FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM JANUARY 18, 2022 9:00 AM MINUTES

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

Others Present: Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron—County Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

2. Prayer and Pledge

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

Mr. Moron requested the Board consider an amendment to the agenda for a public hearing which has been duly advertised but was inadvertently left off the agenda. The hearing is for the Board to adopt an ordinance to amend the Franklin County Private Rights Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Moron explained that this is something that Mark discussed with the Board previously. This amendment is coming at the request of the legislature. We can either go with their language or go through a long process to create our own.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish and Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized an amendment to the agenda adding a public hearing to adopt an ordinance to amend the Franklin County Private Rights Comprehensive Plan. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

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 12/21/2021. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Payment of County Bills

a. January 4, 2022 - Bill List

Board action to ratify payment of the January 4, 2022 - Bill List.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified payment of the January 4, 2022 - Bill List, Motion carried 5-0.

b. January 18, 2022 - Bill List

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the payment of the January 18, 2022 - Bill List. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Special Project Coordinator – Alan Pierce – Update

Mr. Pierce updated the Board on the Eastpoint and 2-mile dredging projects. He reported that the notice of intent and permits have been issued for both channels. We are waiting for the corps to send the documents needed to get the money from the consortium. Mr. Pierce said there is not a date scheduled for the dredging to begin. The consortium will have no more than seven days to provide funds once the corps begins the project. We are still waiting on the Eastpoint easement to be issued but everything has been submitted for that process. Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Pierce to confirm the money would come from BP funds. He also asked for a ballpark figure of the amount of funds remaining afterward. Mr. Pierce confirmed it would come out of BP funds. Mr. Pierce said ultimately, we will have \$11.7 million at the end of the fifteen years. So, this allocation we are using now is about \$5 million, we probably have about \$7 million dollars to spend. It's possible we can get more from the consortium if we need to. It comes to about \$900k a year we are receiving from them. We can't allocate the future money until it is in the bank. The other money has not been specifically allocated. We set aside for EOC, but we have since found additional funding for that. We have set money aside for Apalachicola Bay, but we need to know what the best way is to spend that money. This is a one-time allocation so once we spend, we don't get more. We will get around \$11 million from the consortium and \$22 million from Restore over the next 15 years. Commissioner Boldt asked about the dredge material and how it is going to be made into an island. They will dredge a perimeter of harder sand, then fill it with a different material. Vegetation will be planted to stabilize it. Other things can grow by succession. The Two-Mile islands were dredged in the same way. Chairman Jones said when we were talking to the Corps, they refused to give us a start date. We have done everything that we can do to get the projects done. Mr. Pierce said the corps controls the project at this time. Chairman Jones said we are waiting for the construction plan from the corps to send to the consortium.

6. American Rescue Plan Consultant – Traci Buzbee – Update

Ms. Buzbee said the final rule came out the first week of January, the rule we have been waiting on to see if they have lessened the requirements on the American Rescue Plan. It contradicts itself is the best answer. They have a thing called the standard allowance where any county that receives less than ten million dollars, they are allowed to take the standard allowance. These funds can be used on governmental expenses such as the construction of schools, hospitals, road building, maintenance, infrastructure, health services, general government administration, environmental remediation, police, fire, and public services. However, the rule goes on to read that it can't be used for any projects that conflict or undermine Covid19 mitigation practices in line with the CDC. So, it gives you limitations on what types of projects you can do. Ms. Buzbee said in speaking with Mrs. Griffith they both want to be able to stand behind whatever project and write the justification to make sure it stands on its own. We do not want a clawback of funds. The final rule will not go into effect until April 1st and the first reporting will be due on April 30th. Commissioner Boldt said he would Ms. Buzbee to look at the possibility of establishing a dialysis facility in Franklin County using the American Rescue Funds. Ms. Buzbee suggested holding a workshop to allow the Board an opportunity to brainstorm any ideas they may have for the use of the funds. Chairman Jones

said in listening to the NACO webinar, he thinks it would be good for Ms. Buzbee to send the information she has to the Board for their review. It seemed to me that you could choose which rule you were going by, but you can't flip back and forth. Ms. Buzbee said that she doesn't recall hearing that you could choose. She said she can investigate it to see if you could go by the final guidance. Chairman Jones said it was his understanding that if the county received less than ten million, it was at their discretion to some point on how to spend. Ms. Buzbee said she does believe it is less restrictive than the interim rule, but it is not a free-for. Chairman Jones asked her to find out the answer and let them know. The allocation is \$2,355,139 and half of the funds were deposited in late August. Commissioner Lockley asked if commissioners could be paid for a one-time allowance. Ms. Buzbee said she would investigate it. Commissioner Boldt asked if Ms. Buzbee could check on putting a free-standing dialysis center in Franklin County. He feels it would be beneficial to our residents. Chairman Jones said it may be helpful to do some research and get back to us. Ms. Buzbee suggested having a workshop and discussing the possibilities. Chairman Jones asked Ms. Buzbee to send the Board the bullet point of ideas and then we would go from there.

7. Public Comments

Ms. Debbie Jordan spoke to the Board regarding the Lanark Fire Department. She noted there were representatives coming to the February 1st meeting to discuss, and she asked the Board to allow an hour time slot instead of thirty minutes.

Constitutional Officers

8. Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell – Report

Clerk Maxwell was not in attendance due to staffing issues.

Department Directors Reports

9. Superintendent of Roads and Bridges – Howard Nabors

Mr. Nabors reported damage to the roads in Alligator Point and East Sawyer on St. George Island during the bad weather. He said he thinks we need to add more rocks where they have deteriorated. On the bridge report, Womack Creek. DOT has given us two weeks to let them know what we are going to do with that situation. Mr. Moron said he will check on that and get back to Mr. Nabors later today. Mr. Nabors noted that the damage at Alligator Point is where the sheet piling has not been installed.

Mr. Moron addressed item 21 C at this time.

Attorney Shuler asked for a transcript of the meeting where the property owner spoke to the Board. He said his recollection is that the property owner said that he would remove the planter. Commissioner Lockley said we should go by our laws or take it off the books. Attorney Shuler said he believes that the county has the right to go in and remove it, but he would prefer sending a notice requiring the property owner to remove it within ten days and if not done, proceed with enforcement action. Chairman Jones said he agreed that we should give them the opportunity to remove. Commissioner Parrish asked about all the other instances of things on the county's right of the way, especially by the dunes and walkovers. Chairman Jones said this is a substantial difference because the state sent a letter to the county notifying them of the encroachment. It is

across the roadway from his house. Mr. Moron recently said a storage company had a fence built on the county's right of way and we requested they remove it. Attorney Shuler asked Mr. Moron to send him the contact information for the property owner.

Mr. Nabors asked if they do have to take it down, do they want it to be put on their property or hauled away. Chairman Jones said hopefully it won't come to that and we will make that decision later if needed.

10. Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

Mr. Davis reported that the restrooms at the Eastpoint Pier are working. Commissioner Lockley asked about the old bathrooms on the island. Mr. Davis said we are going to bring that back before the Board to decide whether to demo or repurpose them. Chairman Jones said that we did get added high on the list for the legislature to consider funding the repairs at Vrooman Park and SGI. Mr. Davis thanked the Board for all they have done with limited resources and staff. Commissioner Lockley inquired as to if the old restrooms could be repurposed. Mr. Davis said he is looking into options. Commissioner Boldt thanked Mr. Davis for helping Lanark Village with the recycling site. Commissioner Lockley asked if the old restrooms could be used for changing stations. Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Davis and his staff for their hard work.

11. Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Mrs. Brownell confirmed a waterspout on Dog Island that damaged a roof. Mrs. Brownell said that it would be up to the homeowner to repair it since it was not a declared storm. Chairman Jones asked where the information is sent to. Mrs. Brownell said the information is sent to the National Weather Service in Tallahassee and they use it in collecting data for damages storms like this can cause. Mrs. Brownell said they have a conference to attend. They will be training at the FEPA for a new system the state will be implementing. Commissioner Lockley inquired as to the storm and what would have happened if it would have damaged all of it. Mrs. Brownell said since it was not a named storm FEMA would not be providing reimbursement. Mr. Pierce said that in the event a storm comes, and it isn't named, that is what private insurance is for.

Informational Items

a. EOC Staff will be attending FEPA Annual in Walton County on 01/30/2022-02/04/2022. Staff will be attending the following courses:

Pam/Jennifer – are registered for the F-ROC Cat A seminar F-ROC Cat B seminar. Amanda – registered for the Fundamentals of an EM Professional. All three of us are registered for FL-608-Emergency Work Eligibility training and the operation "Shot in the Dark" tabletop exercise.

- b. EOC Staff is in the process of completing the EMPA, EMPG, and EMPG ARPA quarterly report.
- c. EOC staff are updating the logistics plan including the Emergency Fuel Plan.
- d. EOC Staff are updating our Templates for Public Messaging.
- e. EOC Staff is in the planning process for a Build a Disaster Bucket Event. This event will be used to educate residents on how to better prepare for a disaster. This Event will in part be made possible by the Duke Energy grant in the amount of \$10,000 received by FCEM.

- f. EOC Staff are in the review process of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans for Weems Hospital and St. James Bay Rehab.
- g. EOC Staff attended the Rural County Directors Meeting via zoom on 01/04/2022.
- h. EOC Staff attended the FDOH Weekly Update call on 01/05/2022.
- i. EOC Staff attended the Franklin EOC call on 01/05/2022.
- j. EOC Staff will be attending the Webinar/Training Hydrology 101 Basic Refresher on 01/20/2022.
- k. EOC Staff will be attending the FEPA County EM Directors working group call with State Director on 01/21/2022
- 1. 01/24/2022 and 01/27/2022 EOC will be hosting a CPR Class presented by EMS Director Lewis.
- m. With COVID cases rising again in Franklin County, we are taking this opportunity to remind residents that 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

- n. EOC Staff are verifying our SERT Emergency Sites including Disaster Recover Center's, County Staging Areas, County Points of Distribution, Sandbag Distribution Locations, etc.
- o. EOC Staff are in the planning process for a WebEOC training for all persons who work the EOC during a disaster. This training will allow for ease of use of the WebEOC software during an event. Notices for this training will be sent out very soon.
- p. EOC Staff are in the process of picking up all Large Message signs placed throughout the county. Signs are brought in on a regular basis for maintenance and repair.
- q. EOC Plans to offer a PIO (Public Information Officer) Class here at the EOC in April. Invitations for this training will be sent out soon.
- r. EOC Staff attended the Regional Quarterly EM Directors Meeting on 01/13/2022 virtually.
- s. EOC Staff attended the Weekly FDOH Update Call on 01/05/2022
- t. Jennifer Daniels will attend the FEPA Certification Committee Meeting at FEPA Annual on 01/30/2022.
- u. EOC Staff are updating standard use forms for during events/disasters.
- v. Due to the rising cases of COVID in our county, EOC Staff have delivered masks to Davis Day Care, The Nest in Eastpoint and Carrabelle, The Library's in Eastpoint and Carrabelle and to the Franklin County Courthouse.

12. Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand

Mr. Lovestrand was having connection issues and is unable to speak currently. Mr. Moron directed Mr. Lovestrand to log out and back in.

Informational Items

General Extension Activities:

a. During this period, the Extension office assisted citizens on topics of plant identification, insect pest identification and treatments, dune native plant sources, soil nutrition, damaged tree treatment, planting options for local properties, and more.

- b. Extension Director participated in a search committee Zoom call regarding a vacant wildlife extension position at the Quincy Research and Education Center.
- c. Extension staff participated in training regarding a new event planning software being used by the NW Extension District

Sea Grant Extension:

- d. Extension Director participated in another meeting of the SUNS working group to discuss potential nature-based projects to mitigate issues related to stormwater, erosion, and other coastal topics.
- e. Extension Director participated in conference call with the Apalachicola caucus/RCSC group for the river basin to catch up on recent events in basin management.
- 4-H Youth Development:
- f. Plans are underway with surrounding Extension offices for summer programming for 4-H youth in our region.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

g. Our Family Nutrition Program assistant continues providing nutrition programing in local schools.

Agriculture/Home Horticulture:

h. Plant clinics continue at the Extension office and the two Libraries to assist citizens with gardening and horticultural issues that they are dealing with.

Other Reports

13. Interim Airport Manager – Ted Mosteller

Commissioner Boldt asked if the runway lighting system was stable and working. Mr. Mosteller said it has been patched but the replacement of the receiver needs to be done. Mr. Moron said he is waiting for Mr. Mosteller to bring that information to the Board. Mr. Moron said he is more inclined to use a certified contractor rather than just doing the cheapest. In the event something goes wrong it is better to have someone to go back to.

Commissioner Boldt asked about the lighting system, Mr. Mosteller said the remote panel is situated in the controller office. He said that right now the system is working fine. Mr. Mosteller said he has contacted Mr. Cates and the LED replacement is about \$1,000. Commissioner Lockley asked if some of these fall under public safety. Mr. Moron said with the lighting, is it safe for pilots to land. Mr. Mosteller said at this time everything is safe.

The Board recessed at this time.

Mr. Lovestrand was able to log back in and presented his report to the Board at this time. He does not have any action items. Chairman Jones called for any questions from the Board and there were none. Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Lovestrand for all the work from him and his office.

Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board Report

14. Variance Requests

a. 1432 Camellia Court, St. George Island

Consideration of a request for a variance to construct a stairway 2.7 feet into the 10 feet side setback. Property described as Lot 29, Sea Palm Village, St. George Island. Request submitted by Southeastern Consulting Engineers, Inc., agent for Kevin R. & Barbara A. Sullivan, applicant. PZA recommended approval.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request for a variance to construct a stairway 2.7 feet into the 10 feet side setback. Property described as Lot 29, Sea Palm Village, St. George Island. Motion carried 5-0.

b. 147, 155 & 163 W Gulf Beach Drive and 140, 152, 156 & 160 W Pine Avenue, St. George Island

Consideration of a request for a variance to construct 9 single family houses on 11 platted lots. Property described as Lots 1-5 and 27-32, Block 5 west. St. George Island Gulf Beaches, Unit 1. The two lots at 163 W Gulf Beach Drive and 160 W Pine Avenue are requesting to construct a house 20' into the 25" setback along 2nd Street West and 5' into the 10' side setback on the eastern side of the property. The lots at 147 & 155 W Gulf Beach Drive and 140, 152 & 156 W Pine Avenue are requesting to construct a house 5' into the 10' side setbacks on both sides of the lots. Request submitted by Bill Thomas, agent for The Ark Family Trust, applicant.

PZA recommends approval with the following conditions: no driveway access off Gulf Beach Drive and spacing between the units meets state fire codes.

Attorney Shuler said the recommendation also carried a specific condition that there would be no driveways on West Gulf Beach Drive. Originally, the discussion was that no driveways would be on Gulf Beach Drive and Pine Street. It is unknown at this time if there will have to be driveways on Pine Street. Mr. Pierce said what the Board is looking at is a variance request and not a site plan.

Motion by Commissioner Lockley to approve the request for a variance to construct 9 single-family houses on 11 platted lots. Property described as Lots 1-5 and 27-32, Block 5 west. St. George Island Gulf Beaches, Unit 1. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Pierce noted that Mr. Thomas was available to speak to the Board if they had any questions. Mr. Pierce said it is already zoned C-4 and this is a less intrusive plan than what could be put there. Chairman Jones asked Attorney Shuler how the Board should proceed since there was not enough motion to take a vote. Attorney Shuler said we would need some input from the Board on what the issue is. Attorney Shuler said he joined with Mr. Pierce's recommendation to approve this request. He said the request is consistent with the Board's practice for the past 30 years. He said this process was in keeping with the 2018 overlay assigned to St. George Island back in 2018 and if the Board would like to change it, they would need to discuss the policy decision. Commissioner Parrish inquired as to the number of houses to be built on the lots. He inquired as to if each house would be granted a five-foot variance and Mr. Pierce confirmed. Attorney Shuler said on the fire code issue, there were some issues with the shotgun houses that the fire complained about staircases

that were causing safety issues. The recommendation was that if there was compliance with the fire code. Mr. Pierce said all the development will be utilized. Commissioner Boldt asked for Attorney Shuler to talk about the commercial issues. He said this property encroaches on commercial property availability. Mr. Pierce said that most of the commercial property must be elevated. This property is on grade, but it is the owner's property, and I can't say he can't utilize it for residential. If utilized for the commercial property you would have parking issues. We require a parking space for every 200 feet of commercial space. He would need a total of 32 parking spaces. There is a cost if you try to encourage commercial development and change the parking standards. Mr. Pierce discussed issues with septic service and drain fills. Mr. Pierce said that he felt Eastpoint would become the commercial district for St. George Island due to the building restrictions, available water/sewer, and parking issues.

Commissioner Lockley made a motion to approve the request for a variance to construct 9 single-family houses on 11 platted lots. Property described as Lots 1-5 and 27-32, Block 5 west. St. George Island Gulf Beaches, Unit 1. Seconded by Commissioner Boldt. Commissioner Jones said that he was on the opposite side of the vote to change the C-4 back to what it was before. There were good reasons for it to be changed. All the houses in the commercial district that had been destroyed during a storm would not have been able to be rebuilt. Chairman Jones said if we want to change the policy then we need to look at revising the policy but as the policy stands this is in line with policy. The Board does not have the authority to dictate what is built, if it fits within the restrictions and policies then bring it to the Board for approval. We must be consistent in our decisions. Commissioner Parrish said you can't develop these lots if you only own one. If you own multiple lots, then you do have that option. Commissioner Parrish said he agrees with the Chairman, and it is ultimately what the owner chooses to do. Motion carried 3-2, Commissioner Parrish and Commissioner Ward opposed.

c. 1285 Angus Morrison Road, Alligator Point

Consideration of a request to install a two-car, metal carport 20 feet into the 25 feet front setback. Property described as Lot 2, Block E, Alligator Harbor Subdivision, Unit 2. Request submitted by Dorothy L. Gallant, property owner. **PZA recommended approval.**

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve a request to install a two-car, metal carport 20 feet into the 25 feet front setback. Property described as Lot 2, Block E, Alligator Harbor Subdivision, Unit 2. Commissioner Parrish opposed. Motion carried 4-1.

15. Sketch Plat Applications

a. 33.44-acre parcel of land lying on the west end of St. George Island Consideration of a request for sketch plat approval of a 33.44-acre parcel of land lying on the west end of St. George Island. The subdivision will be named Casa Del Mar Phase II and will consist of 31 lots and 2 blocks per the existing P.U.D. Amendment #9. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc., agent for Mahr Development Corporation.

Chairman Jones asked if this is a sketch plat, and Mr. Garlick said the next step would be to get permits from other entities. We will come back once all those permits are in place. Chairman Jones said he was just looking at the date of the initial sketch plat which was 29 years ago. Mr. Garlick said this is like Phase 2. Chairman Jones asked for Mr. Garlick to provide the Board with the original P.U.D. Commissioner Parrish asked about the additional space and Mr. Pierce said it will just be open space. Mr. Garlick explained the setbacks and design. Commissioner Parrish asked if there was any specification in the P.U.D. about the size of the lots. Mr. Garlick said no and explained the reasoning behind this.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve a request for sketch plat approval of a 33.44-acre parcel of land lying on the west end of St. George Island. The subdivision will be named Casa Del Mar Phase II and will consist of 31 lots and 2 blocks per the existing P.U.D. Amendment #9. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce said there is a public hearing scheduled for 10:30 and just wanted to let the public listening online know that we are running a little behind.

16. Critical Shoreline Applications

a. Off of Leisure Lane, St. George Island

Consideration of a request to construct a pier and kayak launch consisting of a 4' X 408' access walkway and an 8' X 20' terminal platform. Property is east of the St. George Plantation Airport and north of Leisure Lane. Neither the FDEP nor the COE permits have been issued. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc., agent for St. George Plantation Island Owners Association, owner. **PZA recommended approval.**

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded Commissioner Lockley, and Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved a request to construct a pier and kayak launch consisting of a 4' X 408' access walkway and an 8' X 20' terminal platform. Property is east of the St. George Plantation Airport and north of Leisure Lane. Motion carried 5-0.

b. 501 E. Bayshore Drive, St. George Island

Consideration of a request to construct a pier and kayak launch consisting of a 4' X 150' access walkway and an 8' X 20' terminal platform. Property is described as Lots 8-12. Block 30, St. George Island Gulf Beaches, Unit 4. Neither the FDEP nor the COE permits have been issued. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc., agent for First Baptist Church of St. George Island, owner. **PZA recommended approval.**

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to approve a request to construct a pier and kayak launch consisting of a 4' X 150' access walkway and an 8' X 20' terminal platform. Property is described as Lots 8-12. Block 30, St. George Island Gulf Beaches, Unit 4.

Commissioner Parrish requested that this be approved contingent upon receipt of DEP permitting.

Commissioner Lockley amended his motion to include approval contingent upon receipt of DEP permitting, Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

c. 311 River Road, Carrabelle

Consideration of a request to construct a single-family residential dock with covered boat lift consisting of a 4' X 19' access boardwalk, a 3' X 18' catwalk, two3' X 28' catwalks, and a covered boat lift. Property is described as Lot 10, Block 5, Carrabelle River Subdivision. The COE permit has been issued, but the FDEP permit has not been issued. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc., agent for Vincent Smith, owner. **PZA recommended approval.**

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to approve a request to construct a single-family residential dock with a covered boat lift consisting of a 4' X 19' access boardwalk, a 3' X 18' catwalk, two3' X 28' catwalks, and a covered boat lift, contingent upon receipt of FDEP permitting. Property is described as Lot 10, Block 5, Carrabelle River Subdivision contingent upon receipt of FDEP permitting. Motion carried 5-0.

d. 512 River Road, Carrabelle

Consideration of a request to construct a single-family residential dock with covered boat lift consisting of a 4' X 19' access boardwalk, a 3' X 18' catwalk, two3' X 28' catwalks, and a covered boat lift. Property is described as Lot 10, Block 5, Carrabelle River Subdivision. The COE permit has been issued, but the FDEP permit has not been issued. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc., agent for Vincent Smith, owner.

PZA recommended approval.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to approve the request to construct a single-family residential dock with a covered boat lift consisting of a 4' X 19' access boardwalk, a 3' X 18' catwalk, two3' X 28' catwalks, and a covered boat lift, contingent upon the Corps of Engineers permit being issued. Property is described as Lot 10, Block 5, Carrabelle River Subdivision. Motion carried 5-0.

e. 1512 Alligator Drive, Alligator Point

Consideration of a request to construct a single-family residential dock and covered boat lift consisting of a 4' X 384' access walkway, a 6' X 26' terminal platform, and a 14' X 20' covered boat lift. The property is described as Lot 3, Block K, Peninsular Point, Unit 2. The COE permit has been issued, but the FDEP permit has not been issued. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc., agent for Nick Pappas, owner.

PZA recommended approval.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, to approve a request to construct a single-family residential dock and covered boat lift consisting of a 4' X 384' access walkway, a 6' X 26' terminal platform, and a 14' X 20' covered boat lift, contingent upon FDEP approval. The property is described as Lot 3, Block K, Peninsular Point, Unit 2. Motion carried 5-0.

17. Re-Zoning & Land Use Change Applications

a. 79 Otter Slide Road, Eastpoint

Consideration of a request to change the land use and rezone 4 acres of land at 79 Otter Slide Road, Eastpoint, from Residential to Commercial and from R-4 Single Family Home Industry to C-4 Commercial Residential Mixed Use. Request submitted by Bruce Millender, agent for Eastpoint Lands, LLC.

PZA recommended authorizing a public hearing.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved a request to change the land use and rezone 4 acres of land at 79 Otter Slide Road, Eastpoint, from Residential to Commercial and from R-4 Single Family Home Industry to C-4 Commercial Residential Mixed Use. Motion carried 5-0.

b. 478 Avenue A, Eastpoint

Consideration of a request to change the zoning on 1.39 acres of land at 478 Avenue A, Eastpoint from R-4 Single Family Home Industry to R-8 Multi-Family Medium Density. Request submitted by Bruce Millender, agent for Eastpoint Lands, LLC.

PZA recommended authorizing a public hearing.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved a request to change the zoning on 1.39 acres of land at 478 Avenue A, Eastpoint from R-4 Single Family Home Industry to R-8 Multi-Family Medium Density. Commissioner Parrish confirmed that all adjoining property owners will be notified of the public hearing by certified mail. Mr. Pierce confirmed. Motion carried 5-0.

c. 16 North Franklin Street, Eastpoint

Consideration of a request to change the land use and rezone 1 acre of land at 16 North Franklin Street, Eastpoint, from R-4 Single Family Home Industry to C-4 Commercial Residential Mixed Use. Request submitted by Bruce Millender, agent for Eastpoint Lands, LLC.

PZA recommended authorizing a public hearing.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved a request to change the land use and rezone 1 acre of land at 16 North Franklin Street, Eastpoint, from R-4 Single Family Home Industry to C-4 Commercial Residential Mixed Use. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Jones said this property temporarily houses the Duke Energy hardening items.

Public Hearings

18. Land Use Change – Transmittal Hearing – 79.67 acres – 10:30 a.m. (ET)

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, to consider transmitting a proposed large-scale change to the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Series on 79.67 acres in Section 6, Township 7 South, Range 3 West, as shown in the map below, from Public Facilities to Mixed Use Residential.

Mr. Curenton said this is a proposal for a large-scale land-use change adjacent to St. James Bay. Basically, this is to allow residential development both multi and single-family housing. The process is this is a transmittal hearing, if the Board chooses to approve it, we will send it to the state of Florida. They will review it and send back comments. The board will hold another public hearing and approve or deny it. The Board will address any items the state sends back with comments.

Commissioner Lockley asked how long it will take with the state. Mr. Curenton said it takes a couple of months to get everything back from them. Chairman Jones called for public comments.

Mr. John Green, the applicant, said he is here to answer any questions.

Mr. Moron called for public comments online and there were none.

Mr. Green said we have a contract to purchase the 79.67 acres. So, we saw this as an ideal location to provide some workforce housing. There are about 50ish employees that would have the ability to walk to work. There is already water and sewer in the location.

Chairman Jones said you are potentially looking to do some multi-family, single homes, and apartments. Commissioner Lockley said some projects we have done the county has asked for something in return. Mr. Curenton asked if he was talking about doing a donation. Mr. Green said we think this is an ideal opportunity to provide support and they are willing to donate towards the affordable housing with the county. Attorney Shuler said in his opinion Commissioner Boldt has a contractual obligation with the applicants and he will be abstaining from voting on this matter.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve transmitting a proposed large-scale change to the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Series on 79.67 acres in Section 6, Township 7 South, Range 3 West, as shown in the map below, from Public Facilities to Mixed Use Residential. Motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Boldt abstaining.

** Item Added to the Agenda**

A public hearing to adopt an ordinance to amend the Franklin County Private Rights Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Curenton said it is required by the State legislature that we include language about protecting property rights. 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 adopted the ordinance to amend the Franklin County Private Rights Comprehensive Plan. Motion carried 5-0.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADOPT A GOAL, OBJECTIVE, AND POLICIES FOR A PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 163.3177(6)(i), FLORIDA STATUTES.

WHEREAS Franklin County is required by Chapter 163.3177(6)(i), Florida Statutes, to amend its Comprehensive Plan to include a protect private property rights element, and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Planning and Zoning Commission has recommended adoption of private property rights language in the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners has held a public hearing to consider adopting

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that the following language, to be added as the Goal, Objective, and Policies of a Private Property Rights Element in the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan, is adopted.

GOAL

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL CONSIDER PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS IN ALL LOCAL DECISION MAKING.

OBJECTIVE 13

Franklin County will respect constitutionally protected private property rights.

Policy 13.1 Franklin County will consider in its decision-making the right of a propertyowner to physically possess and control his or her interests in the property, including easements, leases, and mineral rights.

Policy 13.2 Franklin County will consider in its decision-making the right of a property owner to use, maintain, develop, and improve his or her property for personal use or forthe use of any other person, subject to state law and local ordinances.

Policy 13.3 Franklin County will consider in its decision-making the right of the property owner to privacy and to exclude others from the property to protect the owner'spossessions and property.

Policy 13.4 Franklin County will consider in its decision-making the right of a property owner to dispose of his or her property through sale or gift.

Any other ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are herewithrepealed.

The effective date of this plan amendment, if the amendment is not timely challenged, shall be 31 days after the state land planning agency notifies the local government that the plan amendment package is complete. If the amendment is timely challenged, this amendment shall become effective on the date the state land planning agency, or the Administration Commission enters a final order determining this adopted amendment to be in compliance.

This ordinance adopted this 18^{th} day of January 2022, in a regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners.

RFP/RFQ/Bid Opening

19. Invitation to Bid

Notice is hereby given that the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners invites qualified firms to submit a bid to install Antimicrobial Surfacing at the Franklin County Jail.

Mrs. Griffith opened the bid submitted. There was one bid from Deese Elite Concrete Coatings. The bid amount is \$83,265.30. Mrs. Griffith said since there was only one bidder and the bid was within the amounts anticipated, a motion for award is needed.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board awarded the bid to install Antimicrobial Surfacing at the Franklin County Jail to Deese Elite Concrete Coatings. Motion carried 5-0.

County Staff & Attorney Reports

20. Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith

a. BOARD ACTION: CR30A Resurfacing Project

At the meeting on December 7th, the Board opened bids for the 5.261 miles of resurfacing on CR 30A. The low bid of \$4,840,217.74 was \$1,377,555.74 above the available grant funds (\$3,671,550). FDOT did not have the funds to make up that difference, and neither did the County. At your last meeting, all bids were rejected, and the planning department was instructed to work with the engineers to modify the scope of the project and re-advertise. The engineering firm, Halff and Associates, has submitted an additional services proposal in the amount of \$3,500.00 to revise the scope of the project. This amount could be paid from general maintenance finds in the Local Option Gas Tax Fund.

Board action to proceed with the additional services proposal to revise the project scope and bid documents for the CR30A Resurfacing Project.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, to proceed with the additional services proposal to revise the project scope and bid documents for the CR30A Resurfacing Project.

Commissioner Lockley asked if we were going to have to keep readvertising until the bids come in low enough. Mrs. Griffith said hopefully this next time it will be shortened enough for the bids to come in on the target and hopefully fit within the perimeters. Chairman Jones said this is basically to help rewrite the specifications. Commissioner Parrish inquired as to where the funds were paid from. Mrs. Griffith said this will come out of the general repairs line item and we budget about \$100k for this annually.

Motion carried 5-0.

b. BOARD ACTION: Amendment to Agreement University of Florida Extension Agent The University of Florida has submitted an amendment to the MOU with Franklin County for the extension of agent's services. The original MOU has been in place since 2007 and the only change in the attached amendment is the wording which transitions the county's cost share from being based on 20% of the estimated staffing expenses to one based on actual expenses. Variance between estimated and actual could be caused by changes in benefit rates, retirement contribution rates or health insurance for the extension agent and this difference would be funded by the county extension office budget.

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the attached first amendment to the MOU with the University of Florida.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman's signature on the attached first amendment to the MOU with the University of Florida. Motion carried 4-1, Commissioner Lockley opposed.

- c. BOARD INFORMATION: DRAFT Procurement Policy
- Attached is the DRAFT procurement policy which will replace the previous policy which has been in effect since 2012. The current \$10,000 threshold has proven to be overly restrictive as \$10,000 in today's economy does not allow for departments to make repairs and purchases timely. The attached will change the formal bid solicitation threshold from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Purchases of \$25,000 or more will have to be properly advertised and awarded at a public meeting. Tiered purchases from \$10,000 to \$25,000 will require the informal solicitation of (3) quotes and approval by the County Coordinator or Fiscal Manager. The DRAFT policy is currently being reviewed to ensure compliance with Federal requirements and then will be forwarded for review by the county attorney, once the review process is complete, the policy will come back for formal adoption by the Board at the next meeting.
- **d.** BOARD INFORMATION: FRDAP Projects advance to the recommended funding priority list Grant applications for the Vrooman Park Improvements and the St. George Island Playground Improvements at Lighthouse Park have scored high enough to be placed on the FRDAP 2022-2023 Recommended Priority List as submitted to the Florida Legislature. At this time, the funding for the projects is contingent upon the Florida Legislature's level of support for the FRDAP Program which will be decided during this year's legislative session.

21. County Coordinator - Michael Morón

Action Items

a. Eastpoint Beautification Grant: The County received, and I signed, the acceptance letter for the Eastpoint FDOT FY 2021-22 Beautification Grant in the amount of \$57,500. The Board approved this grant earlier in 2021. The Eastpoint Civic Club will partner with the County on the landscape plan and other FDOT requirements, however, since the contract is with Franklin County and FDOT, the County will be responsible for the project.

Board action to ratify my signature on the acceptance letter for the Eastpoint FDOT Beautification Grant in the amount of \$57,500.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved ratifying Mr. Moron's signature on the acceptance letter for the Eastpoint FDOT Beautification Grant in the amount of \$57,500. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Gulf County Funding Request: At your December 21st meeting the Board and Mr. David Walker discussed Gulf County's plan to reopen the Dialysis Facility in the Medical Building next to Sacre Heart Hospital in Port St. Joe. Based on prior use of the dialysis clinic, it is expected that some of Franklin County's residents will use that clinic since it is a shorter drive than the dialysis clinics in Panama City or Tallahassee. The firm that is in negotiations with Gulf County to reopen the clinic is asking for a start-up subsidy of \$100,000 for five years. Gulf County is asking Franklin County to contribute no more than \$25,000 per year to this subsidy, based on how many Franklin County residents use the clinic that will be backed by data. During the discussion, it was apparent that the Board wanted more data and a funding source for this contribution before committing. With that in mind, Chairman Jones and I met with Weems CEO, Mr. David Walker, and Board Chairman, Duffie Harrison, to discuss the Board's concerns. Based on that meeting, Mr. Walker and Mr. Harrison will add this matter to the Weems Board of Directors January 27, 2022, regular meeting agenda then present the results of that discussion at your February 1st regular meeting.

Commissioner Lockley inquired as to why the Board was discussing this matter if there is no funding authorized for it. Mr. Moron said that we cannot use the sales tax designated for the hospital but there may be other funding sources. Mr. Moron said that he would like to do our due diligence in this matter.

c. Planter in ROW: At your December 21st meeting the Board heard a request from Mr. Ward to allow an 8x12 planter located in the County's right-of-way towards the end of Brinkley Street on St. George Island. The Board took no action on this request therefore Mr. Curenton's letter to the Ward's requesting that the planter is removed stands. As of last week, the planter was still in place, therefore, Board direction is needed to determine if Attorney Shuler will send a follow-up letter to the Wards or if Mr. Nabors will remove the planter without further notification.

Board discussion and direction.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

d. Small County Coalition Request: Earlier this month, Mr. Chris Doolin, Small County Coalition (SCC) Executive Director, invited representatives from each member county to

participate in a Zoom call to discuss the \$1.7 reduction in the funding and distribution of the Supplemental Distribution Revenue Sharing Program. Chairman Jones, who sits on the SCC executive committee, and I participated on this call. Attached to my report is some background information on the revenue sharing program and a spreadsheet showing the "loss" for each county. It was recommended during the Zoom call that each county send a letter to their state delegation supporting full funding of this distribution revenue sharing program. Chairman Jones may have additional information on this matter.

Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the letter of support for this Supplemental Distribution Revenue Sharing Program to the County's State Delegation.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on the letter of support for this Supplemental Distribution Revenue Sharing Program to the County's State Delegation. Motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Lockley stepped out of the room.

e. Office of Medical Examiner Search Committee: State Attorney Jack Campbell informed the County that the current District Medical Examiner, Dr. David Stewart, plans to retire from his post. The other doctors in the Office of the Medical Examiner for the Second District of Florida are not interested in taking over as the Medical Examiner therefore there is need to fill this post. Attorney Campbell would like to create a Search Committee from this unusually large district that is comprised of two judicial circuits and eight counties. "Florida Statutes allow representation on this committee from the following offices: State Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, Medical School, County Commissions, Organ Procurement, Funeral Directors and Mortuary Services. Ultimately, the search committee's selection must be approved by the Medical Examiners Commission. The appointment is made by the Governor." Is there any Board member that would like to submit their name or someone from the County?

Board discussion and direction.

Commissioner Boldt said he would welcome his name to be submitted to serve on this committee.

Commissioner Parrish made a motion to submit Commissioner Boldt to serve on this committee, Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Lockley stepped out of the room.

f. Canvassing Board Workshop: Mrs. Heather Riley, your Supervisor of Elections, has informed staff of the upcoming 2022 statewide County Canvassing Board Workshop to be held at Caribe Royal Orlando-Convention Center on Thursday, March 31, 2022. As always, this workshop is intended for County Judges, County Commissioners, Supervisors of Elections, and Canvassing Board Attorneys. This year Commissioners Parrish and Boldt have elections, so they cannot serve. Therefore, we need two other commissioners appointed to the County's Canvassing Board and approval of expenses and travel for members of the Board to attend the workshop.

Board action to appoint two commissioners to the Canvassing Board. Board action to authorize travel and expenses for Canvassing Board members to attend the March 31st workshop.

Attorney Shuler noted that Chairman Jones is already a member of the Canvassing Board and only one commissioner needed to be added.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley to appoint Commissioner Ward to the canvassing Board and to authorize travel and expenses for Canvassing Board members to attend the March 31st workshop, seconded by Commissioner Boldt. Motion carried 5-0.

g. ARPC Code Enforcement Report: Ms. Caroline Smith of ARPC stated that the final report for the Franklin County Code Enforcement project is completed and she is prepared to present this report to the Board. I recommend we schedule a 1:30 p.m. workshop on February 1st after your regular meeting for this presentation. This would allow sufficient time for Ms. Smith to review the report and for Board questions and comments. After this presentation, I will discuss scheduling the State Fire Marshal's office presentation to the Board.

Board action to schedule 1:30 p.m. (ET) workshop to allow ARPC to present the final report for the Franklin County Code Enforcement project.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt and Commissioner Lockley, to schedule a 1:30 p.m. (ET) workshop on February 1st to allow ARPC to present the final report for the Franklin County Code Enforcement project. Motion carried 5-0.

h. Extension of COVID-19 Leave: At your September 7, 2021, regular meeting, after consulting with your labor attorney, the Board agreed to allow access, until December 31, 2021, to employees that had remaining Federal FFCRA (COVID-19) emergency sick leave providing one of the three eligible requirements were met and the employee completed the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Request Form. With this new COVID-19 strain, that seems to be highly contagious, is the Board willing to extend access to this leave until March 31, 2022? To be clear, the County isn't adding leave to any employee, only granting access to those with remaining leave. **Board discussion and direction.**

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to extend the COVID-19 leave to allow employees access to their remaining COVID-19 leave.

The Board discussed the leave and how the leave is paid for. Mr. Moron said basically it is the county adding sick leave to employees' time. Commissioner Parrish asked if some of the CARES funding can be used to pay for this. Chairman Jones said the problem is you can't set aside the funding you have to spend it. Mrs. Griffith said there isn't any new leave being granted but an extension of the COVID leave granted. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Informational Items

- i. Reef Permit Application: The 30-mile reef permit application from the Apalachicola Reef Association authorized for the Chairman's signature at your December 21st meeting has been fully executed and submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers for review and permitting. The Board will be informed when the permit is issued.
- j. Building Department Permit Legislation: Effective October 1, 2021, HB 1059 changed some county and city building departments permit application review and approval practices. This has caused your building department to change some of its procedures, especially the acceptance of new development applications. I say this because the public, including some contractors, are

not aware of the new rules and regulations mandated by the State, therefore, they do not appreciate why the permit clerks will not accept incomplete building applications with the promise that the applicant will send the required information later. Mr. Steve Paterson, Building Official, will hold a public workshop to review these new rules and procedures along with the new permitting software once it is live.

k. Scheduling Agenda Items: To make the duration of your regular meeting more efficient and manageable, I am going to make a slight change on how some agenda items are scheduled for upcoming meetings. Presentations and requested to the Board will be on your first monthly meeting (held on the first Tuesday of every month) and since your Planning & Zoning Adjustment Board report is on the second monthly meeting (held on the third Tuesday of every month) I will schedule public hearings on those dates. Hopefully, by guiding these agenda items to specific meetings, county business will be addressed timelier to benefit of the public.

Commissioner Lockley asked if removing the director's reports would save time. Mr. Moron noted that often the Commissioners have things for the directors. Commissioner Parrish asked if the presentations would include things like the fire marshal. Mr. Moron said yes. Commissioner Parrish said we need to set the fire marshal meeting for the March workshop since we have the ARPC coming for the February workshop. Mr. Moron noted that we could always move to consent items and agendas. A consent agenda doesn't lock in the items, you could always pull a particular item if you have questions. Chairman Jones asked Attorney Shuler if that was something the Board wanted to do how would we go about it. Attorney Shuler said it would be something the Board would have to vote on. Attorney Shuler said we have had consent agendas before, and they haven't worked out. Attorney Shuler said we can try it again and if the Board doesn't like it when can go back. Commissioner Parrish said it is a good idea for non-controversial issues. Chairman Jones noted several items on today's agenda that were not necessarily ones that needed comments. Mr. Moron said the Board could think about it and he could add to the agenda for a vote later.

1. School District Adult Welding Program: I saw a social media post from the school district regarding the adult education Introduction to Welding class at the school in Eastpoint and requested additional information. Based on the attached flyer sent to me, the course is a six-week class, starting on February 1, 2022, that is an introduction to welding or an opportunity for someone to improve their skills at the new welding lab. There is a \$200 fee for this class and only ten available spots. There is additional information on the flyer which will be uploaded to the County's website after this meeting.

Commissioner Parrish asked how active the civic club is in Eastpoint and how much input we have received from them on the rezoning. We need to get input from the people who live in Eastpoint. Mr. Moron asked if the Board wanted him to reach out to the Eastpoint Civic Club. Chairman Jones said he hasn't heard a lot of it. Commissioner Lockley said he doesn't believe in telling people what to do with their property. Commissioner Boldt asked Mr. Moron if he could provide informational signage for projects that are pending. Chairman Jones noted that Mr. Kennedy provided the Board would an update a few meetings ago. Chairman Jones asked Mr. Moron if he would investigate it and get back to the Board.

22. County Attorney – Michael Shuler

Attorney Shuler asked the Board if they have any questions regarding the memorandum, he provided about the dialysis center. Chairman Jones said he believes it is clear if we do anything it can't come from funds from the healthcare trust fund. There are at least two restrictions that limit the use of the healthcare trust fund to be used in Franklin County and limit the use of those funds exclusively to Weems Hospital. It is not a restriction geographically, but the funds are limited to the hospital.

Chairman Jones brought up the issue of the resident who received a letter from DEP regarding the compliance and the aerobic system. He said he wants to make sure we know what we are doing and that we support the state. If you take an aerobic septic system that is for twelve people and you use it for twenty-four, there are going to be some serious environmental issues. There is not a central sewer system on St. George Island if you compound this with over 200 houses on the island, this is a severe environmental issue. Whatever the state is doing to combat that, we need to support it. Chairman Jones said he had met with the homeowners about another matter, and they indicated that they were going to resolve the issue so that they can keep their certificate of occupancy.

Commissioners' Comments & Adjournment

23. Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Lockley said he wants to see more children get involved with the IFAS program. He would like to see them bring in more programs to get more children involved. Commissioner Boldt said he is in support of this idea.

24. Adjournment

	Ricky Jones – Chairman	
Attest:		
Michele Maxwell – Clerk of	Courts	