

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
DECEMBER 15, 2020
9:00 A.M.
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron—County Coordinator, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to Order.

Prayer and Pledge

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

Recognition of Clerk of Courts Marcia M. Johnson

Mrs. Michele Maxwell, Clerk-elect, said the Clerk's Office is thankful for Clerk Johnson's leadership and friendship. She stated her leadership has been inspirational and her 46 years of service as a public servant has been a gift to Franklin County. Mrs. Maxwell wished her well on her retirement and said she deserved it. She read a Resolution of Appreciation for the Board's consideration. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Resolution, as follows:**

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Marcia M. Johnson was hired by Clerk of Court Robert L. Howell in 1974 after working part-time in the office her senior year of high school,

WHEREAS, Marcia M. Johnson continued her work under the administration of Clerk of Court Lee R. P. Rivers and Clerk of Court Kendall Wade,

WHEREAS, Marcia M. Johnson worked as assistant to the Clerk and as Deputy Clerk to the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners from 1974 until 1986 and transcribed the minutes by shorthand,

WHEREAS, Marcia M. Johnson worked in the courts division, Official Records' Division, Jury Section, and performed some bookkeeping and assisted the Finance Department,

WHEREAS, after serving 31 years as a Deputy Clerk in the Clerk's Office, Marcia M. Johnson was elected Franklin County Clerk of the Circuit Court in 2004,

WHEREAS, Marcia M. Johnson ran unopposed in 2008, 2012 and won re-election in 2016,

WHEREAS, Marcia M. Johnson received an Outstanding Service Award in 2012 as Chair of the Best Practice Committee for the Florida Association of Court Clerks and Comptrollers Association,

WHEREAS, Marcia M. Johnson was honored as Florida's Clerk of the Year for 2013-2014,

WHEREAS, Marcia M. Johnson served on many statewide committees and brought recognition to the office of Franklin County Clerk of Court,

WHEREAS, Marcia M. Johnson was elected to the Florida Association of Court Clerks and Comptrollers Executive Board as Treasurer in 2014, Secretary in 2015, Vice-Chairman in 2016 and President in 2017,

WHEREAS, Marcia M. Johnson guided her office through multiple hurricane recoveries, the BP Oil Spill, the Eastpoint Fire and the COVID-19 Pandemic,

WHEREAS, Marcia M. Johnson is known for her honesty, integrity and for speaking out on issues when necessary,

WHEREAS, Marcia M. Johnson has always maintained an open door policy and has helped countless citizens in Franklin County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners recognizes Marcia M. Johnson's 46 years of service to the county and wishes her a long and happy retirement.

THIS RESOLUTION adopted this 15th day of December, 2020.

Franklin County Board of County Commissioners
Franklin County, Florida

s/Ricky Jones
Ricky Jones, Chairman

ATTEST:

s/Michele Maxwell

Michele Maxwell, Deputy Clerk

Mrs. Maxwell presented the Resolution to Clerk Johnson. Photographs were taken of Clerk Johnson, Mrs. Maxwell and the Board. Commissioner Parrish commended Clerk Johnson for her service to the community and Franklin County and wished her the best in her retirement. Commissioner Ward said she wishes the same. She stated her mother worked for Clerk Johnson for many years and she appreciates her dedication to her staff and her county. She reported her service has been impeccable and 46 years is amazing. Commissioner Ward thanked Clerk Johnson and said it is obvious she loves what she does. She wished Clerk Johnson a happy retirement. Commissioner Lockley said it has been an honor and a privilege to work with Clerk Johnson. He reported Clerk Johnson was elected Clerk the same year he was elected as a County Commissioner. Commissioner Lockley stated she should enjoy her retirement and he offered congratulations. Commissioner Boldt discussed a time he visited Clerk Johnson in her office to discuss Mrs. Griffith attending the meetings and what a positive experience that was. He said Clerk Johnson provides guidance to the Board and he wished her the best in her retirement. Chairman Jones stated the times he spoke with Clerk Johnson in her office were stabilizing, helpful and guiding even though it was not presented that way. He thanked Clerk Johnson for being a woman of faith and practice. Chairman Jones said Clerk Johnson will be missed and he hopes she enjoys her retirement. County Judge J. Gordon Shuler said Clerk Johnson has been a tremendous help to him in 31 years of practice. He thanked Clerk Johnson for everything she has done for him and said she is going to be a fantastic legend in this county and a hard act to follow. Judge Shuler stated he has enjoyed working with her the last 2 years in his capacity as County Judge. He said she will enjoy her retirement and they are all happy for her. County Attorney Michael Shuler stated it has been his honor and privilege to work with Clerk Johnson and he concurs with everything that has been said today. Mr. Rick Watson, Tax Collector, reported when he took office about 3 ½ years ago Clerk Johnson was one of the first people that came to welcome him. He said she and Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Property Appraiser, set the tone for the cooperation they enjoy in the constitutional offices. Mr. Watson said they are lucky that the constitutional officers and the Board get along because in some counties that is not the case. He wished Clerk Johnson good luck. Mrs. Skipper stated it has been an honor and a privilege the last 8 years as Property Appraiser with her as her Clerk. She said those are big shoes for Mrs. Maxwell to fill and she knows Clerk Johnson has given her good guidance and she appreciates it. Mrs. Skipper stated she has enjoyed working with Clerk Johnson and forming a friendship and working relationship with her. She said Clerk Johnson has always put Franklin County first and she thanked her for her service. Mrs. Skipper stated she hopes Clerk Johnson enjoys her retirement and she is jealous. Mrs. Teresa Evans, Judicial Assistant to the County Judge, said she has worked with Clerk Johnson for 34+ years through many judges, judicial assistants and all the changes in the court system. She said the court system has changed but Clerk Johnson has not and for 34 years they have depended on her in Franklin County to do what is right and to keep up with the laws, statutes and financial matters.

Mrs. Evans stated being a public servant has been an honor to Clerk Johnson but it has also been an honor to them. She said Clerk Johnson's word has always been true and on behalf of all the judges, judicial assistants and the court system she thanks her. She reported it is an honor to serve with people of integrity and honesty and Franklin County should be proud of this in Clerk Johnson. Mr. Moron said he agrees with everything that has been said. Mrs. Griffith stated Clerk Johnson has lead by example and for the last 17 years she has worked for the Clerk's Office she cannot think of anyone better to look up to. She said Clerk Johnson sets the tone and her commitment to the office has been at the top of her priorities and Franklin County is lucky to have her. Mr. Pierce agreed and said he is jealous she is getting to retire and maybe he will someday soon. Clerk Johnson thanked everyone that was present at the meeting. She said she will forever be grateful for having the opportunity to serve as their Clerk of Court for 16 years and for working in the office for 30 years prior to that. Clerk Johnson stated she has had some of the best staff and thanked the ones that were able to attend but noted not all of her staff is present because she did not let them close the office. Clerk Johnson reported she and her husband, Robbie, were recently discussing all the County Commissioners she has worked with over her 46 years and there are well over 30 and she is appreciative of those that are here and those that are not here. She stated her first trip to the State Capitol was with County Commissioner Cheryl Sanders who was the Chair when she became Clerk. Clerk Johnson said Commissioner Lockley said they were elected the same year and Commissioner Parrish was elected shortly after that so she has worked longer with those 2 Commissioners but she is appreciative of the other 3 Commissioners. Clerk Johnson said the Board is dedicated to their jobs and it is not an easy job and she knows how much work they do after hours. She stated she is glad there has always been a great relationship between the Clerk's Office and the county. Clerk Johnson said they have made her job easier as well as all the other constitutional officers. She stated they have always been partners and always had a mutual interest of doing what was best for Franklin County. Clerk Johnson recognized County Attorney Michael Shuler and thanked him for his honest good advice over the years. She stated she cannot count the times she has called on him and he was always responsive. Clerk Johnson said she is thankful for the communication and help she received from Mr. Alan Pierce over the years and said the historical knowledge Attorney Shuler and Mr. Pierce have is amazing to her. She thanked Mr. Michael Moron and said he started out working for her and the County Commissioners stole him but they have maintained a great working relationship that has been helpful to the Clerk's Office and the county. Clerk Johnson said she knows her family is proud of her and it is good to leave on her own terms. She stated she will miss her job because she always loved her job and not everyone is lucky enough to work in a job they love. Clerk Johnson thanked the Board for the flowers. She said Mrs. Lori Hines, Board Secretary, has decided to retire from the Clerk's Office and this is her last scheduled meeting with the Board. She stated Mrs. Hines has kept the Board's records properly maintained and available to the public in addition to other duties and she will be missed by many people at the Courthouse. Clerk Johnson asked for a round of applause for the job she has done. Clerk Johnson thanked the Board for their recognition of her and said it is now time to get on with the work. Mr. Moron said he was broken up and could not speak earlier because if it was not for Clerk Johnson he would probably not be working for the Board now.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of December 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meeting held on December 1, 2020.

Payment of County Bills

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

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Sheriff's Office -- Ginger Coulter -- Software Update

Mrs. Coulter congratulated Clerk Johnson on her retirement. She said Clerk Johnson served Franklin County with honor and dignity and she is happy to have worked with her for over 20 years. She thanked Clerk Johnson and said she and her finance staff have always been available when needed and she appreciates it.

Mrs. Coulter explained she appeared last month about a software purchase for the CAD for the Sheriff's Office. She reported a vendor was selected but unfortunately they realized a key module was missing in relation to citations and the software would not mesh with the program the Clerk's Office has. Mrs. Coulter said the vendor could not meet this need so they looked at their second choice EFORCE and they can meet this requirement and any other requirements. She said she is here to ask the Board to shift vendors. Mrs. Coulter stated she believes the quote from EFORCE is \$30,000 less than the other quote. Mrs. Griffith said the quote from Southern Software was \$198,143.00 and the second year cost for support was \$26,630. She reported the bid from EFORCE is \$192,855.54 and the second year support fee is \$24,000. Chairman Jones asked if the software they are considering is a widely used software or if they are one of the few counties in the state that will have this software. Mrs. Coulter stated Liberty County and several of the smaller police departments have this software so they will not be the only agency in Florida to have this software. She explained this software is suited for smaller agencies. Mrs. Coulter said there is another software company that would be a dream software for them but the cost is not reasonable for Franklin County's budget. Chairman Jones explained he is trying to make sure in dealing with technology and software that this will not have to be replaced soon. Mrs. Coulter said she wishes she could say that would never happen but technology is ever changing and that is a possible situation. She reported this software comes with updates and the fee they pay for the first few years will cover the updates but she cannot make guarantees if there are changes at the state and national level that require a new

software like the situation they are in now. Commissioner Boldt clarified this software integrates a citation from out on the streets into the Clerk's file. Mrs. Coulter was not sure but said the first software did not have citation abilities. Commissioner Boldt asked if this software company will provide training and upgrades. Mrs. Coulter responded yes. Commissioner Boldt questioned if there is an escape clause in the contract. Mrs. Coulter stated they have the option to get out of the contract but they will have to pay for what they signed up for. Mrs. Coulter explained the old software was outdated in 2017 and another county shared some software they had written at no cost and that saved them approximately \$200,000 but they had to buy the laptops and server. She reported with the new state and national requirements everyone must meet the requirements. Commissioner Lockley commented the deadline is close. Mrs. Coulter agreed the deadline is January but the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is still working on this matter and has not pushed out all the criteria yet. She explained in the contract with EFORCE is says once FDLE pushes out the rest of the requirements this software will be compliant with their requirements. She reported the deadline is January but FDLE is not ready yet. Chairman Jones said the Board needs to take action since they are changing vendors. Attorney Shuler replied yes. Mrs. Griffith said they need a motion for her to authorize the Purchase Order for the software and for the Sheriff to sign the contract. She explained they are looking at financing and with the other vendor they received 3.15% with their provider-Government Capital. She stated Peoples South Bank provided a 3% fixed rate so they are the best option. She said the down payment will be \$42,855.54 and they will be financing the balance of \$150,000 for approximately 3 years. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to authorize Mrs. Griffith to issue the Purchase Order for the purchase of the software from EFORCE instead of Southern Software, for the Sheriff to sign the contract with EFORCE and to approve the financing with Peoples South Bank and authorize the Chairman to sign the financing agreement. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt asked if the software will be loaded to the laptops the deputies carry in their cars. Mrs. Coulter responded yes and also in the jail because it is also the jail management software. She said every department at the jail will flow through this system except for her office. Mr. Moron asked if Attorney Shuler needs to review the contract. Attorney Shuler said the Sheriff's Department is signing the contract but he will be glad to look over the contract. Mrs. Coulter said she will present the contract to Attorney Shuler. **Commissioner Ward amended her motion to include this action is contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review of the contract. Commissioner Boldt amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Department Directors Report

Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors

B. Road Department Board Report

Mr. Nabors appeared via zoom and said he has no action items. Mr. Nabors reported North Bayshore Drive looks good after the repair.

Mr. Nabors reported the people at Alligator Point are asking about the issue with the 1,100 ft. of Alligator Drive. Mr. Pierce stated they are rebidding the project. He said this is his fault for not having the bid specifications in place last August when the bids were opened but he was trying to provide a cost estimate to FEMA. He explained he did not notify minority bidders which is a FEMA requirement so the project must be rebid. Mr. Pierce stated he has more information on his report but they are hoping to open bids in January. He reported the money is in the bank and they are waiting to get a contractor in accordance with FEMA rules. He explained there was a disagreement on the procurement call about some of the requirements and this will affect all FEMA projects. Mr. Pierce reported the person on the FEMA call is telling them one way this process should be done and he knows that is not the way they have handled this in the past or the way other counties are doing this in regard to road projects. Mr. Pierce explained the person was saying they select a contractor based on qualifications but they base the selection on how much it will cost. He said he thinks they have reached a compromise by using the language that Bay County uses which says contractors must be compliant with a certain section of The Florida Administrative Code. Mr. Pierce stated this is the same section the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) uses to build their base pre-qualifications. He stated rather than saying the contractor must be FDOT prequalified they will use this language out of The Florida Administrative Code. Mr. Pierce said he submitted this language to the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and said the language is currently being used and asked if it is okay but has not heard back from them. He reported the county is going to use this same language because this larger county is using the language and not having any issues with their projects.

Information Items:

1. Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District (see attached documents)

Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

B. Solid Waste Directors Board Report

Mr. Davis said at the last Board meeting some increases were given to some employees and he wants to know how he can look out for his employees. Mr. Moron stated he will bring up in his report the Board getting a company to do a wage study to incorporate the mandatory wage increase. He explained they need to incorporate these changes year by year so the budget does not take one big hit at the end. Chairman Jones agreed that is consistent and he knew this was coming up after the last meeting. He said the state voted for the wage increase so in the next year they will have to address the pay scale. Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Davis for bringing this up because the Department Directors should be the ones that are bringing this up. Commissioner Lockley said the increase in minimum wage will be more than the starting salary for the county. He stated it is not right to just increase a starting salary and not increase the other employees so everything must be addressed. Commissioner Lockley reported this is a mandate so they need to start looking at it now because if they do not address it now they will be in trouble. Commissioner Boldt said he is comforted with working with the day to day

people and appreciates the work they are doing. He stated they will look at salaries and do it in a quality meritorious way. Commissioner Boldt emphasized how valuable the staff is and said the Board supports them. Commissioner Ward agreed the county staff is in need of raises and they are integral and provide the county with much needed and required work. She explained she is not saying the people that received the raises did not deserve them but some people are doing multiple jobs with the onset of COVID. Commissioner Ward stated everyone deserves a raise and she understands the budget has already been done for the year but she has some ideas to discuss after the meeting about how to execute this and go along in the future with it. She agreed with Commissioner Lockley that it is not fair for people to start at a rate of pay equal to or higher than people who have been here for 10-30 years. Commissioner Ward suggested performance evaluations be used and that raises should be based on merit. She said it is up to the Chairman if they address this item but she was going to bring it up during Mr. Moron's item. Mr. Moron read the following item from this report:

5. Minimum Wage Salary Study: Towards the end of your December 1st meeting the Board discussed preparing for the mandatory \$15 minimum wage increase. After the meeting, Mrs. Erin Griffith forwarded a salary study that was done in 1995 by RES but never adopted by the County. Would the Board consider authorizing staff to develop a Request for Qualifications or Proposals to have a similar study done that would include a plan to adjust county employee wages for the yearly mandatory increases to the minimum wage?
Request: Board discussion and direction.

Mr. Moron said he thinks the way the state proposed this change it is \$1.00 per year. He explained if they get the study done and incorporate comments such as Commissioner Ward has they could make that part of the study and prepare for what needs to be done each budget year. Commissioner Ward stated the study Mrs. Griffith forwarded to them was done in 1995 and some people are still working for the county and may not be making much more and that is sad because the employees provide a wonderful service to the community and the county. She reported they lose people to other jobs because they cannot keep up with the pay. She said she understands they have a budget but the county is growing. Commissioner Ward stated she feels like they can make some changes for the future to make sure their staff is appreciated and that they want to stay with the county. Mr. Moron reported they need to plan and that is his recommendation to the Board. Chairman Jones said they have adequately addressed the wages from the last time the county moved the starting salary up because the wages were compressed. He explained that happened because they just moved the bottom people up but did not move anyone else. He said as they address this situation it will be difficult to move the bottom people without moving everyone else. Chairman Jones explained the salary for someone that has worked for the county for 20 years and the salary for someone that just started should not be close. Commissioner Ward agreed. Mr. Davis asked if they would include people that are required to have certifications from the state in this study. He said employees must have certifications for the Solid Waste Department and Animal Control Department. Mr. Davis stated there must be some incentive if someone is required to be certified. Chairman Jones said not only to keep the certification but also to retain the certification. He reported this will also include Mosquito Control because they probably have more certifications than anyone. Mrs. Griffith suggested the job classifications. Mr. Moron requested the Board allow him to

work with Mrs. Griffith and Mr. Leonard Carson, labor attorney, to draft an RFP/RFQ.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to direct Mr. Moron to draft a RFP/RFQ. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Commissioner Lockley said when they get the results of the study he would like to have workshops to get this worked out. Commissioner Boldt stated he supports that and is glad to hear the labor attorney will be involved in crafting the RFP. He said there is a lot of criteria that go into the RFP and he is looking forward to seeing a rough draft. Mr. Moron stated he will present a draft before it is advertised. Commissioner Parrish said in relation to the minimum wage being \$15.00 an hour they need to get away from advertising a starting annual salary and advertise the hourly rate. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Moron presented the following item from his report:

2. Animal Control Agreement: During the 2019 – 20 budget process Mr. Fonda Davis, your Animal Control Director, informed the Board that without additional staff his department could not continue to respond to calls in the unincorporated areas of the County and in both the City of Apalachicola and the City of Carrabelle. The Board agreed to add the necessary staff to his department, but in order to reduce the burden of a tax increase to the residents residing in the unincorporated areas of the county, both cities would have to agree to share in the cost and other terms if they wanted continued response to animal complaint calls. If not, the Board would remove both cities from the Animal Control service area by amending the Animal Control Ordinance. Both cities initially agreed to the terms and paid the first year's cost, however the City of Apalachicola would like to meet to discuss and possibly renegotiate the agreement and the City of Carrabelle will not participate in any further cost sharing or other terms regarding animal control services. Based on the information provided, is the Board ready to schedule a public hearing to amend the Animal Control Ordinance?

Request: Board discussion and direction regarding the Animal Control Ordinance.

Mr. Moron stated the City of Carrabelle had a very spirited meeting and motion toward the County Commission about animal control. He said he reached out to them and asked what their intentions were for signing the interlocal agreement and paying the invoices for the service and they responded they will not sign the interlocal agreement and he received a letter from the City of Carrabelle Mayor. Mr. Moron said in the letter the Mayor is saying the Board should increase the county's budget in incremental increases for all citizens to cover animal control services within the City of Carrabelle. He stated if he misunderstood her letter he will be the first to apologize and stand corrected. Mr. Moron explained he has a problem with that suggestion and does not see why the residents in the unincorporated areas of the county should pay for services within the 2 cities. He said the Board receives letters about double taxing but the county provides the library in the City of Carrabelle. He went on to say the City of Carrabelle has not paid the building officials' salary or contributed to the costs. He explained they have paid for half of the cost of the software that the county paid for that does their permitting. Mr. Moron stated they may have paid for part of the cost of the Building Inspector but never the Building Official. He reported in his report the Board will see a Local Agency Program (LAP) certified sidewalk project and the county staff administers their LAP certified sidewalk projects in the city because the City of Carrabelle is not LAP certified. Mr. Moron said that is just a few of the items. He reported the Board does more for the City of Carrabelle than

the City of Apalachicola because the City of Apalachicola pays for their library and they have their own building department and building official. Mr. Moron said the Board must decide what they are going to do about this situation. Mr. Moron stated the City of Apalachicola has asked for a meeting with Mr. Davis because they cannot find in their records the amount of calls that would justify the \$7,000 fee that they would have to pay every year for animal control. He said he talked with Mr. Davis and he is fine with meeting with them to clarify the amount of calls. Mr. Moron explained he thinks the Apalachicola Chief of Police records all the calls because the police respond with the animal control officer to make sure there is no conflict. He asked for direction from the Board. Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Moron for being civil because they are not having as spirited a discussion as the City of Carrabelle had and he is glad. He said in relation to double taxation anyone that lives in the city limits is taxed by the city for city services. Chairman Jones reported this Board is for unincorporated Franklin County and the county has no backup. He said if the county is addressing services in the city and the incorporated areas are going without services then the people in the unincorporated areas are the only people being taxed that are not receiving services because no one from the city is going to assist them. He said they are not double taxing. Chairman Jones explained it is a revenue cost sharing to try and keep from going up on taxes because the Animal Control Department is small and normally only have one person on duty. He reported they are looking at adding staff and that is why the additional money came up but it is not close to the amount of money the people in the unincorporated areas are chipping in to make sure the county can provide this service. Commissioner Ward stated she met with the City of Carrabelle Mayor this week and watched the city meeting. She said the issue is they were talking about having a city officer at every call but the Animal Control Officers are only making a report if action is taken. Commissioner Ward said no report is filed if they do not take action. Commissioner Ward stated the animal control officers need to log their time for every call even if no action is taken and if they go to the same animal more than once then maybe by the third time action needs to be taken. She explained that would provide a better record of the productivity of the animal control officer and that would justify the costs to each individual city. Commissioner Parrish stated this all originated from animal control officers being called to respond within the city limits and being berated and threatened. He explained the animal control officers have no authority to arrest anyone and in some instances their lives have been threatened. He said people cherish their animals and that is why they requested a police officer accompany the animal control officers because they do not deserve this treatment. He stated the response from the east side of the county has been not to send an officer to assist the county animal control officer. Commissioner Parrish stated because they are spending so much time in the cities in addition to complaints on St. George Island they need to hire another officer to help. He went on to say they thought the 2 cities could split up the costs to pay half of the salary for the new officer. Commissioner Parrish explained the county is not asking them to pay the whole salary. He stated they are not trying to pick on either city and if they do not have any calls then they do not even need an animal control officer but that is not true because they call every week and want the Animal Control Department to respond. He reported the cities do not have a place to quarantine animals so that is on the county and all they are asking for is a little help. Commissioner Parrish said for the tax dollars the county is providing an ambulance, mosquito control, animal control and the Courthouse. He stated all of these things are done by

the county and funded by the county. Commissioner Parrish said they also pave every road except for a couple of roads the City of Carrabelle has paved. Commissioner Parrish reported he and Commissioner Lockley pave every road in the City of Apalachicola with their road paving funds. He said people are getting services for their county tax dollars. Commissioner Parrish stated they do not tell the cities how to spend their tax dollars or do their budget. He said the Board tries to assist the people, spend their tax dollars wisely and provide services for their tax dollars but they cannot do everything. He explained there are other taxing authorities and they need to set aside some money in their budgets to help the county deliver some of these services to people within the municipalities. Commissioner Parrish stated just like Chairman Jones said the people in the unincorporated areas can only call the county for assistance not the cities. He said if they are not willing to assist the county then he would like to do away with animal control within the 2 municipalities. Commissioner Parrish reported the cities will then have to have a place to quarantine animals and have their own animal control officer. He questioned why they would not assist the county because it will cost them more than \$7,000 to address this issue. Commissioner Parrish stated they will have to build a facility in addition to having an officer and then some of these items must also be handled in court. He said the county is not asking for too much. Commissioner Parrish reported if they do not need the service then they do not need to call the county. He stated both municipalities are taxing about as much as they can and if the county keeps going they are going to be in the same place. Commissioner Parrish said he does not want to do that and he questioned if they want to be the ones that were here when the millage rate was raised to as much as the law would allow. He stated he wants to be fiscally conservative but give people the services they need and deserve. Commissioner Parrish explained it is a bad position to be in when you are at the maximum millage rate the law will allow and you need to fund something and cannot because they do not have that ability. He said either the cities want to contribute to help or they can do away with the service. Commissioner Lockley questioned if the cities are saying they are not going to pay. Mr. Moron answered yes, they will not sign the interlocal agreement and pay. Commissioner Ward questioned if they are discussing whether to make a motion to re-address the animal control ordinance. Attorney Shuler agreed Mr. Moron asked if they would authorize a public hearing to consider an amendment to the jurisdictional areas of the Animal Control Ordinance. He explained until 2017, which was the last update of the Animal Control Ordinance, both municipalities were excluded and animal control services were not provided by the county within the City of Apalachicola or the City of Carrabelle. Attorney Shuler reported the county has had a problem with extending the jurisdictional reach of the ordinance. He recommended the Board schedule the public hearing to consider excluding both municipalities from the Animal Control Ordinance and go back to the way the county use to provide services just to the unincorporated areas. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to authorize a public hearing to consider an amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance.** Commissioner Lockley said the county has done their due diligence in trying to help and he does not want to get in an argument with the City of Carrabelle but this is not right. He reported they are getting the calls and he questioned why the county animal control officers should go out and be mistreated. Commissioner Lockley stated the animal control officers are working for the county and it is on them if something happens. He said he does not want to put the animal control officers in harm's way. He reported if they do not want to do this they cannot make them and he is not

going to fight about it but he is not going to be responsible for sending the animal control officer over there. Commissioner Boldt stated much of the conversation has been spotty and they have a chance to take a leadership role and look at how to bond together the Humane Society, the 2 cities and the county in this one effort. He suggested the county do some investigation on how animal control is done in other places and come up with a plan. Commissioner Parrish said the county has tried to work in partnership with the 2 municipalities but they are not willing to participate. Commissioner Boldt stated there is new leadership in the cities. Commissioner Parrish pointed out Mr. Moron has just dealt with the cities in the last week or so. He stated for 2 years they have been trying to work with them on this issue but they cannot keep going with the county funding everything or they will be where the 2 municipalities are at 10 mills and he is not voting for that. Commissioner Parrish explained they are asking for \$7,000 from each city to pay half of the salary of another animal control officer but the county is providing the other half of the salary, the vehicles and the animal shelter. He stated they are refusing to work with the county and he is not willing to keep going in this direction. Commissioner Parrish reported the cities do not have anywhere to take the animals and they do not want to get between the people and their animals but they want the county to do it. He explained the county asked for a little assistance and are not getting any cooperation. **Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley agreed with Commissioner Parrish and said the county tried to help and is doing the right thing. He said they are not asking for much just a little assistance with this. Mr. Davis reported the Animal Control Department is keeping a log for each call. Commissioner Ward thanked Mr. Davis for this information. Commissioner Boldt asked if something positive can come out of the workshop and they can have a plan for animal control in the future. Chairman Jones stated they are taking action to hold a public hearing to address the Animal Control Ordinance. He reported just like any other public hearing the public can have comment so that would be the appropriate time for any discussion. Chairman Jones stated as it stands today he does not see how the Board can take any other action but to schedule the public hearing. Mr. Moron stated the Animal Control Ordinance is a very good ordinance and that is the plan they follow. He explained this is not about the Animal Control Department but about the area they cover and what they can afford to cover and protection of the animal control staff when they respond in certain locations. Mr. Moron reported the Animal Control Department does a good job. Attorney Shuler informed the Board in addition to addressing the jurisdictional areas another issue he will address is the length of leashes people keep their dogs on. He stated he has been informed of people using 40 ft. leashes. Chairman Jones agreed that is appropriate because he has heard of 50 ft. leashes on St. George Island. Commissioner Parrish questioned the penalty if the person lets the animal off the leash. Attorney Shuler said there is a graduated fine schedule for animals running at large. He stated he will look at the ordinance and send that information out to the Board. Commissioner Parrish stated there are a lot of complaints at St. George Island and they may need a more substantial penalty. He said he would like this item looked at. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Moron said he can finally speak about Clerk Johnson and if it was not for her he would not be here. He stated Clerk Johnson hired him and he had contact with the Board and that

allowed him to come here as the County Coordinator. He thanked Clerk Johnson for all she has done for him.

The meeting recessed at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:43 a.m.

Information Item:

1. Right-of-Way Debris Pickup/Recycle Material Hauled (See Attached Document)

Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Mrs. Brownell did not have any action items.

Commissioner Boldt reported her Information Item #3 says the dune walkovers have been obligated and he questioned if the money is in the bank and they can begin the repairs. Mrs. Brownell stated that means the project has mitigation on it and they have approved the mitigation so they can start the project. She reported the county pays and then they get reimbursed. Commissioner Boldt asked if the design plans are ready. Mrs. Brownell reported they mitigated it with American with Disability (ADA) mats. Mr. Pierce stated this may be done in-house so they may not receive bids. Mrs. Brownell agreed they will order the mats and decide where to put them. Commissioner Parrish asked if there was an issue with some of the dune walkovers being built over private property. He questioned if there will be surveys to put these items on county owned property. Mr. Pierce was not sure but said there is no money in the Project Worksheet (PW) for surveys so the county will have to do that. He stated someone needs to remind them of which dune walkover it is so they correct this problem. Commissioner Parrish said he thinks there was only one. Mrs. Griffith agreed she only remembers one. Commissioner Parrish explained he wants to make sure they do not do this again. Mr. Pierce said hopefully Mr. Davis will remind them which dune walkover it is. Commissioner Boldt stated he know the constituent that has that data and he will let them know.

D. Emergency Management Board Report

1. Digital Kiosks have been placed in their assigned locations within the County.
2. EOC staff continue to put together COVID Care Bags and have begun to distribute them to the vulnerable populations in the County.
3. Alligator Point dune walkovers have been obligated.
4. EOC staff are scheduled to meet with DOH 12/15/20 to discuss COVID vaccinations.
5. Message Boards have arrived and are in the process of getting tags for them in order to put them out in the community.
6. EOC Staff continues to work Hurricane Sally from 09/12/20 and continues to work with FDEM and FEMA.
7. EOC Staff continue to participate in the NOAA Tropical Weather Training.

8. EOC has submitted our New LMS Plan and corrections to the state and are awaiting approval.
9. EOC Staff along with our CERT Volunteers continue to distribute washable & reusable cloth mask throughout our community. We have partnered with the City of Carrabelle and City of Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce along with the St. George Island & Eastpoint Visitor Centers to assist with distribution to local businesses and residents. We will continue this effort as long as supplies are available.
10. EOC Staff are working diligently with DOH Staff regarding the COVID-19 virus. This includes hosting meetings with representatives from DOH, Sheriff's Dept. Weems, EMS, as needed. We also are assisting with Conference Calls, information distribution from DOH via Alert Franklin, Facebook and our EOC Website.
11. EOC Staff continue to participate in conference calls with State DEM, Region 2, DOH, FEMA, etc. regarding COVID 19. We also continue to update WebEOC with Local State of Emergency and SitReps.
12. EOC Staff continue to work on FEMA reimbursement claims from Hurricane Michael. This includes working with FEMA staff regarding mitigation of damaged parks, roads, etc. Mitigation takes some time but EOC Staff continue to work diligently with FEMA Staff on the most beneficial repairs for Franklin County. We are in contact with our PDMG regularly regarding these projects and will update the Board as soon as the State Review is completed. EOC Staff has also began the FEMA reimbursement claim process for COVID-19 and Hurricane Sally.
13. Below is a copy of the DOH Dashboard regarding COVID-19 Cases in Franklin County as of 12/15/20 at 1:30 pm. (see attached document)

Extension Office Director – Erik Lovstrand

Mr. Lovstrand did not have any action items. He said they are continuing to provide Extension services. Commissioner Boldt discussed their office collecting 63 lbs. of peanut butter. Mr. Lovstrand stated they have been doing this project across the panhandle counties for several years. He reported the peanut producers in North Florida match their collection and the peanut butter is distributed to local food banks in the counties it is collected in.

E. Extension Board Report

Informational Items

General Extension Activities:

1. During this period, the Extension office assisted citizens on the topics of a large oak with thinning canopy, home landscaping questions, raccoon issues, citrus greening disease, more trees attacked by pine beetles, damage to old cedar tree, minor fish kill in a pond, and more.
2. Extension Director transported an injured adult Bald Eagle from St. George Island to the veterinary hospital in Tallahassee for surgery.
3. Extension staff collected 63 pounds of peanut butter during the annual Peanut Butter Challenge this year. This is matched each year by the North Florida Peanut Producers and then donated to local food banks in the County.

Sea Grant Extension:

4. Extension Director participated in statewide Sea Grant discussion via Zoom to share project work and discuss program needs.

4-H Youth Development:

5. Extension staff are working to initiate another 4-H club as two new adult volunteers are going through the certification/screening process with UF.

6. One of the existing clubs is planning to begin a shooting sports program, beginning with archery. The Extension office is seeking donations for the purchase of start-up sets, targets, etc. All donations are tax deductible as they are processed through UF fiscal procedures.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

7. Family Nutrition Program assistant, following school and UF Covid Phase III policies, is continuing to conduct some in-person lessons in local schools.

Agriculture/Home Horticulture:

8. Assisted multiple property owners in Apalachicola with oak species identification and issues regarding potential risks to nearby structures.

TDC Administrator – John Solomon – Report

Mr. Solomon said he does not have any action items but does have an end of the year report.

Mr. Solomon highlighted the report for the Board, as follows:

F. TDC Administrator's Board Report

Information Items:

1. Collections Report: September Collections were \$140,186.24 which is a 55.7% increase over September 2019. An increase of \$50,134.67. This is the highest amount ever collected by the Franklin County TDC in the month of September. Also, in the past two years the September Collections has increased by 100% 2018 collections were \$70,419.47.

Mr. Solomon stated this goes back to what the TDC wants to do which is to bring more people to the county in other months.

2. Fiscal Year Collections: The 2019-2020 Fiscal year collections was \$1,432,091.48. Which is an increase of 2.17% over last year's collections. Considering vacation rentals were closed for over 2 months this is a remarkable collection number for the year.

3. Visit Florida Flagler Awards: "The Flagler Awards is an annual statewide competition recognizing outstanding Florida tourism marketing. The program was created by VISIT FLORIDA to honor the countless individuals and organizations that help position Florida as the No. 1 travel destination in the world. Each year the Flagler Awards pay tribute to the determined efforts of those who use their skill, resourcefulness, creativity and innovative spirit to market Florida to the world."

The Franklin County TDC won three Flagler Awards for the 2019-2020 year:

Silver - Direct Marketing – **Open for the Businesses of Peace & Quiet Villages Invitation**

Bronze - Resource /Promotional Materials Consumer – **Franklin County Visitor Guide**

Bronze – Television Advertising – **Discover the Forgotten Coast TV Show**

The Franklin County TDC also assisted Play Hard Florida in the production of the Explore the Forgotten Coast video. That video won the Henry for Rural County Marketing.

I would like to express how proud I am of all of the TDC for their efforts in marketing Franklin County, these awards do not come easily and the level of competition is the best the state has to offer.

Mr. Solomon said the other 2 winners had much larger budgets.

4. Occupancy Statistics: Attached you will find two reports, they are comparing the year to date stats for 2020 as well as 2019. Both reports compare Franklin County with Northwest Florida and Florida in average Length of stay and occupancy percentage for the year. In the Average length of stay Franklin County was 8.7 days leading Florida by 2 days and Northwest Florida by 2.7 days. In Paid Occupancy for the year Franklin County increased in 2020 to 62.2% versus 59.1% in 2019. Where Florida and Northwest Florida both had decreases in Occupancy. Florida had a 42.7% Occupancy and Northwest Florida had a 48% Occupancy for 2020.

5. Web Stats for Fiscal Year 2019-2020: Web hits to Floridasforgottencoast.com were 434,053 which is a 10% increase over the previous year 85% was new visitors to the website. Visitor Guide mail out requests were 2,813 which was an 18% increase over previous year. The Franklin County Tourist development Facebook page had over 3.6 Million Impressions in this past fiscal year.

6. The Florida's Forgotten Coast Mobile app is now available for download on both Apple and Google platforms.

Mr. Solomon reported the app has not had any crashes.

Chairman Jones stated all the numbers also take into consideration the closure. He reported they mailed 2,800 visitor guides but the guide was also accessible online to download and there were more than 2,800 downloads. Commissioner Ward congratulated Mr. Solomon on the 100% increase. She reported the county is growing and some people end up moving here. She said he and TDC did a great job. Mr. Solomon stated they have a great team and a vision of where they want to be. He explained they do not want to change Franklin County but are enhancing what people love about Franklin County and it is good to see it pay off.

Weems CEO -- David X Walker -- COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Mr. Moron stated Mr. Walker is on the agenda because Commissioner Parrish asked for an update on the COVID-19 vaccine. He explained Mr. Walker will be at the next meeting to provide a comprehensive update. Mr. Walker reported Mrs. Courtney Alford, Director of Nursing, and Ms. Donna Taratoot, Lab Manager, are also present. He stated distributing the COVID-19 vaccine is a top priority for Florida. Mr. Walker reported Ms. Sarah Hinds, Department of Health, is not present as she is in another meeting but she will be at a meeting this afternoon at the EOC to discuss vaccination plans. He stated there are 2 vaccines available that will be allocated to Florida. Mr. Walker said everyone has seen in the news that the Pfizer vaccine has just come in but hopefully the Moderna vaccine will be approved Friday and then will be shipped out to the different hospitals throughout the state. He explained the Pfizer vaccine was distributed to 5 hospitals located in Miami Dade County, Broward County, Orange County, Hillsborough County and Duval County. He stated the vaccines were sent to vaccinate the priority group which is health care workers. Mr. Walker explained the Pfizer vaccine must be stored in an ultra-cold storage unit at 70 below zero. He reported if the Moderna vaccine is

approved this week it will be shipped out to all hospitals in Florida to start vaccinations of their front line workers. Mr. Walker reported they ordered a freezer on December 3rd that can meet the Pfizer requirements and they are a few weeks from having the freezer delivered here to Weems Memorial Hospital. He said they have been discussing vaccinations protocols and plans and he wants to make sure the rural communities are not left out. He stated many facilities do not have an ultra-cold freezer and they wanted to be in a position to receive the vaccine to vaccinate their staff and possibly other health care workers in the county. He reported the priority group is health care workers and nursing home facilities. Mr. Walker explained he and Mrs. Hinds will have more information at the 2nd meeting in January. He stated both vaccines require a 2 shot interval. He reported the vaccine for hospital workers is voluntary and they cannot require anyone to take it because there are a lot of unknowns. Mr. Walker stated they will provide all the information to the employees and then they can make a choice. He reported they will continue to provide updates and inform them when they have enough to vaccinate the community. Mr. Walker stated they do vaccinations clinics in coordination with the Health Department but once they get the initial vaccine the person must be observed for 15 minutes for any reactions so they must plan for this even when they vaccinate their own staff. Commissioner Parrish stated the reason he brought this up to Mr. Moron was to make sure when the vaccines are distributed they have a way to hold the vaccines. He reported they discussed vaccinating nursing home people and front line workers but was there anything about people with underlying conditions. Mr. Walker stated he was on a call this morning and the second priority group may be people with high underlying conditions and people 65 years of age or older but they have not decided yet. Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Walker to keep them informed when the vaccine is available for people with underlying conditions. Mr. Walker stated he will because they have a lot of people with high underlying conditions living in the community. He reported they will meet later today at the EOC with the Health Department about these items. Commissioner Parrish thanked Mr. Walker for getting the hospital prepared because they do not want to be excluded because they cannot keep the vaccine cold. Commissioner Lockley stated they know how many people they will vaccinate but what happens to the vaccine if someone declines to be vaccinated. Mr. Walker said they have to input information into the Florida Shots portal when they vaccinate someone and after they vaccinate their staff they will vaccinate other health care workers. He explained they want to get the vaccine out because after a certain amount of time the vaccine will not be any good. Commissioner Lockley questioned if someone that has underlying conditions will be able to get the vaccine if someone refuses the vaccine. Mr. Walker said when the state tells then what the second priority group is they will start to identify people, reach out to them and then set a schedule for vaccination. He explained with normal vaccinations you can have people drive up in a car but with this vaccine they must monitor people for 15 minutes so there must be a schedule. Commissioner Lockley stated he is glad they are getting this set up. Mr. Walker reported just because they are a small hospital they still want to make sure they are not left out. Commissioner Boldt asked what the maximum capacity of vials the ultra-cold freezer will hold. Mrs. Taratoot was not sure. Mr. Walker said they do not have it with them but Mrs. Alford has it in her office and he will let them know. Commissioner Boldt asked if the vaccine has a 5 day shelf life. Ms. Taratoot answered it has a 5 day shelf life after it is defrosted. She reported as long as it is in the freezer it will be good until the expiration date on the vial.

Commissioner Boldt and Ms. Taratoot discussed how the vaccine is thawed. He explained he was thinking about how this would be handled in the outpatient clinics. Mr. Walker reported with the rural counties the Moderna vaccine will play a more critical role because it does not have to be stored at -70 so it is easier to store. Ms. Taratoot stated the Moderna vaccine only requires a temperature of -20 and they already have a freezer for -20.

Public Hearings 10:00 A.M. (ET)

Mrs. Amy Ham-Kelly, Flood Plane Manager, presented the following item:

- G. Due to unforeseen discrepancies with the advertisement of the Public Hearings that were to hear on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 we have had to reschedule them for Tuesday, January 19, 2021

- Land Use Change of 6.08 Acres- 10:30 AM
- Re-Zoning Change of 6.08 Acres- 10:35 AM
- Land Use Change of 10 Acres- 10:40 AM
- Re-Zoning of 10 Acres- 10:45 AM

Mrs. Ham-Kelly said the public hearings will be scheduled with Mr. David Theriaque, outside counsel.

- H. Consideration of a request for Land Use Change of a 6.08 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2514 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida from Residential to Commercial. Request submitted by Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.
BOARD ACTION: To Approve, Table or Deny
- I. Consideration of a request to Re-Zone a 6.08 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2514 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida from R-2 Single Family Mobile Home to C-3 Commercial Recreation. Request submitted by Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.
BOARD ACTION: To Approve, Table or Deny
- J. Consideration of a request for Land Use Change of a 10 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2536 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida from Agriculture and Residential to Commercial. Request submitted by Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.
BOARD ACTION: To Approve, Table or Deny
- K. Consideration of a request for a Re-Zoning of a 10 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2536 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida from A-2 Forestry Agriculture and R-2 Residential to C-3 Commercial Recreation. Request submitted by Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.
BOARD ACTION: To Approve, Table or Deny

Board of Adjustment – Amy Ham-Kelly – Report

Mrs. Ham-Kelly read the following report for the Board:

- L. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR A VARIANCE TO CONSTRUCT A 100' X 8' ROCK REVETMENT ON THE SHORELINE OF THE APALACHICOLA RIVER AND 8' X 93' ALONG THE SHORELINE OF A PRIVATE CANAL ALONG AN EXISTING DILAPIDATED SEAWALL (SEAWALL TO BE REPAIRED IF IT CAN BE SALVAGED). THE ROCK REVETMENT WILL NOT BE ANY STEEPER THAT A RATIO OF TWO HORIZONTAL TO ONE VERTICAL (2/1 RATIO) AND WILL EXTEND 8 FEET FROM THE SEAWALL. PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS 11 BIG OAKS, APALACHICOLA, FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA. STATE AND FEDERAL PERMITS ATTACHED FOR THE 100' X 8' SECTION AND WILL BE CONTINGENT UPON RECEIVING THE STATE AND FEDERAL PERMIT FOR THE 93' X 8' PORTION. REQUEST SUBMITTED BY GARLICK ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATES, AGENT FOR CLAY PALM, APPLICANT.
BOA ACTION: TO APPROVE AS REQUESTED.
BOARD ACTION: TO APPROVE, TABLE OR DENY.

Chairman Jones asked if the Board of Adjustment approved this request. Mrs. Ham-Kelly responded yes. **On motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.**

Planning and Zoning – Amy Ham-Kelly – Report

Mrs. Ham-Kelly provided the following report:

- M. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock located at 381 River Road, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. The dock walkway will be 6' x 10' and the dock width is 12' x 16' with a 18' x 32' Boat Slip. The applicant has the DEP self-certification Request submitted by Craig Shearer, applicant. (House has been permitted)
Planning & Zoning Recommendation: Unanimous vote to approve contingent upon receiving the State and Federal Permits.
BCC ACTION: To Approve, Table or Deny

On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request contingent upon the applicant receiving state and federal permits.

- N. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock located at 1927 Indian Harbor Road, Lot 7, Indian Bay Village, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. The application will be contingent upon receiving State and Federal Permits. The dock walkway will be 176' x 4' and 61' x 4' with a 6' x 26' terminal platform. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Jared Orciani, applicant. (Proposed House)
Planning & Zoning Recommendation: Unanimous vote to approve contingent upon receiving the State and Federal Permits.
BCC ACTION: To Approve, Table or Deny

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request contingent upon receiving the state and federal permits.

- O. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock at Lot 3 Egret Landing, 2514 Egret Lane, West of Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida. The dock will be 250' x 4' with a 6' x 20' terminal platform with a 2' step down. The applicant has all State and Federal Permits. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for Dan Guild, applicant.

Planning & Zoning Recommendation: Unanimous vote to approve this item. The applicant has all the State and Federal Permits.

BCC ACTION: To Approve, Table or Deny

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

Sketch Plat Approval

Mrs. Ham-Kelly read the following item for the Board's consideration:

- P. Consideration of a request for Sketch Plat Approval of a 5.66 acre parcel of land lying in Section 36, Township 8 South, Range 7 West, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. The subdivision will be named "The Bluffs of North Bayshore" and will consist of 5 lots over 1 acre each. Request submitted by Andy Durham, agent for LMKS, LLC.

Planning & Zoning Recommendation- Unanimous vote to approve this Sketch Plat with the applicant numbering the lots.

BOARD ACTION: To Approve, Table or Deny

Mrs. Ham-Kelly said each property fronts North Bayshore Drive and will not need a road to access each property. She stated each lot is 100 ft. in width. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to approve the sketch plat with the applicant numbering the lots. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Ward inquired about the road to each acre. Mrs. Ham-Kelly stated all lots front North Bayshore Drive so they have direct access. Chairman Jones explained they will all be creating their own driveway. Mrs. Ham-Kelly stated that is correct. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Land Use & Re-Zoning Public Hearing Request

Mrs. Ham-Kelly presented the following requests:

- Q. Consideration of a request for a Public Hearing to re-zone a 20 acre parcel lying in Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 7 West, North of Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida from R-6 Rural Residential to R-1 Single Family Residential. Request submitted by Thomas M. Shuler, applicant.

Planning & Zoning Recommendation: Unanimous vote to approve this request for go forward with a Public Hearing.

BOARD ACTION: To Approve, Table or Deny request for a Public Hearing

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the request and go forward with a public hearing.

- R. Consideration of a request for a Public Hearing for a Large Scale Land Use Change for a 41.64 acre parcel lying in Section 10, Township 6 South, Range 3 West, located at 471 McIntyre Road, West of the Ochlocknee River from A-1 Forestry Agriculture to C-3 Commercial Recreation. Request submitted by Gary West and William McKinney, agents for BB&G Resorts, LLC, applicant.

**The County has received letter of opposition concerning this project.
Planning & Zoning Recommendation:**

Unanimous vote to deny the request to go forward with a Public Hearing based on:

- a. **Spot Zoning-** although it is not illegal, it is not good practice.
- b. **Historical Features-** The Florida Master Site File shows that the McIntyre area has been captured by "Camp Gordon Johnston" along with undocumented site called "McIntyre Saw Mill Site".
- c. **Traffic-**
- i- The County has not performed any traffic counts for McIntyre Road and the number of RV and Primitive Camping lots would be a good indicator of the new traffic pattern. At this time there are 32 proposed RV lots an undisclosed number of primitive lots and would definitely increase the traffic on that road.
- ii- The County has an Ordinance #92-3 states the prohibited uses of McIntyre Road limiting the number of axles to no more than 2 axles and no driving, operating or pulling any trailer having a load of over 5,000 pounds on McIntyre Road.
- d. **Wetlands:** The National Wetlands Inventory Map shows the area within possible wetlands. If there are any jurisdictional wetlands the setback from them would 50 feet. If they are non-jurisdictional wetlands you would have to have state and federal permits to fill them and would require a variance or build up to them, but not within them. At this time a detailed wetlands study has not been conducted.
- e. **Water & Sewer-** Water and Sewer is not available to this area. A potable water well for this project would have to be approved and permitted by DEP and the Northwest Florida Water Management. Septic Source- would be required to be approved by the Department of Health.
- Planning & Zoning Recommendation-** Unanimous vote to deny this request based on the information stated above to not send this request to a Public Hearing.

BOARD ACTION: To Approve, Table or Deny

Mrs. Ham-Kelly stated Mr. Gary West, one of the applicants, would like to speak before a motion is made. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to take this request to a public hearing.** He said by law they must give them a public hearing. Mr. Moron stated there is one person on the telephone that would like to speak. Attorney Shuler said the Board can finish the motion and second and then take public comment. Commissioner Ward asked if the person for public comment is available to speak now. Attorney Shuler explained the person has indicated they wish to speak now and that is determined by the Board. Chairman Jones questioned if

they can get a second to the motion and then take public comment. Attorney Shuler answered that is a good way to proceed. He pointed out the Board has not adopted Roberts' Rules of Order. **Motion failed for lack of a second.** Chairman Jones asked for public comment. Mr. Wade Brown, the property owner at 465 McIntyre Road, stated he sent a letter of opposition. He reported the letter explains that this request is inconsistent to the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan and he is the neighbor that will be adversely affected by this matter. Mr. Brown stated the land use the applicant is requesting is campground and that does not exist in the land use change and Comprehensive Plan. He explained traffic will be an issue with the dirt road and they cannot travel with dual axle vehicles. Mr. Brown stated the property is 80% wetlands. He explained this will have an environmental impact because it all drains to the river. Mr. Brown stated there is a lack of infrastructure and no central sewer or potable water. He said this request should be denied. Mr. Brown offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Lockley reported it has been the Board's policy to allow a public hearing if someone asks for a public hearing. He explained allowing the public hearing does not mean they will vote for what has been requested. Commissioner Lockley stated they have a right to a public hearing. Commissioner Ward stated if they institute the public hearing then they must pay the County Attorney and the public will attend which she is not opposed to. She reported they have a Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment to direct them and they have investigated these items. She explained even if they go to public hearing they still have issues with the road and there is an ordinance about the axles. Commissioner Ward questioned if the road is even good enough to handle the traffic. She stated she is not opposed to having a public hearing but they have all these items that state this needs to be denied. Commissioner Parrish said another issue is they have never changed agricultural land which is 1 unit per 40 acres. He stated they would be setting a precedent. Commissioner Parrish said they discussed allowing the public hearing but why would they bring something up for consideration that is null and void because they are going to take agricultural land that is zoned 1 unit per 40 acres and put an intensive commercial use on it with no infrastructure. He stated he is not for the project. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to deny taking this request to a public hearing.** He explained there are a lot of areas in the county where people bought agricultural land knowing they could only put 1 unit per 40 acres. He reported they buy the land cheap and then want to rezone it. Commissioner Parrish said one time they broke some land down to 1 unit per 10 acres so the owner's children could build a house. He stated increasing the intensity of a 40 acre tract of agricultural land is not the right way to do things and other people are waiting and if they allow this then the next person is entitled to the same right. He reported this land has a lot of wetlands and that is how it became agricultural because it was not suitable to build on. **Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Attorney Shuler asked Mr. Moron to check for any additional public comment because Mrs. Ham-Kelly indicated the owner of the property would like to speak. Mr. Moron asked for public comment. Mr. William McKinney, BB & G Resorts, LLC, stated they bought the property with the intention of doing a small scale RV resort. He explained they will use approximately 10 acres of the 41 acres. He stated 6.5 acres will be kept pristine for primitive camping and approximately 3 acres for 30 RV sites. Mr. McKinney stated they are aware they must do a wetlands delineation so they will stay off of the wetlands area they are aware of. He explained the owner that sold the property also had the same intention with the property. Mr. McKinney reported Mr. Brown has stated that Mr.

Jimmy Spot is opposed to it but they talked to the realtor and the owner and he is not opposed to the zoning change. Mr. McKinney stated they would like to have a public hearing with all the appropriate documents to support this. Mr. Gary West, one of the owners of the property, said Mr. Brown does have issues with their project. He stated Mr. Green was aware of the project and believed it was a good idea for this location. Mr. West reported Mr. Brown's property is a river house and he is not a permanent resident. He pointed out they will have a 50-80 ft. buffer between their property and Mr. Brown's property. Mr. West said they understand there are procedures, surveys and requirements by the state and county. He reported they know the septic system and water well would have to be in accordance with regulations and they are willing to abide by those regulations. He explained their plans for the property. Mr. West reported there is a public boat ramp that adjoins the property that the community uses. He said the taxes will increase from the A-1 designation to the C-3 designation. He reported C-3 zoning allows campgrounds. Mr. West stated there would be sales tax from the paddleboards, kayaks and fishing boats they intend to operate from this property. He explained there will also be a small store. Mr. West estimated the first year operations would be \$500,000 and would generate \$37,500 in sales tax and hopefully will double the second year. He explained they feel this is a good fit for the area and the local community and tourists would utilize this property. Mr. West reported their property is unique because it is on the river and not the gulf. There was no further public comment. Commissioner Lockley stated the Board is not supposed to deny a public hearing. He explained this does not mean they are going to approve this request but they should not deny the public hearing. Commissioner Boldt asked Attorney Shuler for advice about this public hearing. Attorney Shuler reported the general policy of the Board has been to grant a public hearing but that has not been true in all instances. He stated the Board is free to change their mind on this issue on a case by case basis and from what Mrs. Ham-Kelly presented there seems to be a reasonable basis not to grant a public hearing. He said from listening to the presentation from the public comment he does not believe the property owners have any reasonable expectation that they could purchase agricultural property with the reasonable expectation of commercial development of the agricultural property. Attorney Shuler reported the zoning code speaks for itself and whether they have read it or not they are charged with the public notice of the limitation of the use of the property. He stated Commissioner Parrish is correct and if they rezone property from A-1 to C-3 the density and intensity are inconsistent with agricultural land. Attorney Shuler recommended the Board deny the request for a public hearing based on the reasons Mrs. Ham-Kelly outlined and the items the Board discussed. **The motion passed by the following vote of the Board:**

AYE: PARRISH, BOLDT, JONES, WARD

NAY: LOCKLEY

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

17. Mrs. Amy Ham-Kelly Resignation: It is with a heavy heart that I inform the Board that your Flood Plain Manager and Zoning Administrator, Mrs. Amy Ham-Kelly, submitted her resignation effective January 22, 2021. Mrs. Ham-Kelly served the County faithfully for 20

years. She decided that it is time to use her skills in a different field of employment. As you can imagine, Mrs. Ham-Kelly will be missed by the Building Department and Planning staff, this Board, the Planning and Zoning Commission members, the Board of Adjustment members, contractors, homeowners, and other residents that asked for her advice when considering building project, large or small. Amy, we wish you the best, and we know that you may no longer be a part of this office, but this office will always be a part of you!

Mr. Moron reported Mrs. Ham-Kelly has one more meeting and she will be shadowing the person that will be taking over the zoning administration. He said he will present a plan for this transition to the Board at the January 5, 2021 meeting. Mr. Moron stated he brought this up so the Board could talk with Mrs. Ham-Kelly directly. Commissioner Parrish said he appreciates her years of service and dedication not only to the Board but to the people of Franklin County. He said she has a tough job with the county and she has served the public. Commissioner Ward concurred with Commissioner Parrish and said Mrs. Ham-Kelly's dedication has always been top notch and whoever replaces her has some big shoes to fill. She stated she appreciates her services and all she has done for the county for the last 20 years. Commissioner Ward wished her blessings on her future endeavors. Commissioner Lockley stated it has been an honor and privilege to work with Mrs. Ham-Kelly and she has done good work for the county and she will do well wherever she goes. He wished her good luck. Commissioner Boldt thanked Mrs. Ham-Kelly for her integrity and the standards she set in that department. He said he learned a lot from her and they will miss her. The Board gave Mrs. Ham-Kelly a round of applause. Mr. Pierce stated he hired Mrs. Ham-Kelly and she has done her job well. He said the Planning & Zoning Department is one of the few departments in the county that generates tax revenue by the development of property and management of the rules. He stated they work with property owners to make the county a better place and a more valuable place. Mr. Pierce said Mrs. Ham-Kelly has done an admirable job and has always had a pleasant smile. He stated everyone at the Planning & Zoning Office congratulate her and want to keep working together. Mr. Moron reported it will take 2 people to replace Mrs. Ham-Kelly. Chairman Jones stated she always holds a special place in his heart and he thanked her for answering all the questions he had in trying to learn this job as a County Commissioner. He thanked her for everything she has done for Franklin County. Mrs. Ham-Kelly said this is bittersweet because she loves what she does. She stated it is her time to grow and thrive and have more time to enjoy her family. She said she appreciates the Board giving her this opportunity because she has learned so much. She stated she will miss everyone and will always be available to help the office because she wants them to thrive.

The meeting recessed at 11:50 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

CDBG Administrator – Report (Deborah Belcher)

Mrs. Belcher provided her report, as follows:

S. CDBG Administrator Board Report:

Action Items:

1. The County is eligible to apply for Hurricane Michael CDBG Disaster Recovery funds, in the Hometown Revitalization Program. Applications are due February 16, 2021, and can be for a minimum of \$250,000 and up to a maximum of \$15,000,000, with more than 1 application allowed per applicant. This is a commercial revitalization program for business areas that were damaged by Hurricane Michael. Money does not go directly to the business, but the grant funds demolition and rehabilitation of buildings, building facade improvements, and infrastructure repairs/replacement, etc. relating to storm damage. The project must specify a commercial area with at least 3 adjacent businesses. The Eastpoint zip code was identified by HUD as a most-impacted area, and I think we might come up with one or more projects that would fit the program.

Requested Action: Provide direction regarding pursuing one or more applications for the CDBG-DR Hometown Revitalization Program.

Mrs. Belcher said they do not have all the details yet but she would like some guidance from the Board. She reported the Eastpoint area is a good fit for this program. She said the cities can apply directly. Chairman Jones said there were several businesses that had to gut and repair their buildings and he asked if they can apply for funds to help offset these costs. Mrs. Belcher replied no. She said she understands a lot of the viable businesses have already taken care of their problems. She explained they can ask if there are things that were damaged that were not repaired to the extent they were pre-Hurricane Michael. Mrs. Belcher reported they are also not allowed to duplicate benefits so if someone has insurance payments they would have to contribute that to the project. She said if a building was damaged but there has not been a tenant since then and the owner has not done improvements they may be able to assist them. Mrs. Belcher reported they cannot install anything new as this grant is only relating to what was already there. Chairman Jones asked if this grant will help with some commercial businesses that are run down and have no tenants and need to be demolished. Mrs. Belcher stated they may be able to help them if the damage is from Hurricane Michael. Chairman Jones explained the issue for the Board is they are on a tight time line and the Board does not have all the information they need to provide to her so they she knows what grant to pursue. He questioned what action they are taking. Mrs. Belcher asked if the Board wants her to start discussions with the businesses and property owners in the area relating to developing a project for this grant. Chairman Jones said she can but based on the narrow scope of the grant he does not think there will be many businesses because most people have taken care of their situation. Mrs. Belcher agreed that is the problem. Chairman Jones explained just like other things that have come out with the coronavirus the rules are so stringent people may not be able to get help and they do not want to have a discussion for nothing. He stated that is how people feel with some of these grant programs. Chairman Jones said in relation to the Eastpoint Limerock Fire about a year in she said in a meeting they could have asked for the rules to be different and that would have been nice to know starting out. He reported they are now stuck 2 ½ years later trying to wrap this grant up. Mrs. Belcher was not sure of the circumstances he is referencing. She asked if the Board would like her to contact the businesses. She explained the state has structured this program so the business owners do not get the money directly and the county would pay the contractors for the work on behalf of the

business owners. Mr. Moron asked the Board to let Mrs. Belcher do some research and see if the businesses are interested and then provide a report in January to determine if they should pursue this grant. Commissioner Parrish reported the paperwork says they must have at least 3 businesses adjoining each other. Mrs. Belcher said they are looking for a commercial area but you do not have to do all the buildings. Commissioner Parrish stated there are not many places like that in Eastpoint and St. George Island. Mrs. Belcher reported there are some areas along the highway that are a commercial area. She asked if they want her to explore this matter. She explained she did not want to talk with businesses without the Board's direction but if they want her to she can see if they have a viable project. Chairman Jones said he is fine with her talking to the businesses and they are fine with pursuing any grant opportunities but he wants to know if there are a lot of stipulations later because people are tired of that process. He explained they are doing a lot for nothing in return. Chairman Jones stated the CARES Act has changed the business requirements many times and the Board gets blamed and cannot help that the stipulations keep getting added after the fact. Commissioner Parrish said no fault of Mrs. Belcher but Hurricane Michael was 2 years ago on October 10th and if there was a viable business they either used insurance or private investment to get going and now they do not qualify for help. He stated she can research this matter but may not find anyone that qualifies. Commissioner Parrish reported there are some dilapidated buildings but they were there before Hurricane Michael and he does not want to be accountable for repaying if they are not qualified. Chairman Jones reported at least 2 businesses in his district received damage from Hurricane Michael and they are now past the 50% rule and cannot rebuild. Mr. Moron suggested she report back on January 5, 2021. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to direct Mrs. Belcher to do more research and report back to the Board on January 5, 2021. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley asked who will oversee the project if the county is paying. Mrs. Belcher explained it depends on who is needed and they would include it in the project but it could be an engineer, a building inspector and her if they want her as the grant administrator. Mr. Moron agreed it would be Mrs. Belcher to coordinate these matters and not county staff. Mrs. Belcher replied yes, and they would be the same as other projects. She explained the state cannot answer some of the questions they are asking and are having to improvise too. Mrs. Belcher stated there is a technical assistance grant available and she asked if they can get technical assistance in a form of documenting low to moderate income benefit because that would improve their application score. She said according to the census the Eastpoint area is not a low to moderate income level. Mrs. Belcher reported she asked for assistance in relation to doing a survey which would show the low to moderate income benefit and also to assist with evaluating buildings if needed. She explained DEO said they should apply and they have a technical assistance provider that would work with them. She went on to say the county does not get money but that is how they structure the agreement with the provider. Mrs. Belcher requested authorization to submit an application for technical assistance. Chairman Jones asked how recent the study must be. Mrs. Belcher explained the study must be done according to the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards. Chairman Jones reported the Eastpoint Water & Sewer District had to do a study about a year ago for the Northwest Florida Water Management District. He asked Mrs. Belcher to reach out to Mr. Billy Fuentes, Eastpoint Water & Sewer District, about this study. Commissioner Lockley said he does not mind applying but he does not want to put any extra

work on staff. Mr. Pierce stated the Board would have to hire a CDBG administrator to administer the grant. Commissioner Lockley questioned if this would be double work for the building inspector. Mr. Pierce said there may be a separate fee. Commissioner Parrish reported the application is due on February 16, 2021 so there is not much time left. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Moron asked if there is a contract for the technical assistance grant or a match. Mrs. Belcher replied no, the county does not pay anything. She said DEO would develop a scope of work for the technical assistance provider to help Franklin County and DEO would pay the technical assistance provider. Mr. Moron suggested Attorney Shuler review the agreement. Mr. Pierce stated they have done several of these technical assistance grants in the past and the county does not pay but they get the person for a few months and the benefit of the time. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to allow Mrs. Belcher to pursue the technical assistance grant with DEO.**

2. DEO is finalizing an application process for another type of CDBG grant, relating to COVID-19. Applications will probably be due within 3 months. This money can be used for a variety of activities that prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus pandemic. A list of eligible activities is attached. Assistance to business, public services and public facilities might be appropriate for Franklin County to pursue.

Requested Action: Provide direction regarding pursuing one or more applications for the CDBG-COVID Program.

Mrs. Belcher explained Mrs. Brownell has a building that was used in the past and is currently being used to store COVID supplies and the building was damaged by Hurricane Michael so it may be a good fit for this grant. She reported the roof needs to be replaced and the county has some insurance money and they will address that. Mrs. Belcher said the original purchase of the building was for storage of records and the records are no longer there because the building leaked. She explained this might pay for items the insurance will not pay for or to pay for the deductible. Mrs. Belcher said this is being discussed as an item they may want to present to the Board. She reported they are also looking at potentially allowing these grants to give assistance to businesses as grants instead of loans. Mrs. Belcher said they are not sure if you can apply for more than one project. She stated she has asked the question but does not have an answer. Mrs. Belcher asked for direction on whether or not they would like her to talk to people and gather information that might be suitable for Franklin County. Mr. Moron explained the building she is referencing is the old warehouse by the Bay City Work Camp. He said this building is outside of the fence. Mr. Moron suggested the Board allow Mrs. Belcher to explore this matter and report back the first meeting in January. Chairman Jones read some of the eligible items on the list and said if they can get some answers they may need to have a workshop to get everything they can out of the grant. He stated broadband is one of the items that would be big to a rural county if they could get it. Commissioner Parrish said he would like to schedule a workshop in January to see where Mrs. Belcher is at the time and see where they are on all these grants. He stated there may be things they want to add or remove from the applications. Commissioner Parrish suggested the meeting be conducted one afternoon. Mrs. Belcher said she is available but does not know how much information she will have at that time. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by**

unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to schedule a workshop on January 5, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Mrs. Belcher asked Mr. Moron if he was taking care of the advertisement for the workshop. Mr. Moron agreed to have Mrs. Cortni Bankston, Administrative Assistant, contact her about this advertisement.

Information Items:

3. The CDBG-DR grant application was submitted to DEO 11/30/2020, requesting funds for sand dune restoration on the County's public beach on Saint George Island. With agreement from Alan Pierce and Michael Morón, I put \$5,000 in Restore Act funds into the CDBG-DR application as "leverage". This should result in the application receiving the optional 5 points for local leverage. The application requests funding for dune replacement in the central business area, dune fencing to develop dunes in the remaining area, and planting (sea oats or other) to stabilize the dunes, as well as engineering and administration. I appreciate the assistance provided by Alan Pierce, Mark Curenton, Michael Morón, Lori Hines and Clay Kennedy. A summary of the grant application is attached. It is possible that all, some, or none of the funding will be awarded, depending upon competition.
4. The 7 Eastpoint Wildfire CDBG mobile home replacements in bid package #3 are now complete. An additional 3 more mobile home replacement contracts and CDBG mortgages were executed 11/18/2020 (bid package #4). The 4th proposed replacement will not occur because the homeowner (Daniel Walker) passed away in late November. A late application was submitted by an elderly couple who appear to be eligible. They had a nice double-wide home prior to the fire, and are insisting on a new double-wide as a replacement. I am advertising for proposals for a double wide home of quality comparable to that of the single wide homes we have been purchasing through the CDBG program. The couple already received a donated single wide home, which would have to be transferred to another needy household. If we receive one or more proposals that appear reasonable, and the dealer can guarantee project completion by April 30, 2021 (the grant expiration date), I will bring those proposals to the Board for consideration in January, 2021.

Mrs. Belcher said they are near close out and have 1 more mobile home they are going to order and she will bring that back to the Board. Mr. Moron questioned if they can start looking at other CDBG cycles when this grant is closed out. Mrs. Belcher stated that is correct.

Clerk of Courts – Marcia M. Johnson – Report

Mrs. Griffith introduced Mrs. Jessica Gay who will be replacing Mrs. Hines as the Board Secretary.

Special Projects Coordinator – Alan Pierce – Report

Mr. Pierce presented his report, as follows:

T. Special Projects Coordinator Board Report

Action Items:

1. Board action on draft letter to USACOE. The Corps has requested the Board send the letter to further confirm the county's commitment to paying the non-federal share of costs related to dredging Eastpoint and Two Mile Channel. While Mr. Shuler and I recognize the Corps is in control of the costs, the Corps has advised that any changes to the proposed language will delay the review and approval of the MOA that is still sitting in Atlanta. In my conversations with Corps personnel I now realize part of the problem in getting this MOA out of the Corps is that it is not standard practice for the Corps to accept non-federal funds to complete projects. Our project is about the second MOA the Mobile office has done in 10 years, so no one in the Corps is familiar or comfortable with what they need. The concern for the Corps is that they are going to be signing the contract with the dredge operator, so they will have the legal requirement to pay the contract, not Franklin County.

Mr. Pierce stated he has typed the letter that they provided. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the letter. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt asked where the money is coming from. Mr. Pierce reported this is the \$5 million coming from the Consortium. Chairman Jones stated the money is from the BP Oil Spill. Commissioner Parrish said if there are any overruns that is a good question. Mr. Pierce stated the COE has assured them they will work on the allowable costs. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

2. Board action to authorize the disposal of a 1988 Chevy S-10 Blazer and a 1994 GMC Jimmy. In 2019, Mr. Ted Mosteller brought into the County Finance Office vehicle tags to two vehicles that had been used at the airport but had been deemed no longer road worthy. He brought the tags in as evidence the vehicles would not be driven off the airport property. He parked the vehicles under the Shade Hanger and left them there. In March/April of 2020, Mr. John Collins, AVCON, was called by the contractor building the airport access road and was told there were two abandoned vehicles in the path of the road, and what did Mr. Collins want the contractor to do with the vehicles. The contractor said his options were to charge the county for disposal of the vehicles as they were in the way, or to give the vehicles away if someone would move them at no cost. One of the vehicles was a 1988 Chevy S-10 Blazer and the other vehicle was a 1994 GMC Jimmy.

Mr. Collins called me and asked me what to do. Acting on the information that the vehicles did not have tags I assumed the vehicles had been abandoned and had no value. I did not draw the connection to the vehicles still being owned by the county as there were no plates on the vehicles and they had been moved at some point from beneath the Shade Hanger. I told Mr. Collins to get rid of the vehicles at the lowest cost, which in this case was for the contractor to give the vehicles away.

Now, in December, 2020, someone in Eastpoint has ended up with the 32 year old Chevy S-10 Blazer and needs the title. Board action to acknowledge and authorize the disposal as junked surplus equipment both the 1988 Chevy S-10 Blazer and the 1994 GMC Jimmy during the airport road construction project in 2020. The sprayer equipment that was mounted on the 1988 Chevy Blazer is missing and was not on the vehicle at the time it was in the path of the road. Board action.

Mr. Pierce stated he did not realize it was county equipment. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it**

was agreed to acknowledge and authorize disposal as junked surplus equipment of both the 1988 Chevy S-10 Blazer and the 1994 GMC Jimmy.

Information Items:

3. Provide Board with a status report of projects that Commissioner Boldt asked me to create.
4. Inform Board that I have consulted with Bay County regarding the language they use for bidding out county roads being rebuilt with FEMA funds. Bay County is in agreement with what Franklin County does. Bay County uses similar language limiting qualified bidders to FDOT pre-qualified firms, but they do it by citing the appropriate Florida Administrative Code. Dewberry and I are moving forward with re-advertising Alligator Drive.

County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report

U. County Coordinator's Board Report

Mr. Moron provided his report, as follows:

Action Items:

1. Carrabelle Artificial Reef: At your last meeting, Ms. Lorena Holley and Mr. Frank Gidus of Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Florida asked the Board to consider applying for a FWC grant to construct an artificial memorial reef, in honor of Dr. Bart Carey, on the Carrabelle 10-mile reef. The Board asked that I meet with Ms. Holley and Mr. Gidus to verify that they would follow the same procedure as the group that is building the Buddy Ward artificial reef around the St. George Island area. Chairman Jones and I met with Ms. Holley and Mr. Gidus and were informed that the CCA would act as the responsible party, agreeing to an MOU, assuming all project costs including permits and reporting. Mr. Gidus stated that since this memorial reef will be constructed on the Carrabelle 10-mile reef which is already a restricted area, there shouldn't be any issues with shrimpers. In addition, there have been discussions with those in the seafood industry to make sure there are no issues. I sent a copy of the MOU to Attorney Shuler for his review providing the Board authorizes proceeding with the grant application today. Ms. Holley and Mr. Gidus are available this morning if the Board has any additional questions.

Request: Board action to authorize Ms. Holley and Mr. Gidus to apply for a FWC grant to construct the Dr. Bart Cary memorial artificial grant.

Chairman Jones said he thinks they answered all the questions. Mr. Moron reported Mr. Gidus has done these projects before. Commissioner Boldt asked if Commissioner Parrish is okay with this. Commissioner Parrish answered yes. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to authorize Ms. Holley and Mr. Gidus to apply for a FWC grant to construct the Dr. Bart Carey Memorial Artificial Reef. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt said he would like to see this memorial when it happens. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

2. The Board addressed this item during the Solid Waste Director's Report.
3. Business Grant Approvals: At your last meeting a partial list of CARES Act Business Grant applications in addition to food pantry applications were approved. That same afternoon

staff received additional approvals from Opportunity Florida, so for bookkeeping and auditing purposes, a complete list of approved applications along with the approved food pantries is before you for final approval. Approval of a separate check run will also be requested. I talked to Mr. Roy Baker of Opportunity Florida regarding the process used to review the applications, as questions regarding the denied applications will be posed to the Board and staff. Mr. Baker explained that Opportunity Florida used the same model developed for Jackson County (first client) when reviewing similar applications and is using that model for all of their other counties. That model was developed with the assistance of Jackson County's Auditor, CARES Act Consultant, Administrative staff, and within the guidelines of the State's available rules and regulations. Mr. Baker is available to discuss this matter further at a future meeting if needed.

Request: Board action to authorize payment of the final list of approved CARES Act Business Grant applications and authorize a separate check run for these payments.

Mr. Moron asked the Board to approve payment of the list of approved CARES Act Business grant applications, the food pantries, some checks for the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) and some newspaper advertisements that relate to these projects. He explained they need a separate check run to separate these items. Mrs. Griffith pointed out December 31st is the deadline for much of the CARES Act funding. Commissioner Parrish asked where the list of the businesses is because there are more businesses this time than last time. Mr. Moron said he presented the list to the Commissioners. Commissioner Ward read the list for the Board. The Board discussed the original list and the additional businesses. Commissioner Lockley asked why they are having so many denials. Mr. Moron reported because of the rules and some of the paperwork that was turned in. He said they keep changing the rules and it is almost impossible for some people to get money. Commissioner Parrish stated some of the businesses that contacted him did not want to divulge their financial information because it becomes a public record if a public records request is made and they do not want their business information out in the public. He reported the Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) money they received from the banks is kept confidential. Mr. Moron agreed that is the reason for the lack of certain documents. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the final list of approved CARES Act business grant applications, payment to the 5 food pantries, checks for the CRF and some newspaper advertisements related to these projects and to authorize a separate check run for these payments. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley said when they complete the application they are putting enough information out there and this is not right and they are not helping people. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

4. Public Comments Policy: At your last meeting Chairman Jones discussed possible changes to the Board's meeting public comment procedure. Earlier, I emailed a draft copy of the proposed changes for your review and for today's discussion. Chairman Jones will review the document with the Board this morning.

Request: Board discussion and possible action on the changes.

Chairman Jones said the change from the current policy is they are making sure citizens are aware that the first 3 minutes of public comment are for items that are not on the agenda. He explained sometimes during this time people provide documents to them and want them to

make a decision and that is not a good situation. Chairman Jones stated the other change would be allowing people to have 1 minute for remarks or public comments before they vote for any item on the agenda. He reported they need to keep their meetings as brief as possible and they have business to take care of and the citizens needs to be included in the business. Chairman Jones stated he thinks this is better for the Board. Commissioner Boldt reported this is a great opportunity for more access to the Commission and the public has been looking for this for a long time. Commissioner Ward agreed this is good. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the changes. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Mr. Moron asked the Board to consider having people fill out an agenda card before the meeting starts so they know who wants to speak and the Chairman can adjust the time for the number of people that want to speak. Chairman Jones inquired if he is asking to amend the motion to include that. Mr. Moron answered yes. Commissioner Lockley stated he will go along with whatever the Board wants. He asked if they speak on one item or all of them. Chairman Jones stated anything they want to speak about. He said they have no more than 1 minute and cannot give their time to anyone else. Commissioner Lockley reported they will have comments at the end of every item. Chairman Jones stated they will have public comment after the motion but before they vote similar to the process on the Planning & Zoning items today. Attorney Shuler advised the Board if they are going to limit the speaker card to being filled out before the meeting they need to post a notice prominently out front and on the website. He stated they would need to fill out the speaker card and present it to Mr. Moron prior to commencement of the meeting. Mr. Moron agreed he will include this on the agenda. Chairman Jones clarified the speaker card has to be filled out before the meeting starts. Attorney Shuler stated the Board is not suggesting people that speak at the beginning of the meeting during public comment fill out a card. Chairman Jones answered no. **Commissioner Ward amended her motion to reflect the speaker cards for the people that want to speak on an agenda item topic. Commissioner Boldt amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.**

5. This item was handled during the Solid Waste Director's report.

6. H67 Sidewalk Change Order: Franklin County has received Change Order No. 2 for the Highway 67 Sidewalk project. This is the final change order to clean up all the loose ends on the project. There is no change in the dollar amount of the project or the number of days. The only change is in the scope of the project. Some items are added, and some items are deleted.

Request: Board action to approve Change Order No. 2.

On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve Change Order No. 2.

7. Alligator Point Multi-Use Path FDOT Agreement: FDOT has sent the County the agreement for the construction of another phase of Alligator Point Multi-Use Path from Tom Roberts Road to Gulf Shore Boulevard. We are negotiating with FDOT about what to do with the multi-use path in the area where Alligator Drive will be rebuilt. It appears that FDOT will agree to take the area where the road will be reconstructed out of the multi-use path project with the understanding that Franklin County will provide a connection through this area for bicyclist and pedestrians.

Request: Board action to approve the agreement for \$369,773.00, and also approve a Resolution authorizing the chairman to sign the agreement.

Mr. Moron stated they sent an email last night agreeing to this. Mr. Pierce reported they will use the paved shoulder of the concrete cap to walk on. He explained FDOT does not want to be responsible for designing a multi-use path that allows pedestrian and bikers to be too close to each other. He reported the county could not give that amount of separation because of the right of way so they will not complete a separate bike path in that section. Mr. Pierce said the project is about a mile long and they are losing the 1,100 ft. in the project but they are not reducing the money. He stated this path will be on the north side of Alligator Drive. **On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the agreement for \$369,773.00 and the Resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the agreement.**

8. CR67: FDOT has sent the County a Supplemental Agreement for the CR 67 SCOP Project (FPN 440644-1-54-01) that reduces the amount of the grant from \$4,109,841 to \$3,468,302. This is because the CEI costs and the construction bid were lower than what was originally estimated. This will still leave some contingency funds available in case something comes up during construction, but it will allow FDOT to fund other projects with the excess funds.

Request: Board action to approve a Resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the Supplemental Agreement and approve the Supplemental Agreement itself.

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve a Resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the Supplemental Agreement and approve the Supplemental Agreement.

9. CR30A Resurfacing Project: FDOT has sent the County a Supplemental Agreement for the CR 30A SCRAP Project (FPN 440621-2-54-01) that reduces the amount of the grant from \$1,376,018 to \$1,312,301. This is because the CEI costs and the construction bid were lower than what was originally estimated. This will still leave some contingency funds available in case something comes up during construction, but it will allow FDOT to fund other projects with the excess funds.

Request: Board action to approve a Resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the Supplemental Agreement and approve the Supplemental Agreement itself.

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the Supplemental Agreement and approve the Supplemental Agreement.

10. SCOP, SCRAP, CIGP Grants: The Florida Department of Transportation has announced that the cycle for state funded transportation grants (Small County Road Assistance Program – SCRAP, Small County Outreach Program – SCOP, and County Incentive Grant Program – CIGP) opened yesterday and will close on March 12, 2021. These are the grants the County has frequently used in the past to resurface various County roads. If the Commissioners have any roads that might be eligible for one of these grants, please contact the Planning Department so they can start preparing the grant applications.

Request: Board discussion and direction.

Mr. Moron said they should contact Mr. Curenton or Mrs. Griffith. Mr. Pierce reported they have 3 months to submit the grant applications. Commissioner Lockley questioned how the projects will be selected. Mr. Moron stated once they meet the qualifications Mr. Curenton will submit the applications. Mr. Pierce said one of the grant programs must have a benefit to the state highway system.

11. CRF Fraud Case: Mrs. Lori Switzer-Mills, administrator of your Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) program, notified me of a potential fraud case based on an application and supporting documentation that was submitted, approved, and received \$2500 of program funds. I suggested to Ms. Mills that she contact the Sheriff's investigation unit and present the information for their review. The investigator contacted Ms. Mills last week and stated that the applicant would like to pay back the \$2500 and asked if the County would consider dropping the charges. Mrs. Mills has contacted Florida Housing (State) and is waiting for a response. If the State defers to the County, will the Board accept full restitution and drop any charges or proceed with prosecution?

Request: Board discussion and direction.

Commissioner Parrish said he does not have a problem if the person pays the money back. He explained they must think about this because these are county dollars administered by the county on behalf of the state and if they allow people to commit fraud and then allow them to pay back the money that is not good. Commissioner Parrish said he does not want to be in a bad place with the state. Commissioner Ward stated she has a problem with this because one of the problems with today's society is no one is held accountable for their actions. She said if they allow this it will set a precedent because people in the future will think they can defraud a state funded project. Commissioner Ward reported this will not be the last time if they allow this. She went on to say this also sets a precedent for more paperwork for people who are trying to do the right thing because of people like this cause the issue. Commissioner Ward reported it should not cost the county in litigation if this is a case for the Sheriff's Department and State Attorney's Office. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to proceed with prosecution.** Attorney Shuler said he agrees but what the Board is doing is referring the case to the Sheriff's Department for them to do an independent investigation. He explained the Sheriff's Department will contact the State Attorney's Office if the case needs to be prosecuted as a crime. Attorney Shuler stated the facts show an appearance of fraud and the Sheriff's Department will investigate. **Commissioner Ward amended her motion to refer the case to the Sheriff's Department for them to do an independent investigation. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish agreed with the motion and said they talked earlier about the unnecessary paperwork and that is why this must be done. He stated the state may not have responded until they see what action the county takes. Commissioner Parrish reported Commissioner Ward is right about setting a precedent and they cannot do this for one person and not other people. He said the county could also be liable for paying the money back similar to the CARES Act funding. Commissioner Lockley questioned if this was written up correctly where they would know they were committing fraud or did the rules change and they did not know. Chairman Jones said the rules for this program did not change

and the people conspired ahead of time and knew what they were saying was not true. Commissioner Ward agreed they falsified documentation. Commissioner Boldt reported the county are good stewards of money and abide by good standards of practice so the motion is valid to send this to the Sheriff and maintain quality control. Commissioner Lockley questioned the action. Attorney Shuler explained the Board has reported the criminal action and the Sheriff's Department proceeds from there. The motion passed by the following vote of the Board:

AYE: WARD, BOLDT, JONES, PARRISH

NAY: LOCKLEY

12. Duck Hunting Issues: You have received complaints regarding actions of out-of-town duck hunters that are negatively affecting certain grass beds and killing more ducks than are allowed based on FWC rules. Commissioner Parrish is very versed on this situation and I will ask him to relay to the Board the same information he did to me last week. Commissioner Boldt volunteered to contact FWC to find out what options the County has to help rectify this situation and would like to discuss those options with the Board. I asked Attorney Shuler to look at what other counties have done that may have experienced this same situation.

Request: Board discussion and possible action on this matter.

Commissioner Ward asked if Franklin County has an ordinance addressing mud boats. Attorney Shuler answered no. Commissioner Parrish stated people have complained but the county cannot regulate what kind of boat is used or anything on the water so he is not sure how to address this issue. He explained the boats are going into Big Bay and it is shallow so they are prop dredging the grass beds. He said FWC is not able to reach them in these areas due to the depth of the water. Commissioner Parrish reported these individuals are shooting over the limit of ducks and then putting the ducks in the marsh and not bringing them out so FWC cannot check them to see if they have too many ducks. He stated some local people have been shot at over this issue. He said these individuals are coming in from Georgia and Wakulla County. Commissioner Parrish stated he thinks 3-4 years ago a law was passed that made prop dredging grass beds a felony. He said these matters fall back on the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) because they enforce all the rules and laws on the water. Commissioner Parrish explained people have contacted him about passing an ordinance and FWC said they will enforce it but he thinks FWC already has the right to enforce this. He questioned if an ordinance the Board passed would have legal standing or not. Commissioner Parrish asked Chairman Jones to talk about this tonight with the legislative delegation. He stated people want them to outlaw the mud boats but he does not know if they have that authority. Chairman Jones explained part of the issue is even with the wasting of the resources the issue falls to the state because they issue hunting licenses. He questioned how the county is going to enforce something the state cannot do. Chairman Jones said they can outlaw the motors on these boats but people will find another way to do this. Commissioner Parrish stated FWC can enforce this but does not want to put a small boat in to go up in this area and check these people who are disposing of this resource and prop dredging the grass beds. He explained he

receive a call yesterday that FWC may pass a rule where the county can pass this kind of ordinance and FWC will enforce it. Commissioner Parrish reported they want the county to take the heat for this issue but they do not want to address it. Chairman Jones stated it is interesting to know that they may do anything to give the county authority to do anything on the water. Commissioner Lockley asked what they said to Commissioner Boldt. Commissioner Boldt reported FWC has an officer dedicated here and he has heard something about this issue. He explained he will take a copy of the transcript that Commissioner Parrish discussed because it contains factual information he does not think FWC has. Commissioner Boldt reported FWC is also concerned about the unlawful taking of ducks and the wasting of the resource. Commissioner Parrish pointed out they are allegedly taking ducks because he has not seen it but has been informed by the local duck hunters. He reported there is a natural channel in this area but these people are not familiar with the area so they are bringing in these boats to get to Big Bay. He explained the ducks feed on the grass beds and people are reporting more grass beds than they have seen in 15 years and the grass beds are being decimated by the motors. Commissioner Ward questioned if FWC has these boats and are able to get in these areas and enforce the laws. Commissioner Boldt said he does not think they have these particular boats. Commissioner Parrish stated they have the laws but do not have a boat to get in this area. He pointed out they could purchase a boat for this matter. He reported the Board needs to write a letter and make them aware of this situation. Commissioner Parrish stated if this law is in place for prop dredging the grass beds then they need to ask them to enforce it. Commissioner Lockley said he heard the people are legal but are coming in 5-6 people to a boat. Commissioner Parrish reported they are also coming in and taking over other people's duck blinds after they took time to build them. Commissioner Lockley explained if they ask them about the duck blind then they threaten to shoot them and someone is going to get hurt. Commissioner Parrish reported they did shoot at some people. He explained common courtesy is not to use someone else's duck blind. Commissioner Ward said she heard the same thing about someone being shot at. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to send a letter to FWC to address the concerns. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish asked if Mr. Moron is going to write the letter. Mr. Moron replied yes. Commissioner Parrish said they would like an immediate response on what they are going to do before this gets out of hand. Commissioner Lockley agreed they need to know if there are any laws that allow the Board to stop this before someone gets hurt or killed. Commissioner Boldt asked for a copy of the letter to reinforce this issue with FWC. Attorney Shuler reported in his research he has not found a valid basis for a local regulation banning a mud boat motor. He stated this is clearly an enforcement issue for FWC because there are laws that address some of these issues. Commissioner Lockley said they have money to get a motor to address this. Commissioner Parrish agreed they have the resources. Chairman Jones stated there is a bigger issue and FWC needs to do more enforcement with hunting. He said they issue a state license and need to enforce the laws. Commissioner Boldt reported the bay was just shut down so they may have more time for this item. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

13. FWC Commission Meeting: The next FWC Commission meeting is scheduled for tomorrow Wednesday, December 16, 2020 and it is a virtual meeting. The first action item on the agenda is the Final Rule on the Apalachicola Bay Oysters. As the Board is aware, at

the FWC Commission July 2020 meeting the FWC Commissioners supported restoration efforts in the Apalachicola Bay by approving draft rules to suspend harvest of wild oysters and prohibit on-the-water possession of tongs. Commissioner Lockley, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners at the time, spoke at that meeting and expressed his desire for the FWC to provide some type financial relief to the displaced oystermen, frequent reporting of the condition of the Bay to the County Commission, and a possible reduction of the closure from 5 years to 3 years. Chairman Jones plans on addressing the FWC Commission tomorrow morning to repeat those same requests along with any other concerns this Board will discuss today.

Request: Board discussion.

Commissioner Ward agreed they need to look at this because she is in full support of the oystermen and the bay. She stated no one knows the bay better than the oystermen. She explained if the oysterman can go out and help restore the bay then all the grant money FSU is getting can go to them for this work. Commissioner Ward said in relation to the next item Chairman Jones can speak on this issue on behalf of her. Chairman Jones agreed there needs to be something written in this plan, that is currently not there, to address helping the people that were displaced from this industry. He said he understands what they are trying to do but all the discussion is about restoring the wild caught oysters so they need to make sure that is what they are doing. Chairman Jones stated they need to address items in relation to monitoring such as the GPS locating because there are issues with it. Commissioner Ward agreed and said no disrespect to the people working on this project but the local oystermen and women know this and they need to be put in charge of doing this. She stated she has heard the bay closure is a moot point and they cannot do anything about it but she does not know. She said they can at least make a statement and let them know how they feel. Commissioner Boldt stated it is about accountability and he looks forward to Chairman Jones presenting. He said he would like to see a report on the progress of the bay every 6 months. Commissioner Lockley stated he talked with them and they have not done anything to respond to what he asked or given them a report but they are drawing a check. He reported the bay needs to be closed but it will not take 5 years to regenerate. Commissioner Lockley said they are making money but he heard for the first 3 years they are not going to be doing anything. He stated if they are drawing a check then need to be reporting to someone. He asked why people here have to suffer for 5 years because they did not ask for the bay to close. Commissioner Lockley said they need to do what they need to do and put people back to work. He explained they may be working but are not going to make the money they did in the bay. Commissioner Lockley stated the waters belongs to the state and they do not have to tell the Board anything but it is common courtesy if the water is in Franklin County to tell them something so people can decide if they want to wait it out or not. Commissioner Lockley said this is why he does not believe in studies because the only people getting a check are the ones doing the study. Commissioner Boldt reported they have a watch care responsibility for this world renowned treasure. He said they want to partner with the state but have a responsibility. Commissioner Parrish stated they need to mention to the legislative delegation that the Apalachicola oyster is losing its market share when the bay is shut down. He reported they need to get the industry up and running even if it is in a limited capacity. Commissioner Parrish said they are losing their market share across the country and especially in the state because there are no Apalachicola wild caught oysters on

the market and other people are taking it away and supplementing the market. He reported this needs to be included in their meeting and if in 3 years the bay is doing anything they need to have a limited oyster harvest. Chairman Jones stated if there is a permanent suspension on catching wild caught oysters then they are relegating Franklin County by an act of government to just one industry which is tourism. He reported Hurricane Michael was only 40 miles away and if a storm hits here they have nothing to fall back on. Commissioner Lockley stated he has seen the bay die out twice before but it did not take 5 years to regenerate. He discussed the program they worked with to haul oyster shells and how they opened the bay in different areas but it did not take 5 years. Commissioner Parrish agreed it only takes 18 months if the conditions are right but they are not getting the fresh water flows they need to create the right salinity. Chairman Jones stated if it does grow back right and is not worked it will die anyway. Chairman Jones said he will take this information to the legislative delegation.

14. Legislative Delegation: Franklin County's Legislative Delegation with Representative Shoaf and Senator Ausley is scheduled at 5:00 pm this afternoon here in your meeting room. The agenda format is slightly different than it has been in the past so everyone, including elected officials, have to submit a request to speak by filling out a virtual speaker card. Chairman Jones has submitted a request. Do any other Commissioners plan on speaking or do you prefer the Chairman to present, at the meeting, all items discussed today.
Request: Board discussion.

The Board agreed to allow Chairman Jones to speak. Chairman Jones said one topic is the suspension of oyster harvesting in the bay and another is the Apalachicola Bay Bridge causeway repair. He reported since FDOT has many projects in their 5 year work plan for Franklin County he is asking if they can repair the north side of the causeway between the two bridges as a change order when one of their contractors is here. Chairman Jones stated he is also asking the state to give 1,000 acres on Highway 65 back to the county for the creation of an industrial park to diversify the economy. Commissioner Ward agreed this is a good idea. Mr. Moron said he also needs to mention the mud boats. Commissioner Lockley asked if there are going to be 2 industrial parks. Chairman Jones replied yes. Commissioner Lockley said they have an industrial park at the airport. Commissioner Parrish stated he does not understand why the causeway is not repaired as there are federal funds to complete the work. Chairman Jones reported FDOT is working at 20% and are 80% behind on all their projects. Commissioner Lockley suggested they ask for 2,000 acres. Commissioner Parrish agreed as they also need land to do something for the landfill. Chairman Jones said he will discuss FWC, the causeway repair and the industrial park.

Commissioner Parrish said the state just purchased 17,000 acres of land and DEP as supposed to get 1,000 acres to create a park on the river but the rest was going to be controlled by FWC and they were going to allow some hunting and some things were going to be done at Bald Point. He reported now DEP wants to control the whole parcel and there will be no hunting or anything else and people have contacted him about this. Commissioner Parrish stated when the state first talked about purchasing this property with Florida Forever Funds they met with him and Mr. Pierce and talked about hunting and a boat launch but now everything is changing with the property. He stated FWC is asking the Board to write a letter to get this back to the

original plan and for all the land not to be in the hands of DEP. Commissioner Parrish said FWC would allow some form of hunting. He reported DEP now wants 8,000 acres and this is not what they told them when they met with them. Chairman Jones suggested they make an area for primitive hunting. Commissioner Parrish suggested they write a letter inquiring where the state is in the management plan and say they understand FWC was going to be the management agency and ask if that is still in place. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to write a letter to the Governor and Cabinet.** Chairman Jones asked if the letter would go to the Governor and Cabinet. Commissioner Boldt stated they had a meeting with Representative Jason Shoaf about options for infrastructure exchanges relative to the purchase for the 17,000 acres. He said one demanding area is a commercial launch with a bathroom to serve the aquaculture industry on Alligator Point. Commissioner Boldt stated he would like to discuss a course about how to study as a project here. Chairman Jones explained this item is outside of their reach and they do not want to look at that because the school already offers this course. Commissioner Parrish reported they need to address tonight what they told them was proposed when they did not want the county to oppose the state buying the 17,000 acres. He said he always envisioned some homes being built there to help with taxes. He stated this purchase took the property off the tax roll and there should be some benefit to people that are paying taxes such as hunting and a boat ramp for the aquaculture participants. Chairman Jones asked if he would like the letter to go to the Governor and Cabinet and include these items. Commissioner Parrish answered yes and said he would also like this brought up tonight with the legislative delegation. Chairman Jones agreed to bring up this item. Mr. Moron reported they also mentioned a shooting range in their discussions. Commissioner Parrish said if DEP gets this property they will not get any of these things. He stated they purchased 17,000 acres for the people of Florida in conservation and then they lock them out of the property. He asked Chairman Jones to also mention the tax ramifications for the county. Commissioner Lockley said the people are not getting anything and the state should give the county half of the license money. He stated they were only getting \$1.00 per acre for the agricultural land and that money was going to the school. **Commissioner Ward seconded the motion.** Chairman Jones reported this letter will ask what will happen with the 17,000 acres and what they were told and what the Board would like to see. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

15. Legislative Budget Requests: Senator Ausley office sent out the Legislative Budget Request forms. Below is last legislative session's funding request, which included requests from both cities. This year's legislative session begins on March 2nd, so the deadline to submit our funding request is Friday, January 15th, 2021. I will have a list for your approval at the January 5th, 2021 meeting.

Request: Board discussion.

New Emergency Operations Center (\$1,500,000) – County Project
Fort Coombs Armory Fire Sprinkler Installation (\$250,000) – County Project
Wastewater Treatment Plant Repairs (\$528,000) – City of Apalachicola
Drinking Water and Facilities Planning and Design (\$112,250) – City of Carrabelle
Inflow and Infiltration Study and Repairs (\$370,000) – City of Apalachicola
Lift Station #4 Improvement and Repair Project (\$492,000) – City of Apalachicola

16. Armory Rentals: To comply with CDC and Government COVID-19 safety recommendations, the Board suspended event rentals for the Fort Coombs Armory. Staff has received a few calls inquiring about rentals for 2021. Will the Board continue this suspension policy until at least the end of March 2021?

Request: Board discussion and direction.

Mr. Moron recommended they continue this suspension policy until at least the end of March, 2021.

Commissioner Parrish said in relation to the new EOC the county was given money for the design but now they need construction money and asked him to emphasize that tonight. Commissioner Parrish stated the county tried to get Representative Shoaf's support through Triumph for the Armory sprinkler system but he would not support this item on a Triumph application. Mr. Pierce pointed out this sprinkler system issue was generated by the state fire marshal when the county got the building but it was never an issue when the state owned the building. Commissioner Parrish stated they need to get this funded so they can move forward and get the renovations completed. Mr. Moron said it would be nice if they could be done before the Armory was reopened.

Commissioner Boldt reported Mr. David Walker has been interim CEO at Weems Memorial Hospital for a year or 2 and they need to consider making him an official CEO. Commissioner Parrish stated the Weems Memorial Hospital Board has already done that. Mr. Moron reported the Hospital Board made that recommendation. Commissioner Boldt asked if the Board needs to reaffirm that. Mr. Moron explained Mr. Walker is a joint employee with Alliant so that has to be a recommendation from Alliant and the Hospital Board to this Board and it is coming up in January.

Special Information Item:

17. This item was handled earlier in the meeting.

County Attorney – Michael Shuler – Report

V. Buddy Ward Artificial Reef Contract Discussion and Possible Action

Attorney Shuler said the Memorandum he sent yesterday stated there were 2 action items but there are actually 3 action items. He requested the Board authorize the Chairman's signature on the FWC Grant for \$60,000 with the \$10,000 grant to be matched by the Apalachicola Reef Association for the Buddy Ward Artificial Reef. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman's signature on this grant.**

Attorney Shuler requested Board approval for the Chairman to sign the contract with Mr. Garry Millender. He explained the Board agreed on a 3 month contract at \$3,500 per month to provide temporary services as a building code administrator for Franklin County. He reported

this contract was drafted in conjunction with Mr. Moron for the services his office requires. He stated there are some items they will provide that were mentioned in the Memorandum and seemed reasonable. Attorney Shuler requested Board authority for the Chairman to execute the contract. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman to execute the contract with Mr. Garry Millender.**

Attorney Shuler stated Mr. Curenton has notified him that he and the county engineer have recommended that the Board reject all bids including the bid from Roberts & Roberts for the Alligator Point Bike Path that they currently have a bid protest on from Capital Asphalt. He explained the bid protest is mainly because of a letter from the Alligator Point Water Resources District on a conflict between the design for the bike path and the water lines of the district. He reported the Board did reserve the right to reject all bids in their bid documents. Attorney Shuler notified the Board he received an email from the attorney for Capital Asphalt today informing him that Capital Asphalt objects if the Board rejects all the bids and they wish to proceed with the bid protest. Attorney Shuler stated he concurs with the recommendation from Mr. Curenton and Mr. Clay Kennedy, Dewberry. He reported FDOT also concurs with Mr. Curenton and Mr. Kennedy's recommendation. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to reject all bids for the Alligator Point Bike Path Project.**

Chairman Jones stated on Highway 98 in Eastpoint there is a gentleman that has residential property and they have built sheds without permits behind it and they are renting them out as B & B's. He explained the county has already been there one time and they were told they could keep the sheds but could not continue to rent them. Chairman Jones stated they are continuing to list these online as rentals and there is no commercial site. He reported the people renting these sheds are parking on other businesses parking lots. Chairman Jones stated he is prepared to tell them to tear down the structures that do not have a permit. He reported a neighbor is now building a house without a permit also. Attorney Shuler recommended the Board authorize him to investigate this matter and take whatever enforcement action the facts of the law will support. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to authorize Attorney Shuler to investigate this matter and take whatever enforcement action the facts of the law will support. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt suggested this is a good reason to have a compliance officer. Commissioner Lockley agreed they should make all people do right. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioners' Comments

The Board wished everyone in the county a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Lockley said the lights on the right side of the road leading to the IGA are out and have been out since Hurricane Michael. He stated a woman said someone tried to grab her in this area and it is dark because there are no street lights. He requested Mr. Moron contact Duke Energy. Mr. Moron agreed to contact Duke Energy about this matter.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Ricky Jones - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts