

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
MARCH 16, 2021
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Call to Order

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

Prayer and Pledge

Chair Jones said a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

A. March 2, 2021 Regular Meeting

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 minutes from the meeting held on March 2, 2021. Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve payment of the County Bills. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk of Courts -- Michele Maxwell -- Government Finance Professionals Week Proclamation

A. Action Item

Mrs. Maxwell, Clerk of Courts, would like to the Board to acknowledge Government Finance Professional Week. Clerk Maxwell will read a Proclamation proclaiming March15-19 Government Finance Professional Week.

Mrs. Maxwell read the following Proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Florida Government Finance Officers Association is a professional association founded in 1937 and serves more than 3,300 professionals from state, county and city governments, school districts, colleges and universities, special districts and private firms; and

WHEREAS, the FGFOA is dedicated to being your professional resource by providing opportunities through education, networking, leadership and information; and

WHEREAS, this inaugural Government Finance Professionals Week, sponsored by the FGFOA and all of its member governmental organizations, is a weeklong series of activities aimed at recognizing government finance professionals and the vital services that they provide to our state and our community; and

WHEREAS, during this week, government finance professionals throughout the State of Florida will be acknowledged for their hard work, dedication and leadership.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michele Maxwell, Franklin County Clerk of Court, on behalf of Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Boldt, Commissioner Lockley, Commissioner Parrish and Commissioner Ward, do hereby proclaim March 15-19,

2021, as Government Finance Professionals Week in the County of Franklin and extend our appreciation to all government finance professionals throughout the state and here in the County of Franklin for their hard work, dedication and leadership.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2021.

/s/Michele Maxwell

Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Court

Mrs. Maxwell recognized the Clerk's finance department. In attendance was Linda Phillips, Lauren Luberto, and Danny Gay.

Mr. Lanier recognized the School Board's finance department. In attendance was Shannon Venable, Connie Sawyer, Diane Curry, Katy Gunn, Ally Millender, and Nicole McNair.

Mrs. Skipper recognized Megan Shiver from the Property Appraiser's office.

Mr. Watson recognized Monet Davis, Amy Cook, and Revena Ramsey, from the Tax Collector's office.

Mrs. Riley recognized Jennifer Hicks from the Supervisor of Elections office.

Sheriff Smith recognized Ginger Coulter from the Sheriff's Department.

Chair Jones recognized Erin Griffith on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Boldt, Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Parrish thanked each of the finance professionals for the work they do for the County.

Tax Collector -- Richard Watson -- Discussion

A. Discussion Item

1. Mr. Rick Watson, County Tax Collector, is here to inform the Board of the county-owned tax certificates, filed on behalf of the County in 2020, which will expire on June 1, 2021. Today, Mr. Watson will brief the Board on the certificates which are expiring and give a recommendation. At your next meeting, the Board will consider authorizing Mr. Watson to proceed with the Tax Deed Applications.

Mr. Watson requested approval to proceed with tax deed applications for county-owned certificates which are expiring. There are twenty-four county certificates, seven of which are homestead property. Four are valued at less than the \$25,000 exemption and the other three are valued from \$1509 to \$5981 over the \$25,000 exemption. Mr. Watson did not recommend applying for a tax deed on the homestead property. Sixteen of the tax certificates are vacant platted lots in Keoghs 2nd Addition and the remaining property is a partial lot in between two parcels owned by the county. The summary of costs involved would be \$675 per property for a total of \$11,475.00.

Commissioner Boldt noted the properties may be used for affordable housing in the future.

Commissioner Lockley made a motion to authorize Mr. Watson to proceed with the tax deed applications.

Mr. Moron noted that he put this item on as discussion only and before any public comment.

Attorney Shuler said the Chair could call for public comments after a second is called on the motion.

Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Mr. Moron called for public comments.

Evan Thomas inquired as to the exact location of the property. Mr. Watson explained it was on Hwy 67 in Keoghs 2nd Addition.

Motion carried 5-0.

Sheriff -- A. I. Smith -- Discussion

Sheriff Smith would like to discuss parking issues around County beaches.

Sheriff Smith and Major Dewayne Coulter spoke to the Board about the issues with parking at Alligator Point and recommended the Board consider allowing booting to combat the issue.

Chairman Jones noted we are having issues on Alligator Point and St George Island.

Chairman Jones asked Attorney Shuler if this would require an ordinance change and he confirmed that it would. Attorney Shuler said he would ask for Mr. Moron to contact surrounding counties to see what their procedures are regarding booting. Attorney Shuler said he can have the revised ordinance ready for the April meeting.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward to hold a public hearing to amend ordinance to allow booting of vehicles. Commissioner Boldt seconded.

Commissioner Ward asked if could hold a public workshop to discuss the issues. Chairman Jones said we need to vote on the matter on the floor or amend motions.

Ward and Boldt confirm their motions to have a public hearing to amend ordinance to allow booting of vehicles.

Mr. Moron called for public comments.

Mr. Rudy Meng addressed the Board regarding the traffic and parking on Alligator Point. Mr. Meng spoke in support of booting vehicles.

Mr. Jim McCoy, a homeowner on Alligator Point, said the problem is worse than he has ever seen it and spoke in support of booting vehicles. Mr. McCoy also urged the Board to increase the fine.

Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comments

Mr. Rudy Meng spoke to the Board regarding the construction of the road and multi-use path. Mr. Meng recommended closing the road to traffic during construction to reduce the amount of vacation traffic on the road. He also asked the Board to consider a noise ordinance.

Mr. Steve Fling spoke to Board about the fire department MSBU funding asking the Board to have a true audit done as they did for Lanark Village.

Department Directors Report

Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors

A. Informational Item

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

Commissioner Lockley asked for an update on the lights near the old Burger King. Mr. Nabors said they were not able to find a pole number on the one by the old Burger King parking lot and

from Shadow Lane there are no lights in place. Mr. Moron will work with Duke Energy to see if they can identify the pole.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved for new poles to be placed from Shadow Lane to the old Burger King. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Nabors said in a couple of weeks the new road department facility will be complete. He also noted that inmate labor is scarce at this time.

Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

A. Informational Item

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

Commissioner Parrish requested Mr. Davis have someone check the lights at DW Park. Mr. Davis said he has already reported the outages to Duke Energy and will follow up with them.

Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

A. Action Item

1. Request the Boards approval and Signing of the MOA with Gulf County ARC and Transportation. This agreement is for transporting Special Needs Clients during an emergency/evacuation.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve the MOA with Gulf County ARC and Transportation for transporting Special Needs Clients during an emergency/evacuation. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Request the Boards approval and Signing of the MOA with Franklin County Schools. This agreement is for transporting transportation disadvantaged persons during an emergency/evacuation.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve the MOA with Franklin County Schools for transporting disadvantaged persons during an emergency/evacuation. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Informational Items

1. EOC Staff and CERT Volunteers assisted the Weems Hospital and Florida Department of Health Franklin at the COVID 19 Vaccine POD at Eastpoint Assembly of God Church on 03/09/21.
2. EOC Staff and CERT Volunteers will assist the Florida Department of Health Franklin at the COVID 19 Vaccine POD at Living Waters Assembly of God Church in Apalachicola on 03/05/21.
3. EOC Staff virtually attended the MGT462 class on 03/11/21.
4. EOC Staff handed out COVID Care Cags at the Eastpoint NAPA on 03/18/21.
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 will participate in the Camp Gordon Johnston Parade on 03/13/2021.
7. EOC Staff will participate in the 21NV-1038 HCV5 Government Roles in Medical Response on 03/16/21.

8. EOC Staff will attend and participate in the ARPC Meeting on 03/22/2021.
9. EOC Staff Participated Virtually in the Partner Planning Briefing with NWS Tallahassee on 03/11/2021.
10. EOC Staff will attend the Trailblazers in Emergency Management – FEPA Lunch and Learn on 03/25/2021 Virtually.
11. EOC Staff Participated Virtually in the FEPA EM Directors Working Group Meeting on 03/11/2021.
12. EOC Staff will attend virtually the FL-600 FDEM Recovery Training on 03/30 & 03/31/21.
13. 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.
14. IPAW/WEA/EAS System test will be completed by 03/23/21.
15. EOC Staff along with Stakeholders will participated in the Regional Exercise on 03/04/21. This exercise focused on a large-scale flooding event.
16. EOC Staff submitted the request for extension letter to FEMA for Non-Congregate Sheltering.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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 reptiles, 4-H program opportunities, moth species ID, sea turtle window tinting, and more.

Sea Grant Extension:

2. Extension Director assisted with a webinar on the topic of “Tropicalization of Species in North Florida”; i.e. more frequent occurrence of mangroves, snook, invasive lizards, etc.

3. Extension Director participated in teaching a virtual Seafood HACCP course to seafood processors. This will aid them in preparing their own HACCP plans to meet FDA food safety regulations.

4-H Youth Development:

4. Seeking additional funding for archery equipment from the NRA Foundation "Teach Freedom" program.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

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

6. FNP budget planning for the next FY is being done at this time (grant funded).

Agriculture/Home Horticulture:

7. Registration for the Spring Master Gardener class in Franklin County is now closed with a full class. The class will begin in April and run for 13 weeks.

Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Lovestrand if he had any suggestions for pine beetles. Mr. Lovestrand said they have been an ongoing issue since Hurricane Michael. He said there is no way to effectively spray or treat the trees because the beetles are under the bark.

TDC Administrator – John Solomon – Report

A. Action Items

1. The TDC Board recommends authorizing the pursue and preliminary negotiations for the purchase of property in Eastpoint for a park. The property purchase and creation of the park will be funded by TDC. Attorney Shuler will be involved in the process. *-Action Item*

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to authorize the pursuit and preliminary negotiations for the purchase of property in Eastpoint for a park. Motion carried 5-0.

2. The TDC Board is recommending the approval of renewing TDC Board member Janalyn Dowden for a three-year term. *-Action Item*

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve renewing TDC Board member Janalyn Dowden for a three-year term. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Information Items

1. The TDC has finalized the new public Beach Access signs they are being printed now (20 signs have been ordered).

2. The TDC has completed our new Beach Safety and Guidelines video. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the production of this video. We are thankful to have so many leaders in our community willing to take time away from their busy schedules to help in the creation video, to spread the word about our county beach rules and guidelines. This video will be on Forgotten Coast TV, The Forgotten Coast youtube channel and shared on multiple social media pages.

Commissioner Ricky Jones
Commissioner Bert Boldt
Commissioner Noah Lockley
Commissioner Smokey Parrish
Commissioner Jessica Ward
Clerk of Court Michele Maxwell
Property Appraiser Rhonda Skipper
Tax Collector Rick Watson
Supervisor of Election Heather Riley
Parks & Recreation Director Fonda Davis

Mrs. Erin Griffith requested the following item from her report be discussed at this time.

2. Approval of grant applications for Florida Historic Preservation Program

On April 1st, the grant application cycle will open for the Florida Historic Preservation Program. Franklin County would like to apply for Historic Preservation Funding for three locations: the Buddy Ward Park Maritime Museum, Fort Coombs Armory and Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park. The Tourist Development Council will work to develop the spending plan/project scope to feature a series of free-standing photos, interpretive displays along with video kiosks that tell the story of Franklin County's maritime history – project costs will include research, acquisition of collection pieces, planning and design, construction and installation for the Maritime museum. The Tourist Development Council will also develop a plan for Coombs Armory with an emphasis on the county's military history and significance from pre-civil war to present. County staff will also work to develop a project spending plan/scope for Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park. The location just transitioned into being categorized 'historic' and thus is now eligible for historic preservation funding. There are approximately 14 concrete picnic pavilions that were constructed in 1970 which are in need of repair. Preserving these pavilions which have weathered fifty years of Hurricanes are critical to maintaining the look and feel of Florida's historic wayside beach parks.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve applying for historic preservation grants for the three projects mentioned above. Motion carried 5-0.

Eastpoint Civic Association -- Betty Webb -- Resolution

A. Action Item

1. Mrs. Webb is seeking Board approval on a needed resolution for a 2021 USDA Application for the Eastpoint Civic Association.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING THE EASTPOINT CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC. TO APPLY FOR A USDA RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR THE COMPLETION OF AN EASTPOINT WATERFRONT FEASIBILITY STUDY.

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners is applying to USDA Rural Development for financial assistance in the form of a Rural Business Development Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners has determined that the completion of an Eastpoint Highway 98 Waterfront and Business Corridor Feasibility Study will benefit the residents, workforce and businesses of Eastpoint and encourage future economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners authorized the Eastpoint Civic Association, Inc. or their designee to act as Project Manager, Project Representative, supervise the application for and administration of the grant on behalf of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners authorizes the elected officers of the Eastpoint Civic Association, Inc. to execute the grant application, agreement, change orders and other documents related to the grant as signatories for the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners:

1. Authorizes the Eastpoint Civic Association, Inc. to apply for a USDA Rural Business Development Grant which will provide for the completion of an Eastpoint Waterfront Feasibility Study.
2. Authorizes the Eastpoint Civic Association, Inc. or their designee to act as Project Manager, Project Representative, supervise the application for and administration of the grant on behalf of the County.
3. Authorizes the elected officers of the Eastpoint Civic Association, Inc. to execute the grant application, agreement, change orders and other documents related to the grant as signatories for the County.
4. The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners find that the project will not be transferring jobs/employment or producing goods/services where there is no demand.

ADOPTED this 16th day of March, 2021 by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners.

FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dated this 16th day of March, 2021.

/s/Ricky Jones

Ricky Jones, Chairman

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve a resolution for a 2021 USDA Application for the Eastpoint Civic Association. Motion carried 5-0.

Weems CEO -- David X Walker -- Request

A. Action Item

1. The Weems Governing Board approved the purchase of a new mobile radiology machine which is a smaller to allow easier access to patients on the inpatient unit and in our Emergency Department rooms. The new machine will cost \$112,785.00. The Governing Board must get County approval because the cost is over \$50,000. The purchase funding will not come out of the Health Care Trust Fund but out Weems CARES Act funds.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the purchase of the new Mobile Radiology X-Ray Machine.

Chairman Jones asked if the radiology machine at the Carrabelle clinic is working. Mr. Walker said it is working however they don't have a tech in house at this time.

Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting recessed at 10:20 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:37 a.m.

Due to previously schedule times, the public hearings were held at this time.

Public Hearings 10:30 a.m. (ET)

Attorney David Thoriac conducted the public hearing on behalf of the Board. Attorney Thoriac went over the agenda with the Board and the public. He confirmed that none of the commissioners had any previous contact with the petitioners. Attorney Thoriac stated the Board would vote on the 10-acre parcel first and then the 6.08-acre parcel. Attorney Thoriac opened up the floor for public comments and there were none. Mr. Justin Ford and Mrs. Beverly Sapp appeared by Zoom. Mrs. Sapp informed the Board that Mr. Ford would be speaking on her behalf. Mr. Ford described the conceptual design to the Board. Attorney Thoriac then opened the floor for questions from the Board. Chairman Jones said that he did not want to approve the land-use change and then the owners not be able to use the property. Mr. Ford said he believes the project can be created and doesn't see any issues with state or federal permitting. Commissioner Boldt inquired as to the septic system and if there was one available that would have minimal impact on the environment. Mr. Ford said some systems can treat the waste to standards such as a performance-based system. Mr. Curenton said the site plan is preliminary and the wetlands have not been determined. Mr. Curenton said the developers will have to abide by wetland specifications. Mr. Curenton noted that the creation of the park will creak more maintenance for the road department and suggest asking the land-owners to pave the dirt road. Commissioner Ward inquired as to the amount of the road to be affected and Mr. Ford said it was about 600 feet and no more than 1000 feet. Commissioner Ward inquired as to whether the road could come off of Hwy 67 instead of Jeff Sanders Road. Mr. Ford said he would consider it but having two entrances on Hwy 67 may cause some issues. Mr. Ford said the applicants are willing to explore any options to move forward. Commissioner Parrish asked if this could qualify as spot zoning, placing a commercial property in the middle of residential property. Mr. Curenton said it could be looked at as spot zoning. Mr. Curenton confirmed no water and sewer is going to this property.

Commissioner Lockley questioned as to what flood zone the property is in. Mr. Curenton said it is an AE zone, and that he doesn't know how high the property is above sea level. Any permanent structures would have to be built 10 feet above sea level.

Chairman Jones inquired as to whether the Coastline campground in Eastpoint was required to have water and sewer. Mr. Curenton said it is not a requirement. Mr. Curenton noted it would be environmentally better but the property is too far away from public utilities. Commissioner Parrish said normally agriculture property is not suitable for habituating. Commissioner Boldt inquired as to whether there was a school bus stop nearby noting he had spoken to constituents who said there was. Mr. Ford spoke as to the concerns of the Commissioners. Mr. Curenton had nothing to add.

Commissioner Boldt made a motion to deny the land use change of a 10 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2536 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, and Commissioner Lockley seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Boldt made a motion to deny the 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, and Commissioner Lockley seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Ford notified the Board at that time that the applicants request the land use change and rezoning request for a 6.08 acre parcel be withdrawn.

Commissioner Boldt made a motion to accept the applicant's withdrawal of request for a Land Use Change and Re-Zone 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, and Commissioner Ward seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

- 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.
- E. St. James Bay PUD Amendment 11:00 a.m. (ET)

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners proposes to adopt an ordinance amending the St. James Bay Planned Unit Development Ordinance (Ordinance No. 200-28). The proposed amendment will modify the text of the ordinance to allow for the construction of 16 additional golf villas and a 72-unit inn. A public hearing on the proposed change will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the County Commission Meeting Room in the Franklin County Courthouse Annex located at 34 Forbes Street in Apalachicola, Florida. More information can be obtained and the proposed change inspected at the Franklin County Planning Department, 34 Forbes Street, Suite 1, Apalachicola, Florida, telephone (850) 653-9783.

Commissioner Boldt abstained due to a conflict.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Lockley, the Board adopted the ordinance amending the St. James Bay Planned Unit Development Ordinance (Ordinance No. 200-28). Motion carried 4-0, Boldt abstained.

- F. Road Abandonment 11:00 a.m. (ET) or as soon thereafter

Public Road One: A part of Mill Road from the intersection of Mill Road with Burnt Bridge Road to New River Road, approximately 0.25 miles, in Section 9, Township 7 South, Range 5 West, Franklin County, Florida.

Public Road Two: All of New River Road from Mill Road to Gully Branch Road, approximately 6.7 miles, from Section 9, Township 7 South, Range 5 West to Section 10, Township 6 South, Range 5 West, all in Franklin County, Florida.

RESOLUTION ABANDONING TWO PUBLIC ROADS

WHEREAS, Franklin County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, has heretofore acquired by dedication the two public roads described herein below; and,

WHEREAS, Franklin County, on its own motion, has determined that the interest of the county and the public in said road should be abandoned as provided by law; and,

WHEREAS, following abandonment, ownership of the two roads will transfer to the State of Florida.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following two public roads are abandoned as provided by law, and Franklin County renounces and disclaims any right of the county to the two roads, including the two bridges thereon.

Public Road Number One to Be Abandoned:

A part of Mill Road from the intersection of Mill Road with Burnt Bridge Road to New River Road, approximately 0.25 miles, in Section 9, Township 7 South, Range 5 West, Franklin County, Florida.

Public Road Number Two to Be Abandoned:

All of New River Road from Mill Road to Gully Branch Road, approximately 6.7 miles, from Section 9, Township 7 South, Range 5 West to Section 10, Township 6 South, Range 5 West, all in Franklin County, Florida.

See attached map, which is incorporated herein.

Notice of the intent to adopt this Resolution shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in Franklin County, Florida, and the proof of publication of the Notice of Public Hearing, this Resolution as adopted, and the Notice of Intent to Adopt Resolution.

Abandoning Public Road shall be recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court of this county in the Official Records of this county.

Adopted in open session, this the 16th day of March, 2021.

Franklin County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida

/s/Ricky Jones

Ricky Jones, Chairman

/s/Michele Maxwell

Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Court

Approved as to form and sufficiency:

/s/Thomas M. Shuler

Thomas M. Shuler, County Attorney

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve a resolution abandoning a part of Mill Road from the intersection of Mill Road with Burnt Bridge Road to New River Road, and all of New River Road from Mill Road to Gully Branch Road. Motion carried 5-0.

ABSI Community Advisory Committee -- Dr. Sandra Brooke – Presentation

BACK TO THIS ITEM AFTER ATTORNEY SHULER'S HEARINGS

A. Presentation

Dr. Brooke will present a summary of the Committee's progress in this important effort to bring back the Bay.

Dr. Sandra Brooke shared a slideshow with the Board giving an overview of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI).

The ABSI seeks to gain insight into the causes of decline of the Apalachicola Bay ecosystem, particularly deterioration of oyster populations, understand why they have not recovered, and will help develop a science based management and restoration plan for the ABSI ecosystem.

The ABSI is comprised of four primary components: Research, Restoration, Management Plan and Community Engagement.

The Community Advisory Board developed a series of goals. Goal A: A Healthy and Productive Bay Ecosystem, Goal B: Sustainable Management of Oyster Resources, Goal C: Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan Supported by Stakeholders, and Goal D: An Engaged Stakeholder Community and Informed Public.

Dr. Brooke noted that the creation of a replenishment program will be vital in the future for the management and restoration plan.

Planning and Zoning – Cortni Bankston – Report

- A. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Residential Dock located at 1530 Highway 98, Carrabelle, Franklin County, FL. The proposed dock will be 12' x 4' with a 12' x 24' terminus. Applicant will be contingent upon State and Federal Permits. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental, agent for Charles W. Smith, applicant. **Planning & Zoning Board Recommended to approve contingent upon State and Federal Permits.**

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to authorize construction of a Single Family Residential Dock located at 1530 Highway 98, Carrabelle, Franklin County, FL. Motion carried 5-0.

- B. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Residential Dock and Boat Lift located at 2023 Turpentine Trail, Lot 12 Bay Cove Village, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. The proposed Dock will be 493' x 4' with a 20' x 6' terminus and a 11' x 20' Boat Lift. Applicant will be contingent upon State and Federal Permits. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental, agent for Gina Miller (GKM, LLC), applicant. (House under construction # 29881) **Planning & Zoning Board Recommended to approve contingent upon State and Federal Permits.**

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to authorize construction of a Single Family Residential Dock and Boat Lift located at 2023 Turpentine Trail, Lot 12 Bay Cove Village, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

- C. Consideration of a request for Sketch Plat Approval of a 21 acres of land lying in Sections 25 and 35, Township 7 South, Range 5 West, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. The subdivision will be named "St George Bay" and will consist of 16 Lots over 1 acre each. Request submitted by Elaine Boone, agent for Ed Simmons, applicant. **Planning & Zoning Board Recommended to approve Sketch Plat.**

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve a Sketch Plat of 21 acres of land lying in Sections 25 and 35, Township 7 South, Range 5 West, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. The subdivision will be named "St George Bay" and will consist of 16 Lots over 1 acre each. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Hearings 10:30 a.m. (ET)

Moved further up in the agenda due to scheduled time.

- 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.
- E. St. James Bay PUD Amendment 11:00 a.m. (ET)

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners proposes to adopt an ordinance amending the St. James Bay Planned Unit Development Ordinance (Ordinance No. 200-28). The proposed amendment will modify the text of the ordinance to allow for the construction of 16 additional golf villas and a 72-unit inn. A public hearing on the proposed change will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the County Commission Meeting Room in the Franklin County Courthouse Annex located at 34 Forbes Street in Apalachicola, Florida. More information can be obtained and the proposed change inspected at the Franklin County Planning Department, 34 Forbes Street, Suite 1, Apalachicola, Florida, and telephone (850) 653-9783.

Commissioner Boldt abstaining due to a conflict.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Lockley, the Board adopted the ordinance amending the St. James Bay Planned Unit Development Ordinance. Motion carried 4-0, Boldt abstained.

- F. Road Abandonment 11:00 a.m. (ET) or as soon thereafter

Public Road One: A part of Mill Road from the intersection of Mill Road with Burnt Bridge Road to New River Road, approximately 0.25 miles, in Section 9, Township 7 South, Range 5 West, Franklin County, Florida.

Public Road Two: All of New River Road from Mill Road to Gully Branch Road, approximately 6.7 miles, from Section 9, Township 7 South, Range 5 West to Section 10, Township 6 South, Range 5 West, all in Franklin County, Florida.

Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith – Report

A. Action Items

1. Approval of two resolutions for the Boating Improvement Grant Program

Requesting adoption of the attached two resolutions supporting the grant applications for the Boating Improvement Program and the authorization of Mark Curenton, County Planner, to act as project manager and grant administrator on behalf of the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners. The County received a grant in 2019 for the design of the boat ramp improvements at the Old Ferry Dock boat ramp. This grant application will be for Phase II, construction. Construction will entail a new ramp, an easier to navigate entrance to the basin and a new basin wall. The County received a grant in 2009 to construct the boat ramp on St. George Island. This grant application is for design funds to construct a breakwater, floating dock and install safety improvements to improve the functionality of the existing ramp.

RESOLUTION

FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, a public boat ramp was constructed on St. George Island in 2009 with funding from the Florida Boating Improvement Program (Contract #06078), and

WHEREAS, this boat ramp launches directly into St. George Sound, and

WHEREAS, winds from the northeast blow directly into the boat launching basin, creating hazardous conditions for launching or recovering a boat, and

WHEREAS, a breakwater of some sort would alleviate this hazard, and

WHEREAS, there is no loading platform at sea level for easy access between the seawall and boats, and

WHEREAS, the provision of a loading platform would facilitate the launching and recovery of boats at the St. George Island Boat Ramp,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that the Board does support the grant application to the Florida Boating Improvement Program to design improvement to the St. George Island Boat Ramp. The Board also authorizes Mark C. Curenton, County Planner, to act as Project Manager for this project, and he has the authority to apply for and administer the grant on behalf of the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners.

This resolution adopted by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 16th day of March 2021.

/s/Ricky Jones

Ricky Jones, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Michele Maxwell

Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Court

RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, a public boat ramp has existed at the western end of Old Ferry Dock Road in Eastpoint for a number of years, and

WHEREAS, this boat ramp was last renovated by Franklin County in 1985, and WHEREAS, the existing boat ramp has reached the end of its useful life, and

WHEREAS, this boat ramp is heavily used, especially by commercial crabbers and oystermen, and

WHEREAS, Franklin County was awarded a Florida Boating Improvement Program Grant (Contract #17202) to design improvements to the existing boat ramp, and

WHEREAS, Franklin County has completed the design of the improvements to the existing boat ramp,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that the Board does support the grant application to the Florida Boating Improvement Program to build improvements to the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp. The Board also authorizes Mark C. Curenton, County Planner, to act as Project Manager for this project, and he has the authority to apply for and administer the grant on behalf of the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners.

This resolution adopted by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 16th day of March 2021.

/s/Ricky Jones

Ricky Jones, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Michele Maxwell

Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Court

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopting the two resolutions supporting the Boating Improvement Grant Program applications. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Approval of grant applications for Florida Historic Preservation Program

On April 1st, the grant application cycle will open for the Florida Historic Preservation Program. Franklin County would like to apply for Historic Preservation Funding for three locations: the Buddy Ward Park Maritime Museum, Fort Coombs Armory and Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park. The Tourist Development Council will work to develop the spending plan/project scope to feature a series of free-standing photos, interpretive displays along with video kiosks that tell the story of Franklin County's maritime history – project costs will include research, acquisition of collection pieces, planning and design, construction and installation for

the Maritime museum. The Tourist Development Council will also develop a plan for Coombs Armory with an emphasis on the county's military history and significance from pre-civil war to present. County staff will also work to develop a project spending plan/scope for Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park. The location just transitioned into being categorized 'historic' and thus is now eligible for historic preservation funding. There are approximately 14 concrete picnic pavilions that were constructed in 1970 which are in need of repair. Preserving these pavilions which have weathered fifty years of Hurricanes are critical to maintaining the look and feel of Florida's historic wayside beach parks.

Item previously presented under TDC Administrator – John Solomon.

3. Alligator Drive Construction Contract Award

At your last meeting, construction bids were opened for the FEMA funded repairs of Alligator Drive. Of the six bids received, Clay Kennedy of Dewberry Engineers reviewed and confirmed that Anderson Columbia Co. Inc. was the lowest responsive bidder at \$5,073,311.39.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board awarded the construction contract to Anderson Columbia Co. Inc. and authorized the Chairman to sign the notice of award. Motion carried 5-0.

4. E911 Program Grants and Agreements

a. Tri-County Data Collection Mapping Grant (Grant S16-20-09-02, \$188,270 awarded, chairman's signature authorized at the February 2, 2021 Commission Meeting): The original grant application included a proposal from Datamark which was dated August 14, 2020 and was valid for 120 days. The proposal used in the grant application has since expired and Datamark has submitted a new proposal dated February 2, 2021. Datamark is a sole source provider for data collection services. In addition to the signed proposal, the granting agency will need a sole source acknowledgement letter from Franklin County.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to authorize the Chairman to sign the updated Datamark proposal and sole source provider acknowledgement letter contingent upon review and approval by County Attorney Michael Shuler. Motion carried 5-0.

b. RapidDeploy grant: This \$63,960 grant application is part of the tri-county rural grant for five years of software licensing that will interface the newly updated mapping data with the E911 system. This RapidDeploy system combines mapping and data analytics with cloud based software. This grant will replace the existing GEOCOMM software which is out of date. The Sheriff's Department is requesting authorization for the Chairman to sign the attached grant application.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the E911 RapidDeploy grant application. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Informational Items

1. Buddy Ward Artificial Reef Project

At your last meeting, Attorney Shuler mentioned that the Buddy Ward Artificial Reef Project specifications, conditions and the Request for Proposal (RFP) solicitation were finally approved by FWC. This project is spearheaded and partially funded by the Apalachicola

Artificial Reef Association with the County as the FWC grant applicant and administrator. 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 of Bob Sikes Cut. The RFP has been posted to the county website, advertised twice in the Apalachicola Times and the Panama City News Herald, and posted to the government bid DemandStar website. In addition to this general advertising, a list of experienced marine contractors with projects completed within our region were also emailed the solicitation directly. A pre-bid teleconference will be held on March 22nd, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. A copy of the RFP solicitation is attached and proposals will be opened at your next County Commission meeting on April 6th.

2. CARES Act Funds Distributed to Cities

Franklin County has received the final allocation from the 1st CARES Act Award. The county was the eligible applicant for these funds and both cities were to remit public safety payroll data to document expenses prior to receiving reimbursement. This payroll data has been carefully reviewed and approved for reimbursement by CARES consultant Traci Buzbee. Included in the check run for this meeting is a reimbursement in the amount of \$393,093.85 to the City of Apalachicola and a reimbursement in the amount of \$250,663.02 for the City of Carrabelle. At this time, all CARES expenditures are being compiled and reviewed and we will have a status update with the balance forward for the Board at the next meeting.

County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report

A. Action Items

1. Meeting In-Person Public Attendance: At your last meeting, the Board discussed allowing in-person public attendance at your meetings. I met with Department of Health (DOH) representatives to review the list (below) of safety procedures the Board should consider adopting as you consider re-opening your meetings to the public. DOH stated that these procedures should be adequate to keep everyone as safe as possible, especially with the recent low positivity rates in Franklin County. We did discuss the possibility of an uptick in those rates a couple of weeks after “spring break”. If the Board agrees to these procedures and re-opens the room, your meetings will basically be using a hybrid format, the public and presenters will participate in-person and virtually.

- Continue the use of Zoom to allow staff to present their reports and anyone scheduled on the agenda to address the Board.

- Continue the use of Live-stream for the public that prefer to view the meeting remotely.

- Use the allowed seating locations as designated by the 2nd Circuit Court Trial Marshal, which is based on the Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice’s order for in-person seating.

- If there is an overcrowding issue based on the limited available seating, especially during public hearings, those wanting to comment will be rotated with anyone outside waiting to speak.

- Require temperature checks before entering the meeting room.

- Require mask to be worn in the meeting room, unless you are speaking in front of a microphone. Removing your mask to speak allows for a clear understanding of what is being said for the official meeting minutes.

- A hand sanitizing station will be located at the speaker podium for anyone that addresses the Board from that location.

- Planning and Zoning and the Board of Adjustment meetings will follow the same procedures.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board agreed to accept the proposed guidelines and open meetings to the public beginning on May 4th. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Armory Rentals: I also discussed renting the Armory for private events with DOH representatives. Based on that discussion and the possibility of funding for the fire sprinkler/suppression system, I recommend we revisit this discussion in May and continue to keep the Armory closed for private events.

The Board agreed to continue with the closure of the Armory for private events and to revisit in May.

3. Building Official LOS: As part of the process for your Building Inspector, Mr. Steve Paterson, to receive a Building Official provisional license from the State, a letter from the County endorsing Mr. Paterson is needed. In order to keep that process moving forward, Chairman Jones signed that letter, then it was sent to the State.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on a letter endorsing Mr. Paterson as the County's Building Official. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Carrabelle Artificial Reef LOS: Recently, Attorney Shuler and staff was notified that FWC determined that since the City of Carrabelle is the entity that holds the permit from the Corps of Engineers, the City should apply for the grant. However, Ms. Lorena Holley would like a letter of support from the Board for the artificial reef project.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on a letter of support for the Bart Carey Memorial Reef in Carrabelle. Motion carried 5-0.

5. BOCC Legislative Priorities: Commissioner Boldt will be attending FAC Legislative Day tomorrow and has scheduled meetings with Senator Ausley and Representative Shoaf. The top priorities that Commissioner Boldt will discuss tomorrow is funding for construction of a new Emergency Operations Center and funding for the installation of a fire sprinkler/suppression system at Fort Coombs Armory. Are there any other items the Board would like Commissioner Boldt to address on Wednesday?

Commissioner Ward suggested an industrial park up Hwy 65 and Chairman Jones suggested additional parking for Alligator Point and Bald Point.

6. APST Fire Department: Recently, staff received letters and emails regarding the use of funds by the Alligator Point/St. Teresa Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner Boldt has information on this matter that he would like to share with the Board.

Commissioner Boldt noted that he provided the Board with a copy of three documents that have come out in the past few months regarding the misuse of MSBU funds. The fire department submitted a management letter outlining the use of funds.

B. Informational Items

1. GFP Timberlands Final Permit: Inform the Board that the final order for the issuance of a final environmental resource permit has been sent to the County. I have included the permit and other attachments.

2. SHIP Compliance Report: Attached to my report is Florida Housing's Acknowledgement Letter and SHIP Compliance Final Draft Report for Allocation Years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Mr. Lori Switzer-Mills, your SHIP Administrator.

3. Apalachicola National Forest Project: "The Forest Service is requesting your comments on a special use permit application on the Apalachicola National Forest (ANF). Tarpon Towers II, LLC is proposing the construction and operation of a communications tower on the ANF near the Town of Wilma, Florida, at the intersection of County Road 12 and State Highway 65. This proposed site is generally open land with very few trees present. This proposed tower would be the Liberty County connection to the statewide State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS), as tasked by the Department of Management Services, under section 282. 709, Florida Statutes." The entire letter and additional documentation are attached to my report.

Commissioner Parrish directed staff to contact the Apalachicola National Forest Service and other parties to see if this tower can be co-located with Verizon Wireless or other cell phone providers. Commissioner Parrish expressed concerns about the lack of cell phone service on Hwy 65.

Commissioner Ward pointed out a possible scrivener's error on the map of property located at the corner of Hwy 98 and Hwy 65 near Gramercy Plantation. She directed staff to look into the issue and report back to the Board with a proposed resolution to correct the error.

County Attorney - Michael Shuler - Report

Attorney Shuler had nothing further to report to the Board.

Commissioners' Comments

The Commissioners had nothing further.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Ricky Jones - Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell - Clerk of Courts