



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

APRIL 30, 2020

9:00 AM

AGENDA

The Board of County Commissioners asks that all cell phones are turned off or placed on silent (vibrate) mode.

Call 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 the recorded audio file, not a live feed.*

Any person who wishes 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.

Prayer and Pledge

Payment of County Bills

2. Ratify Payment of April 21st Bill List

Approval of Minutes

3. Minutes-March 3, 2020
4. Minutes-March 9, 2020
5. Minutes-March 17, 2020
6. Minutes-March 21, 2020
7. EnterTextHere

Eastpoint Medical Center - Jessica Shields (Manager) & Doris Carmichael (APRN) - Update

RESTORE Coordinator - Alan Pierce - Update

Florida Department of Health - Sarah Hinds (Administrator) - Update

Weems Memorial - David Walker (CEO) - Update

Sheriff A. J. Smith - Update

Public Comments

This is an opportunity for the public to comment on agenda or non-agenda items. When you are recognized to be heard by the Chairman, please sign the speaker's log and adhere to the time limit. An individual will be allowed to speak for three minutes whereas a designated representative of a group or faction will be allowed to speak for five minutes.

Weems Board of Directors - Doug Creamer (Chairman) - Weems BOD Presentation

8. Present Weems Board of Directors' Recommendation on Weems Management for BOCC Discussion and Action

Clerk of Courts - Marcia M. Johnson - Report

Action Item(s)

9. Rolling Lease for Road Department's Dump Trucks
10. 2020 - 2021 Budget Discussion & Direction
11. Revenue Update Discussion and Direction

County Coordinator - Michael Morón - Report

Action Item(s)

12. Partial Beach Opening Discussion and Direction
13. Ratification of Chairman's Signature on COVID-19 Local State of Emergency
14. Redesign of Alligator Drive Multi-Path Funding Approval
15. Alligator Drive Multi-path FDOT Contract Approval
16. Award County Road Sidewalk Project Construction Engineering Inspection Services
17. Advertise for Construction of St. George Island Bathroom Project
18. Live Streaming BOCC Meetings Agreement Approval
19. Award of New Emergency Operation Center Design Services
20. Ratify Advertisement of Emergency Management's Vacant Position
21. New County Coordinator Comp Time Policy Approval
22. Ratify Chairman's Signature on Sheriff's VOCA Grant Audit Extension Request
23. Ratify Chairman's Signature on Sheriff's JAG Program 2019 Funding Approval Letter
24. Ratify Chairman's Signature on Senior Parade Route Letter
25. CareerSource Gulf Coast Direct Service Agreement Approval

Information Item(s)

26. Apalachicola National Forest Timber Salvage and Restoration Project
27. FWC Grant Approval for Buddy Ward Artificial Reef Project

County Attorney - T. Michael Shuler - County Probation Contract Renewal

Action Item(s)

28. Renewal of County Court Probation Contract - (nunc pro tunc to March 2020; renewal will end on March 2021)

Commissioners' Comments

Adjournment

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
MARCH 3, 2020
9:00 AM
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, Alan Pierce-RESTORE Coordinator, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

Prayer and Pledge

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Payment of County Bills

1. Bill List for Payment

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve payment of the County's bills.

Approval of Minutes

2. Minutes-February 5, 2020
3. Minutes-February 14, 2020

On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meetings held on February 5, 2019 and February 14, 2020.

Public Comments

Mr. Moron stated a time clock has been installed on the wall and will time the speakers. He reported if someone is speaking individually they are allowed 3 minutes to speak. He stated if someone is

speaking representing a group then they are allowed to speak for 5 minutes and no one else from that same group could speak. He said the time clock should help so there are no misunderstandings about time. Mr. Moron explained there are 3 different public hearings today and individuals can speak under public comment but there is also an opportunity to speak under public comment during the hearings. Commissioner Boldt asked if the Board should consider allowing the public to speak on Agenda items now that they have a time clock. He said the Board probably knows the history of why they have public comments and then nothing after that. Chairman Lockley said they will think about it and need more details.

Ms. D.T. Simmons, Public Health Department, said she is present with Ms. Emerald Larkin, a nurse with the Public Health Department. Ms. Simmons discussed the Department of Health (DOH) press release about Coronavirus (COVID-19). She explained this release has been shared with the county, their partners and the media. She said they are actively involved in enhanced surveillance for respiratory illnesses that may be COVID-19. Ms. Simmons stated Ms. Larkin will provide an update on their efforts locally. Ms. Larkin said they met with their hospital partners including Mr. David Walker, CEO at Weems Memorial Hospital, and his staff to discuss strategies and share the latest health care guidance. She said they continue to make sure their health care partners have the latest information. She provided the best preventive actions to take to avoid the spread of the illness. Mrs. Larkin reported there are no cases in Gulf County or Franklin County. She provided their contact information and the DOH website floridahealth.gov and CDC website cdc.gov. Commissioner Boldt stated he received a telephone call from Ms. Sarah Hinds, Franklin County Public Health Department, and she informed him they are used to outbreaks and know how to handle them. He thanked the Health Department for their work.

Mr. Grayson Shepard, President of the Apalachicola Artificial Reef Association, reported Mr. Ben Withers, a contractor from Carrabelle, passed away and his estate is donating a barge and tug boat to the Organization of Artificial Reefs (OAR) in Tallahassee. He explained OAR does not have a reef suitable for these two vessels but their Association does. He said the Buddy Ward Memorial Reef meets the requirements so he has been in contact with a marine contractor from Port St. Joe and they are willing to donate their time and materials to deploy this free barge and tugboat. He said the items must be cleaned, prepared and anchored. He stated they are moving forward with putting things underwater on the reef and it will supposedly not cost anything. He said he will keep the Board updated on the progress. Mr. Shepard stated they applied for the Florida Wildlife Commission's (FWC) artificial reef grant for this cycle in the amount of \$60,000. He explained this is a reimbursement grant which will be available in 2021. He explained they will have to come up with some money at the time but they will get reimbursed. Commissioner Boldt reported Mrs. Barbara Withers, Mr. Ben Withers' Mother, lives in his district and they are a very giving family. Mr. Shepard said Mrs. Lisa Withers, his widow, graciously donated these materials. He stated this will be named the Ben Withers Memorial Reef as requested by the family and will be inside of the Buddy Ward Memorial Reef. He reported the barge is 60 ft. long and 24 feet wide. Chairman Lockley asked when they will sink the barge. Mr. Shepard was not sure but said the contractor will go over in mid-March to pick up the barge, clean it and get the anchors attached. He estimated the barge may be deployed sometime in late spring or summer and they will let the Board know the date. He said they will have the newspaper there to document it. Chairman Lockley inquired how long it takes for fish to find the reef. Mr. Shepard said about 30 minutes.

Mr. Alan Feifer, Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, stated a lot has been said about their commitment to fulfilling the promises to the Weems Memorial Hospital renovation and rebuilding. He read an excerpt from the Board minutes from July 3, 2007. He reported the promises made 13 years ago are substantially different from what they are considering today. Mr. Feifer pointed out 13 years ago the proposal was for a 31,000 sq. ft. 2 story full service hospital. He said the people in the City of Carrabelle were promised a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week urgent care facility with a doctor and they have not delivered on that promise either. He stated they cannot fulfill all these promises and must bring this back to the people with what they know today and provide a reasonable response to the conditions that exist today. Mr. Feifer said they are still in the same financial condition as they were 13 years ago even though they have money coming in.

Ms. Candace Millender, a resident of Buck Road in Eastpoint, said she has been living on this road for 11 years with no help from anyone. She stated the owner of the road and the person in charge of the Estate of Ben Watkins has not helped and refused to be here today. She reported the previous Commissioner did not help and she feels like several of these issues fall on the county. She described the location and condition of the road. She explained there is a ditch that turns directly into their road and washes the road out. Ms. Millender reported after the fire and storm some people came in and trimmed trees and they did not clean up the debris so the trees are filling the ditches up. She reported there is no place for the water to drain and it ends in her yard so it fills up with water. Ms. Millender said there is also a fire cut that ends in her yard and it also fills up with water. She requested someone clean their ditches out. She reported they need an emergency fix due to the condition of the road. Ms. Millender stated it is almost impossible for emergency services to get through their road and they could not get to the end where she lives. She asked for the county to help or contact Mr. Steve Watkins to fix their road. Ms. Millender said Mr. Watkins refuses to speak with them and she is not sure if the county can do anything. She referenced the records from the Property Appraiser that say Mr. Ben Watkins is still the owner of the vacant land and the road and Mr. Steve Watkins is in charge of the estate. She asked for the county to do an emergency fix to the road. Attorney Shuler said this is a sad situation but is not the responsibility of the county. He reported this is a private road owned by a private individual and the county cannot put public equipment on a private road. Attorney Shuler stated there was a time when the county went through due diligence looking at private roads to possibly take over and the cost before stormwater management was in excess of \$5 million. He reported the county could not afford to take over the private roads and this is a matter between private owners and the person that sold the lots to them. Attorney Shuler stated the owners need to go to court and let the judge resolve this issue because there is nothing the county can do. Commissioner Massey asked about a one-time fix to all of them since they pay taxes. He said they cannot get in and out of their road.

Department Directors Report

Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors

4. Report
Action Items:
None
Information Items:
Work Performed and Materials Hauled by District Report (attached - agenda packet)

Mr. Nabors said they are grading roads and have completed Alligator Point and are on St. George Island today. He stated they will work in Carrabelle and Apalachicola next. He reported they have been delayed because of rain and more rain is coming Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr. Nabors said they are cleaning the bike paths and sidewalks.

Mr. Nabors explained they are not finished with the spoil site clean-up as the equipment broke down but it has been fixed and they will finish the site.

Mr. Nabors stated he has an Equipment Operator position open and he would like to change it to an Inmate Supervisor position. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve the change.** Mr. Nabors explained he talked with the prison and they can probably get him another inmate crew but no state officers will be coming out. He reported they have grass season coming up and need as many inmates as they can get. **Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley inquired about the Equipment Operator position. Mr. Nabors stated some of the employees will have to move up and learn to run some of the other equipment. Commissioner Jones asked if there will be a cost to the county if these employees move up. Mr. Nabors said there has never been a cost to the county in the past and they received nothing for moving up. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Moron provided the following item from his report:

14. Dead Trees on Hwy 98: At your last meeting I was directed by the Board to contact the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding the number of dead trees in the county along Highway 98. The FDOT local representative explained that the state has actively been removing dead trees from the state right-of-way along Highway 98. He further explained that some of the dead trees may appear to be on the state right-of-way but are actually on private property. The representative suggests that Mr. Howard Nabors (Road Superintendent) compile a list of trees and their locations, then contact him so they can verify if the trees are on state right-of-way.

Request: Board discussion and direction.

Mr. Moron said he and Mr. Nabors need some direction on this matter. Commissioner Parrish asked if private property owners are responsible if trees are on their property falls across the highway and kill someone. Attorney Shuler responded a lawsuit would have to make that decision. Commissioner Parrish questioned if they can notify the land owners if their property has some of these trees. Attorney Shuler replied yes. Commissioner Parrish stated the county cannot take equipment and go on private property. He reported because of the direction of the hurricane a lot of the trees on the south side are leaning toward the highway. He felt the county should notify these landowners of the potential liability issues so maybe they will remove the trees and no one will get hurt. Mr. Nabors identified an area in Eastpoint with about 20 trees that he felt like was an accident waiting to happen. Commissioner Parrish reported since the county knows about this they need to take action and show that they tried to have these trees removed. He asked Mr. Nabors to note exactly where the trees are and try to find out who the property owners are. He said county staff needs to notify these landowners with a letter. Commissioner Parrish suggested Attorney Shuler assist them with the letter. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to direct Mr. Moron and the County Attorney to notify the**

landowners about leaning trees on their property that need removal. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Chairman Lockley stated this way there is a record that they tried to do something about this issue. Commissioner Boldt suggested a state official go with Mr. Nabors while he is doing this inventory so they can come to decisions on site. Commissioner Massey reported it is not the state but whoever took over Transfield. Mr. Moron stated they want Mr. Nabors to compile a list and then they can ride around and look at the trees on the list and make decisions. Commissioner Massey discussed a tree west of the lighthouse that needs to be taken down and is on property that was donated to the county. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

15. Signage @ EP School: Commissioner Boldt asked that I contacted Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) about adding signage at the Highway 98 & consolidated school T-intersection in Eastpoint. He felt without additional signage there was a strong possibility of someone leaving the school at night, then driving directly across Highway 98 and into the water. FDOT has installed signage on the south side of Highway 98 to warn any motorists exiting the school to turn left or right, however FDOT also suggest the installation of a oversized "STOP" sign and a "STOP AHEAD" sign on the school's exit road (picture attached - agenda packet). Would the Board consider ordering the signs and having the county's road department install the signs if the Superintendent is agreeable?

Request: Board action to authorize the purchase and installation of the STOP and STOP AHEAD signs for the entrance/exit Consolidate School road, contingent on the Superintendent of Schools approval.

Commissioner Boldt made a motion to approve. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.

Commissioner Boldt asked if they should consider the stop signs that have flashing lights around them. He questioned if they should also ask for guardrails considering how close Seahawk Drive is to the water. Commissioner Jones said since ingress and egress are both on the same road an oversized stop sign would work. Mr. Nabors pointed out the speed limit is also 15 mph on this road. Mr. Moron said the original request for directional signs also included a request for guardrails but the Department of Transportation (DOT) just decided to add the signs. Commissioner Boldt asked if they should ask again about the guardrails. Mr. Moron offered to send another letter. Commissioner Massey stated DOT is not going to put the guardrails up because it cost too much money but they placed the signs. Chairman Lockley asked if they got permission from the school. Mr. Moron said he will seek permission. Chairman Lockley inquired if the county will get their money back. Mr. Moron stated he was asking if the county would pay and have county staff install it. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Nabors said they dug up the trees where their new office will be constructed. He reported in March or April they will have another bid meeting and start construction as soon as possible. Commissioner Jones inquired if the bids will be received in April. Mr. Nabors answered yes and said they have one more meeting. He explained if they will survey and mark the site then they can get started on it. Commissioner Massey asked if the building will have a cement foundation. Mr. Nabors said he thinks that is in the bid specifications.

Chairman Lockley said it is very dark on Highway 98 right past 24th Avenue inside the city limits in Apalachicola. Mr. Nabors commented the lights may have blown away in the storm. Chairman Lockley said the lights are there but not working and it is a safety issue because it is dark. Mr. Nabors agreed to check on this situation and contact Mr. Moron so they can get someone to fix the lights.

Chairman Lockley asked if they can ask for BP money to address the problems with the private roads. Attorney Shuler stated he does not think these funds can be used for private roads but they could ask Mr. Pierce. Mr. Moron said neither Mrs. Brownell nor Mr. Pierce are here and he would like to address this question to them and report back to the Board. Mr. Moron reported he will check to see if there is any money available anywhere for this type of work. Chairman Lockley stated he knows the county cannot do this but would like to know if there is anything anywhere to help the people.

Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

5. Report

Action Items:

None

Information Items:

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

Fleet Information (attached - agenda packet)

Recycling Articles (attached - agenda packet)

Mr. Davis reported attached to his report is information about recycling and a list of the recycling fleet. He asked the Board to take time to review the information and share it with people that do not understand what is happening.

Mr. Davis said the ballpark lights are on from Monday-Thursday 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and he has been getting some complaints and concerns about leaving the lights on. He stated they plan to move up the lights when the season gets started. Mr. Davis explained right now some of the kids are practicing on the weekends. He said they do not have staff to make sure the lights are turned off. Mr. Davis suggested they can set the lights from Sunday-Saturday 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. but he will set them for whatever time the Board desires. Commissioner Parrish reported the time changes Sunday so they will have to re-address when the lights come on and off. Mr. Davis agreed they will. Chairman Lockley asked if the lights are on a timer. Mr. Davis replied yes. Commissioner Parrish said he does not think the kids should be out there after 9:00 p.m. when they have school the next day. He stated it will start getting dark about 8:30 p.m. so they need to make adjustments and let everyone know including the coaches when the lights will come on and go off.

Commissioner Parrish said he is getting a lot of calls about the recycling issue. He reported if you research this on the internet there are many articles where recycling is an issue across the country. He said he is hearing from the businesses in Apalachicola that do not have an opportunity to recycle. Commissioner Parrish reported he sent an article to Mr. Moron to disburse to the other Commissioners. He explained this is what the country is facing when China refused to accept any more recyclables. He suggested Mr. Davis may need to run an ad in the newspaper with links so people can

see the articles. Commissioner Parrish stated Franklin County is one of the last counties to suspend recycling. He explained they want to recycle but when there is no marketable solution for the recyclables they go into the landfill. Mr. Davis agreed but clarified it is not being placed in Franklin County's landfill but is being hauled out to Jackson County. Commissioner Parrish pointed out the landfills the county are hauling to will eventually be overcome with these materials and it will be a problem in the future. He stated one article said they want the manufacturer of these products to pay for the recycling. Mr. Moron reported if they use the county's website to get their agenda there are links to the articles. He stated the Board is also looking at this from a financial/budgetary aspect and saving the taxpayers money because separating the items makes no difference when they are going to end up in the same place. Commissioner Parrish stated if the recyclables are contaminated then they have to be sorted by hand and it takes a lot of manpower to separate the recyclables. He went on to say if the program worked perfect there is still no market for the recyclables. Mr. Davis said the cardboard is marketable and is \$75/ton right now and in the summer goes up to \$125/ton. He explained the cardboard is stockpiled at the landfill and it is getting rained on so eventually it end up in the garbage. He stated they deduct a moisture rate for a little rain but they will not take it when it is falling apart. Mr. Davis said he will leave the cardboard bins out unless the Board tells him different. Commissioner Parrish stated the businesses downtown would like to have a dumpster but they do not have a place for it. He explained they tried to put a recycling bin out but people put garbage in it so the county had to remove it. Commissioner Parrish reported if one business has a dumpster then people go during the night and fill the dumpster up. He stated people are criticizing the county but this county is the last one to suspend recycling. He explained they have been hearing from people about this issue but there is no resolution. Commissioner Parrish stated they have to move forward and hopefully something will show up and they can re-start recycling. Chairman Lockley said if they add a \$.03 deposit to each bottle it would take care of it but they do not want to do it. Commissioner Boldt stated they need to emphasize that they are temporarily suspending recycling. He said they will study the process and look at mobile recycling for next year. Chairman Lockley reported mandatory trash pickup county wide will help also. Commissioner Jones agreed that would help. He said if there is no market for recyclables and the items are going to be transferred anyway then they should not say they are recycling when they are not. He said they have an aging recycling fleet and it would be unwise with taxpayers' dollars to re-up the fleet when the items are going to the Jackson County landfill anyway. Commissioner Boldt asked if they should consider mandatory garbage and trash collection across the county. Chairman Lockley answered yes. Commissioner Boldt suggested they develop a white paper and have a public discussion. Commissioner Parrish explained they have looked at this before and the way it works in the City of Apalachicola is they have a water and sewer bill and the trash collection is added to the bills but the county does not have a water and sewer facility so they do not have this ability. He reported these companies will not bill each individual for these services but will bill the county and then the county has to get their money back from the individuals. He explained they must come up with the revenue to pay for these bills. Commissioner Boldt said they can contact the garbage collection vendors and ask them to reconsider. Commissioner Parrish stated the contractor is not going to send out the bills and hope they get their money. He said he is not in favor of the county paying garbage bills that individuals do not pay because it will raise everyone's taxes. Commissioner Boldt suggested they tell the company to bill the customer and the county will not get involved. He questioned if they have asked the companies and the companies said no. Commissioner Parrish answered yes. Commissioner Jones agreed and said it has been a couple of years since they asked. Chairman Lockley suggested they go out for bids and someone will provide these services.

Commissioner Boldt agreed they might find a vendor that is interested. Chairman Lockley agreed it is not the county's responsibility but the vendor's responsibility to pick up the garbage and collect the money. Commissioner Massey stated the cities are going to use the vendor they want and the county is going to select one for the unincorporated areas. Mr. Davis asked if the Board would like him to reach out to the vendors and find out. The Board agreed he should contact the vendors. Commissioner Jones asked Mr. Davis to also reach out to the Eastpoint Water & Sewer District and the St. George Island Water District about billing their own customers.

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

16. Debris & Trash on H98: At the last meeting the Board request that I contact the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) about piles of yard debris, trash, and sometimes construction debris left on Highway 98. Based on a conversation with the local FDOT representative, that act of dumping is illegal. The representative told me when they questioned a few of violators, their response was "the county said to do this". My best guess is that some residents and property owners think that the Hurricane Michael debris pick-up program is still in effect. The best way to combat this problem is to advertise that dumping on Highway 98 and other county roads is illegal. I would like the Board to authorize Mrs. Pam Brownell (Emergency Management Director) to use the Alert Franklin system to send this message and I will add the same message to the website. If necessary, I would talk to the local radio stations and The Times about advertising this message as a Public Service Announcement.

Request: Board action to authorize Mrs. Brownell to use the Alert Franklin system to advertise the illegal dumping message.

Commissioner Massey made a motion to authorize Mrs. Brownell to use the Alert Franklin system to advertise the illegal dumping message. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Commissioner Jones pointed out the problem with advertising is they are choosing one road and telling them the rest of the roads are wide open. Attorney Shuler reported the Board passed an Ordinance prohibiting dumping on all county roads. He said this ordinance will be given to Mr. Moron so they can include it in the message to address these concerns. Commissioner Parrish reported the problem is they cannot trace where the piles of garbage came from. He said Highway 98 is a state highway system and the state should decide how to control the trash on the sides of that road. Commissioner Parrish stated people take items and put them in front of other people's houses. Mr. Moron reported garbage also comes in from other counties. Mr. Moron explained his reason for the message is so they know the county is saying this is wrong and there is no confusion. Commissioner Parrish reported the message should include possible prosecution for illegal dumping. Mr. Moron agreed he will include that in the message. Chairman Lockley said it would work if they offered a reward. The Board agreed that would work. Commissioner Boldt asked if it is appropriate to use Alert Franklin for this message. Mrs. Tress Dameron, Emergency Management Department, stated the system is mostly for life/safety but according to the grant it is also for public messages. Commissioner Boldt asked if citizens can pay for assistance and the county can use heavy equipment for things the citizens cannot do. Attorney Shuler agreed this is the same as what they discussed earlier in the meeting about private property. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioner Jones thanked Mr. Davis for everything his department did with resurfacing the basketball court on St. George Island. Commissioner Jones advised one of the goals may be higher than the other one and someone volunteered to help correct this matter. Mr. Davis said he would like to have this assistance.

Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

6. Report

Action Items:

None

Information Item:

EOC Staff worked on updating the LMS (local mitigation strategy).

EOC Staff continue to issue re-entry tags to residents of Franklin County.

02/23-02/27/20 Tress Dameron attended the L449 Train the Trainer Class in Madison County.

FCEM Staff continues 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. Attached (agenda packet) is an update of FEMA projects.

Mrs. Dameron explained they have a Request for Proposals (RFP) for construction contractors to do the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program (HLMP). She reported they have done this program for about 4 years and it helps to wind retrofit people's homes. Mrs. Dameron said they applied for the grant and were awarded the grant. She stated they advertised for bids and will now open the bids.

Commissioner Parrish said the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery (DR) monies are coming in and can be used as the local match for mitigation projects such as County Road 30. Mrs. Dameron agreed that is correct. Mrs. Dameron stated they can also be used as a match for SHIP Projects. She said she usually contacts Mrs. Deborah Belcher, CDBG Administrator, to see if she has any items on her list. Commissioner Parrish explained he is speaking about FEMA projects because this money can be used as the local match for mitigation projects. He said the road is washed out at C.R. 30 and if they can get the mitigation approved then they can apply for these monies to use as the 25% match. Mrs. Dameron stated they have \$194,000 in the grant. Commissioner Parrish reported the St. George Island Bathrooms is a project also and if mitigation needs to be done there then the same monies can be used. Chairman Lockley asked if they have used some of the money. Mrs. Dameron said they have not used the money yet because they need to open the bids for the contractors but they are moving forward. Commissioner Jones said he and Mr. Pierce went to the local meeting about these funds and they are for housing, infrastructure and economic development but it has to be tied to Hurricane Michael. He said what Commissioner Parrish mentioned is valid and he asked in a public meeting if it could be used as a match and they said yes. He stated this will not go through until the fall because they are still forming the plan. She said the HLMP funds were allocated prior to Alligator Point and since that project didn't occur during the year they went ahead and released the funds. Mr. Moron presented an item from his report, as follows:

18. CDBG DR Resolution: At your last meeting Mr. Pierce discussed a Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) workshop he attended with Commissioner Jones where the state's plan for spending \$735 million of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery funds, due to Hurricane Michael, was discussed. Since then, Mr. Pierce and I met with Mr. Chris Holley, the City of Apalachicola's interim City Manager, to discuss the plan. It was determined, at that meeting, in order to allow each county in the impacted area the opportunity to use these funds for recovery, a resolution should be sent to the Governor and State Legislature establishing that county's strategies and priorities. However, the message of each county and municipality's resolution should be similar in its request so it is received as a regional request. Attached (agenda packet) is a Gulf County resolution that speaks to their priorities and desired strategies for your review. At your next meeting I would like the Board to consider a similar resolution that will speak to Franklin County's priorities and desired strategies.

Request: Board discussion and direction as to the wording of the resolution.

Commissioner Jones stated as the county's representative on the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) he can present this item to Liberty County and Calhoun County since they are also affected areas if that is the pleasure of the Board. Mr. Moron reported the City of Apalachicola will do a Resolution and he can also reach out to the City of Carrabelle if that is the direction of the Board. The Board agreed with this action. Mr. Moron said he will get the Resolution together and have Attorney Shuler review it. Commissioner Jones left the meeting at this time. Commissioner Boldt inquired if Mrs. Brownell met with FEMA officials in reference to Island View Park inventory of damages. Mrs. Dameron said she was out of the office but thinks Mrs. Brownell met with them last week.

RFP/RFQ / Bids Opening

7. The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will open and read aloud proposals with documented quote for professional contractor services for wind retrofitting residential homes located in Franklin County.

Mr. Moron and Mrs. Dameron opened and read the Request for Proposals (RFP's), as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>
Hurricane Shutters/ J.P. Roberts	Crawfordville, FL
Florida Retrofits	Palm Bay, FL

Mr. Moron asked if there are amounts. Mrs. Dameron explained she gave them a list of homes they have inspected and they provide the cost it would take to retrofit or mitigate the homes. She said they will take the low bid. She reported J.P. Roberts only does shutters and Florida Retrofits does all of the work. Attorney Shuler asked if she will read the amounts. Mrs. Dameron explained the RFP's go to a committee for review because there are 11 or 12 houses and each one will be a little different. She reported they advertised in the newspaper and posted the advertisement at the Planning & Zoning Office, online and Facebook.

Mr. Moron reported they need to come back to the Board with a recommendation. Mrs. Dameron said she will take the two bids to the state and they will give her approval to go forward with the

contractors and for how much. Attorney Shuler asked who is on the review committee. Mrs. Dameron responded she will be on the committee along with Mrs. Brownell and someone from the Planning & Zoning Office. Mr. Moron suggested Mr. Steve Patterson, Building Inspector. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to turn the RFP's over to the committee for review and a recommendation.**

Chairman Lockley asked if they are ready for hurricane season. Mrs. Dameron replied yes, they are always ready.

Commissioner Jones returned to the meeting.

The meeting recessed at 10:17 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:27 a.m.

Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand

Mr. Moron stated Mr. Lovestrand is at a County Extension Director's meeting in Walton County. He said if the Board has any questions about his report they can contact him.

8. Report

General Extension Activities:

- Extension office assisted clientele with issues related to algae problems in fishponds, coastal plants for landscaping, suitable turf for coastal lawns and more.

Sea Grant Extension:

- Extension Director gave a presentation on off-bottom oyster aquaculture in the Northern Gulf, for the Apalachicola Reserve's Wednesday lecture series. There were 110 people in attendance.
- Extension Director worked with St. Marks Refuge and oyster growers from the area to coordinate a clean-up effort aimed at removing displaced oyster gear from the Refuge that broke loose during Hurricane Michael.
- Extension Director participating in ACF Stakeholder's meeting that is being hosted by the Apalachicola caucus this week.
- Extension Director set up an exhibit and represented Florida Sea Grant at the Capitol building for an Ocean's Day event. Information was shared with Legislators, Staffers, and the public regarding the work that Florida Sea Grant does around the state.

4-H Youth Development:

- 6 Franklin County youth attended the NW Extension District Teen Retreat event near Niceville on Choctawhatchee Bay.
- Preparation for summer camp youth and counselor recruitment is underway. Registration information will be going out to the schools soon.

Family Consumer Sciences:

- FNP Program Assistant has worked to establish a school garden at the First Baptist School. Also working on a new garden site at the Headstart program location.

- Family Nutrition Program (FNP) Assistant teaching a new hands-on cooking skills class with Healthy Weight and Lifestyle group that meets at Weems weekly for the next 6 weeks.

Horticulture/Agricultures:

- Wakulla Extension Director taught two Master Gardener classes in Eastpoint and also presented a program at the Eastpoint Library on gardening.

Library Assistant Supervisor - Whitney Nixon-Roundtree

Ms. Nixon-Roundtree presented the following report:

9. Report

Information Items:

New Part -Time Employee, Mary Whitesell- FCPL is proud to welcome our new part-time employee, Mary Whitesell. Mary's first day was February 18th. She has completed training at both branches. The Friends of the Franklin Public Library Annual Book Sales- The Friends have completed their annual book sales at both library branches. Both branches saw over a 100 visitors for the Book, Bread and Soup Sale. Funds raised go towards programming and activities at the libraries.

Community Awareness / Resources:

2020 Census Assistance- Franklin County residents who wish to do their part to be counted as a part of the 2020 Census can do so online at any Franklin County Public Library branch. Staff and volunteers will be standing by to assist patrons with navigating the 2020census.gov website.

Monthly Gardening Programs- The next gardening class with Les Harrison meets March 10th at the Carrabelle branch and March 17th at the Eastpoint branch at 1:30 PM. The topic this month is all about growing tomatoes.

Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration – The libraries are celebrating the birthday of beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss. Book displays featuring his work are up at both branches. The Carrabelle library has a special event planned on March 2nd complete with activities, treat and prizes.

Basics of Better Living Programs- Monthly program with Samantha Kennedy from the UF/IFAS Extension Office. March topic will be "Instapot Cooking" available at the Carrabelle Branch, Friday March 6th at 1:30 and the Eastpoint Branch, Friday March 20th at 1:30.

Free Diabetes Awareness Class- A free class for adults with diabetes and pre-diabetes. This course is taught by a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist who will guide participants in learning how to better manage this complicated condition. Class will meet the first Tuesday of each month from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Eastpoint branch.

Free AARP Tax Aide – January 30 – April 9, alternating Thursday's 10-2 beginning with Carrabelle on January 30. Registration is necessary at your selected branch. Paperwork is to be completed prior to the scheduled appointment and can be picked up at either branch location.

Adult & Children's Monthly Calendar of Events:

Carrabelle: Zumba, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:00

Carrabelle: STEAM (ages 8-14) weekly, Thursdays at 4:00

Carrabelle: STEAM (ages 5-7) 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 4:00

Carrabelle: Lego Club, first Tuesday at 4:00

Carrabelle: Coloring for Adults, first and third Thursdays at 10:30

Carrabelle: Yoga: Instructional, Monday's at 4:00, Video – Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday at 4:00

Carrabelle: Craft Hour for Adults, 2nd and 4th Fridays at 1:00

Eastpoint: Teen Book Club, monthly for grades 6 – 12, monthly 1st Wednesdays at 4:00

Eastpoint: STEAM (ages 5-7) 1st and 3rd Mondays at 4:00

Eastpoint: STEAM (ages 8-12) 2nd and 4th Mondays 4:00

Eastpoint: Story Time (ages 1-6) 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 10:30

Eastpoint: Anime Club (ages 5th – 12th grade) – Monthly, 2nd Wednesdays at 4:00

Eastpoint: Diabetes Awareness- Monthly, 1st Tuesday at 10:00

Eastpoint Book Chat: Monthly, 1st Tuesday at 1:30 (next meeting March 3rd 2020)

Eastpoint Yin Yoga: Tuesdays at 3:30, Monthly 1st & 3rd Friday's at 11:00

Eastpoint Writer's Forum: Monthly, 3rd Wednesday's at 1:00 (next meeting, January 16)

Ms. Nixon-Roundtree thanked Mr. Rick Watson and the Rock by the Sea Foundation for their donation of \$8,400.00 to the Friends of the Franklin County Library. She reported the funds go toward the Music as a Second Language Program and pays for teachers and instruments. She stated the money also goes to fund the summer reading program.

Ms. Nixon-Roundtree highlighted some of the events going on at the library.

Commissioner Jones thanked Ms. Nixon-Roundtree for doing a good job.

CDBG Administrator – Report (Deborah Belcher)

Mrs. Belcher provided the following report:

10. I again visited the home of Anna and Devin Creamer, 568 Wilderness Road, the afternoon of Monday, 2/24/2020. The yard is still not cleaned up, and the 2019 taxes are not paid. Ms. Creamer is requesting a 4-bedroom home instead of a 3-bedroom model. I am checking on the cost of that option, although I know that a model with quality and features similar to the ones we have been providing will cost significantly more than the County's normal \$75,000 limit. I informed Ms. Creamer that I will have the cost information ready for the 3/17/2020 Board meeting. Ironwood Homes of Perry has had a factory price increase, so we will have to go back out for bids on new cases. As in the past, I will handle the advertising and proposal evaluation process for the County.

Mrs. Belcher said the taxes for Anna & Devin Creamer were paid after her report was submitted.

Bid Approval:

At the January 21, 2020 meeting, the Board approved getting resubmittals of proposals for Kathy Hill's mobile home replacement, 773 Buck Street, not to exceed \$80,000. Ironwood Homes of Perry submitted a proposal for a home that meets specifications in the amount of \$75,393.28, including demolition of the existing home, tree removal if required, and higher elevation for the floodplain. Clayton Homes of Panama City submitted a proposal for a comparable product, for \$83,200. Ms. Hill is agreeing to the Ironwood Homes proposal, which is just \$393 more than the County's normal \$75,000 limit. We are still trying to determine whether septic system work will be required, which is not included in the proposals.

Requested Action: Approve \$75,393.28 in CDBG funding for Kathy Hill's mobile home replacement contract, plus up to \$500 for change orders if required, and funds for the CDBG mortgage recording.

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve \$75,393.28 in CDBG funding for Kathy Hill's mobile home replacement contract, plus up to \$500 for change orders if required and funds for the CDBG mortgage recording. Mrs. Belcher explained as part of their environmental review they did a septic system inspection and they think the system is okay. She stated the report was sent to the Health Department in November and they still do not have a response. Mrs. Belcher inquired if it is county policy that staff can approve up to \$10,000 without bringing it back to the Board. Attorney Shuler commented the local bid policy is now up to \$15,000 and the Board can purchase items without going out for bids unless the bid is required by some other state law or federal requirement. Mrs. Belcher asked if she can have Mr. Moron or Mr. Curenton approve this expenditure if they have to do the septic system improvements. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was approve this request.**

Mrs. Belcher reported they will have 4 mobile homes on order by this afternoon. She stated 3 were approved at the last meeting and the 1 approved today. Mrs. Belcher said 1 mobile home was delivered yesterday.

Mrs. Belcher stated in relation to the CDBG DR funds the last she heard you could not use the funds for mitigation only for actual damages. She reported people have been asking if they can use the funds for mitigation and the state has said not unless HUD or Congress say they can. She stated the county could focus on this in the resolution. Mr. Moron agreed that is the point of the Resolution. He explained they get to tell the Governor and the state their strategies which includes mitigation. He stated if all the impacted counties go together as a region then they are hoping to get this done. Mrs. Belcher explained in relation to using the CDBG DR funds as a match for other grants the funds must be used for items that are CDBG DR eligible. She said the last she heard the state intends to handle all housing funds directly and not with the local government. She reported people who own the housing would apply directly to the state for housing assistance. Mrs. Belcher said if there is going to be any matching funds or something that would be eligible the county might want to include in the resolution that even though the state is handling the funds the county could receive some of the funds. She explained it will not be feasible to say they are matching other housing grants with CDBG DR funds because the money does not come to the county it goes directly to the owner. Commissioner Parrish questioned if Buck Street can be repaired so they can deliver the trailer. Mrs. Belcher reported in the past some of the mobile home dealers have dumped some dirt on the roads. She said the road is bad and the mobile home dealers have seen the condition of the road. She stated she has heard several complaints that several years ago the county dug a ditch around Bear Creek and the ditch is now dumping water on Buck Street but she does not know if that is true. Commissioner Parrish said the county has not been on private property digging a ditch.

Mr. Moron brought into discussion the taxes being paid on Devin Creamer's property and said this was done after her report was submitted. Mrs. Belcher confirmed that is correct. Commissioner Parrish asked about the condition of the yard and if the yard being clean is a requirement. Mrs. Belcher

answered yes. Commissioner Parrish inquired if the property owners know about this requirement. Mrs. Belcher replied yes, they have known for over a year. Mrs. Belcher commented as of last week the yard was not clean but she will visit the property again today. Commissioner Parrish reported that requirement is part of the program and they must comply with the program. He stated the county cannot go on private property so the applicants must take care of this.

RESTORE Coordinator – Alan Pierce – Report

Mr. Moron said Mr. Pierce is attending a Triumph meeting in Port St. Joe. Chairman Lockley asked if they can use Triumph money on any of these roads. Mr. Moron agreed to ask Mr. Pierce.

Clerk of Courts – Marcia M. Johnson – Report

Clerk Johnson did not have a report at this time.

County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report

Mr. Moron read his report, as follows:

Action Items

14. The item was addressed earlier in the meeting.
15. The Board handled this item at the beginning of the meeting
16. This item was addressed during the Solid Waste Director's Report.
17. FDOT Grants: The Planning Office has prepared grant applications for eight SCOP, SCRAP and CIGP projects to be funded by the Florida Department of Transportation. These projects include:

Small County Outreach Program (SCOP)

Replacement of the three culverts on Highway 67 at Womack Creek.

Resurfacing of Hickory Dip in Eastpoint.

Paving the remainder of Mill Road.

SCOP Bridge Repairs

Trout Creek Bridge on Mill Road.

Syrup Branch Bridge on New River Road.

Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP)

Widening and Resurfacing of Highway 67 from State Forest Road 166 to State Forest Road 172.

Widening and resurfacing of Highway 67 from State Forest Road 172 to the Liberty County line.

County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP)

Replacing the culverts under Ryan Drive between 9th St. NW and Sunset Circle in the City of Carrabelle.

Each of these applications requires a resolution from the Board of County Commissioners stating that the Board supports the project and authorizes the Chairman to sign the application form. These applications have to be submitted by Friday, March 20.

Requests: Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the eight FDOT application resolutions.

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Resolution and authorize the Chairman's signature on the eight FDOT application resolutions.

18. This item was addressed during the Emergency Management Department report.
19. Sacred Heart/Ascension: At your February 18th meeting I was directed to coordinate with Mr. Roger Hall (Sacred Heart/Ascension Regional President) a date that he would be available to present changes to the Sacred Heart/Ascension's proposal for healthcare in Franklin County to the Board. The earliest date that Mr. Hall and this room is available for a special meeting is Monday, March 9th. If there are no schedule conflicts, we could meet at 1:30 p.m. (ET).

Request: Board action to authorize a special meeting on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. to hear from Mr. Roger Hall regarding Sacred Heart/Ascension's proposal for healthcare.

On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize a special meeting on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. to hear from a proposal from Sacred Heart/Ascension. Commissioner Boldt said they are reaching out for all possibilities for input and were proactive in this invitation for Sacred Heart and Alliant to provide information they need. Mr. Moron explained USDA gave the county another week before they have to respond about the funding. Commissioner Parrish said he has a conflict with this date. He stated he will try to get his appointment changed but he may not be able to make the meeting.

20. Highway 67 sidewalk project update: Russel Large with Inovia is working on revising the plans to reduce the length of the sidewalk by approximately one mile to bring it within the current budget for the project. FDOT has informed the County that this reduction in the project will require the County to get a new approval from FDOT for the project, and we will have to rebid the project. Therefore, all of the bids opened on January 7th will have to be rejected by the Board. When we have authorization from FDOT we will come back to the Board for authorization to rebid the project.

Request: Board action to reject all bids opened on January 7th.

Commissioner Massey made a motion to reject all bids that were opened on January 7, 2020 for the Highway 67 sidewalk project. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Commissioner Jones asked if there will be any costs incurred. Mr. Moron said any costs will be paid by the City of Carrabelle and is a matter between Inovia and the City of Carrabelle. **Motion carried 5-0.**

21. Permit Violations: As part of your Planning & Zoning report, at your last meeting, Mrs. Amy Ham-Kelly (Zoning Administrator) informed the Board of a dock that was built without a permit. Since then, staff has found another violation in the county on a commercially zoned property where an accessory structure was built without a permit. The property owner was aware of the process but chose to seek 'forgiveness rather than permission'. As these violations are occurring more often than not, it is time for the county to consider making it easier to seek permission rather than forgiveness. I suggest authorizing Attorney Shuler to create a draft ordinance for your review that would increase the fines and penalties for anyone not obtaining a permit before starting any construction or building in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Request: Board action to direct Attorney Shuler to create a draft ordinance increasing the fines and penalties for anyone not obtaining a permit before starting construction, building or additions in the county.

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to direct Attorney Shuler to create a draft ordinance increasing the fines and penalties for anyone not obtaining a permit before starting construction, building or additions in the county.

22. FAC Summer Conference: Early registration is open for the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference and Educational Exposition (summer conference). The conference will run from June 9th - 12th and will be held in Orange County. Confirm with Mrs. Cortni Bankston that you are planning on attending so that the registration and reservations can be done as early as possible.

Request: Board action to authorize travel and expenses for the Commissioners, staff, and Attorney Shuler to attend the FAC Summer Conference.

On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize travel and expenses for the Commissioners, staff, and Attorney Shuler to attend the FAC Summer Conference. Mr. Moron asked the Commissioners to let his office know if they are attending.

23. Camp Gordon Johnston Parade: The 25th anniversary of Camp Gordon Johnston Days events will be from Friday, March 13th to Sunday, March 15th. The parade will be on Saturday, March 14th starting at 10:45 a.m. (ET) in Carrabelle. Besides having Mrs. Brownell (EM Director) and Mr. Davis (Parks and Rec. Director) provide some transportation for the parade is there any other needed arrangements?

Request: Board discussion.

Commissioner Jones said he will be out of town.

Information Items

24. Weems Update: Inform the Board that the Finance Office received \$226,578.78 from the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) designated for Weems Memorial. This funding is a result of a \$1.1 million Hurricane Michael revenue loss reimbursement claim submitted to FDEM on behalf of Weems. Earlier in the month Weems requested an \$150,000 advance from the trust fund, based on this approved reimbursement, to make sure there was adequate funding for the upcoming payroll. The \$150,000 will be transferred back to the trust fund and the remaining \$76,578.78 will be transferred to Weems. In addition, due to a partial Low-Income Pool (LIP) payment, the CEO was able to transfer \$135,000 to the savings (Money Market) account.
25. Division of Aquaculture Meetings: The Division of Aquaculture will hold two pre-application meetings for anyone interested in applying for a lease at the Four-Mile Aquaculture Use Zone (AUZ). The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4th from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. (ET) and the second will be on Thursday, March 5th from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. (ET). Both meetings will be held at the Community Center located at #1 Bay Avenue here in Apalachicola. "Applicants

must attend the entire meeting and present photo identification to be eligible for the preference for attending the meeting."

Mr. Moron said the Board has fought for this preference and the applicants must present photo identification and attend the entire meeting.

26. Eastpoint Dredging: Inform the Board the Corps of Engineers has contacted Alan that they will be coming over here the week of March 9 to provide the county with the cost estimates and 3 proposed designs for dredging the Eastpoint channel. Alan will provide the Board with the information when he receives it.

Mr. Moron said hopefully they will have some kind of timeline. Chairman Lockley asked if they are going to dredge both of the channels together. Mr. Moron explained these are 2 different projects but they are trying to do both projects at the same time and save on the mobilization costs. He stated the Eastpoint Channel will be done first then they can move to the next one. Commissioner Jones said the difference is the Eastpoint Channel has money appropriated from the federal government to the Corps of Engineers and the money for the other channel is coming out of BP funds. Chairman Lockley mentioned there was money allocated before for the channel but it had to be used for Hurricane Katrina.

The meeting recessed at 10:59 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

Mr. Moron pointed out the clock on the wall and said individuals have 3 minutes to speak and anyone representing an entity or group can speak for 5 minutes.

Public Hearings I (11:00 AM)

Attorney Shuler advised the first action is to recess the Board of County Commissioners' meeting and reconvene the meeting of the Local Planning Agency (LPA). Chairman Lockley recessed the Board of County Commissioners' meeting and convened the meeting of the LPA. Attorney Shuler read the following:

11. Local Planning Agency 11:00 AM

(This is a continuation of a public hearing held on 1/21/20 tabled to 3/3/20 at 11:00 a.m.) An ordinance of Franklin County, Florida, amending the St. George Island Corridor Overlay District Ordinance 2018-02 by removing the prohibition against single family residential uses on the first floor for property located within a 2,100-foot radius of the center point of the intersection of Franklin Boulevard and Gulf Beach Drive, St. George Island, Florida, as described in plat book 2, page 7, Franklin County, Florida, excluding the area east of east boundary of Third Street East and west of the west boundary of Third Street West; providing for exemptions; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

Attorney Shuler asked for the map to be displayed. He discussed the map and where the boundaries of the overlay district are. He said the purpose of this ordinance is to give the Commissioners an

opportunity to address the issue of approximately 302 C-4 zoned lots either built or vacant in the business district. He presented a map which highlighted the developed C-4 lots that are residential units that have no commercial use because they are essentially rental units. He also pointed out the Villas of St. George and explained the property is within the overlay area and they are subject to the overlay requirements. Attorney Shuler said when the Board adopted the Overlay Ordinance in 2018 it included a prohibition disallowing residential uses on the first floor of any property within the business district. He reported there was some concern expressed by people with built units and vacant land that their property rights had been adversely impacted. Attorney Shuler explained the Board's direction was to bring back an amendment to the Overlay District to allow for residential uses on the first floor of the C-4 properties within the business district. He reported if the ordinance is adopted as written it would allow the Board to remove the prohibition against residential use on the first floor throughout the business district. Attorney Shuler advised the Board they are in a procedural position to take this action or something less. He stated they discussed grandfathering the C-4 residential units that have been developed and leaving the restriction for the undeveloped lots. Attorney Shuler said the Board has that authority but his recommendation and the recommendation from the County Planner is to adopt the ordinance as written and return all C-4 units back to what they were allowed to do prior to adoption of the overlay ordinance in 2018. He stated under the C-4 zoning the owner could have a commercial use on the bottom floor with a residential use on the top floor, pure residential or pure commercial. Attorney Shuler offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Parrish asked what right the county has to take away uses allowed by the C-4 zoning and de-value these properties and said that is what the property owners are concerned about. He explained it is not like the property owners are asking for C-4 because they are already zoned C-4. Commissioner Parrish said some of the property owners are willing to sell if people will pay what they paid for the lots but the county does not have the money to purchase the property as part of eminent domain. He explained there was an increased value when these lots were zoned to C-4 with residential uses. Commissioner Massey reported some of the property was C-4 when they bought the lots. Commissioner Parrish asked how many lots are in the overlay district and if any of the lots are still C-2. Attorney Shuler responded there are 224 C-2 zoned lots and 302 C-4 zoned lots. He estimated there are approximately 13 C-3 zoned lots. Attorney Shuler stated Commissioner Parrish is correct about how the C-4 zoning occurred in relation to real estate booms, real estate busts, and market forces. He reported most of these changes occurred before 2006. Commissioner Massey asked why all the lots are not C-4. Attorney Shuler explained different property owners wanted different uses and the transient rental market was where the money was. He pointed out the original skinny minis on the map and said they were the result of a lawsuit. Commissioner Massey commented he doesn't live there but does not like the skinny minis. Attorney Shuler explained the overlay district as it was originally written was imposing a design criteria that was developed in conjunction with the community and multiple public hearings. He stated if the Board adopts the ordinance as recommended all units would still be subject to the overlay requirements but that would be determined on a case by case basis by the County Planner as he receives development applications for units within the overlay district area. Commissioner Massey said he is with the people because it is their property. Chairman Lockley asked for public comment. He reminded everyone if they are speaking as an individual they have 3 minutes and if they are speaking for a group they are allowed 5 minutes.

Mr. Mason Bean, a resident of St. George Island, stated the Board has good intentions but they are also the gate keeper to protect the space. He said no one wants to take the C-4 away or their property

rights away but their concern is the strictly residential use that will cover up the rest of the commercial district. He stated in the future they will need a commercial area and they must have a vision and protect the integrity of the business district. Mr. Bean reported if they are already zoned C-4 then they have the right to keep that residential use or if they are stuck between homes. He said he would like to see a common drain field that commercial lots could use so an investor would not have to buy extra lots. Mr. Bean said the original C-2 zoning allowed restricted residential but they wanted it to look like a downtown and he hopes they can get back to that. He suggested keeping the C-4 zoning but striking the total residential wording.

Mr. Feifer questioned if the business district is the same as the St. George Island Overlay area. Attorney Shuler answered yes, and said it is generally known as the area from 3rd Street East to 3rd Street West going from the bay to the gulf. Mr. Feifer asked if all the structures in the St. George Island Overlay are on this map. Attorney Shuler answered yes and then clarified there is some land on the north side. He asked for the other map to be displayed that shows all the C-4 properties. He explained the boundaries of the Overlay District. Mr. Feifer questioned if there are other platted lots. Attorney Shuler replied no, all the platted lots are shown on the map.

Mr. John Cadriel, President of the St. George Island Business Association, said he is a member of the St. George Island Civic Club and owner of the Beach Pit Restaurant. He presented a handout to the Board. He explained they do not want to take away their personal rights to the property but they are interested in the best interest for the community in the business district. He reported the business district is a very important part of St. George Island. Mr. Cadriel described the view from the bridge as you are entering St. George Island and said the skinny minis obstruct the views of the beach. He said hopefully rows of these houses will not push the businesses out but they are concerned this will hurt the businesses. He asked to maintain what they have so additional businesses can come aboard. Mr. Cadriel said they understand there are issues with the existing landowners but they are not trying to take away their rights. He said they are in agreement that some type of grandfathering in these units could occur and give them an opportunity to rebuild if they are 51% or more damaged. He stated they are also okay with the possibility of existing lots between the skinny minis because that is already done and will not change anything for the future. Mr. Cadriel reported it is hard to bring new businesses into St. George Island because the rules and regulations are challenging. He discussed the challenges he faced with his restaurant. He suggested they may need to look at the ordinances to help new businesses come in to the community and buy the lots from individuals that are willing to sell.

Mrs. Julie Krantz, a resident and business owner on St. George Island, reported St. George Island has a different look and feel and they want to preserve it. She said she does not want a community that has walls of small houses and it may not happen immediately but it will happen eventually. She stated these property owners had the zoning in the past and they do not want to take away their rights. Mrs. Krantz reported the Island is not the same as 30 years ago and the zoning needs to change. She explained years ago when they bought a residential lot they gave people a business lot for free. She said they need to change zoning and accommodate growing businesses for the community and not one landowner. Mrs. Krantz stated they are not going to lose value in the property because the property will increase in value as the businesses increase in the district. She suggested they can come together with a solution to make the land more valuable based on bringing a business in rather than a residential home. She stated they can make this a nice walking community for the environment. She

reported they can work with the Board on how to bring in more businesses. She asked the Board to help preserve the Island.

Commissioner Massey said 4 of the Commissioners have been going to the Island for many years. He stated he has been going to the Island for over 50 years and is familiar with the Island.

Mr. Jim Morris, President of the St. George Island Civic Club, informed the Board he emailed his comments yesterday. He read his comments for the Board. He stated the Civic Club Board urges the Board to defeat the proposed ordinance that will remove the prohibition against single family residential development within the commercial district. Mr. Morris reported in previous Commission meetings several of the Board members indicated they wanted to protect the property rights of individuals who owned zoned property before the 2018 ordinance was enacted. He read excerpts from the previous Board minutes. He said their admirable and worthy sentiment will affectively destroy the 2018 overlay. Mr. Morris reported he provided the relevant section of the overlay for their convenience so they can follow their argument. He explained it appears this proposed ordinance protects the rights of people that want to build a rental house but not the property rights of people who want to build other things that were previously allowed before the 2018 overlay and he provided some examples.

Mr. Steven Rash, a property owner on St. George Island, said he owns about 17 commercial lots on St. George Island and most of them are zoned C-4. He explained in 2005 he bought some lots across from the Blue Parrot contingent upon them being rezoned C-4 and they were rezoned. He stated he wants to maintain the C-4 zoning on his lots with all the rights and privileges and he does not want to give up that option. He said he does not have intentions to build a residence but he does not know what the future will bring. Mr. Rash pointed out one of the biggest problems with attracting businesses is not having a central sewer system. He said complying with stormwater runoff, parking and setbacks also makes it difficult. He stated the best thing to support the business district is to put in a public central sewer system and he has supported that for a long time. He reported changing the zoning will not help businesses come in and might devalue the property. Mr. Rash said he will consult his attorney if this property is rezoned. He stated he loved the Island the way it was 30 years ago but the Island is changing all the time. He said the Island does need planning and the business district is very important but taking people's property rights is not the way to go about it.

Mrs. Pat O'Connell, a resident of St. George Island, stated if they cannot take away the C-4 then they cannot take away the other uses or the C-2 and they did not understand that the County Commission is powerless to make any changes to the previously made decisions and this is a big issue. She said they cannot impose constraints on some and not everyone. Mrs. O'Connell reported she has never seen the Commission consider doing the level of density they are proposing with over 400 residential properties in less than 70 acres. She stated the overlay that was done in 2018 was for a very big purpose which was to make the Island desirable going forward. She reported it was a good idea then and now and she asked the Board to defeat this amendment.

Ms. Angela Troy, a property owner on St. George Island, asked if the proposal is dealing with C-4 only or C-2 also. Attorney Shuler responded only C-4. She stated if people have C-2 and want C-4 then they have to go through the normal process. Ms. Troy explained they are only asking to remove the

prohibition on the C-4 and keep it the way it was before so they can still build on it because that is why they applied and had their property changed. She reported they are only asking to do what they were promised when they had their property changed.

Attorney Shuler stated now is the time for the Commissioners to discuss this matter or ask questions. He explained if they have no questions then the next step is to close the meeting of the LPA and reconvene at the County Commission. He reported at that time the Board would be in a position to make a decision to approve or deny the ordinance as written or consider some lesser option that has been discussed to limit the prohibition of residential use of the first floor to those units that have already been developed and constructed within the C-4 properties. Attorney Shuler asked if the Commissioners have any questions. Chairman Lockley said Commissioners change but that does not mean it automatically changes what the previous Commission voted for. He stated when the Board votes for something and it passes then he thought it became law. Attorney Shuler agreed this is correct and the ordinance stays in place until it is invalidated by the court or a new ordinance is adopted. He explained the Board does have the ability pursuant to law to amend the ordinance by a majority vote of the Board. Chairman Lockley said people want the Island to stay like it is but people buy property to invest. He stated it may stay the same for a long time or short time but it is not right for people not to be able to do what they intend to do within the law with their property. He said he will go with what the law says and if they had it before they cannot take it from them. Attorney Shuler Stated if the Board has no further discussion they can close the LPA meeting and reconvene the Board of County Commissioners meeting and conduct a final public hearing on the ordinance. He said the Board will then take public comment and then vote. Commissioner Boldt asked if there are certain residences that are purely residential and they are thinking about leaving them to be purely residential and have no confusion that they are anything but residential. He questioned if there is just an option for that to give them relief. Attorney Shuler answered yes, the ordinance as written covers all the C-4 properties in the overlay district but the Board has the authority to carve out a provision that says only existing C-4 built residential units would be exempted from the overlay ordinance prohibition. He explained all the other overlay design requirements will still apply but they would still be allowed to rebuild their units and have residential on the first and second floor if they chose to if the Board wanted to limit the effect of the ordinance to just those build C-4 residential units. Chairman Lockley said they want to tell other people about their property rights. Chairman Lockley closed the meeting of the LPA.

Chairman Lockley reconvened the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

12. Board of County Commissioners 11:05 AM (or as soon thereafter as is possible)

(This is a continuation of a public hearing held on 1/21/20 tabled to 3/3/20 at 11:05 a.m.) An ordinance of Franklin County, Florida, amending the St. George Island Corridor Overlay District Ordinance 2018-02 by removing the prohibition against single family residential uses on the first floor for property located within a 2,100-foot radius of the center point of the intersection of Franklin Boulevard and Gulf Beach Drive, St. George Island, Florida, as described in plat book 2, page 7, Franklin County, Florida, excluding the area east of east boundary of Third Street East and west of the west boundary of Third Street West; providing for exemptions; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

Attorney Shuler stated this is the second and final public hearing. He read the caption of the ordinance for the Board. Chairman Lockley asked for public comment.

Mr. Rash said he owns 17 lots and the Blue Parrot Restaurant on St. George Island. He explained he does not plan on putting up any residences especially in the business district but his plan in the future would be some kind of mixed use with a business downstairs and a residence upstairs. Mr. Rash stated right now the lots are zoned C-4 and they just had a Category 5 hurricane brush by so something could happen. He explained he wants the option in the future that he could sell his property with the C-4 residential component. Mr. Rash stated that adds value and options to his property and he is not going to give that up unless there is a legal ground for the county to do that. He suggested the county not grant any more C-4. Mr. Rash said his lots are C-4 and he wants them to stay C-4.

Ms. Krantz stated there is no guarantee they will not build residential homes and they are asking for a guarantee. She reported the Board has the overlay that will prevent it and they can vote this down and there will never be another residential unit built there. She suggested the Board grandfather in the units that are existing. Ms. Krantz stated they do not need 40 houses and if the Board passed this ordinance then they can build residential houses. She asked the Board to preserve what they have do and not do this for a few people. She said the Board has the right to address the zoning. Ms. Krantz reported one of the Board's jobs is to preserve the environment and the county and that is what they are asking for. She asked the Board not to allow 400 houses in the business district because it will be devastating.

Ms. Troy explained she has not built a home on her property and her property is surrounded by homes. She stated if they take away her rights to this property then she cannot build anything on her property. Ms. Troy reported she paid \$250,000 for her property and someone will have to pay her for the property because she have no use of her property. She said there are a lot of other C-4 property owners that will feel the same way. Ms. Troy said they are simply asking to have C-4 just like it was and to remove this prohibition and deal with the C-2's like they are or anyone else. She stated it is not fair to take away their right because some of them will not be able to build on their property. Mr. Cadriel reported he has plans on opening future businesses possibly on St. George Island. He stated the community cannot thrive without the business district. He explained no one will want to buy homes when there are no businesses to go to. He discussed the parking issues and what will happen if there are 400 additional homes. He said people will not want to rent the homes if there are no businesses to provide services. Mr. Cadriel stated in the future this will hurt the aesthetics of the Island.

Ms. Patty Crawford, a resident of St. George Island, questioned where they are going to build 400 houses in the business district when it is already built. She said they may not be able to build a house on a single lot anymore. She reported there are different requirements and the skinny minis have several lots as drain fields and those lots are not buildable. Ms. Crawford stated they need to do the right thing by leaving those that are already built and have residential alone because that is how they were built. She suggested the Board do another overlay if they are not happy with this one. She reported there are not 400 buildable lots and there will not be 400 homes. She requested the Board do away with the overlay and put them back the way they were when they bought the property.

Mrs. O'Connell reported Attorney Shuler said there are nearly 300 C-4 vacant lots that could be built as houses. She said there are already 100 houses counting the skinny minis. She explained that is why she said 400 houses but even if it is 300 houses in 70 acres that is more density than they have ever allowed. She stated this part of the county is a major economic driver and businesses bring in more money to the county than the rental property does. She explained it does not make sense to carve out of the ordinance and exempt C-4 and not exempt portions of C-2. Mrs. O'Connell said if the property rights are more important if it is a rental home than a business then they need to help them understand.

Mr. Jim Waddell, Inovia Consulting Group, explained regardless of whether residential is allowed on the first floor or not they still have the problems with parking, stormwater, sewer, green space and the things that have been in their code for years. He said if the Board does not take favorable action today they are going to get what they do not want which is one person who buys multiple lots, creates a unity of title and builds a single large building. He reported his client that lives at 112 Gorrie Drive has a private residence and wants the ability to rebuild if their home is destroyed under the conditions in the C-4 district the same as it existed when they bought it. HE stated this is the same situation with some other people.

Attorney Shuler reported at this point the Board is in a procedural position to discuss and make a decision to approve or reject the ordinance as written. Attorney Shuler stated his recommendation and Mr. Curenton's recommendation is to adopt the ordinance as written which would remove the prohibition of residential uses on the first floor throughout the entire business district for approximately 302 properties of which 50 units have already been constructed. He explained the Board has the authority to do some lesser amount of lots or to grandfather the lots. Commissioner Boldt asked for the map to be displayed again. Mr. Moron displayed the map. Commissioner Jones reported there has been no discussion today about how dense this is and that these are 25 ft. lots which is substantive and will not change. He said if they are looking at 300 residences or businesses it is still the same number of lots. Commissioner Jones stated he is caught in the middle because he understands what is going on but there are people living in properties that cannot get insurance because of where they are. He said they definitely need to take action today and try to strike a balance. Commissioner Boldt asked if they can give relief to the one section he identified on the map so they have purely residential uses. Commissioner Jones pointed out there are people on Gorrie Drive North and South and Gunn Street that have C-4 properties with houses around them and they are telling them they have to put a business in the middle of the houses and telling all the businesses you will not put houses where they are and that is an issue. Chairman Lockley stated when they bought the lots all of the businesses and houses were there and they knew the zoning so this is not new. He explained people check out everything before they buy the lots. Commissioner Boldt asked if any other counties had this dilemma. Chairman Lockley said they went by the book. He stated the area is going to grow and has changed from what it was years ago. Commissioner Parrish asked what the procedure is if someone wants to rezone their property. He questioned if they file an application to rezone. Attorney Shuler answered yes. Commissioner Parrish inquired how many people out of the 302 lots with C-4 zoning have asked to be rezoned to something else. Attorney Shuler answered none. Commissioner Parrish asked how the county can take away the C-4 zoning and rezone their property whether they request it or not. Attorney Shuler replied they are not rezoning but did change some of the allowable uses within an overlay district for a certain geographical area. He explained he is trying

not to get into the legal arguments that can be properly raised to defend the county's actions but is responding to a policy issue. He reported the Board directed him to draft an ordinance that they could consider in a public setting so they could have an opportunity to make a policy decision. He explained this ordinance was drafted to respond to a policy issue that was brought to the Board by their constituents and the public hearing was scheduled. Commissioner Parrish stated he does not want someone to tell him they are rezoning his property. He explained this Board did not grant all the C-4 zoning requests but they have to deal with it. Chairman Lockley said he was here for some of it. Commissioner Parrish stated he was on Planning & Zoning when it was done. He pointed out there are still 270 lots that are C-4 and nothing has been done with them in the last 15-18 years. He explained they have a commercial use, residential use or mixed use and nothing in all those years has been done with the lots. Commissioner Parrish reported they have not built houses so that must not be what they want to do. Commissioner Boldt asked if they can allow the individual property owners to come in for a rezoning. Attorney Shuler explained rezoning is not possible to solve this issue. He explained the issue in the ordinance is limited to removing the prohibition to residential use on the first floor of C-4 zoned properties. He reported if the ordinance stays in affect as it is written the Board would not have the authority to grant a variance or special exception. Attorney Shuler stated the Board would have to follow the law because one of their duties is to protect and defend the constitution and the laws of Florida including local ordinances. Chairman Lockley asked about the property value drop on these properties. Commissioner Parrish said they do not know how much the property will be devalued because they can do a residence, mixed use or straight commercial. Commissioner Massey stated they want to stop the residences from being on top of the businesses and they do not want the skinny minis. Attorney Shuler said that precedent for skinny minis was set almost 30 years ago and he pointed out the original units on the map. Chairman Lockley stated they are going to be back in court if they do not handle this right. Commissioner Jones asked if one of these options lays out grandfathering around Gorrie Drive and Gunn Street and going forward. Attorney Shuler explained if the Board does not approve or deny the ordinance as written then they have the authority to grandfather in the constructed C-4 residential units and there are approximately 50 based on the map Mr. Curenton provided. Commissioner Jones stated it is not for any unconstructed properties. Attorney Shuler clarified the ordinance as written is for all 302 C-4 zoned units whether built or unbuilt. He said this is how the ordinance is presented and recommended and it would essentially reset all the C-4 zoned properties to the various development rights they had prior to Ordinance #2018-02 the St. George Island Overlay District Ordinance. Commissioner Jones said he is trying to avoid any more unintended consequences with the overlay. He explained looking at the map they already have residences north and south of Gorrie Drive to the west, south of Gorrie Drive to the east and north of Gunn Street. He questioned if one of their options addresses these properties. Attorney Shuler questioned if he means to just exempt the as-built units. Commissioner Jones stated no just to exempt the areas he just described. He asked if they have to do all or nothing. Attorney Shuler discussed the areas on the map. He stated he does not recommend separating out all the units as suggested by Commissioner Jones. He reported there is an argument to be made for grandfathering the as-built units but he is not seeing an argument for allowing some of the vacant lots to develop under the old C-4 and some vacant lots not. He stated they could possibly make an argument for water front or water view lots being different from interior lots but they are also talking about another area that does not qualify for the same argument. Attorney Shuler reported if some of the property owners came to the Board and said if they have to rebuild a destroyed structure or have new construction under the new ordinance some of them would not be able to meet the current parking and other requirements and

that is part of what lead to this discussion. Commissioner Parrish asked if someone has a mixed use property does the business have to be elevated. Attorney Shuler replied yes because they have to meet FEMA requirements. Commissioner Parrish said there will no more building on the ground but the amount they have to be elevated depends on FEMA requirements. Attorney Shuler reported the determination on FEMA requirements would have to be made on a case by case basis. Commissioner Massey said in relation to the FEMA requirements the county can drop the points level because they are the only ones in Florida that have 10 points. He explained they could go to 1 point and they could rebuild at 20% because that is what is holding up the rebuilding. Attorney Shuler stated that is a question for Mrs. Hamm-Kelly. Commissioner Massey reported there are homes in his district that are 60% damaged and they cannot rebuild due to the point rate. Commissioner Parrish stated when they reduce the point level they are raising the insurance costs. Commissioner Massey said there are not that many people in the county that have flood insurance. Attorney Shuler explained Mrs. Hamm-Kelly would need to answer this but some people go higher than the minimum elevation to get a better discount on their flood insurance. He reported it has to do with the extent to which you are in compliance with FEMA requirements. Commissioner Jones stated he is not sure how the Board wants to handle this but he knows there are current residences there that they cannot overlook because as an unintended consequence the overlay created a problem for them. He reported there are also neighbors in between some of these that have C-4 property so if you just grandfather you are telling the rest it does not matter. He asked what the Board thinks about this situation. The Board discussed same. Commissioner Massey said he wants to fix the problem. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to adopt Option 1 which allows the C-4 zoned property owners to maintain that property and if this passes they do not allow any further C-4 zoning within the commercial district on St. George Island within the overlay district.** Attorney Shuler questioned if the C-4 zoning prohibition is part of this motion to adopt the ordinance as written because he does not think they can do that in this public setting because they have not advertised. **Commissioner Parrish withdrew his motion. On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by the following vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve Option 1 to allow the C-4 lots that were zoned C-4 before the Overlay to maintain their zoning category and adopt the Ordinance as written:**

AYE: PARRISH, MASSEY, LOCKLEY, BOLDT

NAY: JONES

The meeting recessed at 12:40 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

Public Hearings II (11:20 AM)

13. An ordinance of Franklin County, Florida, prohibiting the parking or leaving of motor vehicles, trailers, or recreational vehicle type units on public property in unincorporated Franklin County overnight; providing for towing at owner's expense; providing for enforcement by the sheriff; providing for penalties, providing for repeal; providing for severability; providing for an effective date.

Attorney Shuler said this is the first and only public hearing they will have to consider this ordinance and they are in a procedural position to make a decision today. He read the caption of the ordinance. Attorney Shuler explained this ordinance applies to all public property within unincorporated Franklin County which is designated as a public park, boat ramp or fishing pier included but not limited to and he listed the public facilities ranging from Apalachicola on the west to Alligator Point on the east. He highlighted the definitions in the ordinance. He requested guidance from the Board on the definition of overnight. He explained it was identified in the ordinance as the time period beginning daily at 9:00 p.m. and ending at 5:00 a.m. eastern time the next day. Attorney Shuler reported the penalty in addition to towing is a non-criminal violation. He explained if on the second violation there is injury to a person or property then it would become a 2nd degree criminal misdemeanor which is punishable by up to 60 days in jail and up to a \$500 fine. Attorney Shuler said in relation to the towing provision the Board would need to put signage up at each facility with the name of the company that will be towing the vehicle and how to contact them to get the vehicle back. Commissioner Jones commented they will need a sign explaining about the ordinance but he would like a small sign for who is doing the towing so they can just change the small sign if the company changes. Commissioner Parrish said when it says trailers and motor vehicles does it exclude fishermen that might be fishing or floundering at night. Attorney Shuler stated it does not. Commissioner Parrish reported that needs to be included in the ordinance. He reported his concern is motor homes, trailers, and campers staying overnight. He said they do not want overnight camping but do not want to limit the use of the boat ramp for the people floundering or fishing and making a living. Commissioner Boldt stated they do not want people sleeping in their cars either. Commissioner Parrish reported he is fine with all of it except that part. Attorney Shuler said this is the issue they ran into with the old parking ordinance because it did contain this type of exception. He reported on the enforcement side the problem they ran into was everyone claimed to be floundering or fishing. Attorney Shuler agreed he could include the exception but it created some problems in the past. He said he understands with the fishing heritage this is something they need to take into consideration. Commissioner Parrish suggested Attorney Shuler redraft the ordinance and come back. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to table this matter until the ordinance is redrafted and brought back for consideration to the Board. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Jones stated they need to make sure when the ordinance is finished there is a clear intent for anyone that is enforcing it. Commissioner Parrish reported they also need to prevent the construction of fires on public grounds. He explained if it is not included in the ordinance then the Sheriff cannot enforce it. Attorney Shuler reported he can add the prohibition but the next thing is the commercial seafood industry will want a warming fire. Commissioners Parrish stated no fire in public parks. Commissioner Jones agreed. Chairman Lockley asked for public comment. Ms. Troy said she owns Island Outfitters and she has a customer that called about floundering out of kayaks. She explained they do not have a trailer and place the kayaks in the back of their trucks. She stated they want to make sure they will be able to flounder at night. She said in large places they mark tires and then check them again to determine how long someone is there. Commissioner Jones said when they come back if they have a clear intent about camping in public places then that will alleviate the problems. Chairman Lockley stated they are trying to get rid of the loitering. Commissioner Parrish reported people have also been stealing the gas out of the cars of the people out fishing or floundering. **Commissioner Parrish amended his motion to table this public hearing until April 7, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Jones amended the second.** Attorney Shuler said he will re-advertise. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

The meeting recessed at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:37 p.m.

County Attorney – Michael Shuler – Report

Attorney Shuler did not have a report.

Public Hearing III (1:30 PM)

27. *(This is a continuation of the public hearing held on February 18, 2020 tabled to 3/3/20 at 1:30 p.m.)* Consideration of a request for a Land Use change from Residential to Commercial of a 5.88 acre parcel lying in Section 7, Township 7 South, Range 3 West, Lanark, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Clayton Studstill, agent for Timothy Saunders and Christina Saunders, applicant.

Board Action: Approve, Table or Deny

Attorney Shuler explained this is a continuation of a prior public hearing and the Board tabled the public hearing to this date, time and place. He reported the continuation of the public hearing was advertised in the newspaper. He stated the Board was deliberating after hearing all the information that was provided on what action to take on the land use change and rezoning. Attorney Shuler explained the Board would first consider the land use change and then the rezoning. Mrs. Ham-Kelly read the caption of the ordinance. Attorney Shuler reported the Board has already had the first public hearing and took public comment at that time. He stated it is the discretion of the Board if they want to take public comment. Chairman Lockley said it is up to the Board. Commissioner Boldt stated he welcomes public comment. Chairman Lockley asked for public comment. He explained an individual will be allowed to speak for 3 minutes and someone representing a group or entity will be allowed to speak for 5 minutes.

Mr. Mike McLoad, a resident of Lanark Village, reviewed his objections from the last hearing. He said they never imagined a Dollar Store across the street from their house when they invested the money and retired to live here. He provided quotes from the Commissioners from prior meetings. He stated the property owners have a right to object to this proposal. Mr. McLoad reported they have incorrectly identified a manhole on this property that is part of an old sewage and drainage pipe system from Camp Gordon Johnston. He stated the applicant had testimony from a land use expert addressing statistics, parameters and guidelines but the residents are not statistics and do not live their lives based on parameters and guidelines.

Mr. Mark Hopkins, a resident of Lanark Village, said they do not have a right to develop as stated at the last meeting if it interferes with neighbor's lives or requires a change to the zoning map or land use regulations. He reported the approval of this request will lead to a strip mall along Highway 98 over the next few years and will change the property east of his property. He stated this will lead to a new definition for St. James and Lanark. Mr. Hopkins said development of land inconsistent with land use planning other than some underlying reason changes make irrelevant all the work done in the past by their staff to present a vision of the future development of Franklin County. He explained the vision

does not anticipate an urban center east of Putnal Street. Mr. Hopkins asked the Board to support the existing development plan and staff and keep commercial development out of his sight.

Ms. Elizabeth Baldwin, a property owner in Lanark Village, questioned the impact of this proposal on her property values and said she would not have bought her property if a Dollar General was in this location. She reported the closer the store is to residential property the more negative effect it has. She said what tax revenue this business bring in if they property values go down. Ms. Baldwin reported they will bring in 8 jobs but only 4 full time positions at minimum wage with no benefits. She explained people say they need this store to walk to but it would be very dangerous to walk to the store as there is no sidewalk along this route. Ms. Baldwin read her letter for the Board. She stated they looked at the zoning plan before they bought their property and it did not say anything about commercial property and inquired if the plan had changed. She questioned if this store will open cascade zoning and asked what their plan is for Lanark Village. She said she does not want the area to look like Crawfordville with residential and commercial buildings mixed all along Highway 319. She asked if they should have a plan before they approve anything. She requested the Board keep this a residential area. She said if things are going to change then maybe they can make an effort to protect what they have and have development that is in harmony with nature such as sign restrictions. She reported they can preserve what they have and plan for the future.

Ms. Deborah Scanlin, a resident of Lanark Village, stated they said there is no problem with wildlife but there is a bear crossing sign near this property. She reported the closest eagle's nest is about 2-3 miles to the west. She stated they have abundant aquatic life that could be affected by this. Ms. Scanlin explained DEP is studying the grassland right now to see if there has been any damage. She discussed a species of bat that has been seen in this area. She explained Summer Camp development planned on putting in a development that will include upscale shops. Ms. Scanlin reported they are already clearing land for a Rocky's gas station and convenience store and she has heard there will be a grocery store.

Mr. Stan Butterfield, a resident of 147 Hinton Street, stated the Board is here to serve the people and there are 3 parties involved in this discussion the seller, developer and over 100 people that have signed a petition against the proposal. He asked for the Board to do what is right for the community and not just a certain few.

Mr. Herbert Napora, a resident of Lanark Village, reported they chose this area because of the residential atmosphere. He informed the Board he is active in the American Legion and Chillis Hall and could not find one person for this development.

Mr. Bill Mickler, a resident of Lanark Village, said he is across from the proposed change and they chose their property because of the peaceful setting. He stated they cannot imagine all the wildlife and fish they see. He reported they knew the property across the street was grandfathered commercial. Mr. Mickler stated he presented petitions to the Planning & Zoning Office and presented a copy for the Board file. He apologized about public comment and having no representative. He stated they tried to get the public records to hire an attorney but they could not get the records. Mr. Mickler explained the Board is considering a commercial development in the middle of a neighborhood and they need to listen to the people in the neighborhood who spoke against it.

Mr. Jason B. Putnal, owner of the Lanark/Putnal Station property, stated his grandfather never had any intention of going forward with a business that would change the community in any way and since he inherited the property he does not have any intention to change it either. He said this is just the start and then they will have a strip mall. He asked the Board to listen to the people because no one is for this proposal.

Ms. Wanda Rose, a resident 159 Rose Street, reported people come to this area because of the natural beauty and lack of amenities. She stated she is not against growth but wants a planned, controlled growth that does not destroy the area. Ms. Rose said the only Commissioner that has reviewed the area is Commissioner Boldt. She reported there are 328 acres of vacant land from Putnal/Lanark Station to St. James but does not all front Highway 98. She explained if the change is allowed it will open the door to more commercial along the highway. She stated they already have a new Dollar Store to the west. Ms. Rose reported in the 328 acres there are 291 acres that are being marketed as a residential area and that is where the commercial needs to be. She stated they want planned growth and development to fit the natural environment.

Ms. Joan Matey, a resident of Lanark Village, discussed the mission of Dollar General in relation to pushing their stores. She reported she cannot understand from a business plan how this works when they are 4 miles from another store. She explained she is more in favor of the Summer Camp idea. She said this is not a good idea and they do not want it. She reported there is a curve before this area and traffic in this area. Ms. Matey stated it would be nice if the county had a vision for the area. She reported Commissioner Boldt had a good suggestion. Commissioner Boldt said design compatibility.

Ms. Debbie Wharton, a resident of 52-5 Parker, stated she came here because the area is pristine and she admires what Apalachicola has done with the community. She said they want the vision for Lanark Village, Gulf Terrance and Alligator Point. She stated they do not want to regret later that they did not have a vision and develop it. Ms. Wharton reported they do not need a Dollar General. She asked the Board to consider the future of this area.

Ms. Barbara McBride, a resident of Illinois Street, said the pristine beauty drew her to the area. She discussed the number of Dollar Generals in the area. She stated they would be horrified at the prospect of a land use change and rezoning to allow a Dollar Store when there are so many in the area. She reported they do not want a Dollar General in Lanark Village.

Mr. Harold Arnold, a resident of 2576 Florida Avenue, said he is approximately 500 ft. west of the proposed Dollar Store. He stated he does not like the idea of a Dollar Store that close and it will ruin the value of their property. He reported this store will cause a problem with looks and the environment.

Mr. Hugh Bailey, a resident of Lanark Village, stated the people have a voice and an opinion and it matters. He said they also vote.

Attorney Shuler reported since the Board has taken additional public comment then they should give the applicant the opportunity to make an additional presentation.

Mr. Mark Davis, Teramore Development, stated the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan are not something that is set in stone. He explained in every code including Franklin County's code there is a method, means and standards for allowing a land use change and change in the Comprehensive Plan change. He reported the Board has heard testimony from the experts that their application meets all the methods, means and criteria in the county's code for requesting a land use change and Comprehensive Plan change. Mr. Davis explained the only way they can reject the application in a quasi judicial setting is to find within the code and Comprehensive Plan just cause. He went on to say if their request is consistent with the Land Development Code and the method and means of changing the Code and land use and Comprehensive Plan changes as defined in the Code unless they have a just cause found within the Code they cannot reject their request. Mr. Davis said they need to make sure they understand the legal standard. He explained if they do not like how the Code can be changed then the solution is to change the Code. Important to understand legal standard. Ms. Alara Mills Gutcher, certified Land Use Planner, said in relation to spot zoning the parcel they are asking to be amended to the commercial category is immediately adjacent to a commercial category on the future land use map. She explained spot zoning also has to do with compatibility and how the development will interact with the existing development. She reported the Comprehensive Plan has items listed to help promote compatibility including buffering, setbacks and other types of things they can do with their development site to help create a compatible use adjacent to the residential. She stated these items are listed in the Code so with the development potential of the site they will look to these items and either use what is there or most likely increase what the requirements are so they will have a bigger buffer and bigger setback from the residential areas next door. She explained this is not a big development but a neighborhood serving use and commonly located within a residential area to promote less vehicle miles traveled, more pedestrian activity or bicycle activity to get to the daily needs for the surrounding residents. She offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Boldt reported they are talking about a land use change from residential to commercial for a 5.88 acre site but the application says they are siting 4.63 acres. He asked what the other property going to be used for. Attorney Shuler clarified the time for public comment is 3 minutes for an individual and 5 minutes if they represent a group. He explained an applicant under the county's adopted quasi judicial hearing procedures gets 20 minutes. He reported if there was a party objector they would also receive 20 minutes in opposition. Ms. Mills said the property identification is also associates with a parcel on the south side of Highway 98 and that is not part of this request. She reported they are only requesting the portion that is on the north side of Highway 98. Commissioner Boldt explained the ordinance is for the two pieces of land that total 5.88 acres. Ms. Mills said she has not been the ordinance. Attorney Shuler presented the map and explained the area they are requesting the change on. Ms. Mills stated the property on the south side is not part of their request. She pointed out the parcels that are not included in the request. A map was displayed for the Board. Ms. Mills said the parcel identification number is 7.4 acres and they are only asking for a change to 4.63 acres. Commissioner Parrish said it is advertised for 5.88 acres. Attorney Shuler responded 5.88 acres more or less. Commissioner Parrish stated Ms. Mills said 4.63 but the total rezoning was for 5.88 acres from residential to C-4 commercial. Mr. Chris West, Teramore Development, said the difference is the area in the back and there is an easement across that property and their intention is to quit claim that property to the neighbors that are using it. Commissioner Boldt asked how they are going to manage the dirt road behind the parcel and what it implies with relation to traffic egress and ingress. Ms. Mills replied they are not planning to use the dirt road as part of the development. Commissioner Jones clarified all the property is a little over 7 acres, the property north of the road is almost 6 acres and if they quit claim the top parcel then

they are left with 4.63 acres. Ms. Mills answered that is correct. Mr. Joseph Alday, Alday & Howell Engineering, explained at the last meeting Commissioner Boldt brought up a drainage structure on the west of the property and when he described it they assumed it was part of the DOT drainage system. He said after the meeting he went to the site day and looked at the structure and it is not associated with the DOT system. He stated it was not picked up on the original survey but they have had their crew go back out and include it. Mr. Alday reported it looks like an abandoned storm drain or sewer system that is no longer in service. Commissioner Boldt discussed the ditch on the property and the location of the business on the property next door that used petroleum products. He questioned if they have done any core borings that proves the soil on their proposed application is sanitized and has no petroleum in it. Mr. West reported they had a report done by Universal Engineering and he presented a copy to Commissioner Boldt. He explained there were 3 petroleum tanks on the Putnal property that were removed in the 1980's and remediation was done through the Department of Environmental Protection and they cleaned the site. He reported the Putnal property received a No Further Action (NFA) letter from DEP that the site was clean. Mr. West said that is part of the work their people did to determine the site was clean and it is included on Page 7 of the report. He reported Page 1 talks about their site being clean. Ms. Mills stated the report does say the ditch is on the eastern site of the property but that is a scrivener's error and the ditch is on the western site of the property. Commissioner Boldt asked if the FWC footnote is wrong. Ms. Mills stated the footnote is correct. Mr. West thanked the Board for their time. He stated they have discussed this at several meetings and Commissioner Boldt has been involved from the outset of the project. He stated they came out and heard the residents and addressed a lot of the concerns. Mr. West said they do not have an expert present but in relation to property values they have had property appraisers say residential values have no effect on commercial values and vice versa. He reported the value of their property will go up when they put an \$800,000-\$1,000,000 building on it. Mr. West stated it may raise the value of the Putnal property because it is zoned commercial but it will not have any effect on the residential properties.

Attorney Shuler said typically under the policy there would be a 20 minutes presentation from the applicant and a 20 minutes presentation from the party objector followed by questions from the Commissioners. Attorney Shuler explained the presentation and questions blended together and he wants to know if Mr. Davis has anything else from a testimonial standpoint that needs to be presented because the Board took up some of his time with questions. Mr. Davis said they do not have anything further. Attorney Shuler explained this will close out the presentation and public comment and it is time for the Board to deliberate and ask questions. Commissioner Parrish stated when people buy property zoned a certain way they have the right to utilize the property and they are entitled to ask for a different zoning class but is that guaranteed. He went on to say that was stated by the presenters for the Dollar Store. Attorney Shuler said he believes they meant there was a shifting of burdens of proof from the applicant to the Board. He stated he does not believe they were representing that if they asked for a change they were guaranteed a change. He reported they can ask but it is not guaranteed. Commissioner Parrish agreed and said he served on Planning & Zoning Commission before he was a County Commission and he never heard of a zoning change being guaranteed. He stated they are guaranteed what they got when they bought the property. Attorney Shuler reported as long as they can meet all the criteria when they submit a development application they are allowed to use the property as it is zoned when they purchased it. Attorney Shuler explained the applicant's attorney was saying they make decisions in this hearing based on the evidence and when the evidence shows it is

compatible with the Land Development Code then the burden shifts from the applicant to the county to show why it is not compatible. He reported it is definitely not guaranteed just because you ask for it. Commissioner Parrish asked if the adjoining landowners were sent certified letters about whether they opposed this change or not. Mrs. Ham-Kelly stated everyone that adjoining this property was sent a certified letter. Commissioner Parrish reported that is standard procedure. He asked if all those people objected to this property being rezoned for the dollar store. Mrs. Ham-Kelly stated she had several oppositions through petitions and letters. Commissioner Boldt asked if they have any evidence that the applicant sent a certified registered insured letter to the Putnal family saying Dollar General had an interest in purchasing their property. Mr. West reported they did not send a certified letter but they do have in writing where their realtor discussed with a local realtor and she represented that she did speak with them. Commissioner Boldt made a motion to deny the application relative to the land use change from residential to commercial. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion. Commissioner Boldt said there are many unknowns but they have the Franklin County Comprehensive Land Use Plan which is a standard of practice. He stated breaching that document cascades more unknown. Commissioner Boldt said the will of the people is also known. He stated they have had 2 public hearings and the people say no. He reported he is here to represent the people and that is why he made this motion. Commissioner Parrish stated he does not fully understand why the people do not want a dollar store in their community but they have spoken and he is going with the people. Chairman Lockley said he is different because everyone does not have a car and no one has said they will give a ride to the store 5 miles away. **The motion passed by the following vote of the Board:**

AYE: BOLDT, MASSEY, JONES, PARRISH

NAY: LOCKLEY

The meeting recessed at 2:46 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:55 p.m.

28. *(This is a continuation of the public hearing held on February 18, 2020 tabled to 3/3/20 at 1:30 p.m.)* Consideration of a request to Re-Zone a 5.88 acre parcel from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-4 Mixed Use Residential on property lying in Section 7, Township 7 South, Range 3 West, Lanark, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Clayton Studstill, agent for Timothy Saunders and Christina Saunders, applicant.

Board Action: Approve, Table or Deny

Attorney Shuler said they concluded the ordinance for the land use change but they need to take action on the request for the rezoning. **On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by the following vote of the Board present, it was agreed to deny the rezoning request:**

AYE: BOLDT, MASSEY, JONES, PARRISH

NAY: LOCKLEY

Commissioner Boldt publicly thanked the professionalism of the applicant's team. He thanked everyone who discussed this with him and for coming out to the meetings and providing the input they needed.

Mr. Moron stated Mrs. Griffith has a couple of manual checks that were not on the bill list and need Board approval. Mrs. Griffith explained it came to their attention that 2 of the invoices were missed. She requested the Board cut manual checks for vendor-Mr. Rodney Brown in the amount of \$1,900 for work completed at the County Health Department and another manual check for an Armory refund deposit in the amount of \$150 to Mrs. Jackie Miller. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to issue the manual checks for Mr. Rodney Brown in the amount of \$1,900 and Mrs. Jackie Miller in the amount of \$150.**

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Jones reminded everyone that the St. George Island Chili Cook Off is this weekend.

Commissioner Parrish stated he got an email from a gentleman about an issue at the airport with the weather station that needs to be addressed. He said there is no official reporting of the temperature on television. Mr. Moron stated he contacted the Airport Manager and Ms. Tara , has emailed and they are working on it.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts

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

MARCH 9, 2020

1:30 PM

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.

Prayer and Pledge

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Chairman Lockley stated individuals are allowed to speak for 3 minutes and anyone representing a group is allowed to speak for 5 minutes.

Mr. Moron reported the Board will hear from Mr. Roger Hall, Ascension/Sacred Heart, and his staff about some changes they have to their proposal. He said no decisions will be made today but it is a chance for the Board to get more information. Mr. Moron reported Mr. Doug Creamer, Weems Memorial Hospital Board Chairman, and Mr. David Walker, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Weems Memorial Hospital, are present. He explained there is a place on the Agenda for them to ask questions also.

Ms. Mary Ann McGuire, a resident of St. George Island, said she spoke to the Board previously in favor of the Sacred Heart proposal. She stated her experience with the Sacred Heart physical therapy facility and the facility in Port St. Joe has been good. She asked if Sacred Heart will give priority to hiring the staff at Weems Memorial Hospital if their proposal is accepted and Weems is closed.

Mr. David Watts, a resident of Franklin County, reported he sent an email to the Board about this matter. He read the email in support of the Sacred Heart proposal.

Mr. Tom Morgan, a resident of Apalachicola, said he is not getting into the location of the facility but healthcare has changed and the county needs an emergency facility to receive people and then send them out to the best specialists. He reported the Critical Access Hospital certificate has been discussed and he has done a lot of research about this item. He said he asked Mr. Walker about what it represented last year and it was approximately \$225,000. He stated this amount only represents 2% of the revenues so it is not the big issue. He reported there were 2 financials changes in accounting which occurred at Weems and that was when the Board forgave debt in the amount of almost \$700,000 and the bad debt reserve percentage changed which represents about \$300,000. He explained if you look at the financials Weems Memorial Hospital has not turned the corner. Mr. Morgan reported the auditors will call these items extraordinary items as they are not part of the ordinary income of the facility. He stated if the Board chooses to build a hospital there will be more employees. He stated Alliant/TMH has a proposal with a \$30,000 fee plus the cost of the CEO for a total \$470,000 a year. He addressed the number of CEO's that have been at the hospital.

Ms. Susan Leach, a resident of Franklin County, said the Board is assuming just because they supported something years ago that they currently support it. She stated she cannot identify anything Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) has done for her but Sacred Heart provides 2 medical providers and physical and occupational therapy. She reported transportation is a problem for everyone in the community. Ms. Leach asked the Board to take these items into consideration when they make their decisions.

Mr. Alan Feifer, a resident of Alligator Point, discussed the items promised by Weems Memorial Hospital and what will still be lacking. He said Sacred Heart is a full service hospital and the freestanding emergency room will deliver more than Weems is currently providing. He stated Carrabelle was promised a 24/7 urgent care facility staffed by doctors and they still do not have that. Mr. Feifer reported Weems Memorial Hospital is financially fragile and Sacred Heart is owned by Ascension Health Care the largest and strongest not for profit health care service in the United States. He said Sacred Heart is a full service hospital coupled with a centrally located health facility and emergency room accessible to all citizens. He explained Weems Memorial Hospital needs every dollar to keep the status quo and a new hospital will cost more to operate and will likely bring in the same revenue as now. Mr. Feifer stated Sacred Heart does not have these problems and only wants \$500,000 a year of the \$2.3 million generated by the Health Care Trust Fund. He reported this leaves \$1.7 million available for other vital services needed around the county. Mr. Feifer stated the critical care access is a monetary plus of \$200,000 a year. He explained if Weems starts to build the critical access designation will be up for review and Sacred Heart may ask for the designation. He asked the Board to consider the citizens and make the right decision.

Mr. Brian Robinson, a resident of St. George Island, said he has heard the Board discuss the interlocal agreements and jobs but he has never heard of a vision for healthcare delivery in Franklin County. He stated he has never heard the vision for improving physician access, clinical capacity or improving technology. He reported there is not enough money to sustain Weems.

He asked the Board to move past indecision and move to a vision of improving access and clinical quality.

Ms. Brenda Karlin, a resident of St. George Island, stated she has sent emails and participated in the Board meetings. She reported they are hearing the same information about the state of Weems Memorial Hospital and what the community wants. She said they would like to have Sacred Heart/Ascension take over and bring their services here. Ms. Karlin questioned why the Board is still at this point after reviewing all the financial information and studies. She said she has heard they are trying to fulfill a promise. Ms. Karlin asked what is so important that they ignore the financials and the public will and possibly put the county in debt. She inquired why no other option is viable except for putting the county in debt, reviving Weems Memorial Hospital and making a new hospital through Weems.

Mrs. Donna Butterfield, a resident of St. George Island, said she lives and votes in Franklin County. She urged Chairman Lockley to accept Ascension/Sacred Heart for the betterment of Franklin County.

Roger Hall - Sacred Heart/Ascension – Presentation

Mr. Hall introduced Mrs. Patty Greenberg, a consultant and health care expert with Ascension, and Ms. Robin Goodwin, Vice President of Nursing Care and operating officer at the Port St. Joe hospital. He said Ascension/Sacred Heart is a faith based ministry and he read a portion of their mission statement. He presented a slide presentation and gave a history of Ascension/Sacred Heart. He said they understand the reconfiguration of health care and Ascension runs 12 critical access hospitals. He explained they have the resources to reconfigure health care and improve access. Mr. Hall stated the Port St. Joe Hospital is 1 of 7 five star hospitals in Florida. He explained the five star rating is recognized by Medicare for patient care and quality care. He reported they have the largest physician network in the region. He said Ms. Greenberg will explain how they will configure healthcare to improve access and quality care in Franklin County. Ms. Greenberg reported Ascension is not an outsider and already has Dr. Ryan Pharr who lives locally and has a practice in Franklin County. She stated Dr. Wells' lives locally and will be the additional primary care physician. She said Dr. Sokolosky, an orthopedic surgeon, is also relocating to Franklin County and will have a part-time practice in the community under their proposal. She explained Dr. Chapman, cardiologist, and Mr. Harbin, general surgeon, will also be practicing part-time in the community. Ms. Greenberg said they have a full time physical therapist as well as a part-time speech and occupational therapist here in town. She reported their plan is to double the size of the practice. She stated they provide in excess of \$3.7 million in charity care currently to Franklin County through their medical group and medical services. She stated they are already an active participant in the local health care community. She explained the biggest change to healthcare is hospitals without beds because most people are not staying overnight and are using outpatient services and going home. Ms. Greenberg said they reviewed the utilization of the Franklin County residents and their strategy to meet the long term needs is to improve access locally by expanding the range of health care services and having additional access points. She said they will also expand telemedicine. She

reported they will also align with a major tertiary health care provider. Ms. Greenberg stated their vision is to have an economically sustainable health care organization and infrastructure to meet the immediate needs of the residents and chronic or acute services can be treated at hospitals outside the county. She reported their proposal is to establish a freestanding hospital emergency department because it has to be a department of a hospital. Ms. Greenberg explained by Florida requirements that emergency room must provide all the same services that the host hospital provides. She stated the location of this facility would be the Board's decision. She explained the only qualification because of Medicare is the facility must be 35 miles from the Gulf Hospital in Port St. Joe. Ms. Greenberg reported in their proposal they expanded the holding beds from 2 to 6 and the facility has been expanded to 12,000 sq. ft. She stated the diagnostic capabilities using the emergency room will include CAT scan, x-ray, ultrasound and lab and they will be on the Ascension platform for telemedicine. She said they have a helipad for rapid transport for trauma, cardiac or critical patients via their air flight service that will also be provided as part of the program. Ms. Greenberg reported in relation to staff they propose a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week emergency room physicians, 2 nurses and radiology technicians. She explained that is 24 full time equivalents (FTE's) not counting the telemedicine physicians or air flight personnel. Ms. Greenberg said they will also establish a second primary care office in addition to Dr. Pharr. She stated their original proposal included moving Dr. Wells when the office was constructed but she already works for Ascension and could move sooner after the agreement is signed if there is space at the clinic or somewhere else. Ms. Greenberg said the county already has Weems Medical Center West and they would envision the staff there would stay in place. She reported they also envision the staff at Weems Memorial Hospital being interviewed for positions. She said they will build a primary care practice office next to the emergency room facility and they would relocate the nurse practitioners and Dr. Wells into that location and they would share the diagnostic and lab services. Ms. Greenberg stated they are not anticipating a change to the Carrabelle office. She reported it currently operates at 5 ½ days a week and that is the proposal. She explained they will keep the current hours and staff. She stated if the demand warrants it they will consider staff recruitment and additional hours in the future. Ms. Greenberg reported there is a possibility they could also have specialists rotate through the Carrabelle facility. She said between the 2 primary care offices they will have 1 physician and 4.2 nurse practitioners which are already currently employed and 9 support staff. Ms. Greenberg said they will establish a specialty care practice adjacent to the emergency room. She reported the cardiologist, orthopedic surgeon and general surgeon will each be here 1 day a week. She said they have also added a specialty area for mammography and they anticipate it coming over because they do this service in Port St. Joe so the staff person would be here part-time. Ms. Greenberg explained after they come to an agreement if there is space available they can move the specialty physicians here sooner rather than waiting for the building to be constructed since they are already employed by Ascension. Ms. Greenberg discussed the expansion of their rehabilitation services with a larger facility and more equipment. She reported Ascension has started discussions with St. James Rehabilitation and Nursing Center about swing beds. She stated St. James Bay is a 5 star facility and only have about 83% occupancy. Ms. Greenberg presented a drawing similar to the building they would like to construct. She said they have the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) report from 2018 on Weems Memorial Hospital

and they are extracting information from this report. She provided current services provided and the services planned under the Ascension proposal. She said they will not have licensed inpatient beds but they would have 6 observation beds. She reported they will not have swing beds in the facility but they are talking with St. James about enhancing those capabilities so if there was a swing bed need or short term skilled nursing bed need they would work with St. James on that need. She reviewed the clinic services and the specialty services that would be provided. Ms. Greenberg explained the staff positions could be new people or people currently employed at Weems. She reported there is a misconception about the FTE's at Weems Memorial Hospital because the 93 FTE's includes 26 employees of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). She stated there are 9 FTE's at the clinics and 58 FTE's at the Hospital and this information was confirmed with Mr. Walker. She reported there are less FTE's overall with 69. She said they assume EMS will not change since that will be a county function. Ms. Greenberg stated the clinics and Emergency Room will expand so what appears to be eliminated is dietary, plant operations, accounting and medical records which they will have at another location. She explained there will be a shift of about 23 people. She said that is what is proposed in year one but as volume increases they would anticipate an increase in these numbers. Ms. Greenberg stated they also have a facility in the next county so there are opportunities to move into another Ascension location. She said the estimated project would be 20,900 sq. ft. and the emergency room and specialty area have increased in size. Ms. Greenberg stated the capital costs related to construction are a little over \$8 million and the equipment cost is \$3.6 million because they added state of the art digital mammography. She reported operations have 43 FTE's and 5 departments and she explained same. She explained the first year of operations Ascension anticipates a \$1.4 million loss and they will cover that loss. She reported the second year the loss is about \$1 million. Ms. Greenberg stated that is part of their operating commitment. She reviewed the proposal and said Ascension will provide the capital for the equipment related cost in the amount of \$3.6 million and will develop, operate and license the new facility. Ms. Greenberg reported once the site is identified and the process starts it can be completed in about 10 months. She said they can start the primary care practice as soon as possible because they do not have to recruit anyone since Dr. Wells lives in the community. She reported the specialists can also start when space is available. She stated they will staff and operate the Carrabelle Clinic. Ms. Greenburg said they will double the size of their existing rehabilitation space and work with St. James Nursing Home to enhance rehabilitative services locally. Ms. Greenburg stated they will make recommendations to the Commissioners for needed community services they identify through their practices. Chairman Lockley asked if they are going to pay the \$12 million. Ms. Greenberg explained the county would pay \$8 million for the building and they would lease the building from the county for a nominal rate. She reported services at Weems Memorial would be replaced by this new facility. Ms. Greenberg stated the county will continue to collect the \$.01 surtax and out of that Ascension would receive a \$500,000 annual payment to compensate for the charity care they provide. She reported the leftover surtax money would be used for other services in the county the Commissioners deem appropriate. Ms. Greenberg stated today the county provides the funds for the operational loss and under the Ascension proposal Ascension would provide funds for the operational loss. She reported the county funding is \$2.3 million for the hospital but with the Ascension proposal they would be limited to a \$500,000 payment for charity care. She said

a surplus for other health initiatives does not happen today but with their proposal in the future the county would have the remainder of the \$.01 surtax which represents about \$1.8 million for other health initiatives. Ms. Greenburg stated in 2018 the county had \$683,000 in charity care at Weems Memorial Hospital and with their proposal that will be limited to \$500,000. She reported the county covers any payroll gaps today but will not in the future under their proposal. Ms. Greenburg stated the county pays for equipment purchases and replacement but will not in the future as Ascension will pay for all equipment upgrades and replacements. She reported the county has operational risks now but will not in the future as Ascension will have that risk. Ms. Greenburg stated the county's investment in the new facility would be \$8 million and Ascension's investment will be \$3.6 which includes the equipment. Ms. Greenburg said this shows their proposal is an advantage to the county and meets the future needs of the community on a health care basis. She stated when transfers are needed they have EMS or air flight service. Mr. Hall reported their intent is comprehensive and they want to make a difference to Franklin County.

Weems CEO & Chairman - Questions & Comments

Mr. Walker stated the numbers presented were from the 2018 cost report so some of the numbers may have changed. Ms. Greenberg agreed they could have changed and she asked the state for the numbers on Friday and they still did not have them. He reported they mentioned the Hospital does not have a physician in the emergency room 24 hours a day, 7 days a week but they do and they have air flight. Mr. Walker stated the hospital currently provides EMS but under their proposal that service would go back to the county. Mr. Hall agreed that is correct. Mr. Walker asked if they think the critical access has value for small rural hospitals. Mr. Hall answered yes as it provides 101% of costs for Medicare and Medicaid allowable costs. He stated the more volume you have the more value you have. He reported in looking at the Weems Cost Report this represents 40% of their costs. He stated it would have some value to Ascension/Sacred Heart. Mr. Hall explained when Weems decertifies their beds and Ascension/Sacred Heart is able to get the designation then it will have value to them. Mr. Walker questioned if Ascension/Sacred Heart will go after the critical access designation. Mr. Hall answered yes. Mr. Hall explained they will give every employee priority but they have qualifications they will have to go through. He reported they do not want to displace employees and will do as little as possible. Mr. Hall stated they want to create a sustainable model because then they will be able to grow to hire more people long term. He said they believe in 5 years they will have more employees than they have now. Mr. Hall reported they will work in consultation with the county on the \$1.5 million remaining of the health care surtax and how best to use it. Mr. Walker asked about another area where they closed a hospital and how successful they were in that area. Mr. Hall said when they close a hospital it is not deemed a success but they added more primary care and telemedicine and are making a difference providing access to the poor and vulnerable. He stated they feel like they have done a good job in Washington. Mr. Creamer questioned if they will be able to write off the depreciation on the cost report if they build an \$8 million facility. Mr. Hall answered no that would be a total expense back to the county. Mr. Creamer responded because the cost report would go away. Mr. Hall stated that is correct. Mr. Creamer questioned if the nominal rent is set for law or

negotiated. Mr. Hall replied it would be negotiated. Mr. Creamer said he thought they had to pay fair market value when renting public property. Mr. Hall stated their intention is to pay a nominal rate because they know the operation will be losing money for a number of years until they get the volume. Mr. Creamer asked if all the equipment will be new or moved in from other areas. Mr. Hall stated it will be brand new digital equipment and they will get reimbursement from Medicare for having digital equipment. Mr. Creamer said the reimbursement will go to Sacred Heart not the county. Mr. Hall responded that is correct. Mr. Creamer inquired if they will build a new helipad or they are referring to the one they have now. Mr. Hall stated it would depend on the location and they would man it and make sure it met the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards. Mr. Creamer inquired if they will use the helipads at Weems and behind the Carrabelle Clinic. Mr. Hall explained they will look at the location that provides the best service. Mr. Walker asked if there is any consideration to taking EMS and managing it for the county. Mr. Hall said they can look at it. He said their whole plan is to make access better so transportation is part of that. Mr. Walker stated if Sacred Heart leaves the county then the county would have a building with no equipment. Mr. Hall said that is correct but they are not going to walk away. Mr. Creamer asked if the freestanding emergency room could cost more than the hospital to build since they cannot write off the depreciation with the freestanding emergency room. Mr. Hall answered no because they would still have the operating costs. He said the county will still be depreciating the building but it may not be reimbursable depreciation. Mr. Creamer questioned if Mr. Hall is retiring. Mr. Hall responded yes. Mr. Creamer asked who will be working in Mr. Hall's position. Mr. Hall replied they are going through the process. He said Gulf/Franklin are important to him and if they say yes to Sacred Heart then he will come to work for them as a free consultant. Chairman Lockley questioned how long Sacred Heart will stay if they are losing money. Mr. Hall stated they are not going to walk away but will be smart in configuring things here. He said they are not going to leave Franklin County and are here now. Chairman Lockley reported he is concerned about them leaving the building. He said the county will be in a 30-40 year commitment for paying the money back and questioned if Sacred Heart will sign a 30-40 year commitment for being here. Mr. Hall answered yes. Mr. Creamer said they are bringing in 2 physicians but they are not considering sending 1 to the Carrabelle Clinic. Mr. Hall stated they would look into rotating the physicians. Mr. Creamer reported he is concerned that they have second level care in Carrabelle and he would like to have a doctor in Carrabelle. Mr. Hall stated he cannot commit to a doctor there but they do oversee the care. He said they will rotate and have a presence in Carrabelle.

Commissioners - Questions and Comments

Chairman Lockley asked if Sacred Heart hires Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN's). Mr. Hall replied a few but not many. Chairman Lockley said Sacred Heart is bringing doctors with them so the other doctors here will be out of a job. He asked if they are bringing people in that do paperwork. Mr. Hall said these jobs are centralized. He stated there are some clerical functions in the clinics but billing and collection is done from a central location. Chairman Lockley stated they will be hiring a bookkeeper and cleaning staff. Mr. Hall said they will give preference to people that are already working in the clinic. Ms. Greenberg explained right now they have 9

clinic employees and their plan calls for 15. She said they do have some LPN positions but the majority of their nurses are Registered Nurses (RN's) or nurse's aides. She pointed out the professional staff in the clinic and emergency room will be getting larger. She said the staff for radiology and respiratory are similar. Ms. Greenberg reported the overhead departments are where the turnover will be but the salary base for employees will be higher. She discussed the current positions that will stay with their plan. Chairman Lockley asked if Sacred Heart will build a hospital here. Mr. Hall answered no, because it will continue to lose money. He reported they will build an emergency room and bring doctors. Chairman Lockley stated he is doing the will of the people because 70% of the people want a hospital. Commissioner Parrish said he heard Mr. Hall commit to being here as it will take the county 30 years to pay for the building. He requested the Board receive a copy of the PowerPoint presentation so they can review it. Mr. Hall said they are always open to their questions. Mr. Creamer stated there are 1,200 Capital Health Plan (CHP) members in the county and asked how Sacred Heart will address that issue. Mr. Hall reported they take Capital Health Plan in all of their clinics. Mr. Creamer questioned if the hospital in Port St. Joe can take Capital Health Plan. Mr. Hall said they can accept CHP but CHP will not approve individuals going there. Mr. Creamer reported it is out of network and he asked if that is a bigger expense to the patient. Mr. Hall said it will not be because they do not go there and they will continue to send the patients where CHP wants them to go. Mr. Creamer asked if they will have a relationship with TMH. Mr. Hall responded yes. Mrs. Griffith questioned if the air lift will transport to any facility. Mr. Hall answered yes they fly the patient where they want to go. Mrs. Griffith pointed out as part of the CHP benefit they cover this service. Mr. Hall stated they understand that. Chairman Lockley questioned what happens if patients are transferred to Sacred Heart and are out of network. Mr. Hall explained CHP approves the care and makes sure it meets the medical necessity and they give the authorization for where the patient goes and they will honor that. Chairman Lockley reported he was concerned about a patient that could not respond and was transferred to Sacred Heart but had CHP insurance. Mr. Creamer inquired what happens if there are no beds available at CHP facilities. Mr. Hall stated the HMO will allow the patients to go out of network if there are no other available beds. Mr. Creamer said the patient is then treated as if they were in network. Mr. Hall answered yes. Commissioner Massey stated they increased the days in Carrabelle because originally they told him 2-3 days a week. He explained he is glad for this because it caused a problem for him. Mr. Hall stated that is correct he did say that and they have corrected the number of days. Commissioner Massey said the Carrabelle Clinic has got to run. Mr. Hall said he has been corrected and they will operate 5 ½ days. Commissioner Jones reported Gulf County and Franklin County have a Disadvantaged Transportation service that can be used when people need to go places and not just medical services. He stated they do need to schedule the service ahead of time. He said this service is available for all residents and is provided through money that the county contributes for this service. He stated there is a very small fee for the service. Commissioner Jones said he noted the changes in the proposal and it is different and there is more provided. Commissioner Jones asked if Ascension has closed the maternity ward in Bay County. Mr. Hall said yes, it is temporarily closed. Ms. Greenberg stated the OB service is not currently at the hospital because the hospital has not fully reopened but because it is a trauma center they do have OB services on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to meet the trauma designation. Commissioner Jones said they talked

about it but he wants to clarify that they do have 24 hours a day, 7 day a week emergency room service at Weems. He stated he has always felt like a new facility for health care in the county is the first step to having better health care. He reported he likes that there was the possibility of additional facilities. He explained if the county takes the right steps they will have money in the health care trust fund to supply the additional facilities and open the clinics for additional hours if the demand is there. Commissioner Jones asked if they will be in the CHP network if they took over health care in Franklin County. Mr. Hall answered yes in the county but not out of the county. He reported CHP is an HMO and their service area is defined to cover Franklin County not Gulf County. Commissioner Boldt thanked Mr. Hall and his staff for the presentation. He thanked the people of Franklin County for providing input into this issue. He stated there are millions of dollars in the health care market here that go to a higher levels of care somewhere else. He said based on that they need to enter into a very specific detailed contract with the provider of services. He reported they need a community health needs assessment and read the definition of this assessment. Commissioner Boldt stated they have a contract with Carrabelle that they will provide a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week facility there and that is important for them to recognize. He said they do not want to leave the ambulance service out and they need to integrate the EMS service as part of the deal. He reported portals of access are needed in the community especially the eastern side. Mr. Hall stated a needs assessment was made in their proposal. He explained Ms. Greenberg pulled the data and their proposal is based on the needs assessment for the county. He reported the county Health Department does an annual needs assessment. He said they work closely with the county Health Department. Mr. Hall stated one of the biggest needs is behavioral health and they do not have an answer for this issue. He said they recognize the ambulance service is a critical part and they all need the service but it is not part of their proposal right now. He reported they do not run the ambulance service in Gulf County but their Chief Medical Officer at the Hospital is also the Chief Medical Officer of that. Mr. Hall stated they will work closely with EMS. Commissioner Boldt requested that they broaden the scope of their emergency department and look at equipment at all facilities. He asked if they will do a walk thru at facilities to determine the equipment needed at all medical facilities. Mr. Hall explained once they get the doctors then they will get requests for items they need. He reported they will look at the sustainability of the clinics to make a decision to bring in equipment. Commissioner Boldt asked if they will provide a cost and timeline for the equipment so they know when replacements will happen. Ms. Greenberg said the capital costs and equipment item provides a list of what equipment is included. She explained this equipment would be implemented prior to licensure. She said the mammography equipment is under New Construction. She stated they can provide a list of what is included under the other programs. She reported the only thing that is not new is the rehabilitation services because they have good equipment but they are doubling the space and buying some new equipment. Ms. Greenberg explained they have a list and know every piece of equipment that is budgeted within the line items for the buildings. She said it will all be in place when the facility opens. Commissioner Boldt said he would like a timeline for arrival of the equipment. Mr. Hall stated the timeline is when the facility is built. Ms. Greenburg said they can provide a date when the construction starts. Mr. Hall reported they are willing to work through the transition but they have not discussed the time between the decision and construction. Commissioner Boldt reported as of February 7, 2020 Sacred

Heart has not contracted with CHP. Mr. Hall stated CHP is reimbursing Dr. Pharr daily and he is a recognized provider for CHP and so is their physical therapy facility. Commissioner Boldt stated there are 1289 CHP members in Franklin County and that represents 10% of the known population and a bigger percentage of the known insured population. He said he would like more specifics about a signed contract Sacred Heart has with CHP. Mr. Hall stated he will forward the contract for the services they have in Franklin County. Commissioner Massey left the meeting. Commissioner Boldt inquired about the medical rehabilitation and said he appreciates that they have looked at St. James Bay but he wants security on behalf of the people of the county that they have medical rehabilitation beds without fail. He said he would like to see alternatives if St. James Bay is at capacity. Mr. Hall reported if they fill up those beds then they would work for the rehabilitative services because there is a seal in on getting rehabilitative beds in the state. Commissioner Boldt said he is looking for specifics because he wants beds for people to rehabilitate in this county. Commissioner Massey returned to the meeting. Mr. Hall said there are beds and in their proposal they are using the capital in this community and not displacing them. He stated Ms. Greenburg and Ms. Goodwin have done a good job of finding adequate beds to take care of the population of Franklin County. Chairman Lockley stated 2-3 community needs assessments have been done and should be in the public records. Commissioner Jones asked if the community needs assessment is done once a year by the Health Department. Mr. Walker replied the community needs assessment is done every 3 years and it is monitored on a quarterly basis. Mr. Moron and Mr. Hall discussed what options Franklin County will have if Sacred Heart leaves after 5 years. Mr. Moron reported in the beginning of this process he said it is less about who is providing the service and more about the model going forward with health care and that is what he asked the Board to consider. He said he is asking the Board to determine if this is the model they want to move forward with. Mr. Hall explained the county asked for needs on how health care can be better and he asked who has said they will come in and provide dollars and go at risk. He stated who has said this is part of their mission. Mr. Creamer stated Gadsden County ran into that issue because the company they contracted with for emergency care went bankrupt and it left them with nothing. Mr. Hall said since they are working with one of the largest health care systems in the country he does not think they will be going bankrupt. Commissioner Boldt recommended they have a detailed staffing plan beginning with 2-3 full time physicians to cover all facilities and 1-2 days of specialty clinics. Ms. Greenberg said that is included in the presentation. She reported Texas A & M have also requested a copy of the presentation but she wanted to make sure that is okay with the Board. Mr. Moron stated he will make sure they get a copy of the presentation. Chairman Lockley reported he will look into the details and pick the best option for the county. Mr. Moron thanked Ascension/Sacred Heart for their proposal because it is a lot of work and it provides good information for them to think about going forward. Mr. Moron asked if USDA is still one of the best financing options for constructing a building. Mr. Hall suggested they get the USDA loan as soon as possible because they will not get better financing. Mr. Moron explained they have a deadline so they want to make sure this financing will work before they try to maintain it.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts

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

MARCH 17, 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.

Prayer and Pledge

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

Chairman Lockley said some misinformation was provided to the businesses. Mr. Moron stated information was sent out that the County Commission was considering closing restaurants today. He explained this item is not on the Agenda.

Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes-February 18, 2020

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 18, 2020.

Payment of County Bills

2. Bill List for Payment

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve payment of the County's bills.

Recognition

3. Resolution proclaiming March 16th - 20th, 2020, as Government Finance Professionals Week in Franklin County.

Mr. Moron stated he asked all constitutional officers and their finance staff to attend this meeting so they can be recognized. He asked the constitutional officers and their staff to stand. He said the Supervisor of Elections' Office is running late because today is Election Day. Mr. Moron read the Resolution for the Board. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley stated the Board is proud of them and they do good work. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Sheriff A.J. Smith and Mrs. Ginger Coulter appeared before the Board. He said she does an exemplary job representing the Sheriff's Office and the county and he is glad they are recognizing them. Clerk Johnson and her finance staff Mrs. Linda Phillips, Finance Director, Mrs. Erin Griffith, Assistant Finance Director, Ms. Lauren Luberto, Finance Clerk, and Mrs. Andrea Register, Finance Clerk, appeared and were recognized by the Board. Clerk Johnson pointed out she has the biggest finance staff but they are handling the finances and budget for the Clerk and the county. Clerk Johnson thanked the Board for recognizing the staff and said she could not say enough about what they do on a daily basis. Mr. Rick Watson, Tax Collector, introduced his finance staff, Ms. Stephanie Turrell, Mrs. Shawwna Martina and Ms. Rainey Besore. He said they keep his office running. He stated his office takes in money and gives it to the county. Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Property Appraiser, introduced her Finance Officer, Mrs. Megan Dempsey Shiver. She reported Mrs. Shiver joined her team in 2015 and she and the rest of her staff make them look good. Chairman Lockley encouraged everyone to keep up the good work. Commissioner Boldt offered praise for all of the employees and said they give him piece of mind and help facilitate their job. He said they handle many things the public never sees and he appreciates their work. Mr. Moron thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He asked the constitutional officers to stay for the next discussion.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Mr. Moron stated Ms. Sarah Hinds, Administrator for the Florida Department of Health (DOH) in Franklin County and Gulf County, is present to provide an update on the coronavirus (COVID-19) and then they need to have a discussion about going forward as a county. He reported representatives from the City of Apalachicola are present and he hopes representatives will be here from the City of Carrabelle. Mr. Moron stated Mr. John Solomon, Tourist Development Administrator, is here to report on how this is affecting tourism, how they move forward and the message they are sending out. Ms. Hinds reported she is here with her staff and Mr. David Walker, CEO at Weems Memorial Hospital. She said the coronavirus is a new virus and they are trying to keep the community updated. She stated this community is a little more seasoned

in emergency situations and have a great partnership with each other. She discussed the mass closures and said they are really just trying to prevent the spread of the disease. She said they are still learning about the virus but about 80% of people who get the virus will have mild symptoms. She explained that group can then spread the virus to the other 20% of people. Ms. Hinds reported they are focused on the at risk population which is people over 60, people with compromised immune systems and people with existing medical conditions. She discussed not overwhelming the medical system and keeping society operating. She explained flattening the curve means instead of seeing a spike in cases they want to see a gradual tidal wave over time because it saves lives and the medical system can handle the cases. Ms. Hinds said she is asked frequently if Franklin County will have a case and the county could have a case. She said this is an evolving situation and if they take steps to implement mitigation strategies for the community they will be in a much better position. She stated they are obtaining guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website CDC.gov and she read the title of one of the documents. Ms. Hinds reported they are trying to slow down the number of cases they get over time and keep the risk population safe. She reminded everyone that COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that spreads like the flu. She handed out a flyer that explains how to prevent the spread of germs. Ms. Hinds stated they are working with Mrs. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Director, on strategies. She said their updates are on the Franklin EOC Facebook page. She explained the updates are also being sent out to a distribution list of partners, stakeholders, businesses and churches. Ms. Hinds stated there are no cases in Franklin County at this time. She said if the county gets a case then they will start with contract tracing to try to limit the exposure. She reported if they have questions they can call the Franklin County Health Department at (850) 653-2111, the Florida Health.gov hotline at 866-779-6121 or email COVID-19 @flhealth.gov. She asked for local residents to contact the Health Department first. Ms. Hinds explained the protocol for testing is to call your health care provider first if you are symptomatic to determine if there is a need for testing. She reported they should call before they go to the health care provider's office so they can take precautions to prevent exposing other people. Ms. Hinds said they are not short on testing but want to make sure they only test people that fall in that risk assessment. She reported the state lab is providing results in 24-48 hours and private labs provide results in 3-4 days but it could slow down as demand increases. She discussed the recommendations on mass gatherings. Mr. Walker stated this is an evolving situation but Weems Memorial Hospital is working hard to keep the patients, staff and community safe. He said they are following all recommendations from the CDC, DOH and the Florida Hospital Association. He reported the Hospital is prepared and capable of providing care for patients with illnesses including COVID-19. Mr. Walker highlighted the temporary restrictions in place at the hospital to limit the spread of the illness. He said they do not have any cases but are trying to be preventive. He explained over the weekend they had 6 older people in the hospital so they are doing everything they can to protect them. Mr. Walker stated they are coordinating with EMS and the Health Department. He explained in an Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 situation the health department is the lead authority on coordinating medical services. He reported if a person does not have insurance and needs to be seen or tested the Eastpoint Medical Center is the federal qualified health center and they are charged with seeing people and providing the tests. He said money

will come from the Legislature and these health centers will be identified for this money. Mr. Walker pointed out the Governor issued an Executive Order about no visiting in nursing homes or skilled nursing facilities. He said this will also be enforced for swing beds. Ms. Hinds discussed the flyer on social distancing. Ms. D.T. Simmons, DOH Public Information Officer, said it has been discussed but they have not mentioned closing restaurants. She stated Ms. Jessie Pittman is also present from the DOH. She said their job is to promote transparency and clarity to mitigate and reduce misinformation. Commissioner Jones reported if they ever get a positive result in Franklin County it will be a presumptive positive and he asked Ms. Hinds to explain that. Ms. Hinds stated that is correct if the county gets a positive test from the state lab or private lab it is a presumptive case until it is confirmed by the CDC and then it will become a confirmed case. She said a press release will be sent out if they have a presumptive positive so everyone knows and they will address the extent of exposure and contact tracing. Chairman Lockley asked if they have testing kits in Franklin County. Ms. Hinds answered yes, they are available at the Health Department and with their health care partners. She explained they reach out to their health care partners regularly to make sure they have the resources they need to handle the current situation. Commissioner Boldt reported it is important the public focuses on the information coming from the Health Department because they know what to do. Ms. Hinds stated if everyone does their part to protect the at risk population then they could see a slow gradual tidal wave but avoid a surge and keep health care at its capacity. Chairman Lockley asked if there is a time frame on how long the virus will last. Ms. Hinds stated there is no known time for how long this is going to last. She said when they get more information then they will keep everyone in the loop. Ms. Simmons explained if all this happens at once it will max out the health care system but if it is manageable then they can control it. Mr. Walker agreed they want local control. He said they may need to look at their meetings and only have essential personnel present to protect the community. He stated they are also watching the other counties because people from here go there to shop and eat. He reported they can do their part to handle this locally as long as it is not overwhelming at the same time. Mr. Moron asked about a message to the department heads and if any of the constitutional officers have any questions. Mr. Moron said a representative from the City of Apalachicola is present but he does not know if anyone is here from the City of Carrabelle but they can also ask questions. He reported Mr. John Solomon, TDC, and the Eastpoint Civic Club is also present. He stated now is the time for questions so they can try to limit misinformation. Ms. Whitney Nixon-Roundtree, Library Department, reported they have suspended all public programming for 2 weeks. She said she is concerned that they have staff and the majority of their volunteers that are over 60 years of age. She stated Leon County, Jefferson County and the City of Apalachicola have all closed their libraries. She said interlibrary loans have been halted and they are not borrowing or lending any books to other libraries. Chairman Lockley asked if they are doing a deep clean. Ms. Nixon-Roundtree agreed they are cleaning the surfaces. Mr. Moron explained he may be asking to reduce the hours at the libraries at some point because they have a small staff and rely on volunteers. Mr. Fonda Davis, Parks & Recreation, reported the Dixie Youth League has shut down for the safety of the children so there are no sports going on now. He questioned the risk to the Solid Waste Department and landfill because the items they handle are already high in contamination. Ms. Simmons stated

they can get some additional guidance from the CDC but this virus is typically transmitted from person to person. She said staff should be encouraged to practice good health practices and hygiene habits. Mr. Moron asked if any constitutional officers have questions. Mr. Rick Watson, Tax Collector, stated they have received directives from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Governor's Executive Order and anyone with a driver's license expiring in the next 30 days has an additional 30 days to renew without penalty. He reported they are encouraging the public to use the internet for renewals. He said he has temporarily suspended driving tests because of the close proximity during the test. Mr. Watson stated they have also temporarily suspended issuance of concealed weapons license and they will review that each week. He reported they have not received any direction from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) who handles the licenses but some of the other Tax Collectors have also suspended this service. He inquired if they should do anything different with processing the mail in their office because property taxes are due the end of the month. He said the delinquent tax sale will be held by internet. Ms. Hinds stated there is no indication that they need to worry handling the mail. Ms. Simmons reported they need to practice basic hygiene habits and not touch their face. Mr. Watson thanked the county for the cleaning protocols they received and asked if more cleaning supplies are on the way. Mr. Moron said they are working on getting more supplies. Mr. Moron asked how long the virus can live on a surface. Ms. Hinds reported a few days per CDC guidelines. She stated they are asking for people to disinfect commonly touched surfaces and to avoid hand shaking. Mr. Moron asked the Sheriff to comment about things being done at the jail. Sheriff Smith said they are working with the State Attorney to reduce the population at the jail by releasing inmates that are a low risk to the community. He reported the Department of Corrections (DOC) has quit accepting inmates. He stated they have stopped volunteers from coming to the jail until the crisis is over. Sheriff Smith reported they already have video visitation so that is not impacted. He stated Ms. Hinds' staff has been good and will provide them with some masks if they need them. Clerk Johnson stated all jury trials through the end of March have been cancelled. She said there was a conference call yesterday with the Chief Judge and at this time no other court has been cancelled but it will be left to the discretion of the Circuit Judge and County Judge. Clerk Johnson reported Florida Statutes requires certain items from her office that she cannot suspend. She explained they are paying attention to directives from the Health Department and are sanitizing the office as they are dealing with the public on things such as marriage license, passports, fines and courts. She said her staff is sanitizing to protect themselves and the public. Clerk Johnson reported her staff of 18 is also encouraged to stay home if they are sick. She said the Clerk has discretion on people that owe fines and traffic tickets and her office will work with the public if people are out of work and have problems paying. Clerk Johnson reported payment plans are available and they can give continuances but they will look at individual cases. She said she notified Mrs. Brownell about the closing of jury services but asked if she should also notify the Health Department. Ms. Hinds reported if Mrs. Brownell receives notice she will notify the Health Department and they will update the EOC facebook page with anything the public should know. Clerk Johnson reported the Public Defender's Office and the State Attorney's Office have stopped visitors to their offices today and she looks for those people to then come to her office for assistance. Clerk Johnson said they are paying

close attention but are doing everything to remain open which also helps to stop the panic. She stated she would not like the Courthouse close unless they had to. Mr. Moron brought into discussion the number of people at this meeting and the distance that should be between people. He said the Board will not meet for 3 weeks but they will make determinations on what to do as they get to the meetings. He stated the Planning & Zoning Office is sanitizing but still conducting business with the public. He said employees are encouraged to stay home if they are sick. Mr. Moron reported schools are closed and he has parents in his office so they are trying to incorporate that into their schedule. Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Property Appraiser, stated they are staying educated and sanitizing the office. She said they are encouraging staff to wash their hands regularly and trying to keep their office and the public safe. Mr. Erik Lovestrand, County Extension Agent, reported they have moved to their new office and most of the public have not found them yet. He stated they are practicing the same things other offices are doing. He said the University of Florida (UF) is sending policies hourly and they are conducting webinars. He reported they are following the best practices on a large scale and students have been sent home from campus. Mr. Lovestrand reported classes are only available online. He said they have talked with the county offices about no public gatherings until April 30th but that date could change. He stated they are cleaning the office even though there are very few people coming in at this time. Mr. Kevin Begos, Mayor of the City of Apalachicola, thanked the Health Department for providing all the good information. He said they have closed the Margaret Key Public Library for a couple of weeks. He stated they have an emergency meeting tonight to discuss other options but City Hall is open. He encouraged people to call or use email if they have requests. Mayor Begos reported they will discuss tonight putting a temporary hold on late fees or disconnect fees for utility bills. Ms. Hinds asked for the time of the meeting. Mayor Begos answered 6:00 p.m. Ms. Hinds indicated they will attend the meeting. Mr. Moron asked if the City of Carrabelle has a representative present. There was no representative present. Mrs. Anita Grove, City of Apalachicola, Department of Environmental Protection and NOAA, said they got notice that the Nature Center will close until the end of the month and all of their programs were cancelled as of Monday. She stated DEP is waiting on official word that the museums will be closed but the natural state parks will be open during daylight hours. She said she will send the information when they get confirmation. Mr. Rex Pennycuff, Eastpoint Civic Association, and member of the Tourist Development Council (TDC), thanked the county for the way they are handling this matter. He said he has employees and they are a tourist destination. He stated the county is getting the appropriate information out and trying to maintain normal business as much as possible. Chairman Lockley explained they are taking this a day at a time but they may have to do something different later. Mr. John Solomon, TDC Director, read a prepared statement. He thanked the County Commission for the county getting together and having the same message. He stated there were a lot of rumors about the restaurants and beaches closing but he told everyone that was not on the Agenda. Ms. Hinds reported additional guidance will be coming from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for restaurants and bars and they will send it out as soon as they receive it. Chairman Lockley questioned how they will deal with the influx of kids coming in for spring break. Mr. Solomon stated they will make sure these visitors have the information the DOH and CDC is providing. He said the spring break visitors are already here. Mr. Moron reported

there are 2-3 events scheduled at the Armory and asked if those events should be cancelled. He questioned what responsibility the county has as this is a rental facility. Commissioner Jones said TDC cancelled all events they were helping to market across the county so taking these steps until the end of the month would not be inconsistent for special events. Attorney Shuler agreed these events should be cancelled and the money refunded because public health comes first. Commissioner Jones stated they need to have a county statement issued and it needs to be unified like they did today. He said if people are at risk or feel sick they need to stay home. Chairman Lockley said they want the public to know this is the information they have today but that may change as they get orders from different sources. Mr. Moron stated he will work with the web designers to have a link on the website for the information. Commissioner Jones suggested they add a clickable banner. Mr. Walker said the DOH has a great website with a dashboard. Ms. Hinds stated they will send that website out in their daily update. Mrs. Nicole Sandoval, Department of Health, explained people are asking for masks because personal protective equipment (PPE's) are in short supply across the nation. She stated they are not recommending the general public wear masks because that can cause unnecessary panic. She reported they are conserving these masks for the health care personnel and people that are sick. She said they are preserving these supplies for the health care partners because they have a limited supply. Mrs. Sandoval stated any additional supplies are being requested through Mrs. Brownell. Chairman Lockley said they are not trying to hide anything but they get their information from professionals. He stated if everyone works together then they can beat this virus. Commissioner Jones reported there is an app for anyone that has Capital Health Plan insurance and they can do telemedicine by calling Amwell. Mrs. Griffith said she called Amwell and had an appointment over the phone, paid the \$15 co-pay and had a prescription called in the same day. She read a list of items that can be handled with this app. Chairman Lockley said the Veterans' Administration also has this kind of program.

The meeting recessed at 10:06 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:17 a.m.

Public Comments

Mr. Gary Darpol, Vice President of the Alligator Point/St. Teresa Taxpayers Association (APTA), said their last meeting was on March 14th and he would like to speak about Items #22 and #24. He stated in regard to Item #22 APTA is pleased the Department of Transportation (DOT) is moving forward with supporting the reclassification of C.R. 370, Alligator Drive, and will support the county in this initiative. He reported in relation to Item #24 APTA is dismayed that this action created another delay. He stated the Association hoped the road would be under construction by now. He explained a 6 months delay will leave the area vulnerable to damage from another storm. Mr. Darpol said if another storm further damages Alligator Drive FEMA, based on their previous actions, would start the process over creating more delays, additional construction costs and leaving a constant public safety hazard unaddressed. He stated they may never realize the goal of Alligator Drive reconstruction because the bureaucratic

paperwork process will never end. He said APTA understands there is little the county can do to pressure FEMA and they appreciate the efforts of Mr. Pierce and the County Commission to keep the project on track. He asked the Board to let APTA know if there is any practical way they can support their efforts.

Ms. Lori Simmons, a nurse practitioner in Apalachicola, stated she is here to support Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) working with the hospital instead of Ascension. She discussed the non-profit aspect of TMH and said they have always supported poor people and are not about the money. She reported this is a poor area and there are a lot of elderly and people do not always have transportation. Ms. Simmons stated the third leading cause of death is medical malpractice and they need their family members there to advocate for them. Ms. Simmons said she has been here 9 years taking care of the poor and they need to make sure they get the care they need. She discussed non-profit companies versus for profit companies providing services. She stated TMH has taken over Doctor's Memorial Hospital and that is a better facility. Ms. Simmons reported some people do not have insurance and co-pays have increased. She stated TMH is the only provider for CHP. Commissioner Parrish left the meeting at this time. She reported if the critical care access is lost they will never get another hospital here. Ms. Simmons stated if Sacred Heart could get the critical access they would already have applied for it. She said they are losing money or they would not be looking for the critical access here. Commissioner Parrish returned to the meeting. She reported people have paid the surtax for 20 years and questioned who is going to pay it back if they do not get a hospital. She stated the people voted for a hospital and she asked why they are not going to get a hospital. Ms. Simmons reported they can work with the hospital they have and get the community involved and have a community action hospital.

Mr. Jerry Holt, Big Bend Scenic Byway, reported the Big Bend Scenic Byway is the only byway in Florida that has state and national status. He stated the wayshowing project is coming to fruition. He reported the panels have been written and approved and the graphics have been finalized. Mr. Holt said sometime this year the ground will be broken for the panels. He stated the engineering is in the process of being revised. He referenced a map showing the Franklin County sites where the panels will be erected for the Big Bend Scenic Byway. Mr. Holt thanked Mr. Moron for facilitating this process with the county. He said they appreciate the collaboration with the local government who have contributed to the success of the Byway.

Ms. Amy Hodson, Executive Director of the St. George Island Lighthouse Association, informed the Board in an abundance of caution yesterday they closed the Lighthouse until the end of the month. She stated their entire staff is over 60 years of age and due to the size inside the Lighthouse there is no way to distance and keep everyone safe. She reported they plan to reopen Friday, April 3rd.

Mr. Joshua Hodson, Manager at St. George Island State Park, the Orman House and the John Gorrie Museum, reported all Florida State Parks are cancelling all special events, interpretive programs, weddings and pavilion rentals for 60 days. He stated the Orman House and John Gorrie Museum are closed for tours. He said St. George Island State Park is normally open until

sunset but for 60 days they are open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. He reported all camping reservations at the state parks are cancelled for 60 days. He said Thursday night will be the last night for camping at all state parks.

Department Directors Report

Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors

4. Information Item(s):

Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District Report (agenda packet attachment)

Mr. Nabors stated the Road Department will keep working until further notice. He said they received notice that it will be 30 days before any inmates are available for work. He reported the Road Department crews will still be working and cutting grass. Chairman Lockley said they are asking the people of the county to work with them as the inmate crews have been cut back. He stated they will be slower due to not having the help of the inmates. Mr. Nabors said they graded the roads but Gardner's Landing Road and Bloody Bluff Road are closed due to high water. Chairman Lockley recommended they accept phone calls and get to them when they are able to.

Commissioner Massey asked Mr. Nabors to have the rotten tree cut that they looked at. Mr. Nabors reported he met with the state about the trees and about 70% of the trees are on private property. He said the big cluster of trees in Eastpoint is also on private property. He suggested they email the property owners to see if they want to cut the trees because the trees need to be taken down. Commissioner Massey stated 1 of the trees is on county property. Mr. Nabors said they will take care of that tree because it is hitting their equipment when they drive by. Commissioner Massey expressed concern that the tree could fall on a school bus. Chairman Lockley asked Attorney Shuler for his recommendation on how to handle the situation on private property. Attorney Shuler said he would like to discuss this matter with Mr. Nabors and report back to the Board. Chairman Lockley agreed with this suggestion.

Mr. Moron presented the following item from his report:

27. Signage @ Consolidated School Update: At your March 3, 2020 meeting, I informed the Board that Commissioner Boldt requested the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) assistance with adding signage and guardrails at the T-intersection of Highway 98 and Seahawk Lane because of what he considered a potential safety hazard for anyone leaving the school at night that is unfamiliar with that exit. FDOT added directional reflective signage on the southside of Highway 98 that will be viewed when exiting the consolidated school. In addition, FDOT recommended a "Stop Ahead" warning sign and an oversized "Stop" sign on Seahawk Lane at the Highway 98 T-intersection. Since this FDOT recommendation was based on Commissioner Boldt's request, I asked the Board to consider

paying for the sign and having the Road Department install the sign so there would be no cost to the School District. I sent FDOT's recommendation along with an email stating that the County would be responsible for the purchase and installation of the sign. I have since received a request from the School District to attend their April 20th workshop to present this offer to the School Board. It is my opinion that the offer speaks for itself, however if the School Board is seeking information to qualify why two signs would provide additional safety to vehicle traffic at the intersection, a representative from FDOT would be more appropriate. I am asking the Board to rescind the offer to pay for and install the signs on the School District's road, as that would remove the County from this matter. If the School District is interested in FDOT's recommendation, I will forward the contact information for the local FDOT representative.

Request: Rescind the motion to pay for and install the "Stop Ahead" and "Stop" sign on Seahawk Lane as recommended by FDOT.

Mr. Moron stated the county tried to do this because Commissioner Boldt requested it but his role is not to attend the meeting and explain the situation. Chairman Lockley said they tried and now they should let the school handle this. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by the following vote of the Board present, it was agreed to rescind the motion agreeing to pay for and install the stop signs on Seahawk Lane as recommended by FDOT:**

AYE: PARRISH, JONES, LOCKLEY, MASSEY

NAY: BOLDT

Commissioner Jones asked for an update on the state road and what they are doing around the school district with the blinking lights. Mr. Moron stated the blinking lights to remind people to slow down for the school have been out since the hurricane and they made a request to FDOT to determine who is responsible for the signs as it is different in other counties. He explained a year or so ago the county opted out so FDOT is responsible for the maintenance of the lights. Mr. Moron stated when they put in a request it will be elevated because it is a school and FDOT will repair the lights. Commissioner Boldt asked Mr. Moron to clarify whether it is appropriate to ask FDOT to add guardrails in this area. Mr. Moron said the county has asked twice and FDOT has determined that guardrails are not needed. Commissioner Boldt said they must have a standard for that determination and he would like a clarification on the standard. Mr. Moron stated he will have the DOT representative call Commissioner Boldt and explain their decision. Chairman Lockley said they tried to help the school but they just need to let this be.

Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

4. Information Item(s):

Right-of-Way Debris Pickup/Recycle Material Hauled (agenda packet attachment)

Mr. Davis asked for the Board to approve the Finance Department cutting a manual check to Richard's Freight for a little over \$9,000 because the invoices were not submitted on time. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve a manual check to Richards Freight.**

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

28. County Wide Mandatory Garbage Pickup: The Board, at your last meeting, discussed mandatory garbage pickup for the unincorporated areas of the County and asked Mr. Fonda Davis (Solid Waste Director) to discuss this matter with some of the local providers. Mr. Davis and I met with three local providers and they all had the same requests. The first is, in order for this contract to be successful, the contract would have to be an exclusive franchise agreement. Only one company could provide garbage/yard trash pickup in the unincorporated areas of the county. The other is a county ordinance with strong penalties and fines that would make it easier and cheaper for all residents to keep their accounts current as the other option would be stiff and costly. Representatives from these companies provided other county ordinances that could assist with creating an ordinance of our own if the Board decides on proceeding. If the Board is interested in mandatory garbage pickup, the next step would be for the Board to direct Attorney Shuler to proceed with a draft ordinance for the Board's review before advertising public hearing dates.

Request: Board discussion and direction.

Commissioner Parrish stated he is glad to see there are 3 providers that are willing to bill individuals for their garbage pickup. He reported approximately 90% of the county already has garbage pickup. He questioned the collection methods of the providers if they are awarded the contract and place a garbage can at every location that does not have garbage collection and then are not paid. Commissioner Parrish stated if they pick up the garbage cans if they are not paid then the county will not have mandatory garbage collection. He explained Commissioner Massey and Chairman Lockley already live within the municipalities and are already mandated to have garbage collection. He said the only way to make this happen is to have a fine larger than the amount of collection. Commissioner Parrish explained if the elderly cannot afford to pay for garbage collection and the garbage can is removed then there still is not mandatory garbage collection. He said he is not sure how to make this work but agrees about cleaning the county up. Commissioner Parrish stated this has to be enforceable across the board and if they cannot pay then they receive a fine for not paying and that is the only way to have people comply with mandatory garbage collection. He stated the Commissioners cannot call and ask for people not to be charged. He explained when the company notifies the county the person has not paid then the county would assess this fine. Commissioner Parrish went on to say if the fine is not paid then a lien will be placed on their property. He stated if the Board wants to have mandatory garbage collection they need to know that people are going to call them and they will not be able to help them. He reported some people are going to claim they cannot afford this service. Commissioner Parrish stated they cannot have selective prosecution regardless of the district the person is in. He said he is not opposed to

cleaning up the county but there are going to be a lot of issues that come with it.

Commissioner Boldt made a motion to direct Attorney Shuler to proceed with a draft ordinance for the Board to review and they will look at all the issues at that point.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Commissioner Jones stated he wants to make sure the public knows they are not going to do this without public comment. He explained there will be public hearings and other things involved and this is just a step. He said what they have now is not working in every case. Commissioner Boldt clarified they are only asking for legal education on the matter. Chairman Lockley stated it takes about 3 years to process this matter. He explained the problem is people are using the county's garbage cans or the woods and if they do not do something it is going to create more trash in the county. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Mrs. Brownell reported the local state of emergency (LSE) is not on her report. She explained they have been attending all the conference calls with the state and Sunday afternoon the state informed them there is a federal designation for the coronavirus COVID-19. She reported it is only for Cat B which is for protective measures. Mrs. Brownell said they advised counties to get their local state of emergency in place for acquisitions such as N95 masks and cleaning items and only request these items from them when they find out they cannot get them. She advised the Board on Monday she contacted Mr. Moron and requested a LSE and she would like to approve this retroactive to March 16, 2020. Chairman Lockley explained this action is not to scare the public or hide anything but so the county can get their money. Mrs. Brownell stated the Board is doing this so they can order supplies to protect the first responders and citizens of the county. Chairman Lockley said the county does not have this money and it will allow them to get the money from the federal government. Mrs. Brownell reported it is hard to find supplies because they are being bought up quickly. She explained the state is having a hard time getting supplies but asked the county to put their requests in. She reported hopefully they will fill the requests quicker since Franklin County is a rural county. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt the Resolution declaring a local state of emergency retroactive to March 16, 2020. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish asked for an amendment to the motion authorizing Chairman Lockley to extend the local state of emergency until it is no longer needed. He said it must be extended each week. **Commissioner Jones amended the motion to include authorizing Chairman Lockley at his discretion to extend the local state of emergency.** Mrs. Brownell agreed it must be extended every 7 days. **Commissioner Massey amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Moron asked if Weems Memorial Hospital can request ventilators or respirators under this LSE. Mrs. Brownell replied yes they can send their request to her office and they will upload the request to the state. Mr. Moron said he talked with the CEO at Weems Memorial Hospital and they are going to request 4 ventilators. Chairman Lockley stated the best thing to do is have the equipment and not wait.

Mrs. Brownell read the following request:

6. Action Item(s):

Request the Board signing and approval of the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00.

On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve and sign the CERT Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00.

RFP / RFQ / Bids Opening

Mrs. Brownell explained this is for qualifications and not a bid because it is a set amount. She stated the RFQ's will be reviewed by a committee and a recommendation will be presented to the Board. She reported the review committee will be her, Ms. Tracy Busby consultant with The Management Experts, and Mrs. Tress Dameron, Emergency Management Department.

Commissioner Boldt made a motion for the review committee to review the RFQ's and present a recommendation to the Board. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

8. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Franklin County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Architectural and Engineering Planning and Design Services

Mrs. Brownell opened and read the RFQ's as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dewberry Engineers	Port St. Joe, Florida
CRA Architects	Tallahassee, Florida

Mr. Pierce explained the company will help design a structure. He reported at this time they have \$200,000 in design fees available from the state but no construction money. He explained the Board has allocated money in Consortium funds but the money was reallocated to dredge the Eastpoint and Two Mile Channel. Mr. Pierce said there will be no rush on the design since there is no construction money. Chairman Lockley asked how long the bid would be in effect. Mr. Pierce said once they select the company they can negotiate the time involved with completing the design. He estimated it will be 1-2 years before there is construction money. He stated they can get an extension on the state design money as it was allocated the last Legislative session and they usually have 1 or 1 ½ years to spend the money. Commissioner Parrish pointed out typically when they allocate design money they follow up with construction money. Mr. Pierce agreed since they allocated design/engineering money they should have allocated construction money this year but it does not look like that will happen. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioner Boldt said he discussed with Mrs. Brownell potentially cleaning up and opening a portion of Island View Park for the public to have access. He stated Mrs. Brownell felt like that was not wise. Commissioner Boldt reported he visited the site when staff was there and there are a lot of irregularities so it would be hard to insure the safety of the public. Mrs. Brownell explained there is undermining of the walkways, no railings on the piers and the area is so

washed out that it would be a liability to the county if the area was opened. Commissioner Boldt reported they discussed just opening an area for parking but there is still a potential of breaching the area so they need to wait before opening the area. Mrs. Brownell stated they signed off on the project so hopefully the federal government will push the project through. Commissioner Jones questioned if any of the projects that they are waiting for FEMA to mitigate have been checked off. Mrs. Brownell replied they are in the process of writing the scope of work for the projects. She explained once the scope of work is written and approved FEMA will let the county know and they can go out for bid.

Information Item(s):

EOC Staff continue to issue re-entry tags to residents of Franklin County.

EOC Staff are working diligently with DOH (Department of Health) Staff regarding the COVID-19 virus. This includes hosting a meeting with representatives from DOH, Sheriff's Department & Weems on 03/09/2020, Conference Calls on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays, pushing out messaging from DOH on Facebook and our EOC Website.

EOC Staff participated on the LEPC Meeting/Conference Call on 03/11/2020.

03/10/2020 EOC Staff along with Alan Pierce met with FEMA EHP for the Environmental Assessment Kickoff.

EOC Staff will be hosting its MYTEP (Multi Year Training & Exercise Program) meeting on 03/19/2020.

EOC Staff will be attending the Region 2 meeting in Liberty County on 03/26/2020

FCEM Staff continues 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. Attached (agenda packet) is an update of FEMA projects.

Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand

Mr. Lovestrand reported the University of Florida (UF) considers all the County Extension Directors as essential personnel so he is on the clock and available for questions. He said they will follow the county's guidelines concerning any office closures.

7. County Extension Activities March 4 – March 17, 2020

General Extension Activities:

- Extension office assisted clientele with issues related to suitable plants for coastal landscaping, damage to landscaping from bleach in pressure washer, aquaculture leasing questions, and more.
- Much time has been occupied with exterior work around the new office location to clean the walls, remove weedy growth, trim trees and shrubs and reorganize things. We now have operational capability with internet and phones and are open to the public if they need

Extension services. We still have work to do before hosting a public open house event and will let the BOCC know ahead of time when that will take place. The Extension Director would like to say on the record that a great debt of thanks is owed to the Board of County Commissioners, County Administration and Staff, and the local community for funding, logistical support, and most importantly support for the idea to make this a reality. We look forward to serving the community in the new location. See next page for photograph.

Sea Grant Extension:

- Extension Director participated in community meetings conducted for people interested in the oyster aquaculture leases at the 4-mile Aquaculture Use Zone. These were two pre-application meetings designed to inform people about the processes involved and help them understand what being an oyster farmer means in realistic terms. Presentations were provided by FDACS staff, and UF/Auburn faculty who work in various areas of aquaculture production and economics.

4-H Youth Development:

- Summer 4-H camp registration is underway.

Family Consumer Sciences:

- Family Nutrition Program (FNP) Assistant has begun the new hands-on cooking skills class with Healthy Weight and Lifestyle group that meets at Weems weekly for the next 6 weeks.

- Classroom programs continue at local schools with youth in various grade levels.

Horticulture/Agricultures:

- Wakulla Extension Director taught two Master Gardener classes in Eastpoint and also presented a program at the Eastpoint Library on growing tomatoes.

- Our Franklin County Master Gardeners are participating in the ANERR Bay Friendly Landscaping program by conducting evaluations on various yards for the Reserve.

University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Franklin County Educational Team

Erik Lovestrand, County Extension Director/Sea Grant Regional Specialized Agent

Michelle Huber, Office Manager/Program Assistant, Franklin County

Kayle Mears, Family Nutrition Program Assistant

Samantha Kennedy, Wakulla County Family and Consumer Sciences

Rachel Pienta, Ph.D., Wakulla County 4-H Youth Development

Scott Jackson, Sea Grant/Agriculture/Technology, Regional Specialized Agent Bay County

Melanie G. Taylor, Gulf County 4-H/Family and Consumer Sciences

Ray Bodrey, Gulf County CED/Agriculture/Horticulture/Sea Grant

Heather Kent, 4-H Regional Specialized Agent

Les Harrison, Wakulla County CED/Agriculture/Small Farms/Horticulture

John Wells, Northwest Extension District Information Technology Expert

Pete Vergot III, Ph.D., Northwest District Extension Director

Public Hearings 11:00 A.M.

17. An Ordinance regulating the time for sale of Alcoholic and Intoxicating beverages; repealing ordinance 2016-05; providing for a penalty; providing for severability and an effective date.

Attorney Shuler read the caption of the proposed ordinance. He discussed the language being added and deleted in the ordinance. Attorney Shuler explained they are granting 1 additional hour from midnight until 1:00 a.m. year round for the sale of alcoholic and intoxicating beverages. He stated the current ordinance allowed for extended hours during a seasonal period of time. Attorney Shuler pointed out this ordinance applies to the unincorporated areas of the county and not to the City of Carrabelle or the City of Apalachicola. He said if there are no questions from the Board then they can call for public comment. Chairman Lockley asked for public comment. There was no public comment. Attorney Shuler advised the Board they can approve the ordinance as written, reject the ordinance or modify the ordinance. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Ordinance.**

Sheriff's Finance Officer - Ginger Coulter - Grants Discussion

Mrs. Coulter stated she is here to talk about some grants and presented a worksheet for the Board. She reported the 2018-19 Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Narcotics grant was delayed due to the sanctuary cities issue and federal government shutdowns so the funds were just received this grant year. She reported they are asking to keep the grant funds in the amount of \$45,574.00 as well as some auction proceeds to offset some of the expenses listed on the worksheet. She explained they got the new Investigations Building as it was damaged during the hurricane and the county insurance covered the cost. Mrs. Coulter said they were responsible for the setup including the electrical and fiber optics going to the new building. She explained a huge portion of the funds have gone towards that expense, the new communications center and the narcotics buy fund. She stated they have not received the funds from FDLE to reimburse them for these items. Mrs. Coulter asked to keep the \$57,178.25 in their budget this year so they do not have to seek the funds from outside sources. **On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to allow the Sheriff's Department to keep the funds in the amount of \$57,178.25 in their budget this year.** Mrs. Coulter stated the second item is a grant for this year in the amount of \$51,996.00 from the Big Bend Mental Health. She explained that is the final amount but if it changes she will come back for a budget amendment. Mrs. Coulter reported there is a new state mandate especially when handling juveniles and students in the school system. She explained if they are exhibiting certain types of behavior they have 1 hour to have them see a professional medical physician that specializes in psychiatric and behavioral issues. Mrs. Coulter said this grant covers the expenses for providing these services. She said it also covers the transportation cost as they must transport the individual out of the county. She offered to answer any questions. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by**

Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Big Bend Mental Health Grant in the amount of \$51,996.

Mrs. Coulter reported they have a couple of items that also need to be signed. She said the first one is the Victim's Advocate Grant from the Office of the Attorney General. Mrs. Coulter stated Mr. Moron has the papers that need to be signed. She explained every year they have a single audit that is presented to the Office of the Attorney General by February 1st. She reported their single audit has not been completed so they need to file for an extension. Mrs. Coulter said the other item to be signed is the current year FDLE Grant. She explained this is the 51% letter that the cities and county must agree to for the county to receive the funding. She reported they complete this letter every year. She stated the Certificate of Participation also needs to be signed today and that is for the upcoming year. Mrs. Coulter explained every year they approve this Certificate to approve them writing the grant, receiving the grant and completing the grant paperwork. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve these items. Mr. Moron said this will handle Item #29 on his report.** Commissioner Jones questioned how they are meeting the 1 hour limit in the new mandate. Mrs. Coulter reported the Sheriff's Resource Office (SRO) is equipped with a tablet or cell phone to contact the physician so they have contact within the first hour and then they transport the individual. Commissioner Boldt asked what the narcotics buy funds is. Mrs. Coulter said that allows the investigators to buy drugs covertly.

TDC Administrator – John Solomon – Report

Mr. Moron stated Mr. Solomon had to leave the meeting but he did not have any action items. He said if they have any questions he will forward them to Mr. Solomon.

9. Information Item(s):

Collections Report: The December (2019) collections were \$52,526.91 a 12% increase over December 2018 \$46,715.00.

Web Site Activity: We had 32,373 web hits in the month of February (2020) an increase of 2% over last February.

Visitor Center Numbers: The Visitor Centers welcomed 3,769 visitors in the month of February.

Meetings: The next scheduled board meeting is May 13th 2020 @ 2:00pm at the Eastpoint Visitor Center.

Commissioner Jones pointed out the month of December the collections were up 12% so the message is getting out.

Eastpoint Civic Association - Lynn Martina - Introduction and Request

10. Eastpoint Civic Association's request to authorize the association to apply for a USDA Rural Business Development Grant which will provide for the completion of an Eastpoint Waterfront Feasibility Study.

Mrs. Lynn Martina, President of the Eastpoint Civic Association, said they are working on a few things and are having round table discussions. She explained they want to be the voice of Eastpoint. She reported Eastpoint is growing and they are glad to see the growth. Mrs. Martina stated the county is in a bad situation with the condition of the bay so they are glad to see anyone that wants to start a business and provide jobs. She reported they are completing a new pavilion at the cemetery. Mrs. Martina encouraged anyone to join the Association that would like to. She stated they would like to see suggestions of what everyone wants Eastpoint to look like. She said they have a lot of ideas they would like to do. Mrs. Martina reported the Association has 59 members and 20 businesses. She asked the Board to authorize the Association to apply for a USDA Rural Business Development Grant to provide funding for the completion of the Eastpoint Waterfront Feasibility Study. She reported Mrs. Betty Webb, grant writer, is working on this grant for the Association. Mrs. Martina said Mr. Jimmy Sapp is the Vice President, Mrs. Joyce Estes is the Secretary and Mr. Donnie Gay is the Treasurer of the Association. Mrs. Martina said they have had several productive meetings and are ready to get moving. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Eastpoint Civic Association to fill out the grant application.** Mrs. Webb requested the Board sign the Resolution giving the Eastpoint Civic Association the authority to make the application and manage the grant. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Resolution.** Mr. Pennycuff said they are hoping the Association will be a point of contact for the Board and the public. He explained they can help shape what they would like Eastpoint to look like before they have so much growth and development. He reported they would like to be a voice for the citizens of Eastpoint and also provide a communication link for the Board.

Board of Adjustment – Amy Ham-Kelly – Report

Mrs. Ham-Kelly provided the following report:

11. Consideration of a request to construct a house 5 feet into the front setback on property described as Lots 2, Holiday Beach, Unit 1, 37 Carousel Terrace, Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Elva Peppers, Florida Environmental & Land Services, agent for Wayne and Susan Johnson, applicant.

BOA Recommendation: Unanimous Vote to Approve

BCC ACTION: Approve, Table or Deny

On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.

12. Consideration of a request to construct a house 12 feet into the front setback on property described as Lot 3, Block 62, St. George Island Gulf Beaches, Unit 5, 331 Land Street, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Alan Anderson, applicant.

BOA Recommendation: Unanimous Vote to Approve

BCC Action: Approve, Table or Deny

Commissioner Jones asked if they are doing this because they lost property in the canal. Mrs. Ham-Kelly presented a diagram of the property and explained the request. Mr. Anderson said they still have a full right-of-way and he is not getting into the right-of-way as there will still be 38 ft. clear. He explained if he does not need the property he will not use it. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.**

Planning and Zoning – Amy Ham-Kelly – Report

Mrs. Ham-Kelly read the following report:

13. Consideration of a request to construct a 106 x 4 Boardwalk over vegetation and 134 x 4 Single Family Private Pier with another 141 x 4 Boardwalk over vegetation and a 26 x 6 Step Down Terminal Platform on property described as Lot 5, Silent Waters, 2930 Creek Side Drive, Carrabelle, Franklin County, FL. Has all state and federal permits. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Agent for David Mills, Applicant. (Proposed House)

PZ Recommendation: 4/1 Vote to Approve- Contingent upon boardwalk setback being 10 feet from the property line.

BCC ACTION: Approve, Table or Deny

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.

14. Discussion concerning the requirement of State and Federal permits and whether the County would like to require a DEP Exemption at minimum. Exemptions go through a process and will require a site plan and will at minimum will provide us documentation as to whether a federal permit will be required.

PZ Recommendation: Unanimous Vote to only accept DEP Permit and DEP Exemptions and no longer accept Self Certifications.

BCC ACTION: Approve, Table or Deny

Mrs. Ham-Kelly reported self-certifications are an application that the owner can apply for but Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) does not see a plan as long as they stay within a

certain square footage. She said they are approved with the self-certifications but they still must come to the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Board for approval. Mrs. Ham-Kelly stated with the self-certifications it is like a trust between DEP and the client. She asked if the Board would be willing to allow their office to only accept self-certifications at a minimum. Commissioner Parrish and Commissioner Jones expressed confusion about this process. Commissioner Parrish questioned what is wrong with the process they currently use. Attorney Shuler reported he does not regularly attend the Planning & Zoning Commission meetings and would like to look at this issue to determine if the Board has the authority to do what they are being asked to do. He said this request does not have legal review at this time. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to table this matter.**

15. Consideration of a request for commercial site plan review to install a 16' x 64' Modular Office lying in Section 31, Township 8 South, Range 6 West, 279 Patton Drive, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Michael and Paige Richards, applicant.

PZ Recommendation: Unanimous Vote to approve

BCC ACTION: Approve, Table or Deny

On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.

16. Consideration of a request for a Public Hearing to re-zone Lot 17, Block Z, Lanark Beach, Unit 1, 2118 Highway 98 East, Lanark, Franklin County, FL from C-4 Mixed Use Residential to C-3 Commercial Recreation. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for Team Golson Motorsports Inc., Applicant.

PZ Recommendation: Unanimous Vote to Deny Public Hearing

BCC ACTION: Approve, Table or Deny Public Hearing Request

Commissioner Parrish asked why there was a unanimous vote to deny a public hearing. Mrs. Ham-Kelly reported they had the application and the survey but did not have what they were proposing. She stated they are proposing an RV park. She explained in C-3 they have the 50 ft. setback from the critical habitat zone but there are no other setback conditions. Mrs. Ham-Kelly said they made a motion to deny the request for a public hearing. Chairman Lockley stated they cannot deny a public hearing. Mrs. Ham-Kelly reported she attached all the documentation to the file if the Board would like to see it. Chairman Lockley said they must give them a public hearing or the county will be in trouble but that does not mean they have to vote for the project. He asked the Board to approve the public hearing. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to give the applicant a public hearing. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked Attorney Shuler if this is correct. Attorney Shuler agreed this has been the county's policy as long as he has been the County Attorney. Mr. Garlick explained he was not present at the meeting but there was some confusion involved with this project. He

stated he will make sure all the information is submitted before the public hearing. He said there seems to be some misunderstanding with the Planning & Zoning Commission but he still does not understand why they did not allow for a public hearing. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Moron said he received notification and did some research and based on the WCTV website the Governor has issued an order closing all nightclubs and bars in the state for 30 days beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday. He read the order which also limited restaurants to 50% capacity and asked for seating to be staggered and limited. Mr. Moron said the order encouraged people to use take-out and delivery options. He explained it also asked restaurants to screen their employees for symptoms of illness. Mr. Moron said he will verify this information through the DOH. Commissioner Parrish stated they need to get this information out on the radio and the county's website. He reported they also need to integrate what the state park service is doing. He said the public needs to know all this information and that the Governor has ordered these items.

CDBG Administrator – Report (Deborah Belcher)

18. MARCH 13, 2020

REPORT TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HOUSING CDBG GRANT for EASTPOINT FIRE VICTIMS

I again visited the home of Anna and Devin Creamer, 568 Wilderness Road, the afternoon of Tuesday, 3/3/2020. Although progress has been made, the yard is still no cleaned up was not complete. Ms. Creamer is demanding a 4-bedroom home instead of a 3-bedroom model. I informed Ms. Creamer that the cost would be higher than the County's normal policy limit, but I would have the cost information ready for the 3/17/2020 Board meeting.

Ironwood Homes of Perry provided me an estimate of the price to demolish and clear the existing structures and install a 4-bedroom mobile home of quality comparable to that of the homes provided to other Eastpoint fire CDBG homeowners. The estimated price is \$106,455.

In an effort to reduce the price of the 4-bedroom home, I requested an estimate for a lower quality home. The home would have energy efficiency upgrades, but not the level of quality in items such as cabinets, flooring, etc., and would be smaller. The estimated price for that home would be \$90,530.

Requested Action: Provide direction regarding accepting the degree of yard cleanup, and whether to pursue procurement of a 4-bedroom home or the normally upgraded 3-bedroom home.

Mr. Moron said he is distributing the picture Mrs. Belcher took this morning. Mrs. Belcher reported she wanted the Board to see the picture. She explained this situation has been going on for over a year and she did not recommend to the Board proceeding with the application because of this. She requested the Board direct her as to whether this is acceptable or not.

She stated the owner is insisting on a 4 bedroom home instead of a 3 bedroom home because they have 3 children. Mrs. Belcher said she provided pricing so the Board could see the cost. She explained the Board's normal policy is a limit of \$75,000 but it can be waived and has been waived in the past for different reasons. She stated the most that has been awarded under the Eastpoint fire grant is \$80,000 to date. She requested Board direction. Commissioner Parrish inquired if there have been any other 4 bedroom trailers. Mrs. Belcher replied no. Chairman Lockley asked about the cost of the 4 bedroom trailer. Mrs. Belcher said it is in her report and that is an estimate from Ironwood Homes of a 4 bedroom trailer of comparable quality. Mrs. Belcher said she has written specifications for the bid packages and explained the items she has addressed to make the homes more durable. Mrs. Belcher stated the estimate was \$106,455 and she asked for a price on the modified specifications that still have the upgraded insulation and that price was \$90,530. She reported they have a 5 person household. Chairman Lockley asked if they had a 4 bedroom in the beginning. Mrs. Belcher could not remember but said they added on to a single wide trailer. Commissioner Massey asked if the \$90,530 model would have less items in it. Mrs. Belcher said the quality would be less than the \$106,455 and is a little smaller. Commissioner Massey asked if the \$90,530 model would accommodate the family. Mrs. Belcher responded it would. She stated the county has been purchasing 3 bedroom, 2 bath trailers. She said her recommendation is not to proceed with anything considering the property at this stage but if they want her to go ahead and submit the environmental review she will or they can wait. She stated the other issue is whether to pursue a 4 bedroom or not. Commissioner Parrish asked how many people who received a 3 bedroom trailer will now want a 4 bedroom trailer. Mrs. Belcher explained there is 1 person who has a 3 bedroom trailer on order and would like to get her grandchildren back with her and she would have 3 children at that time. She stated the other households are smaller. Commissioner Boldt reported he does not see how there is room to get a modular home in and out of this property. He stated this family needs to cooperate with the county. He expressed concern about a precedent being set when they start switching the number of bedrooms. Commissioner Boldt referenced a standard of practice and said they need to get this cleaned up. Mrs. Creamer asked how old this picture of her property is. Mrs. Belcher responded it was taken this morning. Mrs. Creamer said she has compromised on everything that was required. She stated they are not only holding back a family but a disabled child. She reported for the last 2 years they have made compromises and questioned if they should throw away everything they have accumulated. She discussed her children and what they have been through. Mrs. Creamer explained they added an addition on their home so they had 4 bedrooms. Commissioner Parrish left the meeting. Commissioner Massey asked if they can live in a 3 bedroom home. Mrs. Creamer answered yes with the addition attached but Mrs. Belcher wants to remove the addition. Commissioner Massey asked if they can live with a 3 bedroom home with the addition. Mrs. Creamer answered yes if the addition stays. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by the following vote of the Board present, it was agreed to get the single wide mobile home and hook the addition to it:**

AYE: MASSEY, JONES, LOCKLEY

NAY: BOLDT

Mr. Moron questioned if the Board is comfortable with Mrs. Belcher submitting the environmental review. The Board agreed she can submit the environmental review. Attorney Shuler said that is presumed from the motion. Mrs. Belcher pointed out when they do CDBG housing they have to make sure the entire dwelling meet their standards. She stated she walked through the existing add-on and pointed out several things that need to be taken care of and she questioned if the Board wants to require them to make the improvements or add the rehabilitation to the cost of the single wide. Commissioner Jones inquired how much money this would cost. Mrs. Belcher was not sure if the new home would line up with the opening on the existing structure. Chairman Lockley asked about the location of the add-on in the picture. Mrs. Belcher said it is the white structure. Mr. Moron questioned if they can just inspect the mobile home as their home and then if they want to add the addition later they can do it themselves. Mrs. Belcher reported that will be a concern as it is likely Housing & Urban Development (HUD) will monitor the home instead of DEO. Mr. Moron advised Mrs. Creamer she would need to wait until HUD does all the inspections before considering the addition. Mrs. Creamer said they will do whatever they need to do. Commissioner Boldt inquired what they are going to do if they are breaching the protocols of how the loans and monies are distributed when they make exceptions and breach the standard. He reported someone from the state or federal level is going to come in and tell them to stop because they did not address this when they gave the county the money. He said he is concerned the expert gave them a recommendation and they are going to have problems with breaching the standards. Chairman Lockley stated he does not have a problem with this. Commissioner Jones explained the Board raised this limit for this one issue and that is the Board's discretion and that is why they have done it before. Commissioner Parrish returned to the meeting. Commissioner Jones stated there is no worry of a claw back measure. He explained this started because the Governor did not declare an emergency when this happened. He said the county went after the grant and the state allowed them to receive CDBG funding for about 5 years all at one time to start the process. Commissioner Jones stated they are trying to help all the families that were affected by the fire. Mrs. Belcher asked to clarify that they are authorizing the purchase of a single wide 3 bedroom home like they normally purchase. The Board agreed. Mrs. Belcher stated the mobile home may or may not line up with the existing structure. She said if the state approves this which she does not think they will until more work is done, do they put the normal steps and landing out and have it attached and have them build a connector later. Mr. Moron agreed they should let this be a standalone and then let Mr. & Mrs. Creamer decide what they want to do about the addition later. Commissioner Jones left the meeting. Chairman Lockley said they could build a breezeway. Mr. Moron stated the county should just put in the single wide mobile home the same as they do for everyone else and then let Mr. & Mrs. Creamer decide what they want to do about the addition. Chairman Lockley stated the people did not ask to be in the fire and the state should be here replacing the homes. Mr. Moron said the county did not start the fire and are trying to help. He went on to say Mrs. Belcher's role is to make sure the county does not do anything wrong and there is no claw back. He stated they must follow the rules or the claw back will come from ad valorem and the taxpayers will be paying for any

mistakes. Commissioner Jones returned to the meeting. Mr. Moron reported Mrs. Belcher's role is to protect the Board. Chairman Lockley said they are putting a trailer on this property and nothing else. Mr. Moron clarified the county is putting the mobile home and the stairs and anything that they want to do is on them. Commissioner Massey agreed they just want to set up the trailer and they can do what they want later. He said whatever the state does is not anything to do with the county. Mrs. Creamer stated she appreciates their help.

Clerk of Courts – Marcia M. Johnson – Report

Clerk Johnson said she has one item and Mrs. Griffith can answer any questions. She presented the following report:

19. Clerk's Report to Board March 17, 2020

1) The County budget process will be beginning soon and the county has received some complaints recently from providers as well as from several dissatisfied employees in regards to the county dental insurance plan. The finance department is asking the Board to sign the attached letter which will grant Acentria Insurance the ability to explore other dental plan alternatives for Franklin County.

March 17, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Please recognize John Pat Thomas and Acentria Insurance as our Agent of Record for Standard Insurance Company for the purpose of obtaining alternate proposals for Dental Insurance and negotiating current rates. We realize that we have a current Agent of Record for our existing Dental Plan. We are seeking alternatives for our employees and wish to work with Mr. Thomas on these alternatives.

Also, please recognize John Pat Thomas and Acentria Insurance as our Agent of Record for obtaining proposals for Group Life and Vision Insurance through Standard Insurance Company.

Sincerely,

Noah Lockley, Jr.

Chairman

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Chairman Lockley to sign the letter.

RESTORE Coordinator – Alan Pierce – Report

Mr. Pierce read his report, as follows:

Information Item(s):

20. Inform Board I attended the TRIUMPH meeting on March 3 in Port St. Joe. TRIUMPH staff had a long presentation about the need/opportunity for job creation in

northwest Florida in the aviation industry. According to TRIUMPH staff, some 9000 jobs will be needed in Florida in the aviation industry in the next 10 years. To that end TRIUMPH awarded \$2.8M dollars to Wakulla County Schools to partner with Lively Technical College to train students in aircraft repair and maintenance at the Tallahassee Airport. Franklin County students will be eligible to participate in this training but it is going to take some coordination between Wakulla and Franklin County schools. The reason the training will have to take place at an airport is that the training classes, the instructors, and the materials used all have to take place in an FAA sanctioned facility, and the nearest sanctioned facility is Tallahassee Airport.

21. TRIUMPH Chairman Gaetz also stated that as of March 3 the Florida Senate had not approved continuing legislation for the TRIUMPH Board to continue beyond July 1, 2021. Chairman Gaetz said the legislation is stuck in a Senate committee. If this legislative session fails to act there is still next year's session to get the TRIUMPH Board renewed. If the Legislature fails to renew the TRIUMPH Board then it is my understanding that all of the TRIUMPH funds would revert to the state of Florida, and it would then fall to the Governor and the Legislature to develop a way to allocate the hundreds of millions of dollars of TRIUMPH funds coming to the state.
22. Inform Board that FDOT has approved the county's request for a re-classification study of CR 370, Alligator Drive. The notice came in the form of an email from District Secretary Gainer.

Mr. Pierce stated they appreciate the state requesting this but at no point will the state take over the road but they may be able to get federal funds.

23. Inform the Board that Ms. Brownell and I agreed that her office should become the Point of Contact for the Alligator Point HMGP acquisition projects. The process has taken a lot longer than I expected and I am going to be on mostly retirement activities by mid-May. I have recommended the first priority for acquisition be the Alligator Point VFD. Even though that project was not the first one submitted, the acquisition of the Fire Dept property at the west end is a crucial link in providing safe access to many properties in the event of continued erosion on the west end of the washout area.

Mr. Pierce said he was on a conference call yesterday with the Alligator Point Volunteer Fire Department so they are aware of this.

24. Inform the Board that I attended a FEMA meeting at the EOC on March 10 to learn that FEMA is just now starting the supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) for the additional damage Hurricane Michael did to Alligator Drive above what was done by Hurricane Hermine. The additional damage is some 200 more feet of a road that had 1000 feet of damage by Hurricane Hermine. The estimated timeline to complete the supplemental EA is 6 months, which means if that timeline holds then it will be September before any FEMA funds would be obligated for the repairs to Alligator Drive. I was stunned to learn that FEMA was just now starting this supplemental EA,

as I thought the issue of a supplemental EA had been resolved months ago. I consulted with FCMC staff who also thought the issue had been resolved.

I advised the participants at the meeting that a delay until September could certainly affect the current validity of the bid from Anderson Columbia, because by September, 2020, the bid will be a year old. I said a lot of other things that I will not repeat here, but I also advised the meeting participants that another 6 month delay could have many unintended consequences, including the very real threat that Alligator Drive will be unprotected throughout the whole 2020 hurricane season, which was something I was trying hard to avoid.

Mr. Pierce said at the meeting they stated they will review the steps that the EA requires to shorten the timeline but he has not heard back from them. He stated he is frustrated because this was unexpected and it stops everything. He explained this is a federal issue. Mr. Pierce stated he called one staff member but the Board may need to call. He said this is the process and every day something else comes up. Commissioner Boldt asked about a Resolution to the U.S. Senators on the issue. Mr. Pierce suggested they do a letter from the Chairman. He said they need to explain that the road and people are at risk. **On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to send a formal letter to the U.S. Senators regarding the issues on this road and show the consequences of this approval not being moved forward timely.**

25. Inform the Board that I have reviewed the draft state plan for the expenditure of \$735M worth of CDBG-DR funds. The plan is some 150 pages and is online at the DEO website. The bulk of the funds will be directed toward housing projects in the Hurricane Michael impact area. The plan does not mention workforce housing as an allowable project so I am not sure Franklin County will be able to pursue workforce housing projects but there are millions of dollars allocated to help repair existing homes. The state will send the draft plan to HUD by June, and then HUD has some time to approve the plan. The timeline for applications from the counties is still estimated to be December. In order for the county to maximize its application I have previously recommended to the Board that we select a CDBG-DR grant writer. I have sought direction from DEO on what standards they might impose for grant writers and am waiting for a response. I have also asked Mr. Shuler to check with Gulf County about their CDBG-DR grant writer they have just hired in case Franklin County wants to piggy-back and use the Gulf County selection.

The good news in the draft plan is that it proposes to allow CDBG-DR funds to be used as a match for counties who receive Hurricane Michael Hazard Mitigation funds. Franklin County has an allocation of some \$5.9M Hazard Mitigation funds, but the use of funds requires a 25% match. At this time Ms. Brownell is investigating using some of Franklin County's Hazard Mitigation funds for upgrading generators at the EOC, fuel farm at the airport, Weems Hospital, Weems East Clinic (Carrabelle), and a portable generator for the courthouse. Ms. Brownell will come back to the Board with the specific details of these generator upgrades, but if the state will approve the use of the CDBG-DR funds as a match this will allow the county to apply for all these generators without dipping into cash reserves to meet the match requirements.

Since the draft CDBG-DR plan already includes the provision for using the funds as a match for Hazard Mitigation funds there is no need for the Board to finalize the resolution Mr. Moron presented at the last Board meeting about this same subject. I will defer to the County Attorney but a motion might need to be made to make it clear that the Board did not send in the resolution authorized at the last meeting.

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to rescind the approval for the Resolution. Attorney Shuler said he will not check with Gulf County on their process for hiring a consultant until Mr. Pierce gets a communication back from the state.

26. The USACOE staff has provided the county with a recommended dredging plan for the Eastpoint Channel, and a proposed cost. The recommended dredging plan will re-dredge the channel to its authorized depth of 6 feet at mean low water, with one more foot for over dredging. The plan will create spoil containment areas on the outside of the existing Eastpoint breakwater that will stabilize over time similar to the "islands" that have been created outside of the Two Mile Channel here in Apalachicola. The USACOE did receive \$2M of federal funds to design and dredge the Eastpoint Channel. At the county's request the Corps has first done the Eastpoint Channel and then has begun working on the design and permitting for the Two Mile Channel. The Corps estimates it has \$1.2M in funds remaining for dredging the Eastpoint Channel and their estimated cost for dredging is \$3.2M, so the County will need to utilize funds we have allocated from the Consortium to complete the dredging of Eastpoint and Two Mile. The Corps estimates that Franklin County will need to provide \$2M for the Eastpoint Channel and \$2M for the Two Mile Channel.

While the Corps was in the office I called Mr. Dan Duarte, Gulf Consortium staff, and the Corps and Mr. Duarte spoke about the process for getting the county funds available to the Corps. Mr. Duarte confirmed that Franklin County has some \$4-5M of Consortium funds currently available, so we have the necessary funds, but the problem is there could be a 4 month time lag in getting the funds out of the Consortium. Mr. Duarte said there is a process for the Consortium to pre-award our funds so that they would be available when the Corps needs it. Over the next few weeks I will be working with Mr. Daurte to understand what the county needs to provide in order to have our funds pre-awarded. While the county has engaged the ARPC to assist the county in applying for our Consortium funds, if it appears to me that it will be easier and faster for me to make the application on behalf of the county, then I will do that.

Mr. Pierce explained Mr. Duarte will go to the Gulf Counsel and hopefully they will take the letter and give a pre-award which will free up the money contingent upon final actions. He reported they have also asked the Finance Department to look at a short term funding mechanism because they have money in the Consortium but they are not sure if they can get the money out in enough time for the COE when they need it. Mrs. Griffith said she talked with Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Parrish about the Florida Local Government Finance Program. She explained this program provides short term financing options for less than 1 year

and other counties have used this financing for beach renourishment and road construction. She stated the issuance cost is low at only \$2,000 per \$1 million borrowed. Mrs. Griffith reported the initial issuance cost would be \$8,000 for the debt and the monthly fees are about 2.66% including the interest on the commercial paper and basis points that are charged for the administrative fees. She stated the monthly fee would be \$8,866.67 in carrying costs until they were able to get reimbursement. Mrs. Griffith explained this is a good program but does not work for long term projects. She said in this situation it would be a good option to pursue. Commissioner Parrish questioned the amount of the monthly payment. Mrs. Griffith explained that is the payment for \$4 million. Commissioner Parrish asked where the money is coming from for this payment. Mr. Pierce stated they could take the money from reserves until they get the money from the Consortium which should only take a few months. He explained the county may not need to borrow all the money as the COE may pre-award the funds. Commissioner Parrish said he hopes they pre-award the money. Mr. Pierce reported if the money is not pre-awarded then they may have a challenge. Commissioner Parrish said the money is going from the Consortium to the COE which is a federal agency and not a contractor. Commissioner Boldt asked how Mrs. Griffith feels about this option. Mrs. Griffith stated in the worst case this would be a good path for the funds but hopefully they will not have to do this. Chairman Lockley asked if the interest rates just went down. Mrs. Griffith answered yes and it will have an effect since this is short term. She stated the 2.66% is an average.

Mr. Pierce continued with his report:

It will be my intent to ask for enough pre-award funds that we can dredge both channels at the schedule the Corps develops. In the best case scenario, Eastpoint would be dredged this August/September, and then followed by Two Mile. I expect I would ask for all the available Consortium funds so that any other projects the County might want to consider will have to wait until more funds become available. Franklin County will ultimately receive some \$11.7M in Consortium funds, but the funds go to the Consortium over a 15 year period. If we use all of our available Consortium funds for dredging the two channels, the Board needs to realize it might be 2023 before enough funds will be accumulated to consider additional Consortium projects. Board discussion.

Mr. Pierce reported the next project would be the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). He explained funds may be delayed for this project unless they find another funding source. Commissioner Jones reported the reason they are doing the channel projects is because the COE communicated to them that they had an allocation from the federal government. Mr. Pierce agreed the COE needed to spend their money. Commissioner Jones stated if the COE does not spend their allocation then their money will go away. He said that is why they are going with these projects instead of the EOC.

County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report

Mr. Moron provided his report, as follows:

Action Item(s)

27. This item was addressed under the Superintendent of Public Works' Report
28. The Board discussed this item under the Solid Waste Director's Report.
29. Sheriff's Grants: The Sheriff's Finance staff requested the Chairman's signature on two documents prior to today's meeting due to deadlines. The first was a Victims of Crime Act grant audit extension request and the other was a letter to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement authorizing the distribution of \$46,433 of Federal Year 2018 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program funds for Franklin County projects.

Request: Board action ratifying the Chairman's signature on both documents.

This item was addressed by Mrs. Coulter earlier in the meeting

30. USDA Loan: As stated in a previous meeting, I was able to extend the USDA March 12, 2020 deadline to March 23, 2020, which is six days away. This deadline is based on a letter asking the county to indicate if USDA should continue to obligate the \$10 million for the Hospital Improvement Project. USDA obligated the \$10 million loan on June 22, 2015 and with the exception of recent conversations there has been no significant or expressed interest in proceeding with this project since a March 12, 2019 conference call.

Currently, the Board has two building projects to consider, the first is the 22,000 square foot addition to the existing facility, commonly referred to as the "New Hospital" project, or an Ascension/Sacred Heart proposed 12,000 square foot Freestanding Hospital Emergency Department. As of today, USDA has not committed to fund the Freestanding Hospital Emergency Department but has agreed to consider it if submitted by the county for review.

USDA has indicated that if significant progress is not made by the five-year anniversary date, June 22, 2020, the funds will be de-obligated and there is little chance for an extension beyond that date.

There is no indication that the Board is ready to commit to any of the two building projects today, and since June 22, 2020 is slightly over 90 days away, it is unlikely that significant process will be made by the five-year anniversary date. Therefore, unless directed otherwise, I would like to forward a letter to USDA explaining the Board's current position and ask them to notify the county when they decide to de-obligate the funds. I would prefer that the county actions on this loan are proactive to keep us in good standing with USDA, especially when the county decides on a building project and if it becomes necessary to re-apply for a USDA loan.

Request: Board discussion and direction.

Chairman Lockley said this does not make sense because it was a binding vote and that is law. He stated they cannot change the law because a few people do not like it. Chairman Lockley

reported the people that did not like it then are the same people that do not like it now. He stated the county has obligations and the Commission has changed but the law has not. He explained they told the people they would build a hospital and build the facility in Carrabelle. Chairman Lockley said if they keep playing with this issue they will cost the county some money. Commissioner Boldt stated the purpose is to preserve the loan potential. He questioned what the USDA describes as significant progress because the conversation has accelerated over the last 6-8 months about the facility. Mr. Moron said he cannot answer this question but he will send a letter highlighting what the Board has done and tell USDA if it becomes necessary to de-obligate the money to let the county know. He stated he will inform the Board when USDA lets him know and they can decide if they want to do something else. Chairman Lockley said he does not know how they can change the law because the vote was binding. Chairman Lockley relinquished the chair to Vice-Chairman Jones. **Chairman Lockley made a motion to build the hospital. The motion failed for lack of a second.** Chairman Lockley left the meeting. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to write a letter to USDA explaining the Board's current position and asking them to notify the county if they decide to de-obligate the funds.**

31. CR 67 Sidewalk Project Update: Mark Curenton (County Planner) notified me that the county received the modified plans and specifications for the CR 67/Tallahassee Street Sidewalk project. These revisions reduce the length of the sidewalk by just over a mile. The engineers have updated the City of Carrabelle about the changes. The Florida Department of Transportation has approved the plans and have provided a supplemental agreement and authorized the County to proceed with advertising for bids. The bid opening will be at the April 21 meeting.

Request: Board action to approve the Resolution which authorizes the supplemental agreement and authorize the Chairman's signature on both documents.

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Resolution which authorizes the supplemental agreement and authorize the Chairman's signature on both documents.

32. Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp Project Extension: Mr. Curenton, on behalf of the county, has received the time extension on the FWC Boating Improvement Grant to design the improvements to the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp in Eastpoint. This extends the deadline for the project until June 30, 2020.

Request: Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the time extension amendment to the grant agreement.

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman's signature on the time extension amendment to the grant agreement.

33. Census FCCCC Grant: On Wednesday, March 11, 2020, the Franklin County Complete Count Committee 2020 Census, working through the county coordinator's office, applied for a grant of \$4,500 from the National League of Cities' Census Rapid Response Grant Program. If received, the funds would be used to expand the capacity of our Census Assistance Centers through the purchase of internet "hot spots," inexpensive laptops, and food for families that come to special events to access the Census questionnaire online. The grant deadline was Friday, March 13, 2020.

Given the national and state declarations of emergency, the Complete Count Committee is awaiting instructions and information from the Census Bureau about going forward with the Census count. If the use of local Centers is discouraged by the Bureau, we will develop a different outreach strategy. We may be able to re-purpose the NLC grant (if received) or we may decline the grant. The Board will be notified of the success of the grant application and any recommendation to accept or deny the grant.

Request: Board action ratifying the grant application submission.

Chairman Lockley returned to the meeting. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the grant application submission.**

Mr. Moron said he received the artificial reef construction grant application from Mr. Grayson Shepard, Apalachicola Artificial Reef Association, that needs the Chairman's signature. He stated Attorney Shuler pointed out that some attachments were not included so he would like the Board to approve the Chairman's signature contingent upon receiving a completed application. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman to sign the application contingent upon receiving a completed grant application.**

Information Item(s)

34. Centric Aviation/Apalachicola Airport Event: Attached (agenda packet) to my report is an email from Ms. Tara Maugham (Centric Aviation) stating that the Ford Tri-Motor's National Tour has been cancelled. As the Board is aware, the Apalachicola Airport was a planned stop for the tour, from March 26 – 29. Ms. Maugham states in her email that all pre-booked flight reservations are being fully refunded.

Commissioner Jones said it will be several weeks until they have another meeting but does Mr. Moron need direction to pursue another way to livestream or do something different with the meeting. Mr. Moron explained Attorney Shuler has a portal for county attorneys and he has a portal for county managers and they are talking about different options that can be used. He reported the key is how to have a meeting and meet the Sunshine regulations. Commissioner Massey left the meeting. Mr. Moron said he is looking at all the options. Attorney Shuler stated he has been checking updates on his phone during the meeting with the county attorneys. He reported some of the county attorneys are interacting with the Attorney General's Office and their office may render an opinion regarding the Open Meeting Laws and

whatever opinion is rendered the Governor is going to accept. Commissioner Massey returned to the meeting. Attorney Shuler said when the opinion is issued he will distribute it to Mr. Moron, the Commissioners and the Clerk. Mr. Moron stated he will come up with a solution based on the opinion. Commissioner Jones reported if there is a change then the Board will have to call a special meeting to approve whatever is going to be done. Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Moron to take into consideration everyone trying to talk at once when he looks at the options because they had the same issue come up to the Consortium Board. He explained they cannot vote on the Consortium items if they are not there in person. He said he understands last week they were looking at how they can have a County Commission meeting and not have the public here but meet the Sunshine Law requirements. Commissioner Parrish stated he does not know if they can do some things under an Emergency Executive Order. He expressed concern that they cannot have everyone talking at once. Mr. Moron discussed the system used on the Clerk's conference calls and said these systems are not cheap especially if you want to add the video. Commissioner Jones pointed out they are under a state of emergency. Commissioner Massey said they will have to sit spaced far apart. Commissioner Parrish asked if this expense would fall under Cat B. Mr. Moron stated he will check with Mrs. Brownell.

County Attorney – Michael Shuler – Report

Attorney Shuler reported last week he sent the Board a copy of a proposed contract between the county and the School Board for the county to provide the limited services to assist the School Board in construction of the emergency escape road. He explained the School Board is in charge of clearing the path and having the debris removed. He stated the path is 24 ft. wide and they will clear 1 mile of the 2 mile escape road. Attorney Shuler reported the School Board has about \$70,000 and they can get about half a mile of limerock down for the money. He said once the path is cleared and the School Board has purchased, delivered and spread the limerock then the Road Department will use the motor grader and clean up the limerock. Attorney Shuler stated in late fall the Division of Forestry will authorize burning in place and the county will take their excavator (which is not operational now) to pick up and drop the debris into an incinerator that will be provided by the School Board. He said the Division of Forestry has estimated for the School Board and the county that the debris that is cleared from the 1 mile long, 24 feet wide path will not exceed 33 tons. Attorney Shuler explained there is already a little trail through the path so approximately 8-10 feet has already been cleared. He stated he was skeptical of the original amount of debris but the Division of Forestry reviewed the site and presented an updated estimate not to exceed 33 tons. Attorney Shuler said Mr. Nabors is comfortable with this agreement. He explained the county personnel and equipment is on an as available basis and the School Board understands and accepts that. Attorney Shuler said the agreement has been sent to Mrs. Barbara Sanders, attorney for the School Board, and she has represented to him that the School Board accepts and agrees with all the terms and conditions in the agreement. He reported embedded within the agreement is to the extent there is any damages, liabilities or injuries the School Board will hold the county harmless which also includes any escaped fires that could occur from the burning of the debris. Attorney Shuler

recommended approval of the contract subject to questions from the Board. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to accept the agreement. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish said the county will not get any inmates for 30-60 days so county staff is now going to have to start working cleaning along the roads around the county. He questioned how they are going to dedicate staff to building this road at this time. Attorney Shuler explained there has been some refinement of the agreement because originally the School Board was asking the county to spread the limerock once it was delivered but now the School Board is paying to have the hauling company spread the limerock. He reported Mr. Nabors had told him that grading the road once the limerock is spread is not labor intensive and may only take a couple of hours. Attorney Shuler reminded the Board the contract is on an as available basis and the School Board understands that. He explained the agreement is as good as they are going to get and it limits the county's involvement and obligation. He pointed out there is also a termination provision so if the county cannot provide the services they can terminate the agreement. Commissioner Massey stated they keep someone steady grading. Commissioner Boldt reported this is good that the county is working with the School Board. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioners' Comments

There were no Commissioners' comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL
EMERGENCY MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
MARCH 21, 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, 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.

Prayer and Pledge

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

Chairman Lockley stated this is an emergency meeting about the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Mr. Moron reported they are trying to follow the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Governor's wishes in reference to social distancing. He asked if anyone has public comments in regard to Item #3 on the Agenda. There was no public comments about Item #3. Mr. Moron suggested they take Item #3 on the Agenda first because it appears public comments are more about the other items. The Board agreed.

David Walker - Weems CEO - Ventilator Purchase

3. Attached is the Quote for the Ventilators we are seeking to purchase for EMS. The total price for the ventilators and accessories is right at \$56,851. Through FEMA COVID-19 Category B Public Assistance Program, we will be reimbursed up to 75% of the cost for the ventilators. With that in mind, FEMA will pay \$42,638 (75%) and we will pay around \$14,213 (25%) after the reimbursement.

Request: Board action to authorize the purchase of the ventilators for EMS at a cost of \$56,851 from the healthcare surtax. Once the FEMA reimbursement is received, it will be deposited into the healthcare surtax.

Mr. Walker said they would like to amend their request to add 2 more ventilators for the hospital. He reported the hospital already has some ventilators but these are available at 30% off and it would be better to have them at the hospital also. Mr. Walker stated they will get 3 ventilators for EMS and 2 ventilators for the hospital. He explained on a statewide level the Department of Health (DOH) covers the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 desk in Tallahassee that monitors the beds at each hospital. He explained if they have a surge capacity here and there are patients needing to be served, the DOH will monitor those beds and if they cannot take care of the patients they will have to ship them out. Mr. Walker said there is also a regional approach that will be distributed as a strategy on how to make the big hospitals work with the rural hospitals because some of the beds in rural hospitals are not full. He stated he was in discussions yesterday with people from Tallahassee and they want him to be on an advisory group to report the concerns of small hospitals. Mr. Walker explained they need the ventilators but they may be making some additional purchases for tents and triage in case it is necessary. He reported for some things they cannot buy now the requests are being routed through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Mr. Walker said they want to be involved and prepared. He stated if additional items are needed later they can submit the requests through the EOC or work with the Florida Hospital Association. Mr. Walker reported to gain traction when they apply for items they need to continue to point out that Franklin County is a geographically isolated county with limited resources. He explained they are trying to get items here before anything happens here. He requested the Board approve this request. Mr. Walker said they are involved in discussions on the statewide level to see how they can have a regional approach to fight this disease. Chairman Lockley asked about other supplies such as gloves. Mr. Walker stated they could not get some items and have requested them through the EOC. He reported he will also let some people in Tallahassee know that they have submitted this request. **Commissioner Massey made a motion for Mr. Walker to purchase the ventilators. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley said he wants the public to know they are just taking these actions in case they are needed. Mr. Walker reported there are no cases in Franklin County or Gulf County. He said they are beginning to test people in the county for the virus. He explained testing will increase statewide and then they will probably see some positive tests. Mr. Walker reported the good thing about the tests is that they will know where the cases are and can isolate the area. Chairman Lockley agreed they need to be prepared. Commissioner Parrish asked if they are requesting 6 ventilators. Mr. Walker replied yes they changed the request from 4 to 6. Commissioner Boldt asked if the company has these ventilators in stock and when they will be received. Mr. Walker reported Mr. Richard "Louie" Lewis, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director, obtained the quote and they will probably have them in stock in about a week but he will double check with Mr. Lewis. Commissioner Boldt said the ventilators have a benefit that is far reaching beyond this crisis and are an excellent investment. Mr. Walker agreed they bought items that they will use beyond this event. Commissioner Boldt reported the items are on sale and the county will receive a 75%

reimbursement. Mr. Walker stated these ventilators are available through a private vendor. Commissioner Boldt inquired if they already have ventilators. Mr. Walker answered yes, they have ventilator support but are not set up like an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Commissioner Boldt requested they modify the motion from 4 to 6 ventilators. **Commissioner Massey amended his motion to purchase 6 ventilators instead of 4. Commissioner Boldt amended the second. Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Walker reported anyone that comes through the Emergency Department that is 65 years of age or older with any serious existing conditions will probably be tested in accordance with the Governor's order because they are being cautious with the elderly population.

Public Comment

Mr. Rex Pennycuff, a business owner in the county, cautioned the Board on the steps they take and the wording they are using. He explained today the Board is taking steps to go beyond what the Governor has done and this will be one of first potential closures they have done. He reminded the Board this is a tourist based economic community and anything they will do to impact businesses and their ability to pay taxes and their employees. He stated many businesses cannot sustain closing for weeks and making sure their employees are paid. Mr. Pennycuff discussed business loans that are available and the impact the closure will have on his business. He expressed concern that the message from government is that they are trying to do a slow curve with a peak in July and if they start today the closing could be potentially for 4-5 months before the peak ends. Mr. Pennycuff stated the purpose is to control the number of patients going to the medical system but many of the medical facilities have closed. He said people are scared but he has to work and trust God will see them through. Mr. Pennycuff stated the Board has to make a decision but there is a solution to quarantine. He expressed concern about the definition of closing the beach and the lack of ease in finding communication from the Board about things that are going on. He stated he has not found one place where they can go to find information and he is receiving calls daily from people who are seeking information.

Ms. Julie Krantz, a resident and business owner on St. George Island, said the unique environment on St. George Island is allowing people to isolate and self-quarantine. She reported the one hot spot on the Island is by the lighthouse and the public beach. She explained in speaking with the other business owners they believe the solution that allows everyone to win is to close that public beach area and that one parking lot to eliminate the day trippers. Ms. Krantz stated this is the only area where people are not staying apart the required distance. She reported if they close the entire beach the unintended consequence will be forcing people to the bike path, the middle of the Island and to the bay which will make it more congested. She informed the Board she walked the beach this morning and people were very far from each other, doing the right thing and following the rules. Ms. Krantz reported people are ordering food and the food delivery service is packed. She stated closing that one area will solve the problem and it will be easy to monitor. Ms. Krantz explained in speaking with the deputies they agree away from the public beach people are in compliance with the

social distancing requirements. She reported if they take this action it will also save all the businesses and keep people employed.

Mr. Michael Sparks, owner of Island Grocery on St. George Island, read quotes from Governor Ron DeSantis. He said the island has plenty of fresh air and space as recommended. He asked if any of the County Commissioners have been to the Island to look at the crowds. He said he only knows of one Commissioner that has visited. He stated the Board needs to do research and be informed before they make drastic decisions. Mr. Sparks said he understands the public beach is crowded and they are not protecting their health. He explained the devastation of sending people home from rental properties. He reference the Surgeon General's report that said fresh air is good for everyone. He stated their grocery truck just came in this morning.

Ms. Beth Brinkley, Resort Vacation Properties on St. George Island, said they are taking precautions with guests and using a drive thru and not allowing guests in their office. She stated they understand this is a difficult decision but timing is important because they have guests on the way. She requested if the Board has to take action they make it effective in a week so the people that are on the way do not think they lied to them because they have been calling all week and asking if the beach is open.

Mrs. Alice Collins, a business owner and resident of St. George Island, said she was here when the first Comprehensive Plan was done and zoning went into effect. She stated she is proud with what the community has done with St. George Island because she was never in favor of heavy density there. She reported they have 22 miles of beach and have ways for people to do best with smaller numbers. Mrs. Collins stated she is concerned about the guests on the way that they cannot stop. She agreed with Mrs. Brinkley that they will think they have lied to them. She said when people call they are telling them they are open as long as the beaches are not closed. Mrs. Collins questioned how they will regulate the closure not only on the beach but also on the bay. She reported closing the public beach at the lighthouse is a smart thing otherwise they need to be sanitizing the facilities there on a regular basis. She stated they are doing extreme measures with their guest properties and cleaning more than normal. Mrs. Collins explained the doors at her office are locked but they are there working and have contacted all their guests there and on the way. She requested the Board give them the extra week if they have to take this action. She encouraged the Board not to go above and beyond what the Governor has done with the public beaches.

Mr. Alex Skovronsky, a citizen of Franklin County, said he visits the beaches regularly but is concerned about public safety. He asked if they have talked with any public health advisors. He reported Weems Memorial Hospital is a very small hospital and he is concerned about people coming in from out of state or other places and bringing the virus with them because it is very contagious. He agreed with giving it a little more time and informing the public and businesses but stated public safety should come first.

Mr. Randy Collins, a resident and property owner on St. George Island, said he agrees with what has been said and that public safety comes first. He questioned what scientific evidence proves that people on the beach 100 ft. apart are a public hazard or susceptible to COVID-10 because he does not think there is any. He reported taking sensible actions like closing the public beach to get the day trippers out for the time being allows the economy to continue. He explained he is not renting his property over the next few months but a lot of people are. Mr. Collins stated if this would affect public health then he would be in favor of it but with their low density on the Island he does not feel like it is a health hazard. He stated the Board would be taking measures above what the state has done.

Ms. Carla Galloway, Beach to Bay Vacation Properties, stated they all agree public safety is first but they are making financial investments and taking extra measures to protect the public health. She stated they talk to each other and work together in hurricanes and during this event to find solutions for their guests. Ms. Galloway reported they are taking steps to protect their guests and employees. She asked the Board if they must take action to give them a week so they have time to notify their guests. She explained she has guests waiting to hear from her and they could still occupy the house but they will want to go to the beach.

Ms. Stacy Burch, a resident of Franklin County, stated she works at Collins Vacation Rentals and people that work on the Island are taking extra precautions and staying apart. She explained the issue is the public beach. She said she does not want the beach to close next week but would like the Board to table this matter and re-evaluate it next week. She reported the big scare is because Bay County and Gulf County have closed their beaches and they are afraid of the influx from these areas. Ms. Burch stated they have limited houses for the visitors to come to. She said the issue is keeping the public beach secure because that will eliminate an influx of people. She asked the Board to table this matter until next week and see what happens.

Mr. Sean Stafford, a homeowner on St. George Island, said the east end of the Island is spread out and they left Tallahassee to avoid the higher densities. He stated that demonstrates the safety of the Island and being out on the beach is good because the virus does not survive very well in the sun and heat. Mr. Stafford reported they appreciate the Board thinking about that and closing just the center of the beach where they have seen more density and larger parties. He stated on the east end towards the state park he does not see the large congregations of people so he hopes the Board would consider that.

Mr. Dan Myers, a business and property owner on St. George Island, agreed the public health is imperative but said closing the public beach is a drastic and terminal decision. He suggested the Sheriff's Office loan a deputy for 4-5 hours a day to patrol the small section of beach to insure people comply with social distancing requirements. He said they should look at this alternative to closing the beach because of the economic ramifications. Mr. Myers stated no one can put a value on what will happen if they close the beach. He reported if they cannot get people on the public beach to comply with social distancing then he is in favor of this.

Michael Morón - County Coordinator - COVID-19 Update

1. Beach Closings: The Sheriff and TDC staff have been monitoring St. George Island beach and reported that beachgoers have been adhering to the Governor's orders not to exceed groups of 10 and maintain a safe distance of at least six feet. However, as of yesterday evening, Gulf County, Bay County, Panama City Beach, and other counties further west have closed their beaches for at least one week. There is a real possibility that our beaches will become inundated with visitors which would create health, safety, and other issues. I recommend closing all county beaches for at least one week, as our neighboring counties have done, and revisit the need to extend the closure on Friday March 27, 2020.

Request: Board discussion and action directing Attorney Shuler to create an Emergency Ordinance closing the beaches that will include penalties for anyone violating the ordinance.

Mr. Moron said the Sheriff and TDC staff are sending daily reports and pictures of what the beach looks like and if the rules are being followed. He explained overall people have been adhering to the rules but the problem is the counties to the west have closed their beaches. He questioned where these people will go and how they can control who comes here for a day trip. Mr. Moron said the Sheriff does a good job but does he have the staff to control it if it becomes like some of the other beaches. He stated they do not have the number of rooms but there is nothing to stop the people who have been partying and being irresponsible at the other beaches from coming here. He reported there are no complaints about the people who are here but the issue is being proactive. Mr. Moron stated they may want to consider closing for a few days to see if they can deter people instead of closing for a week. Mr. Moron explained he gives the worst case scenario and then the Board can decide what to do. He addressed the comment about the lack of information and said the county's website has a banner that includes a link to the Department of Health (DOH) that provides the current information. He said below that banner is a link that has every report and document the county gets from the state and the Health Department. He reported that also has a link to the DOH dashboard. He stated all these items are on the front page of the county's website. Mr. Moron reported someone commented that the Commissioners have not been to the beach but they are getting reports and pictures from him several times a day of what the beach looks like. Mr. Moron explained people are referring to the public beach or the area around the lighthouse but he does not know how they address it if it runs over to other areas. He reported the state park closed this morning indefinitely. Mr. Moron said the St. George Island Plantation will follow the county's lead. He pointed out the county beaches are not just St. George Island. He stated Alligator Point has an influx of people from Tallahassee. He explained the Sheriff has 2-3 deputies assigned at Alligator Point for as long as he can to help control the situation. Mr. Moron stated the Governor has issued many orders and one order allows the Commissioners to appear by telephone but they declined because they felt it was important to be here. He explained this is the last thing they want to do but they have been getting blasted since last week about how irresponsible the county is for not closing the beach. He stated the county will not close the beach until they feel like it is absolutely necessary. He said they are trying to

deter people from coming here except for people that are renting homes. Mr. Moron explained they are trying to find a way to make it safe and that is the purpose of his item on the Agenda. He said when they decide what to do then Attorney Shuler will create the ordinance and the Sheriff must be involved with enforcement. Mr. Moron stated the county is in touch several times a day with the DOH, the Sheriff and Mr. John Solomon, Tourist Development Council (TDC). Mr. Moron said they are working hard to do the right thing and balance public health and the businesses. Attorney Shuler said the other public beaches are Alligator Point and Carrabelle Beach Park. He went on to say the St. George Island public beach is not just the 2,000 ft. mentioned around the lighthouse but is approximately 4 miles wide and runs from 12th Street East to 12th Street West. He explained he had to litigate this issue on behalf of the county about 15 years ago. He stated as the Board is deliberating he wanted to make sure they were aware of this. Chairman Lockley explained they are not here to pick on St. George Island or any other place in the county but their number one job is to see about the public safety for the whole county. He said they know it is a hardship if they close the beach because people have to work but the Commissioners did not create the coronavirus. Chairman Lockley reported the county does not have a case and he hopes they never have one but keeping it open and allowing everyone to come here is making the opportunity better. Commissioner Jones asked the Sheriff to come forward. Sheriff Smith moved to the podium. Commissioner Jones clarified the public beaches are St. George Island, Carrabelle Beach, and Alligator Point, and questioned if they all have consistency in beach access and places to park. Attorney Shuler said they park on the right-of-way at Alligator Point. Commissioner Jones reported it is hard to tell people they are changing things if they are complying but he understands the health issue and was trying to see if they could address it with parking spaces like the parking at the lighthouse, at Carrabelle Beach and at the dune walkovers. He explained then people would just be coming from the houses to the beach. Mr. Moron asked what would stop them from parking on the St. George Island right-of-way. Commissioner Jones reported they could have signs at the dune walkovers. He said he is trying to find a way to make it work and be enforceable. Sheriff Smith stated he will enforce whatever they mandate. He said there is limited parking at all beach accesses across the county. Commissioner Boldt asked the Sheriff to tell them about his manpower and resources as he contemplates having to enforce whatever they do. Sheriff Smith stated they will carry out whatever the Board mandates and if it looks like they cannot do it then he will let them know. He said he will not know what it takes until they decide what they want to do. Commissioner Boldt questioned if there is anything the Sheriff needs to share with them about people disobeying anything or the stress level at his department relative to the virus. Sheriff Smith reported they have had the normal spring break issues of underage drinkers and DUI's. Chairman Lockley stated from what is on television this is going to get worse not better. Commissioner Boldt said he brings a medical background and from the biology standards this virus is nothing to be messing around with. He stated there is a strong need to be careful and uniform in the decision they are making. Commissioner Boldt reported this is dangerous and they have medical people advising the country and state on how to control this issue and they need to be mindful of that in making this decision. Mr. Moron suggested they could close the area for just a few days to get the message out and then the whole week is not lost for people that are renting houses. He stated then they could look at the

issue again and decide if they want to continue or stop. He explained they could review reports from the Sheriff's Department and then make a decision. Chairman Lockley stated the coronavirus started at the beginning of the year and people had time to look at their plans and cancel them. Commissioner Boldt agreed the prudent consumer would be aware of their responsibilities to call their rental site to make sure there has been no change. Chairman Lockley stated this virus is killing people and they cannot play with this. Commissioner Parrish left the meeting at this time. Commissioner Boldt discussed reports about people that are asymptomatic. He pointed out the Board needs to pay attention to direction coming from officials higher up. Commissioner Parrish returned to the meeting. **Commissioner Jones made a motion that they close the parking at the public beach on the Island, set up things to close the parking at the dune walkovers on the Island, close the public parking at Carrabelle Beach and any places on Alligator Point that are not just regular right-of-way and that parking areas be closed and monitored for such time that people are not complying with the CDC guidelines that they can then address it as a Board. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt said he will go along with the motion if they empower the Sheriff to shut the beaches down if the motion is disobeyed. Attorney Shuler reported the County Commission is the Legislative body of the county and they are the only ones that can make this decision. He went on to say that authority cannot be delegated. Commissioner Boldt said he wants to make sure there are proper standards to support the motion. Commissioner Parrish reported the Sheriff has already said he will enforce what the Board decides today and if he has problems he will come back to the Board and they will come back in session to address the issues. He reported the Board works with the Sheriff and has been in contact with him every day. Commissioner Parrish said he also talks to some of the deputies and they have informed him they will be on the Island this weekend monitoring the situation. He stated just because the Commissioners have not been to the Island does not mean they do not have information. He pointed out they have jobs too but stay informed and gather information in a lot of different ways. Commissioner Boldt stated this is a good compromise and they need feedback from the people so they can maintain control and not let this infection in to the people. Chairman Lockley stated he is not going to put a dollar over peoples' lives. He explained people are coming into the county and no one know what they have. Mr. Moron inquired in a week if this is under control would the Board consider amending this action. **Commissioner Jones amended his motion to include until further notice.** Commissioner Massey stated if they get some cases here then it is going to be serious. **Commissioner Parrish amended his second.** Chairman Lockley asked for the motion to be read. Mrs. Hines read the motion for the Board. Chairman Lockley commented they are closing the parking. Commissioner Jones said the idea is that people renting the houses would still be accessing the beach and not people just driving in the county to access the beaches. **The motion passed by the following vote of the Board:**

AYE: JONES, PARRISH, MASSEY, BOLDT

NAY: LOCKLEY

Mr. Moron asked when this is effective. Commissioner Jones answered now.

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

2. April BOCC Meetings: At your March 17th regular meeting there was a discussion on future meetings and a possible Attorney General opinion on local government public meetings. Based on an Attorney General opinion, Governor Desantis issued Executive Order Number 20-69 (attached to agenda packet) on local public meetings. After reviewing the Executive Order, I recommend cancelling the April 7th Board of County Commissioner's regular meeting, the April 1st Board of Adjustment regular meeting, and the April 14th Planning and Zoning meeting. There is not enough time for me to purchase, install, and test the video conferencing software and equipment, and the cost is unknown. You may want to consider what authority, such as bill list payment, administrative, additional purchases for Weems, you will designate to the Chairman and I.

Request: Board discussion and action to cancel the meetings as stated above and the designation of authority to the Chairman and I.

Mr. Moron explained he is not sure if there is money in the budget for the software but it is more involved than just live streaming because it involves video conferencing. He reported there has been a resignation in a county department that is important and he is also going to have to authorize in-house and further advertising of the position. He stated they need to decide about cancelling the meetings and with the county attorney's input who has the authority to do what. Commissioner Boldt asked if they are asking to cancel all meetings through April 21st and the next time they meet would be April 21st. Mr. Moron confirmed that is correct. He said hopefully at that time they can still meet like they are today and have the public present. He reported if not then they will address it when they get closer to that date.

Commissioner Massey made a motion to cancel the Board meetings through April 21st and if they have to have a special meeting they will come back. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Mr. Moron asked if they will also allow for the bill list to be approved until they can ratify it at the next meeting and allow him to do certain administrative issues that relate to filling positions in other departments. He questioned if there is a cap they want to set for additional purchases at Weems Memorial Hospital or if they want these items brought to the Board at another emergency or special meeting.

Sheriff Smith said someone just asked about the people that want to get to the beach through the beach accesses. He questioned if the beach accesses are closed or just closed to parking. The Board responded parking is closed. Attorney Shuler clarified golf carts cannot be parked there either.

Attorney Shuler explained in relation to the Hospital the only restraint on the CEO's ability to purchase necessary equipment and items is a \$50,000 cap. He explained the CEO cannot enter into any contracts in excess of \$50,000 without prior Board approval. He reported the Board has never allowed the CEO to access the capital fund without prior approval of the Board.

Commissioner Parrish stated he is not in favor of tapping into the capital fund for the hospital without a special meeting. He said he wants to know what is going on and does not want money spent and then it comes back to the Board to ratify and he is not in favor of it. Commissioner Parrish explained he does not mind paying the bills since they are not having a regular meeting. He reported he is not worried about the Chairman or Mr. Moron but it is his responsibility to make sure he is doing his duty as an official. He stated if there were something other than that they can call another meeting. Commissioner Parrish said they must pay the bills and very seldom do they have a question because all the bills are legitimate. He reported the Clerk's Office reviews the bills and makes sure they are legitimate before they come to the Board. Commissioner Parrish said if they need something for Weems Memorial Hospital they need to call a meeting. He stated they should put everything from the Planning & Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment off for now. Mr. Moron explained the bill list will be sent to the Board first. Commissioner Parrish asked for the motion to be amended. **Commissioner Massey amended the motion to include payment of the bills but if they need to purchase something for Weems Memorial Hospital they will have another meeting. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked for the chairs to be spaced out for the next meeting. Sheriff Smith questioned what the violation is for the people that illegally park. Commissioner Boldt asked for a recommendation. Sheriff Smith stated at Alligator Point it is \$25 so they will just park and get the ticket. Attorney Shuler said it also can include towing. Sheriff Smith reported some of the time the wreckers will not go to Alligator Point. He suggested a substantial amount because it will take extra resources to police these areas. He said they will do what the Board asks them to do. Chairman Lockley suggested \$500. Sheriff Smith stated that amount sounds good. Clerk Johnson pointed out she must have some authority like a Florida Statute or county ordinance to take a \$500 fine. Mr. Moron said this will be an emergency ordinance. Attorney Shuler said they can do an emergency ordinance. He asked for a copy of what Bay County and Gulf County did when they closed their beaches. Mr. Moron stated they did it by emergency ordinance and he can get a copy. Sheriff Smith reported if anyone violates the Governor's Executive Order it is a first degree misdemeanor. Attorney Shuler agreed they should make it a criminal offense. He said the default provision in the municipal code if they do not specify is a first degree misdemeanor. Attorney Shuler reported they can adopt an ordinance saying no parking in the areas they talked about and the penalty for the violation is a second degree misdemeanor which is up to a \$500 fine and/or 60 days in jail. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Commissioner Jones made a motion to amend the motion he made earlier and adopt an emergency ordinance limiting the parking and imposing the penalty of a 2nd degree misdemeanor and the ordinance is effective immediately upon adoption. Commissioner Parrish amended his second. Chairman Lockley asked how people that are coming into the county will know. Clerk Johnson reported the Sheriff's office will probably not write a ticket the first time but ask the people to disperse. Commissioner Parrish said the parking area will be closed. Attorney Shuler reported the Sheriff can put up his billboard notifying everyone. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioners' Comments

There were no Commissioners' comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS EMERGENCY MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
MARCH 22, 2020
2:00 P.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, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

- 1. Public Notice: Based on CDC and Governor Desantis guidelines regarding COVID-19 proper grouping and spacing to reduce transmission, there may be a restriction on the number of audience members allowed in the commission meeting room.***

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

Prayer and Pledge

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Moron said the Board is here to review the ordinance that passed yesterday restricting parking for beach access. He explained he talked with the Sheriff yesterday and it was challenging. He stated the Sheriff wanted to see what would happen today when he had control of the parking area. He reported hopefully the Sheriff will arrive at the meeting in a few minutes to provide an update. Mr. Moron said the second item is Commissioner Boldt reached out about an emergency meeting to possibly address beach closure for the county.

Public Comments

Ms. Adriane Elliott, Commissioner for the City of Apalachicola, reminded the Board of the Oath of Office she and Commissioners took to uphold and protect public health and safety, protect the rights of constituents and to protect constitutional rights. She reported this is a global world pandemic and they can aid the problem which is coronavirus (COVID-19). Commissioner Elliott stated the hospitals are not equipped to handle this illness. She stated she works in the hospitality industry and is impacted by this but the county is a travel hot spot. She explained people are traveling here from all over because the media is broadcasting that the beaches have not closed. She said the Board is under pressure from shareholders or business owners but now is not the time to put personal profit margins

over the lives of their constituents. She stated she does not think closing the beaches will help but most of the country is on essential travel only. Commissioner Elliot reported they need to assess the possibility that a lockdown is imminent in the state. She discussed the tourists traveling from other areas into the county and community spread of the illness. She said if they act now to secure the public and help the entire country handle the pandemic then they can hinder the recession and save the summer season.

Mr. Walter Armistead, a resident of St. George Island, stated he is a partner in a property management business. He reported the beaches are a huge economic driver for the county and the Governor has taken steps to limit groups to 10 people and close the restaurants to take out only. He reported other counties have shut their beaches but they have high density in those areas. Mr. Armistead said he applauded what the Board did yesterday and he came from the Island today and no one was on the beach. He reported the day trippers the Board was trying to stop have stopped. He asked the Board to pause for a week and see if it works. Mr. Armistead stated if they have to close the beaches then so be it. He explained they have low density and single family houses and those people are supporting the businesses that are trying to stay open. He agreed people are coming from all over the country but said they cannot stop the virus even if they shut down the whole county. He stated there are some people that are going to lose their jobs and they are scared and not going to be in good shape. Mr. Armistead stated what the Board did yesterday was drastic and what the Governor did was drastic but he does not think they need to take it to the next level and shut all the beaches down. Mr. Armistead stated regardless of what they do, he will support it.

Ms. Linda Shepard, a resident of Franklin County, asked if local people could still have access to the parking lot and beach by showing their re-entry tags. She stated they can walk on the beach and still stay 10 ft. from everyone.

Ms. Lula Fuller, a homeowner on St. George Island, said she applauds the Commissioners for their work yesterday because they are in full compliance with federal and state boundaries. She stated her family came here because the Island has natural social distancing. She reported the ultraviolet rays from the sun is what the hospitals and airlines are using to protect the public against the virus. Ms. Fuller reported people have an opportunity on the beaches in the county because they do not have high density. She explained what the county did yesterday was well balanced and took into account science and facts. Ms. Fuller stated it has been less than 24 hours and she asked the Board not to change anything until they see if it works. She thanked the Board and said she sent an email to Commissioner Jones after the meeting because she knows it was a hard decision.

Mr. Sean Stafford, a property owner on St. George Island, agreed yesterday's decision was fact based. He reported today no one was parked at the center of the Island and they need to give it a week to see if it works. He said they brought their family here from Tallahassee for the open space and sun. He stated they believe this is a safer place to be and there is no medical benefit to closing the beaches and forcing people inside. Mr. Stafford said there may be some distinction in what is closed as other counties have had problems trying to determine property lines. He stated this issue is difficult to enforce. He questioned if homeowners from all over the country are allowed to come in to their

homes. Mr. Stafford said it will be very difficult to lock the county down. He reported what the Board did yesterday worked and he asked them not to give in to what they read on social media.

Ms. Danny Itzkovitz, a business owner in Apalachicola, questioned how many people will get infected with the virus in a week. He asked the Board to shut down for the safety of everyone. He discussed all the different people at the beach when he was there and questioned if anyone knows if any of them had the virus. He stated there was a medical emergency on the beach and they do not know if the person had the virus but the first responders and EMS responded. He asked the Board to make a responsible decision for life not the dollar. He said it may be over in a month and asked them to shut it down.

Mr. John Cadriel, owner of The Beach Pit Restaurant on St. George Island, discussed their care and meals they provided after Hurricane Michael. He stated they paid their employees and cooked meals and it was not about the dollar or profit. He explained the community supports their businesses and they need to be there for them. Mr. Cadriel stated the beaches are spread out and clean and it just takes some common sense. He said they need to stick to being a community and taking care of everyone there.

Ms. Julie Krantz, a resident of St. George Island, stated she did a television interview yesterday of their perspective of the Board's vote and she told them they were proud of the Commissioners for measuring the facts and making the right decision that closing the beach will not impact the spread of the virus. She explained they are compliant and the only problem was at the public beach access where there were crowds. She stated if they go to the beach they can see it solved the problem. She said there is a lot of emotion and misleading information has been distributed on social media that caused panic and these people are trying to get the Board to change their decision. Ms. Krantz reported if she thought closing the beach would stop someone from getting the virus then she would be in favor of closing it but there is no factual evidence that it will. She said the majority of people get the virus from being forced to stay inside or closer together. Ms. Krantz stated these people want to close the bridge and not let anyone on the Island except for people that live there permanently. She discussed the amount of employees that depend on St. George Island. Ms. Krantz reported she is getting cancellation requests for August. She explained if they close the beaches they will never be able to reopen them and it will be devastating for months without any benefit.

Ms. Beth Brinkley, Resort Vacation Properties, apologized to the Board for what they have been through and the threats they have received since they made the decision yesterday. She stated they are a united front and here for the safety of their guests but also want their employees to work because they cannot support their families without working.

Mr. Brian Robinson, a homeowner on St. George Island, stated people pressuring the Board are suffering from a lack of correct information. He reported the Board's action yesterday was measured and fact based and in line with the Governors, the Presidents, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute for Health and Allergies. He said they are all concerned about the virus but if they go beyond that today then what they will be asked to do tomorrow. Mr. Robinson explained it is not in the best interest of the public to change. He asked the Board to wait a

day or a week to check if this works and if additional action is necessary to protect the health and welfare of the community then take that action. He explained shutting down people coming into the county is only one half of the risk because when county residents leave the county and come back the county is also equally exposed.

Ms. Brenda Karlin, a resident of St. George Island, stated she applauded the Board's decision yesterday. She asked what closing the beaches really means and said the definition would need to be well defined for people to voluntarily stop. She said their action yesterday was a compromise and people are doing what they were asked to do. Ms. Karlin stated their decision was reasonable and she hopes that is the decision today.

Mrs. Jessica Sparks, a homeowner and business owner on St. George Island, said she supports the decision from yesterday. She stated it is working and they can see the difference already with things being slower. She reported there are hundreds of people here at their homes and if they cannot spread out on the beach then it encourages them into smaller spaces, backyards and the bay. Mrs. Sparks stated the best place for social distancing is the beach. She explained if it is not working then they can evaluate it in 10 days. She said they support yesterday's decision and it is working.

Mr. Michael Sparks, owner of the Island Grocery on St. George Island, stated they are working hard to keep his business supplied. He reported they have been in compliance on the Island. He read a quote from the Governor about beach closures. He said things coming from the CDC have not changed. He stated they did a good job yesterday and the Sheriff's Office was out there making sure the community is safe. Mr. Sparks reported they did a great job and they need to see where this goes. He said there are property owners coming in from all over the country unless they shut the county down. He pointed out Franklin County would be the first county to take that action. He said the Board acted as leaders and made decisions that did not devastate them.

Mr. Alex Krovonsky, a Franklin County resident, stated he is here to express his concerns about keeping the beaches open. He reported according to the World Health Organization (WHO) COVID-19 spreads from person to person contact but they do not know how long the virus can live on surfaces. He stated on March 1st there were only 2 confirmed cases in the state and as of March 15th there were 155 confirmed cases and 4 deaths. He reported today there are 763 confirmed cases. He said that is a 608 person increase and 12 deaths. Mr. Krovonsky stated these facts are given not to scare people but to inform them. He explained this virus is a worldwide pandemic and not bound to any country, state or county. He reported the President said to defeat the virus they must socially isolate and not leave their houses. He said his own wedding has been postponed until next year because of the virus. Mr. Krovonsky asked the Board to close the beaches.

Ms. Karen Kessel, a resident of Apalachicola, said she is concerned about the facts also. She stated Florida needs to shut down and stop it before it get here. She asked the Board to follow CDC recommendations for their health and welfare.

Ms. Stacy Burch, a resident of Franklin County, said she works on St. George Island. She reported the numbers jumped because they just started testing. She stated whether they close the beach or not they still have tourists. She said they are not going to stop people from leaving the county and coming

back with the virus. She reported they cannot stop the homeowners from cancelling the tourists and coming down to stay in their homes because it is safer. Ms. Burch stated their sun and seclusion limit the issues with spreading the disease. She explained the businesses are open and there are other homeowners that rent their homes through Vrbo and Airbnb. Ms. Burch said FedEx and UPS come into the county and deliver each day. She expressed her opinion that closing the beach will not make a difference. She agreed with the Board's decision yesterday and said she also agrees with locals being able to access the beach.

Mr. Grayson Shepard, a resident of Apalachicola, stated Weems Memorial Hospital has 2 ventilators and sometimes people with the virus require a ventilator. He questioned who makes the decision about who gets the ventilators. He referenced a beach party in Miami that occurred and 9 people contracted the virus. He explained on March 3rd in Miami there were no cases and now there are 101 that they tracked back to the beach party. He reported the party was 2 weeks ago and there are still people coming up positive from that party. Mr. Shepard stated the county just had the first week of spring break so chances are the virus is here. He reported they are not showing signs yet but now they want to invite a new crop of spring breakers to come down. He stated everyone else has closed down their beaches but we are inviting them to come down and party as usual. He reported the county does not even have an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and people at the hospital are terrified because they have families at home. He questioned what will happen when the nurses get sick. Mr. Shepard stated Sacred Heart Hospital has 12 rooms and they will be focused on taking care of individuals from their county. He said Tallahassee is already admitting people with the virus. Mr. Shepard stated closing the beaches will not make a big difference but slowing down the spring breakers coming in will. He said if you look at the other counties they shut everything down.

Ms. D.T. Simmons, Florida Department of Health (DOH) in Franklin County, read a letter from Ms. Sarah Hinds, DOH Administrator, about COVID-19, the medical capacity and response in the community, social distancing guidelines and recommendations for visitors.

Ms. Kelly Williams, a resident of Apalachicola, recommended the Board look at the model Monroe County used to close The Keys to all tourism. She reported they stopped all future rentals but allowed people to finish their stays but not extend. She said they need to stop the flow of people into the county but she did not know how they can stop property owners from coming in. Ms. Williams reported staying open is not smart but it is not the beaches but people renting homes and coming here. She stated they need to tell people no and it is not an option.

COVID-19 Update

2. Update and Discussion on the County Beach Parking Lots Closure Emergency Ordinance
3. Reconsideration of a Beach Closure Emergency Ordinance

Commissioner Boldt thanked the Board for having the meeting. Commissioner Jones stated they are making decisions based on facts but things are fluid and changing daily and sometimes hourly. He explained he did some research and the Governor has now set up someone with the DOH that is over all the hospital beds in the state so they are pooling resources for everyone. He explained Weems

Memorial Hospital may not have patients today but could have patients tomorrow if the state sends them here and the public needs to know the county has no say in that. Commissioner Jones said the Governor did shut down state beaches because the state park is no longer open in addition to the other state parks. He pointed out that has changed since yesterday. He stated they are the elected officials and must respond and not take this lightly. Commissioner Jones reported they have to make decisions for everyone. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to close the beaches effective tomorrow until next Friday and they will look at it again.** Attorney Shuler clarified the time of closing. Commissioner Jones said midnight tonight. Attorney Shuler asked what time the Board will meet on Friday. Commissioner Jones said he will make his schedule work whatever time the meeting is just like other times. Commissioner Massey asked if Mr. Moron can get with the Chairman and then the other Commissioners can appear by telephone. Mr. Moron suggested they make the ordinance effective until 7:00 p.m. on Friday so they have time to meet to decide if they will extend it the ordinance or allow it to sunset. Commissioner Massey stated they need to contact the Sheriff about Dog Island because everyone will take their boats and go there to the beach. Attorney Shuler reported Dog Island is included in the ban. Commissioner Massey stated they need to have the Sheriff contact Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) and let them know because people are talking about going there in their boats. Chairman Lockley said they also have people up the river. Sheriff Smith reported they have boats and will check these areas. Attorney Shuler explained the only directions he has is to draft an emergency ordinance to close the beaches and the beaches have a specific definition under Florida law which does not include rivers beds. He said if they are considering the river banks then that is not part of the instructions or included in the motion. He reported unless the Board takes further action he cannot include that in the ordinance. Commissioner Parrish stated the river banks are flooded right now so there is nothing to address. Commissioner Boldt asked if they want to define what people with private property on the beach can do with their property with regard to the ordinance. Commissioner Massey stated all beaches in the county are closed. Mr. Moron said they are speaking about private beaches in front of private property and Florida has a statute about this matter. Attorney Shuler reported the motion said all beaches in Franklin County and did not have an exception for private beaches. He read a proposed ordinance. He explained violation of the ordinance is a criminal 2nd degree misdemeanor and punishable by up to 60 days and/or a \$500 fine. He said the ordinance will sunset on Friday at 7:00 p.m. and the Board can hold another meeting to determine whether to extend the ban. Commissioner Massey stated when this is put on the radio they need to say Dog Island is also closed. Commissioner Boldt asked if they need a motion to adopt the ordinance. Attorney Shuler said specifically if this is in line with Commissioner Jones' intention then they could adopt it for the specific wording. Commissioner Jones agreed the ordinance is good. Chairman Lockley thanked the Board for taking this action. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to adopt the ordinance with the specific wording. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley stated the last epidemic was 1918 and it killed a lot of people and this one has the potential to get bad. Commissioner Massey explained after their action yesterday he thought people would leave but they did not. Commissioner Parrish reported Attorney Shuler did a good job drafting this ordinance and incorporating what they did yesterday and today. Commissioner Parrish said Facebook will not die down because they will blast the Commissioners for the decisions they made yesterday and the decisions today but the Board did what they thought they needed to do. Commissioner Parrish reported there is a lot of panic out there and they do not know what the future holds but they are making the best decisions they can today. He stated Mr. Moron will call them if they need to meet again. Commissioner Massey said the Sheriff's Office is trying to handle this and working hard but cannot hold up to this. Sheriff Smith agreed they

are working hard. Commissioner Massey stated they will need to stop the old Carrabelle Beach area as well. Sheriff Smith said they may need more barricades but Mr. Fonda Davis, Solid Waste Director, has been good about helping with these items. Commissioner Massey commented he appreciates what they have done because they have done a good job. Chairman Lockley said they may need a motion for Mr. Davis to help the Sheriff. He stated the Sheriff and Mr. Davis are doing a good job.

Commissioner Boldt reported yesterday they did the best they could at the time with what they knew and they developed a customized ordinance. He stated because of what they are seeing today and the science they have they are trying to mitigate it in a consistent way using standards of practice from the federal government, the CDC and the local health department. He encouraged everyone to be on standby as they may need to come back again. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Moron reported if he can get the system worked out this will be the last meeting in this manner with everyone in the room. He explained he is looking for software that allows a teleconference. He said at the meeting on Friday if the software is in place the only people in the room will be him, Chairman Lockley, Attorney Shuler, Clerk Johnson and her staff. He reported everyone else and the public will have to call in. Mr. Moron said everyone will be able to hear and he will make sure there is a way to control public comments so only one person talks at a time. He stated he talked with Mrs. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Department and hopefully FEMA will reimburse the county 75% of the cost of this software. He explained when meetings are advertised people will need to look for the teleconference number and this is the way they will participate until further notice. Chairman Lockley asked Mr. Moron to update his phone number on the county website because the old number is showing. Commissioner Massey stated his number needs to be updated too. Chairman Lockley recognized Mrs. Alice Collins, Collins Vacation Rentals, but said they do not normally let someone speak at this time in the meeting. Mrs. Collins said she did not speak earlier but the Board knows where she stands. She asked for clarification on the closure because yesterday the beaches on St. George Island were identified as the St. George Island gulf beaches area which runs from the Plantation to 11th Street on the east end but it did not include properties on the east end nor in the Plantation because those properties are deeded to the mean high tide line to individual owners. She asked for Attorney Shuler to comment. Attorney Shuler stated the ordinance will ban public gatherings on all beaches. He reported a beach on someone's property would be captured in this ordinance. Mrs. Collins asked about families who own the homes using the beach. Attorney Shuler explained they are not telling people they cannot use their property but they cannot bring the public to their beach. Mrs. Collins inquired about people who rent homes that have beaches included in the property. Attorney Shuler commented the Board has not taken action in the ordinance to close down vacation rentals. He reported if someone is renting a house they still have the right to go down to that private beach. Mrs. Collins said they just wanted it clarified because they do not want to do something they are not supposed to do. She explained they already have agreements with their guests that limit the amount of people that can be on the property at any time. She reported they have changed their policies and procedures for things that happen with their guests. Attorney Shuler informed the Board there are some Florida jurisdictions that are prohibiting on a temporary basis and closing hotel, motel and vacation rental properties to everyone other than essential personnel. He stated other jurisdictions are invoking that emergency authority and he wanted the Board to understand they also have that authority if they find it necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Chairman Lockley thanked the representatives from the City Commission and the School Board for being present.

Commissioner Massey asked for them to address what happened with EMS services on St. George Island yesterday. Mr. Moron stated he would prefer for Mr. Richard Louie Lewis, EMS Director, to speak on this issue. Mr. Lewis reported there were rumors going around that all first responders

including EMS were stopped from responding to St. George Island and that is not true and they are responding at all times. He stated for now and for the duration they will be respond to whoever calls 911. Commissioner Boldt asked if the first responders at St. George Island are viable and active or did they resign. Mr. Lewis said that is a question for the fire chief. He explained he has encouraged any first responders that are high risk to limit their response to basic calls and only respond to the calls that are absolutely necessary. He reported at the moment they do not have enough personal protection equipment (PPE) for everyone. He reported he is working with the Health Department on this matter. The Board thanked Mr. Lewis for his work.

Commissioners' Comments

There were no Commissioners' comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts