

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

MARCH 02, 2021

9:00 AM

MINUTES

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

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

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

Approval of Minutes

A. February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Boldt requested a correction under public comments. Mr. Kirshenbaum referenced runway 18/36 and not 6/24.

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 February 16, 2021, with a correction to the referenced runway. 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.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Property Appraiser -- Rhonda Skipper -- Request

Mrs. Rhonda Skipper requested the Board remove the fire assessments from 27 parcels that are completely submerged in the Gulf of Mexico. Attorney Shuler said there is currently not a provision for submerged lands to be exempt from the fire assessment. Attorney Shuler said he would need the Board to direct him to schedule a hearing on the MSBU fire assessment ordinance to remove submerged properties from the roll for the fire tax assessment.

Commissioner Lockley inquired as to whether the property owners would have any rights if a beach renourishment is done. Mr. Pierce explained the beach renourishment process and how before a project is started a line is established by the State of Florida. If the State and County pay for the renourishment it would become public property. Attorney Shuler said just because the lots are completely under water there could be an argument that the property could be recaptured, and if someone wanted to make a challenge we will do that on a case by case basis. Attorney Shuler said he believes that the submerged landowners have lost ownership of their property.

Commissioner Boldt inquired as to the responsibility of the property owner to change the designation of their property. Chairman Jones noted that if they chose to surrender it to someone, it would probably be to the State of Florida. Mrs. Skipper said that several owners have donated to the Nature Conservancy and used it for a tax write-off. However, a \$25 value is not much of a write-off.

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 schedule a public hearing to amend the MSBU Fire Assessment ordinance to allow Mrs. Skipper to clean up her books. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Moron asked what the process will be to remove the properties after the amended ordinance is approved.

Attorney Shuler said he would recommend Mrs. Skipper present a list of completely submerged properties to the Board with a request to remove them from the fire tax. The Board would vote to remove the properties at that time.

Commissioner Lockley inquired as to when the properties began eroding. Mrs. Skipper said that some started eroding in the 1990s and they have just gradually be taken away by storms and erosion.

Department Directors Report

Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors

A. Informational Item

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

Attorney Shuler presented the following item from his report.

2. During Howard's presentation, I will ask him to inform the board about the maintenance of Pruett Road. Apparently, it has been continuously maintained by the county for decades before the board adopted its 1996 list of roads owned by the county due to maintenance, but for some reason was left off the 1996 list. Since it was not on the road list approved by the Board in 1996, I told Buster not to put equipment on Pruett Road.

Attorney Shuler asked Mr. Nabors to explain to the Board the Road Department's past maintenance of Pruett Road. Mr. Nabors explained that the department has maintained the road for twenty years. Mr. Nabors said the road department wanted to widen the road, and asked Mr. Curenton to look it up on the County maintained roads list. However, it was not on the list. Attorney Shuler said the Board would need to decide as to whether or not to add the road to the list to continue maintaining it.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to add Pruett Road to the County maintained road list. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Shuler said when this issue came to his attention, he requested that the road department update any other roads that may qualify. Attorney Shuler said there is more work to be done to create an accurate list. The Road Department will bring a revised list for Board approval at a later date.

Mr. Pierce said the list was generated by a former employee, Mr. Joe Hamilton. While Mr. Hamilton assisted the road department, he was not intimately involved in all road

maintenance. Mr. Pierce said a more precise list could be generated by the road department.

Attorney Shuler noted several roads need to be removed some of which are by homeowners. The Board will be considering removing and adding to the list. Attorney Shuler said the statute is complicated because if we take maintenance of the road we are ultimately taking ownership of their property.

Commissioner Ward thanked Mr. Nabors and his staff for their work in her district.

Commissioner Lockley requested Mr. Nabors check on the lights out by the IGA. Mr. Nabors will take a look at it and get with Mr. Moron on what pole numbers need to be worked on by Duke Energy.

Chairman Jones told Mr. Nabors he would be in touch with him to discuss some drainage issues.

Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

A. Action Items

1. Exploring Universal Collection Countywide: Please see the attached letter from Nancy Paul outlining the scope of services for the purpose of exploring universal collection of solid waste and recycling in Franklin County.

Chairman Jones confirmed this would come from Mr. Davis' budget. He told the Board he had reached out to Wakulla County inquiring about the company and he was in favor of exploring their services.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, it was agreed to accept compensation for tasks on an hourly basis plus travel and reimbursement for expenses directly to this project including office supplies, meeting refreshments, or in event of virtual meetings the support of County employees to conduct virtual meetings.

Attorney Shuler commented that he had not been provided the contract and is not aware of what the caps are. Attorney Shuler recommended board approval contingent on his review.

Commissioner Lockley amended the motion to approve the contract contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.

Commissioner Boldt observed that the City of Carrabelle held a meeting a couple of weeks ago in regards to city wide trash pickup.

Motion carried 5-0.

2. Fleet Surplus Sale: Currently, we have a Chevrolet Blazer 2004, GMC 2004, and GMC 2001 these vehicles have been replaced with more reliable vehicles in our department.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and upon a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to sell surplus vehicles.

Chairman Jones inquired as to how the vehicles will be sold. Mr. Davis said they are normally taken to auction. Attorney Shuler inquired as to what company we were using. Mrs. Griffith said they will be sold at auction noting Midway has closed. She said after speaking amongst departments it may be just as well to do the auction in-house.

Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ward noted that she will contact Mr. Davis regarding a couple of issues.

B. Informational Items

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

Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Action Item: RFP for contractors for Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and upon a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the RFP for the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Brownell said EOC will help with parking at the Eastpoint Church of God on March 9th for a vaccination distribution site.

Mr. Moron noted the executive order allows for any school employee to receive the vaccination.

A. Information Items

1. EOC Staff and CERT Volunteers assisted the Florida Department of Health Franklin at the COVID 19 Vaccine POD at Carrabelle Christian Center on 02/25/2021.
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 will be virtually attending the MGT462 class on 03/11/21.
4. EOC Staff handed out COVID Care Cags at the Carrabelle Branch of the Franklin County Library on 02/24/2021.
5. EOC Staff have also assembled and distributed approximately 3400 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 have submitted our EMPA, EMPG & EMPG-S grants for reimbursement.
7. 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. We have submitted the Project for CAT B Reimbursement. North Bayshore is now being worked.
8. IPAW/WEA/EAS System test was completed on 02/23/21.
9. EOC Staff along with Stakeholders will participate in the Regional Exercise on 03/04/21.
10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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 organic gardening, household pests, paddling trails, and more.
2. A fourth batch of Tamarixia (bio-control for citrus psyllids) was released to combat citrus greening disease. This is part of a coordinated effort with Bay and Gulf County to slow the spread of this fatal citrus disease in the Panhandle region.

Sea Grant Extension:

3. Extension Director participated in a webinar regarding potential health risks of birds perching on floating aquaculture gear. Actual data is pretty slim on this topic but regulators are looking at the potential for new rules as the amount of floating aquaculture gear in use continues to rise with increasing numbers of full-water-column leases around the country.
4. Preparation continues for this summer's kickoff of the Scallop-Sitter project in Franklin County. Volunteers are being recruited now to care for and monitor cages of bay scallops in St. George Sound (between Carrabelle and Turkey Point), as part of a restoration project by FWC and UF/IFAS Extension. Scallops are protected from predators until they are mature and able to spawn.

4-H Youth Development:

5. Funding for archery equipment has been coming in from citizen donations and a grant from the Florida 4H Club Foundation.

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. Recruitment is underway for the next Master Gardener class in Franklin County, which will begin in April and run for 13 weeks.

Chairman Jones inquired as to whether the 4-H club program was starting to see any return to normalcy. Mr. Lovestrand said they do have some guidelines to follow but have one program in Eastpoint and Carrabelle that is fairly active. They are still doing local activities but none of the statewide activities or overnight camping stays. Mr. Lovestrand said they are establishing some daytime activities at the camps but nothing overnight.

Mr. Moron corrected his earlier statement regarding the vaccination eligibility criteria. School employees who are 50 years or older are now eligible and there is no age limit on health care workers.

Library Director – Whitney Roundtree

A. Informational Items

1. Meetings attended:

2/8- WILD Board Meeting – Virtual

2/10- FOL Board Meeting at the Carrabelle Library

2/17- WILD Library Directors' Meeting- Virtual

2/25- Met with WILD Administrator, Courtney Whitaker, and Kevin Ward with Eagletree Technologies to discuss IT and equipment improvements at both FCPL branches.

2. 2/24 – Submitted Association for Rural & Small Libraries Outstanding in Their Field Leadership Application.

3. Coordinated with Rebuild Florida regarding use of the meeting space at the Carrabelle branch to assist residents with hurricane relief.

4. Coordinated with Franklin EOC to distribute COVID-19 care packages at the Carrabelle branch.

Program attendance

Eastpoint:

Diabetes Awareness- 3

Book Chat-5

Anime Club- 4

Writer's Forum-8

Service Animal Presentation- 10

Carrabelle:

Book Chat- 4

Anime Club -4

Makerspace-4

Service Animal Presentation -0

Chairman Jones asked if the drainage issues had been resolved. Mr. Nabors said they dug out the ditch and it should be resolved.

John Solomon -- National Volunteer Week Proclamation

A. Action Item

1. Request Board action to support and authorize the Chairman's signature on the National Volunteer Week (April 18th - 24th) Proclamation (packet)

Commissioner Boldt read the following proclamation.

National Volunteer Week April 18th – 24th 2021

WHEREAS, the entire community can inspire, equip and mobilize people to take action that changes the world; and

WHEREAS, individuals and communities are at the center of social change, discovering their power to make a difference; and

WHEREAS, during the week of April 18th – 24th 2021 all over the nation volunteers will be recognized for their commitment to service; and

WHEREAS, the giving of oneself in service to another empowers the giver and the recipient; and

WHEREAS, our Country's volunteer force of 63 million is a great treasure; and

WHEREAS, Volunteers are vital to our future as a caring and productive community; and

WHEREAS, A volunteer saves on a national average \$27.20 an hour for the organization it volunteers for.

WHEREAS, In Florida a volunteer saves the organization it volunteers for an average of \$24.93

WHEREAS, During the past year many volunteers were faced with same challenges as the rest of the country, but still gave of themselves to make our community better.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Franklin County Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 18th – 24th 2021 National Volunteer Week in Franklin County and also urge our fellow citizens to volunteer in Franklin County. Also we urge others to recognize those who serve, by tirelessly sharing their time and talent with those in need.

Franklin County Board of County
Commissioners Franklin County, Florida

/s/Ricky Jones

Ricky Jones, Chairman

/s/Michele Maxwell

Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Court

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the adoption of the resolution for National Volunteer Week. Motion carried 5-0.

TDC Administrator -- John Solomon -- Report

A. Action Items

1. Maritime History Museum:

- a. We received a quote for \$9,675.00 from Premise Network Solutions for the camera system to be installed at the Museum this quote also includes a web camera to be shared on the TDC website of the Bay. 10 additional cameras inside and out of the museum.

b. We received a quote from Cates Electric for replacing and repairing the outdoor lighting around the Building for \$2,004.00

c. We Received a Quote from Eagletree Technologies in the amount of \$7,803 for the outfitting and purchase of the digital displays, computers, operating system and viewing displays.

Chairman Jones said he requested Mr. Solomon provide the quotes for the Board and the public. Mr. Solomon said the funds will come from the reserve set aside for these purchases.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, it was agreed to approve the purchasing of goods and services from Premise Network Solutions, Cates Electric, and Eagletree Technologies.

Mr. Moron inquired as to whether the Board needs to officially turn over the management of the building to the TDC.

Commissioner Lockley inquired as to whether this would allow the museum to open. Mr. Solomon said no that this is the first step but he is hoping to open mid-May.

Commissioner Lockley suggested Mr. Solomon check in to creating a public bathroom on the strip of land by the pump station.

Mrs. Griffith said there will be a formal contract for the operation and management of the building at a later date. Mr. Solomon said this contract will be submitted with the new budget.

Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ward stated for the record that TDC funds cannot be used to pay for an animal control officer. Attorney Shuler agreed that animal control must be funded through ad valorem taxes.

Chairman Jones said the need for restrooms is one of the reasons the Board talked about increasing the TDC tax. The cost to build is around \$300-500k per bathroom because of the locations. We can only use 10% to pay towards projects on the beach, but in other properties you can pay the entire project amount. We need multi-use facilities.

Chairman Jones requested the following item from Mr. Moron's report be discussed at this time.

SGI Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:

April 20th –

The Board was in agreement with April 20th for the SGI Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Commissioner Boldt noted the importance of the TDC especially with the closing of the bay for the next five years.

B. Informational Item

1. Collections:

The December 2020 Collections were \$67,724.30 compared to December 2019 collections of \$52,526.91. It was a \$15,197.39 increase which is a 28.93% increase.

This is the highest collections for the month of December in the history of the TDC by \$15,197.39

Dewberry -- Clay Kennedy -- Project Update

A. Mr. Clay Kennedy (Dewberry) will update the Board on current projects

Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Ph I & II (007.108) FDOT:

- Phase I redesign is complete
- Being sent to FDOT for review
- Phase II redesign is almost complete
- Will be sent to FDOT for review

Alligator Drive Hurricane Damage Repairs (50082808):

- Bids due 2 March 2021

Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp Design (50082815):

- Design is at 90% awaiting permits to complete
- FDEP permit RAI's have been answered and permit is expected by 12 March 2021
- ACOE permit RAI's have been answered, but we need the FDEP permit to give to ACOE

CR 67 (50082816) FDOT SCOP & CR 30A (50112837) FDOT SCRAP:

- Both under construction

St. George Island Restroom (50112840):

- Under construction (Contract time ends 17 April 2021)

Timber Island Road (50112842) FDOT SCOP:

- Design is complete

CR 67 Sidewalk CEI (50112845):

- Construction is complete, closing out job with FDOT

Franklin County EOC (50112846):

- Finalized approved layout and location
- Working with subcontractors to finalize contracts

CR 30A East & West Washouts (50112847) FEMA:

- Design is complete
- Working on Bid Documents
- Working on Permits
- Should be asking to go out to bids at the 16 March Meeting

Eastpoint Restroom Washout (50112848) FEMA:

- Design is complete
- Working on Bid Documents
- Working on Permits
- Should be asking to go out to bids at the 16 March Meeting

SGI Fishing Pier Road Washouts (50112849) FEMA:

- Design is being worked on
- Working on Bid Documents
- Could be asking to go out to bids at the 16 March Meeting

Island View Park (50112854) FEMA:

- Park & Rec's has removed some material to prepare for surveying
- Scheduling survey for design

Other Items

- Transportation Grant (sidewalks and multi-use paths)
- SCRAP, SCOP, CIGP Applications due 12 March 2021
- Ryan Drive estimates
- Gulf Ave east of Carrabelle (C30) FEMA Damage will work with Erin to create a task order
- Florida Boating Improvement Grants due in early April

Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Kennedy for the list and all the work he and Dewberry does. Commissioner Boldt inquired as to whether this report included Route 98 and Route 30 where the chronic washout started with Hurricane Dennis. Mr. Kennedy said he does not have a proposal to present to the Board just yet. However, he thinks he can have it ready for the next meeting if the County chooses. Mr. Kennedy said the last several weeks they have focused on the sidewalk projects, grant applications, receiving bids for Alligator Drive, and obtaining different options with prices for the washout problem on Ryan Drive. Chairman Jones said he noticed three projects potentially may go out for bids at our next board meeting.

Commissioner Ward thanked Mr. Kennedy for his help with Ryan Drive.

Mr. Moron suggested having Mr. Kennedy come back once a quarter and provide the board with an update.

RFP / RFQ / Bids Opening

A. ALLIGATOR DRIVE HURRICANE DAMAGE REPAIRS PROJECT # 50082808

Mr. Pierce and Mr. Moron opened and read the bids as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
C.W. Roberts	Tallahassee, FL	\$6,615,801.20
Hale Contracting	Midway, FL	\$5,415,169.74
Keiwi Infrastructure South	Tampa, FL	\$6,147,706.50
Anderson Columbia Co.	Marianna, FL	\$5,073,311.39
North Florida Asphalt	Tallahassee, FL	\$5,514,070.74
M of Tallahassee	Tallahassee, FL	\$5,760,675.67

Mr. Pierce recommended the Board turn them over to the engineer for review and a recommendation.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to turn the bids over to the engineer for review and a recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.

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

A. Discuss Possible Amendments to Floodplain Management Ordinance 10:30 a.m. (ET)

Notice is given that on the 2nd day of March, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. (ET), or as soon thereafter as is possible, in the courtroom at the Courthouse Annex, located at 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, Florida, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners shall conduct a workshop to consider amendments to the Franklin County Flood Plain Management Ordinance.

Mr. Moron asked the Board to postpone the workshop until our state and federal staff have thoroughly reviewed the ordinance and proposed changes. Mr. Moron said Mrs. Angela Lolley

sat with Mrs. Quinn to review the floodplain and they need additional time to review. They have extended the time we have to complete.

Attorney Shuler said the Board would need to make a motion and take a vote to postpone the meeting. Chairman Jones said he would like to get this taken care of before June 1st

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and upon a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to postpone the workshop to a later date to be determined, allowing staff time to thoroughly prepare the proposed changes. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Shuler clarified that Mrs. Quinn will go through the current ordinance, redline, and/or strike out anything that is not required by FEMA, streamlining and eliminating unnecessary wording.

Due to the time set for the public hearings, Chairman Jones moved to the Clerk of the Court report and Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator report.

Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell – Report

Clerk Maxwell did not have anything to report at this time.

Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith – Report

A. Action Items

1. FEMA funded recovery task order for CEI services for the repair of Alligator Drive:

Franklin County has been working to repair the damage to Alligator Drive from Hurricane Michael. Just earlier in the meeting, the BOCC opened bids for the construction of this project. The total eligible obligated project cost from FEMA is \$5,583,530. The 75% Federal Share for this project is obligated at \$4,187,648, the 12.5% State and County match for this project will both be \$697,941. The funding for the County's match will be provided by a Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Hurricane Michael Assistance Grant.

Dewberry Engineers has submitted a Task Order in the amount of \$139,575 to perform the necessary construction engineering and inspection services to see the project to completion. This proposal is consistent with the FEMA cost curve specification for this type of project and fees cannot exceed 3% of the construction cost.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to authorize the acceptance of Dewberry's Task Order #8 for the CEI Services relative to the Alligator Drive Hurricane Repairs.

Commissioner Boldt inquired as to the funds available to pay for this. Mr. Pierce said this will come out of FEMA funds. Commissioner Boldt said it looks like the county will not have to pay anything. Mr. Pierce said only if there is any cost overrun, Mr. Pierce noted there is a cap on the DEO money. In the event of future erosion and the need for repairs, the funds may have to be taken from the Bald Point Trust fund.

Motion carried 5-0.

2. Approval of the ADA Transition Plan for Accessibility of Pedestrian Facilities:

Attached is the updated ADA Transition Plan for Accessibility of Pedestrian Facilities within the Public Right-of-ways as prepared by Planner Mark Curenton. This document is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act to be updated every couple of years and inventories the pedestrian facilities of Franklin County and notes any deficiencies for correction.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and upon a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the updated ADA Transition Plan. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Employee Job Classification and Pay Plan Study:

At the second meeting in February, Dr. Jeff Ling of Evergreen Solutions, LLC, presented a \$14,000 cost proposal to perform a pay and classification plan study for the employees of the County Commission. Upon conclusion of the presentation, the Board requested an updated proposal from Evergreen which would include 123 additional employees of the constitutional officers. Evergreen's new proposal has \$14,000 as the base rate for the commission employees and an additional expense of \$13,500 to include the employees of constitutional officers. Evergreen has performed over 600 of these type of studies for numerous governmental agencies in 46 states including the job classification and pay plan for Gulf County and is currently working on projects with Wakulla and Leon counties. In the contract documents, the pay plan will be due back to the BOCC on or before June 30th which does fit within the timeline for the budget process. Evergreen will outline in the plan different solutions and phased implementation options to fit within budgetary constraints.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and upon a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman to sign the attached contract subject to review by County Attorney Michael Shuler.

Commissioner Lockley confirmed this would cover all employees and encouraged the Board to act on the report once received. Chairman Jones said he liked that all of their recommendations included multiple ways to complete the process over multiple years, along with multiple ways to implement. Commissioner Boldt said this shows that we care for all of our employees.

Motion carried 5-0.

4. Approval of five resolutions authorizing transportation grants

Requesting adoption of the attached five resolutions authorizing the Chairman to sign the applications for five different transportation grants the County is applying for this year: the SCOP program applications to repair three arch culverts on CR67 at Womack Creek and the paving of the remaining 1.156 miles of Mill Road that was excluded in the 2016 project, the CIGP program application to widen and resurface Patton Drive in Eastpoint, and the SCRAP program applications for the widening and resurfacing of the final narrow portion of CR67 (State Forest Road 172 to the Liberty County line), and the widening and resurfacing of Power Drive from Norvell Street to Old Ferry Dock.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and upon a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the attached five resolutions authorizing the grant applications and the Chairman's signature. Motion carried 5-0.

Action Item: Mr. Alan Pierce addressed the Board requesting a letter of support for Gulf County's Triumph application for the Port of Port St. Joe.

Chairman Jones said he is in favor. Mr. Pierce noted the Staten Island Ferry is currently ported in Port St. Joe for repair. Commissioner Lockley inquired as to whether Carrabelle may benefit from the overflow. Mr. Pierce said he cannot answer that. Commissioner Boldt expressed his thoughts on how this could be good for the airport. Commissioner Parrish supported the letter and said this could bring jobs to our area just like the paper mill and Arizona Chemical.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt and Commissioner Lockley, and upon a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to offer a letter of support for Gulf County's Triumph application for the Port of Port St. Joe. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Hearings 10:45 a.m. (ET)

A. Limiting Time for Tie-Up after Launch at Public Boat Ramps 10:45 a.m. (ET)

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PUBLIC BOAT RAMPS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA; LIMITING TIME FOR TIE-UP AFTER LAUNCH; AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF AUTO-MOBILES, BOATS AND TRAILERS IN VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Shuler opened the public hearing with a brief description of the specific topics this revision will include. The revisions clarify the ordinance as it applies to the boat ramps within the unincorporated area of Franklin County and adds limits to the time allowed for tie-up after launch.

Mr. Moron called for public comments. There were none.

Chairman Jones said he believed the referenced leased slips for commercial fishermen should be six and not two. Attorney Shuler said the Board will need to include this correction in their motion. Chairman Jones said he believed the fifteen-minute time limit is too short. Commissioner Ward agreed. Attorney Shuler said his thought process in creating the time limit was to prevent someone from jamming up the ramp. Chairman Jones said he believes there should be a time limit and does not anticipate someone checking the dock every quarter-hour, but to avoid overnight docking limits must be set.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Lockley, and upon a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve amending the ordinance by revising the time limit to 30 minutes, and correcting the leased slips to six. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Amend Ordinance by Deleting the 100 Foot Separation between a Water Well and Septic Tank 10:50 a.m. (ET)

AMENDMENT DELETING THE 100 FOOT SEPARATION BETWEEN A WATER WELL AND SEPTIC TANK FROM ORDINANCE 79-8 ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION SERVING AS SEWAGE/WASTE-WATER DISPOSAL FOR INDIVIDUAL HOMES IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND PERMITTING ALTERNATE SYSTEMS; RE- AFFIRMING REMINDER OF ORDINANCE 79-8; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve amendments to the revised ordinance deleting the 100 Foot Separation between a Water Well and Septic. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Amendments to Ordinance Regulating Animals in Franklin County 11:00 a.m. (ET)

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING ANIMALS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA AND REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OF FRANKLIN COUNTY REGULATING ANIMALS, PROVIDING FOR AREA REGULATED, PROVIDING DEFINITIONS, PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT, PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES, PROVIDING FOR APPEALS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Moron called for public comments.

Commissioner Mel Kelley from the City of Carrabelle addressed the Board asking how much more will the Board charge taxpayers on St. George Island, St. Teresa, and Alligator Point. Commissioner Kelley also asked if a Sheriff's deputy would have to wait for animal control to appear. Commissioner Kelly said she felt like Apalachicola and Carrabelle were being penalized.

Mr. Murray Harrison spoke in favor of the ordinance saying his adjoining neighbor has bulldogs, but he has had no luck with animal control. Mr. Harrison said he has a pending sale of his property contingent on the ordinance passing to deal with animal control. Mr. Harrison said we need a dog catcher with enforcement.

Mr. Travis Wade the City Manager for the City of Apalachicola told the Board the City was in favor of the proposed agreement and they would provide a police officer to respond to any animal control call within the city of Apalachicola.

Mr. Moron said he sent the same information to the City Carrabelle and let her know in theory what we were doing with Apalachicola. Mr. Moron said he received an email yesterday afternoon letting him know they would add to their report for their meeting on Thursday. Attorney Shuler said the way the ordinance is drafted, either or both would have to request animal control services from the county through an interlocal agreement. Commissioner Lockley spoke in favor of the amendment.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, it was agreed to amend the Regulating Animals in Franklin County ordinance as presented.

Commissioner Parrish spoke in favor of the amendment and noted the County was trying to create a solution to a problem that we have. Chairman Jones said this was an attempt to find a solution to a problem where the cities can share in the cost without increasing taxes. Commissioner Boldt recognized this as bonding and blending between city and county.

Attorney Shuler reiterated that the County is not obligated to provide animal control within the cities and the County has incurred additional expenses in doing so. Attorney Shuler said the City commissioners are responsible for addressing their animal control.

Mr. Moron said there are certain things you expect from the city government, animal control being one of them. A partnership works both ways.

Motion carried 4-1, Commissioner Ward opposed.

D. CDBG-CV 11:15 a.m. (ET)

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners is considering applying to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for a Community Development Block Grants - COVID (CDBG-CV). The application is limited to one project of \$200,000 - \$5,000,000, which may contain public services, public facilities, or special economic development activities, to address documented needs to prepare for, respond to, or recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The program priority is assisting low/moderate income persons. The pre-application deadline is March 15, 2021.

1. Conduct a public hearing on applying for CDBG-CV funds. The County can apply for a minimum of \$200,000 and a maximum of \$5,000,000 in CDBG funds for COVID related activities. At least 70% of the HUD award to the State of Florida must be used for activities that primarily benefit low-to-moderate individuals (LMI), and the Department of Economic Opportunity's administrative and technical assistance, and the local government administration costs, are part of the remaining 30%. This means few projects will be funded without having a minimum of 51% LMI beneficiaries. Pre-applications are due to DEO by March 15, 2021. DEO has still not announced when they will accept final applications.

Mrs. Belcher spoke to the Board about applying for the CBDG-CV funds to assist with broadband. The project does not meet the eligibility requirements. Mrs. Belcher asked the Board if there were any other options they would like to consider. The Board and Mrs. Belcher discussed this topic at length, in the end determining it was not a fit for Franklin County. With the upcoming deadline looming, there is no way to come up with an idea, hold a public meeting, and apply for the grant in time.

Public comments were opened but there were no public comments.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward to not pursue the Community Development Block Grants - COVID (CDBG-CV) opportunity.

Commissioner Parrish thanked Ms. Belcher for her efforts in exploring this opportunity.

Motion carried 5-0.

CDBG Administrator – Deborah Belcher -- Report

A. Informational Item

The last Eastpoint Wildfire CDBG mobile home replacements are now underway, with the final 1 being scheduled for delivery the week of March 1. By the April 30, 2021 grant expiration, 23 homes will have been replaced.

Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell – Report

Item previously presented after Public Workshop Floodplain Management Ordinance 10:30 a.m. (ET).

Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith – Report

All items previously presented after Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell.

A. Action Items

1. FEMA funded recovery task order for CEI services for the repair of Alligator Drive:

Franklin County has been working to repair the damage to Alligator Drive from Hurricane Michael. Just earlier in the meeting, the BOCC opened bids for the construction of this project. The total eligible obligated project cost from FEMA is \$5,583,530. The 75% Federal Share for this project is obligated at \$4,187,648, the 12.5% State and County match for this project will both be \$697,941. The funding for the County's match will be provided by a Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Hurricane Michael Assistance Grant.

Dewberry Engineers has submitted a Task Order in the amount of \$139,575 to perform the necessary construction engineering and inspection services to see the project to completion. This proposal is consistent with the FEMA cost curve specification for this type of project and fees cannot exceed 3% of the construction cost.

2. Approval of the ADA Transition Plan for Accessibility of Pedestrian Facilities:

Attached is the updated ADA Transition Plan for Accessibility of Pedestrian Facilities within the Public Right-of-ways as prepared by Planner Mark Curenton. This document is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act to be updated every couple of years and inventories the pedestrian facilities of Franklin County and notes any deficiencies for correction.

3. Employee Job Classification and Pay Plan Study:

At the second meeting in February, Dr. Jeff Ling of Evergreen Solutions, LLC, presented a \$14,000 cost proposal to perform a pay and classification plan study for the employees of the County Commission. Upon conclusion of the presentation, the Board requested an updated

proposal from Evergreen which would include 123 additional employees of the constitutional officers. Evergreen's new proposal has \$14,000 as the base rate for the commission employees and an additional expense of \$13,500 to include the employees of constitutional officers. Evergreen has performed over 600 of these type of studies for numerous governmental agencies in 46 states including the job classification and pay plan for Gulf County and is currently working on projects with Wakulla and Leon counties. In the contract documents, the pay plan will be due back to the BOCC on or before June 30th which does fit within the timeline for the budget process. Evergreen will outline in the plan different solutions and phased implementation options to fit within budgetary constraints.

4. Approval of five resolutions authorizing transportation grants

Requesting adoption of the attached five resolutions authorizing the Chairman to sign the applications for five different transportation grants the County is applying for this year: the SCOP program applications to repair three arch culverts on CR67 at Womack Creek and the paving of the remaining 1.156 miles of Mill Road that was excluded in the 2016 project, the CIGP program application to widen and resurface Patton Drive in Eastpoint, and the SCRAP program applications for the widening and resurfacing of the final narrow portion of CR67 (State Forest Road 172 to the Liberty County line), and the widening and resurfacing of Power Drive from Norvell Street to Old Ferry Dock.

County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report

A. Action Items

1. 579 Ridge Road Repairs: Ms. Angela Webster of Community Action Agency informed me that repairs to the house at 579 Ridge Road was originally approved for a \$4,860.00 project. After starting the project additional damage was found, and there was an issue with the contractor, so Ms. Webster had the home reassessed and requested bids from three other contractors. Those bids were submitted to Mr. Steve Paterson, County Inspector, for his review and recommendation. Mr. Paterson recommended a \$21,014.50 bid from Coastline Construction Services LLC for this amended project. Community Action Agency will pay for \$6,886.50 of this project from their disaster relief funds, therefore \$14,218.00 will be paid from the donated fire relief funds. Since this project was already approved by the Board and the contractor was ready to proceed, I authorized Ms. Webster to start the project.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and upon a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify approval to spend the additional \$9,358.00 (\$14,218-\$4,860 original approval) on the 579 Ridge Road repair project. Motion carried 5-0.

2. District 2 P&Z/BOA seats: Mr. Ben Houston District 2 Board of Adjustment Member contacted Mrs. Cortni Bankston, Zoning Administrator, and stated that he was interested in serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission when there was an opening. Coincidentally, District 2 Board of Adjustment Member, Ms. Kay McCord stated she no longer wanted to serve as a P&Z member. Mrs. Bankston talked to both Mr. Houston and Ms. McCord and they are willing to switch boards if approved by this Board.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and upon a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve switching Mr. Houston to Planning & Zoning and Ms. McCord to Board of Adjustment for District 2. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Medical Examiner Reappointment: The gubernatorial appointment term of the district medical examiner in District 2, which includes Franklin County, will expire on July 1, 2021. The Medical Examiners Commission will consider recommending to the Governor the incumbent,

David T Stewart, M.D., or other qualified candidates for this appointment and is asking for the Board's input, so an informed decision is made. There is a Reappointment Ballot Form that I will submit this afternoon. Does the Board have a favorable, unfavorable, or no opinion on the quality of medical examiner services provided to the County? *Board discussion and direction.*

Commissioner Boldt and Commissioner Ward suggested contacting Sheriff Smith for his input. Mr. Moron will contact him and respond accordingly.

4. SGI Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Storm Construction is estimating that the St. George Island bathroom project should be substantially completed by the end March 2021. Would your schedule be open to a 2:00 p.m. ribbon cutting ceremony after the April 20th regular meeting?

Item previously discussed under TDC Administrator – John Solomon.

B. Informational Items

1. ARPC Code Enforcement Meeting: On Wednesday, Chairman Jones and I met with Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) staff to discuss a proposal for facilitating five (5) workshops throughout the County to receive input from citizens on code enforcement. ARPC is aware that their role, at this time, is only to gather information from workshop attendees and summarize this information as a report and presentation to the Board. They should have a proposal to the Board within thirty (30) days that will include a timeline to complete the workshops and make a presentation to the Board.

2. Armory Status: In anticipation of the Board's consideration to open the Armory for events within the upcoming months, Mrs. Cortni Bankston and I will sit with the Department of Health staff to create protocols and regulations that will be part of the rental agreement for the Armory. If Board members have any specific concerns that you would like included or addressed as part of the protocols and regulations, do not hesitate to let me know.

Commissioner Parrish inquired as to who would enforce the rules and if there is no one to enforce then the rules would be useless. Mr. Moron said his thoughts were that fire watch could enforce the rules since they are required to monitor events anyway.

Commissioner Ward said she would like to see what we need to do to open our meetings up to the public. Mr. Moron will draft protocols and bring them back to the Board for review.

Commissioner Boldt inquired as to where we are on the funding for replacing the fire suppression at the armory. Chairman Jones noted that it was moved to the Senate appropriations yesterday. Mr. Moron said he would like to coordinate so that we don't open up the armory for a month and then have to close to replace the fire suppression.

3. SGI Brewfest: The SGI Brewfest Board decided to officially postpone the SGI Brewfest until October 16, 2021. This event was originally scheduled for April 18, 2020, and is the Humane Society's largest fundraiser. As authorized by the Board last year, the October 2021 event will utilize the public parking lot adjacent to the lighthouse. I will inform the Board if there are any further changes to this event.

Mr. Moron pointed out this is one of the largest fundraisers for the Human Society and if anyone has any outside sources of funds to please suggest they donate to the Humane Society.

Chairman Jones reported on the ARCP workshops. He said he tried to assure them of what the Board's direction was, get a temperature of different areas of the county, particular things they are looking for in code enforcement. They are going to report back to us within thirty days on what they can do and how much it will cost to hold the workshops.

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

County Attorney – Michael Shuler – Report

Action Item: Resolution of Intent to Abandon Two Public Roads

Attorney Shuler announced that the public hearing for the Board's consideration of the abandonment of the two forestry roads will be held on March 16th at 11 a.m. (ET).

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO ABANDON TWO PUBLIC ROADS

WHEREAS, Franklin County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, has heretofore acquired by dedication the two public roads described hereinbelow; 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 on March 16, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. (ET), a public hearing will be held to consider abandoning the following two public roads as provided by law:

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 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.

This Notice of Intent abandonment is adopted pursuant to Florida Statutes Section 336.09(2).

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 Adoption of such resolution 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 2nd day of March, 2021.
Franklin County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and upon a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Resolution of Intent to Abandon Two Public Roads. Motion carried 5-0.

Action Item: Renewal of County Probations Contract

Attorney Shuler said there were no changes made, and this extension is for one year.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and upon a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the renewal of the County Probations contract. Motion carried 5-0.

A. Action Items

1. The Board asked me to review the Work Force Board's request for a "Subsequent Designation" renewing the contract for two more years. Before the board approves this, I wanted you to be aware that the Work Force Board and the Subsequent Designation requested are structured such that if the executive director and the multi-county workforce board do not meet standards as determined by the State, then Franklin County is subject to a financial claw-back provision.

Attorney Shuler recommended approval of the renewal for a two year period noting the clawback provision and wanted the Board to be aware of it.

Ms. Kim Bodine spoke regarding the renewal of the contract and the claw-back provision which is mandated by federal law. Ms. Bodine said they have never had a disallowance and they hold funds in reserve to use in the event of a disallowance to avoid having to come back to the Board requesting funds. Commissioner Lockley inquired as to how many people were employed now. Ms. Bodine said there were 14 with the County's contract, 7 with Franklin's Promise and 4 with another program.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and upon unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve a "Subsequent Designation" renewing the contract for two more years. Motion carried 5-0.

2. During Howard's presentation, I will ask him to inform the board about the maintenance of Pruett Road. Apparently, it has been continuously maintained by the county for decades before the board adopted its 1996 list of roads owned by the county due to maintenance, but for some reason was left off the 1996 list. Since it was not on the road list approved by the Board in 1996, I told Buster not to put equipment on Pruett Road.

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

Attorney Shuler said the Buddy Ward Reef grant paperwork is in order and he is ready to advertise the RFP.

Attorney Shuler asked the Board for direction on the creation of the Airport Advisory board. The Board has directed a 5 member board, but he has received several calls from Friends of the Airport saying they want 7 members. Mr. Moron noted they also wanted authority over the helipads.

Commissioner Lockley made a motion to not proceed with the creation of the Airport Advisory Board.

The Board, Attorney Shuler, and Mr. Moron discussed the creation of the Airport Advisory Board at length.

Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-2, Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Boldt opposed.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Boldt inquired as to what topics should be discussed with the legislators at the upcoming meeting. Chairman Jones said he will get with Commissioner Boldt on that later.

The Board welcomed Commissioner Lockley back.

Attorney Shuler asked that the Board communicate any priorities for legislators be sent to Mr. Moron.

Commissioner Lockley said he wanted everyone to know that the new animal control ordinance was not about east or west but about doing the right thing.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts