

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
OCTOBER 5, 2021
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron—County Coordinator, Jessica Gay-Deputy Clerk to the Board

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

2. Prayer and Pledge

Chairman Jones led the Board in prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the minutes from the FCBCC Regular Meeting 9/21/202, Budget Hearing 9/21/2021 and Special Meeting 9/30/2021. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Payment of County Bills

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the payment of County Bills. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Lockley inquired about the payment to the Florida Association of Counties. Mrs. Griffith explained to the Board that this was for the first installment of insurance premiums (workers compensation, liability, and auto insurance).

5. Public Comments

Mr. Bruce Graham spoke to the Board about the presence of Red Tide on St. George Island and its effects. Mr. Graham expressed his thoughts on the lack of information to the public. Mr. Graham also expressed his concerns on the search for an airport manager.

Chairman Jones noted that the information must be received from FWC before the county can put it out. The county does not have a way to test. Commissioner Lockley said he had read where there are test kits available to counties. Mr. Moron said that Ms. Sara Quaranta from the health department was online and once she gives an update, we can see what direction that the Board would like to go in.

Ms. Debi Jay Jordan spoke to the Board regarding the status of the St. James Lanark fire department. Ms. Jordan expressed her concerns with the fire department and its management.

Mr. Steve Kirshenbaum spoke regarding the committee to select the qualifications for the airport manager. Mr. Kirshenbaum expressed his opinion that the committee should be comprised of individuals with knowledge of the airport and suggested Commissioner Boldt should have been appointed to the committee.

Ms. Sara Quaranta spoke to the Board regarding the presence of Red Tide. She explained to the Board that any alerts or information would come from the health department in connection with the FWC. She said that they are aware that adjacent counties have had samples come back positive. FWC shows high concentration offshore, and we are currently waiting for results from the samples done on Monday. Once the results are available, the health department will put out an alert. The public can contact the health department with any questions at 850-653-2111.

Chairman Jones asked Ms. Quaranta if the test kits that the FWC had mentioned were available to counties would be done in conjunction with the health department. Ms. Quaranta said that she would follow up with FWC to see what test kits they were referring to in their email. Commissioner Boldt asked if the flag system on the beach could be used to alert of red tide. Chairman Jones said that the flag system is tied to NOAA, and we can't change that. Mrs. Brownell said that she could put information out on the kiosks and signs once she had received from the health department or FWC. Ms. Quaranta said that they normally put out information via social media and they also have signage available that can be placed at the beach access points. Ms. Quaranta said that she has signs with the QR code for FWC's website where visitors can view the latest testing results. Commissioner Lockley inquired about the safety of eating fish from the contaminated waters. Ms. Quaranta said that she will circle back with the state on harvesting and eating fish from areas that are contaminated.

Constitutional Officers

6. Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell – Report

Clerk Maxwell had nothing to report to the Board.

Department Directors Reports

7. Superintendent of Roads and Bridges – Howard Nabors

Informational Item:

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

Mr. Nabors noted that he has received several complaints about roads on St. George Island under water and he is trying to take care of it. Chairman Jones said that the constant rain is not helping. Mr. Nabors said some of the owners did not want the roads built up too high because they don't want the water in their yards. Commissioner Ward said that she had some concerns regarding Timber Island Road. She said that people are parking their boat trailers which is causing an issue for parking at the restaurant and for other boats using the boat ramp. Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Nabors to investigate putting up signs for no boat trailer parking.

8. Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

Informational Item:

a. Right of Way Debris Pickup / Recycle Material Hauled (agenda packet)

Commissioner Boldt asked if the Board could start looking at a plan for expanding the landfill. Mr. Moron said that it is already being discussed. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion to actively research the expansion of the waste management and to provide input to the board. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Moron prepared the Board for some hard discussion in the future regarding funding, options and permitting for the landfill expansion.

9. Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Informational Items:

- a. EOC Staff attended the Regional Hospital, EM, and CHD COVID-19 Delta Coordination Call on 10/1/21.
- b. EOC Staff met with representatives from St. James Bay about updating there CEMP on 9/22/21.
- c. EOC Staff are working on completing quarterly reports for our EMPA, EMPG, and EMPG ARPA.
- d. EOC staff continue to update plans and contracts for Franklin County.
- e. EOC Staff continue to update our Kiosks located throughout Franklin County with COVID Information along with Preparedness information for the storm. KIOSK LOCATIONS: Carrabelle – Franklin County Courthouse Carrabelle Annex, Carrabelle Chamber of Commerce Eastpoint – Carquest Apalachicola – Franklin County Emergency Management, Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce, Apalachicola Post Office

Commissioner Boldt spoke regarding the location of the new EOC and asked if the Board should reconsider building it up Hwy 65. He suggested having a satellite facility at the airport. Mrs. Brownell said that the Board does not have the money to build a self-sufficient building up Hwy 65. Mr. Moron said that we don't own the property on Hwy 65 and the school board deferred the discussion because they want to speak with us to answer some questions. Mr. Moron also reiterated what Mrs. Brownell said, that the cost to build a self-sufficient building would cost more than we have. Mr. Moron said he will do what the Board directs him to but the last direction the Board chose to go with the location at the airport. He said that the design of the building depends on the location. Attorney Shuler asked Mr. Moron if the school board had been informed that the Board is considering an EOC on the property rather than workforce housing. Mr. Moron said the school board is under the impression that this is for workforce housing. Attorney Shuler asked Mr. Moron what impact he was expecting the option of a new EOC on the location to have on the school board's decision. Mr. Moron said he was not sure. He said that even though there is around 26 acres a lot of it is wetlands. He does not feel that there would be room for a new EOC and workforce housing on the property. Commissioner Boldt said that he thought the school board originally gave the property to the Board for a library in Carrabelle. Chairman Jones said that he isn't sure that is exactly the case. Commissioner Boldt said that he will leave this as a discussion item but that it was something he would like the Board to consider. Mr. Moron said he will proceed with planning for the new location at the airport until further direction from the Board.

10. Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand

Informational Items:

General Extension Activities:

- a. During this period, the Extension office assisted citizens on topics of soil testing, weed and plant disease identification, and more.
- b. Extension Director participated in 2 Zoom seminars by potential candidates for the Director's position at the North Florida Research and Education Center. Sea Grant Extension:

- c. Extension Staff hosted a 2-day in-service training in Apalachicola on the topic of off-bottom oyster aquaculture: an emergent industry in North Florida. 4-H Youth Development:
- d. Extension Director participated in a District III 4-H youth and agent meeting to plan activities for the coming year. Family and Consumer Sciences:
- e. Family Nutrition Program assistant continues providing nutrition programming in local schools. Agriculture/Home Horticulture:
- f. Franklin County Master Gardeners are meeting monthly now and hosting weekly plant clinics at the Extension office and the County libraries.

11. Library Director – Whitney Roundtree

Action Item:

- a. Requesting Board approval and signatures for the 2021-2022 State Aid to Libraries Grant Agreement.

Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Roundtree to elaborate on the details of the grant. Ms. Roundtree stated that this was an annual grant received from the state for funding the library.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the 2021-2022 State Aid to Libraries Grant Agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

Informational Items:

- b. Registration for the Music as a 2nd Language program is open from October 4th to November 12th. Music as 2nd Language is a program designed for the youth of Franklin County, ages 10-18 who are interested in learning to play an instrument. Instrument choices for the 2022 season include: acoustic guitar, piano and ukulele. This program is Page 3 sponsored by the Rock by The Sea Foundation and the Friends of the Franklin County Public Libraries and is at no-cost to students. Prospective students will be notified and will be scheduled to meet for information concerning the expectations and responsibilities of the program. This a 20-week program and the 2022 session will begin mid-January.
- c. The deadline for applications for the FT Library Assistant position at the Eastpoint branch closed September 24th, 2021. I am in the process of scheduling and conducting interviews with potential candidates.

Library Events:

Franklin County Public Library Eastpoint Branch

- October 5th– Diabetes Awareness at 10:00 AM. Have all your questions answered about diabetes from a trained professional. No appointment is needed, program is free and open to the public.
- October 5th – Book Chat at 1:30 PM. Discuss the current books you have been reading or may be interested in reading. There is no set book for this group; the book of choice is up to the individual.
- October 14th-Anime Club at 4:00 PM. Open to grades 6-12, discuss new events, favorite anime characters and books.
- October 20th-Writers Forum at 1:00 PM. Interested in becoming a writer? This group meets once a month to discuss new ideas and learn useful tips from local author, Dawn Radford.

- October 28th-Amazing Animals: Spiders, Scorpions & Snakes (SSS) at 3:30 PM. Meet some amazing animals and learn some fun and interesting facts!
- October 29th-Halloween Movie Feature: Happy Halloween, Scooby-Doo! (2020) at 3:30 PM. Come enjoy a great Halloween movie with free popcorn and light refreshments. Franklin County Public Library-Carrabelle Branch
- October 1st-Book Chat at 1:30 PM. Monthly group that meets to discuss the current books they have been reading or maybe interested in reading. There is no set book for this group; the book of choice is up to the individual.
- October 2nd, 16th, 23rd and 30th-Plant Clinic at 11:00 AM. Hosted by the Franklin County Master Gardeners. If you have any concerns or questions about your garden and plants this is the place to find the answers.
- October 12th-Anime Club at 4:00 PM. Open to grades 6-12, discuss new events and favorite anime characters and books.
- October 21st-MakerSpace Program at 4:00 PM. A group for kids ages 8-12, that meets to learn how to build and design using a variety of tools and resources and that allows them to use their imaginations.
- October 26th-Halloween Storytime and Pumpkin Painting at 4:00 PM. Enjoy some sweet treats, a Halloween story and paint a pumpkin (ages 2+).
- October 30th -Amazing Animals: Spiders, Scorpions & Snakes (SSS) at 11:00 AM. Meet some amazing animals and learn some fun and interesting facts!

Mr. Moron presented Item B from his report at this time.

b. ARPC Revolving Loan Funds Program: Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) is working on two related projects, and they believe both projects would benefit Franklin County. The first project would be a restart of the Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) program. Currently, the County has approximately \$300,000 in that account that has had no activity for some time. I realize that an earlier ARPC administration was involved with the RLF program, and it didn't go to well, but as the Chairman can testify to, this current ARPC administration's RLF program is the complete opposite, very successful. So, with the Board's permission, ARPC would like to restart and administer the County's Revolving Loan Fund program. The second project is a proposal to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge under the American Rescue Plan Act funding. ARPC has identified several key projects that could help shape and grow a new regional industry cluster centered around the ag-technology industry and Gulf-Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone. If the Board approves the restart of the RLF program, ARPC would like to use the RLF program's \$300,000 as a match for the EDA application. If ARPC is successful with the application, the County's \$300,000 would be increased to over \$1 million for that program. If the application is not funded, ARPC will still administer the County's RLF program with the \$300,000. Chairman Jones, the County's ARPC appointee, will discuss both projects in greater detail.

Board action to authorize ARPC to restart and administer the Revolving Loan Funds program with the \$300,000 currently in that account. Board action to authorize ARPC to use the RLF's \$300,000 as a match for the EDA's Build Back Better Regional Challenge proposal under the American Rescue Plan Act funding. Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of support for ARPC's proposal to EDA's Build Back Better Regional Challenge under the American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Chairman Jones explained that the County had a program several years ago that nothing was done, so the funds were given back to the Board. He explained that the Board could apply for a grant using the \$300k as a match and possibly turn it into \$1.5 million in funds available. The funds would be available throughout the region and not for Franklin County only. The original \$300k would be exclusively for Franklin County. Mr. Moron said that to apply for the loan funds program you must be turned down by a bank and it must be something that wouldn't be funded by a traditional loan. The \$300k will remain within Franklin County but if it is increased it will be available to other counties, but Franklin County can still receive a portion of the increased funds. Commissioner Lockley expressed his concerns about expanding our workforce. Chairman Jones said that things must work concurrent. If we are training people and don't have anywhere for them to work, they are going to leave. Mr. Moron asked if some of the funds could be used for a training program. Ms. Caroline said that the funds can be used for all sorts of things, so if it is a legitimate business that wanted to use the funds for training it should be okay. Ms. Caroline said that they are currently working on a word force development program that will be regional.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized ARPC to restart and administer the Revolving Loan Funds Program with the \$300,000 currently in that account. Motion carried 5-0.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt to authorize ARPC to use the RLF's \$300,000 as a match for the EDA's Build Back Better Regional Challenge proposal under the American Rescue Plan Act funding. Commissioner Lockley asked if the \$300k was guaranteed to go to Franklin County. Chairman Jones confirmed that it is and that as the grants are paid back, the funds can be paid out again. Chairman Jones noted that there haven't been any loan payments that have not been paid. **Motion carried 5-0.**

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of support for ARPC's proposal to EDA's Build Back Better Regional Challenge under the American Rescue Plan Act funding. Motion carried 5-0.

Other Reports

12. Interim Airport Manager – Ted Mosteller

a) FYI: Obstruction Clearance Project (Tree/Vegetation eradication)—to address the deficiencies listed on the latest airport licensing inspection--safety issue. This project is currently still with the FDOT.

Mr. Moron noted that all three agreements were signed, and they will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

b) FYI: Researching—with mogas demands increasing--It would be prudent to include the mogas equipment during the construction of the new fuel farm—however currently other than the card reader and space—mogas is not included in the new fuel farm project.

c) FYI: Jingoli Power lease--Project is still under construction.

d) FYI: Cates Electric upgrade of the electric service to the 60 x 60 sewer station. Cates Electric has completed project—service has been inspected and the electric hook-up has been ordered.

e) FYI: Cates Electric--EOC electric service repair/up-grade. Cates Electric has completed the project—electric hook-up complete and Pam has scheduled roof repairs.

f) FYI: Engineering is working on the Tarmac upgrade Project.

g) FYI: Vault generator repair. I continue to keep check on the generator--routinely-exercising (running). Ring Power (Clint) has replaced the control panel (9/28/2021). Generator runs—however still have some misc. parts on order

h) Runway 06/24 lighting project—despite the weather is finally wrapping up.

i) Discussion: Consider that Road Departments' mechanic perform much needed servicing/maintenance/repair on airport equipment. (Most equipment is in deplorable condition—stored for the most part outside in the weather since 2013--and has hardly been serviced in years)

j) FYI: Since the GAO issue about paying yourself rent has recently come to light—as your Airport Manager who is charged with compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations—I am researching the GAO (General Accounting Office) /FAA issue of requiring County paying itself fair market rent for non-aviation use of airport facilities. The issue stems from the fact that the Federal Government deeded the airport to the county as an AP-4 airport and has subsequently added financial support of the airport. The county has signed assurances to maintain the airport as such. Have no update currently.

k) FYI Addressed last meeting--the issue of FDOT policy of 'T' hanger rent collection process and non-aviation hangar use endangering future grant funds for 'T' hanger, box hanger and hangar construction. I currently have three prospective tenants wanting box hangers and the FBO has some 14 on a list awaiting 'T' hangers. The FDOT requires the county collect the rent funds and the FDOT funded hangers are used for aviation purposes. In response of my enquiring of FDOT about possible hangar grant funds--I quote email from Quinton Williams (FDOT) to Ted 9/08/2021: Page 5 Ted, "The Department will not be able to contribute funds for future hangar development or any upgrades to the fuel farm, as it is our understanding that all revenues generated by the airport go directly to the FBO that resides on the airport. With the FBO being a private entity, it puts the Department in a jeopardizing situation by funding projects that only support that private owned business. The Florida Public Airport Revenue Use Guide states: The goal of any airport development grant is to make the airports as self-sustaining as possible and minimize the need for further federal/state assistance. The diversion of airport revenue for non-aviation use limits the effectiveness of grant assistance and jeopardizes the goal of achieving self-sustainability." Quinton Williams D3 Aviation Program Manager Note: While there is some misunderstanding--Staff is in communication with the FDOT (Quinton) concerning this issue. Don't have an update as of Thursday.

l) FYI: To reiterate: Some issues addressed or to be resolved/addressed: Airport Manager Duties, etc. report. Update. Flight Obstruction Clearance—(vegetation) safety issue. New Fuel Farm Add Mogas Runway 06/24 lighting up-grade. EOC Prospective list more than 14 waiting for 'T' hangars. Prospective list--3 ea. tenants requesting a box hangar. Kasper hangar space lease. Review of leases—(FDOT) including revenue flow and non-aviation use. Equipment inventory (including repair and maintenance)—much equipment in deplorable condition. Has not been serviced or maintained--working on maintenance arrangements. JD 5520 New 20' batwing mower on order Shelter for airport equipment. Building maintenance--Leaking roofs, etc.--Electric service for T hangars. Other T hangar repair/maintenance (rusting door roller tracks, etc.) Flood water ponding between "T" hangars—drainage situation—limiting access. Flight operations counter NDB Security Plan Master Plan Apron rehabilitation project. FBO hangar ventilation ceiling fans. FBO hangar floor (original WWII).

Jingoli Power lease. Issue NOTAMS as needed.

m) Questions? /Discussion?

Commissioner Boldt asked if the Board needed to approve the road department working on equipment at the airport that needs repair. Chairman Jones said that no vote is needed and asked Mr. Mosteller to get in touch with Mr. Nabors and Mr. Davis. Commissioner Lockley said it would be good to contact the road department and have them put him on the list. They have a lot of things going on. Mr. Moron said that he received a message from Mr. Davis, and he will be glad to assist.

Public Hearings

13. Notice of Land Use Change 10:30 a.m.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO CHANGE THE PERMITTED USE OF A 38.54+/-ACRE PARCEL OF LAND IN SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST, FROM AGRICULTURE TO RESIDENTIAL.

Mr. Mathre spoke to the Board and said that his intentions were not to cut up the property. He wants to be able to sell and someone build a house. The requested zoning is for R-6 one dwelling per ten acres. Commissioner Boldt said this zoning would be consistent with the surrounding properties. Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none. Commissioner Ward confirmed that the P&Z department had looked at the request. Mrs. Bankston said they had approved for public hearing.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved an ordinance amending the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan to change the permitted use of a 38.54+/-acre parcel of land in Section 25, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, from Agriculture to Residential. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Notice of Zoning Change 10:35 a.m.

AN ORDINANCE REZONING 38.54+/-ACRES OF LAND IN SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST, FROM A-2 FORESTRY AGRICULTURE DISTRICT TO R-6 RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to approve an ordinance rezoning 38.54+/-acre parcel of land in Section 25, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, from A-2 Forestry Agriculture District to R-6 Rural Residential District.

Attorney Shuler asked that Mrs. Bankston specify change. Mrs. Bankston said the request was changing from A-4 to R-6.

Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Boldt rescinded their motions to allow for public comments.

Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved an ordinance rezoning 38.54+/-acre parcel of land in Section 25, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, from A-2 Forestry Agriculture District to R-6 Rural Residential District. Motion carried 5-0.

County Staff & Attorney Reports

15. Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith

a. BOARD ACTION: Designation of grant match for Armory Sprinkler System Project Franklin County has been offered a \$250,000 grant from the State Fire Marshall's Office to assist with the installation of a

fire suppression system at Fort Coombs Armory. Just recently, the Fire Marshall's office informed the county that no more than (50) occupants, even with a fire spotter, could be inside the armory at any one time until there was an operational fire suppression system on site. To be able to accept the grant award, the county must designate and obligate enough funds to complete the project. The county has approximately \$86,277 in insurance proceeds available to go towards the cost of this project, but this still leaves an unfunded project match of \$124,996 for the installation. The funding of improvements to Fort Coombs Armory in its capacity as a designated convention center would fit within the allowable use of tourist development sales tax proceeds per Florida Statutes. Does the BOCC wish to request that the match funds be paid by the TDC for this project? The Tourist Development Council is already in the process of transitioning into managing the bookings, maintaining the location calendar, and handling the promotion of the county location. As a destination venue, Historic Fort Coombs Armory fosters tourism and travel to the county.

* Project Expenses

*\$ 70,000 -EMO Architects Preliminary Design

*\$ 50,273 -Gilchrist, Ross, Crowe Final Design, Implementation, Bid

*\$441,000 -Construction Cost Estimate

* \$561,273 -Total Cost

*Project Revenues

*\$100,000 -State Fire Marshall Funds for Design Grant

*\$250,000 -State Fire Marshall Funds for Construction

*\$ 86,277 -Armory Insurance Proceeds

*\$436,277 -Total Revenue

*\$124,996 -Unfunded Project Match

Board action to request the project match be paid from TDC funds and authorization for the Chairman to sign and return Attachment 1 with approved local funding to the Fire Marshall's Office to be able to proceed with drafting the formal grant agreement.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved requesting the project match be paid from TDC funds and authorized the Chairman to sign and return Attachment 1 with approved local funding to the Fire Marshall's Office to be able to proceed with drafting the formal grant agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

b. BOARD ACTION: Approval of Supplemental Agreement LAP CR370 Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Project Franklin County has received a supplemental grant award in the amount of \$163,628 from the Florida Department of Transportation to fund the project cost overage from the bid opening for the LAP CR370 Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Project. The path will begin West of George Vause Road and continue for approximately one mile to Gulf Shore Boulevard. The total grant funded cost of the project will now be \$533,401.

Board action to approve the attached supplemental agreement and authorization for the chairman to sign the agreement.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached supplemental agreement and authorized the Chairman to sign the agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

c. BOARD ACTION: Resolutions of Support FRDAP Projects The grant application window for the 2022/2023 Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s FRDAP program closes on October 15th and at the last meeting the BOCC voted to pursue funding applications for the playground Improvements at Lighthouse Park on St. George Island and ballfield improvements at Vrooman Park in Eastpoint. The FRDAP program is a competitive award program for enhancements to parks and recreation facilities. Two meetings have been scheduled at this time to ask for public input on future park improvements:

* Playground Improvements at Lighthouse Park: Monday, October 11th, 5:15 p.m., St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department, 324 East Pine Avenue, St. George Island, FL 32328

*Ballfield Improvements at Vrooman Park: Monday, October 11th, 6:30 p.m., Courthouse Annex, County Commission Meeting Room, 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, FL 32320 The FRDAP Grant Application also awards points for the inclusion of subject projects into the County’s Capital Improvement Plan. The Vrooman Park Improvements are already scheduled on the plan – the SGI Playground Improvements need to be added.

Board action to approve the attached resolution amending the Franklin County Capital Improvements Schedule of the Comprehensive Plan to add the proposed improvements to the SGI Playground at Lighthouse Park.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached resolution amending the Franklin County Capital Improvements Schedule of the Comprehensive Plan to add the proposed improvements to the SGI Playground at Lighthouse Park. Motion carried 5-0.

d. BOARD ACTION: Permission to Schedule and Advertise Public Hearing for Capital Improvement Plan Update Each year the county formally updates the Capital Improvements Schedule of the Comprehensive Plan to reflect upcoming goals and projects within the county. This list assists with the planning process and grant funding applications.

Board action to approve the scheduling and advertisement of a public hearing to update the Capital Improvement Plan.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the scheduling and advertisement of a public hearing to update the Capital Improvement Plan. Motion carried 5-0.

16. County Coordinator – Michael Morón

Action Items

a. ARPC GIS Agreement: At your September 7th meeting the Board authorized staff to negotiate with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council to update the County’s GIS map. This is important as the Building Department is moving to a new permitting software that will incorporate the GIS map into the software

therefore providing mapped locations to the public and staff alike. This agreement (attached) is the same as the 2019 agreement when ARPC did the last update to the GIS map.

Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the ARPC agreement to update the County's GIS map.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on the ARPC agreement to update the County's GIS map. Motion carried 5-0.

b. ARPC Revolving Loan Funds Program: Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) is working on two related projects, and they believe both projects would benefit Franklin County. The first project would be a restart of the Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) program. Currently, the County has approximately \$300,000 in that account that has had no activity for some time. I realize that an earlier ARPC administration was involved with the RLF program, and it didn't go to well, but as the Chairman can testify to, this current ARPC administration's RLF program is the complete opposite, very successful. So, with the Board's permission, ARPC would like to restart and administer the County's Revolving Loan Fund program. The second project is a proposal to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge under the American Rescue Plan Act funding. ARPC has identified several key projects that could help shape and grow a new regional industry cluster centered around the ag-technology industry and Gulf-Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone. If the Board approves the restart of the RLF program, ARPC would like to use the RLF program's \$300,000 as a match for the EDA application. If ARPC is successful with the application, the County's \$300,000 would be increased to over \$1 million for that program. If the application is not funded, ARPC will still administer the County's RLF program with the \$300,000. Chairman Jones, the County's ARPC appointee, will discuss both projects in greater detail.

Board action to authorize ARPC to restart and administer the Revolving Loan Funds program with the \$300,000 currently in that account. Board action to authorize ARPC to use the RLF's \$300,000 as a match for the EDA's Build Back Better Regional Challenge proposal under the American Rescue Plan Act funding. Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of support for ARPC's proposal to EDA's Build Back Better Regional Challenge under the American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

c. Zoning Administrator: As the Board is aware your Zoning Administrator, Mrs. Cortni Bankston will be starting maternity leave in a few weeks and is expected to be out for at least a couple of months. I have asked Mr. Alan Pierce to fill the role as the County's Zoning Administrator while Mrs. Bankston is on leave. Mr. Pierce agreed to take on these additional duties temporarily, but it would require him to become a part-time Page 9 County employee as the Interim Zoning Administrator. Mr. Pierce and I agreed to an hourly rate of \$50 per hour for up to 20 hours per week as needed, as he will continue to assist the County with special projects such as the rebuilding of Alligator Drive, the purchase of Alligator Point Fire Department property, and the Eastpoint and 2-mile dredging projects along with the Zoning Administrator responsibilities. Once Mrs. Bankston returns to full-time status we can return to his current role as a consultant.

Board action to authorize Mr. Alan Pierce as a part-time on-call employee at \$50 per hour for up to 20 hours per week as needed, during the time Mrs. Bankston is on leave, to fulfill the role as Zoning Administrator and continue assisting the County with special projects.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized Mr. Alan Pierce as a part-time on-call employee at \$50 per hour for up to 20 hours per week as needed, during the time Mrs. Bankston is on leave, to fulfill the role as Zoning Administrator and continue assisting the County with special projects. Motion carried 5-0.

d. Task Order Legislative Funding: At your last meeting I ask the Board to authorize Ms. Tracie Buzbee to assist with completing the County's Legislative Funding request which is due November 1st. Ms. Buzbee's agreement is attached to my report for your review and the Chairman's signature. Currently, the only request under consideration is \$2 – \$2.5 million dollars for construction of a new Emergency Operations Center.

Board action to authorize the Chairman to sign Ms. Buzbee's agreement to assist the County's Legislative Funding Request application.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish and Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign Ms. Buzbee's agreement to assist the County's Legislative Funding Request application. Motion carried 5-0.

e. Twin Lake Road Repairs: The drainage pipe on Twin Lake Road needs replacement. This repair \$15,900 change order to the paving contract will include excavation and removal of the damaged pipe, replacement the concrete collars, and new base and asphalt patch. If not repaired now, the road will be in a similar situation as Ryan Drive and North Bayshore.

Board action to approve the \$15,900 change order to repair Twin Lake Road.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the \$15,900 change order to repair Twin Lake Road. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ward said that she had received an update on Ryan Drive. Head walls are about six weeks from production and pipe is in the yard ready for shipment. Mr. Moron reminded Commissioner Boldt to get with him on the other roads in his district that need repair.

f. Housing Board Appointment: Currently, District 1's seat on the County's Housing Board is vacant. Mr. Cliff Butler has expressed an interest on serving on the Board to Chairman Jones (District 1) who supports this appointment. Mrs. Lori Switzer-Mill, SHIP Administrator, also supports Mr. Butler's appointment to the Housing Board.

Board action to appoint Mr. Cliff Butler to the vacant District 1 seat on the County's Housing Authority Board.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board appointed Mr. Cliff Butler to the vacant District 1 seat on the County's Housing Authority Board. Motion carried 5-0.

g. New BD Temp Part-Time Hire: As part of their approved FY 2021-22budget, the Building Department is hiring a temporary part-time employee. There is an immediate need for this part-time employee due to a high volume of permit applications and current staff shortages. This employee will serve as a "floater" and will assist with the current high volume of permit applications, preparation work as we transition to a new permitting software and prepare older permit files for electronic conversion. Mr. Paterson was able to recruit a recent past employee who is familiar with the Building Department procedures, the permitting system,

and some zoning rules. I am recommending that we hire the employee on a temporary basis at their previous hourly rate of pay for up to 29 hours per week without any benefits or retirement. There are sufficient funds in the Building Department's budget to cover this position.

Board action to hire a temporary part-time employee at their previous rate of pay for up to 29 hours per week without any benefits or retirement.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved hiring a temporary part-time employee at their previous rate of pay for up to 29 hours per week without any benefits or retirement. Motion carried 5-0.

h. SGI Inc Agenda Request: A volunteer, Ms. Shannon Bothwell, working on the potential incorporation of St. George Island committee has asked to be on a future meeting agenda. In an email, Ms. Bothwell explained that before the local state delegation would consider sponsoring a bill to incorporate St. George Island in the Florida Legislature, Representative Shoaf is requiring that a non-binding straw poll of SGI voters to demonstrate support for the incorporation is held. Mrs. Heather Riley, Supervisor of Elections, confirmed with Ms. Bothwell that there is no cost to add the referendum question to the ballot for a regularly scheduled election, however, Board approval is required to add the question to the ballot. Unless a special election is called for some reason, the next election will be the August primaries. Ms. Bothwell would like to discuss this further at a future BOCC meeting.

Board discussion and direction.

Chairman Jones said that he is fine with adding it to a future agenda. However, he noted that at our final budget hearing the residents speaking out about the millage rate were from St. George Island. If incorporated, this would add additional taxes to those residents. Commissioner Ward said she agrees and believes that we need the residents to vote on a 3% levy increase. Commissioner Boldt asked if the straw vote had any teeth to it. Chairman Jones said no but Representative Shoaf wanted this vote before taking this on. Chairman Jones said that some residents on St. George Island live on a fixed income. If something like this takes place, the entirety of the island will be like the plantation. Commissioner Lockley noted that some of the people pushing for this may have to move also. Attorney Shuler asked the Board if they would like to authorize him to provide a legal opinion on Commissioner Boldt's question regarding the difference in a straw vote and certified election.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to authorize Attorney Shuler to provide a legal opinion on the difference between a straw vote and a certified election. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Informational Items:

i. Airport Manager Committee: At your last meeting the Board rejected all proposals received for Airport Manager Services because Mr. Ted Mosteller, Interim Airport Manager, submitted a proposal even though he was on the committee that created the advertisement and qualifications for the Airport Manager therefore creating an ethical conflict. The Board asked that I make sure members of the new committee has no interest in submitting a proposal to provide Airport Manager services. With that said, the new committee members will be Mr. John Collins, Mrs. Erin Griffith, and myself. We will work on a revised advertisement that will be brought to this Board for approval.

Attorney Shuler does not recommend allowing a commissioner to serve on a committee or board where they would provide a recommendation that would ultimately come before the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

j. EMS State Award: Your EMS was awarded EMS Provider of the Year by the Florida Department of Health. As stated in the email I sent you, this annual award recognizes an EMS provider that has assumed a leadership role in the Florida EMS system and community; has demonstrated outstanding initiative in public education and/or training; and has demonstrated excellence in the areas of quality assurance/improvement and medical control protocol development/implementation.

Commissioner Boldt recommended inviting them to attend a future meeting to be publicly recognized.

k. FWC meeting: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will meet on October 6th – 7th in St. Augustine Florida. The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. ET each day and is open to the public.

17. County Attorney – Michael Shuler

Action Items:

a. Opioid Settlement Funds the Florida Attorney General has sent me an email asking for Franklin County to review and decide whether we are eligible and desire to participate in the program for the expenditure of the settlement funds. A deadline of January 2022 was mentioned.

Board Action Requested: Motion authorizing me to participate in discussions with the Florida Attorney General’s Office and report back to the Board.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley to authorize Attorney Shuler to participate in discussions with the Florida Attorney General’s Office and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Boldt asked if we should include Sheriff Smith on these discussions. Attorney Shuler said he initially thought of that but after looking at it, Franklin County as a non-qualified county will have to participate in a regional group. Attorney Shuler said his initial conclusion is that the county will be stuck with whatever procedural process is put in place. We won’t have any control over it from a local standpoint.

Motion carried 5-0.

b. Carrabelle Beach Flagging Presently, Carrabelle Beach is tied to the St. George Island Beach Flagging System. This means that when weather conditions in the Gulf of Mexico at St. George Island merit either a red flag or double red flag, Carrabelle Beach is being treated with the same flag system, even though the weather conditions on St. George Sound at Carrabelle Beach may not support the same flag warning as St. George Island. It has long been the case that the county’s beach flagging system uses information from NOAA to determine what flags to fly at the beaches. However, Carrabelle Beach is not included in the NOAA information system. See the attached link to the NOAA information system: <https://www.weather.gov/beach/tae>

If you click the link, you can see the beach umbrella symbols for SGI and Alligator Point, but there is no information for Carrabelle Beach. Below is a second link to the web page used by your technology provider showing information for “Franklin” and “Coastal Franklin – including the beaches of Apalachicola”. There is no reference to Carrabelle specifically:

<https://forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=NWS&issuedby=TAE&product=SRF>

I understand that tying Carrabelle Beach to St. George Island’s beach flagging system has resulted, or can result, in Carrabelle Beach being closed to the public when the weather conditions do not justify the closure. I recommend the following:

- i. Remove Carrabelle Beach from the current flagging system.
- ii. The Board can rely on Ordinance No. 95-15, which provides that when the Board declares a local state of emergency, those persons who do not leave the waters of Franklin County in the Gulf of Mexico and St. George Sound (Carrabelle Beach) on order of the Sheriff are subject to arrest for a second-degree misdemeanor (Up to \$500 fine and/or 60 days in jail).

Board Action Requested: If the Board approves of my recommendation, then I will schedule the previously approved public hearing for the purpose of removing Carrabelle Beach from the flagging system.

The Board agreed to move forward as recommended by Attorney Shuler.

Informational Items

- c. HLS v. Franklin County: A hearing on the plaintiff's amended motion for summary judgment is scheduled for 2/9/22. The Plaintiff is seeking a court order to require the board to consider its application for an RV park on St. George Island, Florida.
- d. Franklin County v. Kenny Reeder: The trial in this matter has been scheduled for a bench trial on 4/6/22. This action arose because Mr. Reeder constructed a two-story residence without a permit and his failure to take the proper steps to become compliant with the code. The County seeks to require compliance with the code or the demolition of the structure.
- e. Franklin County v. Long Trust In re: destroyed home at 2036 Highway 98, Carrabelle: On 9/22/21, a default has been entered against the Defendant for failing to file any response to the lawsuit. I was in the process of scheduling final hearing when the property owner's son called me the week ending 9/24/21 and told me that he would pull the demolition permit and abate the nuisance caused by the destroyed house and destroyed septic tank. I will give him a reasonable time (30 days) to abate the nuisance and will follow up at the end of October 2021 for a status report on his progress.
- f. Mary Sue Richards -974 Teresa Street, Eastpoint, Florida
On 9/22/21, a letter was sent to Ms. Richards concerning the apparent zoning violation resulting from the use of her property as half-way house/Recovery Resident.
Ms. Richards was requested to contact the county and discuss this apparent zoning violation. To date, I have not heard from her.

Commissioners' Comments & Adjournment

18. Commissioners' Comments

Chairman Jones spoke to the Board about the need for a Public Information Officer. Mr. Moron said he would ask that the Board allow him to look at contracting with a firm because it is an as-needed basis. Mr. Moron said that he can check with other counties to see how they are handling it. Chairman Jones said that we need to have some way to address and provide information to the public. Commissioner Ward reiterated that the website is a good tool and said that she believes that having a PIO would benefit the county by keeping the public informed.

19. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell - Clerk of Courts