

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
NOVEMBER 1, 2022
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron—County Coordinator, and Erin Griffith- Fiscal Manager / Grants Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

2. Prayer and Pledge

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

3. Payment of County Bills

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Payment of County Bills. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Public Comments

Ms. Donna Butterfield spoke to the Board regarding the Weems Hospital Board meeting. She said she had attended the Weems Board of Governor’s meeting held last Thursday. She said that Alliant reported Weems lost \$1.2 million dollars in the last reporting period and that Weems only has 42 days cash on hand to pay bills and meet salary. The salary costs have increased \$110,000 because of Weems’s salary parity plan. Ms. Butterfield reported that David Walker, Weems CEO, told the board that he is working on plans to renovate the hospital rooms. If they can’t be renovated, he wants to build a new wing. The basic problem with this plan is that Weems doesn’t have near the number of patients in the hospital to justify spending millions of taxpayers’ dollars. The average daily census is only .58, less than one patient in the hospital a day which means there are some days with no patients at all. Ms. Butterfield said the Board of County Commissioners require all county department heads to regularly report on their work, from Parks and Rec, Emergency Management, to the library. Instead of learning about Weems’s activities from a concerned citizen like herself, she suggests the Board require Weems CEO David Walker to regularly appear before the Commission to report on the hospital status just like the other department heads. Ms. Butterfield said there is a lot going on at Weems, and it’s your hospital, you need to be kept informed. Ms. Butterfield said she was told at the hospital meeting that she was not allowed to ask questions but the Board can and should.

Ms. Debi Jordan spoke to the Board via Zoom. She spoke about the TDC review committee meeting and asked if the Board had watched it. She said she saw some particularly interesting things. She quoted several items from the meeting in relation to giving local preference. She asked if the Board had seen the presentations or the score sheets. She asked if the Board had seen any of the local advertisements have, they had seen any of the qualifications of any of the applications. Asked if there are any motions being made for Lanark Village today. She noted there is nothing on the agenda. Chairman Jones confirmed with Mr. Moron that there were no

items on the agenda in regard to the Lanark fire department. Mr. Moron said he had an information item about when the next training is scheduled. Chairman Jones said the scoresheets are in sealed envelopes and no one has seen those yet.

Mr. Moron presented the sealed envelopes with the score sheets from the review meeting. Mrs. Griffith will remove them and tally the votes on a spreadsheet to be presented to the Board later in the meeting.

Department Directors Reports

5. Superintendent of Roads and Bridges – Howard Nabors

Mr. Nabors had no items for the Board. He said they have been cutting grass, cleaning sidewalks, and putting pipes in. He said hopefully we will get some rain shortly and we can grade some of the roads. He said it has just been too dry to do. Mr. Nabors thanked the Board for the new machinery, noting they had picked those up today. He also thanked the Board for the three employees that we moved around. Mr. Nabors said they are averaging out about 7-8 a day. Chairman Jones said someone from the Corps had reached out to him about another project they had done in our vicinity, they have material that may be used for roads. They are trying to get someone to take it. Chairman Jones said he will get the contact information to Mr. Nabors.

Commissioner Ward said that next year for the budget we need to make sure we have adequate staff for Parks and Recreations and the Road department. We do not need to disservice our residents because we don't have inmate labor. Chairman Jones said he agrees with Commissioner Ward and we need to begin the discussion in order to come up with a plan.

Ms. Victoria Hart spoke to the Board about the process used to create the RFQs for the TDC vendors. She noted experience doesn't necessarily equate to quality. Had she known that anyone would be able to present, she would have applied. She asked the Board how the vendors we have presently are doing a good job. She asked if there were any samples done to survey visitors. She would recommend the Board consider a one-year contract instead of a five year.

6. Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

Mr. Davis had no action items for the Board. He said they have received some applications from those who have felonies. He would like the Board to look at the policy of hiring felons. Chairman Jones something we could look into would be if you aren't using inmate labor it may not be a problem. I do think we can evaluate to see if it is something we can do. Even people who have messed up need a job. Commissioner Lockley said he thinks if the person has done their time, they should be able to work. Commissioner Boldt said he believes they should be given a good solid chance. He noted there is a fresh start program at the jail, and there may be some good candidates coming from there also.

7. Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Mrs. Brownell had no action items for the Board. Commissioner Boldt thanked Ms. Brownell for adding her department's activities to her reports.

8. Extension Office Director – Erik Lovstrand

Mr. Lovstrand was not present, as he was setting up an exhibit at the North Florida Fair.

9. Library Director – Whitney Roundtree

Ms. Roundtree had no action items for the Board. She gave a brief report of the libraries' activities throughout the month.

Other Reports

10. TDC Administrator – John Solomon

Action Items:

1. The TDC Board Voted to recommend renewing TDC Board Members Kathy Robinson and Buck Bolden as TDC Board Members Action Item: (Motion to approve renewal Kathy and Buck to TDC Board)

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved renewing TDC Board Members Kathy Robinson and Buck Bolden as TDC Board Members. Motion carried 5-0.

2. The TDC Board voted to approve the request of the County Commission for funds to assist with the St. George Island playground project.

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

4. BOARD ACTION: Franklin County Maritime Heritage Museum Exhibits at Buddy Ward Park Grant

Last year, the Franklin County Tourist Development Council prepared a grant application for \$188,500 to develop the exhibits for the Franklin County Maritime Heritage Museum at Buddy Ward Park. This summer, the Division of Historic Resources notified Franklin County that the project was going to be funded and the grant agreement was just received this past week. These exhibits will showcase the county's maritime history and vibrant commercial seafood industry.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached grant agreement with the Florida Division of Historic Resources for the Maritime Heritage Museum Exhibits.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached grant agreement with the Florida Division of Historic Resources for the Maritime Heritage Museum Exhibits. Motion carried 5-0.

5. BOARD ACTION: Request to Advertise for Construction Bids: Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Phases III & IV, CR67 Phase II, 3rd Street Dune Walkover, 2nd Street & US 98 Intersection Quite a few projects have reached a point in the design process where the bid specifications are ready to go. The following projects are now ready for advertisement – these projects will all have opening dates sometime in December:

- Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Phases III & IV: path section from the Marina to Tom Roberts Rd.
- CR67 Phase II: resurfacing and widening from Crooked River Bridge north for 2 miles, to State Forest Road 166.
- 3rd Street West Dune Walkover: construction of a dune walkover within the commercial district of St. George Island for erosion control
- 2nd Street and US98 Intersection Eastpoint: resurfacing, patching, and regrading

Board action to approve advertisement for bids for the projects listed above.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved advertisement for bids for the projects listed above. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Jones moved to the TDC vendor contract selection. Mr. Moron said before we do that, he would like Mr. Solomon to respond to some of the public comments from this morning. Chairman Jones said he would like to move forward with opening the packages at this time. He said he would rather vote on what is in front of us first, then we can have a discussion.

1. Action Item: TDC Vendor Selection

At your last meeting, RFQ packets for TDC Vendor contracts were opened and read aloud. The review committee met here in your meeting room, in a public setting, to review the RFQ packets and hear a short presentation with questions and answers from some of the representatives that attended the meeting. The committee completed the score sheets, which were then placed in a sealed envelope and given to the Clerk's office. The envelope was opened earlier in this meeting so the scores could be tallied, and you should have a copy of the final tally sheet with the ranking of each firm/individual. With that information, the Board could now proceed with selecting a candidate to award a contract for the TDC vendor services.

Board action to award contracts for TDC Internet Marketing, TDC Print and General Marketing, TDC Local Radio and Online Advertising, and TDC Local Television Airtime and Video Production.

Mr. Moron presented the item to the Board. He noted there was only one submittal for television and radio. Chairman Jones asked if we were looking at four motions or all together. Attorney Shuler said the Board would need to make separate motions for each contract.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board awarded the TDC Local Radio and Online Advertising contract to Oyster Radio. Motion carried 5-0.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board awarded the TDC Local Television Airtime and Video Production contract to Forgotten Coast Television. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Moron announced there were four companies who submitted packages as follows:

1. Evoch

2. Patty Ford
3. Michael Yelvington
4. 2K Web Group

Mr. Moron noted that Mrs. Erin calculated the scoresheets and the number one ranked is 2K Web Group.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board awarded the TDC Internet Marketing contract to 2K Web Group. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Moron announced the number one ranked by the committee was Bay Media.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board awarded the TDC Print and General Marketing to Bay Media. Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Moron thanked the members who served on the review committee.

2. Action Item: TDC Administration & Vendor Contracts

Since the County has completed the TDC vendor advertising and selection process, there are some procedures that would make this process more efficient in the future. As the Board has discussed in the past, vendor contracts and the administrative contract should expire in alternate years. That would eliminate any chances of having a new administrator and new vendors in the same year. When the vendor contracts are within a six-month expiration window, the TDC Administrator will inform this Board of the upcoming expiration date on the contracts. This Board would have the option of seeking a recommendation from the TDC Board, automatically renewing the contracts for two years, or advertising for Requests for Qualifications similar to what was done this year. The same procedure could be used for the TDC Administrator's contract, except your County Coordinator would bring that contract before the Board to consider the same options. Since the TDC Administrator's contract expires at the end of this calendar year, to get both sets of contracts on alternate years, the Board may consider initial three-year contracts, then two-year contracts, for the vendors, and a two-year contract for your current Administrator.

Board action to authorize a three-year contract for each TDC vendor, which will be followed by a two-year contract once the three-year contract expires, and a two-year contract for the TDC Administrator.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, to authorize a three-year contract for each TDC vendor, which will be followed by a two-year contract once the three-year contract expires, and a two-year contract for the TDC Administrator.

Commissioner Boldt asked Mr. Solomon to comment on the public comments. Chairman Jones noted that there was a motion on the table and now was not the appropriate time. Commissioner Lockley asked for clarification, and Mr. Moron explained the process as noted in the action item. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Moron asked if he could now have Mr. Solomon clear up some of the items from public comments. Chairman Jones apologized to Commissioner Boldt in that he didn't want to take

it wrong. In making a motion it took everyone but the Board out of the conversation.

Mr. Moron said the RFQ included how the submissions would be scored. There is no question there as to how that would happen. The whole point of having a review committee was for them to ask questions. They had to score based on the RFQ in front of them. If a person brought up something new in their presentation, they could not use that in the scoring. The RFQ was very specific about what services the TDC was looking for. Mr. Solomon said that everything from the meetings is on their website. As far as data and statistics, that is what we run on. We use that data to gauge the success of advertising in different states. We have to know and be able to adjust to what ages, and demographic, these travelers are coming from. Mr. Solomon said they have to adjust the advertisement throughout the year. He said we have a great team and we adjust on the fly. The tax collection reflects the results. Chairman Jones said it has been his privilege to serve as the chairman of the TDC. He said we have a six-time award-winning TDC, and even with the two-month Covid shutdown, we were the only TDC in the state to increase our income. He said particularly with the tourist development council, a lot of our residents don't see all of the advertising because they do not live in the areas, we are advertising in. Commissioner Lockley inquired about the percentage allowed for administration. Mr. Solomon said they are paid by contract and they get around 2.8%. He said we have a contract with the county and it is a set amount. Commissioner Lockley asked why their percentage did not increase with the increase in income. Commissioner Lockley said you have to pay people right. Chairman Jones said if we want to amend the contract. Mr. Moron said we can negotiate the amount with the new contract. Mrs. Griffith said you also have a budgeted amount for administration. Mr. Moron said he hears what Commissioner Lockley is saying, he wants us to negotiate as close as possible to the budgeted amount. Chairman Jones asked if there was a motion needed.

Commissioner Lockley made a motion to negotiate the administration fee within the new contract.

Commissioner Parrish asked if we are talking about going to a percentage base or if are we talking about the TDC director being able to increase different positions to bring them up to scale. Mr. Moron said I believe what Commissioner Lockley wants is bringing the administration fee up to the budgeted line amount. **Commissioner Parrish seconded.** Chairman Jones called for public comments since this item was not on the agenda. Mrs. Cheryl Sanders said she would be very careful messing with dollars that have already been set with this year's budget. One thing you have to look at, is you have to do a certain amount of vetting. For you all to look at the possibility of increasing the funds to be paid, without it being put out for a request for qualifications. They need to go through everything the other candidates had to go through. She would give the chance to the TDC board a chance to take a look at it. If you don't ask them for their opinion, we need to let our volunteers know they are appreciated.

Ms. Pearman said the TDC has done its job but she doesn't see the TDC getting involved with the community as it should be. They have canceled more meetings than they have had. She said that she knew for a fact that one of the people who put in a bid is constantly involved in the community. Chairman Jones noted that they called for public comments on the motion and asked Ms. Pearman if she had any comments on this and whether we should negotiate to see if there is any difference between the amount they are being paid and the amount budgeted for. She did not.

Mr. John Berry spoke regarding a percentage-based administration fee noting this may not be a kosher way to do business. Chairman Jones noted that the discussion is not to look into a percentage-based fee. He said years ago it was based on a percentage because the collections were so low. We are looking to see if there is a difference in the budgeted amount and what the current administration is being paid. Mr. Moron noted that we went out for RFQs and not RFPs.

Mr. Solomon said as an administration we wouldn't want a percentage base because that is way too much. The TDC board voted to increase the vendor's and administration's salaries. Mr. Moron asked if the Board would like to include in their motion a recommendation from the TDC board

Commissioner Lockley amended his motion to send this back to the TDC board for their opinion and bring it back to the Board to begin negotiations. Commissioner Parrish amended his second. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Boldt spoke about the need for infrastructure and a hospital. Commissioner Parrish asked as it relates to statistical data it is all on your website. Mr. Solomon said the information is located at <https://www.floridasforgottencoast.com/>. Mr. Solomon said the information is updated after each meeting. Most of the agenda is posted on there the day of the meeting or two days before.

11. Interim Airport Manager – Ted Mosteller

Mr. Mosteller presented his report at this time. He included a report on the recent inspection of the hangars. Mr. Moron presented this item from his report at this time. Mr. Mosteller provided the Board with a copy of the inventory done at the airport. Mr. Mosteller explained that two hangars are not occupied by aircraft. Mr. Mosteller said Mr. Moron is going to talk to one of the owners. The storm sewer grate concrete is sinking around one, and it is a hazard for aircraft to go over. The other hangar is occupied with household items. Mr. Moron asked if it was a partially constructed aircraft, and Mr. Mosteller said yes, it has a tail number but is in question.

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

3. Action Item: FDOT Grant Amendment

As the Board is aware, the Federal Aviation Administration is funding an Apron Rehabilitation project at the Airport. To avoid using Airport funds for a match, Mr. John Collins of AVCON (Airport Engineer) was able to allow the use of FDOT funds as a match for this project. To proceed with using FDOT funds for the match, the Chairman's signature is required on the supplemental amendment (G1J91) to the grant agreement and the required resolution. This action doesn't add any funds to the project, only allows the County to use FDOT funds as the required 10% match.

Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the supplemental amendment and the required resolution.

Mr. Moron explained the drop at the stormwater grate where the concrete is sinking. He said that is why it is not a rush to get this client out of the hangar. We don't want another tenant to move in and cause damage to his aircraft. Once this issue is corrected, Mr. Moron will contact the current tenant and let them know they will have to vacate because we have to get it rented.

Mr. Moron said they will have to find out from FAA how they feel about a tail number being invalid. He explained that Mr. Mosteller's reasoning for recording tail numbers was to report to FAA. After FAA receives the information, they look nationwide to identify aircraft.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on the supplemental amendment and the required resolution. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Action Item: Centric (FBO) Contract Extension

Your Fixed Based Operators contract with the County expired yesterday, October 31, 2022. Staff recently met with the Federal Aviation Administration to discuss language for a new contract. Staff worked with Centric and Johns Collins (AVCON) and submitted a draft agreement to the FAA for their review. Once that draft agreement is approved by the FAA, it will be presented to this Board for your review and acceptance. As this process may take up 45 to days, it is recommended that the Board extend the current contract for 60 days. If the Board is in favor of an extension, Attorney Shuler should be authorized to create that addendum to the current contract.

Board action to authorize the Centric contract extension and authorize Attorney Shuler to create the addendum to the current contract.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Centric contract extension and authorized Attorney Shuler to create the addendum to the current contract.

Commissioner Ward requested a copy of the current contract with Centric. Commissioner Ward asked if the FAA decides or we decide how long we want this contract to be for. Mr. Moron explained that the Board makes that decision on the length. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Mosteller said on the other t-hangar is not being used for aviation purposes. He said it is listed as being occupied by a helicopter but it has a boat in it now. Mr. Moron asked if the helicopter counts for an aircraft? Mr. Mosteller explained that we do not have a helicopter pad. The door opening is too narrow for a winged aircraft. Mr. Moron said he will ask Mr. Mosteller and Mr. John to ask FAA that we get an exemption for this hangar since it is occupied by a helicopter.

Mr. Mosteller said as most of you know, Governor Desantis paid us a visit last Friday. It was a great pr event for our airport and county. Mr. Moron said TDC was taking pictures. We are going to get those to AVCON and others to make part of our file, as we apply for grants and such. Mr. Mosteller said we had about 500 people in attendance.

The Board recessed and then reconvened at 10:35 am.

Presentations and Requests

12. ABSI - Dr. Sandra Brooke - Update

Dr. Brooke updated the Board on the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative project. Dr. Brooke said

she would like to address the most common questions that are on people's minds that keep coming up. She noted the tonging data shows some bright spots in the bay but mostly it's not doing well, especially on the west side of the bay. Most of the oyster in the bay is spat. Across the bay as a whole, there are very few market-size oysters. Dr. Brooke presented data from the FWC and DEP projects which aligns with ASBI data. Round four was the most recent, last summer. This one is not doing so well; the fossilized shell did not do well. 24 bags an acre, nowhere near where we need to be to open the fishery. We are planning on doing another round of tonging, more extensive and data driven. She extended an invitation to the board members if they would like to take a tour. We are doing experiments with different types of approaches. The problem we have had is not getting the juvenile seed through to the market stage. It tends to do better on the lime rock. In the spring we would like to have two sites, one on Cat Point and one at East Hole. These are good sites. East Hole is a little problematic due to launching limitations, we are working on that. We are proposing 10-inch reef heights, this is similar to what we did last time. Since we don't have an unlimited amount of money, we are going to try it although it is a little lower than optimal. We are going to try different material types. We have some concrete that we have stockpiled. Everyone wants shell, but it is not readily available. Going to see if I can work with Steve Rash and Barber Seafood to see if they will start stockpiling. In our community engagement, we have had a number of advisory meetings. We have held oysterman workshops and community meetings. We would like more people to give us their feedback. These are for the community to understand what we are doing and provide responses back to us. We hope to adopt a final management plan in November. Our plan is to have a successor group driven by members of the community to continue this process and make sure this plan is implemented. We have two more community workshops and one more oysterman's workshop. We can increase the number of workshops if desirable. There are options to be evaluated such as limited entry, summer closure, establishing or enforcing size, and temporary closures. A monitoring plan will be required to see what's going on with the oysters throughout the season. Other options to be discussed are annual quotas, permanently closed areas, and reinstating shelling programs. Chairman Jones asked who was evaluating the different options. Dr. Brooke said the community advisory board. Chairman Jones said any number of these would conflict, such as daily limit fee and limited entry. Dr. Brooke noted that they will be making recommendations to FWC. FWC will have the authority to adopt, choose some of, or ignore the recommendations. Dr. Brooke introduced Betsy, letting the board know she would like to gauge their opinions on these management strategies, and how things have changed. If anyone would like to speak with her, she is happy to share her contact information. She will be coming to each board member individually. Commissioner Boldt asked if the research team had considered the water environment in the oysters are growing. Dr. Brooke said yes and used that information to try and gauge where the areas may be good now. Commissioner Lockley asked who will handle the reselling. Dr. Brooke said possibly FDAC. The problem is they need money in the legislature. She said how all of this is going to work is to be determined. Commissioner Lockley noted that if we don't replenish the shells, it will be empty. Dr. Brooke said yes, and this is why we want ideas. It will be helpful to know if any of the ideas will not work or if there will be pushback. Commissioner Lockley asked if they could schedule a meeting with those doing the studies, the board, and the community. Mr. Moron said Mr. Creamer from FWC will be at the December 6th meeting. Commissioner Lockley said he would like a sit down with everyone involved. Mr. Moron said Commissioner Boldt had mentioned this sometime back. Chairman Jones said one of the things that were mentioned was the material added, are you putting material up to 10 inches out there? She said they were using up to 8 inches. She said it is tongable but it is heavy. Chairman Jones mentioned contacting out-of-state materials. Years ago, when they were redoing the Chesapeake Bay, they took material out of our bay and it worked. Dr. Brooke said someone else brought up that Louisiana was coming in and getting the shells. She noted that was part of the deal for selling their oysters here. Commissioner Boldt asked if a fossilized shell could be a viable

product. Dr. Brooke said the problem with it is variable quality. It basically falls apart. Maybe if you piled it up deep enough. If it is not washed properly, big piles of sediment are in the water. It is not ideal but has been used in some places. Commissioner Parrish asked if there were not any oysters on Cat Point. Dr. Brooke noted that 4.8 bags per acre. She noted none of them were doing well there. She said Cat Point has good environmental conditions but for some reason, it isn't doing as well. Dr. Brooke said East Hole is somewhere that looks like a usable restoration site. Commissioner Parrish asked if it is reasonable to assume if the bay does open back up, it's going to be completely different as part of the Apalachicola Bay Management Plan. Dr. Brooke said yes, so we don't end up back here. She said ultimately the oysters have to bring the bay back. Commissioner Parrish said if we don't have oysters in the bay, we are going to have a dead bay. It will trickle down effect on a number of different species and jobs. Commissioner Parrish said he thinks we are all understanding the detriment of this plan, but we have to look at ways of a sustainable harvest. Dr. Brooke said it is going to be hard because oysters were once the economic foundation of this place. Commissioner Boldt asked if Dr. Brooke could release this information in layman's terms to the newspaper. Dr. Brooke said yes. Chairman Jones said he would have an issue with limited entry. He said if you have somewhere there to enforce the 5% rule, a lot of these other things would not be needed. Chairman Jones said he is not in favor of limited entry. Commissioner Boldt said if the bay reopens, the old practices need to be coupled with the new practices. Dr. Brooke said that is an interesting idea. Commissioner Boldt said maybe new oystermen could be trained and possibly certified. Commissioner Lockley said a lot of the problems were due to a lack of enforcement.

County Staff & Attorney Reports

13. Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith

1. BOARD ACTION: Invoice for Fire Control Services from City of Carrabelle for Lanark / St. James Volunteer Fire Department

Franklin County has received the second invoice from the City of Carrabelle for fire control services rendered through September 30th, 2022. The invoice totaled \$1,360 and follows the rates established by the agreement dated May 9th, 2022, between the City of Carrabelle and Franklin County (\$160 per response for personnel and \$90 per truck on the scene). The attached invoice will be paid from the Lanark/St. James Fire District's MSBU proceeds.

Board action to approve and authorize the payment of the second invoice to the City of Carrabelle for response efforts. As per instruction, all payments on behalf of the district will be presented to the Board for approval during this transitional period.

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 payment of the second invoice to the City of Carrabelle for response efforts. As per instruction, all payments on behalf of the district will be presented to the Board for approval during this transitional period. Motion carried 5-0.

2. BOARD ACTION: VENDOR SELECTION SGI LIGHTHOUSE BEACH PARK PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

On Thursday, October 27th, 2022, playground advisory committee members met and discussed the merits of various equipment suppliers. Rep Services with Landscape Structures, Inc. was selected due to the availability of upgraded corrosion-resistant coastal finishes and the wide variety of inclusive equipment. As the vendors who were discussed all had different forms of contract pricing available, the bid reference for this vendor was the Clay County playground contract. This renewed contract is attached to this report as supporting documentation. Piggyback contract pricing is allowed by the county's procurement policy and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has confirmed that 'piggyback' contract pricing is an acceptable form of pricing for the program.

Board action to authorize moving forward with vendor Rep Services with Landscape Structures, Inc. to proceed with design, price quotations, and concept.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish and Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized moving forward with vendor Rep Services with Landscape Structures, Inc. to proceed with design, price quotations, and concept.

Chairman Jones said this is the item Mr. Solomon referenced earlier in the meeting. He said the grant was applied for, received, and then the county asked TDC for some additional funds which were approved. In addition, Chairman Jones noted the county has received some donations from private citizens of St. George Island for this project. **Motion carried 5-0.**

3. BOARD ACTION: Ballistic Shields for Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Included in the budget this year was \$50,000 for ballistic shields for the Sheriff's Department to be paid directly by the Board of County Commissioners. Survival Armor has contract pricing with the State of Florida and was the vendor chosen by the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. The shields are warrantied for a period of (5) years after purchase and the attached \$50,000 quote is for (10) 20" x 34" shields, (2) 24" x 48" shield bunkers, and (2) trolleys for the shield bunkers.

Board action to approve the purchase and issuance of a purchase order per the attached quote to Survival Armor for the ballistic shields.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the purchase and issuance of a purchase order per the attached quote to Survival Armor for the ballistic shields. Commissioner Lockley inquired as to what these would withstand. Commissioner Boldt said it would be great if the Sheriff could come to give a demonstration. **Motion carried 5-0.**

4. BOARD ACTION: Franklin County Maritime Heritage Museum Exhibits at Buddy Ward Park Grant

Last year, the Franklin County Tourist Development Council prepared a grant application for \$188,500 to develop the exhibits for the Franklin County Maritime Heritage Museum at Buddy Ward Park. This summer, the Division of Historic Resources notified Franklin County that the project was going to be funded and the grant agreement was just received this past week. These exhibits will showcase the county's maritime history and vibrant commercial seafood industry.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached grant agreement with the Florida Division of Historic Resources for the Maritime Heritage Museum Exhibits.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

5. BOARD ACTION: Request to Advertise for Construction Bids: Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Phases III & IV, CR67 Phase II, 3rd Street Dune Walkover, 2nd Street & US 98 Intersection

Quite a few projects have reached a point in the design process where the bid specifications are ready to go. The following projects are now ready for advertisement – these projects will all have opening dates sometime in December:

- Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Phases III & IV: path section from the Marina to Tom Roberts Rd.
- CR67 Phase II: resurfacing and widening from Crooked River Bridge north for 2 miles, to State Forest Road 166.
- 3rd Street West Dune Walkover: construction of a dune walkover within the commercial district of St. George Island for erosion control
- 2nd Street and US98 Intersection Eastpoint: resurfacing, patching, and regrading

Board action to approve advertisement for bids for the projects listed above.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved advertisement for bids for the projects listed above. Motion carried 5-0.

6. BOARD ACTION: Budget Resolutions – Fiscal Year 2021/2022

Attached are three resolutions for the adoption of unanticipated revenues as part of the end-of-the-fiscal year bookkeeping. These funds were not included in your original adopted 2021/2022 budget because at the time of budget adoption they were unanticipated. Florida Statute 129 allows a county 60-days after the end of a fiscal year to incorporate unanticipated revenues into the

prior year's budget. As grant invoices are processed for work completed through September 30th, resolutions and amendments will be a part of my report through the end of this month.

The 1st resolution is for \$33,650 in federal grant funds received from the U.S. Treasury relative to the RESTORE SGI Storm Water Improvements Project. The 2nd resolution is for \$89,290 in federal grant funds received from the US Treasury relative to the RESTORE County-Wide Dune Restoration Project. The 3rd resolution is for \$134,857 in state grant funds received from the State Fire Marshal's Office for the installation of a sprinkler system at the Armory. The 4th resolution is for \$71,500 in federal grant funds received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the Eastpoint Feasibility Study. The 5th resolution is for \$2,593,476 in state grant funds received from the Florida Department of Transportation for the County Road C30A Paving Project.

Board action to adopt the five attached budget resolutions.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the five attached budget resolutions referenced above. Motion carried 5-0.

7. BOARD INFORMATION: Miscellaneous Project Updates

14. County Coordinator – Michael Morón

1. Action Item: TDC Vendor Selection

At your last meeting, RFQ packets for TDC Vendor contracts were opened and read aloud. The review committee met here in your meeting room, in a public setting, to review the RFQ packets and hear a short presentation with questions and answers from some of the representatives that attended the meeting. The committee completed the score sheets, which were then placed in a sealed envelope and given to the Clerk's office. The envelope was opened earlier in this meeting so the scores could be tallied, and you should have a copy of the final tally sheet with the ranking of each firm/individual. With that information, the Board could now proceed with selecting a candidate to award a contract for the TDC vendor services. Board action to award contracts for TDC Internet Marketing, TDC Print and General Marketing, TDC Local Radio and Online Advertising, and TDC Local Television Airtime and Video Production.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. Action Item: TDC Administration & Vendor Contracts

Since the County has completed the TDC vendor advertising and selection process, there are some procedures that would make this process more efficient in the future. As the Board has discussed in the past, vendor contracts and the administrative contract should expire in alternate years.

That would eliminate any chances of having a new administrator and new vendors in the same year. When the vendor contracts are within a six-month expiration window, the TDC Administrator will inform this Board of the upcoming expiration date on the contracts. This Board would have the option of seeking a recommendation from the TDC Board, automatically renewing the contracts for two years, or advertising for Requests for Qualifications similar to what was done this year. The same procedure could be used for the TDC Administrator's contract, except your County Coordinator would bring that contract before the Board to consider the same options. Since the TDC Administrator's contract expires at the end of this calendar year, to get both sets of contracts on alternate years, the Board may consider initial three-year contracts, then two-year contracts, for the vendors and a

A two-year contract for your current Administrator.

Board action to authorize a three-year contract for each TDC vendor, which will be followed by a two-year contract once the three-year contract expires, and a two-year contract for the TDC Administrator.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

3. Action Item: FDOT Grant Amendment

As the Board is aware, the Federal Aviation Administration is funding an Apron Rehabilitation project at the Airport. To avoid using Airport funds for a match, Mr. John Collins of AVCON (Airport Engineer) was able to allow the use of FDOT funds as a match

for this project. To proceed with using FDOT funds for the match, the Chairman's signature is required on the supplemental amendment (G1J91) to the grant agreement and the required resolution. This action doesn't add any funds to the project, only allows the County to use FDOT funds as the required 10% match.

Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the supplemental amendment and the required resolution.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

4. Action Item: Centric (FBO) Contract Extension

Your Fixed Based Operators contract with the County expired yesterday, October 31, 2022. Staff recently met with the Federal Aviation Administration to discuss language for a new contract. Staff worked with Centric and Johns Collins (AVCON) and submitted a draft agreement to the FAA for their review. Once that draft agreement is approved by the FAA, it will be presented to this Board for your review and acceptance. As this process may take up to 45 days, it is recommended that the Board extend the current contract for 60 days. If the Board is in favor of an extension, Attorney Shuler should be authorized to create that addendum to the current contract.

Board action to authorize the Centric contract extension and authorize Attorney Shuler to create the addendum to the current contract.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

5. Action Item: Eastpoint Dredge Extension

In the current contract between the Army Corp of Engineers and dredge contractor Mike Hooks Enterprises, it has come to the attention of the county that the project's scope has fallen short of dredging the 'entire' Eastpoint Channel. It is important for the entirety of the channel to be dredged to ensure that sufficient current runs through the dredge area to keep the channel deep enough for navigation. The existing scope fell short of approximately 120 linear feet on the western end of the channel and 520 linear feet on the eastern end.

Board action for staff to reach out to dredge contractor Mike Hooks directly to see what actions would need to be taken to dredge the entirety of the channel, including requesting an estimate for what the additional dredge work would cost the county and obtaining additional estimates to remove dry sediment that has accreted (sandbars) blocking the channel in those areas – all necessary actions and estimates will require a quick turnaround due to the sensitive timeline, i.e.. the dredging project has started, and the dredge contractor is already mobilized. Once cost estimates are available, the Board can then decide how to proceed.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to reach out to dredge contractor Mike Hooks directly to see what actions would need to be taken to dredge the entirety of the channel, including requesting an estimate for what the additional dredge work would cost the county and obtaining additional estimates to remove dry sediment that has accreted (sandbars) blocking the channel in those areas. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Action Item: SGI Pine Street Stop Signs

As several vacant parcels have been built out in the last few years, there has been increased traffic on the unpaved roads on St. George Island. On Pine Street West, there are stop signs at the following intersections: 2nd Street, 5th Street, 7th Street, and 12th Street. As unpaved roads require a lot of maintenance and upkeep, in an effort to preserve the condition of the road for longer a longer duration after each grading, we are suggesting the addition of two additional stop signs along Pine at 8th and 9th Street. The increase in stops will help to reduce wear from through traffic along the unpaved road. I would also like to request that the road department ensure that the two intersections are plainly marked and have a line of sight that is clear from vegetation.

Board action to approve the addition of stop signs at 8th and 9th Street West on St. George Island.

Chairman Jones requested that 10th Street be included also if the Board would allow it.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the addition of stop

signs at 8th, 9th, and 10th West on St. George Island. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Action Item: Eastpoint Christmas Parade

The Eastpoint Christmas Parade will take place on December 9, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. (ET). Participants will begin lining up at 4 pm and the route will start behind Webb Seafood at the corner of Power Drive and C. A. Gillespie Street and turn left (East) onto Highway 98 and end at Fisherman's Choice. The Sheriff's traffic division will be notified of the parade route and time.

Board action to authorize the Eastpoint Christmas Parade route.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Eastpoint Christmas Parade route. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Discussion Item: Armory Update and Rental

On Thursday, October 27th, Mr. Mark Curenton attended the monthly Armory project update meeting (report attached). Mr. Curenton reported that the work on the sprinkler system is progressing, and the contractor is on schedule to have substantial completion of the project by the middle of January. Based on this update, will the Board allow county staff to start accepting reservations for February 15, 2023?

Board discussion and possible action to allow reservations effective February 15th.

Commissioner Ward said that she would hate to book things, and the armory was not ready. Chairman Jones inquired as to the completion date and what the delay is. Mr. Moron said due to supply issues, the project has not progressed as quickly as planned.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board tabled the item. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Informational Item: Ethics Issue

At your last meeting during public comments, there was an issue raised regarding the County Attorney's ownership interest in the title company that was used for the closing and title work of the Alligator Point Fire Department property. I contacted Attorney Leonard Carson, the County's outside counsel, and asked for an opinion on this matter. In Attorney Carson's opinion, he referred to Florida Bar Ethics Opinion 73-1 and Florida Statutes, Chapter 112, and stated that once the County is aware of Attorney Shuler's ownership interest in the title insurance company, and the title insurance company does not refer business to the County Attorney, there is no ethics issue. This opinion covers the recent purchase of the Alligator Point Fire Department property and past County property transactions.

10. Informational Item: SJLV Fire Department Training Day

Mr. Robert Amick, SJLV Fire Coordinator, has scheduled a training session for the firemen on Tuesday, November 8th at 5:00 p.m. (ET). This training

will be held at the SJLV Fire Station and is specifically for anyone that is interested in volunteering as a fireman. There will be other training sessions for those that would like to serve as support staff and for potential board members. Mr. Moron noted it will be advertised on the local radio and newspaper.

11. Informational Item: Building Department Vacancy

The Building Department has an upcoming vacant permit technician position due to a resignation. Mr. Steve Paterson, Building Official, is interviewing from the current pool on applications. If none of those applicants are hired, Mr. Paterson will ask for Board authorization to publicly advertise.

12. Informational Item: Building Inspector Advertisement

In a couple of weeks, Mr. Paterson, Building Official, will have an advertisement in the local newspaper for a Building Inspector. Mr. Paterson will update the Board on the number of applicants and interview dates.

13. Informational Item: City of Apalachicola Leslie Street Repairs

The City of Apalachicola forwarded a copy of their SCOP award for the Design and Construction of Leslie Street from Water Street to Highway 98 for \$610,170 to the County. The funds will be available in July 2023.

Chairman Jones asked if the County could move forward with paying for the design and engineering, then be reimbursed by FDOT. Mr. Moron will check into this matter and report back to the Board.

Chairman Jones spoke regarding the upcoming legislative meetings. He said one matter is reinstating the water management districts, and the other is to do with making sure we stay on top of keeping our local prisons open. Chairman Jones said he would like each of the Board members to receive a copy of the information.

15. County Attorney – Michael Shuler

1. Alligator Point Volunteer Fire Department Proposed Memorandum of Understanding

I understand that as part of Mr. Pierce's discussions with Mr. Paul Parker, the Alligator Point Volunteer Fire Department desires to continue the use of the property once it is purchased by Franklin County. A proposed Memorandum of Understanding is attached for your consideration.

In sum, the APVFD will continue to provide fire and liability coverage for the property and will name Franklin County as an additional insured. The County's general liability policy will add the property automatically to the County's policy, but the Memorandum provides that the APVFD insurance will provide primary coverage first in the event of

a claim. The Memorandum does not provide for the payment of rent. The term of the use will run until December 31, 2023, or until the certificate of occupancy of the new fire department is issued, whichever occurs first, and has a provision for an extension. The Memorandum also provides that all parties understand that construction of the new replacement road takes priority.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the Alligator Point Volunteer Fire Department Memorandum of Understanding. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioners' Comments & Adjournment

16. Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Boldt inquired about the fees charged to fulfill public records requests and asked if there was a provision that allowed for additional charges for large or frequent requests. Attorney Shuler noted Florida Statute 119 addresses this matter. He said there is a provision allowable under certain circumstances. However, it is not used very often.

Chairman Jones asked if a county employee who was terminated without cause would be able to retain their retirement status if the issue was resolved and they were rehired. Chairman Jones asked if staff could research the matter to see if they can receive proper credit for years served and how we may be able to rectify that if it is possible.

Commissioner Boldt thanked the public for allowing him to serve and thanked the Board and staff for all of their assistance during his term. Commissioner Boldt congratulated Commissioner Sanders on her new role as county commissioner.

17. Adjournment

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

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts

The audio is available upon request. Please e-mail jgay@franklinclerk.com, call 850-653-8861 to speak with the Administrative Assistant, or submit a request in writing to obtain audio of this meeting.