

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

**APRIL 30, 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.

- 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**

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Payment of County Bills**

2. Ratify Payment of April 21st Bill List

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify payment of the April 21, 2020 county bill list.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

3. Approval of March 3rd Regular Meeting Minutes
4. Approval of March 9th Special Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of March 17th Regular Meeting Minutes
6. Approval of March 21st Emergency Meeting Minutes
7. Approval of March 22nd Emergency Meeting Minutes
8. Approval of March 27th Special Meeting Minutes

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meetings held on March 3, 2020, March 9, 2020, March 17, 2020, March 21, 2020, March 22, 2020 and March 27, 2020.**

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

Ms. Shields stated they are glad to have Mrs. Carmichael back in the office. She reported they are continuing to see patients Monday-Friday but have scaled back their hours from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to see patients in the office. She informed the Board they are offering telehealth visits on Monday-Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. She reported they are only using telehealth for certain types of visits and explained the process for these visits. Ms. Shields said PanCare opened a testing site in Eastpoint on April 15<sup>th</sup> and they are working with PanCare during the pandemic to provide greater opportunities for testing. She reported North Florida Medical Center donated most of their test kits from their offices to PanCare. She explained the idea is to have people suspected of having COVID-19 go to the testing site instead of the medical facilities in the county. Ms. Shields reported they are acting as a drop off site for all tests performed at PanCare. She stated all of their patients are screened with the COVID-19 questionnaire based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. She reported if their patient meets the criteria their provider will issue an order for testing at a nearby testing center. She stated if they do not meet the criteria then they are treated as a regular sick visit. Ms. Shields reported they are taking all precautions to keep the patients and their staff safe and listed the precautions they are taking at their facility. She explained if the person meets the criteria for being testing they have the person remain in their car and staff goes to the car in full personal protective equipment (PPE) to perform the test. Ms. Shields stated Eastpoint Medical Center notifies the Franklin County Health Department when a patient is being tested and if the test is positive they submit a form to the Department of Health for their tracking system. She said as of today they have tested 5 individuals at their facility and referred 6 to testing centers and all of the tests were negative. She stated their testing has decreased and they feel it is due to the testing center opening in Eastpoint. Ms. Shields reported in the first quarter of 2020 they have seen 1,145 patients ranging in age from newborn to 88 years of age. Ms. Shields stated they are still accepting new patients and have limited the types of visits they are scheduling. She explained routine exams have been moved to the summer months. She said they continue to accept applications for the slide fee program which is offered to all patients and must be renewed annually. Ms. Shields explained how the

slide fee program works and said it is governed by federal guidelines. She reported there are about 500 patients on the slide fee program which is approximately 35% of their total patient volume. Mrs. Carmichael offered to answer any questions and thanked Ms. Shields for attending the meeting. She explained the sliding fee program is based on income and is for the visit and any other tests that are performed in the office. She reported at the end of last year they had a contract with Buy Rite and if someone is on their slide fee program they are given a number which also qualifies them for a sliding fee for medications. She stated they also have some other resources available for free items that are given to Eastpoint Medical Center and provided to the citizens. Mrs. Carmichael said they have a contract with Quest so if the patient has bloodwork at their office Eastpoint Medical pays for it. She explained anything she needs to take care of the patients including lab work is taken care of in the office. Commissioner Jones stated it is good to see Mrs. Carmichael doing better. Mrs. Carmichael said the community supported her while she was sick and prayed for her. Commissioner Boldt inquired about the telehealth and asked if they will be expanding to other medical specialties. Mrs. Carmichael answered yes and said one of the issues were patients were not able to see the specialists they were referred to but they are calling and using telehealth to accomplish this. Mrs. Carmichael said sometimes they are able at their facility to do a required test and send it to the specialist so they can still treat the patient. She explained the process of the telehealth visits. Commissioner Boldt asked if they have samples of medications that drug representatives provide to them that they are able to start patients on. Mrs. Carmichael responded yes, but the issue now is the representatives are not allowed in the office so they are mailing items and they log an inventory of items they receive. She explained this is a good way for patients to try a medication and see if it works before they pay for the medication. Mrs. Carmichael reported they also have an outreach social worker that helps connect diabetic patients with companies that make the medicine and sometimes they can get their medicine free for a year. She explained the patients may have to prove income but they have medication assistance programs for a lot of medications. She reported the Health Department has a wonderful insulin program. She described this program and said the insulin is mailed to the patient's home. Commissioner Boldt referenced the federal dollars coming to the facility and questioned if they are getting more of these dollars applied to people here. Chairman Lockley said people here need to know about the programs. Mrs. Carmichael agreed advertising is the key. She said it is disappointing when someone has not tried to seek medical care and they do need to know the programs that are available. Chairman Lockley stated people need to know they can get help at their facility if they qualify. He asked if people have to pay that are on the sliding scale and are referred to a specialist. Mrs. Carmichael stated it depends on the situation. She explained Weems Memorial Hospital has a program where they can have testing done if they qualify for the program. She explained she gives a form with the order to the patient and they complete the paperwork and take it to Weems for the test. She explained she also sends patients to the Florida Cancer Centers for treatment. She pointed out some diagnosis are automatically covered under disability and that takes care of the medical bills. Commissioner Boldt discussed the bonding of the Health Department, Weems Memorial Hospital and Eastpoint Medical Center, their resources and the continuing effort going forward with this pandemic. Mrs. Carmichael said Franklin County has a mix of people and incomes so they have to pool their

resources. She stated this is her home and she is part of the community and will try to take good care of everyone. Chairman Lockley asked that they advertise in the newspaper and on the radio about what is available at their facility. Ms. Shields stated she will speak with the corporate office today about advertising so people understand everything they offer.

Mr. Moron stated Mr. Pierce was scheduled on the Agenda next but the Board may want to continue with their health updates.

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

Ms. Hinds reported as of yesterday there are 33,193 cases in Florida and 2 in Franklin County and 1 in Gulf County. She stated from a recovery standpoint the cases in Franklin County are no longer infectious or in isolation. She discussed the new recovery plan that was released yesterday from the Governor. Ms. Hinds said the state Surgeon General continues to work on a variety of projects to insure testing capabilities with expanded lab capacity throughout the state protecting the elderly and vulnerable places such as nursing homes and assisted living facilities. She reported they work closely with St. James Bay. Ms. Hinds acknowledged the great work Weems Memorial Hospital has been doing during this response and said they have always been a great partner to work with during emergency situations. She reported Weems came up with a plan for an Alternate Care Site quickly and ordered supplies if they have a surge of COVID-19 cases. She stated the percentage of cases continues to decline and that is a trend they want to see. Ms. Hinds explained how this percentage is determined through testing. She said the percentage is around 5% now which is good and trending down. She said she is working with Mr. David Walker, CEO at Weems Memorial Hospital, on a project for expansion of testing that goes beyond the CDC criteria. She explained health care partners are doing this and PanCare has expanded their criteria for testing. She reported PanCare received their money from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as well as donations for this project. She read the criteria and said they are trying to expand testing specifically in rural counties. Ms. Hinds reported they are looking at a new analysis by Harvard researchers that shows testing benchmarks and what each state needs to accomplish in testing for safe reopening. She stated Florida has a goal of reaching almost 16,000 test per day and they are getting close. She explained they are looking at some testing benchmarks for the local area and the goal is 2% of the population or 8 tests per day (247 monthly) for Franklin County. Ms. Hinds said they are working with Weems Memorial Hospital, their healthcare partners and PanCare to reach these numbers. She explained once they are consistently hitting this state testing numbers and the positivity percentage remains below 10% that will help drive policy efforts to safely reopen communities back to normalcy. Ms. Hinds said this is what the state is looking at when making the determination of when to open back up safely. She stated they are working together on big plans for testing and they will advertise the testing. Chairman Lockley reported the Board has to decide to open and close and everyone complains that they need more testing. He stated according to the daily report there have been less than 100 tests and he asked if that is enough information to make a decision. Ms. Hinds reported they should look at the research that is coming out and what it will take to safely reopen. Commissioner Parrish

stated according to the news PanCare is going to start doing the antibody test which tells if the person has been exposed to or had COVID-19 in the past. Ms. Hinds read a section about the antibody blood test and said it will show if the person had a previous infection with the virus. She explained the test is not intended to identify active COVID-19 cases. She reported this test is used to reveal when someone has been exposed to the virus and made antibodies against the virus. Ms. Hinds explained the antibodies usually show up 1-3 weeks after infection and some people take longer to develop antibodies or may not develop antibodies. Ms. Hinds said some antibody tests can pick up other viruses due to cross reactivity so they can give false positives from other viruses not specific to COVID-19. She stated the Department of Health is working with state leadership to develop an antibody test based on the specificity to COVID-19. She said more information about the availability of those tests will be announced at a later time. Ms. Hinds reported it is still unclear if COVID antibodies can make you immune to the virus. She explained to reduce the chance of someone reentering the community still contagious they recommend doing both the antibody test and the test for active COVID-19. Mr. Walker reported different companies make the antibody tests and they have to see which one has the highest level of accuracy. He said at the hospital they are looking at what tests they can do in house. He stated they have to be careful what tests they use because some of the antibody tests give bad results. Mr. Walker reported everyone will hear a lot about antibody tests but they have to make sure it is the right test that is proven from their health care personnel on a statewide level. Ms. Hinds stated it is taking longer for the test because they want to do the research and have a test that is specific to COVID-19 antibodies. She said people should ask their health care provider about the test that is being provided to them. Commissioner Massey stated the person with the virus at Alligator Point has left the county. Commissioner Boldt asked if the numbers change if a person leaves the area. Ms. Hinds replied no, the case counts for recovery but still counts as a non-resident case for the county. Mr. Moron questioned why there is not a number of current positive cases in the county. Ms. Hinds said it is easier to do in small counties but may not be the case when they are doing contact tracing in larger areas. She stated the Bureau of Epidemiology at the state level is working with other states to come up with more standardized recovery measures. She said they will continue testing and if they get another positive case they will do the same thing and start contact tracing. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to direct staff to write PanCare thanking them for their continued assistance in coming into Franklin County and doing this testing when they were not actually required to do the tests.** He said it is good that they are here trying to help the county. **Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Mr. Moron said the Board has not taken public comment so they do not need a motion and can just direct him to write the letter. Commissioner Parrish said he would like to direct county staff to write the letter because he appreciates PanCare's continued assistance.

#### **Weems Memorial - David Walker (CEO) - Update**

Mr. Walker said it is good that all the healthcare partners are here and COVID-19 pushed them to coordinate better on this level. He stated Weems Memorial Hospital is a major healthcare organization in the county and should do more to pull the healthcare providers together to

meet the needs in the county. Mr. Walker said in response to COVID-19 the hospital staff, clinic staff and EMS staff have been working hard and getting the job done. He explained when he mentions the hospital he means the whole system of care which is the hospital, two clinics and EMS. Mr. Walker reported their PPE situation is better now and the community has made numerous donations to them. He acknowledged the restaurants and businesses and stated he has a long list of people to thank that have supported them during this pandemic. He reported everyone has been hearing a lot about telehealth and it is critical for rural areas. He explained they are working to bring telehealth into the clinics and utilize EMS for teletriage. Mr. Walker explained they will start a community telemedicine program and described how that will work with EMS visiting the patient's homes. Mr. Walker stated the residents here live in a geographically isolated rural community with a high rate of underlying medical conditions, a high rate of poverty, a large elderly population and low access to care so they have to find different ways to provide services. He reported people have called from all over the state and nationally wanting to know what they could do to help. He said Florida State College of Medicine, Texas A & M University, Florida Hospital Association, and the Florida DOH have contacted him. He explained a letter needs to be sent to the State Rural Health Office and the Surgeon General thanking them for the services they provide to support them in this pandemic. Mr. Walker advised the Board when people ask what is needed he responds they want to make sure Franklin County is not forgotten. He reported a CBS News reporter called him about critical access hospitals because they had done a story about critical access hospitals closing. He stated the reporter wanted to know how the hospital was doing with COVID-19. He said he reported the numbers went down financially but the numbers are rebounding a little but the hospital has great support from the county and that is why this hospital is different. Mr. Walker stated this is important and the reporter is in contact every couple of weeks. He said they inquired if they have enough PPE and they want to make sure critical access hospitals are not forgotten during this global pandemic. He reported The Tallahassee Democrat also called about doing a story about critical access hospitals in rural areas. He stated News Channel 13 interviewed Mr. John Solomon and him about the donation to the hospital. Mr. Walker explained the Florida Hospital Association has consistently reached out to see if they need anything. He reported Senator Lorraine Ausley also contacted him to see if they needed anything and sent him a great article on rural hospitals which he will provide to Mr. Moron to share with the Commissioners. Mr. Walker reported people are reaching out and the hospital needs to leverage the resources. He explained if the hospital can partner with other healthcare partners then the county can be made whole. He stated rural hospitals have been pushed aside for years in the health care industry and with the COVID-19 pandemic it has pushed people to realize they need more investment in their local communities. He said there are a lot of federal dollars available and they want to know what is coming here. Mr. Walker said Texas A & M linked them with a national financial firm that went through all the bills in the U.S. Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and identified which allocations were for rural hospitals. He stated the Florida Hospital Association did the same thing. He said it is important to build relationships and be involved in these discussions. Mr. Walker reported their staff is on the front lines and providing services and everywhere they go people are thanking them for providing that service. He stated before the pandemic sometimes the

staff heard negative comments but they still took care of the people of Franklin County. He said when the tourists come back the population can double. He stated they have reached out to the St. James Health & Rehabilitative Center and they do not have any cases but they will support them if they have cases. He reported Mrs. Courtney Alford, Director of Nursing at Weems Memorial Hospital, and the Health Department have been in contact with them as well. He explained they must work together to build the services in the county. Mr. Walker said the President from the Gulf Coast State College donated supplies and talked about building a relationship with the college which is important. He stated Florida A & M University also reached out to the hospital. Mr. Walker pointed out when the Governor released Florida's Plan against COVID-19 it was to protect the vulnerable, increase testing, promote social distancing, support hospitals and protect healthcare workers. He stated the Governor kept mentioning hospital beds.

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

Sheriff Smith inquired which item the Board wanted to discuss. Mr. Moron stated after public comments the first item on his report will be partial opening of the beaches. He explained they will follow closely to what Gulf County and Bay County did with opening the beach for 3 hours (6:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.) in the morning and 3 hours (5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.) in the evening. Mr. Moron asked if the Sheriff can enforce that. Sheriff Smith said they will do whatever the Board needs them to do and try their hardest to accomplish it. He explained with a limited number of resources it is hard and they have been putting in extra hours. Sheriff Smith reported they have been busy with the beach closure and vacation rental houses. He said it will take some overtime money and he will probably be back asking for money. He explained there is no money to do the things the state is telling them to do. Sheriff Smith stated they called Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) about opening beauty shops and they said it was up to the local authority so if they are only handling one person at a time they can do it. He reported people want to get back to the beach and if they do it with social distancing he thinks it will be fine. Sheriff Smith pointed out the state of California is closing their beaches again because people did not do what they were supposed to do. Sheriff Smith stated a lot of people from Georgia are upset and called about the Ordinance that was adopted and identified Georgia as an area of substantial community spread. He said if Georgia is removed from the ordinance then they will see a lot of people come here from Georgia. Commissioner Jones reported this information came from a Department of Health (DOH) email. He explained in reviewing the Governor's Executive Orders that apply he spelled out in his order the tristate area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, Louisiana and other areas of wide spread. Commissioner Jones stated there is also a statement in the Governor's orders that no one needs to exceed what he put in his order. He stated he feels like this was added in error and the Board probably needs to address labeling Georgia as one of the states because the Governor never did. Commissioner Jones said the Governor in his Executive Order also said with the quarantine it is 14 days or the duration of their stay whichever is shorter. He stated this creates a difficult situation with the Sheriff's Department and people have told him they are being told 14 days. Sheriff Smith said there have been so many executive orders coming

out it has been hard to keep up and it is confusing for the people enforcing it and the people living it. Commissioner Jones thanked the Sheriff and his staff for everything they have done to keep them safe. He stated there have only been 2 cases and some of that is attributed to the work they have done. Sheriff Smith said they have written 3-4 tickets for people going to the beach and have had hundreds of complaints about out of state tags. Chairman Lockley said the problem is people are scared. He stated the Sheriff's Department is doing a good job and they need to keep doing the best they can to keep everyone safe. Commissioner Parrish read a list of items allowable under the Cares Act including the DOJ Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant. He questioned if they have considered applying for reimbursement under this Act. Sheriff Smith said they can look into it. Commissioner Parrish explained it may be better to go through the Cares Act because it takes so long with FEMA. Mrs. Griffith reported they received an email from the Emergency Management Department gathering cost information. She explained this email was sent to different departments asking what they had spent on PPE, overtime and other items. Sheriff Smith agreed he will check with Mrs. Ginger Coulter about this matter. Commissioner Parrish said he may not be able to wait for the additional he will need but this process will be faster than FEMA. He explained FEMA pays 75% and the county has to pay 25% but this grant does not require a match. He pointed out the FEMA funds are being used for a lot of different things and the county has not been reimbursed yet for Hurricane Michael. He explained it may be years before the county recoups their money. Commissioner Parrish stated Langston Consultants sent this information about the grant to the Board. Chairman Lockley said they do not want the Sheriff to hold back on the cost because they told him to do this. Commissioner Massey inquired if Mr. Chris Doolan has called because he is trying to help. Mr. Moron responded no but said he will contact him. Commissioner Boldt questioned if the Florida Highway Patrol is helping. Sheriff Smith said they will come here if there is a bad wreck but there is not an officer that lives here. Commissioner Parrish discussed the Executive Order in relation to the Florida Highway Patrol, the Sheriff's Department and checkpoints. Sheriff Smith said the big issue is Georgia because that is where the majority of people are coming from. He reported there were areas like Atlanta and Albany that were areas of community spread so he did not think it was odd to include Georgia. Sheriff Smith stated if they change it they will probably be okay because there are not a lot of people coming in from New York and states up north. He explained Dade County, Broward County and Palm Beach County will be doing something separate from the other counties according to the Governor's Order. Commissioner Boldt said the checkpoints are discussed on Page 4, Section D of the Governor's Order and it compliments what the Sheriff was trying to do. Sheriff Smith explained they have taken a hard stance because they want people here to be safe. He said they take this seriously since it is a pandemic and they are in a state of emergency. Sheriff Smith stated they will carry out the mandates of the Board. Commissioner Boldt said there is good evidence to support these actions. He stated it makes sense to preserve the resources in Franklin County on behalf of the people that have paid for them. Chairman Lockley said in some areas people did not follow the guidelines so there must be some control. Sheriff Smith reported he is happy they have not had any cases at the jail. He stated there are a lot of cases in counties around Franklin County but we have been fortunate. He said the Board has been forward in handling this matter and the Sheriff's Department, Health Department and Hospital have been working



hard to keep the virus away. Sheriff Smith stated they will enforce whatever the Board decides to do. He said hopefully people will take personal responsibility and do what is right. He reported the vacation rentals will go on for a while and they have spent a lot of time on this issue but he has another strategy they are going to implement today. Sheriff Smith thanked the Board for their support.

### **RESTORE Coordinator - Alan Pierce - Update**

Mr. Pierce read his report, as follows:

1- I have completed and submitted a Consortium application for \$5M to fund the dredging of Two Mile and Eastpoint Channels. I had initially recommended the ARPC complete the application but after several meetings with the Corps and phone calls with Consortium staff I came to conclusion that it would be faster for me to complete the Consortium application. If I didn't do the application I was going to be in the middle of it anyway because I would be the contact between the Corps and the ARPC so I decided just to do the application myself. I informed the ARPC of this and they were not disappointed. Right now they have plenty to do. I have provided the Clerk's Office with an electronic copy of the application.

The application was submitted to the Consortium on April 15. Mr. Dan Duarte, Consortium staff, has reviewed the application and says it appears to be complete and looks good. The deadline for turning in applications to the Consortium is May 15 so I was a month early, but I wanted to make sure the application was complete. The next Consortium meeting is June 10, and it is my expectation Mr. Duarte will recommend our application be approved and sent to the Gulf Council for final approval and funding.

Approval from the Gulf Council could occur in August/September, which is about the time the Corps says they would start dredging the Eastpoint Channel. Once the Council approves our application then funds would be available to pay the Corps. At this time, the Corps is going through its own internal process to authorize the acceptance of our funds. Believe it or not, the Corps has to tell Congress that it is receiving non-federal funds to complete a project. I have provided the Clerk's Office with a copy of the letter signed by Chairman Lockley, and approved by Michael Shuler, asking the Corps to negotiate with us for the receipt of \$5M. I presented a draft of this letter at a Board meeting in March and it was approved contingent upon Mr. Shuler's review.

I have been informed by Corps staff in Mobile that it will probably take 60-90 days for their headquarters to authorize the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Corps and Franklin County for the receipt of our funds. At this time, it looks like the Gulf Council approving our \$5M application and the Corps concluding the negotiations to accept our \$5M will occur within a reasonably close time frame so I do not expect the county will need to find short-term temporary financing. In the event such financing is necessary, the Ms. Griffith, Clerk Finance Officer, has found very favorable funding from the Florida League of Cities.

Mr. Pierce said he does not expect to report on this project again until after June 10<sup>th</sup>. He stated if Mr. Duarte gives him any indication he is going to do anything he will let the Board know.

2- I was contacted by TRIUMPH staff about a week ago and was told that TRIUMPH staff thought there was an opportunity to get the back-up generator and fuel farm at the airport approved and funded. As the Board may recall, in July 2019 the Board submitted a TRIUMPH application for \$1M for the purchase and installation of a back-up generator and new fuel farm. Back in July, TRIUMPH staff had then thought they could fund our project under a response to Hurricane Michael as we had provided documentation of the airport being used as a regional recovery center for Hurricane Michael. Ultimately, the TRIUMPH Board did not consider our application as they provided financial relief to impacted counties in another way.

I am not sure exactly what has caused the TRIUMPH staff to re-visit our application, but I took advantage of the interest and responded to the questions asked by TRIUMPH staff. I was not asked to submit a new application, but I was asked to update the budget form, and provide some additional information. The budget request to TRIUMPH stayed the same at \$1.084M, with the county providing a \$25K cash match which would come out of airport funds. I have consulted with the Finance Office and funds are available. TRIUMPH staff had asked for a cash match.

The significant difference now as opposed to July 2019 is that TRIUMPH staff has contacted FDOT and TRIUMPH staff is now willing to consider the improvements FDOT is funding at the airport as additional matching funds. Based upon the FDOT 5 year work plan, there will be some \$3M worth of capital improvements at the airport. TRIUMPH staff will use those improvements as proof of leverage so that the TRIUMPH Board will realize other agencies are funding the airport. The other major change from TRIUMPH is that at this time there has been no discussion of claw-back or a requirement to create a fixed number of jobs.

Mr. Pierce said he will call in to the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and he thinks there will be some claw-back standards based on DOT providing the money. He stated this is in the 5 year DOT plan and DOT has the money. He explained he will review the details and the Board will have to sign an agreement with Triumph.

At this time, the county's TRIUMPH application has been placed on the TRIUMPH Board agenda for the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, which is today starting at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be a telephone meeting and I have been asked to participate so I believe TRIUMPH intends to approve our application. I will inform the Board of the outcome as soon as I know something.

3- Inform the Board that part of the COVID-19 response from the federal government is to provide funds to airports. The funding ratio is being done on an internal formula created by the FAA. I understand that Franklin County will receive some \$30K for expenses associated with keeping our airport open, but the terms coming from the FAA are fluid and still evolving. At this time, Centric, our fixed base operator, is still keeping some staff employed and are still mowing the airport grounds, even though there are

almost no revenue. Centric has paid April's rent of \$5K, but I have advised them that I was going to consult with the Board regarding rent for May and future months. It is my position that Centric is providing a service to us at their expense by keeping the airport open and functioning, and they should not have to pay their rent while the economy is shut down. I will ask the Board to consider this later in May if the economy continues to suffer.

4- Update on Alligator Drive repairs- At this time the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being done by FEMA personnel. I have been advised by FEMA personnel that they have received congressional inquiries as to what is going on. FEMA did not advise which federal legislator contacted them, but as the Board is aware our US Senators and US Representative received a letter from the Board asking for help with FEMA. At a conference call last week with Ms. Brownell's staff at the EOC, FEMA did estimate the SEA will be completed by August, 2020. They thought the obligation of funds would take place fairly quickly, but no timeline was provided. Short of litigation against FEMA, which I do not recommend, I do not know what else to do to move the project along.

In addition, the Board needs to be aware the county Road Department continues to expend funds in the maintenance of the road. The Road Dept. budget will be under tremendous pressure this year as it is clear to me and to the Finance Office that the revenue projections for this year's budget are not going to materialize. The Road Dept. is funded through state revenue sharing of state imposed gas taxes, and with the effect the quarantining has had on travel the state will not be receiving or distributing the expected revenues through the year. The Board should probably review the need to move forward with all capital expenditures in the Road Dept. budget, as well as ask the Road Dept. to document maintenance costs associated with Alligator Drive. Through a Board action funds from the Bald Point Trust Fund could be used to replace materials purchased out of the Road Dept. materials budget and used on Alligator Drive. The Board has never done this, but the costs associated with the maintenance of Alligator Drive this year could be affecting the Road Dept.'s ability to perform general maintenance around the county. I have said this before but I will say it again, the costs associated with maintaining Alligator Drive in its current location and condition are extra-ordinary and unique to that road. I realize that by using the Bald Point Trust fund as a source of maintenance funds for the road means that the Trust Fund will be depleted unless the Board develops a revenue source to put funds back into the Trust Fund. Hopefully the FEMA approved repairs will limit future efforts by the Road Dept., but until those FEMA approved repairs are made Alligator Drive is the single most expensive road maintained by the county. I am making my report before public comment so I understand the Board can act now, but I ask that later you direct the Road Dept. to summarize the cost of the materials used on repairing Alligator Drive, and then consider moving funds from Bald Point Trust Fund to reimburse the materials budget for the Road Dept.

Mr. Pierce reported there is approximately \$150,000 in the Bald Point Trust Fund and another \$150,000 in reimbursement waiting for FEMA to approve. He stated they need to reimburse the Road Department approximately \$30,000-\$40,000 for work on the road.

5- HMGP applications- I am writing this item without fully consulting with Ms. Brownell, so she might have a slightly different take on things, but at this time this is what I believe to be happening with HMGP funds.

HMGP funds are Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds that can be used for a variety of activities, all of which must be listed on the county's Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). I have been involved with the development of HMGP applications to purchase property on Alligator Point. While the county has submitted some 30 parcels on Alligator Point for purchase through HMGP, the approval process at the state has gotten bogged down somewhere. At this time I am focusing on the purchase of the Alligator Point Volunteer Fire Department property as it is critical to maintaining the road at the west end of the washout. Hopefully, the state will fund all of the parcels from people who want to sell, but I have requested the Fire Department be the first acquisition we complete. At this time there should not be any expense to the county. While FCMC did the basic application, and I submitted it on behalf of the county, Ms. Brownell's consultant, Traci Buzbee (The Management Consultant), will be the point of contact for the closing of these grants.

Ms. Brownell, through Ms. Buzbee, is completing several HMGP applications for the purchase of emergency generators at facilities around the county. These applications usually have a match requirement but it appears that a specific CDBG program authorized because of Hurricane Michael can be used as the match. I am presuming Ms. Brownell will keep the Board informed as the applications work through the system, but the Board needs to be aware that HGMP funds are usually very slow in getting approved. I would not be surprised if Ms. Brownell does not hear about the generators until 2021.

The City of Apalachicola is also going to make an HMGP request for things the City needs, but the City will be responsible for any and all grant requirements including any matching fund requirements.

Mr. Pierce said at some point the Chairman will be asked to sign a letter of support for the City of Apalachicola and there is money out there that the county will not use so if the City wants to apply and has the match that is fine. He explained his understanding is their request would be to improve their sewer reliability and purchase a backup generator for the sewer system.

6- Remind the Board that bids for FDOT funded improvements at the airport are scheduled to be opened at the May 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. I understand from Mr. Moron there will be a Board meeting on that day, but if technical complications occur I will need guidance from the County Attorney on what to do about the bids.

Mr. Pierce stated right now the access road project is underway at the airport. He explained this is a separate project to stripe the runways.

7- Later in the meeting Mr. Moron will bring up an action for the Board to sign a time extension for Emergency Management. Previously the state of Florida increased the amount of funds going to

Emergency Management by some \$54K, and now they are extending the timeline for those funds to be expended. Mr. Moron has the document in his report for Board action. Ms. Brownell is aware of this as she sent the form to Mr. Moron for action.

Commissioner Jones asked if they are currently doing road work at the airport. Mr. Pierce replied yes, Roberts & Roberts is the contractor and there are some sub-contractors from the county doing some of the base work. He said Jason White Construction is one of the sub-contractors.

Mr. Pierce stated Commissioner Jones asked about the dredging project and the COE has the permit and they will select the contractor according to their criteria. He explained if there are people in the county with dredging equipment they will need to contact the COE.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Moron stated there are 124 people on the phone and he asked for people to indicate on their phone if they would like to speak. He explained he thinks people are waiting to speak because they think the Weems Memorial Hospital Board is going to recommend building a new hospital but he does not think that is their recommendation. He said the indications from Mr. Doug Creamer, Chairman of the Weems Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, and Mr. David Walker, CEO at Weems Memorial Hospital, is that is not correct. He suggested Mr. Creamer clarify the situation before they get to public comments. Chairman Lockley stated the Hospital Board had a meeting in this room that was open and approved and presented just like it was supposed to be. Mr. Moron reported they used the same telephone system and it was duly advertised with the pin. He said he thinks they called for public comments several times and there were no public comments.

The meeting recessed at 10:25 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:42 a.m.

Mr. Moron said there are 111 participants and 20 of the participants want to speak. He stated the Board has to determine how long they will allow each person to speak. He said he would also like to allow Mr. Creamer to clarify the situation with Weems Memorial Hospital to squash misinformation and then after public comment he will complete his presentation.

Mr. Creamer reported the Weems Memorial Hospital Board met earlier in the week and adopted a recommendation that has nothing to do with any construction or additions at this time. He stated there has been misinformation about actions the Hospital Board did not take and he will clear that up during his presentation after public comment.

Mr. Moron said there are 20 individuals that want to speak during public comments but this number could increase as they go through the comments. Chairman Lockley stated the time limit for speaking is 1 minute if that is okay with the Board. The Board agreed. Commissioner

Parrish reported the Board de-obligated the funds for doing any building construction whether it is for Sacred Heart or a new Franklin County hospital. Mr. Moron agreed there are no funds available to build any facility right now. He explained as directed by the Board he sent a letter to USDA and informed them there is no way the county can meet the June deadline for the loan. He said the USDA funds were unobligated and they sent the letter notifying the county which he provided to the Board. Mr. Moron explained the Board is going to hear from the Clerk and Assistant Finance Officer after Mr. Creamer's presentation and the message is going to be about tightening their belts so it probably would not be a good idea to get a loan for any facility at this time. Mr. Moron said if and when the Board makes a decision they would need to reapply for a loan and start over. Chairman Lockley stated this is the best thing because they need to see when the economy comes back and they need to be cautious. Mr. Moron reported he is not trying to put the economy over health but the Governor's newest order suspends short term rentals indefinitely. He pointed out the tax for the health care system depends on tourism and so does the TDC tax. He explained they have to keep in mind that there will be 2 years of budgets that may have to be tightened.

At this time the Board called for public comments.

Mr. Jonathan Beigle, owner of St. George Island Beach Vacations, said he would like to make sure the county is aware of the impact the Governor's actions are having on vacation rental owners and the tourism industry in Franklin County. He stated according to the Franklin County Tax Collector approximately 60-70% of the county's property taxes are generated by St. George Island and vacation rentals generate about \$1.4 million in sales tax for the county. Mr. Beigle reported the combination of property tax and sales tax provides about 60% of the county's revenue and he does not think the County Commissioners understand at this point. He stated this does not take into account the impact this has on cleaners, contractors, restaurant owners, etc.

Mr. Pierce Scott Withers, a resident of Alligator Point, stated he submitted a citizen's petition which included 150 residents to the county last night. He explained the petition was done using social distancing and a digital campaign. He said they feel like the beach access points on Alligator Point do not have public restrooms and should be closed because they represent a public health liability. Mr. Withers stated there is overwhelming support on Alligator Point to keeping the beach access points closed until they can work out a way to have safe use of the beaches. He said the ownership and use of these beach access points is not a settled question on Alligator Point.

Mr. Moron stated there was an issue on the phone lines with capacity but it has been increased. He said the capacity was 125 and the most he has seen today is 130 participants.

Ms. Debbie Brett, 1627 Alligator Drive, said she owns multiple properties in the county including some between Alligator Point and Bald Point. She referenced the petition to keep the beaches closed to the public and asked for them to allow the residents, property owners and their guests to use the beach which will allow for safe distancing. She stated during the

time the beaches were closed the community listened and followed the orders of beach closures. Ms. Brett reported the license plates from out of the state and county have ignored the barricades, parked and gone to the beach. She stated they are parking on the right-of-way creating an unsafe situation. She said these are private accesses for the community that are needed.

Mr. Ottice Amison, a resident of Apalachicola, reported the county is behind with the 3 hours in the morning and afternoon because the beaches of Gulf County and Bay County are probably going to be open. He said everyone has been quarantined so if they open the beaches it will still just be us. He reported there is a low chance of transmittal of the virus. He stated Jacksonville is more dense and opened their beaches and have not had any spikes in the virus. Mr. Amison said the most likely influx of people will be from Tallahassee because people will not drive here for only a few hours at the beach. He pointed out Tallahassee Memorial Hospital has a wing of the hospital closed off preparing for the virus that is not being used and nurses from Bay County are being put on call because they are not having a high influx.

Ms. Julie Krantz, a resident of St. George Island, said she understands they must balance the economic impact with the health concerns and that is what they are asking for. She stated a new study shows 85% of the people are showing little to no symptoms so those people will probably not get tested and the death rate has gone down. She explained they are asking for a plan to be in place so they can prepare because they cannot reopen with one day's notice. She reported they would like to have more input from the county on how they will work with the Governor when he opens the rental ban and also with the beach opening.

Ms. Mel Kelly, a resident of Carrabelle, stated the Agenda that was printed this morning shows that public comments is for 3 minutes. She asked if the Commission has received a copy of the Weems Memorial Hospital budget reflecting the 5 year obligation with Alliant. She questioned how Weems Memorial Hospital has planned to pay for the costs. She inquired if they have considered how much more money the county is willing to pay over and above the Health Care Trust Fund for losses and expenses at the hospital. She reported Weems Memorial Hospital cannot afford their current operations without additional county assistance so why would they consider a nearly \$400,000 contract to retain Alliant to bookkeep without providing health care services as the Ascension/Sacred Heart proposal offered to do. Ms. Kelly stated they agreed that Texas A & M was hired for a year but the preliminary assessment said only 4 beds are needed. She asked what caused the rush to approve the Alliant contract.

Mr. Richard Sparks, a resident of St. George Island, stated Bay County has voted to open their beaches 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and the county is behind here. He reported they need a plan and need to let people know when they will be welcomed back. He suggested the Board reopen the beaches without any restrictions.

Ms. Brenda Karlin, a resident of St. George Island, said she wants to agree with the previous comments about the St. George Island revenue, Weems Memorial Hospital and a plan and the

beach opening. She stated while they are policing people coming into the county are they also policing people going out of the county. Ms. Karlin reported she is not for policing. She encouraged the county to have a plan and to choose freedom over fear.

Mr. David Covington, a property owner at St. George Island, thanked the Board for adding capacity for the meeting. He said he is glad they addressed the calling out of Georgia and the county and state orders because it is important to clarify who can and cannot come into the county. He questioned if they have adequate resources to enforce a partial beach opening. He agreed with the Sheriff that the key is personal responsibility.

Mr. Alan Feifer, Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, stated today's vote on Alliant is a decision not to associate with Sacred Heart. He said the hospital lost \$160,000 after subsidies in March. He reported a one-time grant kept the loss from being \$237,000. He said April could be worse and he questioned where the cash is coming from. Mr. Feifer reported county revenue, tax revenue and tickets are down and the Finance Department will speak later in the meeting about steps they are advising to prepare for these reductions. He questioned why they would be increasing expenses at Weems Memorial Hospital when the Health Care Trust Fund revenues will decrease. Mr. Feifer stated he listened to the Hospital Board of Director's meeting and Sacred Heart was never mentioned and that is because they have a non-medical, non-business Hospital Board that has no interest in objectivity and is only interested in the hold Apalachicola has on healthcare. He suggested they should involve Texas A & M University who was present several months ago.

Mr. Jay Allen, a resident of Carrabelle, discussed COVID-19 and the freedom destroying decisions they are making to shut down businesses, beaches, livelihoods and destroying a large portion of the county's tax base. He said when they make decisions using false premises they assume to be true the end results will produce more harm than good. He stated if they are willing to give up their freedoms for a little safety they deserve neither freedom nor safety.

Mr. William Tate, a property owner at St. George Island, reported less than 1/3 of 1% of the total population of the United States has been infected by the virus. He stated Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi are opening their beaches in addition to Destin and Panama City Beach. He reported if they cannot get the beaches and rental properties opened up then the revenue on St. George Island and the county will dry up and they still have to pay their property taxes. He asked for the Board to get a plan together and open the beaches at least to residents and their guests.

Ms. Sara Kingry, Carrabelle Beach RV Resort, said she understands the Board is bound by the Governor's orders and it is not up to them to open vacation rentals but she asked them to petition the Governor to allow the vacation rentals by mid-May because Memorial Day is one of their biggest weekends. She explained if they do not get some money and revenue going they are going to go under. She reported it is unfair for hotels to be allowed to be open but RV parks which social distance by nature are not allowed to be open.



Mr. John Berry, a resident of Alligator Point., thanked Sheriff Smith and the deputies for their work. He requested signs be posted on the dunes to preserve the property. He said since people have been off the beach the dunes have started forming and so has the vegetation. He stated he is in favor of keeping the public accesses closed except to residents of Alligator Point.

Mrs. Marie Marshall, a resident of Apalachicola, said Weems Memorial Hospital is a 30 year old problem. She stated for the management of good health for the citizens of Franklin County she urges the Board to vote no on the Alliant management contract. She explained the contract will divert money they do not have and it is not medically good for the citizens.

Commissioner Jones said it is different but they are not trying to limit free speech. He stated at the beginning the Chairman set the time to speak at 1 minute and they were all in agreement and that is what they need to do. Commissioner Parrish agreed if they do that for one person then they must do it for all the people. Mr. Moron stated when they get to his report he may have a solution for the next regular meeting on May 19, 2020. Chairman Lockley said people need to understand this is a new venture and they have to get used to it. Commissioner Boldt reported 16 people talked to them this morning. Mr. Moron stated there are 138 people on the call. He explained his solution will separate who wants to listen and who wants to participate in the meeting.

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

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

Mr. Creamer stated the question that was presented to the Hospital Board from the Board was to decide what health care model Franklin County wanted to pursue. He reported 2 proposals were received. He explained Sacred Heart's proposal provided a free standing emergency room only and two clinics. He reported the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH)/Alliant proposal was to maintain and improve the hospital, incorporate telemedicine, bring in specialists and complete some other items that will bring them up to date and help the citizens have better health care. Mr. Creamer stated the Hospital Board examined both proposals and unanimously adopted a recommendation to begin negotiations with TMH/Alliant to form a partnership to move health care forward in Franklin County. He stated the people that have a problem with that recommendation probably voted against the health care referendum. Mr. Creamer said these people want to close the hospital and that is their right to feel that way. He stated the majority of the citizens want the hospital well maintained and well equipped and they want a good solid health care platform for citizens. He explained one of the other deciding factors in recommending TMH/Alliant was that the county would continue operating the ambulance service through the hospital. Mr. Creamer stated with the Sacred Heart proposal the Board would have to contract with another entity or develop another entity to manage the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) department because that was not included in their proposal. He said a hand out was provided to the Board explaining the rationale they used to develop their recommendation. Mr. Creamer requested the Board accept the Hospital Board's

recommendation. He stated the Hospital Board of Directors put time into this recommendation and they think it is a good decision. Commissioner Boldt said he would like to reinforce that they are talking about a Franklin County health platform because encouraging that platform are 3 federal levels of interest that Franklin County keep its rural hospital. He stated they talked about the critical access designation which Medicare has provided for the hospital relative to accounting issues. Commissioner Boldt reported they have just entertained Texas A & M University who brought professionals that gave their perspective about the importance of maintaining a rural hospital. He thanked the USDA for protecting and reminding them about the loan. Commissioner Boldt said the worldwide pandemic has been a huge scare and knowing the hospital beds are there is a huge piece of mind for the people. He stated anything they do to maintain this structure with the lessons they have learned in the last 60 days is something for them to remember and honor. Commissioner Boldt reported the most valuable asset in this county is the health of the people and it is important to remember as they go forward in making decisions. Chairman Lockley stated he has been with the hospital since it has been there and right now they are in a situation with the COVID-19 all over the world. He explained the COE is going into places and setting up hospitals in a day or two. Chairman Lockley said they do not know if this will get worse but they say it will get worse in the fall and winter. He stated if it hits here they will need a hospital and do not need to close the hospital and send their citizens to another county. He requested a motion taking the recommendation of the Hospital Board because they need a hospital. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion to accept the Weems Hospital Board's partnership recommendation. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Commissioner Jones said he does not want to differ with the Board but does want to offer some perspective they all need to consider. He stated they are going to discuss steps for a hiring freeze and tighten up and it is not a bad recommendation but the timing is wrong. He explained the county should not discuss a hiring freeze and send the Hospital Board out to hire someone. He suggested they consider doing this in the next quarter of the year once they get past the pandemic. Chairman Lockley said they do not know how long the pandemic will last. Commissioner Jones stated he understands but they are sending mixed messages. Chairman Lockley explained this was already in the process. Mr. Moron clarified there is no contract to agree to now so they do not know how much it will cost. He questioned if they are sending him to negotiate and see what terms they come up with. Mr. Creamer stated the Hospital Board's recommendation is to ask the Board to allow negotiations to begin with TMH/Alliant for the possible partnership with Weems. Mr. Creamer explained they have not agreed to any hiring or dollar amounts. He said he thinks since they are a critical access hospital some of the costs incurred in the partnership will be reimbursed on the cost report. He went on to say if the hospital closed and no longer existed then there would be no means of recouping the money. Commissioner Boldt stated as they think about negotiating there should be a four stage process of not just the anchor hospital but the need for more expert personnel, higher efficiency use of the two outpatient facilities (particularly Weems East) and more ambulance access across the entire length of the county. He explained what they are talking about is health care access. Commissioner Boldt reported they need to charge the consultant with looking at these items and giving them some information. Mr. Creamer explained the county will be paying a fee but the company will be generating revenue for the

hospital to offset the costs. Commissioner Jones asked if it is their understanding that Alliant would do what they need to do without taking more money from the health care tax to support what they are doing. Mr. Walker explained any business like Alliant should be able to operate on the portion of the health care tax that the hospital gets for operational expenses except for capital outlay projects. He stated with the critical access designation the expenses with the management fee will be reimbursed at 47% plus some additional other items can be reimbursed. Mr. Walker explained the company can change but the model is a hospital with inpatient beds, two rural health clinics and EMS and they can build from that system. He reported Weems Memorial Hospital is a major health care provider in the county but they need some operational efficiencies. He said if they partner with Alliant for operational efficiencies and TMH to provide clinical and medical expertise they will build a foundation for growth. Mr. Walker reported the county has been talking about hospital management for years but this is a time for the community to start pushing for a better hospital system. Commissioner Jones questioned if the motion is to move forward with negotiations on behalf of the Board because they have to make it work with the money. Mr. Moron suggested he and Mr. Walker be the negotiation team. He stated he will speak on behalf of the Board and they will direct him on how they want it done. He said if they agree then he would also like Attorney Shuler and Mr. Brian Hall, Carr, Riggs and Ingram- auditors for the hospital, to be available to provide guidance to them. He explained they are not closing the doors on anyone but just starting the negotiations and they are not sure where it will lead. Mr. Moron stated in the Governor's power point presentation he referenced maintaining hospital beds as part of Phase 1 recovery. He reported he will take his lead from the Board and Mr. Walker will take his lead from the Weems Hospital Board. Commissioner Massey stated they need to make sure they can afford whatever they do. Mr. Moron explained when they provide a final product the Board still has to review and approve it. Commissioner Parrish reported having a true management group to come in and work with the county is taking the steps necessary to make the hospital sustainable and if they cannot do that he does not see how they can build a new hospital. He said he questioned Alliant to see if they can assist the hospital with collecting the money that is owed and processing the claims and not having them kicked back. Commissioner Parrish stated if bills get kicked back they need to be re-coded and re-submitted so the hospital can get the money that is owed to them. He reported if they cannot do that then there is no reason to look at building a hospital because they cannot sustain it. Commissioner Parrish stated his second to the motion to begin negotiations is because they need help with management and collecting money. He said they are not part of a network and this brings in TMH and Alliant to help bring in physicians and help raise the revenues of the hospital to see if it can be sustainable. Commissioner Parrish reported he is willing to spend some money to see if they can get to that point and if they cannot then the Board will have to deal with it. He explained as they said this morning without the local hospital if the COVID-19 flares up they would not have anywhere to go but an emergency room. He stated Bay County and Leon County have said they would like the county to keep their citizens here. Commissioner Parrish stated this COVID-19 situation highlights the need for hospital beds in this county. He discussed times in his life when the hospital has been beneficial to him and his family. Commissioner Parrish said they do not want any money out of the hospital but it must be sustainable. He reported if they

can sustain it as an entity then he supports them but they cannot support them with the ad valorem tax base. He said he would like to get the management company here to try and help them achieve this goal. Commissioner Parrish stated if the hospital is sustainable then they can look at building something. Commissioner Massey agreed they must do something because they cannot build an emergency room or a hospital right now. He stated they must do something to keep the hospital afloat. Mr. Walker reported Alliant has the sustainability and TMH brings the medical and clinical part. He said once these two merge then they can do a lot with increasing the medical services in the county. Mr. Walker stated the citizens have to get well here and everyone has family members that need to come back and recover. Mr. Walker explained right now they are not taking ad valorem taxes and the money for the hospital is generated from sales tax but they need the partnership with these two leading organizations. He stated there is support for having hospital beds in the county on the national, state and local level. Mr. Walker said this is a good opportunity to advocate for the healthcare of citizens in the county. Commissioner Massey reported Mr. Creamer is not going to do anything to hurt the county and is trying to help the county. He stated Mr. Creamer spends time trying to make this work and does not make any money for his time. He said Mr. Creamer knows they cannot build anything right now but wants to get this up and running. Commissioner Boldt clarified today they are talking about negotiating a management contract but are not talking about paying anything. He stated there needs to be a charge to the potential manager that what they do is financially neutral to the county and they are not burdened with huge management fees. He reported that is very important with considering the negotiations. **Commissioner Boldt amended his motion to direct Mr. Moron and Mr. Walker to negotiate and consult Attorney Shuler and Mr. Hall for financial advice and guidance when needed. Commissioner Parrish amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Creamer stated the Hospital Board wants to thank the Board for their support. Chairman Lockley thanked the Hospital Board for their recommendation and the time they put in.

#### **Clerk of Courts - Marcia M. Johnson – Report**

Clerk Johnson stated she is going to turn Items #1 and #2 over to Mrs. Griffith. Clerk Johnson reported she will then come back and talk about Items #2 and #3. Mrs. Griffith read the following item:

#### **Action Item(s)**

##### **10. Rolling Lease for Road Department's Dump Trucks**

1. It is time to renew the rolling 15 month dump truck lease-purchase agreement for the Franklin County Road Department. Eight surrounding rural counties participate in this same program through Capital Truck of Tallahassee including Liberty, Madison, Suwanee, Taylor, Holmes and Calhoun. The cost of a new heavy-duty dump truck is \$152,500 per truck. The rolling lease is structured for the county to own the truck for 15 months – one \$15,000 payment is made for the use of the truck during that time. At the end of the lease, the truck is returned to Capital Truck and replaced with a new model year dump truck for the same \$15,000 for 15 months. This program allows the road department to have reliable dump

trucks, covered by warranty with little maintenance expense year after year. This is the third renewal of the rolling lease and so far this program has worked very well.

Motion requested: Board approval for the Chairman to enter into a 5 year lease purchase agreement with Leasing 2 to finance the purchase of two new dump trucks in the amount of \$305,000 purchased from Capital Truck of Tallahassee. This motion also acknowledges that this agreement shall be paid off in full after 15 months by Capital Truck of Tallahassee per the letter of intent. The attached resolution will grant the chairman authorization to sign the lease agreement.

Commissioner Jones left the meeting. Commissioner Massey said they will only pay \$30,000 in 2 years. Mrs. Griffith stated they will pay \$30,000 in 15 months. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve Chairman Lockley entering into a 5 year lease purchase agreement with Leasing 2 to finance the purchase of two new dump trucks in the amount of \$305,000 purchased from Capital Truck of Tallahassee and acknowledge that this agreement shall be paid off in full after 15 months by Capital Truck of Tallahassee per the letter of intent. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.**

Commissioner Jones returned to the meeting. Commissioner Boldt explained he has learned that leasing makes their budget more flexible and gives them more options for using their money efficiently. Commissioner Massey reported it is cheaper to do it this way. Mrs. Griffith stated if you tried to finance this truck and pay it off in term by the time they paid it off the dump truck would be worn out. Commissioner Massey stated he looks to Mrs. Griffith because she will go the right route and do the right thing with the money. Commissioner Boldt asked if this is an option for other big equipment. Mrs. Griffith reported they looked into doing a knuckle boom truck the same way but the trucks are used so heavily that there is not a good market for resale. She explained the reason the dump trucks are eligible for this program is the county does not have to pay federal excise tax on the trucks so the county is able to purchase the trucks at a deeply discounted price and when the dealer gets the trucks back they can pass the savings on to the consumer. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Mrs. Griffith read the Resolution. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Resolution, as follows:**

RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the governing body of Lessee has determined that a true and very real need exists for the acquisition of the equipment described in the lease-purchase agreement presented at this meeting; and has further determined that the equipment will be used solely for essential governmental functions and not for private business use.

WHEREAS, the governing body of lessee has taken the necessary steps, including any legal bidding requirements, under applicable law to arrange for the acquisition of such equipment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners that the terms of said lease-purchase agreement and escrow agreement are in the best interest of lessee for the acquisition of such equipment, and the governing body of lessee designates and confirms the following persons to execute and deliver, and to witness (or attest), respectively, Leasing 2, Inc. lease-purchase agreement and escrow agreement, if applicable, and any related documents necessary to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the lease-purchase agreement and escrow agreement.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 30th day of APRIL, 2020.

s/Noah Lockley, Jr.

Noah Lockley, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

s/Marcia M. Johnson,

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Court

#### 11. 2020 - 2021 Budget Discussion & Direction

##### **2. Revenue Update and Budget Request Letter Discussion:**

Mrs. Griffith read the following item:

Revenues from state and local sales tax proceeds are not distributed to local governments until the second month after collection. The shut down and travel bans took effect in the middle of March. The ban has been in place all of April and it is indeterminate what the future will hold for May. At this point in time, it is unknown how severe the effects COVID-19 will be on sales tax collections in the State of Florida and Franklin County.

Just as personal and business incomes have been negatively affected by the shutdown, county government will also experience losses in budgeted revenues even while providing all essential services. One budget that will be heavily affected by the travel ban and loss of sales tax proceeds, will be the county road department. The total approved operating budget of the road department is roughly \$1.6 million. State shared revenues which are derived from gas tax proceeds were anticipated to fund \$1.57 million or 97% of that budget this fiscal year. 17% of the revenues for the county general operating fund come from state shared revenues. I want to caution the Board and the Departments that we could be looking at a serious revenue shortfall in the coming months and ask that any large capital purchases or new hires beyond positions granted today be deferred until we better know when and how the economy is going to return to a more normal state. The passage of the Cares Act did not include any mechanism for assisting small local governments with revenue shortfalls, nor did the second round of stimulus funding. The Florida Association of Counties is lobbying heavily for local governments to be included in future relief efforts.

The finance department will be preparing the budget request letters to send to the constitutional officers, department heads and other agencies to submit their budget requests by June 1, 2020. Due to the current economic environment, a statement has been drafted to appear on the budget request letters:

“At the direction of the Board, please keep your request at or below your current adopted budget with the exception of State mandated funding. Please be aware, as circumstances evolve due to the ever-changing

response and financial impact from COVID-19, you may be asked to resubmit your request at a later date to meet an across-the-board cut if deemed necessary per revenue estimates received.”

If the Board would like to revise the suggested language or include any other instructions please let us know now.

For information only: Attached to this report is an article posted by the Florida Policy Institute which provides some startling statistics on Florida’s economy.

Commissioner Parrish stated he agrees with this statement. He said if they submit a budget it does not mean the budget will be funded. He reported it also says they may have to resubmit the budget to reflect cuts directed by the Board depending on the revenues available. He stated he supports the statement. Commissioner Boldt explained department heads should have a Plan B if they have to resubmit their budget if the Board needs to immediately act for help. Commissioner Parrish said they do not know what the reduction will be equivalent to. He reported some departments may lose jobs. Commissioner Massey asked if there are any funds to assist the Road Department if their budget gets low. Mrs. Griffith stated right now they have a project for a new building and they are still opening bids the end of May but if things have not turned around then she would like the Board not to award the bid because that will give them some cushion. She reported \$298,000 is budgeted for that building project and they could delay the construction if they need to. She stated some FEMA funds have come in for machinery and equipment during Hurricane Michael and they could pull from that money also. She informed the Board if they lose 50% of their revenues for 25% of the year that would be a 13% reduction in the revenues for that fiscal year. She stated for the Road Department that would be \$204,000. Commissioner Massey said the Road Department and Solid Waste Department have to keep going because that is the services for the county. He went on to say that would be a disaster if they shut down. Chairman Lockley said they do not know what the future will bring but hopefully it will not get bad. Commissioner Jones reported by the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board may need to consider doing a hiring freeze. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the statement to go on the budget letters.**

## 12. Revenue Update Discussion and Direction

Clerk Johnson informed the Board she is worried about her court budget. She explained that budget is funded by revenue her office receives from filing fees and fines. Clerk Johnson reported the county does not fund that budget but she wanted the Board to know how worried she is about budgets. She explained all indications are leading to the possibility that her budget will be cut this year and next year on the court side on operations. Clerk Johnson stated this year the revenue stream is not there statewide or in Franklin County. She reported when she compared April of this year to April, 2019 the office had filed less than ½ of circuit civil cases this year and half as many traffic cases. She stated in April, 2019 her office processed 250 financial receipts and this year they have processed 148. Clerk Johnson reported her staff has been working every day as they provide essential services. She said she is monitoring the court budget situation along with the county’s budget situation and she wanted the Board to know

she was worried about the budgets. Clerk Johnson stated she is having daily conversations with Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Linda Phillips, Finance Director, about concerns. She reported this is an important dire situation that is going to occur.

### 3. County Held Tax Certificates

Clerk Johnson read the following item:

Pursuant to F.S. 197.502(7), the Clerk is tasked to notify the County Commission when there were no bidders on county-held tax certificates that went to public tax deed sale. If you remember, Mr. Rick Watson, Tax Collector, appeared before you and discussed county-held tax certificates. The list of 3 attached are the second batch of county-held tax certificates that have been advertised for sales. Sales were held on April 13, 2020, and nobody bid on them. These properties are available should the county wish to purchase them or you can waive your rights to purchase them at this time. I have attached the list plus a copy of the forms on each for the Chairman to sign on whether you elect to purchase or not. These properties are within the same area as the properties I presented to you on April 9<sup>th</sup> that you elected not to purchase, and there are IRS liens filed on these as well.

Clerk Johnson explained during the first 90 days the county has the option to purchase the property. She reported if the county decides not to purchase the property and no one else purchases the property then the property remains on the list of lands available for purchase. Clerk Johnson stated after 3 years the land would estreat to the county. Commissioner Massey said this property will never sell because it would take too much money to fill the area with dirt. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to elect not to purchase the property.**

Commissioner Boldt said they heard that she is worried about the budget and he would like her to provide feedback and a progress report. Clerk Johnson agreed to keep the Board informed. Commissioner Boldt reported they can come together if they need to before May 19<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Griffith explained it will all depend on how long this situation lasts.

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

Mr. Moron offered the following items for the Board's consideration:

Action Item(s)

#### 13. Partial Beach Opening Discussion and Direction

1. Partial Beach Openings: As the Board is aware, last week Gulf and Bay Counties opened their beaches from 6am – 9am and 5pm - 8pm daily for the foreseeable future. This action allows local residents the opportunity to exercise, fish, swim, etc., and based on reports and conversations it is working well for those counties and their residents. Yesterday, Governor DeSantis presented his plan to “re-open” Florida that included a



safe, slow, and methodical method to reopening businesses and restarting Florida's economy. With that in mind, is the Board ready to discuss a similar plan to reopen the county's beaches.

**Request:** Board discussion and possible action on a plan to reopen county beaches.

Mr. Moron reported the Sheriff feels like he can enforce these hours. He said people think the county is behind in opening but he thinks it was better to wait until the Governor unveiled his plans for reopening so they could take that into consideration. He explained between now and the May 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting is the time to start their plan. Mr. Moron discussed the times the beach will be open and said this plan will keep the day trippers away and give the county a chance to see how this works. He stated if they want to change anything before May 19<sup>th</sup> then they can have an emergency meeting or they can wait and see what the Governor does in Phase 2. Commissioner Massey suggested they give it a try and from now until May 19<sup>th</sup> they need to figure out how they are going to address the businesses and rentals getting back in business. Mr. Moron explained they can review the Governor's plan in detail and have a better discussion on May 19<sup>th</sup> about the plan for Franklin County. Commissioner Massey reported on May 4<sup>th</sup> some of the restaurants are going to be allowed to open. Mr. Moron answered yes, at 25% capacity inside and outside as long as they are socially distanced 6 ft. or more and no groups of more than 10 people. He stated the City of Apalachicola will meet next week and consider closing a street to allow for outside dining. Mr. Moron said the county has to determine what to do for the businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county. Commissioner Massey stated it is a good idea to put people back to work. Commissioner Parrish asked if they are talking about opening the parking areas. He said they will need signs with the hours on all the dune walkovers and parking areas. He stated they must treat every area the same and cannot have separate rules for separate areas. Commissioner Parrish reported most people that do not want the beaches open do not own a business. He stated they have income coming in and are not losing money so they do not want anything opened up. He explained the business owners that are struggling want things opened up. He pointed out some of the areas that are opening up have multiple hospitals but Franklin County only has Weems Memorial Hospital so they must be cautious about what they do. Commissioner Parrish said people are calling asking to open everything up but where are the people going to stay since no vacation rentals are open. He stated restaurants are at half capacity so there is no infrastructure in place and they must look at all these things. Commissioner Parrish reported people at risk need to stay home and social distance when things open up. He stated people will have to make these personal decisions and should make the decisions based on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. He explained the Board has to look at all these issues and decide what is best for all the citizens. Commissioner Massey stated people are leaving the county and going to other places shopping and coming back into the county which is high risk. Commissioner Boldt said the county cannot be in the social service business and he believes they should use the standard of practice that have been published as a state guidelines and that is the foundation for the decisions they make. Commissioner Jones agreed they are trying to make the best decisions based on the information they have. He stated following what the Governor has been doing they need to consider doing what county staff has recommended.

Commissioner Jones explained they can try it and if it does not work then they can do something different. He reported they must consider health, safety and welfare and he does not want anyone to think the Board does not think that is important but they cannot put people's lives and the economy down for their health. He suggested they try opening for these hours and if they have issues then they can meet again and address the issues. Commissioner Boldt said cautionary signage will help. Commissioner Jones agreed the signs are necessary. Mr. Moron stated Mr. Davis has already talked with his vendor about the signs and hopefully they will be ready tomorrow. Commissioner Jones stated they can also re-address this if things go the right way and testing proves they have flattened the curve. He said they can take other steps and have a plan to move them further along. Chairman Lockley disagreed and said there has not been enough tests done here. He stated if people come in here and do not do social distancing then he is not for having another meeting but for having the beach automatically close. Commissioner Jones reported if they do not do social distancing then that is against what the Governor is doing. Commissioner Parrish stated some of the larger counties that opened their beaches also have lifeguards and expertise for enforcing social distancing. He agreed they should do what county staff is recommending but enforcement will have to come from the Sheriff. Commissioner Parrish said the county does not have a lot of Emergency Management staff either to ride the beaches and help enforce social distancing. He reported the signs also need to include the social distancing requirements from the CDC and the hours they are allowed on the beach because they cannot open up without proper signage. He explained the Board needs to decide if they want the parking lots and beach accesses opened. Commissioner Parrish reported the Board received some criticism because local people could not use the beach but people from out of town that owned a beach house could so they need to think this through. Attorney Shuler stated he prepared a draft emergency ordinance that will require the Board to declare in the motion that an emergency exists and that the enactment of the ordinance is necessary for the public's health, safety and welfare. He explained they have already discussed the times for the limited opening of the beaches. He reported this ordinance would open all of the beach parking lots and reopen all of the beach access points. Commissioner Jones questioned if the enforcement falls to solely the sandy beach. Attorney Shuler agreed it only is for the beach and not the beach parking lots for violation of the ordinance. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to declare that an emergency exists and that enactment of the ordinance is necessary for the public's health, safety and welfare and adopt the emergency ordinance.** Commissioner Boldt asked if they can add language about the signage. Attorney Shuler stated they can add that language. Mr. Moron said they were planning for the signs and will have them ready when the Board approves the times. He reported Mr. Davis felt like they could have the signs by tomorrow. Chairman Lockley asked when things will open. Mr. Moron answered Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, based on the Governor's order. Attorney Shuler stated the ordinance he has prepared would be effective immediately upon adoption. He said if they want a future effective date then he will need direction from the Board. **Commissioner Jones amended his motion to concur with the first phase of the Governor's Order and begin at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.** Commissioner Jones stated this way it will give them time to get the signage in place and people will know what is going to happen. He reported it will coincide with what the Governor is doing in the first phase and it

will be their first step in a plan. **Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Attorney Shuler explained as with the other ordinances they have adopted concerning restricting or limiting the use of the beach the penalty for violation of the ordinance is a second degree misdemeanor punishable by up to 60 days in jail and/or a \$500 fine. Attorney Shuler reported the daily use would be from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. **Motion carried; 5-0. The Ordinance is as follows:**

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020-12

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
TEMPORARILY LIMITING THE USE OF ALL BEACHES IN FRANKLIN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT BY THE SHERIFF;  
PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING  
FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING A SUNSET DATE.

WHEREAS, Executive Order 20-52 declared a state-wide state of emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Franklin County declared a state of local emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and has renewed it every seven days since; and,

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-68 limiting gatherings on the Beach; and,

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, Franklin County found it necessary to enact emergency ordinance 2020-6 to prohibit parking at public beach parks and beach accesses; and,

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, Franklin County found it necessary to enact emergency ordinance 2020-8 closing all Beaches to the Public, closing all parking lots associated with county owned beach parks, and closing all public Beach Accesses; and,

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2020, Franklin County enacted emergency ordinance 2020-\_\_ extending the temporary closure of all Beaches, all Beach access points and Public Beach Parking Lots until the end of the Declaration of the State of Emergency, and

WHEREAS, Franklin County has determined that gatherings on the Beach continues to constitute a threat to the public's health, safety and welfare and are likely to lead to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and that enactment of this emergency ordinance limiting the Public's use of the Beaches continues to be necessary to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and,

WHEREAS, Franklin County has determined that the limited use of the Beach may be made by the Public, provided that the public must continue to follow the social distancing guidelines enacted by the Governor of the State of Florida by remaining six feet apart; and,

WHEREAS, Franklin County has determined that there is a continuing state of emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and that it is necessary to continue the limited closure of the Beaches; and,

WHEREAS, Franklin County has determined that the Sheriff of Franklin County be, and is hereby, empowered to enforce this Emergency Ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, Franklin County has declared that an emergency exists and that the enactment of this Ordinance is necessary for the public's health, safety and welfare,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT:

1. All Beaches in Franklin County, Florida, are temporarily closed to the Public, subject to the following limited usage: the Public may use the Beaches each day from 6 a.m. (ET) to 9 a.m. (ET) and from 5 p.m. (ET) until 8 p.m. (ET) for traditional Beach purposes, provided that the public must continue to observe the social distancing guidelines enacted by the Governor of the State of Florida by remaining six feet apart.
2. It shall be unlawful for members of the Public to access, use or recreate for traditional purposes, the Beaches in Franklin County, Florida, except for daily use between 6 a.m. (ET) to 9 a.m. (ET) and from 5 p.m. (ET) until 8 p.m. (ET).
3. Public Beach accesses and Beach parking lots are re-opened without limitation.
4. Definitions:
  - a. "Beach" shall include all of the sandy beach area from the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Apalachicola Bay, and St. George Sound to the frontal dune line or, where there is no frontal dune line, to the line of permanent vegetation or construction, whichever is more seaward.
  - b. "Public" shall include all persons present in Franklin County, Florida.
5. Signage: Franklin County shall post signs notifying the Public of this Ordinance at each Public Beach parking lot and each Beach access.
6. Penalty: Any person who violates the provisions hereof shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.775.083, Fla. Stat.
7. Severability: If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is held by a final judgment from a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, void or invalid, it shall be severed from this ordinance and the remaining portion of the ordinance shall be enforced.

8. Repeal: All ordinances in conflict with the provision of this ordinance are hereby repealed.
9. Effective Date: This ordinance shall take effect on May 4, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. (ET).
10. Termination Date: This emergency ordinance shall sunset automatically upon the expiration of the state of emergency declared by the State of Florida and Franklin County due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This ordinance was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, during a duly declared local state of emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, on this the 30th day of April, 2020.

Franklin County, a political subdivision of  
The State of Florida

By: s/Noah Lockley, Jr.  
Noah Lockley, Jr., Its Chairman

Attest:

By: s/Marcia M. Johnson  
Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Court

Approved as to legal form and sufficiency

By: s/Thomas M. Shuler  
Thomas M. Shuler, Franklin County Attorney

14. Ratification of Chairman's Signature on COVID-19 Local State of Emergency
2. Local State of Emergency Declaration: As authorized by the Board, Chairman Lockley has signed COVID-19 Local State of Emergency Declarations on April 13<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, and April 27<sup>th</sup>.  
**Request:** Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the Local State of Emergency Declarations for the stated dates.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the Local State of Emergency Declarations for April 13<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup>.**

15. Redesign of Alligator Drive Multi-Path Funding Approval

3. Alligator Drive Multi-Use Bike Path Redesign Funding: As the Board is aware there is a Florida Department of Transportation funded bike/multi-use path on Alligator Drive (CR-370) from the boat ramp to East Harbor Circle. The project was designed and was completed in 2014 and has been planned for construction this year since 2015. Earlier this year, Alligator Point residents contacted Commissioner Boldt about concerns with the project, and after discussions, Commissioner Boldt and the concerned residents agreed to some proposed modifications. Commissioner Boldt asked county staff to contact FDOT staff and Dewberry engineers about revising the project plans. FDOT extended the project plan review deadline to May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Dewberry has agreed to modify the design and location of the bike/multiuse path for a cost not to exceed \$16,000. Commissioner Boldt would pay for the redesign from District Two's paving fund.

**Request:** Board action to authorize the design modification to the project and the engineers cost from District Two's paving fund.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the design modification to the project and the engineer's cost from the District Two paving funds.**

16. Alligator Drive Multi-path FDOT Contract Approval

4. Alligator Drive Multi-Use Bike Path FDOT Contract: The FDOT contract for the multi-use bike path is ready for Board approval and the Chairman's signature. The modifications to the path will not require any changes to the FDOT contract.

**Request:** Board action to approve the FDOT contract and authorize the Chairman's signature

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the FDOT contract and authorize the Chairman's signature on the contract.**

Mr. Moron stated Mr. Pierce had an item he asked the Board to address after public comment. Commissioner Parrish said the item was to reimburse the Road Department from the Bald Point Trust Fund for repairs to Alligator Drive. Commissioner Jones asked for the amount.

Commissioner Boldt reported the amount he heard was \$35,000. Mrs. Griffith agreed that is the same amount she heard. Commissioner Boldt stated the amount is just for materials. **On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to reimburse the Road Department up to \$35,000 from the Bald Point Trust Fund for repairs to Alligator Drive.**

17. Award County Road Sidewalk Project Construction Engineering Inspection Services

5. CEI Services for County Road 67 Sidewalk Project - The Agreement for Professional Services with Dewberry for Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) services for the construction of a sidewalk along County Road 67 (Tallahassee Street) from Avenue A to just north of Sanborn Road is ready for Board approval and the Chairman's Signature. Modifications to the project have been completed and advertised. Bids are scheduled to be opened on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Request:** Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the Agreement for Professional Services for the CR67 sidewalk project.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the Agreement for Professional Services for the C.R. 67 Sidewalk Project.**

18. Advertise for Construction of St. George Island Bathroom Project

6. SGI Bathrooms Plans: County staff was informed that the engineered plans for the St. George Island Park bathrooms renovation project will be ready for construction advertising early next week. Since our next regular meeting is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>, would the Board consider authorizing staff to proceed with advertising contingent on Commissioner Jones and county staff review of the plans?

**Request:** Board action to authorize construction advertising of the SGI Park Bathroom plans contingent on Commissioner Jones and county staff review.

**On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize construction advertising of the St. George Island Park Bathroom plans contingent upon Commissioner Jones and county staff's review of the plans.**

19. Live Streaming BOCC Meetings Agreement Approval

7. Live Streaming BOCC Meetings: The next BOCC regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. It is unlikely that sufficient testing and other benchmarks for COVID-19 will be met before that meeting therefore allowing the general public to attend. I recommend that the Board consider an agreement allowing live streaming (video & audio) of this and future BOCC meetings. This live stream options would be for members of the public that only want to see the meeting, not participate or speak during the Public Comments section of the agenda; the conference call software will still be available to those wanting to speak. The live stream agreement will be with Forgotten Coast Television for 12 meetings at a cost of \$500 per meeting. If the Board would like to continue this agreement beyond the 12 meetings, we could negotiate another agreement. Attorney Shuler and I are looking at options for Planning and Zoning and Board of Adjustment meetings.

**Request:** Board action to authorize Forgotten Coast TV to livestream the next 12 BOCC regular meetings at a rate of \$500 per meeting.

Mr. Moron explained the software the Board has been using is expensive and a lot of the people are just listening and do not want to speak. He reported they agreed on \$500 a meeting because that will allow Mr. Royce Rolstad, Forgotten Coast Television, to buy and pay for the equipment. Mr. Moron expressed his opinion that this is important to do as it creates more transparency especially since they will be opening bids at the next meeting. He said this will also reduce the number of people that call in to the meeting and the county is paying based on the number of people on the call. Commissioner Parrish questioned if livestreaming the meetings will cost \$12,000 a year for 2 meetings a month. Mr. Moron explained after 6 months the equipment will be paid for and they may be able to negotiate a lower price if they want to continue. Commissioner Parrish asked what he will do with the equipment after he finishes livestreaming the meetings. Mr. Moron explained Mr. Rolstad is hoping other government agencies in the county will be interested in this service. Commissioner Parrish inquired if the county is going to buy the equipment and then Mr. Rolstad will use the equipment to make money. He said he is not against this proposal. Mr. Moron agreed that is correct. Mr. Moron explained he does not want the county to buy the equipment and a staff member be responsible for the livestreaming. Commissioner Parrish suggested they could buy the equipment and rent it out. Commissioner Jones reported Mr. Rolstad wants to make sure he makes enough to pay for the equipment. Mr. Moron discussed other options for the purchase of the equipment. Commissioner Boldt said the media may be interested in coming in and livestreaming the meeting. Mr. Moron reported the media will not be interested in staying for each meeting. Ms. Gale Levy, WJHG, said it is unusual for them to be at the meeting but they are getting information about the beach re-opening. She explained they do not cover everything or livestream the meetings. Commissioner Jones reported with everything going on even the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) cancelled their conference. He said he serves on the FAC Board of Directors and in order to vote the Commissioners still need to register and attend the livestream and vote. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve what staff is recommending and authorize Forgotten Coast TV to livestream the next 12 BOCC regular meetings at a rate of \$500 per meeting.**

20. Award of New Emergency Operation Center Design Services

8. Award of New EOC Design Services: On March 17<sup>th</sup> the Board opened and read aloud information on the submitted Request for Proposals for the Architecture and Engineering Design services for the County's new Emergency Operation Center. The review committee ranked Dewberry number one.

**Request:** Board action to accept the recommendation of the review committee and award the architecture and engineering design to Dewberry.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to accept the recommendation of the review committee and award the Architectural and Engineering Design services for the County's new Emergency Operations Center to Dewberry.**



21. Ratify Advertisement of Emergency Management's Vacant Position

9. Advertisement of Emergency Management's Vacant Position: As authorized, Mrs. Pam Brownell advertised "in-house" for the vacant Coordinator position during the week of April 13<sup>th</sup> to April 17<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Jennifer Daniels was the only respondent to the advertisement. Mrs. Brownell interviewed Mrs. Daniels and hired her as the new Coordinator. This left Mrs. Daniels position as Special Need Coordinator/Office Administrator at Emergency Management vacant. Since this vacant position's starting pay is the county's base salary of \$25,000 and taking into consideration the current pandemic and the start of hurricane season, I authorized Mrs. Brownell to proceed with advertising this vacant position in the local newspapers as soon as possible, with the hope of filling that position before June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Request:** Board action to ratify advertising the Special Needs/Office Administrator position at \$25,000.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify advertising the Special Needs/Office Administrator position at \$25,000.**

22. New County Coordinator Comp Time Policy Approval

10. County Coordinator Comp Time Policy: At your April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting I was directed to have the county's labor attorney create a comp plan policy for the County Coordinator's position. The plan allows regular time payment if I work beyond forty hours in a week, and regular time and a half if I work over 45 hours in a week.

On a similar note, would the Board authorize overtime payment for the Road Department for the rebuilding of Alligator Drive after the storm event on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Request:** Board action to adopt the new County Coordinator Comp Time policy and authorize overtime payment to the Road Department for the rebuilding of Alligator Drive on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt the new County Coordinator Comp Time Policy. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Mr. Moron asked for this action to be retroactive to April 1<sup>st</sup>. **Commissioner Jones amended his motion to make this action retroactive to April 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Boldt amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.** Chairman Lockley said they should get paid because they are working overtime. He explained they are getting comp time and when they take time off they are getting called in. Attorney Shuler reported the county currently has a plan in place for the compensation of employees and it can be modified during an emergency situation. He stated whatever action they discuss should first be sent to the labor attorney for advice on how to navigate this situation. Attorney Shuler suggested the Board direct Mr. Moron to contact the labor attorney and tell him this is an issue they want advice on. He said they need legal advice before they make changes to the compensation package. Mrs. Griffith reported Mr. Nabors will be covered if they make the motion and she read the policy for the Board. Attorney Shuler stated the labor attorney handles these matters

and apparently this is built in. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize an overtime payment to the Road Department for the rebuilding of Alligator Drive on April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

23. Ratify Chairman's Signature on Sheriff's VOCA Grant Audit Extension Request

11. Sheriff's Grant Audit Extension Request: The state required the Chairman to sign a Grant Audit Extension Request for the Victims of Crime Act program used by the Sheriff's Department. Due to the pending deadline Chairman Lockley signed the request.

**Request:** Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the Grant Audit Extension Request.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the Grant Audit Extension Request.**

24. Ratify Chairman's Signature on Sheriff's JAG Program 2019 Funding Approval Letter

12. Sheriff's JAG Program Funds – The Sheriff's Finance office requested a letter from the County authorizing the distribution of \$41,760 of Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program funds. Due to the pending deadline, Chairman Lockley signed this letter.

**Request:** Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the authorization letter for distribution of the JAG Program funds.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the authorization letter for distribution of the JAG Program funds.**

25. Ratify Chairman's Signature on Senior Parade Route Letter

13. Letter for Senior 2020 Parade – The Franklin County School District would like to hold a parade that will consist of the school district's seniors in vehicles and golf carts on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The parade will start at the School Board's vacant property next to the Sheriff's Department, down Highway 65 turning on CC Land Road and ending at Vrooman Park. The Sheriff is aware of the parade route and will assist with traffic control.

**Request:** Board action to approve the 2020 Senior Parade route.

**Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve the 2020 Senior Parade route.**

**Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt said they want to be invited to the parade. Commissioner Jones explained he has a senior student this year and this is happening because they are limiting graduation to the immediate family of the senior. He said

they want to have the parade for extended family and friends so they can be part of graduation.  
**Motion carried; 5-0.**

26. CareerSource Gulf Coast Direct Service Agreement Approval

14. CareerSource Gulf Coast Direct Service Agreement: CareerSource Gulf Coast has submitted a Request for Extension to Provide Direct Services for the Board's review and approval. This agreement is for a three-year term and will begin on July 1, 2020 ending on June 30, 2023. Attorney Shuler did not have the opportunity to review the agreement.

In addition, CareerSource is experiencing a slow down on the allotment of funds for the Hurricane Michael recovery program. This program is responsible for employing the laborers that assist your Solid Waste, Parks and Recreation, Road Department, and Emergency Management Office. CareerSource has requested that the Board sign a letter of support as they seek to secure funding for the remaining of the fiscal year.

**Request:** Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the CareerSource Direct Service agreement, contingent on Attorney Shuler's review and also authorize the Chairman's signature on the letter of support for the Hurricane Michael recovery program funding.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman's signature on the CareerSource Direct Service agreement contingent on Attorney Shuler's review.** Chairman Lockley said if they do not get funding then it will be shut down. Mr. Moron stated the program was almost shut down but they have received additional funding that lasts 4-6 weeks. He reported they are trying to secure funding that lasts until the end of September. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman's signature on the letter of support for the Hurricane Michael recovery program funding.**

Mr. Moron stated Commissioner Jones pointed out in the Governor's Executive Order libraries could open to 25% capacity. He explained the Library Supervisor has already created a re-opening plan and he asked if the Board would like him to go over the plan with her to see how it works with the Governor's plan. Commissioner Jones said as long as her plan goes along with the Governor's plan that is okay and if anything is adverse they will need to address it anyway. The other Board members agreed it is okay.

Mr. Moron highlighted the Information items for the Board.

Information Item(s)

27. Apalachicola National Forest Timber Salvage and Restoration Project

15. Timber Salvage and Restoration Project Proposal: I received the following email, "The Apalachicola National Forest is requesting comments on a timber salvage and restoration project proposal. The comment period begins the day of the correspondence (April 21, 2020) and will end in 30 days (May 20, 2020). Comments can be emailed to: [comment-southern-florida-apalachicola@usda.gov](mailto:comment-southern-florida-apalachicola@usda.gov) or mailed to 57 Taff Drive, Crawfordville, FL 32327."

28. FWC Grant Approval for Buddy Ward Artificial Reef Project

16. Buddy Ward Artificial Reef Funding: Staff has received notification of Conceptual Approval for Artificial Reef Funding during Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 for \$60,000. FWC staff is drafting the formal contract agreement documents and will contact the county regarding the draft scope of work. Mr. Grayson Shepard is aware of the approval and will attend a future meeting to present the formal contract agreement.

Clerk Johnson asked for clarification on the boat ramps because her office will get calls about this matter. She questioned if the boat ramps are going to remain closed to everyone except to residents and property owners. She questioned what people should be told that live in another state and want to come to property they own in Franklin County. Clerk Johnson said the calls are referred to Mr. Moron's office but she is not sure if they should continue to do that. She reported her office is receiving a lot of calls. Mr. Moron explained when the calls come in he directs them to the Governor's Executive Orders. He stated he did not get an indication that the Board wanted to re-address the boat ramps today just the beaches. Mr. Moron reported people can come here but must quarantine for 14 days or whatever their stay is and then leave. Commissioner Jones agreed that is the Governor's order. He said it is safer at home but the clause is still in effect that people who come from out of state must quarantine 14 days or the duration of their stay whichever is shorter. Attorney Shuler explained people may be thinking of the Resolution he presented which strongly encouraged people from certain named areas and areas of community spread to quarantine when they got to Franklin County. He reported this was all subsumed under the Governor's order. He said there is not a local order imposing a stricter standard than the Governor's order. Attorney Shuler stated they are following the Governor's order. Mr. Moron apologized that the Clerk's Office is receiving so many calls. Commissioner Massey asked if the Governor is changing that order on Monday. Mr. Moron said it remains the same. He reported the Governor's order even talked about checkpoints. Clerk Johnson said they do not mind answering the calls but want to make sure they are providing correct information. Commissioner Boldt stated people that come in from out of state according to the Governor's order must quarantine for the duration of their stay or 14 days whichever is shorter. Mr. Moron reported the county is getting blamed for things the state is doing. He stated the county has been consistent in what they are doing and it has kept the COVID-19 numbers down. He reporting they are trying to follow the rules and still get the economy going.

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

Attorney Shuler provided the following item for the Board's consideration:

Action Item(s)

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

Attorney Shuler explained the terms of the contract did not change. He stated he consulted with the County Judge and he has approved the extension for 1 year. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to extend the county court probation until March 2021, nunc pro tunc to March, 2020.**

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Boldt reported they have a short term problem now based on biology and how germs spread but he has confidence they will get over it as long as they maintain a standard of practice. Chairman Lockley said they hope people will do the right thing.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

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Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts