

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

**APRIL 9, 2020**

**9:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Noah Lockley – Chairman, Ricky Jones-Vice-Chairman, Joseph Parrish, William Massey, Bert B. Boldt, II

**Others Present:** Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Erin Griffith-Assistant Finance Director, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

- 1. To comply with CDC and Government social distancing requirements, the general public will not be allowed in the commission meeting room for this meeting; therefore, this Board of County Commissioners special meeting will be conducted via conference call. To listen to the meeting or comment during the "Public Comments" section of the agenda, call 1-888-585-9008 and when prompted enter 364022831#. At the conclusion of the special meeting a link to the meeting's audio file will be posted on the county's website. This link is to the recorded audio file, it is not a live feed.  
Any person who wished to appeal a decision by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at the meeting must have a record of the proceedings. He or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made.  
Any person who requires special accommodations because of physical impairment or disability should contact Mrs. Lori Hines at (850) 653-8861 ext. 100 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting***

**Prayer and Pledge**

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

**Superintendent of Schools - Traci Yoder – Discussion**

- 2. (.5 mill) Referendum - Presentation and request for Board Action to authorize a special election**

Superintendent Yoder requested the Board approve a mail ballot for the school district to hold an election to approve a referendum. She explained the referendum is a shift from capital dollars to operational. Superintendent Yoder reported this is the fourth year the School District will ask the public to support this and they have had overwhelming support. She said some of the Commissioners have been here through this process and are aware of what this means. Superintendent Yoder explained the capital funds are very restricted and can only be spent on capital improvements. She stated the main campus is only 13 years old so they do not have as many capital expenses as they do operational expenses. Superintendent Yoder said they use the referendum shift for things to improve technology, for matching grants for the welding and medical programs. She stated they will send this out to educate the public because they do not want them to think this is a tax increase. She explained the School District asks to shift these funds because they do not want to have an increase in taxes. Superintendent Yoder reported the School District is asking to keep the existing capital outlay ad valorem tax levy at its current reduced level and use it for operational expenses. She said they are asking for the referendum to be continued to preserve their academic programs, hire and retain highly qualified staff and fund programs such as art, athletics and student activities. Superintendent Yoder stated they must have approval from the Board of County Commissioners to hold this special election. She reported the Supervisor of Elections is waiting to hear from them today. Superintendent Yoder stated the Supervisor of Elections has done an email encouraging everyone to vote by mail because of the situation with the coronavirus. She explained they would like to have this election in May so they have time to plan because it would be detrimental to the School District if they cannot shift these funds to pay for the operational expenditures. Superintendent Yoder offered to answer any questions. Chairman Lockley asked when the election will be held. Superintendent Yoder responded they are hoping for a date in May but she will meet with the Supervisor of Elections after this meeting to get an exact date. She stated they need to have the election in May for planning purposes because their fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Lockley questioned if that will be enough time to set up for the election. Superintendent Yoder stated everything is in place because this is the fourth time they have done this. She explained the election could be pushed to June but they are hoping it will occur in May. She stated they will work with the Supervisor of Elections to make sure she has everything she needs to proceed. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the special election.** Superintendent Yoder thanked the Board for their partnership.

Mr. Moron announced all 5 Commissioners, the presenters on the Agenda and staff are present in the Commission Meeting Room.

#### **Sheriff - A. J. Smith – Update**

Sheriff Smith said his staff is doing well but they are fearful about getting the virus and taking it home to their loved ones. He reported they are trying to minimize anything like that from happening. He discussed people coming into the county from other areas. He reported the local citizens are doing a good job of self-isolation and social distancing. Sheriff Smith stated the problem is people that are coming from Georgia and Tallahassee that do not have any

business here. He explained these people are still on the beach and he believes people are still renting their houses or allowing people to stay for free. He reported since Friday dispatch has received 50 calls in relation to this matter but they have yet to make an arrest because they cannot prove when the people arrived and the individuals do not have to provide rental agreements. Sheriff Smith said he is not one to limit someone's liberties but this is an extreme situation and he wishes people would voluntarily comply. He said this is why they put the signs up and talked about quarantine because if they do not have essential travel or are an essential worker they must quarantine according to the Governor's Executive Order. He reported they are receiving calls from people who want to come to the area and they tell them they cannot come here. Sheriff Smith said when he leaves here he has to follow up on calls they received last night about deputies harassing people on the beach. He explained people were on their private beach but when people call in a complaint the deputies have to respond and check out the situation. Sheriff Smith stated following up on these calls takes a lot of time. He explained they talked about setting up checkpoints in the county but it will be difficult unless they get approval from the Department of Transportation (DOT). Sheriff Smith reported he talked with the Sheriff in Monroe County and they have checkpoints and it is working out great. He explained Monroe County is able to keep people out of the county that should not be there but they have had some issues with DOT trying to shut down the checkpoints. He said he contacted Senator Bill Montford and the Chief of Staff with the Governor's Office about the checkpoints and he is waiting to hear from them. Sheriff Smith explained if people knew there were checkpoints and they did not have any business here they might decide not to come here until this is over. He stated most people know what they should and should not do but some people want to push. He explained they have received quite a few calls about the fishing pier but if people are spaced apart it is okay. Sheriff Smith stated the businesses are not open so people need to wait to come into the community when they are open for business. He reported the citizens are concerned that someone will come from an affected area and bring the virus here. Sheriff Smith stated they are not receiving calls about local people. He reported they are trying to educate the public and the Health Department has been a great partner. Sheriff Smith stated the employees at the Sheriff's Department are taking this situation seriously by wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and practicing social distancing. Chairman Lockley questioned if they have enough supplies such as gloves and masks. Sheriff Smith stated they could use some more masks but they are fortunate because a local lady took some of their old uniforms they could not wear anymore and made face masks out of them. He said Mrs. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Director, has submitted an order for more supplies for the Sheriff's Department. He reported Commissioner Parrish told him about a local person that is making masks and they may get some more from her. He said they are in good shape right now on equipment but everything that has been ordered is on backorder. Commissioner Boldt asked what the Board can do to support the checkpoints. He questioned if they should actively continue their petition to DOT to try and mimic what Monroe County is doing. Sheriff Smith stated the idea is if people know there are checkpoints they will not come here. He explained they have spent a lot of time tracking down complaints about people from out of town being here and whether or not they should quarantine. Sheriff Smith explained because their staff is limited they talked about doing checkpoints for 2-3 hours in one area and then changing

locations so people are not sure where they are. He stated according to the Monroe County Sheriff the biggest problem they had was getting DOT approval. Sheriff Smith said they would use the same plan as Monroe County but they would need approval from DOT and the Governor's Office. He stated he hopes to hear back from the Governor's Office and Senator Montford today. Sheriff Smith asked if the Board had any suggestions on things they could be doing better. Commissioner Massey said they are doing a good job but are shorthanded. Sheriff Smith agreed they are working hard. Commissioner Boldt reported the checkpoints will compliment what the Governor wants to do. Sheriff Smith explained they set up the checkpoints on I-95 and I-10 and are collecting paperwork but the paperwork does not come here so they can monitor if someone should be quarantining. He said if someone is renting their house that is not supposed to or someone has come here and not quarantined he has given directions to the deputies to arrest them and write a notice to appear. Sheriff Smith reported if they continue to do this they are going to put them in jail. He stated two deputies are following up on the complaints received from citizens. Sheriff Smith said the good news is neither one of the COVID-19 cases here have been hospitalized. He stated the person from New York should never have come here because she was violating the law but the other one did not know. He said people do not want to get the virus or spread it and they do not need people here now that do not have business here. Commissioner Massey reported if they would have notified the Sheriff when the lady at Alligator Point hit the state line then he could have stopped her. Sheriff Smith agreed they would have known or if they had the local check points they would have known. Commissioner Jones asked Sheriff Smith to let the Board know when he hears back from the Governor's Office. Sheriff Smith agreed he will contact Mr. Moron. Commissioner Boldt asked if the Board needs to affirm that they support the checkpoints pending approval from DOT. Commissioner Jones said it falls under what the Governor has already passed in the Executive Order. He stated it is clear if people are coming from out of state or other areas they are supposed to quarantine. Chairman Lockley said it would look better if the Board endorses the checkpoints. **Commissioner Massey made a motion if the Governor's Office passes the Sheriff doing the checkpoints at the county lines then the Board will accept it and pass it and he can check them before they get here and turn them around. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Sheriff Smith said people know if they are coming from another state they are supposed to quarantine. He stated he asked Ms. Hinds to find out if Tallahassee is now being considered a place of community spread and she will let him know. He explained there are a lot of people coming in from Tallahassee. He reported a lot of citizens here are not leaving town. Sheriff Smith reported they had people flying into the airports from out of state and going all over town and they were sick when they left. He said they tried to contact the individuals but they will not talk to them. Commissioner Massey stated Carrabelle is a hotspot for fishing so everyone is coming to these areas. Sheriff Smith agreed and said he talked with the Mayor in Carrabelle about assisting if they close the boat ramps. He reported they will help enforce any closures. Sheriff Smith stated he applauds the businesses that have closed and had a good attitude because he knows it is hard to close their business and know their employees are not working. He reported they started a sign campaign yesterday about social distancing and the businesses that are open embraced it. Commissioner Massey stated they are not trying to hurt anyone but are trying to stop an outbreak that will make people sick.

**Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Moron asked if the Sheriff will stay for another item later in the meeting about the boat ramps. Chairman Lockley asked Mr. Moron to present that item now. Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

2. Boat Ramp Access: Commissioner Massey continues to receive numerous complaints of the number of out of state visitors using Timber Island boat ramp. It has become obvious that these out of state visitors are ignoring Federal and State shelter at home guidelines. Commissioner Massey would like the Board to consider an emergency ordinance that would restrict the use of county boat ramps to county residents, which should reduce the amount of out of state visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sheriff Smith is looking at option for enforcing such an ordinance.  
**Request:** Board discussion and possible action on adopting an emergency ordinance restricting the use of county boat ramps to Franklin County resident only.

Commissioner Parrish stated the City of Apalachicola has taken this action and he asked if the City of Carrabelle has taken this action with their city boat ramp. Mr. Moron said they are meeting this afternoon to discuss it. Sheriff Smith reported they are meeting at 1:00 p.m. and the Mayor told him they are waiting to see what the county does. Mr. Moron stated he was just talking about the county boat ramps. Commissioner Parrish explained he was making sure they were aligned with the two municipalities. He said he does not have an issue as long as the boat ramps are open to local people. Commissioner Parrish read the recreational activities approved in the Governor's Executive Order. Attorney Shuler said he prepared a draft emergency ordinance regarding the county owned boat ramps and it limits the boat ramps to use by local residents and also property owners in Franklin County. He recommended the Board adopt the ordinance and the limitations. He explained they will see how it goes and if there is a problem with non-resident property owners and the boat ramps then they can consider further restrictions. He pointed out this ordinance includes the Timber Island Boat Ramp even though it is inside the city limits. Attorney Shuler stated in the ordinance he has provided some guidance to the Sheriff on how to define who is a property owner and what evidence they need to show. He read the caption of the ordinance. He reported if they adopt this ordinance it would be effective and would remain in force and effect until the state of emergency declared by the State of Florida and Franklin County ends. Commissioner Massey said only one deed should be used and people should not make copies of the deed. Attorney Shuler reported the Sheriff will ask the person for identification to compare to the deed. He said violation of the ordinance is a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree misdemeanor which is punishable by up to 60 days in jail and/or a \$500 fine. Chairman Lockley stated he likes the ordinance and is in favor of it. He questioned if people have to quarantine before they go fishing if they are coming from a hotspot. Attorney Shuler reported if they are coming from a hotspot they are required by the Governor's Executive Order to quarantine for 14 days and should not be at a boat ramp. Commissioner Jones said in the ordinance one of the possibilities is to use the hurricane re-

entry tags and there was blast sent out yesterday from the Emergency Management Department that the re-entry tags were not to be used and he would like that clarified before they vote. He stated he is good with this option. Attorney Shuler explained he spoke with Mrs. Brownell yesterday and her perspective which is correct is that hurricane re-entry tags do not establish residency. He went on to say he meant to change that so they will strike the hurricane re-entry tag as proof of residency. Commissioner Jones suggested they make the ordinance effective at midnight tonight. He explained the Sheriff's Department is already overworked and if they say effective immediately then they are going to have to deal with people that are already at the boat ramps today. Mr. Moron stated the Division of Aquaculture asked if the Board took action on the boat ramps they allow anyone who has an aquaculture lease to use the boat ramps as this is their only access to the leases. Commissioner Jones inquired if they need a provision for commercial seafood workers. Chairman Lockley asked if this is an essential service. Commissioner Jones agreed it should be because they are providing food. Attorney Shuler explained the way the ordinance is written if they are not a resident or property owner they are not allowed to use the boat ramp so they would need to make an exception for that. Chairman Lockley asked if the state will send a list of names for the people that have aquaculture leases. Mr. Moron said he could request a list and give it to the Sheriff. Sheriff Smith explained they will know most of the people that are going to be at the boat ramps. Commissioner Boldt asked if this includes commercial fishermen who have business licenses. Commissioner Massey stated there are a lot of mullet fishermen in this area. Attorney Shuler explained if they are local residents then they will be allowed to use the boat ramps anyway. He reported if they have a provision for commercial fishermen then it could hinder enforcement because out of county commercial fishermen would be allowed to use the boat ramp. Mr. Moron questioned how many of the Alligator Harbor aquaculture lease holders are from Franklin County. Sheriff Smith said they will work from the list if they get one. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed that based on a declaration that a state of emergency exists and that immediate enactment of this ordinance is necessary the Board moves that the ordinance be enacted as written and effective at midnight tonight.** Sheriff Smith asked about the Eastpoint Fishing Pier. Commissioner Jones said that is part of the county's Parks & Recreation Department. Commissioner Boldt stated the Sheriff is saying people that come from out of town to fish are disobeying the spirit of quarantine and should not be there. Sheriff Smith stated people from other counties in Florida come here and they are not required to quarantine but they are asking that people that don't live here not come here and utilize these areas until the epidemic passes. Commissioner Boldt reported that means anyone no matter where they are coming from.

Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Moron to address Item #1 on his report so the Sheriff will know what they are doing on the beaches. Mr. Moron presented the following item:

1. Emergency Ordinance 2020-08 (Beach Closure): At the March 27, 2020 special meeting the Board adopted Emergency Ordinance 2020-08 temporarily closing all beaches and public beach accesses in Franklin County that will sunset this evening at 7:00 p.m. (ET).

**Request:** Board discussion and possible action on extending beach and public access closures in Franklin County.

Commissioner Boldt stated they need to extend this ordinance. Chairman Lockley agreed they need to extend it and go along with what the Governor is doing. Attorney Shuler read the caption of the ordinance. He explained if the Board adopts this ordinance as written it would extend the beach closure until the state of emergency declared by the State of Florida and the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners expires. He said the Board will not be meeting again to take action on the ordinance and until the state of emergency expires the beaches, beach accesses and beach parking lots will be closed. Commissioner Parrish asked if this is public and private beaches. Attorney Shuler explained all beaches public and private are closed to the public; however, property owners that own private beaches are allowed to use their private beach. He explained the idea is to prohibit the public from gathering in public or private spaces but the Board has not enacted, nor has he recommended, prohibiting people from using their private property. He reported that was provided for in the ordinance this time to make sure it was clear to everyone they are not prohibiting individuals from using their private beach property. Attorney Shuler explained violation of this ordinance is also a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree misdemeanor. He stated if people have a private beach they still are expected to comply with social distancing orders from the Governor and CDC. Chairman Lockley pointed out they cannot throw parties for the people that cannot be on the beach. Sheriff Smith stated one of the problems they had was determining who owned the beach. He reported he is not sending deputies to Alligator Point on this matter because they do not know who owns the beach except for the beach accesses. Commissioner Boldt asked if they need a guideline paper in layman's language to interpret the ordinance. Attorney Shuler replied no, unless there are specific questions that any Commissioner has and they can call him. He stated the ordinance is the Board's ordinance and they interpret it. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Ordinance approving the beach closure extension.** Sheriff Smith said if they see anyone from the Sheriff's Office thank them because they are doing a phenomenal job. He stated they are all working hard and their communications department has been inundated with calls so office staff is helping to take the calls. He reported they have gone above and beyond and he appreciates what all of them are doing. Sheriff Smith stated they have a good partnership with the Health Department and Mrs. Brownell. He said he received a text while he was here that EOC provided some more PPE for his department. Sheriff Smith stated he appreciates the support he has received from this Board. Commissioner Boldt said they are looking at consistency at the federal, state and local levels for good quality care because this virus is an unseen enemy. Sheriff Smith referenced the report done by TMH and the letter grade given for

each county based on the movement of the citizens. He stated Franklin County was an F but is now a C. He explained the local residents are doing what they should but other people coming here are probably affecting the grade. Chairman Lockley reported the Sheriff's Department, Health Department and the hospital are doing a good job.

Mr. Moron stated through technology and wireless microphones it has allowed everyone at the meeting to be properly spaced.

#### **Department of Health Administrator - Sarah Hinds - Update**

Ms. Hinds confirmed everyone here is adhering to social distancing guidelines which is the safest way to stop the spread of the virus. She reported it is important that everyone is speaking in one voice to stop the spread of the virus. She agreed now is not the time for anyone to be visiting the county and that is supported by the Board's Resolution and the Governor's Executive Orders. Ms. Hinds explained it is important for people that are traveling from highly affected areas to follow the 14 day quarantine period and if they do not adhere they are subject to law enforcement consequences. She reported people must follow the stay at home orders and only be out for essential needs and activities. She reminded everyone of the hygiene suggestions and to avoid touching their face. Ms. Hinds stated everyone should stay informed by following the updates on the EOC Facebook page. She reported there is a texting service and people should text franklincv19 to 888777 to receive the same update that is provided on the Facebook page. She explained this update is provided once a day and lets people keep track of what is going on in the community. Ms. Hinds said the county score the Sheriff was referencing is on unicast.com and tracks cell phone and distancing. She stated health care providers and hospitals are using this website to prepare for medical surge in their area. She said Gulf County is a B and she hopes Franklin County will be soon. Ms. Hinds explained their priorities are the same which are to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the elderly and at risk population. She said they also continue testing capabilities in the communities, enforce social distancing and are preparing for a medical surge. Ms. Hinds reminded everyone as Easter approaches to follow social distancing guidelines to keep their families safe. She stated they are asking for services to be provided remotely. She said they appreciate all the community churches for providing safe alternatives for worship services. Ms. Hinds reported Florida has 15,698 cases and Franklin County has 2 cases and Gulf County has 1 case. Commissioner Massey asked when they expect the cases to peak. Ms. Hinds stated right now the peak in Florida is expected around April 21<sup>st</sup> but they are closely monitoring this matter. Commissioner Boldt pointed out the 2 cases in Franklin County came here out of bounds and did not originate in the county. Mr. Moron asked Ms. Hinds to stay while Mr. Walker gives his presentation. He explained there was a region wide call on Thursday with TMH and they added a different perspective on the peak. Chairman Lockley said the Health Department is doing a wonderful job and the Courthouse is also steady working and doing an excellent job.

#### **Weems CEO - David Walker - Update**



Mr. Walker said it is good to work with Ms. Hinds and they have worked together for a number of years. He reported Ms. Lisa Hogan and Ms. Emerald Larkin are epidemiologists and make for a top notch team at the Health Department. He said at the hospital the nurses, doctors and staff are working hard to deal with the virus. Mr. Walker reported they are not allowing visitors into the hospital for inpatient care and if someone under the age of 17 comes to the Emergency Room they are allowed 1 visitor. He stated they will begin to implement temperature checks for all hospital staff and anyone in the hospital to do work very soon. Mr. Walker reported their hospital, clinic and EMS have seen a low level of visits which means people are taking the stay at home order into consideration. He said the number of visitors to the county has also been reduced. He said they are doing phone visits from the Carrabelle Clinic so they may cut back on the 4 hours on Saturday to give staff a chance to rest before the surge may come to the county. He explained all of these items have cut into their revenue while their expenses are increasing to prepare for the COVID-19 response. Mr. Walker said they have doubled their cleaning and PPE supplies for the hospital, both clinics and EMS. He reported some basic remodeling has been done to Weems West Clinic to close in the receptionist area to provide better security, privacy and to protect the staff. He stated 6 new ventilators have been ordered and are expected the beginning of May. He reported most of the PPE are on backorder but they are getting some supplies. Mr. Walker stated they are checking every resource for supplies. He said there are community individuals donating supplies and Franklin County Schools have donated some items. He reported Gulf Coast College has agreed to give some items. Mr. Walker said the Hospital Board has also taken a list of items that they are trying to obtain. He reported Senator Bill Montford hosted a call with TMH and the 11 surrounding counties regarding the COVID-19 projection model. He said the national and state models are the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). Mr. Walker explained the IHME model for COVID-19 for the state will probably look at data from south Florida or the counties that have the majority of cases and that peak season will probably happen April 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. He said the TMH model is looking at a regional level for the 11 counties that feed their hospital. He reported TMH took into consideration the total hospital beds in the 11 counties region which is 888 hospital beds and 105 ICU beds and they are looking at a peak of June 4<sup>th</sup> if everyone abides by social distancing measures. He said the model used by TMH is COVID-19 Hospital Impact Model for Epidemics (CHIME). Mr. Walker presented the different projections and peak dates. He reported Capital Regional Medical Center in Tallahassee also has a model but they have not seen that model yet. Mr. Walker explained they need a rural health model so they can anticipate the number of hospital beds that would be needed during surge. He reported the TMH model also measured ventilator census. He discussed what will happen if the peak hits south Florida and then works its way up the state. He stated Franklin County is an isolated county and they want to make sure they are not left out. Mr. Walker said this is why a regional strategy is good for the smaller hospitals. He explained Ms. Hinds was at the EOC yesterday with people from Tallahassee and they are talking about working through the Florida Hospital Association, state EOC's, AHCA and DOH and bringing TMH and Capital Regional Medical Center together so they can share their surge plans for the region. He explained they will refer to Bay County and Leon County but Bay County has a limited number of beds and will be full quickly. Mr. Walker stated every day twice a day the state is checking the number of beds available at

each hospital. He reported they are also looking at how to increase capacity because of the bed shortage. He pointed out they will have an issue in our region because 4 counties do not have hospitals. Mr. Walker explained TMH is working with the small counties so they can take care of their residents and not send them to Tallahassee because that will create a backlog when they can be taken care of in their own county. He said they are working and getting trained with TMH on telemedicine. Mr. Walker listed the types of physicians that will be available through telemedicine. He commented they are doing this so the hospital can take care of the patients in the county and not send them to Tallahassee which will free up bed capacity. He explained they are positioning the hospital to leverage their resources to save lives. Mr. Walker said a lot of research is being done and they may need to look at their chronic disease population in the county. He reported the virus is attacking people with underlying health issues and studies have shown African Americans are most likely to suffer from the underlying medical conditions. He read a list of the underlying medical conditions. Mr. Walker said they may need to look at this by zip code and do some extra outreach to these areas. He reported the chronic disease data has always been high in the county. Mr. Walker stated he reached out to the North Florida Medical Center as they are the parent company of Eastpoint Medical Center to see if they were interested in COVID-19 mobile testing. He explained they stated their resources are limited and they could not do the testing. He reported he then called PanCare who coordinates the mobile testing sites in Gulf County. Mr. Walker said PanCare is looking into that but Gulf County is their catch area. He stated he offered to find a site for PanCare because they are trying to get a mobile testing site. He agreed to update the Board when he knows more about this testing. Mr. Walker discussed the Alternate Care Site Plan. He explained if they have a surge in cases they must have this plan to go to another site. He reported with help from the Health Department and EOC they decided when the hospital reaches 50% capacity of COVID-19 patients they will turn the inpatient unit into a private bed COVID-19 response unit. He said the clinic will then handle the non-COVID-19 patients and when that hits 50% they will move to the Health Department. Mr. Walker explained they are operating these 3 facilities because all the medications and doctors are there. He said they would also operate a triage unit outside the Emergency Department. He reported they will also operate tents on the hospital grounds if they are needed. He stated Mrs. Brownell has 2 tents. He reported the Alternate Care Site Plan is fluid. Mr. Walker explained their expenses are going up but they want to have supplies if they are needed. He stated if extra beds are needed they will rent them. He estimated there are probably \$13,000 out now for the COVID-19 and Alternate Care Plan. He reported the total purchase for the ventilators was \$113,000. Mr. Walker said they are preparing and not waiting for the worse to happen. He reported these are things they may use after this response. He stated the security system at the hospital is bad and there is some security money in the COVID-19 crisis. He said this upgrade will cost approximately \$8,000. Mr. Walker reported they are upgrading the bandwidth to do telemedicine. He stated they are leveraging all their resources to get telemedicine started not only in the hospital but also the clinics. He said he talked with Mr. Richard Louie Lewis, EMS Director, about a Community Care Medicine Program where a paramedic goes to the home and provides telemedicine from the clinic. He stated testing could also be handled this way without the person having to come into the clinic. He explained they are trying to think of different

approaches since things are changing so fast with the COVID-19 response. Commissioner Parrish questioned if PanCare's service area is Gulf County and not Franklin County. Mr. Walker explained PanCare's service area for primary care is not Franklin County. He said Franklin County is in North Florida Medical Center's service area. He explained you must be 30 miles away to serve primary care from a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). He reported PanCare cannot come in and provide primary care to the county. Commissioner Parrish stated North Florida Medical Center cannot do it either so they should allow someone else to come in and provide the testing. Mr. Walker reported they are going to allow it anyway because this is an emergency and they need it. He explained the situation with PanCare providing dental services in the county and medical services through the school. Mr. Walker said North Florida Medical Center has told him they could not help with the mobile testing and that is why he is going to PanCare. Commissioner Parrish asked if they are going to get another waiver for PanCare to come in and provide services that North Florida Medical Center cannot. Mr. Moron stated it is not a waiver but is because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He explained Chairman Lockley has complained about this for years because Eastpoint Medical Center is not doing what they feel like they should for the money they are receiving from the federal government. He reported because Eastpoint Medical Center is here they are excluding the county from being part of another company's region. Mr. Walker said he reached out to North Florida Medical Center first for the testing and when they could not provide it he called PanCare. He reported if they will provide testing 2 days a week then he will find them a centralized location like the old Florida Highway Patrol station property. Commissioner Parrish expressed concern that they need more testing in the county because of people that are asymptomatic. Mr. Walker agreed testing is the key. Ms. Hinds stated the tests are designed now to be for symptomatic patients. She reported this is why people that have concerns about exposure should stay home. Ms. Hinds explained that is why social distancing is so important to slow the spread of the virus. Commissioner Parrish stated people should be wearing masks so if they are asymptomatic they are not spreading the virus. He went on to say if they were worried about the virus coming here they should have been wearing the masks months ago. Ms. Hinds agreed in places where it is hard to maintain social distancing they should be wearing masks. She reported they have shared that guidance and also a how to video created by the U.S. Surgeon General. Ms. Hinds said the message of social distancing is the message everyone should be focused on because that is what will prevent it from coming into the communities. Commissioner Parrish stated everyone needs to start paying better attention and wearing the masks because they do not know who is asymptomatic. Ms. Hinds agreed they need to take these actions to protect their self and their family. She said people should not be out except for the reasons the Governor listed in his Executive Order. She explained the elderly and the at-risk population need to stay home and stay safe. Chairman Lockley reported the North Florida Medical Center has not done what they should since the beginning and they have landlocked counties and no one else can come in to provide the services. He stated this is a disaster and they do not have any money. Mr. Walker said they have a new CEO. Chairman Lockley stated they are getting federal money and the county has cases and they cannot help. He reported they need to write the federal delegation and tell Eastpoint Medical Center to leave because this is a crisis and they are not helping. Mr. Walker clarified Eastpoint Medical Center has limited testing but they are not able

to open a mobile testing site. He explained a lot of money for the COVID-19 response is going to the FQHC's because they are supposed to take care of the uninsured and underinsured. He said every funding institution that gets money for services in Franklin County needs to provide services in Franklin County. Chairman Lockley agreed they are supposed to take care of the underprivileged that do not have insurance. He said they are getting the money and then sending the patients to the Emergency Room. Commissioner Jones left the meeting at this time. Chairman Lockley said they do not do what they were supposed to do which is help people that do not have insurance. Mr. Walker stated he will work with the new CEO because his goal is to get as many services as he can in the county. Commissioner Boldt encouraged him to work with the new CEO and keep them informed. He explained they know there are federal dollars and they need to find out where the money is and what its purpose is. Chairman Lockley said it is there to help people with no insurance and the seafood workers do not have any insurance. Commissioner Jones returned to the meeting. Chairman Lockley stated they should use a scale like the hospital. He reported this is a crisis and they need to step up and provide services. Commissioner Jones explained the county also has a county parking lot in Eastpoint that has a dedicated entrance and exit if it is needed for PanCare. He stated the property to the south where the pavilion used to be could be used for overflow parking. Mr. Walker explained they need to make sure that any state agencies or federal agencies that get money for Franklin County put the money back into the county. Commissioner Massey asked when they will be able to start testing. Mr. Walker said the head of PanCare has to approve it and then it would be as soon as possible. Commissioner Massey explained they need to speed up the process because the virus could already be here and they would not know. Mr. Walker agreed testing is important because they can identify the virus early and develop strategies. Commissioner Massey reported there have been a lot of people in the county over the last 12 weeks. Mr. Walker agreed and said the virus is very contagious. Commissioner Boldt asked if there is money available to pay PanCare. Mr. Walker stated PanCare receives federal money and that is how they do the testing. Ms. Hinds explained PanCare has funding specific to COVID-19 and they have agreed to come to Franklin County once they finalize the location and number of days. She stated they will advertise the testing. She reported all the health care providers in the county have testing capabilities and there are no barriers to testing but they are reserving the tests for people who meet the CDC criteria so the test can be sent to the state lab. She said the health care providers can also send the test to a commercial lab and that is happening in this community. Ms. Hinds reported as of yesterday 45 tests have been completed and 43 were negative and 2 were positive. She said tests are being sent to state and commercial labs but PanCare will provide another option for testing. She explained this is a positive step for Franklin County because it would keep the health care workers safe. She stated when someone comes in for testing they must wear PPE and this would provide drive thru testing. Mr. Walker clarified the drive thru testing will keep people away from the medical facilities. He explained with testing the numbers may go up but at least they can identify the areas where the virus is. Ms. Hinds reported tests results at the state lab take 48 hours. Mr. Walker stated private labs take 5-10 days. He explained rapid testing is starting in south Florida and may work its way up here. Chairman Lockley stated everyone is talking about the peak but what about the reoccurring. Mr. Walker said if they look at the state model it may peak in April

but they may still get the virus in August. He reported this is why they must use social distancing guidelines because they could be one event away from what happened in Albany, Georgia with community spread. Commissioner Massey said one of the doctors stated this could be a seasonal illness if they do not get it under control. Mr. Walker reported things are changing rapidly because the disease is so contagious.

The meeting recessed at 10:40 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:51 a.m.

### **Clerk's Report**

Clerk Johnson read the following report:

Pursuant to F.S. 197.502(7), the Clerk is tasked to notify the County Commission when there were no bidders on county-held tax certificates that went to public tax deed sale. If you remember, Mr. Rick Watson, Tax Collector, appeared before you and discussed county-held tax certificates. The list of 6 attached is the first county-held tax certificates that have been advertised for sales. Sales were held on January 6 and January 20, 2020, and nobody bid on them. These properties are available should the county wish to purchase them or you can waive your rights to purchase them at this time. I apologize because this notice to you should have been prepared and presented earlier. It was our first time, and we had to research the process, and given the current situation, it took longer than expected. I have attached the list plus a copy of the forms on each for the Chairman to sign on whether you elect to purchase or not, and a copy of the F.S. applicable. I did not have time for Attorney Shuler to look over this prior to the meeting, and if you wish, you may entertain a motion to table this until your next meeting.

Clerk Johnson said the Board can take action or table this matter until the next regular meeting. She explained a map of the properties is attached. Clerk Johnson stated all of the properties are in Carrabelle in Keough's Addition and between NE 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. She said 4 of the properties are connected. Commissioner Massey reported these are swamp or low areas and he confirmed they are between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Clerk Johnson explained if the Board does not want to purchase the properties they will go on a list of lands available for sale on her website and other people could purchase the properties. She stated if years go by and no one purchases the properties then the county will get them free and clear. Commissioner Boldt suggested putting the properties on the website available for sale. He said maybe the lots can be filled in later. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion not to purchase the properties on the county side and put them on the website available for sale. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked if these lots would help with affordable housing. Mr. Pierce said these lots are part of a big swamp and they would not be affordable after someone has to fill them. He stated this is a major drainage area. Commissioner Massey explained there is a street that is shown on the map that goes through there but it has never been opened. He

said it would take hundreds of loads of dirt to get this property level to build anything. Commissioner Massey stated it is part of the drainage system. He explained if they did a drainage project and did a holding pond they could purchase the lots to use. Mr. Pierce said if the county got the property they could potentially use them as a trade if they encroached on wetlands and agreed to leave this property as a preservation area. Commissioner Parrish stated they would use them for mitigation. Mr. Pierce agreed and said that would be the only value. Clerk Johnson said it would need to stay on the list for 3 years and if it was not purchased then it would go to the county. Mr. Pierce questioned the cost to obtain the property. Clerk Johnson said there is a list with the cost attached. She pointed out each one of these properties has an IRS Lien and that would have to be taken care of. Commissioner Jones said the bid price is around \$39,000. Mr. Pierce stated they should leave them on the list because it is not worth that amount. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

8. Department of Revenue Contract: The County has received a request to renew the contract between the State Department of Revenue and the County which provides for state approved payments to the county for service of process in child support cases. In summary, this contract allows to county to be reimbursed to help offset the cost for the Sheriff's department serving papers on individuals involved in child support cases. This proposed contract is for a five-year period instead of the previous one-year periods.

**Request:** Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on this contract contingent on Attorney Shuler's review.

Clerk Johnson stated in child support cases the Sheriff has to serve paperwork and he cannot charge for the service. She explained by doing the contract they get reimbursement to offset the costs. She said the contract runs from July 1, 2020-June 30, 2025. Clerk Johnson stated they have been approving this contract every year but it is now a 5 year contract.

**Commissioner Parrish made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Mr. Moron asked for Attorney Shuler to review the contract.

**Commissioner Parrish amended his motion to make the approval contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review. Commissioner Jones amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.**

#### **RESTORE Coordinator - Alan Pierce - Report**

Mr. Pierce said he did not do a written report but has 3 items. He reported the county had a list of requests for the Legislature and nothing was funded for the county. He stated Alligator Point did not receive any money for design or construction for beach renourishment. He explained that will now be at least 2 years later than they thought. He reported this is a major setback for protection of the road on Alligator Point. Mr. Pierce said all of these things are subject to veto of the Governor and were before the coronavirus (COVID-19) so some of the small things may get vetoed to save money. Mr. Pierce reported there was no money for the EOC, Alligator Point

or the drug rehabilitation center. He stated the School Board did receive some money. Commissioner Parrish asked if there was any money for the Armory. Mr. Pierce responded no.

Mr. Pierce said he has been in communication with the Triumph staff and there was a meeting yesterday and he will receive an update later. He stated at the next regularly scheduled meeting the Triumph staff is bringing back up the airport project. He said they are bringing this up and he got letters of support from Hurlburt Field which uses the airport for their special forces. He stated they are also trying to get a letter of support from the Coast Guard. He explained they are going to re-fund the emergency generator at the airport. Mr. Pierce said the project is coming back up because hurricane season is coming and they want to get the airport back up where it can serve as a mega center if they have another storm impacting the area. He explained the Triumph staff has initiated this discussion and it would cost \$250,000 to buy a backup generator and provide some other improvements at the airport. Mr. Pierce stated hopefully this will happen in April. Commissioner Boldt asked what Hurlburt Field had to do with this request. Mr. Pierce reported they use the airport on a regular basis for training. He said they did a good job with their letter of support.

Mr. Pierce questioned if Attorney Shuler reviewed the draft letter from the Corps of Engineers (COE). Attorney Shuler answered no. Mr. Pierce asked for Board action pending Attorney Shuler's review of the letter. He explained the COE and county are working together to get the Two Mile Channel and Eastpoint Channel dredged. He stated because the county is providing money to the COE the COE has to tell Congress that they are receiving outside funds. Mr. Pierce explained the COE provided a sample letter and he would like Board approval for the Chairman to sign the letter pending Attorney Shuler's review. He said the letter confirms the county will provide \$5.5 million dollars in funding to dredge the Eastpoint Channel and Two Mile Channel. He stated the county would then get a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) back from the COE with more details. Mr. Pierce stated the letter is not a commitment letter but an indication that they are going to provide additional funding. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve the letter and authorize Chairman Lockley to sign the letter pending approval from Attorney Shuler. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Jones thanked Mr. Pierce for confirming this is not a commitment letter. Mr. Pierce read a portion of the letter and said it is up to \$5.5 million. He said they will need contracts to know exactly what the funding will be and he is using \$5.5 million as a benchmark but he is expecting it to be less. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Attorney Shuler stated he noticed a scrivener's error on the ordinance addressing the boat ramps. He requested the Board authorize him to delete from the definition of residency the following two phrases: "a recorded deed" and "tax bill". He explained it is not appropriate for someone to prove residency by providing a recorded deed or a tax bill. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Attorney Shuler to delete from the definition of residency the following two phrases "a recorded deed" and "tax bill".**

Attorney Shuler reported he has a 3<sup>rd</sup> Emergency Ordinance for the Board to consider. He said this ordinance was originally scheduled for hearing the second meeting in April but given the circumstances with the COVID-19 emergency he is asking under the declaration of a state of emergency to adopt the ordinance today. Attorney Shuler read the caption of the ordinance. He stated this ordinance started as a way to regulate parking in certain public parks and boat ramp but the Board's instructions were to have a prohibition on camping and living in public parks, boat ramps and fishing piers. He explained because people are trying to escape from the hot spots it is incumbent under this state of emergency to adopt the ordinance today. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Ordinance.**

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Moron explained the process for being recognized to speak. He said they could reduce the time for public comments because of the number of speakers. Chairman Lockley agreed to reduce the time to speak to 1 minute.

Mr. David Covington, a resident of St. George Island, asked the Board to clarify their comments as the Governor's Executive Order has not been extended and is set to expire tomorrow or the weekend. He questioned how the Resolution the Board adopted will affect things. Attorney Shuler explained the Resolution is not tied to the Governor's Executive Order and is independent and does not have an expiration date. He stated the Resolution will still remain in force and effect.

Ms. Doris Carmichael, Eastpoint Medical Center, reported she is calling to ask for clarification on some concerns related to COVID-19. She stated there have been doctors present at Eastpoint Medical Center while she was on leave. Ms. Carmichael explained they have done several tests at their facility but they have been negative. She said all of this information was routed through the Health Department. She stated they are trying to stagger their patients so they do not meet in the lobby. Ms. Carmichael reported the state provided criteria and people must meet that criteria for testing. She explained if they meet any of the criteria they are asking them to stay in their car and they go out to them. She stated it takes time to get the test results back because their tests go to commercial labs. Ms. Carmichael reported they are referring people to the drive thru site at Sacred Heart because they are getting results in 24 hours. She explained they are educating people about isolating. She stated they are still seeing patients. Ms. Carmichael asked if the Board has any questions. Chairman Lockley asked if the tests are free for COVID-19. Ms. Carmichael answered yes and they are doing minimal testing. She reported it takes her 5 days to get results. Chairman Lockley asked if she can go out in the community and help with testing. Ms. Carmichael questioned if they are wanting to set up a drive thru in this county. Chairman Lockley replied yes, they want the whole county covered. Ms. Carmichael agreed they need to do that because visitors are still coming here and not isolating. She reported she will do whatever is needed. She stated she is having a conference call with her corporate office today so she will ask them about anything they can do there. She said they will need someone to coordinate the effort and the Health Department would



probably be the best entity since they have the state resources. Ms. Carmichael stated she has been in contact with Mrs. Nicole Sandoval, Health Department. She reported Eastpoint Medical will do anything to keep the county safe. Chairman Lockley said they do not want to send people to other counties but take care of their own here. Mr. Moron explained Mr. Walker talked with their CEO and the message he got was their resources and testing were limited and that started this discussion. He said maybe on the conference call they could discuss sending out a different message that they are willing to work with the Health Department and hospital and do as much testing as the county needs. He suggested they may even be able to help with remote testing throughout the county. Ms. Carmichael said the problem may be the equipment to run the test since that usually occurs in a laboratory or hospital. She questioned if the Health Department is doing testing and where they are sending their tests. Mr. Moron stated they are doing testing and have a lab to send them to. He explained the commercial labs take longer to get results. He stated it is not about them getting the results but having people out there doing the tests. Mr. Moron said they would like to run tests because some people are not having symptoms and at some point they may test people that do not have symptoms. Ms. Carmichael reported they cannot test people that do not meet the guidelines or they will create a shortage of tests. Ms. Carmichael asked who she should call after she talks to her corporate office. Mr. Moron responded Ms. Hinds or Mr. Walker.

Ms. Jennifer Millender, a resident of Carrabelle, said she did not hear if the closing of vacation rentals would be extended and questioned how that will affect hotels and short term rentals. Attorney Shuler stated the county has not entered an emergency order or ordinance closing vacation rentals or short term rentals, it was an order from the Governor's Office. He directed her questions to the Governor's Office.

Mr. Kevin Roberts, a property owner at Alligator Point, said he heard the definition of residents on boat ramps and it suggests that property owners not residing in Franklin County cannot use the boat ramps. He explained he has owned property in Franklin County for 20 years but his primary residence is in Tallahassee. He stated he has been at Alligator Point for 4 weeks. Mr. Roberts said the definition modification made him question the concept of the road check points and whether that would exclude property owners from coming into the county. He stated the reason he brought this up is because they do not have a store at Alligator Point so people go to Crawfordville to shop. He explained he understands the reason but as a property owner he opposes his inability to go back and forth to a store while residing at Franklin County. Attorney Shuler stated regarding the boat ramp ordinance and the request to clean up a scrivener's error on the ordinance the ordinance provides that non-resident property owners may continue to use the boat ramps. He explained as far as potential check points he would refer Mr. Roberts back to the Governor's Office as the Sheriff is working with the Governor's Office to implement the Executive Order #20-86 which has established certain checkpoints for entry into the State of Florida. Attorney Shuler said the County Commission supports the Sheriff's endeavors to work with the Governor's Office and DOT to establish checkpoints coming into the county but he would need to contact the Governor's Office because it is the Governor's Executive Order.

Ms. Stacy Burch, a resident of Apalachicola, asked for clarification on the expiration of the beach closure. She questioned why they are keeping the beaches closed if the Sheriff will have checkpoints to keep people out of the county. She commented local people can go out in their boats but they cannot walk on the beach. Ms. Burch asked if the people that tested for the virus and received treatment are being retested so they can report that they no longer have the virus. Attorney Shuler reported the expiration for the beach closure ordinance will be the date the state of emergency expires. He explained they do not know when that will expire because it is based on the State of Emergency declared by the Governor and the county's declaration of a Local State of Emergency. Attorney Shuler said the Health Department should be contacted to answer the question about testing.

Ms. Cathy Swaggerty, Treasurer of the Lanark Village Boat Club, stated they have a boat launch and marina privately owned by their non-profit corporation in Lanark Village. She said she would like to read a prepared statement the Board members of the Lanark Village Boat Club have been working on. She reported the Lanark Village Boat Club would like to be in sync with the City of Carrabelle and Franklin County. She read the statement about closure of the boat ramp. She explained they may have further discussions since the county is leaving their boat ramps open to residents but their issue is going to be enforcement. Mr. Moron asked Ms. Swaggerty to email their statement to him. Commissioner Boldt said he has the statement with him.

#### **County Coordinator - Michael Morón – Report**

Mr. Moron presented his report, as follows:

1. This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.
2. The Board handled this item at the beginning of the meeting.
3. Bill List for Payment: Included in your packet is the bill list for payment. These checks were cut on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> which would have been your regular meeting date.

**Request:** Board discussion to authorize payment of the bill list as presented.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed ratify payment of the bill list as presented.**

4. Local State of Emergency Declaration: As authorized by the Board, Chairman Lockley has signed Covid-19 Local State of Emergency Declarations for March 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup>, and April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Request:** Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the stated COVID-19 Local State of Emergency Declarations.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the COVID-19 Local State of Emergency (LSE) Declarations for March 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>.**

5. Disaster Assistance Local Match Reduction Waiver: Earlier this week Mrs. Pam Brownell (Emergency Management Director) asked the Chairman to sign a waiver that would reduce the county's match for Hurricane Michael damage. The deadline for submitting this waiver was earlier this week.

**Request:** Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the Hurricane Michael Application for Disaster Assistance Local Match Reduction or Waiver.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the Hurricane Michael Application for Disaster Assistance Local Match Reduction or Waiver.**

6. Emergency Management Vacant Position: At your March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mrs. Pam Brownell (Emergency Management Director) informed you that Mrs. Tress Dameron (Emergency Management Coordinator) submitted her two-week's notice the week before. As the Board is aware there are only three full-time employees at your Emergency Operations Center so filling this position during this pandemic and facing the start of hurricane season is very important. Attached to my report is an advertisement for the vacant position that will be advertised "in-house".

**Request:** Board action to authorize the "in-house" advertisement for the vacant Emergency Management Coordinator position.

Mr. Moron said this position will be advertised in house for 1 or 2 weeks and then Mrs. Brownell will interview and let the Board know who she has selected. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to authorize the "in-house" advertisement for the vacant Emergency Management Coordinator position. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley inquired about the salary for the position. Mr. Moron stated the position will pay approximately \$2,500 less than Mrs. Dameron was being paid. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

7. CDBG Requests for Payments: Mrs. Deborah Belcher (CDBG Administrator) is requesting final payments for mobile homes at the following addresses 638 Ridge Road, 645 Ridge Road, 574 Ridge Road, and 773 Buck Street. These mobile homes are for Eastpoint fire survivors. Most of the homes have been delivered and are in the setup process stages however, the vendor will not receive final payment until delivery and setup is completed.

**Request:** Board action authorizing CDBG final payment request for the four Eastpoint survivor mobile homes.

**Commissioner Massey made a motion to authorize final payment for the mobile homes on 638 Ridge Road, 645 Ridge Road, 574 Ridge Road and 773 Buck Street for the Eastpoint fire victims. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked if the couple that

was here received their trailer. Commissioner Jones said it is in the process. Mr. Moron stated the issue with Devin & Anna Creamer has been resolved and their trailer has been ordered.

**Motion carried; 5-0.**

8. This Board acted on this request earlier in the meeting.
9. Carrabelle's Permitting Agreement: Within the next two weeks the County's permitting program will be upgraded by our Microsoft vendor, Intact. With this upgrade, Microsoft has stated that the City of Carrabelle's permitting program can no longer be an addition to the county's account, it has to be a stand-alone account. With that required change, I am recommending that the county end the current agreement with Carrabelle, that has the county determining permit fees, collecting those fees, issuing the permits, and providing Building Official services for the City of Carrabelle. The county could continue to provide Building Official services; however, the City of Carrabelle would determine and collect permit fees then issue permits for residents within the city limits. The City of Carrabelle would be responsible for their own customer agreement account with the Microsoft vendor, Intact.

**Request:** Authorize Attorney Shuler to terminate the current permitting agreement with the City of Carrabelle and create another agreement for Building Official services only.

**Commissioner Massey made a motion to authorize Attorney Shuler to terminate the current permitting agreement with the City of Carrabelle and create another agreement for Building Official services only. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish asked if the City of Carrabelle is paying for the Building Official services. Mr. Moron answered yes, he explained he is asking for Attorney Shuler to terminate the current agreement and negotiate a new agreement where they will negotiate a price for all inspections and plan reviews. Commissioner Parrish suggested since Mr. Gary Millender, Building Official, is only working 3 days a week for the county he could just provide those services to the City of Carrabelle and they can pay him and leave the county out of it. Mr. Moron said he could but they are trying to transition the administration first because the City has not been doing these things. He explained after that they can talk about Mr. Millender contracting with the City of Carrabelle. Commissioner Parrish asked how the county will be paid for the services the Building Official provides to the City of Carrabelle. Mr. Moron replied the county will be paid per inspection. He explained Mr. Steve Patterson, Building Inspector, is also a licensed inspector so it could be either one of them who performs the work. Mr. Moron stated they will turn in their work and the county will provide a bill quarterly to the City of Carrabelle. Commissioner Parrish questioned how long it will take to make this transition. Mr. Moron said he will provide a better answer at the next meeting. Commissioner Parrish asked if the new agreement will have the dollar amount attached to it. Mr. Moron replied yes. Commissioner Parrish questioned if the new agreement would come back to the Board for approval. Mr. Moron responded yes. Attorney Shuler reported the motion and second may need to be amended to reflect the conversation if that is the will of the Board. Commissioner Jones stated they are using the words terminate and create and he would like to know what is going to happen in

between. Attorney Shuler explained these items will be done at the same time so there is no service gap. Mr. Moron explained Mr. Millender has already has a discussion with the City of Carrabelle Mayor and staff and they know about this transition. The Board discussed amending the motion. **Commissioner Massey amended his motion to reflect the Board's discussion. Commissioner Boldt amended the second. Motion carried; 5-0.** Attorney Shuler requested Mr. Moron provide him with the fee schedule. Mr. Moron said they will have to ask if they want to use the new fees or the old fees because that is their choice. Attorney Shuler said the new fees should be used. Commissioner Parrish agreed and said it is not negotiable to stay with the old fees. Commissioner Parrish stated the new contract needs to reflect the new fees for what the county receives.

10. Justice Assistance Grant: The Sheriff's office has submitted the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Application for Funding Assistance and Acceptance of Federal Funding Assistance forms for Board approval. This grant is used by the Sheriff to fund his Drug Investigation Unit.

**Request:** Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the JAG Application and Acceptance forms.

**On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman's signature on the JAG Application and Acceptance forms.**

11. National Volunteer Week: National Volunteer Week is April 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 2020. Usually, Mr. John Solomon in his role as the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce Executive Director would be here to sing the praises of volunteers throughout this county, state, and country, but due to our meeting COVID-19 restrictions was not able to attend today. He asks that the Board adopt this resolution proclaiming April 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 National Volunteer Week in Franklin County, with the expectation that he will attend a future meeting to give proper accolades to volunteers.

**Request:** Board action to adopt and authorize the Chairman's signature on the National Volunteer Week resolution.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Resolution proclaiming April 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> as National Volunteer Week and authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution.**

12. Big Bend Crime Stoppers: The Big Bend Crime Stoppers is asking the county for a letter of support. Attached to my report is their request, a copy of the Board's 2017 letter of support, and their 2019 Performance Report.

**Request:** Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of support for the Big Bend Crime Stoppers.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of support for the Big Bend Crime Stoppers.**

13. County April & May meetings: Based on information heard today, there is a likely possibility that the current social distancing and other preventative guidelines will be in effect throughout the month of April and the first half of May. Based on that information, is the Board willing to cancel the April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup> regular meetings, along with the May 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Adjustment meeting and the May 12<sup>th</sup> Planning and Zoning meeting? The Board could continue to meet in Special or Emergency sessions until some of the COVID - 19 restrictions are lifted. Bill payments would continue to be processed on April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup> then ratified at a meeting following those dates.

**Request:** Board discussion and possible action on cancelling the meetings stated.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to cancel the regular Board meetings on April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Adjustment meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the Planning & Zoning meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Mr. Moron reported Franklin County is the lowest county in the state for census response. He stated the Board needs to get the message out any way they can to their constituents. He said the census response is an easy online process. Mr. Moron explained they did not know that the federal government did not send out paper notification to post office boxes. He reported that created a major setback for Franklin County. He stated the federal government will spend more advertising money in our region because of what is going on. Commissioner Jones stated some things have changed because of COVID-19. He explained if you go online you can enter your physical address and it will allow you to fill out the census form. Chairman Lockley said he did not see people going door to door. Mr. Moron stated that was part of the delay and after this is over they will go door to door for people that did not fill out the form. He explained the problem is that part of the program was delayed but they have not extended the date. Mr. Moron pointed out even the money that goes to the Eastpoint Medical Center is tied to the census. He stated \$14,000 per individual is what the county receives in funding. Chairman Lockley said the county is low in their response. Mr. Moron reported the county is the lowest in the state. Commissioner Parrish stated all of the counties are low and none of them are up to 50%. Clerk Johnson said she is working on a media column about the census now. She reported she has asked Mrs. Griffith to help her on the county side as they are worried about the budget. Clerk Johnson explained she is hoping to get the column to the newspaper next week and then she will also post the column on social media. She said they are concerned from the county's budget standpoint and need everyone to do the census. Chairman Lockley stated they need help and need Franklin County to step up.

Commissioner Jones reported at the last meeting they had a discussion about contacting the labor attorneys. Mr. Moron said the labor attorneys are working on what they discussed.

**Commissioner Jones made a motion for Mr. Moron to contact the labor attorney about refining his job position.** Commissioner Boldt said as he understands it Mr. Moron is only allowed compensatory time for the overtime he is putting in and they need to make sure he is being properly compensated for his time. He stated he has problems when Mr. Moron takes off work because he is the person he can talk with at the county level if something comes up. Chairman Lockley agreed because when he takes his compensatory time no one is working and he is still getting calls. Mr. Moron stated he does not have a second person that can be called when he is off work. **Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.** Commissioner Parrish asked about the motion. Commissioner Jones explained he wants Mr. Moron to contact the labor attorney and see what could be done because the way his job description is written if he works overtime he can take compensatory time but has a hard time taking off so they need to find a way to pay him for overtime. Commissioner Parrish inquired if that is based on accruing a certain number of hours of comp time and then going forward. Commissioner Parrish explained he does not want to pay him for all his comp time and then when he wants to take off he does not have any time. Commissioner Jones reported that will come from the labor attorney too. Chairman Lockley said when he takes the compensatory time the telephone still rings.

Mr. Moron thanked the Board for working with him and said the wireless microphones are working well. He stated Ms. Bankston was monitoring the sound and they are being heard loud and clear. He said he received some texts and emails that this process is working out well. Mr. Moron commented he does not know how long the meetings will be held this way. Chairman Lockley pointed out they went through the same thing during the oil spill when they were meeting on weekends and things were changing.

### **Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Boldt reported he has been very impressed over the last several days and weeks of how the hospital is becoming more of a focal point in this rural region. He explained you can hear the testimony of Mr. Walker and what he is doing with disaster preparedness and patient care. He said they can hear the backup from the Health Department staff and can see where regionally Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) and the federal levels are reaching out and embracing the hospital. Commissioner Boldt stated it is important to notice the hospital is a focal point in this crisis. Chairman Lockley agreed and questioned where they are going to take people if they get the virus without a hospital. He stated they cannot take people to the type of facility they want to build. Commissioner Parrish agreed it will not be a certified hospital. Mr. Moron said it was good being on the conference call with Senator Bill Montford, Leon County Commissioner Brian Desloge, and Mr. Mark O'Bryant, TMH, and hear them refer to Weems Memorial Hospital as being part of a regional plan. Chairman Lockley stated they need a hospital and they will need some more space if this pandemic gets bad. He discussed how places are turning hotels into hospitals and using Navy ships for medical facilities. He reported this is not a good time to talk about getting rid of the hospital. Commissioner Massey stated TMH is the only one that has reached out to help the county. Chairman Lockley asked when

they are supposed to have a hospital vote. Mr. Moron explained the Weems Memorial Hospital Board wants to meet first but the COVID-19 crisis has delayed everything. He reported at some point the Board has to get back to having regular meetings even if the public is not present in the room but he is waiting until the end of the month to see what the situation is. Mr. Moron stated he will have to submit a plan for how they are going forward for the next 3 months. He said he got a quote from Forgotten Coast TV for live streaming the meetings even if they keep the conference call for people to call in public comments. Mr. Moron reported he has a couple of plans but want to see what the situation is at the end of the month. Chairman Lockley explained in this pandemic if the county did not have a hospital and only an emergency room and you had to be transferred to Gulf County he thinks the Gulf County citizens would be their first priority. Mr. Moron informed the Board Mr. Roger Hall, Ascension/Sacred Heart, did contact him yesterday and he will call him back today.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

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Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts