

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
APRIL 5, 2022
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, and Jessica Gay-Deputy Clerk to the Board

1) Call To Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting order.

2) Prayer and Pledge

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

3) Approval of Minutes

a) FCBCC Regular Meeting 3/15/2022

Commissioner Ward noted that a correction needed to be made on page 16. The PUD for St. James Bay was passed in 2003, not 1993.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish and Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the minutes from the following meetings with the correction on page 16 noting the St. James Bay PUD passed in 2003, not 1993: FCBCC Regular Meeting 3/15/2022. Motion carried 5-0.

4) Payment of County Bills

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

5) Special Coordinator – Alan Pierce – Update

Mr. Pierce gave an update to the Board on the Eastpoint, and 2-mile dredge projects. He stated that the Corps has received the \$6 million wire transfer that was sent two weeks ago. The Corps was unable to locate the funds for two weeks and thus delayed the start of the project during this time. Mr. Pierce said they plan to start working on it as soon as possible. Mr. Pierce said that he had given contact numbers to Chairman Jones and will give them to the other Board members as

well. He encouraged them to make contact to help expedite the process. Commissioner Ward said that she had someone reach out to her that had spoken to one of the crew members from the dredge currently in the county and they told her they would not be dredging the channels. Mr. Pierce let the Board know that this was not the same dredge that would be dredging the channels as it is a larger dredge. Chairman Jones noted that the current dredging company is Encore which is a 24-inch dredge, and too big for the channel. Commissioner Lockley asked what side they plan to start on, and Mr. Pierce said he believed it would be Eastpoint. He said that he hopes it will be subsequential.

6) American Rescue Plan Act Consultant – Traci Buzbee – Update

Ms. Buzbee provided an update on ARPA funding and spending. She said that the final rule came out on April 1st and the report is due on April 30th. We will have to turn our plan into Treasury. Taking the standardized allowance will give us more flexibility. Ms. Buzbee said that she had worked with Mr. Moron and Mrs. Griffith to vet out what will and will not work. Ms. Buzbee gave the Board a list of projects that they are proposing to submit.

- Sheriff’s Message Board
 - Antimicrobial Surfacing at Jail
 - Clerk’s Phase II of Records Imaging
 - EOC Point of Distribution
 - Beach Parking Issue
 - Alligator Point Fire House Acquisition
 - Courthouse Roof Replacement
 - Supervisor of Election Office Construction or Retrofitting
- Total: \$2,355,139.47

Chairman Jones asked Ms. Buzbee if the Board’s formal approval was needed today. Ms. Buzbee said an approval would be appropriate as this has to be submitted to Treasury. Ms. Buzbee said that she is not sure if they will say yes or no, but they have documentation to back each of the projects. Commissioner Boldt asked if the projects were listed as a priority. Ms. Buzbee said that they hadn’t really prioritized, at this point we have the spending plan. Chairman Jones said in looking at the total as long as we have funds that match the total we wouldn’t have to prioritize. Mr. Moron said the thing that stands out to him the most is the building for the Supervisor of Elections. He believes this would be e top priority. Mrs. Griffith noted that the courthouse roof sealing would also be a high priority. Commissioner Lockley asked about using the old jail. Mr. Pierce said the problem is the bottom floor is below the base flood. The floors do not meet ADA standards. In order to widen the hallways, you would have to demolish the building. Mr. Pierce said it is still there because no one wants to take the heat for destroying it. Clerk Maxwell noted that the building is being used for storage for her office. Mr. Moron noted that the building department has a lot of records there also. Commissioner Lockley said it would make a good space for a parking lot.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the ARPA Spending Plan to be submitted to Treasury. Motion carried 5-0.

7) Public Comments

Mr. Rudy Meng of 1480 Alligator Drive spoke in regard to Alligator Point parking issues. He thanked the Board and Sheriff Smith for their assistance in trying to take care of it. He said that the fire department is moving forward with the new building.

Constitutional Officers

8) Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell – Report

a) Government Finance Professionals Week – Clerk Maxwell – Proclamation

On March 15, 2022, the Board recognized Government Finance Professionals Week. The Board inadvertently failed to ratify the proclamation. I am requesting the Board ratify the following proclamation for the record.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified the Government Finance Professionals Week proclamation. Motion carried 5-0.

Government Finance Professionals Week

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS The Florida Government Finance Officers Association is a professional association founded in 1937 and serves more than 3,300 professionals from state, county, and city governments, school districts, colleges and universities, special districts, and private firms; and

WHEREAS the FGFOA is dedicated to being your professional resource by providing opportunities through education, networking, leadership, and information; and

WHEREAS, this inaugural Government Finance Professionals Week, sponsored by the FGFOA and all of its member governmental organizations, is a weeklong series of activities aimed at recognizing government finance professionals and the vital services that they provide to our state and our community; and

WHEREAS, during this week, government finance professionals throughout the State of Florida will be acknowledged for their hard work, dedication, and leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michele Maxwell, Franklin County Clerk of Court, on behalf of Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Boldt, Commissioner Lockley, Commissioner Parrish, and Commissioner Ward, do hereby proclaim March 14-18, 2022, as Government Finance Professionals Week in the County of Franklin and extend our appreciation to all government finance professionals throughout the state and here in the County of Franklin for their hard work, dedication, and leadership.

9) Sheriff – A.J. Smith – Request

Sheriff Smith will discuss the possibility of a license plate camera reader system on roads within the county.

Captain Hamm gave a presentation about the license plate camera reader system. He noted that the LPRs can be mounted on vehicles or placed in stationary locations. He said that they will be used to help identify people coming into our area to commit crimes and they do not plan to use them to write tickets at this time. They will be used to monitor and look back to see if something matching a vehicle passed by our cameras. He said that they are looking at two different brands, Motorola Solution and Flock Safety. He said that Gulf County currently has two located on Hwy 98 and Bay County has approximately twenty. They have used them to collect a lot of stolen vehicles. He said that recently a missing husband had stolen his wife's car and within thirty minutes they were able to locate and detain him in Ocala. The TPRs are equipped with night visions, and they are able to read temporary and out-of-state tags. The data is stored for thirty days, and it is not sold. Captain Hamm noted that there is an LPR on North Bayshore Drive already but it is not owned by the sheriff's office. Chairman Jones said that we are in the middle of a budget cycle and this cost was not included. Captain Hamm said the Flock Safety cameras will be \$2,500 per year. Captain Hamm said that they have a grant that they can use to purchase one camera. It will be one they can move around to various locations. Chairman Jones asked how many they plan to purchase. Captain Hamm said they would like to cover the major areas of the county and anticipate needing 8-10. Commissioner Ward noted that this technology was used to recently catch a driver who ran over a four-year girl in Panama City. Captain Hamm confirmed and noted that the information was used to catch the suspect quickly. Commissioner Boldt asked if they plan to mount the cameras on the vehicles. Captain Hamm said not at this time, noting the cost for those would be around \$12,000 each. Commissioner Boldt said this technology would preserve manpower with the limited sheriff staff that we have. He said this would complement the department that we have. Commissioner Lockley asked what the total amount of funds would be. Captain Hamm said they are \$2,500 per camera, so if we installed ten, the cost would be \$25,000 per year. Commissioner Lockley said it is the commissioners' job to provide public safety and this is a good thing for public safety. He said we should be able to find \$25,000 instead of waiting for next year's budget. Mrs. Griffith said that we could see how it shakes out for the American Rescue Funds and that some of the items may cost more or less. She said at this time we do not know. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to start looking for funds to pay for the cameras. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt said that he sees out-of-control escalation, and this is another safety factor. He said that our county is seventy miles long and some of the issues remotely are profound. Commissioner Boldt said that he likes the idea of having one of the LPRs at Alligator Point. Sheriff Smith noted that for this year the \$25,000 would be prorated and they can get a total for this year. Chairman Jones asked if the price would be \$2,500 per camera for each year. Captain Hamm said that is correct and the price includes insurance on the device. If a camera is shot or maliciously damaged, we would have to replace it. If it is run over by a vehicle and we can prove it, their insurance would have to cover it. Commissioner Ward asked if we are limited to a data amount. Captain Hamm said they were not limited on data. He said that they actually ran a demo on St.

George Island. He said that Bay County had too and was able to recover thirty stolen vehicles. He said that when they get a hit, they verify the information. He said he will send them a picture of the vehicle for them to verify. He noted that they have had a lot of issues with stolen cadillac converters. He said that Liberty County had also, and they are waiting to see what system we go with so that we can share data. Commissioner Boldt asked if this system tracks speeding. Captain Hamm said that the stationary camera goes up to 100 mph and the car-mounted camera is up to 160 mph. He said they do not track speed. Chairman Jones reminded the Board that even if we can use ARPA funds initially, this will be a recurring expense. He said that it is a good thing to have, but it would be good to be able to continue and not purchase on a one-time basis. Captain Hamm said the camera purchased with the grant will be deployed in hot spots and for investigation purposes. Commissioner Ward asked if it would help with parking issues at Alligator Point. Captain Hamm said that he had worked up a draft of where they wanted to put them, and Alligator Point was one of the locations. **Commissioner Lockley amended his motion to search for funds to purchase the LPRs not only for this year but from now on, Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1, Chairman Jones opposed.**

Sheriff Smith spoke to the Board about the parking issue at Alligator Point. He said that it takes two deputies to keep these parking areas clear. He suggested either closing the public parking or installing some large rocks/boulders to prohibit illegal parking. Sheriff Smith said that he will stop responding because it is a waste of deputy time to be parking enforcement. Commissioner Lockley asked Attorney Shuler for his opinion. Attorney Shuler said that restricting public access has never been done. He said that if there is nowhere to park that is essentially denying access. The practical effect is that you are blocking off public access to a public beach. Commissioner Ward said this is something that we rehash each year. She said that she agreed with the Sheriff in respect of this taking resources away from the county. She said that if there is a way to park there, people will continue doing so. She said she is all for putting out the boulders and is not opposed to putting out the larger boulders. Sheriff Smith said that some people who do not have structures on their property have placed large boulders so that people can't park, and it works. He said that the people going there aren't respecting the property. Even though the boat ramp is for trucks and trailers, single vehicles are parked there. Commissioner Lockley said he is sure people park on the right of way. Sheriff Smith said that the pictures he presented were taken yesterday and most of the parking was at capacity. People will ride up and down the road, and they will park anywhere. He said that we will put the barriers up and see how it goes. He said the only other thing would be to close the parking and I know that is sensitive. He said that people get mad when ticketed and tired of it, but the people who live there are also tired of it. Chairman Jones said that the issue with the old KOA is that it is not adjacent to the public beach. He said that he would have liked to have this resolved before the season began and that they are having the same issue on St. George Island. Chairman Jones said that he believes that parking is associated with driving. Sheriff Smith said that he disagrees. Commissioner Lockley said this has come up for eighteen years and that if people are coming to our area, we have to have these things for them. He said that the county needed to build some bathrooms and parking lots. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to deploy larger barriers/boulders/rocks to deter parking and to hold a public workshop to come up with a**

permanent solution for parking in our entire county. Seconded by Commissioner Boldt.

Commissioner Boldt said that the finger accesses at Alligator Point have exceeded their intended design. They are not designed for the capacity they are being used for. I think the boulders are one phase of a long-time process, we may have to close the access at some point because of the life, safety, and health of the situation going on. He said we should be looking to the future to develop the KOA campground for parking and bathroom facilities. Commissioner Lockley said we have to stop worrying about convenience. Commissioner Boldt said let's not forget about Bald Point Park, and that he wouldn't be opposed to putting a message board up directing traffic there. Commissioner Ward noted that there is no alcohol allowed in the state park. Commissioner Boldt said that is another element. Commissioner Parrish asked where the boulders would be going. Sheriff Smith said they will be adjacent to the parking areas. Mr. Moron said that we would need to identify where the boulders are going. Sheriff Smith said that his office will work with the road department. **Commissioner Ward amended her motion to reflect placing the boulders in the areas that we are talking about. Seconded by Commissioner Boldt.** Mr. Pierce said that the biggest issue of why people use Alligator Point instead of Bald Point is dogs and beer. Sheriff Smith said he had spoken with Wakulla County, and they are dealing with the same type of issues. Mr. Pierce noted that there are plenty of rocks at the KOA that can be used. Sheriff Smith said they received several calls about the boat ramp where people are parking cars in the trucks and boat spaces. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Ms. Debbie Brett spoke to the Board regarding the parking issue at Alligator Point. She suggested having a directional sign to inform drivers where to turn to the Bald Point State Park. She said that she understands that people can't take their dogs and alcohol. She noted that this was never a problem until the right of way was cleared and the signs put up. She discussed property owners owning up to the shoreline. She believes if more spaces are added to the KOA, they will be in people's back yards again.

The Board recessed at 10:09 a.m. and reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

Department Directors Reports

10) Superintendent of Roads and Bridges – Howard Nabors

Mr. Nabors presented his report to the Board at this time and had no action items.

Mr. Nabors informed the Board that the owner will remove the fence on Alligator Drive in front of Pelican. Mr. Nabors said the contractor is supposed to have a motor grader to keep the 100 foot up. Chairman Jones said he understands that during the last storm we kept Alligator Drive in tack. Commissioner Boldt said a property owner contacted him with concern that the dead man application was not being installed correctly on the seawall. Mr. Moron asked if he was referring to a project that Columbia Anderson is doing, and if so, that wouldn't be something that Mr. Nabors would handle. Mr. Moron asked Commissioner Boldt to provide him with the details and staff would contact the contractor.

Chairman Jones told Mr. Nabors that the motion to put up boulders/rocks adjacent to the parking spaces on Alligator Drive was passed. Mr. Nabors said he isn't sure what the setback is from the road for the large boulders. Commissioner Parrish said that was his concern also. Attorney Shuler said that DOT has issued something called a green book. He recommended contacting Dewberry to look at the safety regulations before we proceed. Mr. Nabors said he will work with the sheriff in any way that he can, but he just wants it to be done safely. Mr. Moron will be in touch with Dewberry.

11) Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

Informational Items (attached to agenda)

Mr. Davis announced that there is a possibility the Dixie Youth Softball League District 2 will be held at the Will S. Kendrick Park from June 17th -to 20th. He said that the scales were previously maintained by Fairbanks Scale Service. However, due to staff shortages, they are no longer able to provide service to the scale. He has been inquiring as to other providers for this service. He said that through the permit and inspection process they will be working to reduce the height of the debris in certain areas at the landfill. They will work on Saturday to try and move to areas that can be filled in. The permit will take about two weeks and upon award of the permit, the landfill will be able to accept sludge again. Mr. Davis said the scales are currently working, but they do need repair. Mrs. Griffith noted that replacing the scales would cost around \$175,000.

12) Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Action Item

Mrs. Jennifer Daniels announced the Build a Disaster Bucket event scheduled for May 21st from 10-3. There will be buckets for the first 200 people which include things like ponchos, flashlights, and markers. There will be raffles for radios. We hope to have hotdogs and a bouncy house for the kids to play in. We are working with Mr. Davis to see if he can donate the bouncy houses. Chairman Jones thanked the Emergency Management staff for helping us to be prepared for storms and their response.

13) Extension Office Director – Erik Lovstrand

Informational Items (attached to agenda)

Mr. Moron announced that Mr. Lovstrand was attending a meeting in Louisiana.

14) Library Director – Whitney Roundtree

Action Items:

a. Mrs. Karen Hill of the Carrabelle Branch has resigned and relocated to the Tallahassee area. Requesting permission from the board to advertise and fill the vacant permanent part-time position at the Carrabelle Branch.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the advertisement and filling of the vacant

permanent part-time position at the Carrabelle Branch. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Roundtree announced that today is National Library Worker Day. She thanked Nancy Cuffman, Morgan Anderson, Stephanie Gaylor, and Teri Daniels for their work and dedication to the library.

Informational Items:

- 1) The FCPL branches will be closed April 15th-17th in observance of the Easter holiday.
- 2) We've added a new bilingual story time program for Spanish and English speakers starting April 8th at 4:00 p.m. We've also added many new bilingual children's books to the collection.
- 3) New Lego activity tables have been placed in the children's sections of both branches. The tables were purchased and donated to the libraries by the Friends of the Franklin County Public Libraries.
- 4) The Franklin County Public Library has received a grant payment of \$62,000 from the State Aid to Libraries in accordance with the grant agreement between the Florida State Division of Library and Information Services and our organization.

Other Reports

15) SHIP Administrator – Mrs. Lori Switzer-Mills

Action Items: Approval of the Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP)

The Local Housing Assistance Plan for FY 2022-2025 is due to Florida Housing by May 2nd. This plan will take effect on July 1st, 2022. This plan has been conditionally approved by Florida Housing pending the executed Resolution and Signed Certification. The changes to the plan are as follows: Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance: 1. Page #6 Funds will be awarded for the down payment and closing costs for new and existing homes, including homes purchased from a county-approved community land trust (CLT) 2. Page #7 CLT homebuyers must complete an education class that contains a community land trust component/or session with the CLT that requires CLT buyers to demonstrate and attest to a clear understanding of the terms of community land trust homeownership. 3. Page #7 Added: A loan will be awarded in the amount of money required in order to allow the homebuyer to qualify. The maximum will not be awarded in all cases 4. Page #8 Current LHAP reads: Mobile homes, condos, and other attached homes are not eligible. Changed to: Mobile homes and other attached homes are not eligible. This will allow for more possible homebuyer options. 5. Page #8 Once assisted and provided funds, the recipient (s) is no longer eligible for further assistance, with the exception of those affected by a disaster. Owner Occupied Rehabilitation: 1. Page #8 Increased the maximum award from \$25,000 to \$35,000 2. Page #9 Once assisted and provided funds, recipient (s) is no longer eligible for further assistance, with the exception of those affected by a disaster. Emergency Repair: 1. Page #10 Once assisted and provided funds, the recipient (s) is no longer eligible for further assistance, with the exception of those affected by a disaster.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Local Housing Assistance Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2025. Motion carried 5-0.

16) Interim Airport Manager – Ted Mosteller

Action Items:

Action Item

c. Our county mechanics have been working on servicing and repairing airport equipment. The John Deere 110 is in the county shop—however, needs more specialized repair. I'm asking permission for the Road Department to transport the JD110 to Ag-Pro in Tallahassee—for an estimate. It is suggested that the repairs could approach \$10,000. It has serious mostly hydraulic problems from being outside in the weather—and lack of maintenance—for the past 9 plus years as does other equipment and especially implement equipment—all in deplorable condition—but all restorable. Currently, the JD 5520 and 5625 have been serviced and returned to the airport.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt and Commissioner Lockley, to authorize the Road Department to transport the JD1110 to Ag-Pro in Tallahassee for an estimate of the repairs needed.

Commissioner Ward said she would like to see these machines maintained and encourage all of the departments to maintain their equipment so that we aren't having to come up with large repair bills. Mr. Mosteller said he is working to get a shelter for the machine. Chairman Jones said once it gets to Ag-Pro we better hope that they have the parts to fix it. Mr. Moron asked the Board to approve up to \$10,000. Commissioner Parrish said that Mr. Mosteller's report ask for an estimate. Mr. Moron asked Mr. Mosteller to start pricing a new one so that when the estimate comes back, we will be able to compare the cost to replace and repair. Commissioner Ward said before we go and purchase a new piece of equipment, we have to have somewhere to store it. Mr. Moron said they had talked about getting a price for enclosing and expanding the pole barn to store all of the equipment. Mr. Moron said when the estimate comes back, we will have to determine what the equipment is used for and how often it is used. Commissioner Parrish said that if it has been torn up all this time, then do we really need it. Commissioner Ward asked if this was used to clear the runway, and Mr. Mosteller said that it could be used for that. Mr. Mosteller said that Ag-Pro has a used one advertised for \$89,000. Commissioner Lockley noted that it needs to be secured under something. Chairman Jones said that most of the equipment owned by the County is under a pole bar or lean-to. The important thing is maintaining the equipment so that we don't have come up with large repair bills. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Informational Items (attached to agenda packet)

Presentations and Requests

17) Jacquelyn D. McMillan, PHD – Presentation

Dr. McMillan gave an overview of the Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Program which included the following bullet points. The Rural Opioid Technical Assistance (ROTA) program delivers evidence-based training and related materials tailored to the needs of rural communities in the Florida Panhandle. Dr. McMillan spoke about the use of Naloxone to revive users who have overdosed.

Harm Reductions Strategies

- Proactive & evidence-based approach
- Strategies employed to reduce impacts of behaviors associated with opioid and other substance use
- Implementation of prevention, treatment, and recovery strategies
- Empowering individuals who use substances to set their own goals
- Incorporating a spectrum of strategies that meet people “where they are” on their own terms; but don’t leave them there
- Promote the awareness of broader health and social issues through improved policies, programs, and practices

Impact of Opioid Use

- Our nation is encountering an epidemic of substance use and overdose that is claiming the lives of countless Americans. This has been made even more daunting by the Covid pandemic. Over 100,000 overdose deaths have occurred in 12 months (May 2020 to April 2021), representing a nearly 29 percent increase compared to the same window of time last year.
- 70,630 people died from a drug overdose in 2019
- 1.6 million people had an opioid use disorder in the past year
- 745,000 people used heroin in the past year
- 1.6 million people misused prescription pain relievers for the first time
- 48,006 deaths attributed to overdosing on synthetic opioids other than methadone
- 10.1 million people misused prescription opioids in the past year
- 2 million people used methamphetamine in the past year
- 50,000 people used heroin for the first time
- 14,480 deaths attributed to overdosing on heroin

Destigmatizing Substance Abuse

Opioid Use and Overdosing – Risk Factors for Opioid Overdose

- Mixing drugs
- Quality of drug
- Change in supply
- Low tolerance

- Using Alone
- Previous overdose
- Illness

Commissioner Boldt said that he would like to have a co-signature with the Sheriff's department. Chairman Jones noted that they would ask for a separate memorandum from the Sheriff's office. Dr. McMillan said that she wouldn't mind adding them in. Mr. Moron said the Chairman's signature should be fine and it would keep it clean. Mr. Moron noted that the Sheriff should be reaching out to Dr. McMillan as he has contacted me for this information.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to have the agreement be added to the MOU for the next meeting. Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Moron to send the MOU to the Board for their review. Commissioner Parrish and Dr. McMillan discussed the idea of providing such drugs to addicts and how it can be seen as an encouragement to do drugs. Dr. McMillan said the goal is to save lives so that they can make positive choices in the future. **Motion carried 5-0.**

18) Kwentin Eastberg – ARPC – Request

Action Item: Mr. Eastberg is requesting a letter of support for a DEO Community Planning Technical Assistance grant application for FY 2022-2023. We are looking at applying for a regional broadband planning project. The applications are due next month. The request is for a letter of support as follows:

Franklin County would like to express its support for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) as an applicant for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) Grant for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

ARPC seeks to conduct a broadband planning project on behalf of the nine counties that comprise the Apalachee Region of Northwest Florida. By taking a regional approach, this project will serve to align broadband efforts taking place at the state level via the DEO Office of Broadband with the county- and municipal-level broadband efforts.

Franklin County views this regional project as a vital activity to both advance broadband implementation and, importantly, enable local governments to access federal funding for broadband deployment. ARPC staff have previously collaborated with the DEO Office of Broadband on regional broadband workshops and are well-positioned to carry out the proposed activities. Franklin County looks forward to the opportunity to collaborate with ARPC on this initiative.

Thank you very much for your consideration of the ARPC's application. Should the DEO review group have additional questions, please contact: Michael Morón, County Coordinator, at michael@franklincountyflorida.com.

The proposal is to leverage some of the federal funds. As we understand it, we have to have a plan in place to access the funds. It significantly helps when you go to apply. So that we know what we

are looking for and how to go after the broadband implementation. Chairman Jones asked if this would have anything to do with mapping. Mr. Eastberg said he expects there will be a mapping component. He said they are working with other counties to do feasibility studies and a lot of the infrastructure is proprietary. He said they were able to get some maps from Fiber Locator. He said that he believes there is some fiber that goes down Hwy 65, but it is dark fiber through Unity. Mr. Moron said we are currently talking about broadband, but we are still working on the cell phone towers. Commissioner Lockley expressed his desire to cover the entire county. Mr. Moron noted that a lot of the libraries are used for internet access. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized a letter of support for a DEO Community Planning Assistance grant application for FY 2022-2023. Motion carried 5-0.**

1:47:40

Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board Report

19) Variance Requests

a) 2251 Hwy 98 E

Consideration of a request for a variance to tear down the current decaying shed and construct a new shed to protect the existing well pump. Property is described as 2251 Hwy 98 E, Block M, Lot 18 & 22 feet of lot 17, Unit 1, Lanark Beach, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Robert and Carrie Brewer, applicants.

PZA Board recommended approval.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved a request for a variance to tear down the current decaying shed and construct a new shed to protect the existing well pump. Property is described as 2251 Hwy 98 E, Block M, Lot 18 & 22 feet of lot 17, Unit 1, Lanark Beach, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

20) Critical Shoreline Applications

a) 2374 Highway 98 E

Consideration of a request to construct a 200'4' Single-family dock with a lower boarding platform, a 10'x20' end platform, and a 12'x8' Boatlift located at 2374 Highway 98 East, Lot 4 marina Sunset, Lanark Village, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Erik Snyder, applicant. PZA Board recommended approval.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved a request to construct a 200'4' Single-family dock with a lower boarding platform, a 10'x20' end platform, and a 12'x8' Boatlift located at 2374 Highway 98 East, Lot 4 marina Sunset, Lanark Village, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

21) Lot Re-configuration Applications

a) 1788 Highway 98 W

Consideration of a request to reconfigure 3 lots located at 1788 Highway 98 West, originally deeded as Lots 1, 2 & and the East half of Lot 3, Block B, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Chris Langston, Agent for Victoria Conrad, applicant.

PZA Board recommended approval contingent upon verification that Carrabelle Beach Drive is a County maintained public road and not a private road. Staff verified with Road Department that Carrabelle Beach Drive where the property is located is maintained by the County.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request to reconfigure 3 lots located at 1788 Highway 98 West, originally deeded as Lots 1, 2 & and the East half of Lot 3, Block B, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board recessed at 11:14 a.m. and reconvened at 11:25 a.m.

RFP/RFQ/Bid Opening

22) Invitation to Bid – Fort Coombs Armory & Convention Center New Automatic Fire Sprinkler and Paint Stabilization

Cooks Brothers, Inc. - \$969,000 Alt. Bid \$30,000
RAM Construction & Development - \$989,000 Alt. Bid \$60,000

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Boldt, to release the two bid packets to architects Gilcrest Ross and Crow for review and recommendation. Commissioner Parrish noted that the bids seem extremely high. Mrs. Griffith said they are high in regard to the fund allocated for them. Mr. Moron said he will make sure they are aware that the Board believes the bids are high. Commissioner Lockley said that when the Board talked about it several years ago it was around \$300,000. **Motion carried 5-0.**

23) Invitation to Bid – Message Boards

Dana Safety Supply - \$31,524.58
Universal Signs & Accessories - \$16,110
Transportation Solutions & Lighting - \$31,084.00 (shipping additional \$1300)
Safety Zone Specialists - \$32,500
S. Sanders United Rentals - \$36,450

Mrs. Griffith noted that the bids will be released to the Sheriff's department for their review. Once we have confirmed the low bidder has met all of the specifications, we will issue the notice of award and order the message boards.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized releasing the bids to the Sheriff's department for review. Motion carried 5-0.

24) Invitation to Bid – Island View Park Repairs

North Florida Construction, Inc. - \$1,644,486

The bid will be released to Dewberry for their recommendation. **On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt and Commissioner Lockley, to authorize releasing the bid to Dewberry for their recommendation.** Commissioner Boldt noted that it is higher than what FEMA estimated. Mrs. Griffith noted that most of our projects have been higher than FEMA's estimate. Mrs. Griffith noted the request for bid was advertised and several came to the pre-bid meeting. Mr. Moron noted that not only are the prices higher, but the availability of supplies is limited. **Motion carried 5-0.**

County Staff & Attorney Reports

25) Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith

a. **BOARD ACTION: Contract Extension – Alligator Drive FEMA Repairs**
Once again, the Alligator Drive Hurricane Repair project is being affected by supply chain delays. In December, the contractor finally received the metal sheet pile material. This material delay significantly stalled the project. Since December, there was an additional supply chain delay with the tie-back rods used for the lateral support of the sheet pile wall, and the latest delay is with the concrete for the poured in place concrete cap along both the gulf front metal sheet pile wall and the interior vinyl sheet pile wall. SRM Concrete is the sole provider in our area and the construction of the 630,000 square foot Amazon Fulfillment Center in Tallahassee has reduced supply and caused extended delays in delivery dates for large projects. Due to this latest delay in materials beyond the control of the contractor, the engineers recommend granting a second contract extension change order for substantial completion to be on or before July 23, 2022, for the project. During the severe weather the weekend of March 26th, the metal sheet pile wall held strong and for the first time in a long while, the unfinished road did not wash out. Photos were taken by the county road department after the strong storm are attached to this report.

Board action to approve the attached change order number #2 with Anderson Columbia for the FEMA repairs of the Alligator Drive Project.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached change order number #2 with Anderson Columbia for the FEMA repairs of the Alligator Drive Project. Motion carried 5-0.

b. BOARD ACTION: Enterprise Florida Grant Agreement – Florida Trend Magazine

At your meeting on March 1st, 2022, the Board authorized the application for an advertising and marketing grant through Enterprise Florida for a feature ad in Florida Trend magazine highlighting rural economies in Northwest Florida. The grant agreement was received and executed on March 22nd and the media ad agreement was remitted to Florida Trend by the deadline of March 25th. Development of the ad is in progress at this time.

Board action to grant retroactive approval for the chairman to sign the attached grant agreement with Enterprise Florida.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board granted retroactive approval for the chairman to sign the attached grant agreement with Enterprise Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

c. BOARD ACTION: CDBG-MIT General Infrastructure Grant Program Hurricane Michael – County Project Applications

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) announced it is accepting project applications from the eight communities impacted by Hurricane Michael for \$42.2 million through the state's Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program to increase community resilience and fortify critical facilities.

All projects supported by this program must meet one of two National Objectives and provide adequate supporting documentation in the program: projects must benefit low-to-moderate income persons; and/or 2. Address a severe and recently arising urgent community welfare or health need. Consultant Traci Buzbee has been assisting the county in vetting possible projects for this grant program and at this time, we are recommending (3) applications for county projects: Construction Funds for a New Emergency Operations Center, the roof replacement and structural sealant of the County Courthouse, and Improvements at the Franklin County Jail (replacement of the exterior security windows).

Board action to proceed with the three county projects above for the CDBG-MIT General Infrastructure Grant Program.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to proceed with the three county projects above for the CDBG-MIT General Infrastructure Grant Program. Commissioner Lockley asked if the funds can be used to build something. Mrs. Griffith said that we are going after the funds to build the EOC, and we didn't want to ask for more than our share of the funds. Mrs. Griffith said that we could ask for funds to build the SOE building. Commissioner Lockley said he would like to put it on the list and if we get it, we get it. **Commissioner Lockley amended the motion to include funds to build the SOE building,**

seconded by Commissioner Boldt. Commissioner Parrish asked why number four is having to be done by Langston instead of Ms. Buzbee. Mrs. Griffith said he just said he would submit the application. Commissioner Boldt said we could add Weems to it. Mrs. Griffith cleared it up that the next item includes Weems. **Motion carried 5-0.**

d. BOARD ACTION: CDBG-MIT General Infrastructure Grant Program Hurricane Michael – Weems Hospital Window Replacement Storm Hardening Grant Application and Langton Task Order

During the last funding cycle for the CDBG-MIT General Infrastructure Grant Program, Langton Consulting submitted an application for the replacement of the hospital's windows. The LMI score for the County caused the prior application to not be funded. With the new program relying less upon the LMI community scores, Langton Consulting recommended to the Hospital Board that Weems should resubmit the project application. Langton submitted the attached Task Order to prepare the new application for a fixed fee of \$3,000 which would be paid by the hospital. The Weems Memorial Hospital Board approved moving forward with the project application and the task order with Langton pending confirmation from the County.

Board action to authorize the grant application and task order with Langton Consulting for the storm hardening replacement of the hospital windows through the CDBG-MIT General Infrastructure Grant Program.

Ms. Donna Butterfield spoke regarding the grant application for the window replacement at Weems. She spoke about the language and indication of the hospital being used as a storm shelter for the area. Ms. Butterfield said this is a flawed application. She said there was communications between David Walker and Mr. Langston that this was not totally accurate. She strongly suggested that this be looked into further and that the attorney peruse the application for accuracy. Chairman Jones asked if we could attach the item to the previous list of county projects. Mrs. Griffith said the application is going to have to change because the two generators were actually purchased with another grant. She said she had emailed Langston because the minimum project size is \$500,000. She said that she felt pretty confident that we are going to be over that amount. Chairman Jones said he would entertain adding this as a fifth item to Ms. Buzbee's grant application for window replacement at the hospital. **On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley to add the Weems window replacement at the hospital to the CDBG-MIT General Infrastructure Grant application addressed earlier in the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.**

e. SCOP Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Project Phase I

The Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Project Phase I beginning at George Vause Road and continuing for 1.002 miles to Gulf Shore Boulevard is currently under construction. The project will need an additional 1,833 square yards of base material in adjusting actual quantities to

estimated quantities. The attached change order for \$21,996 to Pigott Construction has been reviewed by FDOT and the cost of the additional base will be funded by the attached supplemental grant agreement for the project.

Board action to adopt the attached resolution of authorization, approve the supplemental funding agreement for the additional \$21,996 and approve the change order for Pigott Construction for the additional base material.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation has proposed to enter into a Local Agency Program (LAP) Supplemental Agreement with the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners to increase the funding for the multi-use path on County Road 370 (Alligator Drive) from Tom Roberts Road to Gulf Shore Boulevard, and

WHEREAS the Florida Department of Transportation requires Franklin County to submit a resolution authorizing the chairman to sign the LAP Supplemental Agreement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that the Local Agency Program Supplemental Agreement #2 (FPN 429854-2-58-01 and FPN 429854-2-68-01) between the Florida Department of Transportation and the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners to increase the funding for the project from \$533,401 to \$555,397 is hereby approved and the Chairman of the Board is hereby authorized to sign the LAP Supplemental Agreement #2. Done this 5th day of April 2022, at a regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners at Apalachicola, Florida.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to adopt the attached resolution of authorization, approve the supplemental funding agreement for the additional \$21,996 and approve the change order for Pigott Construction for the additional base material. Commissioner Ward said in going forward with these projects we should request they add in additional costs. Commissioner Lockley said that we should ask for them to give us a time limit on how long the bid is good for. Chairman Jones clarified that this increase had been approved and funded by DOT. **Motion carried 5-0.**

f. BOARD INFORMATION: Miscellaneous Project Updates –

Womack Creek Emergency Culvert Bridge Repairs:

On February 22nd, 2022, Franklin County was informed that the Culvert Bridge over Womack Creek on County Road 67 was noted as structurally deficient during an FDOT bridge inspection. Franklin County immediately began working on an emergency repair that stabilized and fortified the headwalls until the permanent repair can be completed by the FDOT construction grant for new headwalls. Dewberry Engineers assisted Franklin County with lining up the temporary repairs as they are the design firm for the permanent repairs. Steel columns were driven at the location which hold a plate against the existing headwall. Three photos of the repairs are attached and

FDOT has been notified of the corrective action taken by the county and is satisfied with the repair. The Franklin County Road Department will continue to monitor the location and the permanent replacement of the headwalls at the crossing are included in the 2023 FDOT work plan.

FEMA Repairs C30 East and West Washouts: Weather permitting, Pigott Construction anticipates completing the articulated block by tomorrow along the embankments and plans to remove the remote traffic signals along CR 30A on Friday, April 8th. This project is moving along quickly to completion and the road will be fortified before the start of Hurricane season.

St. George Island Boat Ramp and Boat Ramp/Fishing Pier Access Road: After weathering several major hurricanes, many of the bumpers at the boat ramp had deteriorated or broken off which left the welded stainless steel fastener bolts on the mounting brackets exposed and protruding dangerously into the ramp area. Some of the protruding welded bolts had even broken off of the mounting brackets likely from impact with floating hurricane debris. The safety repairs were completed last week on the ramp bumpers and photos of the new bumpers are attached. Franklin County received a notice of award late last year in regard to the FWC boating improvements design grant application for the addition of a vertical wall or floating style breakwater at the ramp location. FWC has notified the county that the formal grant agreement will be sent in the next two weeks. Once the grant agreement is received, the county can proceed with advertising for qualifications for the design and permitting. The last item to note on this location - a mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for April 14th at 10:00 a.m. at the project site for the FEMA repairs of the Fishing Pier and Boat Ramp Access Road Project, bids will be opened for the access road repairs at the May 2nd commission meeting.

26) County Coordinator – Michael Morón

a. Lanark Village Volunteer Fire Department Update:

On Saturday, March 26, 2022, I was notified that the Lanark Village Fire Department was paged from the Sheriff's dispatch center and notified over the Everbridge Emergency Notification system to respond to a vehicle fire. No one from the LVFD responded or showed up on the scene. Starting March 28, 2022, I tried to contact Chief Curry and Michelle Lawson, who I've been told serves on the LVFD Board of Directors and is Chief Curry's sister, using phone numbers provided to me by Commissioner Boldt, including sending a text to the Chief's number. In addition, I contacted Chief Carl Whaley of the Carrabelle Fire Department, Chief George Pruitt of the Eastpoint Fire Department, and the Sheriff's Department Dispatch for any additional contact information or assistance they could provide. I also asked Sheriff Smith to have his deputies drive by the Fire Station in Lanark and if anyone was there to have them contact me as soon as possible. None of these options resulted in any contact with a fire department representative. Today is ten days since Sheriff's dispatch requested assistance from the LVFD and there has been no contact with the Chief or any other LVFD representative. The Board of County Commissioners is responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of the public; having a fire department that does not respond to calls or cannot be contacted for an extended period of time is not acceptable!

****Board discussion and possible action or direction.****

The Board discussed the possibility of temporarily dispensing the MSBU funds to other fire departments in order for them to cover the area. Commissioner Boldt said that our fire departments are volunteers, and the Board has no authority to go in and run them. This issue cascades with all of the other issues that have happened. He said that the Board has the responsibility to take charge of the MSBU funds. He said that several fire departments have been contacted, and he would like to reach out to the Alligator Point VFD. He said that we are not talking about doing away with the fire department but temporarily covering it. Commissioner Ward said that she reached out to the chiefs in her district. She said for one, the drive is a long way. She said that she didn't know of any other department that is willing to accept these funds and assume this responsibility. Commissioner Ward said we may eventually have to look at a county-funded paid fire department. As times move forward, we may not have anyone to volunteer to do it. The solution could be done in several ways, but it is just finding the most effective and productive way.

Mr. Moron said that he had spoken with Chief Whaley about a long-term temporary solution with the Carrabelle fire department helping out. If that is what the Board decides to do, we would have to go in front of the City of Carrabelle commissioners' board for their approval. Chief Whaley is on stand-by so that I can let him know what role they would need to play. Mr. Moron said that he needed Board direction to know which way to go. Commissioner Lockley said he would like to know what the dos and don'ts are in regard to the Board's authority. He said he would like to know what the Board's part is in the fire department. Commissioner Ward said that her concern is they are receiving MSBU funds to have this service. Therefore, for them to not show up to a call is a misappropriation of funds. She asked what was being done with the funds. Commissioner Boldt asked how much funds they have left to receive. Attorney Shuler asked if they were paid in advance or in arrears. Chairman Jones said that he understands that we need to do something. He said that he was still apprehensive of the residents having a longer response time and said we can't let this lay. Commissioner Parrish noted the apartments over in the area and the risk should one catch fire. He said that the county cannot go in and take over the non-profit volunteer fire department. He said that it takes about a year to set up the non-profit and we would have to cover during this time. If there aren't any volunteers in Lanark, the only option would be to have a paid service. Commissioner Lockley asked who owns the fire truck. Attorney Shuler noted that the equipment is registered in the name of the non-profit. He asked Commissioner Boldt if there were volunteers that will come and take over the board assuming the current board has abandoned. He asked if there were firefighters and a chief, people who will respond. Commissioner Boldt said that he attended the meeting at the Chilas Hall on December 7, 2021, when a new board was approved. They are willing to step up to the plate with the administrative talent that is there. Attorney Shuler asked if the people voted in a new board. Commissioner Boldt said he was at the meeting and around 50 people were there. Mr. Moron noted that they did not represent the current corporation, they were a separate board with no affiliation, and that the current corporation owns the fire truck. Attorney Shuler said that he knows the existing board held an election. Is there any way that we can get the information from that board meeting? The existing fire department was scheduled to

have an election. Mr. Moron asked if Chief Curry held the election on their own. Commissioner Boldt said they did not, that the existing board did not have re-election. Commissioner Ward said if this board was enlisted in December, separate from the existing fire department. Did they vote a new board in? Does this board consist of folks who will go out and fight fires or is this just administrative? Commissioner Boldt said they have both. He said they have identified 12-15 individuals. With this new board, you would have two separate boards, two separate corporations that want to be the recipient of receiving MSBU funds. Commissioner Ward confirmed that the new board would have to go through the process and form a corporation. Attorney Shuler asked if the group had any access to legal counsel that they can be guided to legally become a corporation so that fire services can be transferred over to them. Attorney Shuler said the best thing to consider would be going to the court and compelling a new election with the people voting in a new board. He said that he understands one of the issues is that Mr. Curry will not hand over the bylaws, but he cannot ignore the judge. Chairman Jones asked how long it would take to get the court process done. Attorney Shuler noted that this would constitute an emergency situation. Mr. Moron said the Board would need to authorize Attorney Shuler to get with Attorney Hartman so that he can present something to the city of Carrabelle. It would essentially be for them to respond on a temporary basis for fire coverage to Lanark Village. Mrs. Griffith said the next distribution of MSBU funds will be at the next board meeting. Commissioner Ward asked if we could put a hold on the MSBU funds. She said that she doesn't want to give them any more funds until we can come up with a permanent solution. Attorney Shuler said assuming the Board wants to suspend the MSBU funds, the Board would need to adopt an ordinance at some point. The Board could declare it as an emergency, that it is necessary, and we don't have time to go through the process of noticing an adoption of an ordinance. Attorney Shuler noted that it doesn't sound like Carrabelle has requested funds at this time. The Board will need to hash out whether they feel there is an emergency that will justify the suspension of the MSBU funds being paid to St. James Lanark VFD. He said that Commissioner Parrish has expressed concern about doing this in the past, but there has never been an instance reported that they didn't show up. He said he has been told there may have been some medical reasons for the nonresponse. Attorney Shuler said he does not know if there is a fact to justify cutting them off from all of their funding based on one instance. Attorney Shuler said Mr. Moron's action of getting temporary coverage would be prudent, but the Board has not yet passed a motion to file a petition to ask the judge to compel an election. Commissioner Lockley asked if the state had firefighter programs. Attorney Shuler said when he and Mr. Moron had a call with the state fire marshal's office, they were told they do not handle nor have equipment for volunteer fire departments. Commissioner Boldt spoke about the recent non-response of the fire department. He said he would like to move forward with transferring the MSBU funds and lining up a backup in the interim. He said that he does think we should move forward with an emergency contact to the judge to penetrate the corporate veil of the existing volunteer fire department. Attorney Shuler said the judge is not going to give us legal advice, he is going to say yes, I will order an election or not. Then the election will be held if he orders it and depending upon what the people of Lanark vote on. Commissioner Lockley asked if it would be possible to summons the current board of the volunteer fire department. Commissioner Parrish said Carrabelle probably doesn't want the responsibility of responding so far. I agree we need to go to court but who will hold the election?

Attorney Shuler said his initial thought is to have the board of county commissioners put in charge, maybe through our supervisor of elections to oversee the election. Similar to our canvassing board, to use our existing infrastructure, our supervisor, and our county commission. Get a court-ordered authorized election, and have the supervisor mail out the ballots. In prior mail-out ballots, this commission has had to consider and create ballot rules, we can pull those up and use them. Chairman Jones said he would entertain a motion to file a petition requesting the judge compel the current board to step down, order an election of the current non-profit entity, and direct staff to leave the disbursement of the MSBU off of the upcoming bill run in order to allow time for the Board to adopt an ordinance allowing funds to be redistributed. In the event the ordinance is not passed, add the MSBU disbursement as an additional agenda item and authorize a special bill run to pay. Chairman Jones said that he understood in the meantime in order to do some kind of mutual aid agreement with the City of Carrabelle, you guys need to be authorized by the Board to allow you to present this to them. Attorney Shuler said he will ask the judge to enter an order to hold an election for the board. He said that he doesn't think we should ask the judge to remove the board, and the judge may be reluctant to remove an existing board until they are replaced. He said that he will take that into consideration when filing the emergency petition. But if it is not included in his petition, it may not be appropriate to ask the judge. **On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, authorizing Attorney Shuler to file an emergency petition requesting an election be held for a new board for the Lanark St James Volunteer Fire Department and to add a proposed ordinance to the next agenda regarding the use of the MSBU funds in the meantime until this election is held.** Commissioner Lockley asked if there were volunteers in Lanark that would serve on the board. Mr. Moron said he is hoping there will be volunteers coming forward. Commissioner Parrish asked if there was a way for the judge to invoke an injunction to prohibit them from mispending the funds until an election has been held. He said if they have \$100,000 in the bank and they know they are headed out, what is to prevent them from mispending. Attorney Shuler said he would need to think about how that would work. He said that in theory, you are still having fire services between now and whenever an election will occur. Commissioner Ward said no disrespect to Commissioner Boldt, but can we table this and have Attorney Shuler find out more information. Commissioner Boldt said this is a crisis and we need to press on. Attorney Shuler said he thought that if the Board would authorize him to request that if he thought this was relevant. He said he believes they have tens of thousands of dollars in the bank, so they don't. Chairman Jones said the issue is they are going to have expenses incurred if they were to respond to any instances.

Chairman Jones asked if there needed to be something in the motion for Attorney Shuler to formally ask Attorney Hartman for a mutual aid agreement with the City of Carrabelle and the county. Attorney Shuler said maybe a second motion, but let's deal with this first. **Motion carried 5-0.** Attorney Shuler said he had clear direction on what his contact with Attorney Hartman should be. In the event there is an agreement, Attorney Shuler will bring that back before the Board for approval.

b. Veteran's Service Officer – Senior Management Status:

Mr. Charles B Elliott, the County's Veteran Service Officer, stated that in a discussion with Commissioner Lockley the subject of changing his retirement status to senior management was brought up. A change to Mr. Elliott's status would increase that department's budget and require advertising, therefore, I recommend adding this item to this year's upcoming budget agenda for consideration.

****Board action to authorize adding Mr. Elliott's retirement status to senior management to the FY 2022-2023 budget agenda for consideration.****

Mrs. Griffith noted that we would need to run an ad in the newspaper notifying the public of the change.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized advertising for the change to Mr. Elliott's status and adding this item to this year's upcoming budget agenda for consideration. Motion carried 5-0.

c. Revolving Loan Inter-Local:

Last year, the Board authorized Apalachee Regional Planning Council to restart and administer the county's revolving loan program which currently has around \$300,000 in the account. What is needed today is an authorization for Attorney Shuler to create an inter-local agreement with ARPC that would allow the administration of the program and authorize the transfer of the \$300,000.

****Board action to authorize Attorney Shuler to create an inter-local with ARPC for the administration of the county's revolving loan program and authorize the transfer of the funds in that account.****

Commissioner Parrish confirmed that this program will have protocols so that if someone borrows funds, they will be held to pay them back. Chairman Jones said that is what they discussed when approving this. Attorney Shuler noted that the prior problem with repayment is that without adequate collateral there is really no way to force repayment. Attorney Shuler said that he can create enforceable repayment and collateral system, but it may not be suitable for the program, but essentially if there is personal property securing the loan and the person moves around you aren't going to be able to find it. Chairman Jones said the current program has adequate appropriate collateral. The program has about a million dollars total in it before this \$300,000. Over the last seven years, the ARPC has lent approximately \$1.8 million to the region. They have received back \$800,000. Attorney Shuler said they should already have an interlocal agreement, Chairman Jones said they do. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish and Commissioner Boldt, the Board authorized Attorney Shuler to create an inter-local with ARPC for the administration of the county's revolving loan program and authorize the transfer of the funds into that account. Motion carried 5-0.**

d. New Weems Board Member Appointment: (attachment)

Currently, there is an open at-large seat on the Weems Board of Directors and Commissioner Parrish would like to nominate Mr. William (Bill) Zester. Mr. Zester's resume speaks to his extensive professional experience in insurance and related fields. Both Mr. David Walker, Weems CEO, and Jim Coleman Jr., Alliant CEO, have reviewed Mr. Zester's resume and recommended his appointment.

****Board action to appoint Mr. William Zester to the At-large seat on the Weems Board of Directors.****

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board appointed Mr. William Zester to the At-large seat on the Weems Board of Directors. Motion carried 5-0.

e. Power Pole for Eastpoint Fire Victim: (attachment)

Recently, I was contacted by the owner of 682 Ridge Road about damage to her property because of the Eastpoint Fire. Apparently, before the fire, she had a power pole on her property that provided electricity to a travel trailer when it was on the property, but the power pole was destroyed during the fire. I discussed this matter with Mrs. Pam Brownell, EOC Director, and Mrs. Jennifer Daniels, Deputy Director, and they remember meeting the owner and discussing the damage. Since the fire, the owner has been living in Orlando and never filed a claim or requested a replacement power pole until last week. Since there is a balance in the donated funds' account, Mrs. Brownell, Mrs. Daniels, and I recommend replacing the power pole. The Building Official thinks that the installation and connections to a mobile home could be done for less than \$1000.

****Board action to authorize up to \$1000 from the Eastpoint fire donated funds for the installation of a power pole and connection to a mobile home at 682 Ridge Road.****

Attorney Shuler said just for the record there is not an existing power pole on the lot at this time. Mr. Moron said the pole will not be installed until the property owner has pulled a permit to place the mobile home on the property. Commissioner Lockley asked if anyone asked her if she was part of the lawsuit. Mr. Moron said he did not ask her but if she is part of the class-action lawsuit, we have helped other people who are.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized up to \$1000 from the Eastpoint fire donated funds for the installation of a power pole and connection to a mobile home at 682 Ridge Road. Motion carried 5-0.

f. Animal Control Agreement:

As the staff was preparing to send invoices to the City of Apalachicola and the City of Carrabelle for animal control services, it was discovered that the County did not have a fully executed agreement with the City of Apalachicola for animal control services. I am asking the Board to authorize the Chairman's signature on the agreement contingent on Attorney Shuler obtaining the final agreement executed by the City of Apalachicola.

****Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the final agreement with the City of Apalachicola for animal control services, contingent on Attorney Shuler's review of that agreement.****

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on the final agreement with the City of Apalachicola for animal control services, contingent on Attorney Shuler's review of that agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

g. Wide Format Printer/Inventory:

The Building Department has submitted a request to remove a Ricoh MP CW2200 wide format printer with the County Tag A005289 from the county's fixed assets inventory. The printer was bought used and has reached its useful life.

****Board action to remove Ricoh MP CW2200 wide format printer (County Tag A005289) from the county's fixed assets inventory.****

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the removal of the Ricoh MP CW2200 wide format printer (County Tag A005289) from the county's fixed assets inventory. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Griffith said she would like to send the printer to Florida Auction because they have the availability to sell online. **Commissioner Lockley amended his motion to include sending the printer to Florida Auction for online sale. Seconded by Commissioner Parrish. Motion carried 5-0.**

h. Meeting with FDOT Representatives:

Last Wednesday each Board member had the opportunity to meet with representatives from FDOT including Mr. Carter Johnson (Government Affairs Liaison), Mr. Colby Cleveland (Intermodal Systems Development Manager), and Mr. Tim Smith (Director of Transportation Development). Are there any projects or grants that the Board would like staff to research and add to a future agenda for consideration?

****Board discussion and possible action or direction.****

Chairman Jones said that it was interesting to see both sides. He said that he asked them about installing a traffic light coming off of Island Drive onto Hwy 98. He was told they could do this with a letter from the county requesting. He said some residents in his district have talked about putting a crosswalk in the middle of Eastpoint. Chairman Jones said that the five-year plan is constantly being revamped and reworked depending on where they are with funds and what they are doing. Chairman Jones asked Mr. Moron to ask them if they can communicate with the county what project they will be starting or is about to start so that the Board, as well as the public, can be informed. When we get to what the current year is then they can communicate with the county,

and you can expect to see them. Commissioner Lockley said he would like to see the interstate connected to Highway 65. Chairman Jones said that when the I-10 interchange was initially brought up they told us unequivocally no. Since we are a rural community there have to be so many lineal miles apart. However, we could ask for a road to run from State Road 65 to Hwy 12.

27) County Attorney – Michael Shuler

Information Items:

1. Attorney Shuler reported that he sent a draft contract to Alligator Point Volunteer Fire Department and is awaiting their reply.
2. Attorney Shuler presented the signed agreements for the addendum to Geo Comm and Consolidation contract for the Board's file.
3. Attorney Shuler presented the Duke Energy Site original into the record for the Board's file. The countersignature was emailed sometime last week.

Commissioner Boldt spoke about the incident report from the sheriff's department. Just emphasizing the second paragraph there was a discussion on the need to have a contract between the county and each volunteer fire department. Attorney Shuler said he will await instruction from the Board.

Commissioners' Comments & Adjournment

28) Commissioners' Comments

Chairman Jones thanked each Board member for all they do for the citizens of Franklin County.

29) Adjournment

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

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts