

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
APRIL 6, 2021
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Bert Boldt, II-Vice-Chairman, Noah Lockley, Joseph Parrish, Jessica V. Ward

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron—County Coordinator, Jessica Gay-Deputy Clerk to the Board

Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Prayer and Pledge

Chairman Jones acknowledged the passing of Izzy Mattocks on April 1, 2021 and offered up prayers for her family and friends.

Chairman Jones led the Board in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

A. March 16, 2021 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 16, 2021. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Jones made note that the vaccination pod was being run at the Eastpoint Church of God and not the Eastpoint Assembly of God as stated in previous meetings.

Payment of County Bills

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve payment of County Bills. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comments

Mr. David Covington homeowner at 665 E Gulf Beach Drive spoke to the Board about his concerns about the mobile vendors and the peddler's licenses.

Mr. Gordon Hunter homeowner at 2316 Tallyho said he would defer his comments until the AVCON discussion.

Property Appraiser -- Rhonda Skipper -- Request

A. Mrs. Skipper is requesting Board approval to purchase a new vehicle.

Mrs. Skipper was not present at the time her item came up so the Board moved on.

Department Directors Report

Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors

A. Informational Item

1. Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District Report (agenda packet).

Chairman Jones would like the ditches cleared on Cook Street on St. George Island.

Commissioner Boldt noted there is a speed limit sign near Cora Road that needs to be replaced.

Chairman Jones said all of the business district on St George Island was 25 mph except near Pine Drive. Attorney Shuler said a vote was needed in order to update the speed limit. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, an by a unanimous vote of the Board present it was agreed to update the speed limit near Pine Drive to reflect 25 mph to coincide with the rest of the business district. Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Nabors gave an update to the Board on the lighting on Hwy 98 from Red's Station to Burger King, and said he was waiting on a quote from Duke Energy. Chairman Jones said he has Duke Energy working on a quote for lighting on Hwy 98 in Eastpoint.

Chairman Jones moved back to the Property Appraiser's request.

Mrs. Skipper presented a request to purchase a new vehicle for the Property Appraiser's office noting the vehicle was made for work and not luxury. The total purchase price was \$30,247. Mrs. Skipper noted that FEMA will not reimburse mileage when a personal vehicle is used.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the purchase of a new vehicle for the Property Appraiser's office for \$30,247. Motion carried 4-0.

Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

A. Action Item

1. In the past, there has been an Animal Control Appeal Board to handle any appeals that would need to be heard. At this time the board has lost several members. I'm asking the board to appoint new members to serve on this board.

Mr. Davis recommended that the following members of the community be appointed to the Animal Control Appeal Board.

Bud Hayes, John Solomon, Dr. Hobson Fulmer, David Walker, Brett Mabry

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to appoint Bud Hayes, John Solomon, Dr. Hobson Fulmer, David Walker and Brett Mabry to serve on the Animal Control Appeal Board. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Informational Item

1. Right-of-Way Debris Pickup & Recycle Material Hauled Report (agenda packet).

Mr. Davis said his department had been working to install signs purchased through TDC funds and making improvements to the Eastpoint basketball court.

Chairman Jones requested Mr. Moron's informational item # 1 be brought up at this time. Chairman Jones announced the details for the ceremony.

2. SGI Bathroom Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: As a reminder, the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new St. George Island bathrooms is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 2 p.m. (ET).

Chairman Jones noted that the basketball goals on St. George Island need to be replaced. Mr. Davis said they have ordered replacements for St. George Island and Eastpoint. Commissioner Ward thanked Mr. Davis for revamping the Eastpoint basketball court.

Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Mrs. Brownell and Mrs. Daniels were unable to attend. However, Mrs. Brownell did not request the Board defer the opening of the bid packages.

Attorney Shuler informed the Board that the Clerk's office received a bid by mail that was not marked and inadvertently opened. Attorney Shuler directed the Clerk's office to reseal the envelope. The information was not removed from the envelope or read by the Clerk's office.

Mr. Moron stated for the record that the selection and review committee consisted of Tracy Buzbee, Jennifer Daniels, and Pam Brownell.

A. Action Item

1. Request the opening of the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program Bid packets and approval of the selection committee of EOC Staff and the Management Experts Staff. We will come back to the Board with the Bidder picked.

Mr. Pierce and Mr. Moron opened the bid packages as follows:

1. Florida Retrofits Inc. from Palm Bay Florida

Attorney Shuler stated for the record that this is the packet inadvertently opened by the Clerk's office. This packet did not include a summary.

2. Hydra Engineering and Construction from Crawfordville Florida

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board directed the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program Bid packets be turned over to the review committee for a recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Bid Opening

1. Notice is hereby given that the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners invites qualified firms to submit a bid for professional contractor services for the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program to complete wind retrofits on homes located within Franklin County.

C. Informational Items

1. EOC Staff and CERT Volunteers will be assisting Weems Hospital and Florida Department of Health Franklin at the COVID 19 Vaccine POD at Eastpoint Assembly of God Church on 04/06/21.
2. EOC Staff and CERT Volunteers assisted the Florida Department of Health Franklin at the COVID 19 Vaccine POD at Carrabelle Christian Center on 03/25/21.
3. EOC Staff virtually attended the FL-600 class on 03/30 and 03/31/21.
4. EOC is hosting a G-300 Class on 04/05-04/07/21.
5. EOC Staff have also assembled and distributed approximately 3600 COVID Care Bags to members of the vulnerable population throughout Franklin County. We will continue to assemble and distribute to vulnerable population as long as supply last.
6. EOC Staff continues to work Hurricane Sally from 09/12/20 and continues to work with FDEM and FEMA. Franklin County has two projects for Hurricane Sally both projects have had their DDD and Cost and Scope Signed off on. We have submitted the Project for CAT B Reimbursement. North Bayshore project has also been submitted.
7. IPAW/WEA/EAS System test will be completed by 03/31/21.
8. EOC Staff along with our CERT Volunteers continue to distribute washable & reusable cloth mask throughout our community. We have partnered with the City of Carrabelle and City of Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce along with the St. George Island & Eastpoint Visitor Centers to assist with distribution to local businesses and residents. We will continue this effort as long as supplies are available.
9. EOC Staff are working diligently with DOH Staff regarding the COVID-19 virus. This includes hosting meetings with representatives from DOH, Sheriff's Dept. Weems, and EMS, as needed. We also are assisting with Conference Calls, information distribution from DOH via Alert Franklin, Facebook and our EOC Website.
10. EOC Staff continue to participate in conference calls with State DEM, Region 2, DOH, FEMA, etc. regarding COVID 19. We also continue to update WebEOC with Local State of Emergency and SitReps.

Commissioner Boldt passed on a recommendation from Dr. Conrad that the Board considers passing an ordinance to allow the hospital to remain open during a state of emergency. Commissioner Lockley said the State mandates when the hospital must close during storms based on categories. Chairman Jones said the problem with leaving the hospital open may be having staff willing to stay. Mr. Pierce noted that the hospital building is not up to hurricane standards.

Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand

A. Informational Items

General Extension Activities:

1. During this period, the Extension office assisted citizens on the topics of soil report interpretation, live oak health in Carrabelle, plant identification, and more.

Sea Grant Extension:

2. Extension Director assisted UF's molluscan shellfish specialist during the bi-monthly field work on oyster aquaculture leases. Four cooperating growers are participating in a study to compare growth and survival of triploid oysters from two different parental lines (Louisiana

and Florida Broodstock). Temperature loggers have also been placed in growing bags to assess potential stressors that may be correlated with mortality events.

3. Extension Director participated in the ACF Stakeholders Governing Board annual meeting, conducted virtually this year.

4-H Youth Development:

4. Archery equipment was purchased for eight 4-H youth with donations from local citizens. The shooting sports club will be meeting for the first time on Saturday April 17th and encourage youth from the community to come. They will be meeting in Carrabelle at 2:00 p.m. Call Michelle Gray at 850-210-3277 to pre-register so numbers can be managed according to 4-H Covid protocol.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

5. Family Nutrition Program budget planning for the next fiscal year is being underway (grant funded).

Agriculture/Home Horticulture:

6. The Spring Master Gardener class in Franklin County will begin April 7 and occur each Wednesday for 13 weeks.

Chairman Jones announced the shooting sports club event coming up on April 17th and asked the public to contact Ms. Gray to pre-register.

Library Director – Whitney Roundtree

A. Informational Items

1. Thank you to the Friends of the Franklin County Library for their work on the grounds at the Carrabelle facility. The FOL supplied the funds and volunteers to renew the rock and bark and to add a few new plants to the landscaping. I have received many compliments regarding the project from members of the community.

2. The Panhandle Library Access Network has initiated a new advocacy effort, entitled My Florida Library. Post cards are available at both branch locations, highlighting various services libraries provide their communities that can be sent to legislators and local officials. To save our patrons and supporters from paying postage, FCPL will be collecting the completed postcards and forwarding them to legislators in large envelopes.

3. Representatives from Rebuild Florida, a housing repair and replacement program for Hurricane Michael, will be at the Franklin County Public Libraries on Wednesdays from 9:30

AM-4:30 PM. They will alternate locations and will be at the Eastpoint branch April 7th and 21st and at the Carrabelle branch April 14th and April 28th.

4. Upcoming Events:

Eastpoint Branch:

4/6- Diabetes Awareness Class at 10:00 AM

4/6- Book Chat at 1:30 PM

4/7- Rebuild Florida from 9:30 AM-4:30 PM

- 4/8- Anime Club at 4:00 PM
- 4/13- Story Time at 10:30 AM
- 4/21- Rebuild Florida from 9:30 AM-4:30 PM
- 4/21- Writer's Forum 1:00

Carrabelle Branch:

- 4/9- Book Chat at 1:30 PM
- 4/10- Story Time at 11:00 AM
- 4/13- Anime Club at 4:00 PM
- 4/14- Rebuild Florida from 9:30 AM-4:30 PM
- 4/15- Makerspace at 4:00 PM
- 4/28- Rebuild Florida from 9:30 AM-4:30 PM

RFP / RFO / Bids Opening

- A. Notice is hereby given that Franklin County, Florida (the "County") will accept sealed proposals until 4:00 PM (Eastern Time), on the 5th day of April, 2021, for the Franklin County, Florida, Buddy Ward 2020-2021 Artificial Reef Project.

Attorney Shuler noted the Clerk's office received a bid by mail that was not marked and inadvertently opened it. Attorney Shuler directed the Clerk's office to reseal the envelope. The information was not removed from the envelope or read by the Clerk's office.

Item moved from Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith – Report

A. Action Items

1. RFP Proposals for Buddy Ward Artificial Reef Project

Proposals were due yesterday for the Buddy Ward Artificial Reef Project and today we will open the responses. The project consists of the construction and deployment of at least 25 concrete prefabricated reef modules to construct three reef complexes in the Buddy Ward permit site located approximately 7.5 nautical miles off Bob Sikes Cut. Once the proposals are opened, the proposals will go to a review committee of which we suggest having two members of the Apalachicola Artificial Reef Association (as they are a contributing stakeholder for this project) and one member the FWC Artificial Reef Program. From AARA I would like to recommend Grayson Shepard and Bill Mudd and from FWC, Christine Kittle, a fisheries biologist with the program. Once the proposals are turned over to the committee, a cone of silence between the members of the review committee will be in place until reviewers return their completed score sheets to me before Friday, April 9th for the ranking to be compiled. If there is a consensus amongst the rankings, the committee and county staff will proceed with negotiations with the top ranked proposer and bring to the Board a contract for approval and ratification at your next meeting.

Mr. Pierce and Mr. Moron opened the bid package as follows:

- 1. Walter Marine from Orange Beach, Alabama

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to appoint Bill Mudd, Grayson Shepard, and Christine Kittle to the RFP Review Committee. Motion carried 5-0.

TDC Administrator – John Solomon – Report

A. Informational Item

1. The TDC Collections for the month of January 2021 are \$115,730.11, compared to January 2020 which was \$54,422.25 this is an increase of \$61,307.86 a 112.65% increase over the previous year. January 2020 was the previous highest ever collected in the month of January, this is the largest 1 month increase ever in any month.

Mr. Solomon thanked Mr. Davis and the Parks and Recreational Department for installation of the MOGY mat at Carrabelle Beach.

Attorney Shuler said the County has a cannon on loan to the Apalachicola Maritime Museum and asked the County to relocate the cannon to the new maritime museum. Attorney Shuler said it was placed on loan in 2013 single flair cannon to Apalachicola Maritime Museum which has been closed since Hurricane Michael. Attorney Shuler said the lease agreement does provide for the Board to recall. Attorney Shuler or Mr. Moron can send a letter requesting the cannon be relocated.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Attorney Shuler to send a letter to the Apalachicola Maritime Museum requesting the cannon be returned to the County. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Boldt commended Mr. Solomon on the mobile app noting the recent advertisement in the newspaper.

Chairman Jones called by a recess at 9:49 am and resumed the meeting at 10:00 am.

ARPC – Caroline Smith – Presentation

- A. Ms. Caroline Smith, Apalachee Regional Planning Council, will review a draft proposal for Code Enforcement Public Workshops in Franklin County. At the end of the presentation she will ask for any questions or comments from the Board.

Ms. Smith said the proposal included holding a workshop series to share best practices in similar communities and take public comment. The information will be compiled in a summary report and presented to the Board. Ms. Smith estimates this to be a summertime project starting around the 1st of June and completing in September. The quote for \$6,000 includes staff salaries and travel expenses. The workshops will give an overview of how the county is feeling about code enforcement.

Commissioner Lockley asked if there will be information on how other counties are handling code enforcement. Ms. Smith said that is something they could research and that they did include research time in the estimate.

Chairman Jones asked if the workshops will be held in person or by Zoom. Mr. Moron said they could use the County's Zoom account for the workshops. Chairman Jones said he likes the live option also because some may not have the capability to attend virtually. Commissioner Parrish asked how they will be advertised. Mr. Moron said they will be advertised on the County's website, Oyster Radio, newspaper, and social media.

Commissioner Parrish said he thought each commissioner should attend the meetings in their district to get a good perspective of how their constituents feel about code enforcement. Commissioner Lockley said he believes code enforcement will be a good thing. Commissioner Ward feels that this helps us coordinate data from other communities and will help to avoid commissioners overstepping. Chairman Jones said codes are for safety and that he believes there will be a lot of people ready to speak on this issue. Commissioner Boldt

said he would like for them to share data from similar counties and communities with us as well as guidelines and a recipe for how to do it.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the proposal from Apalachee Regional Planning Council for the Code Enforcement Public Workshops. Motion carried 5-0.

AVCON -- John Collins -- Update

- A. Mr. Collins present the updated set of fuel farm alternative locations exhibits and cost estimates. He will review the option recommended by the Airport Manager, Centric staff and County staff for additional comments or questions from the Board.

Mr. Collins presented three different locations for the fuel farm, asking for the Board's input. Mr. Collins said the Triumph board views the fuel farm as an important asset because it will facilitate 24-hour access to fuel in the event of a hurricane. Mr. Collins said the preferred alternative is option 1C because it will allow us to stay within budget. Mr. Pierce urged the Board to stay within the budget and not go above the funds that are allotted. He said it may be possible to acquire the additional funds from Triumph by amending the application but he would not advise it. Commissioner Parrish said he preferred option 1A. The Board and Mr. Collins discussed the pros and cons of the different options as well as the costs.

Mr. Ted Mosteller spoke to the Board in opposition of the proposed locations of the fuel farm alternative project.

Mr. Gordon Hunter spoke to the Board in opposition of the proposed locations of the fuel farm alternative project.

Commissioner Boldt asked if a public hearing or workshop could be held to discuss the fuel farm alternative project and options.

Commissioner Boldt made a motion to hold a workshop for public input to discuss options for fuel farm location. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion with a comment on whether or not there were any deadlines on the use of the funds from Triumph. The Board discussed the process and how far out the project will be delayed. The Board scheduled the workshop for Wednesday, April 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried 4-1, Lockley opposed.

Chairman Jones requested a meeting with the airport administration to get a status on addressing the foliage issue.

Mr. Moron inquired on the status of the third runway. Mr. Collins said he will have to look into it. He said the inspector made a recommendation it be classified as a utility runway. Mr. Collins noted that the difference in the classifications is how much we have to clear around the runways and not the actual use.

Commissioner Boldt said whenever you classify a runway and you downgrade it you are impairing the future of the airport. He said we need to look at the vision of Franklin County and how we are growing.

The meeting recessed at 11:29 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:38 a.m.

Chris Langston -- Request

- A. Mr. Chris Langston would the Board to support, by a letter of support, Liberty County's efforts in obtaining state-owned property located in Tate's Hell State Forest, specifically the southeast corner, for the mining of fossilized shell to assist in the restoration of oyster reef complexes in Apalachicola Bay.

Commissioner Lockley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ward to approve writing a letter to support Liberty County's efforts in obtaining state-owned property located in Tate's Hell State Forest, specifically the southeast corner, for the mining of fossilized shell to assist in the restoration of oyster reef complexes in Apalachicola Bay with a provision that the County will not be a part of requesting funds to support the project and that the project will not work against the science to restore the bay.

Motion carried 3-2, Chairman Jones and Commissioner Parrish opposed.

ARPC -- Josh Adams -- Update

- A. Mr. Adams would like the Board to adopt the Apalachee Regional Resilience Collaborative. He will have a short presentation for the Board.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Apalachee Regional Resilience Collaborative. Motion carried 5-0.

Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith – Report

A. Action Items

1. RFP Proposals for Buddy Ward Artificial Reef Project

Proposals were due yesterday for the Buddy Ward Artificial Reef Project and today we will open the responses. The project consists of the construction and deployment of at least 25 concrete prefabricated reef modules to construct three reef complexes in the Buddy Ward permit site located approximately 7.5 nautical miles off Bob Sikes Cut. Once the proposals are opened, the proposals will go to a review committee of which we suggest having two members of the Apalachicola Artificial Reef Association (as they are a contributing stakeholder for this project) and one member the FWC Artificial Reef Program. From AARA I would like to recommend Grayson Shepard and Bill Mudd and from FWC, Christine Kittle, a fisheries biologist with the program. Once the proposals are turned over to the committee, a cone of silence between the members of the review committee will be in place until reviewers return their completed score sheets to me before Friday, April 9th for the ranking to be compiled. If there is a consensus amongst the rankings, the committee and county staff will proceed with negotiations with the top ranked proposer and bring to the Board a contract for approval and ratification at your next meeting.

Item previously addressed under RFP / RFQ / Bids Opening.

2. Establish Evaluation Committee for County-Wide Sand Dune Restoration Project and SGI Storm Water Improvements

Alan and I have been working with Melissa Beaudry, Langton Consulting, to finalize the RFQs for the two RESTORE Projects- the County-wide Sand Dune Restoration and the St. George Island Stormwater Improvements. The RFQ solicitations have been advertised in the Panama City News Herald, the Apalachicola Times, posted on the county website and posted on the governmental bid platform Demandstar. The Board will open the RFQs at the May 4th meeting.

When the RFQs are opened, the Board will need to create an Evaluation Committee to evaluate the responses and make a recommendation to the Board. The Evaluation Committee needs to be at least 3 people, and could be myself, Alan Pierce, and Mark Curenton. Upon selection of the firm, county staff will then negotiate with the firm to create

a budget to accomplish the Scope of Work in the RFQ. All costs associated with this work will be paid by RESTORE funds.

The goal of both projects is to develop construction plans and specifications that would be used in advertising for the construction of the projects. While this first phase of the projects is being completed, Langton will be working with Treasury to approve construction funds. It has been our experience it will take at least six months for Treasury to run through its MYIP amendment process.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board appointed Erin Griffith, Alan Pierce, and Mark Curenton to serve on the Evaluation Committee for the Countywide Sand Dune Restoration Project and SGI Storm Water Improvements. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Hurricane Michael FEMA Repairs Eastpoint Fishing Pier and C30A West Washouts

The Eastpoint Fishing Pier Restroom was structurally sound after the storm, however, the damages to the walkways, ramps, rip rap, and parking area was significant. C30West between Apalachicola and Indian Pass had two large washouts caused by extreme wind and surge during Hurricane Michael. Both large projects are in the final phase of design and permitting and the next step will be to advertise for bids for the repairs.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to proceed with the advertising for construction bids for the Eastpoint Fishing Pier Repairs and C30A Washouts Project. Motion carried 5-0.

4. CARES Act Expenditure Summary, Jail Coating and Sheriff's CAD System

Franklin County received \$2,115,719 in CARES funding based upon the documented cost of public safety personnel during the pandemic. To date, the county incurred over \$1.6 million dollars in direct expenditures related to COVID-19 response efforts. Nearly half of these funds were provided as aid to other governmental agencies (transfers to the Cities of Apalachicola and Carrabelle), grants to local businesses and assistance to local food pantries. The other half of these funds were used for operational expenditures relative to Coronavirus response including disinfectants, barriers, large scale software and computer upgrades to provide cloud-based access with limited interaction, and capital outlay funds for kiosks, message boards and digital scanners. Of the balance available there is one outstanding COVID remediation request for an estimated \$62,558 in antibacterial and antimicrobial surfacing of over 10,000 square feet of the jail. Another item for consideration is to pay outright for the \$192,855.54 computer animated dispatch system for the Sheriff's Department in lieu of the prior approval to pursue financing for this software. Should the Board proceed with the two proposed items above, this will leave approximately \$228,793.11 in CARES funds available. The CARES cost tracking workbook is attached.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized going out to bid for the antibacterial and antimicrobial surfacing of the jail and the utilization of CARES funds for the E-Force Computer Animated Dispatch System in lieu of financing. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Informational Items

1. Update on Eastpoint and Two Mile Dredging Projects

a. Alan has been in contact with various USACOE personnel for updates on the dredging projects. The status is complicated because there are multiple people working on different parts of the projects. Some Corps staff is working with Washington to push the needed Memorandum of Agreement through the Congressional Budget Office. Other Corps staff is working with FDEP to finalize the Eastpoint Spoil design. The latest variation to the spoil design is the creation of a vegetated fringe along the disposal field to stabilize the perimeter. Because the county owns the spoil disposal area, the Corps say it is county's responsibility to maintain it which entails creating and planting the vegetated fringe. Alan has been in contact with Ms. Jenna Harper, ANERR, and she has tentatively agreed to use her staff and volunteers to plant the vegetation. At this time Mark and Alan have talked about asking the county's Soil Conservation Board, of which they both serve, for the funds to buy the plants that ANERR would use. The budget that Alan and Ms. Harper have discussed is around \$5K. The goal would be for the county to provide ANERR with a base quantity of plants which they would grow out so that ANERR would produce more plants that they would use on projects they want to accomplish. FWC must approve the vegetation plan so Alan has been working with FWC staff to develop a suitable plan.

b. After much communication between all parties, in summary the Corps will not initiate dredging in the county until after the peak of the 2021 Hurricane season, which is mid-September. The Corps does not want to create the Eastpoint Disposal area at the start of hurricane season for fear the unconsolidated material will be too fluid if a hurricane, or even a tropical storm, were to come near Eastpoint. The Corps does not want to repeat what happened in 1985, when the Eastpoint channel was dredged and then the 1985 hurricane season came along and moved a lot of the recently dredged material right back into the channel. If this were to happen, the Corps and the County would be out of luck, and out \$5M. The Corps is also working on the Two Mile dredging permit with FDEP.

c. The county has received the final version of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) from the Corps. It is attached to this report. Alan sent it to Mr. Shuler for his comments. In general, the comments Mr. Shuler and Alan provided the Corps are:

i. There is no commencement date on the MOA. The county does not want to provide funds months in advance of when the dredging occurs. Alan has talked to the Corps and they think they can work the timeline so that the county would provide funds 30 days in advance of dredging.

ii. The MOA says the county will be obligated to pay in full the \$5M of local funds within 30 days of signing the MOA, even though they are acknowledging dredging will not occur until at least September, as discussed above. In discussions with Corps staff, they have told Alan that they would not expect full payment as they acknowledge there are two dredging projects. The Corps staff is mulling over wording change. The Corps staff seems willing to accept payment for each project as it occurs. Mr. Shuler is also concerned that the MOA as written provides the Corps with the authority to approve a dredging budget more than the \$5M. Mr. Shuler is asking for the Corps to provide the county with the right to reduce the scope to stay within budget.

iii. Section 7 of the Agreement says the Corps gets to keep any county funds in excess of what is used in the project. The Corps staff says that is not what is intended, as the Corps does return unused funds to the contributor, so the Corps is going to review that language.

iv. Section 9 of the Agreement does not include the sovereign immunity language established by the State of Florida. Mr. Shuler has asked that this language be included in the Agreement.

Commissioner Ward stated for the record that the County is not the one holding up the dredging project and we are at the mercy of the Corps. Commissioner Lockley echoed Commissioner Ward's comments. Commissioner Boldt said he feels the Corps is holding the bay hostage in connection to the water wars.

d. Alan has confirmed with Consortium staff that the Consortium only works on a reimbursement basis. The Consortium staff thinks the county's project should be awarded in the next few weeks, but since the Consortium will only reimburse the county for work done, it appears it will be necessary to arrange some short-term financing for the projects. In the best scenario, the Corps will allow the county to provide its funds shortly before dredging commences. The county would borrow the money through FAC, front it to the Corps, and then when the Eastpoint Channel is dredged, and the Corps confirms it is completed, the county would then get fully reimbursed by the Consortium. The dredging project is only supposed to take 6 weeks once started, so it is not a long-term financing project. The same scenario would repeat for the Two Mile Channel.

County Coordinator - Michael Morón - Report

A. Action Items

1. E911 Grant & GEOCOMM Software: The Sheriff's Office requested the Chairman's signature on the E911 Rural Grant Application and the GEOCOMM GeoLynx software and support services. Mrs. Griffith reviewed both documents and determined that both are annual agreements.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified the Chairman's signature on the E911 Rural Application and the GeoLynx software and support services. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Ryan Drive: At your January 5th meeting the Board authorized Commissioner Ward to seek quotes and funding to perform repairs to Ryan Drive. Quotes for the repairs are attached and the cost of the repairs will be paid from District Five's paving fund and the City of Carrabelle, who agreed to cost share in this project. The extensive repairs indicates that an emergency declaration should be part of the Board's action in authorizing this project today. In addition, if Commissioner Ward thinks it necessary, authorizing Attorney Shuler to negotiate a cost share agreement with the City of Carrabelle should also be considered today.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to authorize the repairs to Ryan Drive project, declare it an emergency project, and authorize Attorney Shuler to negotiate a cost share agreement with the City of Carrabelle to pay for half of the repair cost. The total cost to fully repair is \$90,065.

Commissioner Ward amended her motion to include the City of Carrabelle agreeing to have their engineer draw a set of plans at no cost to the County and paying for the survey. Commissioner Ward asked that Attorney Shuler add this language to the agreement. Commissioner Boldt seconded the amended motion.

Commissioner Boldt commended the County and the City of Carrabelle on working together on this project.

Motion carried 5-0.

3. SGI Project: While the SGI Landscaping Project is under construction, Commission Jones would like to use \$1,650 of his Local Option Gas Tax (LOGT) road paving funds to add receptacles along the right of way of Franklin Boulevard down to the welcome sign.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, to approve the \$1,650 expense to add receptacles along the section of the right of way to be paid out of District 1's paving funds.

Chairman Jones noted this would be installing receptacles to the new palm trees recently added.

Motion carried 5-0.

4. Building Official Agreement Extension: As Mr. Steve Paterson is working on obtaining his Provisional Building Official certificate, it is necessary to extend the agreement with Mr. Garry Millender for Building Official services for the unincorporated county area on a month-to-month basis. Mr. Paterson is waiting for an appointment to appear before the State Board, which should meet later this month, and then he should have his certificate in May.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board agreed to extend the agreement with Mr. Gary Millender for Building Official services for the unincorporated county area on a month-to-month basis.

Attorney Shuler noted the extension would be on the same terms as the previous agreement just on a month-to-month basis.

Motion carried 5-0.

5. Legislative Budget Reductions: As the Board is aware, there are proposed reductions in the Department of Corrections upcoming state budget that may result in the closing of at least 4 prisons statewide. As far as I know, there is no specific prisons that have been identified, but there is language in the Senate Proposed Appropriations bill that outlines a process leading to consolidation and closure. With the assistance of Mr. Fonda Davis, the Warden is tentatively scheduled to appear at your April 20th meeting, to discuss inmate labor and more than likely proposed prison closings.

There is a proposed \$20 million transfer from FDOT's Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) and Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) to a new Rural Arterial

Program that is not as specific about who is eligible to receive funds, which would reduce the amount of available funding for the county.

There are also proposed cuts to healthcare and hospitals, especial Medicaid. Mr. David Walker, Weems CEO, is joining with other state agencies in their efforts to contact Senator Ausley and Representative Shoaf about this possible budget reduction.

I think it is important that this Board continue to discuss all of these proposed cuts with Senator Ausley and Representative Shoaf.

Commissioner Parrish expressed his concern about prison closures noting he had spoken with one of our legislative representatives voicing his concerns. Mr. Moron said we have an advantage of a new building and a disadvantage of shortage in staff. Commissioner Ward said she had spoken to one of our representatives emphasizing the prison being a large employment opportunity for displaced local seafood workers.

Commissioner Boldt voiced his concern and noted the importance of the prison as an employment opportunity for our area. Chairman Jones encouraged the Board to continue

voicing their concerns to the legislative representatives. Mr. Moron also noted the possible budget cuts for healthcare, hospitals, and Medicaid.

6. FAC Summer Conference: Registration is open for the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference and Educational Exposition in Orange County from June 29 – July 2, 2021. If you are planning on attending, please inform Mrs. Cortni Bankston as soon as possible so that she can secure your accommodations.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize travel and expenses for Commissioners, staff, and Attorney Shuler for the FAC Annual Conference and Educational Exposition. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Informational Items

1. Weems Audit: At the Weems Board of Directors March 25, 2021 regular meeting, Mr. Bryan Hall Jr. of Carr, Riggs and Ingram reviewed the 2019 – 2020 audit with the Board. I forwarded the audit to you by email that afternoon. If you have any questions regarding the audit, let me know and I can setup a meeting with Mr. David Walker and/or Mr. Bryan Hall Jr.

Commissioner Boldt spoke briefly on the audit commending hospital management and staff.

2. SGI Bathroom Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: As a reminder, the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new St. George Island bathrooms is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 2p.m. (ET).

3. FDOT & Causeway Update: At a previous meeting, I was directed to contact FDOT regarding the condition of the northside of the causeway as it was causing distress to drivers that were towing or pulling a load. Carter Johnson, FDOT's Government Affairs Liaison, has been very helpful on this matter. He is in the process of trying to add permanent repairs to the causeway as part of a resurfacing job set for construction late 2022/early 2023, but will try and do some temporary repairs in the interim.

4. FDOT Bridge Reports: Below is a link to FDOT's reports for the bridge over Crooked River on CR67 and the bridge over Womack Creek on CR67. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Mr. Howard Nabors, Road and Bridge Superintendent.

5. LSE COVID-19: As authorized by the Board, Chairman Jones signed COVID-19 Local State of Emergency Declarations for the weeks starting March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th.

County Attorney – Michael Shuler – Report

Attorney Shuler noted that he was not able to coordinate the parking ordinance hearing for today but that it is set for the April 20th meeting. Attorney Shuler said he is waiting for follow up from the newspaper to confirm the advertisement publication.

Chairman Jones acknowledged the mobile vendor units, the designated public parking areas and the beach accesses as valid concerns. Chairman Jones said we have not addressed the number of parking spaces designated at each parking area. Chairman Jones voiced his concerns over booting cars before these areas were designated.

Commissioner Boldt echoed the same thing on Alligator Point noting that we need to know how many parking spots we have designated. Attorney Shuler said he had concerns about jumping into booting and immobilization before addressing the issues with parking and non-parking access. Commissioner Boldt

asked if the parking could be included in the ordinance. Attorney Shuler noted that a hearing will be held on April 20th to discuss the issues associated with parking.

Tax Collector Request to Sale County Owned Partial Lots

Attorney Shuler presented a request from the Tax Collector to sale two partial lots in Carrabelle owned by the county to the adjacent property owners. Due to the value being less than \$15,000, Attorney Shuler said there was an exception to the general rule where bidding is required. In the event there are two adjacent property owners, the sale would go to the highest bidder.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to authorize the sale of the two partial lots in Carrabelle owned by the County to the adjacent property owners.

Chairman Jones asked if the lots were buildable. Attorney Shuler confirmed they were partial lots.

Motion carried 5-0.

Regional 911 MOU

Attorney Shuler recommended the Board authorize Chairman Jones to sign the Regional 911 MOU. Attorney Shuler noted he had some concern with the withdrawal penalty and would have preferred to have a cap on the amount. However, Attorney Shuler believes the benefit to the county outweighs the risk.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on the Regional 911 MOU. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Jones would like the Board to discuss creating an ordinance to allow the County to perform maintenance on private roads in order to ensure they are passable by emergency service vehicles. The cost of the improvements would be paid by the property owners. Attorney Shuler said he can present a draft ordinance for the Board's discussion at a future meeting.

Commissioner Boldt requested that Attorney Shuler provide a position paper in regards to the Franklin County MSBU concerns. Attorney Shuler noted the internal operations had already been reviewed by a CPA but he can give a memorandum on the ordinance and what is and isn't required.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Lockley asked for an update on the road by the courthouse. Mr. Moron said there is a major repair needed. Commissioner Ward said the city commissioners reported at their last meeting that they are working to get this repaired.

Chairman Jones asked them to make the parking lot two-way. Attorney Shuler said the state-mandated the street be turned into a one-way street due to ADA requirements. Attorney Shuler misunderstood what road they were referring to. Chairman Jones is requesting that Leslie Street be turned into a two-way.

Attorney Shuler said official action is needed to request the city convert Leslie Street into a two way street.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to request the City of Apalachicola convert Leslie Street into a two way street. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Lockley a lot of discussion about the airport but he doesn't feel like it is a benefit to our county.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts