

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
NOVEMBER 2, 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

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. Prayer and Pledge**

Chairman Jones led the Board in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Approval of Minutes  
FCBCC Regular Meeting 10/19/2021**

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the minutes from the Regular Meeting 10/19/2021. 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.**

**5. Public Comments**

Mr. Ashley Tea spoke regarding the new location for the EOC. Mr. Teat spoke in favor of building the EOC at the Hwy 65 location by the Sheriff's department. Mr. Teat requested the Board hold a workshop for the community to give their input and work together as a team. Chairman Jones said he believes that is something that can be done. However, he noted that the Board has held several meetings allowing for the public to provide input.

**Constitutional Officers**

**6. Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell – Report**

Clerk Maxwell had nothing to report to the Board at this time.

## Department Directors Reports

### 7. Superintendent of Roads and Bridges – Howard Nabors

#### Informational Item

- a. Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District Report (attached)

Mr. Nabors had no action items for the Board. Commissioner Ward thanked Mr. Nabors for installing the signs that she had requested a few meetings back. Chairman Jones said that he had some additional signage needed in his district and would be in touch with Mr. Nabors regarding those.

### 8. Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

#### Informational Items

- a. Right of Way Debris Pickup/Recycle Material Hauled Report (attached)

Mr. Davis was not in attendance and had no action items for the Board.

### 9. Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

#### Informational Items

- a. 10/18-10/19/21 Jennifer Daniels attended and passed the G-235 Emergency Planning Course in Walton County.

- b. EOC Staff completed quarterly reports for EMPG and EMPG ARPA. Currently completing the EMPA quarterly report.

- c. EOC Staff are in the process of applying for a grant from Duke Energy for \$10,000. This grant will be used to build disaster kits to distribute to our vulnerable population. If anyone is interested in partnering with our office, please let us know.

- d. EOC staff continue to update plans and contracts for Franklin County. This includes our Logistics plan and MOUs with our partnering organizations.

- e. EOC Staff continue to update our Kiosks located throughout Franklin County with COVID Information along with Preparedness information for storms and disasters. 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

Mrs. Jennifer Daniels attended in Mrs. Brownell's absence, and she had no action items to present.

## **10. Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand**

### Informational Item

#### *General Extension Activities:*

- a. During this period, the Extension office assisted citizens on topics of gardening soil amendments, home wine making, citrus greening positive test on SGI, and more.
- b. Extension Director participated in the two-way County Director Leadership Team meeting in Tallahassee.
- c. Extension Director participated in the annual Florida Seafood Festival this year with a booth to highlight Extension services available for the public.
- d. Extension Director set up natural resources exhibit in UF/IFAS building at the North Florida Fair and worked a shift to engage with visitors, along with another NW District Extension faculty.
- e. Extension Director participated in the virtual meeting with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference and the FDA regarding updates on shellfish safety issues.
- f. Extension Director participated in another Community Advisory Board meeting of the ABSI FSU project.

#### *4-H Youth Development:*

- g. The Extension Director participated as a judge for 4-H exhibits at the North Florida Fair.
- h. Our local 4-H club set up a booth to highlight their activities this year in the archery program they are implementing.

#### *Family and Consumer Services:*

- i. Our Family Nutrition Program assistant continues providing nutrition programming in local schools.

#### *Agriculture/Home Horticulture:*

- j. Wednesday plant clinics continue at the Extension office to assist citizens with gardening and horticultural issues that they are dealing with.

Mr. Lovestrand gave a highlight from his report on the removal of derelict vessels and debris from the water. Chairman Jones said that he is glad this work is getting done as this is very important to our area. Chairman Jones asked how the project was facilitated. Mr. Lovestrand said that the IFAS office in Franklin worked in conjunction with the IFAS office in Bay County to complete the project. The funding came from the National Fish and Wildlife Association. Commissioner Boldt asked if this project included totally submerged vessels. Mr. Lovestrand said not to his knowledge.

He also noted that if the vessels were damaged or submerged prior to Hurricane Michael, they did not qualify for this project.

## OTHER REPORTS

### 11. Library Director – Whitney Roundtree

#### Informational Items

a. A candidate has been selected for the FT Library Assistant position for the Eastpoint Branch pending pre-employment screening.

b. The Friends of the Library are using some of their beautification project funds to add a gazebo and picnic tables to the Eastpoint library grounds. This will offer more outdoor seating to library patrons.

c. The Franklin County Public Libraries will be closed November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day, as well as November 25th-November 27th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Library Events: Franklin County Public Library Eastpoint Branch 160 Hickory Dip Rd, Eastpoint

(850) 670-8151

- November 2nd – Diabetes Awareness at 10:00am-11:00am. This is a monthly program that you can come to and have all your questions answered about Diabetes from a trained professional. John is here to answer any questions you may have. No appointment is needed, and this is a free program.

- November 2nd– Book Chat at 1:30pm. This is a 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.

- November 17th - Writers forum at 1:00pm. Interested in becoming a writer? This group meets once a month to discuss new ideas and learn useful tips from local author, Dawn Radford.

Franklin County Public Library Carrabelle Branch 311 St. James Ave. SE, Carrabelle (850) 697-2366

- November 5th- Book Chat at 1:30pm. This is a 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.

- November 4th- Maker Space at 4:00pm. This is a group of kids who meet to learn how to build and design different things and learn about different topics, like science and art.

- November 6th, 13th, 20th - Plant Clinic at 11:00am-1:00pm. This program is 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.

- November 18th- Poetry Workshop at 1:00pm. Anthony Watkins will be here sharing and discussing work from local poets as well as a general discussion about all things literary. If you are interested in writing and learning about poetry, give this workshop a try.

Ms. Roundtree had no action items for the Board.

Chairman Jones asked if the Friends of the Library have addressed the continuing drainage issue on the property. Ms. Roundtree said that it is wetlands and the neighbor that is complaining is wetlands. Chairman Jones said there was an issue from Indian Creek. Ms. Roundtree said they do have a board meeting scheduled for next week and it is on the agenda.

### **Other Reports**

#### **12. Interim Airport Manager – Ted Mosteller**

Report (attached)

Mr. Mosteller had no action items for the Board. Chairman Jones asked if there was any new information on his report and Mr. Mosteller said that there is not. Chairman Jones would like to meet with Mr. Mosteller to discuss the possibility of the grant funding to extend the runway. He would like to brief Mr. Mosteller as interim airport manager.

### **Presentations and Requests**

#### **13. Apalachicola Bay System Initiative – Dr. Sandra Brooke – Update**

Dr. Brooke will update the Board on the status of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI)

Dr. Brooke gave a brief update on the ABSI. She gave the Board some snapshots of aspects of the project that she felt the Board would be interested in. Dr. Brooke said there are three basic questions that ABSI is asking- What caused the oyster collapse in the Apalachicola Bay? Why have oysters not recovered? What actions need to be taken to restore Apalachicola oyster reefs? ABSI works with local stakeholders to help develop a science-based management and restoration plan for the Bay. FSU is a university, and they have no authority, it will be up to the entities to choose whether they want to take their recommendations or not. Usually when a system collapses, it is rarely just one thing that caused it. Dr. Brooke gave a list of problems that possibly caused the collapse which included reduced river flow, increased salinity, increased predators, parasites and disease, increased mortality, especially juveniles, recruitment failure, shell removal, no re-shelling and habitat limitation. ABSI has four components research, community engagement, adaptive management plan, and oyster habitat restoration plan. ABSI wants to take the research and turn it into decision support tools that the community can use. Dr. Brooke said that they investigate the intertidal ‘coon’ bars. She said they have set up a monitoring program studying the reefs for about a year and a half now. We have spat collectors out and there is a significant amount of spat in these intertidal areas. Now we are going to focus on the subtidal habitats but continue monitoring the intertidal habitats with drone imagery and digital elevation models. Dr. Brooke said she contacted a local oysterman and went out with him to do subtidal surveys using tongs. Dr. Brooke explained the subtidal oyster sampling chart, oysters in North part of Dry Bar, some in the Miles, the bigger ones to the South of the Miles don’t have many, over by Cat Point there are some. We wanted to

get a broader view. The blue dots indicated where there was nothing found. There has been some restoration going on since 2012-2013 time. The material that was put down, the fossil shell is not there anymore or buried, the natural shell is not there and is hash or mud. There are still layers of lime rock in small discreet patches with decent size oysters growing on it. The beginning of this year we designed a restoration experiment to determine which materials did well. The materials experimented with were natural oyster shell, small lime rock, and larger lime rock. This was done to see what would happen, to help build back the ecosystem. We need areas that are fishable, and we need areas to set aside for mother nature to do what she does to provide homes for the animals. I did a review of all the restoration work since the deep-water spill. My thought was to get the oysters off the ground and into the nice clean water. Our reefs were 30ftx30ftx1ft tall. We did five of these different replicas, and we have thirty different reefs all together. We had the local oysterman help us to do this. We got it all out in June. We saw quite a bit of spat and was very encouraging. We have been along since and some of the shell piles have been blown around. We plan to do this again, maybe use different materials that are a little more stable. We are taking over one of the projects that has ended with Florida DEP. One of the components of ABSI is the hatchery and it is for research. We tried kick starting by putting the hatchery out. We got some spawns from this. We put them in cages about 50 shells on each of our little reefs. The results of these experiments will be part of the restoration plan that we develop. Our advice or options will be provided to those that will be doing the restoration. Community engagement is very important. Some we have not been able to do due to Covid. We have created an advisory board and have held oysterman workshops. The workshops allowed the oysterman to provide their opinions on the ideas that we have come up with. The community advisory board were selected through an interview process, representing their demographic, we tried to get a broad cross section. The board consist of members from non-profit organizations, seafood industry, business, local, state, and federal government. The CAB is tasked with developing recommendations informed by science and stakeholder experiences for the Apalachicola Bay System Management and Restoration Plan and to ensure there is a mechanism for the Plan Implementation. We have come up with the following goals: A. Healthy and Productive Bay Ecosystem, B. Sustainable Management of Oyster Resources, C. Ecosystem Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan Supported by Apalachicola Bay System Stakeholders, D. An Engaged Stakeholder Community and Informed Public. At the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, CAB prioritized potential strategies for inclusion in the Apalachicola Bay Plan. The next steps for AB include the following: November 16, 2021, CAB will vote to approve the draft Management and Restoration options for inclusion in the Plan; Early 2022 a questionnaire will be circulated to the larger Apalachicola Bay System community, to gather feedback on the prioritized strategies; Public workshops will be held in person to discuss the Plan; CAB will review the public feedback and make revisions as needed. Stakeholder consensus on management and restoration plan.

Mr. Larry Hale spoke regarding his concern of upland drainage into the bay. Mr. Hale expressed his concern of the spraying of defoliants and fertilizers. He said he feels these are problems that must be addressed to save our bay.

Commissioner Boldt asked Dr. Brooke if there is a possibility that you could write a progress report to the public in layman's language every six months. Dr. Brooke said that she felt that is

something that she can do, and she will speak to Commissioner Boldt afterwards to discuss. Commissioner Lockley said he doesn't like studies; he wants to know what they have done to put people back to work. Dr. Brooke said what they have done so far is trying to determine how to provide the best situation for the oysters to recreate themselves. Dr. Brooke said what she believes they can do is increase the habitats. All we can do is provide them the best situation to grow. Commissioner Lockley asked why the shell on the west beds is deteriorated. Dr. Brooke said the oysters can't grow quickly enough to take the material they've put down and stabilize it. You should have clumps that things are living in, but when Shannon tonged up what we saw was just some oysters that were sitting on individual rocks. We need to aim to get the reefs back so that it's nice and stable. So that mud and sand aren't just washing over it. We have taken sediment cores for pesticides. The flood plain has changed over time. There are several things that could be going on. What is going on with the mud is it has gone from having a lot of calcium carbonate to just mud. You've got an animal in the bay that keeps it nice and clean. Commissioner Lockley asked if at the end of the five years, the oysterman will be able to go back to work. Dr. Brooke said it is not a guarantee. We are seeing spat in the bay and that is encouraging. If there are enough oysters to give spat. Commissioner Lockley noted that there was a section producing spat at one time, and they were moved. What are they going to do to replace that? Dr. Brooke said that she wasn't sure what he was referring to. Commissioner Lockley said there was bar that they didn't let anyone fish because they said it was polluted. He noted that it was producing spat and spreading them around. Dr. Brooke said the oysterman had talked about the relaying and said they didn't feel it was a good idea. Commissioner Lockley said the oysterman are ready to go back to work, if they don't have a guarantee there is going to be any oysters. We need to let them know something so they can begin training for another job. Dr. Brooke said she can't predict the future, but the data from a study that they have seen spat. It maybe with the reduction in fishing pressure, the baby oysters had a chance to grow up. The challenge is going to be if we don't put a whole lot more habitat out there, we are going to have a tiny area to fish. Dr. Brooke said part of their goals is to get law enforcement involved to enforce once the fishery is open. Commissioner Lockley said he is asked questions daily. Mr. Hale asked if there is any interaction with the forestry department on managing what goes on the plots and what is flushing into our bay. Defoliants have no place near our bay. How much of the defoliants is going into our bay and affecting the oysters and other animals? Dr. Brooke said stakeholders are not forestry directly but indirectly yes. Chairman Jones said some of the core samples taken may show these also. Dr. Brooke said that she will investigate that. Commissioner Parrish said one issue is the high salinity. We can't control that without the flow from the river. He said without the oysters you are going to have a dead bay. So, we are fighting a heck of a battle with water flows. Agree with your terminology about building the reefs up. If there is no one in the state that is going to replace the shells in the bay, within a year with intense pressure on it, it will be back to how it is. Why did they let it get down to 25 bushels an acre before they shut it down? A lot of it has to do with management of the bay. There is a lot of issues that go to the management of the bay. There must be partners in this. I think the bay should be shut down in the summertime. At some point you must give the oysters time to replenish. Without the oysters to clean the water coming down from Georgia, we are going to have a dead bay. We must work to get the oysters back in the bay, but we must properly manage it. The reefs must be built up. There must be a buy in from state agencies to help make it sustainable. Commissioner Parrish asked if

these will be some things in the final recommendation. Dr. Brooke said she has reviewed many restoration efforts, where they have topped up the reefs to build them up. However, we don't have the reefs to top up, so we must build them. Dr. Brooke said she agrees that we need an adaptive management plan. It may not be popular but if we go back to the same way we were doing it, we are going to have the same thing. We need to figure out how much water we need to get them through the vulnerability stage. Then we can go to the Corps and ask them to give us the water flow during this period. Commissioner Parrish said the major spat set is March and June. He said that getting back to the oysters that Commissioner Lockley referred to on the main channel. Some of those oysters were stolen and sold, some were relayed. Those provided a lot of spat for the west of the bay. They are not there anymore, and shells need to be replaced. Commissioner Parrish said before the spat would be spread from east to west in the bay from the main channel. Dr. Brooke said we are looking for input on where to put the traditional reefs. Commissioner Parrish said he was initially on the board, but the meetings were held on Tuesday and Wednesday. He said that he does have some insight into the bay because of his career in the seafood industry. Chairman Jones thanked Dr. Brooke for her presentation. He said the issues that face our bay are multiple. He said the water flow issue, the dredging and other things that we can't control. The bottom line is he has people constantly asking about the timeline. Maybe that is one of the things that needs to be communicated. They keep getting deferred or no answer when asking for a timeline. Because they look back in time, the bay was closed for a short period of time, then bounced back. We don't always remember the bad and the struggles we went through. People today that have good jobs in many different places of society who grew up oystering would go back if the bay opened back up. I think the main thing they are looking for is a timeline. Commissioner Lockley said a good thing to do would be to put a flood gate to trap the water to go east or west. Then someone could be there to open to let the boats go in and out. Dr. Brooke said she has looked at closing like Sikes Cut. Commissioner Lockley said he wouldn't close that one because it is used a lot. Chairman Jones confirmed with Dr. Brooke that she has asked them for a model if Sikes Cut was closed where the water flows. Commissioner Lockley asked Dr. Brooke to provide the information she receives from the study of Sikes Cut. Chairman Jones asked if what is being studied in materials being put back, are you also seeing what materials can be put in polluted areas? Dr. Brooke said yes. She said some of the areas, we don't want to put sanctuary areas, but in some of the areas that are closed, we could use to place the beds. Commissioner Parrish said the coon bars absolutely contribute to the bay. He said he would like to see these continue to be unharvested. Commissioner Parrish said when studying closing Sikes Cut, we need to see what contaminants are being trapped. Commissioner Parrish said the island was already washed in to back in the 1800s naturally. Dr. Brooke said they will be monitoring water quality for Red Tide. There was a small amount down by St. George. Is the Red Tide being sucked into Sikes Cut from the ocean? Dr. Brooke said Red Tide doesn't like salt water. Commissioner Boldt said it would be his hope that through this process there becomes a report with actionable items on it. I would like to see an outcome report along with the layman's progress report, that is actionable and a recipe on how to start the action. For the Commission to carry them through to the legislative and federal. Mr. Moron spoke about the workshops Commissioner Boldt had requested from FWC. Due to the holidays, they are pushing this meeting to January or February of next year.



Mr. Moron noted that they Board had a 10:00 & 11:00 a.m. hearing. He asked the Board if they wanted to move on with the public hearings and then move on to the rest of the meeting. Chairman Jones said he felt the next item on the agenda may last a little longer and believed they should go ahead with the public hearings.

At this time the Board addressed the Public Hearings.

#### **14. St. George Island Incorporation – Shannon Bothwell – Request**

Ms. Bothwell would like the Board to authorize the addition of a non-binding opinion poll question regarding the incorporation of St. George Island on the next election ballot.

### **Public Hearings 10:00 & 11:00 a.m. (ET)**

#### **15. 5-Year Capital Improvement Schedule 10:00 a.m. (ET)**

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing, to consider adopting an updated 5-Year Capital Improvements Schedule as part of the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan. A public hearing on the proposed amendment will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse Annex at 34 Forbes Street in Apalachicola.

Mr. Curenton presented the 5-Year Capital Improvement Schedule to the Board. Mr. Curenton described the schedule as a list of capital improvements the County plans to make over the next five years. The benefit of the schedule is that we receive points on some grants for having the projects on the Capital Improvement Schedule.

Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none. Commissioner Boldt said if just occurred to him this morning that this single document is a very condensed roadmap of what is going to happen in the next five years. Mr. Curenton explained that this is a plan and projects currently underway are not included. Mr. Curenton said the plan is updated once a year sometime between when we pass our budget and the end of the year. Chairman Jones asked if this records the projects FDOT is doing. Mr. Curenton said he believes it includes everything that is on FDOT's workplan. Mr. Curenton said this is a county plan and does not include the projects that are to be completed by the State. Commissioner Boldt asked if they could receive a plan like this for state projects. Chairman Jones and Mr. Curenton said that we can.

**On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the updated 5-Year Capital Improvements Schedule as part of the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Moron said the state fire marshal is looking at dates to come to bring staff and have a workshop as it relates to our volunteer fire department. To see how they can assist if there is anything that we can do to make the situation better.

#### **16. Beach Warning Flag System 11:00 a.m. (ET)**

Notice is given that on the 2nd day of November 2021, at 11:00 a.m. (ET), or as soon thereafter as is possible, in the courtroom at the Courthouse Annex, located at 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, Florida, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners shall conduct a public hearing to consider adopting a county ordinance entitled: An Ordinance Providing that the Beach Warning Flag System Excludes the Body of Water known as Saint George Sound; Revoking All Ordinances in Conflict; Providing for Severability and Providing for an Effective Date.

Attorney Shuler presented the proposed ordinance to the Board. The purpose of the ordinance is to exclude Carrabelle Beach from the beach warning flag system it is not a part of the NOAA beach warning system. NOAA does not provide information regarding an inland body of water like Saint George Sound.

Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none.

Attorney Shuler said for the benefit of the public, I know the Commissioners are already aware there is already an ordinance on the books that allows for protection of the public and close Carrabelle Beach during a state of emergency declared by the Board or the State of Florida. Chairman Jones asked that once a state of emergency is declared the beach flag system is overridden by the declaration. Attorney Shuler said the Board has an ordinance that requires everyone to remove themselves during double red flags and gives the Sheriff authority to remove people from Saint George Sound and the Gulf of Mexico. Chairman Jones said NOAA was issuing all the warnings but were not updating the beach flag systems with those.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the proposed Providing that the Beach Warning Flag System Excludes the Body of Water known as Saint George Sound; Revoking All Ordinances in Conflict; Providing for Severability and Providing for an Effective Date. Motion carried 5-0.**

At this time the Board addressed the following item at this time.

#### **14. St. George Island Incorporation – Shannon Bothwell – Request**

Ms. Bothwell would like the Board to authorize the addition of a non-binding opinion poll question regarding the incorporation of St. George Island on the next election ballot.

Ms. Bothwell presented the request to the Board to authorize the addition of a non-binding, free straw poll question regarding the incorporation of St. George Island on the next election ballot. Ms. Bothwell gave a brief overview of the incorporation process to the Board. She noted that Florida Statute Chapter 165 provides for requirements for incorporation, noting that St. George Island does not meet these requirements. In her opinion, the requirements are from a by gone era and not relevant to this request. She said what really matters is a review process by the staff of a feasibility study and financial security of the city. She said that is about a six-month process. She noted that Representative Shoaf and Representative Ausley would present a bill to authorize incorporation and then a referendum of the voters that would be an up or down vote. Our local delegation has asked that we do the straw poll before they present a bill. She said this would be a no cost to the voters and would be non-binding. Commissioner Lockley said if the State wants to

do this, then why are you asking for our permission. Ms. Bothwell said that Representative Shoaf has requested this process. Commissioner Lockley said the laws are on the books and we are supposed to go by them. He said what Ms. Bothwell is saying is that those don't matter. Ms. Bothwell said there is statute that provides for the Commissioners to authorize this process and everything we are asking is a lawful process.

Chairman Jones said before the Commissioners provide their input, he would like to hear from the residents who would like to speak on the matter. Ms. Bothwell said she would like the Board to give an opportunity to the residents of the island in a democratic process.

Ms. Teresa Spohrer spoke in opposition of the incorporation. She said that she thinks the Commissioners have done a great job in keeping the island up. She said this would cost her more than she can afford.

Mr. Larry Hale said most of the people he knows on St. George Island don't have any knowledge of the meetings that have been held to discuss the idea of incorporating. Mr. Hale said there is things that the island needs, drainage in business district. Right of ways that need to be enforced. Mr. Hale said we should not allow for county property to be taken over, but he feels these can be addressed by county government and without creating a city government.

Mrs. Barbara Sanders spoke in opposition of incorporation in general and to the supposedly no cost poll. For someone to dismiss the policy created by the state is a mistake. If a small community like ours were to incorporate, taxes will be maxed out, retirees must pay a double tax, will be pushed off the island. People that want to vote on this are not property owners but residents. Commercial owners would not be able to vote because they are not residents. Some of the issues such as drainage are caused by development of those properties. Urged the Board to look at these illusory promises, if we do take this step would go quickly array. I think what Jason Shoaf is saying, if it is popular, I would agree with it. I think that Mr. Shoaf would want a broad idea, but by only residents being polled this would not be presented. This is a big issue that would affect others in the county, not just the residents. Believes we should squash the idea as it is a big waster of time.

Ms. Teresa Bestore spoke in support of the poll. She said she sees some things we can do with the funds, repair some roads, the 3-mills would qualify us for funds at the state level. She asked the Board to please consider the straw poll so that we could get a sense of how the residents feel.

Ms. JoEllen Pearman spoke in opposition of the poll. She said that when she moved to the island, she didn't want anymore than what it was. We live on a sandbar we don't need more. We are paying the county to provide services. If we incorporate, we will pay more for the services already being provided. To put this on a straw poll is a waste of time. People do not want to pay more.

Chairman Jones said that he had done some research on the millage rates for the counties in our Apalachee region noting the following rates:

Franklin .00547, Gulf .00680, Wakulla .00820, Liberty .00932, Calhoun .00990, Gadsden .00900, Jackson .00744, Holmes .00949, Jefferson .00795, and Leon .00831

Chairman Jones said that he believes that the Board does the best they can do with the monies collected from the residents. He said that he opposes going to a straw poll. He said that if the incorporation were to proceed, overtime the entire island would be like the Plantation. The property owners who have retired and planned to live here would be pushed out by the costs. He said that he felt one act of government could dismantle the entire setup.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, to deny the request for the addition of a non-binding opinion poll question regarding the incorporation of St. George Island on the next election ballot.**

Commissioner Lockley said it is not fair what they are doing. If they think they can run an island on 3-mills, there is no way. **Motion carried 5-0.**

### **County Staff & Attorney Reports**

#### **18. Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith**

##### **a. BOARD ACTION: Contract Extension – Alligator Drive FEMA Repairs**

On June 7th, 2021, the County issued the notice to proceed for the Alligator Drive Hurricane Repairs to contractor Anderson Columbia. The contractor was given approximately 150 days to complete the project. Shortly after the issuance of the notice to proceed, issues with construction materials caused by COVID-19 disruptions within the supply chain started to delay the project. The principal source of the delay was the metal sheet piling material needed for the revetment walls. The contractor, engineers and county staff had discussions with FEMA and the project designer MRD to try to find an alternative product that could be substituted for the sheet piles, but none were deemed as strong. Metal Sheet Pile suppliers had issues with inventory and were unable to even estimate a delivery date for several months into the project. The contractor has done as much of the work as possible without the critical sheet pile component during the hours of the day that the tide is low enough to get work accomplished. This is not the only FEMA restoration project that has been slowed by issues within the supply chain – the County was just recently able to issue the notice to proceed on the Eastpoint Fishing Pier repairs due to a shortage in articulated block and is awaiting issuance of the notice to proceed for the C30A washout repairs due to manufacturing delays related to the concrete webbing used for stabilization. The supplier of the metal sheet piles has finally released an estimated delivery date of late-December. Due to this delay in materials beyond the control of the contractor, the engineers recommend granting a 120-day contract extension change order from the latest estimate of delivery date for the sheet pile material.

Board action to approve the attached change order number #1 for the FEMA repairs of Alligator Drive Project.

**On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve the attached change order number #1 for the FEMA repairs of Alligator Drive Project. Motion carried 5-0.**

b. BOARD ACTION: LAP CR370 Alligator Drive Construction Contract – Pigott

At the last meeting, the Board issued a notice of award for the LAP CR370 Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Project to Pigott Asphalt and Sitework, LLC. The construction contract documents are in order and the bid bonds and insurance requirements have been verified.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached construction contract with Pigott Asphalt and Sitework, LLC.

**On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached construction contract with Pigott Asphalt and Sitework, LLC. Motion carried 5-0.**

c. BOARD ACTION: Budget Resolutions – Fiscal Year 2020/2021

Attached are nine resolutions for the adoption of unanticipated revenues as part of the end-of-the-fiscal year bookkeeping. These funds were not included in your original adopted 2020/2021 budget because at the time of budget adoption they were unanticipated. Florida Statute 129 allows a county 60-days after the end of a fiscal year to incorporate unanticipated revenues into the prior year's budget. There will be a second installment of resolutions presented at your next meeting to conclude this process.

The 1st resolution is for \$1,843,642 in state grant funds received from the Florida Department of Transportation relative to the SCOP Widening and Resurfacing of CR67 Project. The 2nd resolution is for \$1,055,568 in state and federal FEMA funds with match provided by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity relative to the Hurricane Michael repairs of Alligator Drive. The 3rd resolution is for \$42,125 in state and federal FEMA funds with match provided by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity relative to the Hurricane Michael repairs of the C30A Washouts. The 4th resolution is for \$35,963 in state and federal FEMA funds relative to the Hurricane Michael repairs at Island View Park. The 5th resolution is for \$55,921 in federal grant funds received from the US Department of Transportation for the LAP Tallahassee Street Sidewalk Project. The 6th resolution is for \$1,172,335 in state grant funds received from the Florida Department of Transportation for the SCRAP and SCOP Widening and Resurfacing of CR30A Projects. The 7th resolution is for \$97,385 in state grant funds provided by the Florida Department of Transportation for the SGI Landscaping Project.

The 8th resolution is \$18,168 in state grant funds provided by the Florida Department of Transportation for the SCOP Resurfacing of Timber Island Project. The 9th resolution is for an additional \$125,200 in permitting revenues used for the operations of the Franklin County Building Department.

Board action to adopt the nine attached budget resolutions.

**1. \$1,843,642**

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS Franklin County will receive unanticipated state grant revenues in the amount of \$1,843,642.00 from the Florida Department of Transportation for the payment of expenses relative to the SCOP Widen and Resurfacing of CR67 project and

WHEREAS said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and

WHEREAS FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

141.41.541.3109 Professional Services - Engineering CR67 \$ 251,992.00

141.41.541.4602 Repair & Maint. - Resurfacing CR67 \$ 1,591,650.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$1,843,642.00 in the LOGT ROAD PAVING FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of NOVEMBER 2021.

**2. \$1,055,568**

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS Franklin County will receive unanticipated federal and state grant revenues in the amount of \$1,055,568.00 from the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for the payment of expenses relative to the Hurricane Michael repairs of Alligator Drive and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and

WHEREAS FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

139.69.541.6302 Infrastructure-Alligator Drive \$1,055,568.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$1,055,568.00 in the BALD POINT TRUST FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of NOVEMBER 2021.

**3. \$42,125**

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS Franklin County will receive unanticipated federal and state grant revenues in the amount of \$42,125.00 from the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for the payment of expenses relative to the Hurricane Michael repairs of the C30 Washouts and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and

WHEREAS FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

141.41.541.4609      Repair & Maintenance- C30 Washouts \$42,125.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$42,125.00 in the LOGT ROAD PAVING FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of NOVEMBER 2021.

**4. 35,963**

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS Franklin County will receive unanticipated federal and state grant revenues in the amount of \$35,963.00 from the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the payment of expenses relative to the Hurricane Michael repairs of Island View Park and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and

WHEREAS FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.20.572.6308 Infrastructure - Island View Park \$35,963.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$35,963.00 in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of NOVEMBER 2021.

**5. \$55,921**

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS Franklin County will receive unanticipated federal grant revenues in the amount of \$55,921.00 from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the payment of expenses relative to the LAP Tallahassee Street Sidewalk Project and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and

WHEREAS FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:



001.20.572.6312 Infrastructure -Tallahassee St. Sidewalk \$ 55,921.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$55,921.00 in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of NOVEMBER 2021.

**6. 1,172,335**

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS Franklin County will receive unanticipated state grant revenues in the amount of \$1,172,335.00 from the Florida Department of Transportation for the payment of expenses relative to the SCRAP and SCOP Resurfacing County Road 30A project and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and

WHEREAS FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

141.41.541.3110 Professional Services -Engineering CR30A \$80,125

141.41.541.4610- Repair & Maint - Resurfacing CR30A \$1,082,610

141.41.541.6303- Infrastructure Widening CR30A \$9,600

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$1,172,335.00 in the LOGT ROAD PAVING FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of NOVEMBER 2021.

**7. \$97,385**

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS Franklin County will receive unanticipated state grant revenues in the amount of \$97,385.00 from the Florida Department of Transportation for the payment of expenses relative to the St. George Island Landscaping project and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and

WHEREAS FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.20.572.6305 Infrastructure - SGI Landscaping Project \$ 97,385.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$97,385.00 in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of NOVEMBER 2021.

**8. \$18,168**

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS Franklin County will receive unanticipated state grant revenues in the amount of \$18,168.00 from the Florida Department of Transportation for the payment of expenses relative to the SCOP Resurfacing of Timber Island Road project and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and

WHEREAS FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

141.41.541.3104 Professional Services - Engineering Timber Island \$ 18,168.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$18,168.00 in the LOGT ROAD PAVING FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of NOVEMBER 2021.

**9. \$125,200**

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of County Commission has received \$125,200.00 in unanticipated permit fees from building permits to use for expenses associated with the operations of the Franklin County Building Department.

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and

WHEREAS FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.28.524.1200 Building Department – Regular Salaries	\$7,000.00
001.28.524.2300 Building Department – Health, Life, Dental	\$7,000.00
001.28.524.3100 Building Department – Professional Services	\$18,000.00
001.28.524.4100 Building Department – Communications	\$3,000.00
001.28.524.4600 Building Department – Repair & Maintenance	\$40,000.00
001.28.524.4900 Building Department – Other Current Charges	\$5,000.00
001.28.524.6400 Building Department – Machinery & Equipment	\$5,000.00
001.28.524.6401 Building Department – Mach. & Equip. > \$5,000	\$40,200.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$125,200.00 in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of NOVEMBER 2021.

**On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to adopt the nine above referenced budget resolutions. Motion carried 5-0.**

**19. County Coordinator – Michael Moron**

Action Items

a. FDOT Projects – Resolution: At your October 19th meeting three Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Public Transportation Grant Agreements (PTGA) for the Airport were presented for your approval and the Chairman’s signature. As required by FDOT, resolutions for each PTGA should have been included for approval but was not. Therefore, resolutions for the \$750,000 stormwater and drainage improvement project, \$150,000 for obstruction removal, and \$100,000 to design and replace the airfield vault backup generator require your approval today.

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman’s signature on the three Public Transportation Grant Agreements for the Airport as described.

1. \$750,000

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, Franklin County has received a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation.

WHEREAS the majority of the existing airport drainage system is more than fifty years old and is in need of rehabilitation.

WHEREAS several stormwater inlets along the west apron are allowing underground water infiltration which is compromising the pavement around the inlets.

WHEREAS this water infiltration must be addressed to stop continued damage to the concrete apron.

WHEREAS PTGA Project 417047-7 is a \$750,000 grant for Airport Stormwater and Drainage Improvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that they support PTGA Project 417047-7 for the design and construction of stormwater and drainage improvements at the Apalachicola Regional-Cleve Randolph Field Airport and Ricky D. Jones, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, is hereby authorized to sign the Public Transportation Grant Agreement for stormwater and drainage improvements.

This Resolution adopted by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of November 2021.

2. \$150,000

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County has received a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation.

WHEREAS trees have been identified during the most recent airport inspection which appear to penetrate the 20:1 approach surface for Runways 14, 32, 6, 24, 18 and 36.

WHEREAS tree obstruction have been identified within all Runway Protection Zones (RPZ) which need to be removed.

WHEREAS trees are also located within the Runway Visibility Zones (RVZ) and need to be removed to meet FAA standards.

WHEREAS PTGA Project 449761-1 is a \$150,000 grant for Airport Obstruction (tree) Removal in the RPZs & RVZs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that they support PTGA Project 449761-1 for obstruction removal at the Apalachicola Regional-Cleve Randolph Field Airport and Ricky D. Jones, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, is hereby authorized to sign the Public Transportation Grant Agreement for stormwater and drainage improvements.

This Resolution adopted by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of November 2021.

3. \$100,000

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County has received a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation.

WHEREAS the majority of the existing airport drainage system is more than fifty years old and is in need of rehabilitation.

WHEREAS several stormwater inlets along the west apron are allowing underground water infiltration which is compromising the pavement around the inlets.

WHEREAS this water infiltration must be addressed to stop continued damage to the concrete apron.

WHEREAS PTGA Project 416047-7 is a \$750,000 grant for Airport Stormwater and Drainage Improvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that they support PTGA Project 417047-7 for the design and construction of stormwater and drainage improvements at the Apalachicola Regional-Cleve Randolph Field Airport and Ricky D. Jones, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, is hereby authorized to sign the Public Transportation Grant Agreement for stormwater and drainage improvements.

This Resolution adopted by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2nd day of November 2021.

**On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the three Public Transportation Grant Agreements for the Airport as described. Motion carried 5-0.**

b. Bluff Road Streetlights: At the May 18th regular meeting the Board authorized adding streetlights to Bluff Road. Attached is a proposal from Duke Energy to install twenty-five 110 w LED Roadway streetlights. The lights will start at the curve, just past the graveyard, and continue past Magnolia Lane on Bluff Road. We are installing the lights on power poles that are already in place, which allows for a \$273 estimated monthly rental cost. After the installation if there are any 'dark areas' I will request another quote from Duke Energy that will probably include a cost for a new power pole installation.

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the Duke Energy proposal to install 25 streetlights on Bluff Road.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the Duke Energy proposal to install 25 streetlights on Bluff Road.**

Commissioner Ward said she had some concerns at a bus stop close to Buck Street in her district. With the time change it is dark. There is an existing pole but if we could see about getting a light installed on the pole. Commissioner Ward said she has several other areas that she will gather a list and provide to Mr. Moron. Chairman Jones said all of us have had concerns about the bus stops in our districts. If we can coordinate with the school district and get a list of bus stops. So that we identify the areas being brought to us are for sure bus stops. Mr. Moron said that he will verify the requests are for official bus stops. Chairman Jones said we are not trying to say that we are going to talk to the school about lighting every bus stop. Mr. Moron said he will speak with the school district. **Motion carried 5-0.**

c. Alligator Drive Striping Change Order: Commissioner Boldt requested a cost estimate from Roberts and Roberts to restripe, with paint, Alligator Drive (CR370) from US 98 to Gulf Shore Boulevard. The re-striping project will include centerline, edge line, and raised pavement markers for a total cost of \$24,696. This will be a change order to the paving project and will be paid from District 2's paving funds.

Board action to approve the \$24,696 paving project change order to re-stripe Alligator Drive from US 98 to Gulf Shore Boulevard.

Commissioner Boldt said this was a particular dark road and the improvements are greatly needed from a safety standpoint.

**On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve the \$24,696 paving project change order to re-stripe Alligator Drive from US 98 to Gulf Shore Boulevard. Motion carried 5-0.**

d. New Flooring: Late last year the State Attorney's office requested new flooring in their offices due to the condition of the current carpet, which has been there since the construction of this building in 2002. In reviewing all the offices in this building, including this meeting room, it is time for an upgrade. While discussing this project with your Clerk, she stated her plans to re-organize her Official Records office to provide additional space for the public which also requires new flooring. So, I am seeking Board authorization to advertise for Request for Proposals for new flooring in all the Annex building offices, including this meeting room, and the Clerk's Official Records office. It is my anticipation that the County will get a better price on this type of RFP rather than office by office quote.

Board action to authorize an RFP for new flooring in the Annex Building and the Clerk's Official Records office.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the board authorized an RFP for new flooring in the Annex Building and the Clerk's Official Records office. Motion carried 5-0.**

e. Carrabelle Letter of Support: The City of Carrabelle is submitting a Legislative Appropriations Request for roadway and drainage improvements on Baywood Drive in Carrabelle and is requesting a letter of support from the County. Baywood Drive is approximately 1.05 miles in length and suffers from street flooding during "medium and heavy rainfalls events resulting in limited to no access to the many residential properties along Baywood Drive." The letter will state that this project would be ranked #3 on the County's priority list. The EOC and the new hospital facility are ranked #1 and #2 respectfully.

Board action to approve the letter of support for the City of Carrabelle's Legislative Appropriations Request for a Baywood Drive roadway and drainage improvement project.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the letter of support for the City of Carrabelle's Legislative Appropriations Request for a Baywood Drive roadway and drainage improvement project. Motion carried 5-0.**

f. Public Information Officer: During Commissioners' Comments at your October 5th meeting, I was directed to research the options for the County to engage a Public Information Officer. Mrs. Cortni Bankston contacted surrounding counties and was told that this role is often fulfilled by Administrative Services staff in the counties. Currently, you have two staff members

in your Administrative Services office, Mrs. Erin Griffith and I, and our current workloads does not allow for the added duties as the County's Public Information Officer. The School District and the Sheriff has Public Information Officers on staff. In a discussion with Mr. John Solomon about this subject, he suggested I schedule a meeting with Mrs. Cynthia Clark as she provides that service to TDC, the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce, and on a limited role to the Seafood Festival Board. Mrs. Griffith and I met with Mrs. Clark to discuss the possibility of her providing this service, which resulted in Mrs. Clark's proposal to create multiple news briefs on important county initiatives and posting that content either in blog posts on the county's website or through social media posts linked to the county's website. This service would be provided for less than \$1000 per month. Is the Board in favor of a six- month agreement for this service or direct staff to advertise for proposals? This fee would be paid from Professional Services.

Board discussion and direction.

Commissioner Ward said that she agrees we need more transparency and that we need to move forward with someone from the county speaking on behalf of the board and county. Commissioner Boldt said he agrees and believes this is a good seed money start. Commissioner Lockley asked for the length of the agreement. Mr. Moron said he is asking for the Board to do it for six months to see if they like it. Commissioner Lockley said it needs to be done and why do it for six months. Chairman Jones said he believes it is needed but if we are hiring from the outside, they are still going to have to get the information from the staff. At the end of the day if its someone who doesn't work for the county how are they going to write about the things. Chairman Jones said he is not sure how it will work with an outside vendor. At the end of the day, it is still going to be more work for Mr. Moron and Mrs. Griffith. Commissioner Parrish said who is going to provide this information to her and that he doesn't understand how that is going to work. Someone is going to have to tell her what the priority is and someone from the county is going to have to provide that information to her. Mr. Moron said he did not want to add a new employee to our budget since we just finalized it. Mr. Moron said she will be releasing information on behalf of the Board, such as what has been done today. Mr. Moron said if any one Commissioner would like to be interviewed to provide information about a particular matter in their district, we can do that. Mrs. Griffith said that there would be a review process by county staff before the information is released. Chairman Jones said he is pretty sure the school and sheriff's department have full time employees for this position. Commissioner Boldt would it be appropriate that Mrs. Clark attend the meetings so that she can hear in person. Mr. Moron said that she can log on to Zoom and attend virtually. Chairman Jones said is this something that we just want to try to see if we like it. Mr. Moron said that was his thought in proposing the six-month agreement. Commissioner Lockley said we need to let people know what is going on. Chairman Jones asked for direction from the Board, do we want to bring it back later. Commissioner Boldt asked if a position could be created to include other duties along with the public information officer. Mr. Moron said it can be done. Mrs. Griffith said the six-month agreement will allow time for the Board to see how they like the process and the work.

Mr. Moron said he will create a job description and comparison for a full-time employee. Commissioner Parrish inquired as to if this is an everyday job or are we paying her to attend two meetings a month. Mr. Moron said the fee will be up to \$1000 a month. Chairman Jones said we



can look at the documentation and discuss at a future meeting. Mr. Moron said he will also provide information on a full-time employee who also has other job duties.

g. Additional Code Enforcement Workshop: Commissioner Boldt has requested an additional Code Enforcement Workshop for Alligator Point. When the Board first approved the schedule, Commissioner Boldt agreed to the Lanark Village workshop as the only one in his district. Since then, Commissioner Boldt has decided that code enforcement issues for Lanark Village and Alligator Point differ, therefore separate workshops are needed. There will be an additional \$900 cost for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council to coordinate and host this workshop and this added workshop may cause a delay in the submission of the final report.

Board action to approve an additional Code Enforcement Workshop on Alligator Point at a cost of \$900.

Chairman Jones asked if Mr. Moron had spoken to ARPC regarding the cost of the workshops. Chairman Jones said it's similar the issue above in that it is something we will be looking at for a while. The fee includes the time, the research and providing the information back to the Board.

**On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved an additional Code Enforcement Workshop on Alligator Point at a cost of \$900. Motion carried 5-0.**

h. Small County Coalition Letter: "As the Board is aware, the Florida Legislature passed legislation during the 2020 and 2021 Legislative session aimed at establishing internet services in unserved and underserved areas and enhancing access where it is limited. The Small County Coalition has been working to call attention to this issue for years and we feel that things are starting to move." With that said, the Small County Coalition Officers are asking members to do two things. First, the designation of a Lead Commissioner and Lead staff person, which could be the Chairman and the County Coordinator. The second ask is the creation of a Local Technology Planning Team (LTPT) which is an entity established pursuant to legislation. Members of the LTPT should include a cross-section of the community such as representatives from public safety, libraries, K-12 education, colleges and universities, local health care providers, private businesses, community organizations, economic development organizations, local governments, tourism, parks and recreation, and agriculture. Appointments will be decided by the Board. I've attached the most recent draft of "Bridging the Gap" for your review and today's discussion.

Board discussion and possible direction.

i. Eastpoint Christmas Parade: Eastpoint Christmas Parade event coordinator, Mrs. Dottye Thornburg, is requesting Board approval for the 2021 Eastpoint Christmas parade and celebration. The event is scheduled for Friday, December 10th at 4:30 p.m. with parade participants lining up at 4 p.m. The parade will start behind Webb Seafood at the corner of Power Drive and CA Gillespie Street, turning east onto Highway 98 and ending at Fisherman's Choice. Mrs. Thornburg will coordinate with Sheriff Smith for traffic control.

Board action to approve the 2021 Eastpoint Christmas parade route.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the 2021 Eastpoint Christmas parade route. Motion carried 5-0.**

j. Senior Class Fundraiser: The Senior Class is requesting the use of the Courthouse and Annex parking lot on Friday (11/5) after 1p.m. and all-day Saturday (11/6) for a fundraiser event. On these days during the Seafood Festival, they will charge for the use of the parking spaces to raise money for the Senior Class. The Board has approved this request in the past.

Board action to authorize the Senior Class the use of the Courthouse and Annex parking spaces for a fundraiser during Seafood Festival, on Friday afternoon and all-day Saturday.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Senior Class the use of the Courthouse and Annex parking spaces for a fundraiser during Seafood Festival, on Friday afternoon and all-day Saturday.**

Chairman Jones asked as a parent of senior, that all Board and staff utilize this parking lot to attend the Seafood Festival and support the senior class. **Motion carried 5-0.**

k. Wake Zone Signage: Staff has been unsuccessful with engaging a contractor to reinstall Wake Zone signs that have been damaged over the last few years. Would the Board recommend advertising for Request for Proposals for this service?

Board discussion and possible direction.

Mr. Moron said the issue is not getting the signs it is getting someone to install them. Commissioner Boldt said it is a public safety issue and he believes we should advertise. Mr. Moron confirmed that Mrs. Bankston has reached out to contractors that construct docks, they do not have the time to fit it in. Commissioner Ward asked if we could reach out to the local oystermen and fishermen. Mr. Moron said he would need to reach out to FWC to see if they would need any type of license, etc. Mr. Moron said he will advertise and asked the Board for a motion.

**On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized advertising for Request for Proposals for reinstalling Wake Zone signs that have been damaged over the last few days. Motion carried 5-0.**

Informational Items

l. Legislative Appropriations Requests & Legislative Delegation Meeting: Mrs. Traci Buzbee, your consultant, has submitted the two Legislative Appropriations Requests to Senator Ausley and Representative Shoaf's staff yesterday (deadline). The first is a \$2.5 million for the construction of a new EOC and the second is a \$7 million request for a new facility at Weems Hospital. I've sent you copies of those requests and Mrs. Buzbee is available if you have additional questions.

On another note, the Legislative Delegation meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10th at 5:00 p.m. (ET) here in your meeting room.

m. State Fire Marshall & FWC Meetings: The State Fire Marshall's office and FWC are looking at available dates, more than likely in January and February, to either attend a workshop or meet with the Board to discuss items related to their agencies. I will present those dates at a future meeting for scheduling.

n. Dialysis Clinic Meeting: On March 31, 2021, the Port St. Joe Dialysis Clinic, ran by DaVita, closed, which created "a great vacuum of care and need for Kidney Care / Dialysis Care" in Gulf and Franklin Counties. Gulf County's staff has been in discussions with Fresenius, the largest provider of Kidney service in the Country about reopening the Port St. Joe Clinic. The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners invited Franklin County officials to a Workshop to meet Fresenius representatives and support the re- opening of the Clinic. Chairman Jones and Mr. David Walker, along with myself, attended the Workshop and discussed the importance of a clinic in Port St. Joe, which would reduce the travel times for Franklin County residents having to receive frequent dialysis services. Gulf County staff will continue to update us on the progress of these negotiations. Chairman Jones may comment further on the some of the Workshop discussion.

Chairman Jones said one of the questions asked was about the one cent tax that we have. Without Franklin County, Gulf County's numbers do not work either. It is an effort together. If we can improve healthcare in our community, I think we need to do so. Healthcare is needed here and dialysis. If we can get something closer to us, I think it's a conversation that we need to have. Commissioner Parrish asked why DaVita closed. Chairman Jones said they were not making any money. Mr. Moron said the company before DaVita lost their Blue Cross and Blue Shield contract and without it there was not enough business to sustain it. Mr. Moron said what he learned was that the separate building at Sacred Heart is not owned by Sacred Heart. Mr. Moron said he will get additional information and present it back to the Board. Commissioner Boldt said this may be an opportunity for Weems hospital to be the host for the dialysis. Mr. Moron said that since Mr. Walker was at the meeting, he is speaking with Fresenius. Mrs. Griffith noted that since Capital Health Plan does not extend to Gulf County, that may be a great selling point. Commissioner Ward said she has seen the need for dialysis in our community. A lot of times transportation is an issue, and they will miss their treatments because of it. However, with this there must be specialty nurses, and a lab with specific credentials. Commissioner Parrish said it seems to be all about volume. Commissioner Ward said to think about the per capita and the insurance carriers and what the reimbursement rate will be. Chairman Jones said the Fresenius was not having an issue with insurance providers. They have more dialysis labs than anyone in the country. Commissioner Lockley said we have transportation. Mr. Moron said sometimes it's the long ride that causes patients to miss treatments. Chairman Jones asked if we could speak with ARPC can we start trying to designate trips specifically for people who are receiving dialysis. The Board discussed the transportation available. Mr. Moron said Fresenius is also looking at a procedure that will cut down the time for patients. They are not just looking at dialysis but at full kidney care. Chairman Jones said they are also looking at a program through telemedicine for patients who aren't as severe.

Commissioner Ward asked about the speed limit change on Ryan Drive. She said that she received an update from Roberts and Roberts. They are anticipating delivery of structure, hopefully in the field next week. We need to look at for when they get done. Commissioner Ward said that she talked to the mayor about changing the speed limit from 35 to 25 mph. Chairman Jones asked if it was a city road or county road. Commissioner Ward said she isn't for sure, but she wants to make sure the speed limit is changed once it is repaired. Attorney Shuler said a way of responding to that the county has no objection to the city changing the speed limit if they choose to do so.

**Commissioner Ward made a motion to determine what is city and what is county.** She said that it is frustrating because I just want to get things done when things come to me. We can go to the courthouse and get plats to determine which it is. Commissioner Ward said lets all work together and figure it out. **Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.**

Mr. Moron said he would suggest the county attorney speak with Mayor of Carrabelle to determine the ownership and then go from there.

Attorney Shuler said the county and city have had this discussion multiple times with no resolution. Attorney Shuler said the city always states this is a county road but only because they say so. The road is entirely within the city limits of Carrabelle just like 12th street in Apalachicola. Just because we paved and improved the road doesn't mean that it is a county road. We are just providing a service to constituents. Attorney Shuler said he will be glad to have a conversation if the Board directs him to, but he has never been able to get a solid answer based on facts. Commissioner Ward said in the Ryan Drive repairs agreement neither party took ownership of the road. She said that she would appreciate if Attorney Shuler could reach out to the City of Carrabelle, so that she can know what to do to proceed. Chairman Jones noted that the Board had previously worked together to make the repairs to Ryan Drive. Commissioner Lockley asked if it is an evacuation route. Commissioner Ward said she isn't sure that it is a designated route, but it is used. Commissioner Boldt expressed his thoughts on working together with the city.

**Commissioner Ward rescinded her motion** and directed Attorney Shuler to speak with Attorney Hartman on how to proceed with addressing the issues that are brought to her regarding county or city ownership.

## **20. County Attorney – Michael Shuler**

Commissioners,

I have forwarded a draft engagement letter and an information package for the law firm of Baker Donelson.

I recommend the following:

(a). That the board engage this firm to review and advise the board on the Preliminary FEMA Flood Map placing the county's airport into a flood zone. Once the firm has reviewed the matter at hand, they will present the board with options to consider.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized engaging with the law firm of Baker Donelson to review and advise the Board on the Preliminary Flood Map placing the county's airport into a flood zone. Motion carried 5-0.**

(b). Since this matter is only related to the airport and not any other county matter, I recommend that the board designate the airport fund to pay for the firm's services and for reasonable expenses in addition to attorney services, such as engineering and surveying services.

**On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board designated the airport fund to pay for the law firm of Baker Donelson's services and for reasonable expenses in addition to attorney services, such as engineering and surveying services. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Commissioners' Comments & Adjournment**

#### **21. Commissioners' Comments**

Chairman Jones reminded the Board of the upcoming Code Enforcement workshop to be held on St. George Island on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **22. Adjournment**

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

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**Ricky Jones – Chairman**

**Attest:**

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**Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts**