

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

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

9:00 AM

MINUTES

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

Commissioners Absent: Noah Lockley

Others Present: Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, and Jessica Gay-Deputy Clerk to the Board

Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge

Commissioner Boldt said a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

A. February 2, 2021 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 2, 2021. Motion carried 4-0.

Payment of County Bills

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

Awards and Recognitions

Recognition of Mrs. Amy Ham-Kelly's years of services as the County's Zoning Administrator and Floodplain Manager.

Chairman Jones, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Parrish, Commissioner Boldt, Mr. Moron, and Mr. Pierce voiced their appreciation for Mrs. Amy Ham-Kelly's dedication and service to the County for twenty years. A personalized clock was presented to Mrs. Ham-Kelly as a token of their appreciation.

Due to the absence of Commissioner Lockley, Mr. Moron informed the Board that the Sapp's would like to postpone the public hearing until March 16th @ 10:30 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to postpone the public hearings on the Sapp's Land Use Change to March 16th at 10:30 a.m. (ET). Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comments

Mr. Joshua Gabel from Senator Marc Rubio's office joined the meeting via Zoom to reiterate the continued support from the Senator's office. Mr. Gabel noted their office was continuing engagement on items affecting Franklin County recovery, for instance, the Apalachicola bay issues, Alligator Point, etc. Mr. Gabel said if anyone had any questions or concerns to please reach out to him by cell phone.

Chairman Jones thanked him for attending and for the email he sent out regarding the fire department grants, noting the County sent out letters to fire departments in Franklin County making them aware of the opportunity. Mr. Gabel said his office will provide a letter of support when the time comes.

Mr. Ted Mosteller said he filled out a speaker card, however, he did not have any specific item to speak on at this time.

Mr. Steve Kirshenbaum spoke to the Board via Zoom to thank them for taking runway 18/36 out of the Master Plan for closure and for exploring the idea to create an airport advisory board. Mr. Kirshenbaum spoke to the Board about land clearing that needed to be done to bring the entire airport in compliance.

Department Directors Report

Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors

A. Informational Item

1. Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District (attached)

Mr. Nabors gave a brief description of work performed to the Board noting his department's work clearing ditches and culverts. Mr. Nabors said the issues with Alligator Point were resolved on Thursday. However, with all of the rain, it has washed out again.

Chairman Jones asked Mr. Nabors to check on Shuler Street in Eastpoint noting the ditches do not seem to be clear.

Commissioner Boldt would like to check in to the resurfacing and widening of Alligator Drive as it comes in off of Hwy 98. Commissioner Boldt said the striping is worn and faded, and very dim at night and when it is raining. Commissioner Boldt would like guidance from Mr. Nabors on obtaining bids from Roberts and Roberts. Mr. Nabors said he will coordinate with Commissioner Boldt.

Mr. Moron presented the following item from his report.

2. Bridges at Syrup Branch & Trout Creek: At your November 17, 2020 the Board was informed of extensive repairs, based on FDOT inspections that are needed to the bridges at Syrup Branch and Trout Creek, both located in Tate's Hell Forest. These bridges are used mostly by the State, loggers, campers, and hunters as there are no private property owners in that area. The Board directed staff to research how and why the County became owners of the roads leading up to both bridges, Mr. Howard Nabors and Mr. Alan Pierce should be able to shed light on that matter this morning. With that information, I recommend that the Board start the abandonment process for the roads leading to both bridges. If the Board proceeds with that action, the maintenance of the bridges will then revert to the State, keeping in mind that the State benefits from the fees paid by loggers, hunters, and campers. If the Board does not proceed with abandonment of the roads, our only funding option is applying for a FDOT SCOP Bridge grant which is very competitive and will only help with one bridge. The County has applied for this grant in the past but has never scored high enough to be successful.

Mr. Moron, Mr. Pierce, and Mr. Nabors discussed the conditions of the bridge and the logging back and forth which will continue to disintegrate the bridge. Commissioner Ward stated she rode out to the bridge and there are no private homes or residences in the area that would be affected by the bridge closure.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to abandon the bridges at Syrup Branch and Trout Creek.

Commissioner Parrish inquired as to whether the road itself was a County road. Commissioner Parrish said if the County is going to abandon the bridges, we need to abandon the road also.

Mr. Moron recommended that the Board approve the closure of the road leading up to the bridges. Mr. Nabors said the State will shut down the roads if the bridges are not open. Attorney Shuler asked if these bridges required being shut down now. Mr. Nabors said he would not close down now but would wait for the State's report.

Mr. Moron recommended the Board allow Mr. Nabors and Mr. Curenton to work together and determine how much of the road needs to be abandon. Attorney Shuler asked if there are alternate routes to get around the bridges if the 6.6 mile road is abandon. Mr. Nabors said there are alternative routes and the public would not be closed off from the forest. Commissioner Parrish said he thinks the County should abandon the entire road and let the State take ownership and maintain it.

Commissioner Ward amended her motion to allow Mr. Curenton and Mr. Nabors to work together and determine how much of the road needs to be abandoned, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present.

Commissioner Boldt said he is glad we are having this conversation and thanked the County for maintaining the road at Alligator Point. Commissioner Parrish said if they are continuing to log on this bridge, he would like to move quickly in setting a public hearing. Attorney Shuler said a hearing can be scheduled once a legal description is determined and a notice published in the paper for abandonment, possibly by the March 16th meeting.

Motion carried 4-0.

Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

A. Informational Item

1. Right-of-Way Debris Pickup/Recycle Material Hauled Report (attached)

Commissioner Boldt informed the Board the City of Carrabelle is holding a public meeting regarding trash pickup.

Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

A. Informational Items

1. EOC Staff and CERT Volunteers assisted the Florida Department of Health Franklin at the COVID 19 Vaccine POD on 02/05/20.
2. EOC Staff has placed 6 of the 7 COVID Cares Kiosk throughout Franklin County. They are at the following locations: Apalachicola Post Office and Chamber, City of Carrabelle Chamber and Courthouse Annex, Eastpoint Napa, St. George Island Visitors Center, and the final Kiosk will be placed at Chillas Hall in Lanark Village. These Kiosk will allow the EOC to Display COVID information pertaining to vaccines, testing, protections, etc.
3. EOC Staff have also placed Sanitation Stations with the Kiosk and also at the Library in Carrabelle and Eastpoint.
4. EOC Staff have also assembled and distributed approximately 3000 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.
5. EOC Staff have submitted our EMPG & EMPG-S grants for reimbursement. We will be submitting EMPA this week.

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.

7. Amanda Anthony and Jennifer Daniels passed the All Hazards Events class online with Texas A&M University on 01/28/21. Pamela Brownell is scheduled for the February Class.

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, 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.

11. EOC Staff continue to work on FEMA reimbursement claims from Hurricane Michael. This includes working with FEMA staff regarding mitigation of damaged parks, roads, etc. Mitigation takes some time but EOC Staff continue to work diligently with FEMA Staff on the most beneficial repairs for Franklin County. We are in contact with our PDMG regularly regarding these projects and will update the Board as soon as the State Review is completed. EOC Staff has also began the FEMA reimbursement claim process for COVID-19 and Hurricane Sally.

Mr. Moron informed the Board that Weems will start administering Covid vaccinations. All constitutional officers are asked to compile a list of employees who are under 65 with underlying health issues who would like to receive the vaccine.

Mr. Pierce commended Mrs. Brownell and her staff for a very organized event.

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 sample results, local area paddling trails, vegetable garden seed distribution to local libraries, and more.

Sea Grant Extension:

2. Extension Director met with UF's molluscan shellfish specialist and other UF molluscan shellfish scientists regarding a grant proposal to study the Ecosystem Services (i.e. nitrogen removal) provided by the shellfish aquaculture industry. If funded, some of the study sites would be in Franklin County, Alligator Harbor.

3. Extension Director participated in an online workshop hosted by the Gulf Shellfish Institute on the subject of hard clam biology and their role in the ecosystem.

4-H Youth Development:

4. Our 4H youth District Council met to discuss potential youth activities in the coming months and plan accordingly.

5. County Extension staff coordinated the annual 4H Public Speaking Competition to determine County-level winners, who will move on to the District competition in April.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

6. Family Nutrition Program assistant continues to conduct in-person lessons in local schools, with required safety measures in place.

Agriculture/Home Horticulture:

7. Provided advice to City of Apalachicola regarding recently planted cedar tree.

Commissioner Boldt inquired as to whether Mr. Lovestrاند could obtain a report on an update of the bay. Mr. Lovestrاند said he would try to find out how often they are taking the survey and see if he can get access to this information.

TDC Administrator -- John Solomon -- Report

A. Informational Item

1. The November 2020 collections were \$86,469.54 compared to 2019 collections which were \$57,067.01. This is an increase of \$29,402.53 a 51.5% increase over the 2019.

Chairman Jones called for short recess at 9:58 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Evergreen Solutions LLC -- Dr. Jeff Ling (President) -- Presentation

A. Evergreen Solutions LLC. President, Dr. Jeff Ling, will discuss, with a presentation, the development of a job classification and pay plan for County employees.

Dr. Ling presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board.

Commissioner Ward inquired as to how long the study would take. Dr. Ling said it should be complete in about 90 days. Mr. Moron noted that this would only cover county employees, and not constitutional officers and their employees. Mr. Moron asked Dr. Ling what would be his recommendation. Dr. Ling said it has been done both ways but noted cost savings would be passed on to the County if they included the constitutional officers. Commissioner Parrish said the constitutionals did not figure this into their budgets. Commissioner Parrish recommends including the constitutional officers. Commissioner Ward agrees the constitutional officers should be included and would like to get this going as soon as possible to have budget discussions in July. Dr. Ling said he should be able to meet the 90-day timeline if all employees are included. Commissioner Boldt concurred that we should do this consistently. Mr. Moron informed the Board that Evergreen Solutions, LLC was part of the state contract. Attorney Shuler said state law does not require the Board to bid out these services.

Dr. Ling will speak with Mrs. Griffith this week to provide a proposal. Mr. Moron will bring a true proposal at the next meeting for the board to approve at that time.

Planning and Zoning – Cortni Bankston – Report

Critical Shoreline Applications

A. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock located at 261 River Road, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Applicant will be contingent upon Federal Permits. The Dock walkway will be 27x8 Foot with a 8x40 Hinged Floating Terminus. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for William Phelan, applicant. (Proposed House) **Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval contingent upon Federal Permits.**

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the construction of a Single Family Private Dock located at 261 River Road, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida contingent upon Federal Permits. Motion carried 4-0.

- B. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Dock and Boat Ramp located at 315 Gander Street, Lot 4 Block 51 Unit 5, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Applicant will be contingent upon State and Federal Permits. The Dock walkway will be 34x4 with a 8x20 Terminus and a 12x38 Boat Ramp. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for Terry Mick, applicant. (Proposed House) **Planning & Zoning Board Recommended approval contingent upon State and Federal Permits.**

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the construction of a Single Family Private Dock and Boat Ramp located at 315 Gander Street, Lot 4 Block 51 Unit 5, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida contingent upon State and Federal Permits. Motion carried 4-0.

- C. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Residential Pier located at 1721 East Gulf Beach Drive, Lot 11 Shell Harbour, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. State and Federal Permits attached. The Pier will be 168x4 over Marsh & 30x4 over open waters with a 6x20 Terminus with a 6x20 step down. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for Bruce Schneider, applicant. (Proposed House) **Planning & Zoning Board Recommended to approve.**

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the construction of a Single Family Residential Pier located at 1721 East Gulf Beach Drive, Lot 11 Shell Harbour, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 4-0.

Final Plat Approval

- A. Consideration of a request for Final Plat Approval of a 5.66 acre parcel of land lying in Section 36, Township 8 South, Range 7 West, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. The subdivision will be named "The Bluffs of North Bayshore" and will consist of 5 lots over 1 acre each. Request submitted by Andy Durham, agent for LMKS, LLC. **Planning & Zoning Board Recommended approval.**

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve a Final Plat of a 5.66 acre parcel of land lying in Section 36, Township 8 South, Range 7 West, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 4-0.

Commercial Site Plan Application

- A. Consideration of a request for Commercial Site Plan Review of a 7,636 square feet Retail Commercial Building over 6 Lots described as Lots 3, Lot 5, Lot 6, Lot 7, Lot 28, and Lot 25 Block 6E Unit 1, St. George Island, Franklin County Florida. Request submitted by Lance Watson, Southeastern Consulting Engineers, Agent for Yaish Alon. **Planning & Zoning Board recommend approval contingent upon Septic and Storm Water review approvals.**

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve a Commercial Site Plan Review of a 7,636 square feet Retail Commercial Building over 6 Lots described as Lots 3, Lot 5, Lot 6, Lot 7, Lot 28, and Lot 25 Block 6E Unit 1, St. George Island, Franklin County Florida. Motion carried 4-0.

Lot Re-Configuration

- A. Consideration of a request for amendment of the St. James Bay PUD to allow for the construction of 16 more golf villas and a 72 room Inn in St. James Bay, Franklin County Florida. Request submitted by Robert A. Williams, Agent for St. James Bay PUD. **Planning & Zoning Board recommend approval to go before Public Hearing.**

Attorney Shuler informed the Board that Commissioner Boldt entered into a lease agreement with the parties several years ago. Therefore, Commissioner Boldt has a conflict and is unable to vote on this matter. Attorney Shuler also noted he was a property owner in Lanark Village. However, he did not feel that this caused a conflict for him.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve an amendment of the St. James Bay PUD to allow for construction of 16 more golf villas and a 72 room inn in St. James Bay, Franklin County, Florida.

Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Boldt recused.

Public Hearings 10:30am (ET)

- A. 10:30 a.m. (ET): Consideration of a request for Land Use Change of a 6.08 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2514 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida from Residential to Commercial. Request submitted by Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.
- B. 10:35 a.m. (ET): Consideration of a request to Re-Zone a 6.08 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2514 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida from R-2 Single Family Mobile Home to C-3 Commercial Recreation. Request submitted by Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.
- C. 10:40 a.m. (ET): Consideration of a request for Land Use Change of a 10 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2536 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida from Agriculture and Residential to Commercial. Request submitted by Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.
- D. 10:45 a.m. (ET): Consideration of a request for a Re-Zoning of a 10 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2536 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida from A-2 Forestry Agriculture and R-2 Residential to C-3 Commercial Recreation. Request submitted by Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.

Mr. Moron announced the applicant and County mutually agreed to continue the Sapp's Land Use Change Requests and Re-Zoning Requests Public Hearings to Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. (ET). The County anticipates that all Commissioners will be in attendance at this meeting.

Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell – Report

Madam Clerk did not have a report for the Board and was absent due to attending a Clerk's Conference.

Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith – Report

A. Action Items

1. Authorization for Chairman to sign the Title VI / Nondiscrimination Assurance Form and renew the Title VI and Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan: The county abides by nondiscriminatory policies and procedures and State and Federal Grants require the acknowledgement and documentation of these practices every three years. The previous acknowledgement and policy were last signed in February of 2018. The updated documents are attached to this report.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the chairman to sign the Title VI / Nondiscrimination Assurance Form and renew the Title VI and Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Approval of three resolutions and ranking Transportation Alternatives: Requesting adoption of the attached three resolutions from the Board authorizing the Chairman to sign the grant applications for the three Transportation Alternatives projects the County is applying for this year: a sidewalk along Otter Slide Road and Avenue A in Eastpoint, a multi-use path along River Road in Carrabelle, and the widening/resurfacing of the multi-use path on St. George Island between 6th Street East and 7th Street West. The Board also needs to rank these applications. Based upon funding viability, Mark Curenton recommends ranking the Otter Slide and Avenue A project first, the River Road project second and the St. George Island project third.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the adoption of the three resolutions and confirm the suggested ranking of the projects as recommended. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Ward thanked Chairman Jones and the Board for prioritizing the project in her district.

3. Approval to advertise for CEI services Alligator Point Multi-Use Path: The Planning Office is requesting approval from the Board to proceed with advertising for a consultant to provide CEI services for the construction of the Alligator Point Multi-Use Path at Alligator Point from George Vause Street to Gulf Shore Boulevard. FDOT has recommended proceeding with selecting a CEI consultant for this phase of the project. This consultant will be paid out of the FDOT grant for this phase of the project.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the adoption of the advertisement for CEI services for the Alligator Point Multi-Use Path. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Jones inquired as to whether past problems have been addressed. Commissioner Boldt confirmed.

4. Approval of Amendment Two / DEO Grant Time Extension: In October of 2019, Franklin County received a \$750,000 Hurricane Michael Assistance Grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. This grant will fund the 12.5% FEMA match for the repair/replacement of Alligator Drive and the 12.5% match for the C30 East and West shoulder repairs. The total obligated FEMA cost estimate for Alligator Drive is \$5,583,530 and the C30 East and West Repairs is \$387,336. Franklin County will be opening bids for the construction of Alligator Drive at the next meeting and the design work for the C30 repairs is underway. This extension will extend the grant agreement end date from June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2022 for these two projects.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the chairman to sign the extension agreement for the DEO Hurricane Michael Assistance Grant DL012. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Approval of Amendment One / Airport Master Plan Update Grant: In March of 2019, Franklin received a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation for the Airport Master Plan Update. This project had been delayed due to COVID-19 with the public meeting for input having to be rescheduled until just this past November – approximately nine months were lost in the overall schedule of this project due to the Pandemic. This project will be complete no later than December 31, 2021 and this amendment will move the original end date of the contract from March 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Mr. Pierce noted the Runway 6-24 Lighting Rehabilitation Grant G1795 required an extension agreement also and asked the Board to approve.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the chairman to sign the extension agreement and Resolution of Authorization for the Airport Master Plan Update Grant G1695 and Resolution of Authorization for the Runway 6-24 Lighting Rehabilitation Grant G1795. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Informational Items

1. RESTORE Update: After the January 29th Conference Call with the US Treasury regarding RESTORE Franklin County was awaiting answers from Treasury in regards to RESTORE grant procedures:

a. Franklin County had asked permission to begin advertising for design consultants on the dune restoration project and the St. George Island Stormwater project while Treasury finished the review of various documents submitted by Langton. Treasury responded that Franklin County can begin advertising for design consultants while the review is ongoing, however, the contract should not be awarded until the review is finalized and the grant is formally approved.

b. Franklin County asked for permission to submit an amendment to the MYIP (Multi-Year Implementation Plan) for construction funds while the Planning grant is being utilized. Treasury responded with clarification of when an amendment would actually be needed. An amendment to the MYIP would be required if there was a material change in direct component funds resulting from "the addition of a new activity or change to the scope or size of an existing activity". "Minor changes to a budget activity" is a non-material change that would not require an amendment. Treasury is encouraging Franklin County to include both planning and implementation phases simultaneously in the MYIP so the public can comment at the same time and expedite the process. Langton Consulting will assist with preparation and submittal of the MYIP for construction funds.

c. Franklin County asked for permission to make Budget amendments between the two construction grants at a staff level without having to get a full MYIP amendment. Treasury responded that an amendment would not be required unless amounts varied significantly from the amount budgeted or if there was a material modification, if the differences were to be material, then a full MYIP review would be required.

Once the County receives the go ahead and the planning grants are formally approved by Treasury, with authorization granted at the last meeting, the Chairman will accept the planning grants and the county will advertise for design consultants.

After the staff call on January 29th, Mr. Pierce advised me that Langton Consulting had made progress with Treasury on several issues such that Langton felt comfortable in having Mr. Moron sign Task Orders for both the Dune Restoration and the St. George Island Storm Water projects. The Task Orders are consistent with the contract Langton signed with the Board in 2019. There are actually 2 Task Orders for each project for a total of 4 Task Orders:

a. A pre-award Task Order for each project to reimburse Langton for all the work done in getting the project through Treasury. The Pre-award cost for each project is the same, at \$3,000 for each contract. These funds are reimbursable out of RESTORE projects. Each project has the same budget of \$100,000, so this fee represents 3% of the project. These two pre-award task orders would represent the first payment Langton will receive even though they have been assisting the county on RESTORE for over 2 years.

b. A post-award Task Order for each project for the work to be done once Treasury awards the projects (expecting award in March). The post award work is also reimbursable out of RESTORE funds for each project and will be \$7,000 for each, or 7% of the project budget. Since each design project had a total budget of \$100,000, once the Langton pre-award and post-award fees are deducted (the only fees generated by two years spent working to get to this point), the remaining \$90,000 will be available to the consulting firm awarded the design work.

The four signed Task Orders are attached to this report as part of the Board record.

2. Funding Opportunity Notification Volunteer Fire Departments: At the last commission meeting, Commissioner Ward mentioned a funding announcement that she had received by email in regards to the 2020 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program. Letters have been sent forwarding this information on to all seven volunteer fire departments within the county and copies of those letters are attached to this report.

County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report

Deputy Secretary from AHCA going to send additional 200 vaccines to hospital

A. Action Items

1. Code Enforcement Public Workshops: At your last meeting there was a lengthy discussion about Code Enforcement in the County. After the meeting, Attorney Shuler suggested that I look for a third party to conduct and facilitate workshops throughout the County to get a feel of what residents would expect of a Code Enforcement department. I asked Chairman Jones to contact the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC), as he is the County's ARPC representative and sits on their Executive Board, to find out if they would be interested in facilitating those workshops and then presenting a summary report to the Board. They are very much interested in this project, as they have planners on staff that can do that. In order for them to prepare a quote, they will need to know how many workshops the Board would like conducted in the County. *Board discussion and direction.*

Commissioner Parrish recommended holding a workshop in Lanark Village/Alligator Point, Eastpoint, St George Island, and Apalachicola. Commissioner Ward concurs with Commissioner Parrish's recommendation but would like to hold one in Carrabelle also.

The Board requested Mr. Moron obtain a quote from the ARPC to hold five meetings, one in Lanark Village/Alligator Point, Eastpoint, St George Island, Apalachicola, and Carrabelle. Mr. Moron will bring the quote back to the Board at the next meeting.

2. Bridges at Syrup Branch & Trout Creek: At your November 17, 2020 the Board was informed of extensive repairs, based on FDOT inspections that are needed to the bridges at Syrup Branch and Trout Creek, both located in Tate's Hell Forest. These bridges are used mostly by the State, loggers, campers, and hunters as there are no private property owners in that area. The Board directed staff to research how and why the County became owners of the roads leading up to both bridges, Mr. Howard Nabors and Mr. Alan Pierce should be able to shed light on that matter this morning. With that information, I recommend that the Board start the abandonment process for the roads leading to both bridges. If the Board proceeds with that action, the maintenance of the bridges will then revert to the State, keeping in mind that the State benefits from the fees paid by loggers, hunters, and campers. If the Board does not proceed with abandonment of the roads, our only funding option is applying for a FDOT SCOP Bridge grant which is very competitive and will only help with one bridge. The County has applied for this grant in the past but has never scored high enough to be successful.

Item previously addressed under Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors.

3. FAC Conference: The Florida Association of Counties 2021 Legislative Day is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 2021 in Tallahassee. "This is a great opportunity to show legislators the impact you are having at home and remind them of the importance of preserving and strengthening home rule. Governor DeSantis, his Cabinet, legislators and agency heads have been invited!" If you are planning on attending, please contact Mrs. Cortni Bankston as soon as possible.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize travel and expenses for Commissioners attending FAC 2021 Legislative Day in Tallahassee. Commissioner Boldt asked that the representatives be contacted ahead of time and appointments made. Chairman Jones and Mr. Moron said they are already working on scheduling the appointments. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Road Paving change Order: Attached is change order #5 which wraps up the county road paving project with Roberts and Roberts – this change order is the final adjustment to quantities for reconciliation of over and under-runs of materials. The Net amount of the change order is a decrease in overall contract price of \$26,532.95. The new final contract sum for Roberts and Roberts will be \$510,294.04. Board Action: Approve final change order #5 for Roberts and Roberts for a decrease of \$26,532.95.

Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Moron why his district's projects were not included in the change order. Commissioner Parrish does not feel comfortable approving this change order as the final adjustment without his jobs being completed. Mr. Moron mentioned there was a job missing for Commissioner Lockley's district also. Mr. Moron suggested the Board take no action and let him speak to Roberts and Roberts to clarify the change order. Chairman Jones and Commissioner Parrish voiced concern about holding up the change order for the work already completed. Mr. Moron will speak to Roberts and Roberts to clear up any confusion on the remaining jobs to be completed. The Board will approve the change order but not as the final.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve Roberts and Roberts Change Order # 5 but not as a final change order. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Building Inspector Status: At your last meeting the Board authorized a salary increase for the County's Building Inspector. I included language in my narrative that this change should have been done effective January 1, 2021 but did not include that language in the request for Board action. *Board action to authorize retroactive pay for Mr. Steve Paterson, the County's Certified Building Inspector, salary increase to January 1, 2021.*

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize retroactive pay for Mr. Steve Paterson, the County's Certified Building Inspector, and salary increase to January 1, 2021. Motion carried 4-0.

6. CDBG-CV Public Hearing: This item is from Mrs. Deborah Belcher, the County's CDBG Administrator. "The Board directed me to pursue applying for CDBG-CV funding for expanding Broadband service. I requested technical assistance from DEO regarding whether the improvements would have to serve only LMI neighborhoods, and what expectations they would have about residents subscribing to a service they might not be able or willing to afford, especially with children going back to school and not having to work from home. No answer has been given. I also spoke with the Director of the DEO Office of Broadband and learned that they don't have information about where broadband service exists in Franklin County and where it is lacking. I also twice contacted the Florida Internet and Television, the association representing internet providers, in an attempt to find out what is needed and where, and which companies might be interested in serving LMI neighborhoods, but still don't have any information. At this time, I still don't have information to develop a viable grant application.

We can schedule the CDBG-CV mandatory grant application public hearing for the March 2, 2021 BOCC meeting. That which would allow us to continue pursuing the grant and submit something by the March 15, 2021 deadline if feasible.” A planning component should be part of the application.

The Board discussed the challenges with obtaining information on where broadband service is provided in Franklin County and where service is needed. Commissioner Ward suggested asking constituents to download a speed test app to test internet speed in their area.

Commissioner Boldt mentioned possibly partnering with the school board. Commissioner Jones said he thought it would be difficult for them because of knowing locations of students. Commissioner Parrish said he thought their main concern was acquiring high speed internet at the school.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize a CDBG-CV public hearing for the March 2, 2021, BOCC Regular Meeting at 11:15 a.m. (ET). Motion carried 4-0.

B. Informational Items

1. Camp Gordon Johnston Parade: The 26th Annual Camp Gordon Johnston Parade is scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 10:45 a.m. (ET). Camp Gordon Johnston Association has decided to limit CGJ Days to the Parade only due to potential COVID risk. Let Mrs. Cortni Bankston know if you are planning to participate in the parade so she can make adequate arrangements for ATV/UTVs.

2. FWC Commission Meeting: “The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will meet virtually on February 25th & 26th beginning at 9 a.m. (ET) each day. This meeting is being held by communications media technology (CMT), specifically using Adobe Connect with a telephone conference line for accepting public comments during the meeting. The Adobe Connect link for this meeting will be provided on MyFWC.com closer to the meeting date. Stakeholders may also choose to watch The Florida Channel broadcast at TheFloridaChannel.org.”

3. CDBG Eastpoint Wildfire: Per Mrs. Deborah Belcher, the last Eastpoint Wildfire CDBG mobile home replacements are now underway, with the final 2 being scheduled for delivery. By the April 30, 2021 grant expiration, 23 homes will have been replaced.

County Attorney - Michael Shuler - Report

A. Action Items:

1. 329 Hwy. 98 Eastpoint: Board authority to enforce apparent building code and zoning code violation for the construction of a two-story structure without a permit and without compliance with the Flood Plain Management Ordinance. If structure and use cannot be made to comply with the code, the county will seek a court order for it to be dismantled and removed in its entirety.

2. 331 Hwy. 98 Eastpoint: Board authority to enforce apparent building code and zoning code violation for the construction of multiple finished structures permitted as two unheated sheds which are apparently being rented and/or owner occupied while the main house is rented out. These uses appear to violate the county’s building code, zoning code and the Flood Plain Management Ordinance. If structure and use cannot be made to comply with the code, the county will seek a court order for it to be dismantled and removed in its entirety.

3. 2036 Hwy 98, Carrabelle Beach area: Dwelling and sewer septic more than 50% destroyed and appears to constitute a public nuisance and public safety hazard. Since the

structure cannot be rebuilt as a nonconforming use, the county will seek a court order for it to be dismantled and removed in its entirety.

4. 2626 Hwy 98, Carrabelle Beach area: Dwelling and sewer septic more than 50% destroyed and appears to constitute a public nuisance and public safety hazard.

Since the structure cannot be rebuilt as a nonconforming use, the county will seek a court order for it to be dismantled and removed in its entirety.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Attorney Shuler to enforce apparent building code and zoning code violations at 329 Hwy 98, Eastpoint, 331 Hwy 98, Eastpoint, 2036 Hwy 98, Carrabelle Beach area, 2626 Hwy 98, Carrabelle Beach area. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Boldt noted the Weems board meeting was well attended and commended the quality of the management company. Commissioner Boldt recognized the Alligator Point fire department noting (5) five of their firefighters will be certified soon.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts