

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
APRIL 19, 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

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

3) Approval of Minutes

a) FCBCC Regular Meeting 4/5/2022

Chairman Jones requested a sentence be omitted from page 16 regarding the Weems grant, it says "Ms. Butterfield said this project was funded a couple of years ago." Please delete that sentence.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the minutes from the FCBCC Regular Meeting 4/5/2022 with changes as stated by Chairman Jones. Motion carried 5-0.

4) Payment of County Bills

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

5) Awards and Recognitions

- a. Public Safety Telecommunication Week Proclamation – Renee Brannan – Sheriff's Office

In recognition of Public Safety Telecommunication Week, Mrs. Brannan read the following proclamation for the Board's ratification.

FRANKLIN COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK
APRIL 10-16, 2022

WHEREAS emergencies that require law enforcement, fire, or emergency medical services can occur at any time; and

WHEREAS the prompt response of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property when an emergency occurs; and

WHEREAS the safety of our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel are dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens by communication with the Franklin County Dispatch Center; and

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators provide a vital link for our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information, and ensuring their safety; and

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators in Franklin County, Florida, have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires, and treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators have exhibited compassion, understanding, and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida in regular session, duly assembled, in recognition of this event does hereby proclaim April 10-16, 2022, to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Franklin County, Florida, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our community and citizens safe.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt and Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified the Public Safety Telecommunication Week Proclamation. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ward extended her thanks to the dispatch department. Commissioner Boldt said he would like to publicly express how special this department is. Commissioner Lockley told them to keep up the good work. Chairman Jones noted that the dispatch department also works with other

emergency services in the county. Mrs. Brannan said the department's motto is 'You tell us your worst and we are going to send you are best.' **Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Jones said that he had spoken with Waylon Register and Ashley from the Corps. They were both very helpful. He said they confirmed to him that once they have held the preconstruction meeting, the actual dredging will begin within seven days. He said that he did bring up the issue of it nearing hurricane season and last year they slowed it down because of hurricane season. He said that they did not have that luxury anymore and if they stopped due to hurricane season over half of their jobs would be stopped.

6) Public Comments

Mr. Forest Pressnell from Arizona Street spoke to the Board regarding the volunteer fire department. He said that we have a disaster with our volunteer fire department, and they need help from the Board with an emergency order from a judge. He said that he thinks the MSBU funds should be put in a reserve in the event Carrabelle has to respond because they are going to need these funds to rebuild the department.

Mr. Chris Crosby said that he has reached out to David on two separate occasions and received no response. He said that he attended the last fire department meeting, and there was a no-show. He said that he is a firefighter certified through Ocala. He said he will do whatever he can do to help them. He said he has been informed there is a fire chief that is willing to come in and help.

Mr. James Putnal thanked the Board for having him today. He provided the Board with copies of the 2020-21 Florida Statutes regarding corporations. He indicated that there was physical sickness within the board and believes this justifies an emergency situation. He asked the Board to read the statutes before making any decisions. He said that a group of people has pushed the current board to the point of the issues that are going on now. Commissioner Lockley asked if it was the chief that was sick. Mr. Putnal said yes, but that he cannot disclose any further information regarding his condition. Commissioner Ward said that she would pray for him and his health. However, she believes a call back letting someone know what is going on would have been appropriate.

Commissioner Boldt said there is a process, and we are looking at the control of MSBU funds and how to facilitate a backup fire department temporarily. He said that we are on top of it but that it is a process. He assured the public that the Board is looking at this very seriously. He said some of the issues are from years ago when an audit showed financial concerns for the fire department. He said that this did not happen overnight.

Ms. Debi Jordan said that she would like to get a copy of the bylaws. She said that for the last three months there should have been meetings and that there are other calls other than March 2 requests that were not responded to. She said that the last they knew, there was around \$124,000 in the volunteer fire department's account. She asked the Board when the emergency order will be

submitted to the judge. She thanked the Board for their time.

Constitutional Officers

7) Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell – Report

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

Department Directors Reports

8) Superintendent of Roads and Bridges – Howard Nabors

Mr. Nabors reported they had started cutting the grass this morning. He said that they had no inmates on Thursday and none today. Commissioner Ward said that there was a car that ran into the fencing at Vrooman Park, and she was going to talk to him about putting something up, like some barrier of some kind. She said that it was on Avenue A. Mr. Nabors said that he can put something up there. Mr. Nabors spoke on the big boulders at Alligator Point, he noted that the area of the road is very narrow through there and a safety issue. Commissioner Boldt said he wanted to get a sign at the intersection of Ball Point and Alligator Drive. He said that he would like to amend the sign to say public beaches with an arrow, and that may potentially alleviate some of the overflows.

9) Mosquito Control Director – Dewitt Polous a. Update

Mr. Polous said that they have four total trucks with monitoring along with the old grizzly for stand-by. He said they are in the process of collecting some egg wraps. They will collect the eggs and send them to the lab to be tested against resistance. He said they have done this in the past and have had no resistance built up. He said they have started their tracking system and the numbers have been minimal. He said that they plan to begin spraying on the first of May. Commissioner Boldt complimented Mr. Polous on the technology of the lab. Mr. Polous said it has been a work in progress. He said the technology is there and is being used all around us. We are going to utilize all of that and are very thankful for our facility. Commissioner Parrish thanked Mr. Polous for coming in and updating the Board and the public, noting that he has already had calls about the mosquitos. Mr. Moron suggested having him come to the second meeting of every month in the event there are questions or suggestions from the Board.

10) Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis a. Action Item: Equipment Purchase

Mr. Davis requested this item be tabled at this time. We are having trouble with it but hopefully, we can put it in next year's budget. Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Davis for his department's work

for the county. Commissioner Lockley inquired as to how much a new crematory cost. Mr. Davis said a new one is \$59,384.97 and to get the current one refurbished will be half of that and it won't be completely refurbished. Mr. Davis said we want to table this item because we are having trouble with one of our trucks. We have a new truck on order, but they don't know when it will be ready to be shipped due to shortages.

b. Informational Item (attached to agenda)

11) Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Commissioner Lockley asked if they were storm ready. Mrs. Brownell said they were and hoped that the public is prepared also. Chairman Jones asked how the workshops have been going and if they have had good attendance. Mrs. Brownell said they have been successful and noted most offices have sent a representative.

Commissioner Lockley said that he wanted to ask Mr. Putnal some questions. Chairman Jones asked Attorney Shuler how they should proceed. Attorney Shuler noted that Mr. Moron will be bringing up MSBU in his report and it could be brought up then. Or if the Board chooses you can do it now. Chairman Jones asked Commissioner Lockley if he could wait until after the director's reports and he agreed.

12) Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand Informational Items (attached to agenda)

Mr. Lovestrand had no action items for the Board.

Other Reports

13) TDC Administrator – John Solomon

a. Action Item: Repair of the Pavilion on Lafayette Park Pier

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the repair of the pavilion on the Lafayette Park Pier. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Action Item: Design and Construct a Dune Beach Walkover

The walkover will be between the Villas and the first residential home on the island. It is the last public access point in the island commercial district where the county has not yet installed a dune walkover.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the design and construction of a dune beach walkover. Motion carried 5-0.

c. Informational Items

Mr. Solomon thanked the Board for their assistance in restriping the crosswalks in downtown Apalachicola.

Mr. Moron presented the following item from his report at this time.

f. Action Item: TDC Vendor Contracts Renewal

There was an oversight by the TDC Administrative office regarding the TDC Visitor Centers, Museums, and Vendors 2021-2022 contracts. It is standard practice to bring the contracts to a BOCC meeting for review and approval at the first meeting of the new fiscal year, however, once the 2021-22 budget was approved, the contracts were fully executed without your review and approval.

Board action to approve and ratify the Chairman's signature on the TDC Visitor Centers, Museums, and Vendors 2021-22 contracts.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and ratified the Chairman's signature on the TDC Visitor Centers, Museums, and Vendors 2021-22 contracts. Motion carried 5-0.

14) Interim Airport Manager – Ted Mosteller
a. Informational Items (attached to agenda)

Mr. Moron reminded the Board that Mr. Mosteller was attending an airport inspection today and was unable to attend the meeting.

Chairman Jones asked that Mr. Putnal come forward for Commissioner Lockley's questions. Commissioner Lockley said that we have a big problem over Lanark. Mr. Putnal said that he would agree. Commissioner Lockley said his main issue is the safety of the people. He said that he wanted to know if they have an assistant chief. Mr. Putnal said yes but she is also unable to respond. Commissioner Lockley asked if they had anyone over there that is a member of the VFD that could respond. Mr. Putnal said that they did until this group of women got with Commissioner Boldt. Commissioner Lockley said he is just trying to make sure someone is there to answer the fire calls. Mr. Putnal said he doesn't have the authority to speak on behalf of the chief. He said that from his standpoint they are working hard to find coverage. Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Putnal if he thought that a visit from him would help resolve the issue. Commissioner Lockley asked him to get with the other members and set up a meeting. Mr. Putnal said he would get a date and time to

Commissioner Lockley. Chairman Jones noted that he believes Commissioner Lockley's main concern is that whoever is involved is going to be responding. Mr. Putnal said they do have active members that are trained and certified. Chairman Jones said that we need to know when dispatch calls, someone is responding. Mr. Putnal said this is one out of a million calls when Lanark hasn't responded and that things happen. Commissioner Boldt said that in district 2 you have my 100% support. Attorney Shuler asked Mr. Putnal if there are certified firefighters available and ready to answer the call. Mr. Putnal said they are available and ready, but the willing part is the issue. Attorney Shuler said what I have heard is there is no responder available, ready, and willing to answer the call. Mr. Putnal said every time they attend a fire, they have a crowd show up and blast them on Facebook. Commissioner Lockley said all he is trying to do is get clarity for the people.

Ms. Tonya Putnal said she is currently working with David and Michelle to find out when training is available for first responders. She said that with them not getting the MSBU funding she may have to pay out of pocket. Mr. Moron noted that the Board has not stopped the MSBU funds. We don't know how much money they have in their account. Ms. Putnal said there is still a treasury report. Mr. Moron said the basic question is if there is anyone to respond to, and I think the answer is no. Mr. Moron cautioned the Board of being accused of being one-sided or having a public hearing without being advertised. Commissioner Lockley said this needs to be fixed. Mr. Moron said if we want to fix it, have an emergency meeting. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion to hold an emergency meeting. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.**

Attorney Shuler said there is emergency service coverage by the City of Carrabelle. He said that Mr. Hartman started the process of drafting an interlocal agreement, and we are waiting on the draft to come in. There will be coverage provided. The board has to give 48-hour notice for an emergency meeting. I am not sure what you are going to accomplish. Having an emergency meeting to work out whatever is going on between the two groups, is not going to happen. I have been doing my due diligence to see what the appropriate remedy is to seek from the court. Without having first responders willing to respond, we don't have that authority.

Commissioner Lockley said he is talking about public safety. What if a fire happens in Carrabelle and one in Lanark Village at one time? Commissioner Boldt noted that this meeting would allow for all these people to come together, and he thinks we need to get the fire marshal to attend. Chairman Jones said they have responded to the county that they are not going to get involved in the volunteer fire departments. Chairman Jones asked what steps we are going to take at this meeting.

Commissioner Boldt said this would be a meeting for the Board to listen to the people. Commissioner Lockley said he is not getting in the middle of the Hatfield and McCoys. He said that he wanted someone to answer the calls should someone need them. All I want to do is provide public safety. Mr. Moron asked Commissioner Boldt what the results have been when the fire departments held their meetings. Commissioner Boldt said the meeting he attended was the Friends of Carrabelle, there was a lot of discussion about the equipment. How are we going to control the

funds going forward? Mr. Moron said there is clear animosity between the groups, and we should make sure we have a path for the safety of the people. Then we have some smaller groups with staff to mediate. If you bring the Hatfield and McCoys into the room, it is not going to bring a solution. Mr. Moron said he cannot demand the fire marshal's office to attend. Commissioner Parrish said the presentation's main goal is this is the governing board. That's all they say, they aren't going to give you recommendations on how to fix the problems. These fire departments are 501c, the main problem is there aren't any board members. We are not moving forward. We have been talking about this for months. The nucleus of the problem is you don't have a board to appoint other board members. Commissioner Boldt asked if the sheriff could be on call. Chairman Jones noted that we have a plan in place for temporary coverage and the sheriff's office doesn't have the staff or equipment to answer fire calls. Mr. Moron noted that we have a plan in place, and Carrabelle has agreed to cover. Commissioner Boldt said there is no leadership. Mr. Moron said these types of statements are what are causing these problems. Maybe Commissioner Lockley talks to one group and Commissioner Boldt talks to another group.

Commissioner Bolt said let's get the judge

Commissioner Boldt made a motion to bring the Hatfield and McCoys, the general public of St. James, and Lanark Village to discuss their concerns. Let us take notes and see where we are, I think the people need to be heard.

Chairman Jones said you are missing the criteria for a motion.

Commissioner Boldt said that he wanted a public hearing, perhaps it can be held later this week or earlier next week. Commissioner Ward noted for the record that she will not be available at either of those times. **Commissioner Lockley seconded.** Chairman Jones asked Commissioner Boldt to clarify his motion. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion to schedule a meeting this Friday afternoon at 1:30 P.M. for the public to come and express their concerns.** Chairman Jones said that he will have something to present to Mr. Moron outlining the proper order of meetings. **Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt said that it will be standing room only and asked staff to get the fire marshal here too. Mr. Moron reiterated that he doesn't have the authority to demand a state agency attend a meeting.

Motion opposed 2-3, Chairman Jones, Commissioner Ward, and Commissioner Parrish all opposed.

The Board recessed at 10:20 a.m. and reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Mrs. Griffith presented the following items from her report at this time.

RESTORE Project Update – SGI Storm Water Improvements: Formal request to FDOT for the county to assume maintenance of the retention bonds and streets at the ‘Y’ at the base of the causeway. County Attorney Michael Shuler has an item on his report related to this issue that can be discussed now.

I plan to ask the board to consider authorizing a letter to FDOT concerning its request that the county assumes ownership of Franklin Boulevard r/o/w in order to use the existing stormwater ponds for the SGI stormwater project the county is pursuing. Basically, I am told by the engineer that there is nowhere else for the stormwater on county r/o/w to go and FDOT has said/suggested that they think that instead of just tying into their existing stormwater ponds on Franklin Blvd., the county should take ownership of the whole state r/o/w on Franklin Blvd.

Consideration for the board: the state has not decided if they will give it to the county or want to sell it to the county.

Another consideration: if transferred, the state will take Franklin Blvd. off their 5-year plan because they no longer own it, i.e., the county would pave and maintain it. The good news is that I am also told that if transferred, the r/o/w will qualify for grant funding.

Attorney Shuler noted that FDOT would not clarify with Dewberry whether it would be a gift or purchase. They want an official request from the Board. Once they receive the request they will determine if they sell or donate the right of way. In order to move forward with the stormwater project, we must request the transfer of the right of way, and then wait to hear back from FDOT.

Mr. Baxley said the main point is that FDOT will not give us a definite answer whether this will be a deed over or a sale. In order to initiate the process, the county needs to request use, then a board will decide how the property will be deeded over. Chairman Jones said FDOT has this in the current five-year work plan, redesigning, and repaving, they would be saving \$700k by transferring to the county. These stormwater ponds are still going to be FDOT ponds. In lieu of the county performing the service for them, I think we need to discuss the county being compensated. Attorney Shuler said the roads would be available to qualify for SCOP and SCRAP. Chairman Jones said he is very thankful Hickory Dip is on the work plan this year, but it has been requested for 6 six years.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to authorize a letter to FDOT concerning its request that the county assumes ownership of Franklin Boulevard r/o/w in order to use the existing stormwater ponds for the SGI stormwater project the county is pursuing. Commissioner Lockley said every time the state gets tired of maintaining what they have they want to give it to us. Motion carried 4-1, Commissioner Lockley opposed.

Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board Report

15) Variance Requests

a. 832 East Gorrie Drive

Consideration of a request for a variance to encroach 1.03 feet into the front 25' setback to accommodate two 36" landings outside of the entryways as required by the current Building Code. The property is described as 832 East Gorrie Drive, Block C, Lot 5, Unit 2, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Wes Brown, the applicant. Planning & Zoning Adjustment Board recommended approval.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request for a variance to encroach 1.03 feet into the front 25' setback to accommodate two 36" landings outside of the entryways as required by the current Building Code. The property is described as 832 East Gorrie Drive, Block C, Lot 5, Unit 2, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

16) Critical Shoreline Applications

a. 283 Magnolia Bay Drive

Consideration of a request to construct a 538 sq ft Single Family Dock with a 248'x4' access walkway and a 26'x6' terminus, located at 283 Magnolia Bay Drive, Lot 25, Block B, Magnolia Bay, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental, agent for Tim Alexander, applicant. The application would be contingent upon State and Federal Permits. There was a correction by the Agent, it will be a 1,376 sq ft dock proposed. The Planning & Zoning Adjustment Board recommended approval contingent upon State and Federal Permits.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request to construct a 538 sq ft Single Family Dock with a 248'x4' access walkway and a 26'x6' terminus, located at 283 Magnolia Bay Drive, Lot 25, Block B, Magnolia Bay, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

b. 518 River Road

Consideration of a request to construct an 845 sq ft single-family dock consisting of a 9'x5' access walkway, a 23'x8' Terminus, a 42'x5' Boardwalk, and a 32'x8' Boardwalk with a 15'x10' platform, located at 518 River Road, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental, agent for Mike Audette, applicant. State and Federal Permits have been received. Planning & Zoning Adjustment Board recommended approval.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request to construct an 845 sq ft single-family dock consisting of a 9'x5' access walkway, a 23'x8' Terminus, a 42'x5' Boardwalk, and a 32'x8' Boardwalk with a 15'x10' platform, located at 518 River Road, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

c. 1583 Alligator Drive

Consideration of a request to add a 12'x25' Roof over existing boat slip, a 17'x47' roof over existing boat slip, and an addition of two (2) 2'x23 catwalks located at 1583 Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Megan Roufa, agent for RFT Asset Management LLC, applicant. State and Federal Permits have been received. Planning & Zoning Adjustment Board recommended approval.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request to add a 12'x25' Roof over existing boat slip, a 17'x47' roof over existing boat slip, and an addition of two (2) 2'x23 catwalks located at 1583 Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

d. 1931 Indian Harbor Road

Consideration of a request to construct an 836 sq ft single-family dock consisting of a 170'x4' access walkway, a 26'x6' terminus, and three (3) pilings placed 10' from the terminus located at 1931 Indian Harbor Road, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental, agent for Tim Reilly (Sazerac, LLC) applicant. The applicant would be contingent upon State and Federal Permits. Planning & Zoning Adjustment Board recommended approval

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request to construct an 836 sq ft single-family dock consisting of a 170'x4' access walkway, a 26'x6' terminus, and three (3) pilings placed 10' from terminus located at 1931 Indian Harbor Road, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

17) Re-Zoning & Land Use Change Applications

a. 1 Wildflower Lane

Consideration of a request to change the zoning of a 5-acre parcel of land at 1 Wildflower Lane, Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida from R-3 Single Family Estate Residential to R-2 Single Family Mobile Home. Request submitted by Donnie and Donna Crum, applicants. Planning & Zoning Adjustment recommended approval for Public Hearing

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved a public hearing on a request to change the zoning of a 5-acre parcel of land at 1 Wildflower Lane, Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida from R-3 Single Family Estate Residential to R-2 Single Family Mobile Home. Motion carried 5-0.

b. 959 US Highway 98

Consideration of a request to change the zoning of a 3-acre parcel located at 959 US Highway 98,

Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida from R-1 Single Family Residential and R-4 Single Family Home Industry to Z-1 Public Facilities to put the current building into compliance. Request submitted by Franklin County, Florida. Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval for 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 public hearing on a request to change the zoning of a 3-acre parcel located at 959 US Highway 98, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida from R-1 Single Family Residential and R-4 Single Family Home Industry to Z-1 Public Facilities to put the current building into compliance. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Griffith presented the following items from her report at this time.

a. BOARD ACTION: SCOP Timber Island Road Change Order & Supplemental Agreement

The original project scope of the .9-mile SCOP Timber Island Road Project included the widening and resurfacing of the existing roadway from 20' to 24', the addition of 6' grassed shoulders, drainage improvements, and additional guardrails, upgraded signage, and pavement markings. The project engineers are recommending a change order to include the addition of 55 linear feet of concrete traffic bridge-railing and retrofit of the vertical face to cover items noted as out of compliance in the last bridge inspection. The attached change order will bring the guardrail on the bridge into compliance with FDOT standards and cost an additional \$35,000. The change order will also extend the time for substantial completion to May 6th, 2022. The attached change order for \$35,000 to Pigott Construction has been reviewed by FDOT and the cost of the additional scope 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 \$35,000 and approve the change order for Pigott Construction for the addition of the bridge railings and support.

RESOLUTION
OF AUTHORIZATION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation has awarded the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners funding from the Small County Outreach Program for the survey, design, permitting, and construction of the Timber Island Road Paving Project (Financial Project Number 446636-1-54-01), and

WHEREAS it is necessary to add additional construction to the project to accommodate proper safety measures, and

WHEREAS, this additional construction will involve additional costs, and

WHEREAS, The Florida Department of Transportation has proposed a Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to raise the grant award by \$35,000.00 to cover these additional costs, for a new total grant award of \$929,596.00,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that they approve of and authorize the Chairman to sign the Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to the Timber Island Road Paving Project (Financial Project Number 446636-1-54-01) to increase the total grant amount to \$929,596.00.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the attached resolution of authorization, approved the supplemental funding agreement for the additional \$35,000, and approved the change order for Pigott Construction for the addition of the bridge railings and support. Commissioner Boldt noted that there is a significant bump in the road. Mrs. Griffith said she will be happy to ask the engineers about that. **Motion carried 5-0.**

b. BOARD ACTION: Notice of Award / Sheriff's Message Boards

At the last meeting, the Board opened sealed bids for two 4x8 message boards on self-contained trailers with solar panels, Wi-Fi modems, and remote programming. Bidders were to provide a full description of the products, specifications, any pertinent brochures, or manufacturer material along with a price for the requested equipment. Upon review, of the five bids received from Safety Zone Specialists, United Rentals, Transportation Solution & Lighting, Universal Signs & Accessories, and Dana Safety Supply, two bids, Universal Signs & Accessories and Safety Zone Specialists did not include the requested full description of the products with specifications or manufacturer material in addition to the price. The bids were released to the Sheriff's Department and as the incomplete bids will be rejected, the next lowest-responsive bid was determined to be Dana Safety Supply at \$31,524.58.

Board action to reject the incomplete bids from Universal Signs & Accessories and Safety Zone Specialists and to issue the attached notice of award and subsequent purchase order to the lowest, responsive bidder Dana Safety Supply.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board rejected the incomplete bids from Universal Signs & Accessories and Safety Zone Specialists and issued the attached notice of award and subsequent purchase order to the lowest, responsive bidder Dana Safety Supply. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Shuler asked if Mrs. Griffith made a record of how they were incomplete. She said they did not provide any specifications or product descriptions in their responses. Commissioner

Lockley asked if we would reach out to each bidder to let them know. Mrs. Griffith said we will post the award on the website, but we don't typically contact each bidder.

c. **BOARD ACTION: CDBG-MIT General Infrastructure Grant Program Hurricane Michael – County Project Applications Task Order for Management Experts**

As reported at your last meeting, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) announced it is accepting project applications through June from the eight communities impacted by Hurricane Michael for the state's Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program to increase community resilience and fortify critical facilities. Consultant Traci Buzbee of Management Experts has been assisting the county in vetting possible projects for this grant program. The attached task order with Management Experts will allow Ms. Buzbee to complete and submit the grant applications on behalf of the county at a contracted rate of \$90 per hour. Should a grant be awarded, Management Experts would receive the \$90 per hour up to the eligible 5% fee for administrative expenses and management of the agreement. At this time there are (4) possible county projects: Construction Funds for a New Emergency Operations Center, the replacement of the windows at Weems Memorial Hospital, the roof replacement and structural sealant of the County Courthouse, and improvements at the Franklin County Jail. This list may change as projects are vetted with Rebuild Florida.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the CDBG-MIT Task Order with Management Experts.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the CDBG-MIT Task Order with Management Experts. Motion carried 5-0.

d. **BOARD ACTION: Army Corp Permit for Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp Improvements**
In July of 2020, the design funded by the FWC Boating Improvement Program was complete for the improvements at the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp. The project design and permit include the removal of the existing 204 linear feet of concrete seawall/breakwater around the existing basin, the removal of the existing 12'x19' concrete ramp, riprap, and sediment, and the replacement of the seawall/breakwater with 219 linear feet of steel sheet pile with a concrete cap, the construction of (2) 20'x 43' concrete boat ramps and construction of a 4'x51' finger pier between the ramps. The county received the attached permit last week nearly two years after the application was submitted to the Army Corp of Engineers. Once the permit is signed, the county can proceed with a grant application for construction costs.

Board action to sign the attached Army Corp permit for the Improvements at the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the attached Army

Corp permit for the Improvements at the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp.

Commissioner Boldt asked if there were any hitching posts that could be embedded in this project. Chairman Jones said there will be a ramp double width with four feet wide fifty-one feet finger pier in the middle of the ramp. Commissioner Ward said she has been contacted about the deterioration of this ramp. She wanted to let the public know that a request to the Army of Corps of Engineers was sent over two years ago and we are just getting it to this stage. It is not necessarily our timing but the timing of the federal government and others. Commissioner Boldt said that is the reason we have added the information portion to the website to keep the public informed. Chairman Jones asked Mrs. Griffith to express his gratitude to Mr. Kennedy for his work on this project. **Motion carried 5-0.**

e. **BOARD ACTION: SCOP C30A Improvements – Construction Contract with Roberts & Roberts**

At the March 15, 2022, meeting, a notice of award was issued to the lowest responsive bidder Roberts and Roberts, Inc. for alternate bid 'A' for 3.466 miles of widening and resurfacing of C30A starting at Thirteen Mile and running eastwards towards Highway 98 in the amount of \$3,445,863.82. The construction contract is attached.

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached construction contract with Roberts and Roberts, Inc. for the SCOP C30A Improvements Project.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached construction contract with Roberts and Roberts, Inc. for the SCOP C30A Improvements Project. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board moved to the Public Hearing at this time.

Public Hearings 11:00 a.m. (ET)

18) Golf Cart Ordinance 11:00 a.m. (ET)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 08-01, THE ST. GEORGE ISLAND GOLF CART ORDINANCE, AND ORDINANCE 13-02, THE EASTPOINT GOLF CART ORDINANCE, TO PROVIDE THAT GOLF CARTS MAY NOT BE OPERATED ON PUBLIC ROADS OR STREETS BY ANY PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 14 AND THAT, PURSUANT TO S.316.212(9), FLORIDA STATUTES, (2020), AS AMENDED, A VIOLATION OF ORDINANCES 08-01 AND 13-02, IS PUNISHABLE AS A NON-CRIMINAL TRAFFIC INFRACTION AS PROVIDED BY CH. 318, FLORIDA STATUTES, ONLY; EXCEPT AS AMENDED ORDINANCES 08-01 AND 13-02 SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Shuler announced that this was a public hearing for the Board to consider making some amendments to the golf cart ordinance. He said there was an issue as to whether or not the appropriate enforcement should be an ordinance violation or a traffic citation. He said that one of the things he had done was to strip out the county-level enforcement, by proposing that the Board remove the drivers' license permit requirement and reduce the driving age to 14 to comply with state law. Attorney Shuler said that after further consideration, he recommends that the Board leave the driver's license and age requirement as is. The only change to the ordinance would be clarifying that the penalty for violation would be a uniform traffic citation and not an ordinance violation.

Penalty: Pursuant to s. 316.212(9), Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, any violation of the provisions of Ordinance 08-01, the St. George Island Golf Cart Ordinance, or Ordinance 13-02, the Eastpoint Golf Cart Ordinance, is punishable as a noncriminal traffic infraction as provided by Chapter 318, Florida Statutes, only.

Commissioner Ward confirmed that Attorney Shuler is recommending that we change it back so that golf cart drivers are required to be 16 years or older and a licensed driver. Attorney Shuler confirmed that the operator must be 16 or over and be a licensed driver. Commissioner Boldt and Commissioner Lockley asked about other parts of the county. Attorney Shuler noted the Board in the past has done safety analysis on Alligator Drive and Bluff Road, the outcome of those locations was a recommendation not to allow golf carts in that area without reducing the speed to 15 mph. Mr. Moron said that Sgt Jim Ward wanted to be here, but he had a deposition to attend. He will try to come back over in the event you have any questions. Chairman Jones called for public comments.

Ms. Butterfield thanked Attorney Shuler for changing the age of the golf cart operators to 16. Chairman Jones said Ms. Gail Riegelmayer asked him to read the following into the record.

Hello commissioners, Michael M., and Michael S.

Due to having to work, I will be unable to attend next week's Public Hearing about possibly changing SGI's and Eastpoint's Golf Cart ordinances. Therefore, I am sending this email to have my voice heard. My request is that the County and Sheriff Departments' existing ordinances continue to read that only individuals with a valid driver's license can operate a golf cart. Changing it to 14-year-olds would be a disaster and run the risk of someone(s) getting badly hurt or worse, killed. We've already experienced an ADULT getting killed in a golf cart accident on SGI. We don't want anyone else to get injured or killed. Chairman Jones said we are amending the ordinance to clarify the penalty for violation would be a uniform traffic citation and not an ordinance violation.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the revised Golf Cart Ordinance providing that the only penalty for the violation of the ordinance is a uniform traffic citation penalty and not a county ordinance violation. Motion carried 5-0.

County Staff & Attorney Reports

19) Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith

a. BOARD ACTION: SCOP Timber Island Road Change Order & Supplemental Agreement

The original project scope of the .9-mile SCOP Timber Island Road Project included the widening and resurfacing of the existing roadway from 20' to 24', the addition of 6' grassed shoulders, drainage improvements, and additional guardrails, upgraded signage, and pavement markings. The project engineers are recommending a change order to include the addition of 55 linear feet of concrete traffic bridge-railing and retrofit of the vertical face to cover items noted as out of compliance in the last bridge inspection. The attached change order will bring the guardrail on the bridge into compliance with FDOT standards and cost an additional \$35,000. The change order will also extend the time for substantial completion to May 6th, 2022. The attached change order for \$35,000 to Pigott Construction has been reviewed by FDOT and the cost of the additional scope 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 \$35,000 and approve the change order for Pigott Construction for the addition of the bridge railings and support.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

b. BOARD ACTION: Notice of Award / Sheriff's Message Boards

At the last meeting, the Board opened sealed bids for two 4x8 message boards on self-contained trailers with solar panels, Wi-Fi modems, and remote programming. Bidders were to provide a full description of the products, specifications, any pertinent brochures, or manufacturer material along with a price for the requested equipment. Upon review, of the five bids received from Safety Zone Specialists, United Rentals, Transportation Solution & Lighting, Universal Signs & Accessories, and Dana Safety Supply, two bids, Universal Signs & Accessories and Safety Zone Specialists did not include the requested full description of the products with specifications or manufacturer material in addition to the price. The bids were released to the Sheriff's Department and as the incomplete bids will be rejected, the next lowest-responsive bid was determined to be Dana Safety Supply at \$31,524.58.

Board action to reject the incomplete bids from Universal Signs & Accessories and Safety Zone Specialists and to issue the attached notice of award and subsequent purchase order to the lowest, responsive bidder Dana Safety Supply.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

c. BOARD ACTION: CDBG-MIT General Infrastructure Grant Program Hurricane Michael – County Project Applications Task Order for Management Experts

As reported at your last meeting, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) announced it is accepting project applications through June from the eight communities impacted by Hurricane Michael for the state's Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program to increase community resilience and fortify critical facilities. Consultant Traci Buzbee of Management Experts has been assisting the county in vetting projects for this grant program. The attached task order with Management Experts will allow Ms. Buzbee to complete and submit the grant applications on behalf of the county at a contracted rate of \$90 per hour. Should a grant be awarded, Management Experts would receive the \$90 per hour up to the eligible 5% fee for administrative expenses and management of the agreement. At this time there are (4) county projects: Construction Funds for a New Emergency Operations Center, the replacement of the windows at Weems Memorial Hospital, the roof replacement and structural sealant of the County Courthouse, and improvements at the Franklin County Jail. This list may change as projects are vetted with Rebuild Florida.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the CDBG-MIT Task Order with Management Experts.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

d. BOARD ACTION: Army Corp Permit for Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp Improvements
In July of 2020, the design funded by the FWC Boating Improvement Program was complete for the improvements at the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp. The project design and permit include the removal of the existing 204 linear feet of concrete seawall/breakwater around the existing basin, the removal of the existing 12'x19' concrete ramp, riprap, and sediment, and the replacement of the seawall/breakwater with 219 linear feet of steel sheet pile with a concrete cap, the construction of (2) 20'x 43' concrete boat ramps and construction of a 4'x51' finger pier between the ramps. The county received the attached permit last week two years after the application was submitted to the Army Corp of Engineers. Once the permit is signed, the county can proceed with a grant application for construction costs.

Board action to sign the attached Army Corp permit for the Improvements at the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

e. BOARD ACTION: SCOP C30A Improvements – Construction Contract with Roberts & Roberts

At the March 15, 2022, meeting, a notice of award was issued to the lowest responsive bidder Roberts and Roberts, Inc. for alternate bid 'A' for 3.466 miles of widening and resurfacing of C30A starting at Thirteen Mile and running eastwards towards Highway 98 in the amount of

\$3,445,863.82. The construction contract is attached.

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached construction contract with Roberts and Roberts, Inc. for the SCOP C30A Improvements Project.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

f. BOARD INFORMATION: Miscellaneous Project Updates – Island View Park Status Update, FBO Lease with Centric Aviation, RESTORE Projects, Jail Windows Community Funding Request, Fort Coombs Armory Sprinkler System

Island View Park: After the last meeting, Franklin County sent an email to the Florida Division of Emergency Management requesting confirmation of policy as it pertained to the issuance of a notice of award for a project when only one bid was received. Franklin County followed all proper procurement steps to receive competitive bids – the bid solicitation was advertised in both the Panama City News Herald, the Apalachicola Times, posted to the online governmental bid platform DemandStar, posted with the Office of Supplier Diversity, and circulated to their list of vendors and posted on the county website. There were nine contractors who requested copies of the bid specifications from Dewberry Engineers and four contractors who attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting held on March 17th. FEMAs deemed the procurement to be non-competitive due to the receipt of only one bid. It is unfortunate the FEMA policy focuses on the quantity of bids received versus the steps taken to ensure open competition. This policy places small counties at a disadvantage in being able to move projects forward quickly. The repair is a complicated project for contractors to bid on as the repair will require multiple subcontractors and a wide variety of construction materials. As additional advertisement is unlikely to generate any additional bids, the county is filing an Emergency Noncompetitive Procurement Justification with FEMA in hopes that a waiver will be granted and a notice to award can be issued.

Chairman Jones said that after Mrs. Griffith let him know about this, he reached out to Senator Rubio's office. He expressed to them the same thing, that we have done everything we can to make this competitive. He said that he expects a call back from Senator Rubio's office this week. Mr. Moron noted that a smaller county had to go out for a bid three times, and each time they only received one bid.

FBO Lease with Centric Aviation: The existing FBO lease with Centric Aviation began in November of 2017 and ends on October 31st, 2022. The county is beginning renewal negotiations with Centric and will meet with both the FAA and FDOT for a review of the proposed contract terms.

RESTORE Project Update – SGI Storm Water Improvements: Formal request to FDOT for the county to assume maintenance of the retention bonds and streets at the 'Y' at the base of the

causeway. County Attorney Michael Shuler has an item on his report related to this issue that can be discussed now.

Jail Windows Community Funding Request: Franklin County submitted a \$200,000 community funding request to Congressman Neal Dunn's Office for the replacement of the windows at the county jail. The existing security windows are the original windows that were installed when the jail was built in 1989.

Fort Coombs Armory Fire Suppression System: At the last meeting, bids were opened for the Fort Coombs Armory Fire Suppression System. Two bids were received, and both were \$500,000 over what the county had anticipated. County Staff has requested the architects to see what can be trimmed from the project to pull the cost down. At this time, a revised project scope is being explored which will limit the project to work necessary for the installation of the fire suppression system and the subsequent paint repairs once installed.

20) County Coordinator – Michael Morón

a. Action Item: SHIP Administration

At your March 1st regular, I informed the Board that Mrs. Lori Switzer Mills your SHIP administrator would not continue providing administrative services for the SHIP program after the current administrative contract expires on June 30, 2022. The Board agreed to request proposals from Apalachee Regional Planning Council and Community Action Agency as these government support agencies have experience with housing programs. You have those proposals before you today for your review. I am recommending adding representatives from both agencies to your May 3rd agenda to allow for a short presentation and questions and answers.

****Board action to authorize representatives from ARPC and CAA on the May 3rd agenda.****

Commissioner Ward made a motion to authorize representatives from ARPC and CAA on the May 3rd agenda. Commissioner Lockley said ARPC people are from out of town. He said we need to give Franklin County folks some work. Commissioner Boldt said he agrees with having someone familiar with our area. Commissioner Ward said she is all for our local people having jobs, but this is a very tedious program and takes a lot of documentation and information. I am all for hiring a local individual, but I think the reason why we are at this point now is there is no one local available to do the work. Mr. Moron said the reason I am asking you to put it on the May 3rd agenda is for you to ask them questions. Commissioner Parrish said out of \$330K there's only 30K allocated to run the business. We can ask these questions we can ask when they do come. **Seconded by Commissioner Parrish.** Commissioner Lockley said they need an office here. When you are dealing with SHIP, you are doing repairs or down payment on a house. The old folks don't do computers if they don't have an office to go to, they going to have to pay someone to take them up there. Mr. Moron said he hears what Commissioner Lockley is saying and the next meeting would be a good time to ask these questions. Chairman Jones said he wanted to remind the Board that all the documentation will be the responsibility of Clerk Maxwell. **Motion carried 4-1, Commissioner Lockley opposed.**

b. Action Item: MOU Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Program

At your April 5, 2022, regular meeting, Dr. Jacquelyn D. McMillian provided an overview of the Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Program (ROTA), which delivers evidence-based training and related materials tailored to the needs of rural communities in the Florida Panhandle. Dr. McMillian discussed harm reduction strategies, the impact of opioid use, destigmatizing substance abuse opioid use, and overdosing along with risk factors for opioid overdose. After the Board discussion, there was a motion to add a Memorandum of Understanding for the ROTA program for your review and consideration.

****Board action to approve the ROTA program Memorandum of Understanding contingent on Attorney Shuler's review.****

Commissioner Parrish said he doesn't understand what the program's goal is and how it will benefit the citizens of Franklin County. Mr. Moron asked if the Board would like to table it and have Dr. McMillian come back to answer their questions. Commissioner Boldt said he is in support of that as the information is vague. Commissioner Parrish said if he is going to approve signing an MOU as a Board, he would like to understand how the program is going to work. Are they going to set up an office here where people can get help? How are we going to help the people? Chairman Jones said he concurs that the presentation seemed vague. Mr. Moron said he will ask Dr. McMillian to come back before the Board to answer the questions that they have. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to table the item and have Dr. McMillian come back and explain the program in more detail, Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

c. Action Item: LOS NW Florida Estuary

Last month, Chairman Jones was asked to sign a letter of support for the Northwest Florida Estuary Water Quality Protection and Restoration Project, which will make Panhandle communities more competitive for federal RESTORE Act oil spill recovery funds. "Panhandle counties will partner with the University of Florida's Center for Coastal Solutions (CCS), which is based out of the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering. CCS leverages data scientists, biologists, economists, environmental engineers, and strategic university and research partners to expand the foundational understanding of Florida's environment, economy, and public health. In this partnership with Panhandle counties, CCS will use its existing monitoring tools and technical expertise to provide data-driven support for communities seeking RESTORE funds. Applicants will be able to leverage the water quality and economic analytics capabilities of the UF CCS team to prepare regionally impactful, coordinated project proposals with a higher likelihood of funding approval." This project should generate a "substantial" ROI for Panhandle communities and the state, providing Florida a much higher share of RESTORE funding. Chairman Jones may have additional information on this project.

****Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the letter of support for the Northwest Florida Estuary Water Quality Protection and Restoration Project.****

Chairman Jones noted that there was a meeting called by Senator Broxson in conjunction with

Senator Ausley. This is region-wide septic to sewer program for the health of residents in our communities.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified the Chairman's signature on the letter of support for the Northwest Florida Estuary Water Quality Protection and Restoration Project. Motion carried 5-0.

d. Action Item: LOS City of Apalachicola Leslie Street

The City of Apalachicola is submitting repairs to Leslie Street as a Congressionally Directed Community Project for funding. As the letter was due to Representative Dunn yesterday, I asked Chairman Jones to sign the letter with the anticipation that the Board would ratify his signature for this important project.

****Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the letter of support for the City of Apalachicola's Community Project funding for Leslie Street repairs.****

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified the Chairman's signature on the letter of support for the City of Apalachicola's Community Project funding for Leslie Street repairs. Motion carried 5-0.

e. Action Item: FDOT Request for Traffic Light

At your last meeting, the Board discussed possible projects that were considered during a meeting with FDOT representatives. Of those projects, Chairman Jones asked that I add a traffic light on the corner of Highway 98 and Island Drive in Eastpoint as a request to FDOT. Let me know if there are any other requests you would like sent to FDOT as possible projects.

****Board action to send a request to FDOT for a traffic light on the corner of Highway 98 and Island Drive.****

Commissioner Boldt noted that there needs to be a caution light at Tallahassee Street and Hwy 98. Commissioner Ward said that she had spoken to the mayor due to it being the City of Carrabelle property. She expressed that they do not wish to have a light there at this time. They are working on the historical preservation and do not want it.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved sending a request to FDOT for a traffic light on the corner of Highway 98 and Island Drive. Commissioner Ward noted that there is a lot going on at that intersection. Commissioner Boldt put in a strong recommendation that the Board meets with FDOT on a quarterly basis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

f. Action Item: TDC Vendor Contracts Renewal

There was an oversight by the TDC Administrative office regarding the TDC Visitor Centers,

Museums, and Vendors 2021-2022 contracts. It is standard practice to bring the contracts to a BOCC meeting for review and approval at the first meeting of the new fiscal year, however, once the 2021-22 budget was approved, the contracts were fully executed without your review and approval.

****Board action to approve and ratify the Chairman's signature on the TDC Visitor Centers, Museums, and Vendors 2021-22 contracts.****

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

g. Action Item: Retail Pharmacy Workshop

As the Board is aware, over the last few months the administration at Weems have been working on the possibility of a retail pharmacy over in Carrabelle. They are ready to present this proposal to you for discussion in a workshop setting on June 21, 2022, at 1:30 pm for your review and comments.

****Board action to authorize a workshop on June 21, 2022, at 1:30 pm to discuss a retail pharmacy in Carrabelle with Weems' representatives.****

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized a workshop on June 21, 2022, at 1:30 pm to discuss a retail pharmacy in Carrabelle with Weems' representatives. Commissioner Boldt noted that this is a defining and pivotal moment in Franklin County. He said that he began to sponsor this concept about two years ago. He said this will be highly beneficial to our people and to our hospital. **Motion carried 5-0.**

h. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Workshop on Beach Parking Issues

Commissioner Ward, at your last meeting, requested that the Board schedule a workshop to discuss beach parking issues on Alligator Point and St. George Island. Keeping in mind that we have a workshop with the State Fire Marshal's office scheduled for May 3rd and Weems is requesting that we schedule a June 21st workshop to discuss the Carrabelle Retail Pharmacy, the next available meeting dates for a workshop on parking issues are May 17th or June 7th. As the Board is considering a date, are there specific items that should be added to the workshop agenda?

****Board discussion and action to schedule a workshop on county beach parking issues and agenda items for the workshop.****

Commissioner Ward made a motion to have the workshop on May 17th at 1:30 p.m.; Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

i. Discussion/Possible Action Item: TRIUMPH Meeting

Last week, the Chairman, Alan Pierce, Erin Griffith, and I met with TRIUMPH to discuss projects that could be supported with TRIUMPH funds designated for Franklin County. Matt Terry, Susan Skelton along with Cori Henderson, and Rick Harper represented TRIUMPH at the meeting. It was stated early in the meeting that funding a new hospital or affordable housing, two of our

greatest needs, would not meet the TRIUMPH requirements, however, as the meeting progressed, some great funding possibilities were discussed and each of the TRIUMPH representatives pledged their support and assistance to the county as we research and move forward with these projects. Countywide Broadband funding was one of the opportunities discussed, but TRIUMPH staff strongly recommended that the county proceeds with appointing members to the Local Technology Planning Team (LTPT). In November of 2021, the Board appointed Chairman Jones and I as the Commissioner and Staff designee, but we never appointed any members to the LTPT, which should be a cross-section of community members. As a simple format, we could start with a five-member board, one from each district, and expand if necessary. Once you have submitted a pool of candidates, I will bring those names to the Board for approval.

****Discussion and possible Board action.****

Mr. Moron said he would like to keep it simple, five members as we do other volunteer boards. He asked each of the commissioners to submit candidates to him and then he will bring the list to the Board. Mr. Moron noted that there is a lot of funding for broadband, but it is knowing how to tap into it. Chairman Jones noted that if the county was going to apply for any of these funds, then we have to go through this process. Commissioner Boldt asked if each Board member should nominate someone from their district. Mr. Moron said he did not necessarily think it had to be from each district. Commissioner Parrish expressed his concerns about the districts not being represented if someone from their district did not serve. Mr. Moron said that he will send each of the commissioners the recommended makeup of the Board. Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Moron to post on the county website and ask interested individuals to reach out for more information. Commissioner Ward said that we may not have a volunteer from each district. Chairman Jones noted that the LTPT will map out a plan where we can provide better service for our residents. Chairman Jones noted that the Board had approved someone putting a tower up on their property, but they chose not to.

j. Informational Item: Superintendent of Schools 1/2 cent tax

As the Board is probably aware, the school district has been discussing adding a half-mill sales tax question on the November 2022 ballot. The Board of County Commissioners would have to approve a resolution to have the question added to the November 2022 ballot, therefore, the Superintendent will be on your May 3rd agenda requesting approval of the resolution. If you would like to speak to the Superintendent prior to the May 3rd meeting, let me know so that I can arrange a call or meeting.

k. Informational Item: HB53 Stormwater Reporting

House Bill 53, "by June 30, 2022, and every five years thereafter, requires each county, municipality, or special district providing wastewater or stormwater services to develop a needs analysis for its jurisdiction over the subsequent 20 years. The analysis must be completed and submitted to the Office of Economic & Demographic Research (EDR), which must evaluate the compiled documents for the purpose of developing a statewide analysis for inclusion in the annual assessment due January 1, 2023. This bill provides that the analysis requirement applies to a rural

area of opportunity as defined in s.288.0656, F.S. unless such requirement would create an undue economic hardship for the county, municipality, or special district in the rural area of opportunity.” Franklin County is designated as a rural area of opportunity, however, the procedure or process to seek a waiver as it would create an undue economic hardship for the county, seems to be very elusive. Based on today’s discussion, my plan is to contact Mr. Michael Bateman at EDR to discuss a possible waiver. In case we are not able to obtain a waiver, the Florida Association of Counties recommended Jones Edmunds to assist the county with completing the report as they are working with other counties, including Walton County. I have met with Jones Edmunds representatives and requested a scope of services to complete Franklin County’s report. Whatever the outcome, there will be an action item on my May 3rd report relating to HB53 required reporting. I have included some documentation that explains the information required in the report.

l. Informational Item: SGI Fire Chief Resignation

I was informed by the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department that the resignation of Kevin Delahanty was accepted on April 21, 2022, at their regular meeting.

m. Informational Item: State Fire Marshal Workshop

As a reminder, the Board has scheduled a workshop with the State’s Fire Marshal office on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. (ET) here in your meeting room. This workshop will be streamed on Zoom but not on Forgotten Coast TV. The Board encourages public attendance, especially representatives from the other volunteer fire departments.

21) County Attorney – Michael Shuler

Attorney Shuler asked who was writing the letter to FDOT about the stormwater plan. Mrs. Griffith said she will draft and send it to Attorney Shuler for review.

Regarding the Alligator Point VFD Purchase and Sale Contract: Attached is the contract that I will ask the board to approve for the Chairman's signature to purchase the APVFD property. The zoning of the property is residential, and the purchase price will be funded 100% by grant funds. See the last page which contains the special conditions for the purchase and sale. The contract is for six months and was delivered to me after the last Board meeting.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Alligator VFD Purchase and Sale Contract. Motion carried 5-0.

Regarding the RV Camping Ordinance: I recommend that you authorize me to hire Allara Gutscher Mills to provide planning services and testimony to the board regarding a possible update to the RV ordinance. I am requesting authorization to pay her up to \$7,500.00 for her services. The fee would come out of your professional services budget.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to defer this item until after the code enforcement meeting is held. Seconded by Commissioner Boldt. Motion carried 5-0. The code enforcement meeting is scheduled for the first meeting in May.

Regarding the Lanark St. James VFD: As I read ordinance 2013-1 on the MSBU funding for all the VFDs, each district's MSBU is placed into a separate trust fund maintained by Franklin County prior to disbursement to the VFDs. I believe that the Board as the governing body of each VFD can by motion suspend the contractual payments to Lanark St. James VFD and use those funds to reimburse Carrabelle for the provision of fire and rescue services until such time as Lanark St. James VFD is once again a reasonably functional entity with a board and volunteers who respond to calls. I do not believe that the suspension of funding requires an ordinance. As the governing board of all the fire districts, I believe that you have a sufficient factual basis to suspend funding temporarily and redirect it to Carrabelle.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to freeze MSBU funds. Chairman Jones said he realized that we have asked a little more of Carrabelle and Alligator Point at this time. He said he wanted the public to know that we are looking at every aspect of this situation. Attorney Shuler noted that there may be cost incurred by Lanark and St. James. He said that the Board may want to consider requesting they return the funds to the Board. He said that considering the fire department may continue services, the Board could delegate some limited authority to pay expenses out of the MSBU funds. This would be a mechanism that would allow the Board to do that. Attorney Shuler said the Board would need to authorize Mr. Moron and Mrs. Griffin to authorize expenses. Commissioner Lockley asked if we could take their donated funds. Attorney Shuler said that most people get a receipt from a charitable donation. Mr. Moron noted that we would do it the same as our other bills, we would review and if approved, send it to the Clerk's accounts payable department for payment with the funding capped at \$1500. We would accept and process payments on each bill run. **Motion carried 5-0.**

#3 request Lanark return the parked MSBU funds or leave them there?

Attorney Shuler said the simplest thing would be to leave it there. We can always have the court monitor it after the fact.

Commissioner Boldt made a motion that we ask the current Lanark Village VFD board to return the monies in their bank account with a deadline to respond. In the event they do not return, move forward with a legal suit to seek a court order. Mr. Moron said one of the issues when the auditor reviewed their files, was that they kept all of the funds in one account. Mr. Moron asked how far back the Board would like the funds. Chairman Jones said if we don't know how much is there. There have been the people who have a reasonable right for us to conduct ourselves – are we as a board going to have our auditing firm look at the records. **Commissioner Boldt amended the motion to ask the board to return MSBU monies by May 3rd. If they do not, we engage the auditing firm to determine MSBU vs charitable funds that should be returned**

by May 17th (Pending the auditor's timeframe to do this). Commissioner Parrish asked if we seize the money how are they going to pay their bills. Mr. Moron said I am going to send them a letter requesting they send us a balance of the MSBU funds in their account. At the May 17th meeting, if they have or haven't responded, we move forward. Commissioner Lockley said what about gas. Do they have a credit card? **Motion dies for lack of a second.**

Commissioner Boldt would like to consider drafting a contract for the MSBU funds. Having formal contracts with MSBU for the very reason that we have spent hours discussing this matter.

Commissioner Boldt made a motion to direct Attorney Shuler to draft a contract for the MSBU funds. Commissioner Ward asked Attorney Shuler if this is something that is controlled by Florida Statute. Attorney Shuler said the county ordinance specifies that the only use of those funds is for emergencies. No other expenditures are allowed. The contract is just basically saying how they spend it and the statute lays that out. **Commissioner Boldt made an amotion to look into the possibility of drafting an MSBU contract. Motion dies for lack of a second.**

Commissioners' Comments & Adjournment

22) Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Parrish brought up the idea of reducing the minimum square footage to 750 square feet in order to allow for two homes on one acre. It would take a different zoning classification. Maybe even need to take to the planning and zoning board and see what their thoughts are. Would allow people to have a home the size that they need and can afford. Mr. Moron said he will have Cortni and Mark look into this. Mrs. Griffith noted that in some counties there are what they call accessory dwelling units. Mr. Moron said the superintendent of schools has reached out to him multiple times in the last few weeks regarding the lack of affordable housing.

23) Adjournment

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

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts

