

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
JANUARY 19, 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: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, 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. January 5, 2021 Regular Meeting
- B. January 5, 2021 Workshop

On 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 meetings held on January 5, 2021. Motion carried 4-0.

Payment of County Bills

On 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.

Public Comments

Mr. Steve Kirshenbaum from St. George Island, thanked the Board for their support of the airport and invited the Board to take a tour of the airport.

Mr. Ted Mosteller thanked the Board for their support of the airport and invited the Board to visit the airport.

Mr. Gordon echoed the previous speakers' comments as well as thanked Commissioner Boldt for his recommendation to recreate the airport advisory committee.

Department Directors Report

Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors

A. Information Item

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

Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

Mr. Davis asked the Board to approve an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Grant which would reflect a \$4,454.60 increase for budgets in the Revised Work Plan revising the total Work Plan budget to \$98,204.60.

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt to approve an amendment to reflect a \$4,454.60 increase for budgets in the Revised Work Plan revising the total Work Plan budget to \$98,204.60. Motion carried 4-0.

A. Information Item

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

Mr. Davis along with the Board discussed the county recycling program, replacement of the St. George Island swing set, and the St. George Island bathroom projects. Mr. Moron noted that the bathroom project has been delayed due to the slow delivery of materials.

Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Mr. Alan Pierce discussed the proposed Emergency Operations Center with the Board noting that the recent quote received from the contractor was \$300 per square foot. At this price, the original \$1.5 million dollars requested from the State may not be sufficient to complete the project. Mrs. Brownell noted that a larger building may better accommodate our growing community. Commissioner Parrish would like the project to continue moving forward and for the County to continue pursuing funds from the State.

A. Information Items

1. 1/15/21 EOC Staff distributed COVID care bags and mask to members of our venerable population from Mission by the Sea Church in Alligator Point.
2. 1/13/21 EOC Staff and CERT members assisted Sherriff's Department in the missing person search and rescue.
3. 1/7/21 EOC Staff distributed COVID care bags and mask to members of our venerable population from Chillas Hall in Lanark Village.
4. EOC Staff continues to work Hurricane Sally from 09/12/20 and continues to work with FDEM and FEMA.
5. EOC Staff continue to participate in the NOAA Tropical Weather Training.
6. EOC has submitted our New LMS Plan and corrections to the state and are awaiting approval.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.

Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand

A. Informational Items

General Extension Activities:

1. During this period, the Extension office assisted citizens on the topics of identifying leaf-spot disease on Pittosporum shrubs, weed identification and treatment options and landscaping pruning practices.
2. Extension Director participated in a planning call regarding removal of Hurricane Michael debris from the marshes around Apalachicola Bay.

Sea Grant Extension:

3. Extension Director participated in a scheduled meeting of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative Community Advisory Board.
4. Extension Director participated in a full-day seafood HACCP training that was conducted virtually on the web. This is a new development in HACCP training which allows processors to get this training without having to travel to an in-person class.

4-H Youth Development:

5. Public speaking contest is underway in local schools, in preparation for the countywide contest. Competition will take place virtually with students recording their speech and submitting a YouTube video for the judges. County contest has a due date of February 12 for video uploads. Winners will be announced shortly thereafter.

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. The Master Gardener program is packaging and labeling small packets of various vegetable seeds to distribute free-of-charge at local libraries.

TDC Administrator – John Solomon – Report

A. Information Items

1. Collections Report: October Collections were \$147,542.08, which is a 64.56% increase over October 2019. An increase of \$57,881.80 this is the highest amount ever collected by the Franklin County TDC in the month of October.
2. The TDC Board approved creating and placing 20 Consolidated Beach Access signs. The beach access points in the county have many smaller signs advising the public of the rules on our beaches. These new signs will consolidate all of those on one sign and leave room for any additional information that may need to be added at later date.

Weems CEO -- David Walker & Health Department Administrator -- Sarah Quaranta -- Update

Mr. Walker and Ms. Quaranta gave an update on COVID-19 vaccinations & vaccine supplies.

Ms. Sarah Quaranta updated the Board on the distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations. The Franklin County Health Department coordinated with Weems Memorial Hospital in order to provide vaccinations as quickly and safely as possible. An online pre-registration portal has been created to allow citizens 65 and older to register for the vaccine as it becomes available. Ms. Quaranta reported that overall around 813 vaccines have been administered in Franklin County. The Board asked questions about the pre-registration process. Mrs. Nicole Sandoval confirmed the appointment only vaccinations were given in the order as they are registered

through the portal, and as the vaccinations become available to the County. Commissioner Ward noted this is a federal vaccine and cannot be given based on County residency. Commissioner Boldt said it appeared to be an availability issue and not a distribution issue, praising the health care workers for the distribution of vaccinations thus far. Commissioner Parrish would like a letter written to the Governor on behalf of the Commissioners to request additional doses of the vaccine.

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt for Mr. Moron to draft a letter to Governor Ron DeSantis requesting a larger allocation of the COVID-19 vaccination for Franklin County. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Boldt suggested all five commissioners sign the letter. However, Attorney Shuler noted that Commissioner Lockley is not in attendance and suggested the language be 'by unanimous vote of the Board present'.

Texas A&M -- Update

Texas A&M representatives provided a close out report on the Weems Technical Assistance Grant.

Ms. Bree Watzak, Dr. Nancy Dickey and Ms. Andrea Brewer joined the meeting via Zoom to give the Board a brief review of the program over the past year. The Center for Optimizing Rural Health works with rural facilities, their provider and their communities to improve the quality of care, maintain access to care, and address the challenges to small hospitals and the towns they serve. They offer three levels of support: on-site, remote facilitated assistance, and self-directed access to best practices, resources, and tools.

Board of Adjustment – Cortni Bankston – Report

- A. Consideration of a request for a 20-foot variance for a well and septic from the 100-foot county requirement. Property described as 170 Beacon Street, Carrabelle Beach, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Linda Parker, applicant. (State minimum setback from well and septic is 75 feet)

ABOA recommended approval.

Commissioner Parrish noted that he did not see a hardship, and that there was plenty of room for the well to be placed 100 feet from septic. Chairman Jones said that the gentleman who installed the well was not aware of the County ordinance. Mrs. Amy Kelly explained to the Board the permit had been issued correctly and this was no fault to the homeowner. Mrs. Paige Richards, daughter of property owner Linda Parker, spoke to the Board via Zoom. Mrs. Richards explained that the appropriate spot had been marked on the permit, however, the contractor had not looked at the permit. Mrs. Paige said that her 80 year old mother had waited since October to move in to her new home. Commissioner Ward said she did not feel it was fair to punish Ms. Parker for the mistake. Chairman Jones said if the Board approved the variance, they should also consider changing the ordinance so that it is the same as the State requirements which is a minimum setback from well to septic of 75 feet.

On motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish to revisit and revise existing ordinance related to wells and septic tanks. Motion carried 4-0.

Attorney Shuler said essentially we will be considering cancellation of the local ordinance and default to the State standards.

On motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt to approve a 20-foot variance for a well and septic from the 100-foot county requirement on property described as 170 Beacon Street, Carrabelle Beach, and Franklin County, Florida, submitted by Linda Parker. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Hearings 10:30 AM (ET)

Postponed until Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. (ET)

Since there will not be a full Board in attendance at regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January

19, 2021, the applicant and County mutually agreed to continue the Sapp's Land Use Change Requests and Re-Zoning Requests Public Hearings to Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. (ET). The County anticipates that all Commissioner will be in attendance at this meeting.

- 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.

Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell – Report

Madam Clerk did not have a report for the Board.

Special Projects Coordinator – Alan Pierce – Report

Mr. Alan Pierce reported the County is opening bids for the FEMA repair and the road should be protected before into hurricane season.

Mr. Pierce said he would like to schedule a conference call with the Board Chair and the new director of the Gulf Restoration Project in order to address any complaints. Chairman Jones agreed and Mr. Pierce will coordinate the call.

County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report

A. Action Items

1. City of Apalachicola ARPC Appointment: As requested by the Board at an earlier meeting, the City of Apalachicola has recommended City Commissioner Despina George to serve as the County's municipal representative on the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC). Carrabelle's Mayor has served in this role for the last four years. Usually, the County rotates a representative from the cities every two years. *Board action to appoint City Commissioner Despina George as the County's municipal representative on ARPC.*

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt to appoint City Commissioner Despina George as the County's municipal representative on ARPC. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Extension of COVID-19 Leave Policy: The Federal FFCRA Act which mandated large employers provide eligible employees two weeks of emergency paid sick leave due to COVID-19 and the tax credits for private employers for such leave expired on December 31, 2020. On December 21st, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2021 which extended the tax credits for private employers who voluntarily provide the leave through March 31, 2021. As the pandemic is still ongoing, it is at the discretion of the Board if the county will provide an equivalent benefit equal to the unused remainder of the FFCRA emergency paid sick leave through March 31st, 2021 for employees who had not previously used all of the two weeks' time that was provided if an employee was unable to work, including able to telework, because the employee: 1. was subject to a Federal, State or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19 2. had been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19 or 3. was experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and was seeking a medical diagnosis. Employees would still need to complete the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Request Form for eligible reasons 1-3 above to utilize this leave through March 31st. *Does the BOCC want to authorize providing an equivalent benefit equal to the unused remainder of the FFCRA emergency paid sick leave through March 31st, 2021?*

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward to authorize providing an equivalent benefit equal to the unused remainder of the FFCRA emergency paid sick leave through March 31st, 2021. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Airport Equipment Purchase: Jason Puckett, Airport Manager, would like approval to purchase a John Deere Gator along with a 45-gallon bed Sprayer for the Gator and a John Deere Zero Turn Diesel Mower. The repair and maintenance cost on the current equipment has become excessive and is not the best use of the airport funds. The equipment will be purchased at State contract pricing (Sourcewell Ground Maintenance) for \$33,698.17 from Ag-Pro in Tallahassee and paid with Airport funds. *Board action to approve the purchase of the ground maintenance equipment for the Airport at a total cost of \$33,698.17.*

On motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt to approve the purchase of the ground maintenance for the Airport at a total cost of \$33,698.17. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Airport Advisory Committee: At your last meeting, the Board directed me to start the creation an Airport Advisory Committee (AAC) process. I recommend that each Commissioner appoint someone from their district to serve on the AAC, in the same manner and makeup of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment, and the Hospital Board. This would allow a diverse and cross-section of members that would recommend ideas and projects to this Board. In addition, the Airport Manager and a FBO representative could sit on the Board as ex-officio non-voting members. As you are seeking volunteers to serve on the AAC, the Board should authorize Attorney Shuler to create by-laws to govern the AAC. *Board discussion and direction on creating the AAC and authorize Attorney Shuler to create by-laws to govern the AAC.*

Chairman Jones inquired as to whether the new advisory committee could use the previous committee's bylaws. Attorney Shuler will research the previous committee's bylaws, if any and determine as to whether than can be revised or new bylaws will need to be drafted. The Board discussed the process of appointing committee members to serve and all concurred they would like an individual appointed from each district. Commissioner Boldt strongly preferred a designee with aviation experience and Chairman Jones preferred someone with economic development background. The Board unanimously agreed to send a list of qualifications to Mr.

Moron in order for him to draft an ad for the newspaper.

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt authorizing Attorney Shuler to create bylaws to govern the Aviation Advisory Committee. Motion carried 4-0.

5. CDBG Homeowner Application: "A late application for Eastpoint Wildfire CDBG mobile home replacement was submitted by Brenda Lewis, whose mobile home at 659 Wilderness Road was damaged in the fire. I advertised for proposals for single wide mobile homes of quality comparable to what has been purchased through the CDBG program, with a requirement that all work be completed by the April 30, 2021 CDBG grant expiration date. We included an "unspecified site" proposal option, in case something like this came up. Proposals received 12/29/2020 included: Clayton Homes of Panama City, Aspen model, \$84,674 with no extra cost to demolish an existing home, and Ironwood Homes of Perry, Model U-5763E, \$83,975.12 plus \$3,500 for demolition. Clayton Homes apparently has a better home on their lot than the one they proposed and would offer it at the same price as their other model. The Ms. Lewis is going to look at the Clayton on-site model before the 1/19/2021 BOCC meeting. *Requested Action: Approve the application for CDBG mobile home replacement from Brenda Lewis and approve CDBG funding for Brenda Lewis to purchase a replacement single wide mobile home from the models proposed through the County's CDBG Mobile Home Replacement Bid Package #5, or a comparable on-site home for the same price, plus CDBG mortgage recording costs.*"

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward to approve the application for CDBG mobile home replacement from Brenda Lewis and approve CDBG funding for Brenda Lewis to purchase a replacement single wide mobile home from the models proposed through the County's CDBG Mobile Home Replacement Bid Package #5, or a comparable on-site home for the same price, plus CDBG mortgage recording costs. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Information Items

1. CDBG Information Items: Ms. Belcher has three (3) information items on her report. The first and second items relate to DEO CDBG grant programs and the third is a change in the model of an approved mobile home purchase that does not affect the price. If you have any questions regarding these items do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Belcher.
2. SHIP CRF Close-out Packet: Mrs. Lori Switzer-Mills forwarded (included in the agenda packet) the CRF final report submitted to Florida Housing. It shows how many people were served and how much was spent on each activity. There hasn't been any word from the State as yet regarding additional CRF funding. Mrs. Switzer-Mills will inform the Board as soon as she is notified.
3. Legislative Funding Requests: I have submitted the County's Legislative funding request to both Senator Ausley and Representative Shoaf. As stated in a previous meeting, I requested \$1.5 million for construction of a new EOC and \$250,000 for the installation of a fire sprinkler/suppression system for the Fort Coombs Armory. I still haven't received any request to include city projects. I will keep the Board updated on these funding requests.
4. Building Department: The Building Department will be closed on Friday, January 22, 2021. This will allow staff the opportunity to process the backlog of permits that occurred due to recent COVID-19 quarantine restrictions in the office. I have notified the news media and posted a notice in the Annex Building and on the County's website.

County Attorney – Michael Shuler – Report

Commissioner Parrish brought up an ongoing issue where boats are being left docked at the Abercrombie Boat Landing making them unavailable to the public. Attorney Shuler suggested the Board create an ordinance to ensure the docks are clear.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt authorizing Attorney Shuler to draft an ordinance regarding the time period boats can be docked at all County boat launches. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Evan gave a quick update on the Alligator Point analysis study for the washout. Mr. Evan will have a couple of options for the Board to consider moving forward. The Board can expect a presentation at a later meeting.

Attorney Shuler requested guidance from the Board on rescheduling the public hearings for the animal control ordinance, the dock ordinance, and the well and septic ordinance. Attorney Shuler suggested moving the hearings to the first meeting in March. The consensus of the Board was to postpone the public hearings for the animal control ordinance, the dock ordinance, and the well and septic ordinance until the March 2nd meeting.

Madam Clerk Maxwell addressed the Board to notify them that her office had missed several invoices in the bill run on Friday, January 15th and a special bill run was necessary to pay the outstanding invoices. The invoices included payments to TDC, SHIP and MSBU.

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt approving a special bill run to pay the outstanding invoices. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioners’ Comments

Chairman Jones noted a proposed public shooting range, possibly in the works. Commissioner Boldt said he had a copy of the concept plan from Sam Hand at Florida A&M. Commissioner Parrish spoke in favor of the idea but noted the need for the planning of funding and maintenance.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts