissioners and staff are encouraged to come to Tallahassee to assist in the lobbying efforts to protect home rule and prevent unfunded mandates. Governor Ron DeSantis, the members of the Cabinet, agency heads and former commissioners have been invited.”

Let me know if you will be attending this event.

Mr. Moron asked the Commissioners to let him know by tomorrow so they can start working on arrangements.

Mr. Moron stated he knows they are not ready yet but whenever the Board has done enough research and they are ready for him to consider placing Mr. Langston on the agenda then he will need a motion to place him on the agenda. He reported Mr. Langston referenced the next meeting but he did not realize the Board was doing research first and then would decide when he will be placed on the agenda.

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

Attorney Shuler asked for the Board to authorize him to conduct a public hearing to amend the R-7 zoning district. He explained Mr. Mark Curenton, County Planner, informed him this morning that there is apparently a conflict between the Comprehensive Plan maximum density units of 10 and the actual zoning category allowing for 15 units. He stated the Board needs to resolve the inconsistency so he needed authorization to conduct the public hearing so they can consider amending the ordinance at a future date. Attorney Shuler said the hearing at the earliest will probably be conducted in March. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Attorney Shuler to conduct a public hearing to amend the R-7 zoning district.**

Mr. Pierce reported this was discussed and should have been done 10 years ago but somehow they failed to address it.

Attorney Shuler requested Board authorization to schedule a public hearing to consider an amendment to the current travel trailer policy. He advised the Board he has approximately 15 different cases for enforcement and the current ordinance does not have much in the form of a penalty other than one that may be too harsh which is a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree misdemeanor. Attorney Shuler explained a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in jail or a \$500 fine. He stated he may suggest for the Board’s consideration adopting a monetary civil penalty only as opposed to a criminal penalty. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Attorney Shuler to schedule a public hearing to consider an amendment to the current travel trailer policy.**

## **Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Jones asked Mr. Moron if he forwarded the summary for the last Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) meeting to the other Commissioners. Mr. Moron answered yes. Commissioner Jones said he likes to try and do that so they know a conversation is happening on their behalf.

Commissioner Boldt said he has a piece of property he wants to give to the county. He stated it is on the east side of Gulf Shore Blvd. and it is dissolved and there is no location at all. He reported he has the bill and would like to turn the property over to the county. He asked if Attorney Shuler could facilitate that for him. Attorney Shuler answered yes.

Commissioner Boldt thanked Clerk Johnson for indulging them and having her Deputy Financial Clerk present and her staff in the future. He reported in looking at the devastation from Hurricane Michael and the times they have addressed financial issues today it gives him comfort and peace of mind that the financial staff is here to comment on issues. He reported as the Property Appraiser is potentially downgrading her opinion of what the potential taxable value of the property will be relative to the hurricane, they need to be thinking ahead about the money situation. Commissioner Boldt stated as they move forward thinking about millage rates and budgeting for next year he is pleased to know the financial staff can be here help them. He said the public will appreciate when they decide on that multiplier number that they have received historical information ahead of time. He commented he knows it takes county staff and energy to be here and he understands workload permitting they may not be here at every meeting but they appreciate it.

Mr. Pierce reported regarding the Triumph Board one of the options they are banding about which he thinks is a terrible idea is to use the Triumph money as a loan to the counties to make up the tax loss. Mr. Pierce said he does not think the county wants to hear anything about a loan because the county needs relief.

Chairman Lockley said he is receiving phone calls about the Airport Advisory Board and asked where they are on this matter. Mr. Pierce stated Mr. Jason Puckett, Airport Manager, can provide a timeline. He reported the update is going on for the Airport Master Plan and there is a component where citizens must give input and that is where the Advisory Board comes into play. He explained he is waiting for Mr. Puckett or Mr. John Collins, Avcon, to come to the Board and say where the county is in the schedule. Commissioner Parrish asked if they need an advisory board. He questioned if they can have a public hearing and have public input. Mr. Pierce said that may be correct but there must be public input. Commissioner Parrish said they must have public input but do not have to recreate the board. He said this has been functioning fine the way it is. He explained the airport is in his district and he does not think they need an Airport Advisory Board because it creates too much controversy. Commissioner Parrish stated he represents the people who live around the airport and he knows what they want and what they will put up with. He said they are looking for jobs at the airport and do not



need anyone telling them how to do it. Chairman Lockley asked if it is against the law not to have the board. Mr. Pierce stated they need public input. Commissioner Jones reported they must have public input but from what the ARPC said in relation to Chapter 333 the county does not need an advisory board because that would hinder them. He explained if they ever made that set of ordinances to turn into DOT the advisory board would not be needed but they would need public input. Commissioner Parrish said like a public hearing. Commissioner Jones agreed. Commissioner Parrish reported if they have a Airport Master Plan then they can take input from the public. Commissioner Boldt stated as a member of the Carrabelle Aviation Board for the last 3 years they have been a functioning board and have provided improvement to the airport. He said there has been a great deal of consultation with state and federal input and he feels there is a healthy process for the board. Commissioner Boldt stated he has found the watch care the board has over the airport has saved money. He said there are pros and cons and it is appropriate to look into it. Chairman Lockley stated he wants a motion so they can look into it so he will stop getting the phone calls. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion for research purposes to see whether an advisory board is appropriate for this airport. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley said they can decide whether to have or not have the board but the public must know one way or the other. **The motion passed by the following vote of the Board:**

**AYE: BOLDT, MASSEY, LOCKLEY**

**NAY: PARRISH, JONES**

Mr. Pierce said he will defer to the people that do the airport update and will ask Mr. Jason Puckett, Airport Manager, and the airport engineers to provide an update. Commissioner Boldt reported this is just research.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts