

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
JANUARY 3, 2023  
9:00 AM  
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Jessica Ward-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, Ottice Amison, and Noah Lockley

Others Present: Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Erin Griffith-Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator, and Jessica Gay-Deputy Clerk to the Board

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval of Minutes and Payment of County Bills**

1. Regular Meeting 12/06/22
2. Regular Meeting 12/20/22

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Regular Meeting minutes from 12/06/2022 and 12/20/2022 and the Payment of County Bills. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Awards and Recognitions**

**3. Debra Kanner (Mary Ann Shields' Daughter)**

Mr. Moron noted this is something he and the Chairman had spoken about doing to recognize members of the community. Mr. Moron asked the Board to submit recommendations to him for the next quarter.

Ms. Kanner attended via Zoom. Mrs. Bankston presented an award to the family memorial monetary contribution of \$60,000 to the library. Mrs. Bankston said the library wanted to say a few words and she had written those down as follows.

**Mary Ann Shields**

Mary Ann Shields was a prominent and significant contributor to the Franklin County Public Library. Her function as the chairperson of the Carrabelle Library involved organizing and directing the builders, architects, and volunteers. The construction of the library took several years. During that time, she assisted in finding a temporary facility for the library while construction took place. She worked seamlessly with the "Friends of the Library" organization. She was a diplomat, an organizer, and a generator of ideas. Her contributions to Franklin County are beyond value.

Commissioner Sanders said Mrs. Shields was very instrumental and helpful in getting the \$250,000 grant for the library. She said Mrs. Shields and her husband were always a part of the library. Ms. Kanner said the library meant a lot to her mother, and hope that her contribution will be helpful for others to have a love for books as her mother did. Chairman Jones said we need libraries for our future, and we are limited to words of how we can express our gratitude but thank you.

**4. Franklin Needs Inc.**

Mrs. Bankston presented a plaque of appreciation to Franklin Needs Inc. for their generous donation for the purchase

of the new mammography machine at Weems Memorial. Ms. Lauren Luberto, Mrs. Jessica Sparks, and Ms. Roxanne Christie accepted the award on behalf of Franklin Needs Inc.

## **5. SGI Civic Club**

Mrs. Bankston presented the SGI Civic Club with a plaque in appreciation for the contribution to the St. George Island Park renovation. Mr. O’Connell accepted the award for the association. Chairman Jones noted they had just celebrated 50 years in existence. Mrs. Griffith said the civic club contributed \$40,000 to the project and we could not do it without their support. We will also be coordinating some volunteer help in the coming year.

## **6. Pam Brownell**

The Board presented an appreciation award for 17 years of faithful service to the community and as Emergency Director. Commissioner Sanders congratulated Mrs. Brownell and thanked her from the bottom of her heart. Mrs. Brownell thanked Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Sanders for believing in her when they put her in the position, even when she didn’t believe in herself.

Mrs. Bankston presented the following proclamation on behalf of the staff at Emergency Management.

### **PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE YEARS OF SERVICE OF PAMELA GAIL BROWNELL**

**WHEREAS** Pamela Gail Brownell joined the Franklin County Emergency Management in 2005, became Director of Emergency Management in 2012, and has served the County faithfully for seventeen years.

**WHEREAS** Pamela Gail Brownell has sponsored a variety of programs in Franklin County that include Build a Bucket and Alert Franklin.

**WHEREAS** Pamela Gail Brownell has also created programs for the citizens of Franklin County such as, medical assistance during evacuations, the protection of private property by controlling reentry into the County following a disaster, a rapid means of keeping the community informed about disasters, a program for transporting citizens in need of shelter before a disaster, and volunteer assistance programs during disasters.

**WHEREAS** Pamela Gail Brownell has led us through the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Eastpoint Lime Rock Wildfire, and Hurricanes Irma and Michael.

**WHEREAS** Pamela Gail Brownell has equipped the EOC for future disasters, bringing the tools we need, from trailers to shovels to lighted road signs. She has also generously supported other agencies in the County by lending scarce equipment

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners and the citizens of Franklin County extend its greatest honor to Pamela Gail Brownell for her many years of service to the Franklin County community.

This **RESOLUTION** adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2023

## **7. Alan Pierce**

The Board presented a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Pierce for his service to the community and the County. Mrs. Griffith read the following:

“Our next honorary recipient needs no introduction, but for those who may be new to the County, Mr. Alan

Pierce is a native Floridian, born in Gainesville and a graduate of Key West high. From there he went on to earn a degree in Environmental Studies from Vanderbilt University in Nashville and then a master's in Science Education and Urban Planning from the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Alan started working for Franklin County on June 1st of 1988 as part of a grant-funded position in the Planning Department. Alan's first home in Franklin County was a long-term rental on St. George Island before moving closer to work in Apalachicola. Alan has worn a variety of hats over the years for Franklin County – he has served as County Planner, Director of Emergency Management on three different occasions, Director of Administrative Services, and most recently as the Special Projects Coordinator for the settlement funds relative to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (the RESTORE program).

I am fortunate to have worked alongside Alan for almost twenty years now and I consider him a great mentor and one of my closest friends. Although Alan's decisions have not always been popular, in government, disagreements and varied reception of one's ideas are constant – Alan's heart has always been in the right place and he has tried to do what he felt was best for Franklin County. Alan, we wish you all the best going forward.”

Mrs. Bankston read the following she had written for Mr. Pierce.

“ Trying to write the perfect poem for Alan was no easy task. Not much rhymes with Alan or retirement. So, I did some research and found there are several different types of poems like an epic poem doesn't have to rhyme but has to tell a story of an adventure. So here is your epic poem ironically titled: Alan's Retirement Adventure. “

Alan, you started working for the County in 1988, the same year as Phil Collins' "A Groovy Kind of Love" came out and the same year Microsoft was introduced to the world. I'm not sure of your taste in music, but I know for certain, Microsoft was software you didn't know how to use before you retired. You then returned in 2004, the same year I graduated high school so I won't bore you with the songs that came out in that year. But it was the same year as Facebook, Skype, and DVR. The technology you had no use for before retiring a second time. In 2021 you made a comeback to assist while I went on maternity leave which I am forever grateful for and now you are leaving us... again. If for some reason you get called back, just know it won't be on account of me because I'm not having any more kids. They say, "Third times a charm". So, congratulations on holding the record for quitting the County multiple times without having to be escorted out. In your honor, we are installing a turnstyle and naming it Alan's Doorway. They define retirement as the beginning of sitting back and giving advice to others that you yourself have never followed in your own life. I got confused because that is clearly the definition of Alan. With the vast amount of achievements, you take with you, the only thing left for you to do is fulfill your retirement duty and wake up at 6 am every morning to drive really slow so everyone else is late for work. In closing I say, we will miss you and the indispensable knowledge you have brought to the county. If for some wonderful reason, you decide to grace us once again, know that this is the only poem you will get out of me. Happy Retirement Alan, enjoy your adventure.

Mr. Pierce thanked the Board and staff.

Commissioner Sanders said she learned about Alan Pierce on the planning and zoning board. Alan is smart as a whip and if he loves you, he loves you. He loves rhymes and poems. He's facing a battle that no one knows, Alan Pierce you fight like heck and stay fierce. Mr. Pierce said he was going to have Royce play Billy Joel, 'Say Goodbye to Hollywood'. Chairman Jones said we fight like family. Sometimes I've called Alan and said we need a different update for the channel dredging. In all seriousness it takes a lot to move things forward, some have the notion that it is all about whom you elect on the board but we truly rely on staff in our county. In all the battles we faced, we won. Mr. Pierce said it's been a long struggle, and he wished it could have started years ago. He said he doesn't know if we should go in partners with the Corps of Engineers in the future. When you become a partner with the federal government, you lose control. Mr. Pierce thanked the Board and staff and said he will be back at some time.

Chairman Jones said there are needs that are being met by people all over our county by different groups, organizations, and individuals. He said he would like to start highlighting some of those to celebrate and say thank you to the community. Thank you for all you have done to make Franklin County a better place.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Debi Jordan asked the Board to please keep Capt. Segree in their thoughts and prayers as he will be undergoing surgery which will leave him out of commission. She said he has done a great deal for the people of Lanark. She said Mrs. Sanders is doing a bang-up job listening to and acting upon the concerns of her constituents of District 2 such as getting trustees to Lanark Village. Ms. Jordan said she is delighted that Island View Park is open and it is absolutely lovely.

She said that she appreciates the availability and approachability of all the Commissioners, Coordinator Moron, and Attorney Shuler. She said that she is praying for Commissioner Lockley that his health is improving. The concerns at Franklin County email always respond professionally and courteously. She said that Mr. Nabors bringing trustees to Lanark village was greatly appreciated. She asked for clarification about County ordinances and compliance on property outdoor advertising signs modifications or replacement by the Lanark Village Association at mile marker 5.176 on Heffernan and Parker at 98. Heffernan has permit Tags BB845 and BB846. Parker has no permit tags. Please clarify as the LVA stated they do not need County permission.

Ms. Victoria Hart spoke regarding the recently approved Tourist Development Council Administrative Services budget. In an earlier meeting this fall, Mr. John Solomon of the TDC presented a request for \$174,000. In administrative services and costs. There was a question as to what was covered in these costs and what was salary. Commissioner Lockley was the only person who questioned the amount. At the December 20th meeting was absent but the board was assured by Mr. Moron that Mr. Solomon had met with Commissioner Lockley and had answered his concerns. Commissioner Lockley was not the only person in the room with questions and concerns. There were people in the audience who shared his concerns about the \$174,000 including myself. I am rather disappointed in the rest of the board for not having questions. I would like Mr. Solomon to present a detailed accounting of how the money will be used either through a budget handout or a verbal presentation or both. I intend to go forward with this through FOIA if Mr. Solomon fails to produce the information.

## **Department Directors Reports**

### **8. Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Roads and Bridges**

**Mr. Nabors wished the Board Happy New Year.**

**Picking up litter, shoulders, and roadways. Started on the East end going west.**

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

#### **C. Action Item: County “On-Call” Policy**

In the past, the Board has discussed the availability of employees during holidays, weekends, and closures due to storms as the County is responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of its residents. This matter is usually discussed before or after the Christmas season, as this is when the County is closed for consecutive days. To get ahead of this discussion repeating itself, Chairman Jones, Mr. Fonda Davis (Director) and I met last week to discuss a possible solution to this issue. The recommendation is an official county “on-call” policy. Currently, when a county employee is asked to be “on call”, their compensation is based on how many hours they have worked that week, and that employee is not compensated for all of the restrictions that go along with being that employee not compensated for all of the restrictions that go along with being “on call”. Today, I am asking the Board to discuss this matter and authorize me to request a policy from the County’s labor attorney for the Board’s review and adoption. Chairman Jones will discuss this matter at length with the Board. Board action to authorize staff to request an “on-call” policy, that includes all Board comments and

requests stated today, for your review and adoption at the next meeting.

Chairman Jones said we are already doing some on-call in departments, but it is not an official policy of the county. To try and clean up all the discussion on the issue, I think we should include this in a policy. I feel like they should get the amount whether they get called or not. I think they should get paid a minimum for each call-out. I feel like if this is going to be a procedure we are going to continue to use, we should have an official policy. Mr. Nabors said in the past people would fight over taking a holiday because they would get double time. Chairman Jones said this is something we would send to the labor department. Mr. Moron said he didn't think it was fair if someone must come out in an emergency that has been off due to a storm closure, then they only get paid according to the hours they have worked. Commissioner Ward said you cannot require people to be on call and not give them any incentive to do so. Commissioner Lockley noted that when they are on-call they can't go anywhere. They are subject to call to whatever hours they are on, but they aren't getting paid unless they get called out. Mr. Nabors said he believes you should be paid for a full day when on-call. Chairman Jones said there are currently two departments that don't get paid anything for being on-call. Commissioner Ward said the drive time needs to be looked at also. You must provide incentives.

Mr. Moron said we must find a happy medium. Where it's enough to provide incentives, but it's also giving them the ability to do something within the area. Commissioner Lockley asked for a labor attorney to send some literature on how this works. Commissioner Sanders asked if it was going to be for all county departments. Mr. Moron said he agrees with Commissioner Ward in that it will be different for each department, but a county-wide policy.

Commissioner Sanders said she is going to err on the side of the employee because she wants to treat them fair and right. Just don't want the county to respond to situations, our county has to run a certain way. Why are we suddenly needing an on-call policy? Mr. Moron said this is something we have been discussing for a couple of years now. Commissioner Sanders said you need to make sure to tell your employees that we are working on something to help the employees. Chairman Jones said we are asking two departments to be on-call every weekend however we have nothing in our policy to back this up.

Chairman Jones asked Mr. Davis if this included employees who are normally scheduled to work on the weekend. Mr. Davis noted this on-call policy would apply for times when the employees are scheduled off but scheduled to be on-call. Commissioner Amison noted that if we set something up with the right incentive, we'll have people asking to take the on-call for the extra money. Mr. Nabors said that during a hurricane when the courthouse is closed, they want us closed. But when we are at home, it's hard to get someone to come out should there be down trees, etc. that need our assistance. Mrs. Griffith noted that employees are paid at their regular pay for the hours they come in. Commissioner Ward said this will provide someone who knows they are on-call that way we aren't scrambling around trying to find someone to come in. We need to look at this for sure. Commissioner Ward said it will be up to the directors to get that on-call schedule together and coordinate with their employees. Commissioner Amison said we are trying to figure out coverage for holiday times. Someone in key areas of the county to handle things within the county. Mr. Davis said we fit this in the schedule and animal control on call fits into their regular schedule. Mr. Davis said we had it worked out with Waste One. DEP requires everyone that runs that transfer station to be certified. Commissioner Amison said maybe you expand your pool of people to pick from. Commissioner Sanders said it may be that more people need to be certified in that landfill. Everybody has emergencies and things that happened. This is not the first time that this has probably happened. Commissioner Amison said our landfill was closed from Friday to Monday. We had waste trucks loaded with garbage and they couldn't get over to unload it. We must be forward-thinking so that when we have two four-day weekends, we have a plan in place. Garbage is an important factor. Commissioner Sanders asked how Mr. Davis accommodated all the other contractors. Mr. Davis said he contacts them and tries to plan. Commissioner Amison said 4<sup>th</sup> of July his dumpster sat there for a week and Waste Pro was fired. Mr. Davis said we aim to please and we bend over backward. We also must look out for the employees. Commissioner Lockley said we have policies, and we know we are going to be off. The employees have a right to their days. Commissioner Amison said we must change our policies so

that we aren't holding up businesses. Commissioner Ward said most places pay a flat fee to be on-call and time and a half. We need to come up with a policy that benefits the employees and the county. Mr. Davis reported that Waste Pro was going to make it work. Waste One said they needed to dump on Friday and Monday to be able to accommodate their customers. Mr. Moron said Parks and Recreation are understaffed. We need an on-call policy to help with coverage. We need the motion to discuss this with the labor attorney and ask him to draft a policy to bring back to the Board for review. Mrs. Griffith clarified that employees are paid straight hourly pay for all hours worked – it's just the on-call that is in question. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to direct Mr. Moron to work with the labor attorney to bring back a recommendation to the Board for an on-call policy. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Moron to also look at what other people have regarding on-call policies. Mr. Moron said we need to advertise our holiday schedule in the newspaper this month and possibly next month to notify the public. Commissioner Sanders said we need to get more employees certified. Commissioner Ward noted her employer doesn't allow people to take vacation time during holidays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Amison informed the Board that there is an inspection scheduled for tomorrow at the airport. Commissioner Amison asked Mr. Nabors if he was going to be available. Commissioner Amison said in order for us to maintain what they have done; we are going to have to get some heavy equipment to level that out. Commissioner Sanders asked about C-30 in Carrabelle, saying she wants to do something about the intersection of 98 and C-30. We are going to have to go before the DOT to get them to do something, afraid if a storm comes it will be washed out. Commissioner Sanders asked if the county had ever worked with FEMA on this particular area. Mrs. Griffith noted there is an active FEMA project, however, there were some discrepancies in the GPS location. She said there is an active project but it is taking a long time to work through the GPS location issue. Commissioner Ward thanked Mr. Nabors for everything he and his department does.

## **9. Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director**

Mr. Davis wished the Board and staff a Happy New Year! Mr. Davis did not have a written report however he reported on the following.

- Resignation of Deandre Williams with Animal Control
- Scale house and scale replacement - \$20k to rent temporary scale, Mrs. Griffith said a reduced tipping fee would be the best approach. Mr. Davis said he will be thinking of how to accommodate the public.

**Commissioner Sanders made a motion to advertise the vacant position with Animal Control, seconded by Commissioner Ward.** Due to the item not being listed on the agenda, Chairman Jones called for public comments, and there were none. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Davis reported the porta potty at Island View Park had been inadvertently locked. It is now open however it is not handicap accessible. He reported a handicap-accessible unit has been ordered.

## **10. Jennifer Daniels – Emergency Management Director**

- **Request Advertisement for Special Needs Coordinator/Office Administrator Position**

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved advertising for the Special Needs Coordinator/Office Administrator Position. Motion carried 5-0.**

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

**A. Action Item: LSE Hard Freeze Conditions**

As authorized by the Board and based on the Emergency Management Director's recommendation, Chairman Jones signed a Local State of Emergency Declaration on Thursday, December 22, 2022, in anticipation of the Hard Freeze Watch and Wind Chill emergency conditions. Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the Local State of Emergency Declaration.

**STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS** emergency conditions exist or are anticipated due to the effects of a Hard Freeze Watch and Wind Chill Advisory with expected temperatures in the teens to lower twenties, and,

**WHEREAS** the Franklin County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is hereby activated and the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") and their representatives shall have the power, authorities, and duties to take any and all action under the plan necessary for the preservation of the health, welfare, and safety of the people and property of Franklin County; and,

**WHEREAS** Florida Statute 252.38 provides authority and responsibility for safeguarding the life and property of the citizens of Franklin County; and

**WHEREAS** Florida Statute 252.38 provides authority for the waiver by the Board of procedures and formalities otherwise required of Franklin County under the circumstances of a Local State of Emergency and,

**WHEREAS** there is a necessity for a prompt and efficient response and recovery in order to safeguard lives and property affected by the emergency and/or disaster.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to Florida Statute Section 252.38, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners issues a State of Local Emergency for Franklin County, Florida, beginning this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2022 at 11:00 am E.T. Any person not abiding by this Order is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree and subject to penalties established under Section 252.50, F.S. and/or any other portion(s) of Florida Statutes.

**DONE** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2022 at 11:00 am E.T.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified the Chairman's signature on the above-referenced Local State of Emergency Declaration. Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Ward noted during the recent freeze Mrs. Brownell and Mrs. Daniels kept her in the loop, staff was calling and keeping her updated. Commissioner Ward said she is all about information so that she can share it with her constituents.

**9. Erik Lovstrand – Extension Office Director**

Mr. Lovstrand wished the Board a Happy New Year. He had no action items for the Board.

**10. Whitney Roundtree – Library Director**

Ms. Roundtree updated the Board on the events at the library as listed in her written report. Ms. Roundtree had no action items for the Board.

## Other Reports

### 11. Ted Mosteller – Interim Airport Manager

Mr. Mosteller had no action items for the Board. Mr. Mosteller noted there is a buzzard problem, the same as every year with people dumping carcasses on Airport Road. Commissioner Amison noted that this is caused by lazy hunters. Mr. Moron said the problem with moving the bin to a new location is that they will still dump the carcasses there. Chairman Jones asked if we could have a discussion with the city to see if they have a property that we could put on. Chairman Jones asked if it may be a possibility to put it at the Abercrombie Boat Landing, Commissioner Amison said we would need to check with FWC.

Mr. Moron announced Evan Blythe- Apalachee Regional Planning Council – Franklin 98 Project Update presentation was postponed to January 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Presentations and Requests

### 12. Traci Buzbee - The Management Experts, LLC - Legislative Appropriations Discussion

Ms. Buzbee reported the Legislative Appropriation list is due on February 13<sup>th</sup> so we will need to get something out by the first part of February. Ms. Buzbee asked the Board what initiatives they would like to go forth with this year. Commissioner Ward asked if the SOE office was on the list in terms of finding a new place. Mr. Moron said that he doesn't believe that we did last year. Ms. Buzbee researched the request from last year while the Board discussed it amongst themselves. Ms. Buzbee said we are working with BRICK on the hospital construction and it looks very promising. Chairman Jones said last year \$7 million in appropriations requests for the hospital and we had \$7 million of our own funds. Separate from legislature appropriations we have had several conversations with Triumph staff and they said they may help the county with furnishing the new building with equipment. Mr. Moron said he recommends the hospital and EOC. Ms. Buzbee said these are the two we requested last year: \$2.5 million for EOC and \$7 million for Weems. Ms. Buzbee said she does not have a record of submitting the jail request. Chairman Jones said some of the things he saw funded last year were like fire trucks and equipment. He said maybe it would be appropriate to reach out to our fire departments. He said he doesn't want it to be all the big things that we are asking for. Ms. Buzbee said there were a million dollars allocated for the hospital from the federal grant. She said she knows there were some local funds from the oil spill. We still don't have a true number as to the cost. Having the leverage money helps. Chairman Jones said he does know they have tried to redo some of the stuff with the shared-use biked path on St. George Island. It was too big of a project to get funded through traditional means. If that is something we could ask for through the appropriations. I think we have good numbers because we have worked through that process. Ms. Buzbee said she does have the documentation for that project and will allow her to start writing for that one.

The Board confirmed the tentative list as follows:

EOC

Hospital (new structure)

SJI bike path

Fire trucks

Mr. Moron said he will speak with the Lanark Village to see what he can come up with. Chairman Jones said he knows that several small counties have received funding for fire departments. Ms. Buzbee said Calhoun got funding for a fire truck for the past couple of years. Commissioner Sanders brought up the multi-purpose building at Hwy 98 and C30. Commissioner Sanders said she wouldn't want to waste a legislative appropriation. She said we are going to have to start doing something with the Weems project. If we don't get a legislative appropriation for the hospital then we as a Board need to sit down and talk about what we are going to do moving forward. Mr. Moron announced the legislative delegation meeting on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> @ 11 am.



**13. Tim Center - Community Action Agency - SHIP Update**

Mr. Center reported there are currently 20 applications in process. We have been in touch with all contractors who have been part of the SHIP program. We are looking to see how we can combine SHIP funds with the weatherization program. We have had several pieces of training. Ms. Angela Webster is the main contact @ 850-759-0868. We followed the procedure of opening applications in October for a period of 30 days. We aren't comfortable with leaving the application window indefinitely. Where are we with the program? It's an ongoing process, primarily most work gets done in the first year, however, it can go on for years. All those reports due to the state were submitted back in 2022. We will be submitting reports for 2023 in the spring. Commissioner Lockley asked how much the SHIP program gives out for down payment assistance. Mr. Center said he does not know the answer to that right off, but he will get that information and report back to Commissioner Lockley. Chairman Jones said it seemed the board changed this amount to reflect the USDA values. Commissioner Lockley said the reason he asked these questions, was the cost of houses is just about to double. Chairman Jones noted that we haven't received an increase in the amount of SHIP funds allocated to the county. Commissioner Sanders said one time the legislature cut almost all the SHIP funding. Chairman Jones noted they would like to hear back on the down payment assistance, whether it is a set amount or percentage. We would also like a copy of the reports submitted to the State, doesn't have to be ahead of the state but after submitted.

**14. Evan Blythe - Apalachee Regional Planning Council - Franklin98 Project Update**

*Item will be addressed at a later meeting.*

**Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board Report**

**15. Variance Request**

**a. 1909 Indian Harbor Road (Client request: BOCC postpone until future meeting)**

This item was tabled at the December 20, 2022, Regular Meeting. Consideration of a request for a variance to encroach 15 feet into the 75-foot wetland setback for the placement of an aerobic septic system at the property located at 1909 Indian Harbor Road, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Aaron Sarchet, agent for Jay Noonkester, applicant.

Mr. Moron reported that the client has asked to postpone the request to a future meeting to see where the Board is heading before this is put back on the agenda.

Attorney Shuler addressed the following item from his report at this time.

**8. Franklin County Critical Shoreline Ordinance in Re: Local Regulations for Distance Between Sewerage Systems and the Waters/Wetlands of Franklin County**

Attorney Shuler reported that attached to his report is the part of the Critical Shoreline Ordinance requiring a minimum of 75 feet to 150 feet set back from a sewerage system from the waters/wetlands of Franklin County. 150 feet for septic systems and 75 for aerobic systems. On Alligator Point and St. George Island, only aerobic systems are allowed. The purpose of the setback is for the protection of the wetlands and waters of Franklin County. Attorney Shuler reported he is in the process of having staff verify that the State setback for sewer systems is 50 feet from the water/wetlands of Franklin County. Recently, the advisory PZBOA recommended a 15-foot variance from the 75-foot setback for an aerobic system on St. George Island, and the board elected to defer consideration of the variance request at its December 20, 2022, meeting.

Chairman Jones said it is the same issue we ran into with the well and septic. We had a standard that wasn't the same as the state. I would much rather abide by the state. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to proceed with a public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Amison.** Chairman Jones said there is a process they can go through with DEP to put back what was eroded if they can prove that it was there. There are ways to keep it from eroding forward. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Attorney Shuler said he would schedule this for the second meeting in February. Attorney Shuler clarified that the applicant has not withdrawn their request, they have asked Mr. Moron to remove their request from today's meeting to see what the Board decides.

## **County Staff & Attorney Reports**

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

#### **a. BOARD ACTION: Permission to Schedule and Advertise Public Hearing for Capital Improvement Plan Update**

Each year the county formally updates the Capital Improvements Schedule of the Comprehensive Plan to reflect upcoming goals and projects within the county. This list assists with the planning process and grant funding applications. A copy of the current Capital Improvements Schedule is attached to this report. Board action to approve the scheduling and advertisement of a public hearing to update the Capital Improvement Plan.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the scheduling and advertisement of a public hearing to update the Capital Improvement Plan. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **b. BOARD INFORMATION: SCOP, SCRAP, CIGP, AND TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT CYCLES OPEN**

Franklin County is eligible to submit 2 applications for SCP, 2 applications for SCRAP, 1 application for CIGP, and 2 applications for Transportation Alternatives. If commissioners have certain county roads or projects in mind, please reach out within the next few weeks whereas there will be sufficient time to qualify the projects for the different programs. Later this week we will circulate a project description email to board members which will summarize the different programs and the types of eligible projects.

#### **c. BOARD INFORMATION: ISLAND VIEW OPENS TO THE PUBLIC**

Island View Park in Carrabelle was re-opened to the public at 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 22, 2022, following a final walk-through inspection with County Staff, the Project Engineer, and District Commissioner Cheryl Sanders. A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held late this month or early February, the date to be announced.

#### **d. BOARD INFORMATION: SGI PLAYGROUND PROJECT**

Vendor representative Kim McPhee with LSI Playground Equipment will be here on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> to present design options to the playground advisory committee. Once the committee recommends a design, the design will be presented to the Board for acceptance at the next meeting.

#### **e. BOARD INFORMATION: MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING CARRABELLE BEACH PARK PROJECT**

There is a mandatory pre-bid meeting scheduled tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. for the Restoration of the historic Carrabelle Beach Park Pavilions and Restrooms Project. The meeting is being held on-site for interested bidders to see firsthand the work that needs to be done, and view site conditions and will provide bidders an opportunity to ask questions to the project architects before bids are due next Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.

**17. County Coordinator – Michael Morón**

**a. Action Item: LSE Hard Freeze Conditions**  
*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

**b. Action Item: 725 Ridge Road**

On Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, staff received notification from Mrs. Frances Estes who resides at 725 Ridge Road, that the HVAC in their home was not producing any heat. Ms. Estes informed staff that she received this home as a survivor of the Eastpoint Wildfire. Once that information was verified, Commissioner Ward was updated on the matter. I explained that an HVAC contractor would be contacted to repair this unit and the cost for the repair would be paid from the Eastpoint Wildfire donated funds managed by Community Action Agency. The HVAC contractor was able to repair the unit hours before the hard freeze set in on the county on that Friday night. Board action to authorize the payment of the invoice from the Eastpoint Wildfire donated funds.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the payment of the invoice from the Eastpoint Wildfire donated funds. Motion carried 5-0.**

**c. Action Item: County "On-Call" Policy**  
*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

**d. Discussion Item: Armory Update**

The following is Mr. Mark Curenton's most recent update on the Fort Coombs Armory project: We had the final walk-through inspection of the Fort Coombs Armory today (Dec 20<sup>th</sup>) with the contractor and the architect's representative. The State Fire Marshal did their inspection on the fire sprinkler system on Tuesday, and everything was approved. The State Fire Marshal's report is attached. Tammy Owens, Apalachicola's Building Official, was at the inspection on Tuesday and will be issuing her certificate of occupancy today.

Today's inspection revealed just two things that need to be completed. There were five spots where the sprinkler system pipes penetrate the walls that need to be cleaned up and sealed. The other thing is the replacement of the two windows at the northeast corner of the building. The original windows have been removed, and the craftsman is repairing/reconstructing the windows. He should come down the second week in January and install them, which will be a two-day job. That will complete the project.

Based on that information, we will proceed with the Baby Sapp Benefit scheduled for Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, and the Chamber of Commerce's Chef Sampler scheduled for Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Let me know when you would like staff to start accepting reservations for events at the armory. Board discussion.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, to start accepting reservations for events at the armory on February 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Commissioner Lockley asked how much they are going to charge to rent the armory. Mr. Moron said he plans to charge the same as before. He will double-check but believes it to be \$600. Mr. Moron said he will add this information to the website as well as there will be a link to book online. Commissioner Sanders noted this project began back in 2008. Chairman Jones asked if we charge the school district to use the armory. Mr. Moron said he doesn't believe we charge them. Chairman Jones said we need to get with the school and get their prom date booked before taking additional reservations. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**e. Informational Item: FAC 2023 Conference Schedule**

To assist you with your 2023 calendar and schedule, I've attached a list of the Florida Association of Counties' upcoming conferences and events. Let me know if you need additional information on any of the events on the list.

**f. Informational Item: Today's Workshop**

As a reminder, there is a workshop scheduled for this afternoon at 1:30 p.m. to hear from an Internet Service Provider.

**g. Informational Item: Next Meeting and Workshop Date**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. (ET). There is another workshop to hear from other Internet Service Providers (Consolidated and T-Mobile) that same afternoon at 1:30 p.m. (ET). The Board discussed the need for service on Hwy 67 and Hwy 65.

Mr. Moron said he will have the ad ready for the airport committee. He will have the ad at the next meeting for Board approval. Can I advertise as the Airport Economic Development Council? The Board agreed and felt it was a good fit with the things already done to move the airport forward. Mr. Moron said one of the people he wants to see on the board is John Solomon. He said he brings in the Chamber and TDC.

**18. County Attorney – Michael Shuler**

Attorney Shuler said he did not have any action items on his report. Chairman Jones said he was ready to move forward with holding a hearing on the RV parking and code enforcement ordinance. Commissioner Ward agreed. Mr. Moron said most of the code enforcement complaints we receive now are for RV violations. Mr. Moron said he believes with a good update it will knock out the majority of the complaints. Attorney Shuler said he updated and drafted a revised RV ordinance in the spring/summer of last year. He said he will send that back out to all of the Board members.

Attorney Shuler presented the following item from his report at this time.

2. RV Parking and Code Enforcement

Attached is an article from the Gulf County Star newspaper dated December 27, 2022, in which Gulf County officials are considering restructuring enforcement of their RV ordinance. Presently, Gulf County uses code enforcement only to enforce its RV ordinance. Based on this article, it appears that code enforcement of RV violations is proving problematic for Gulf County. As a result, Gulf County is considering using a combination of law enforcement and code enforcement to enforce its RV ordinance. While the article lacks details, I thought it was worth bringing to the Board's attention since you are considering amending your current RV ordinance (82-6) to use code enforcement instead of law enforcement. Franklin County ordinance 82-6 imposes a second-degree misdemeanor penalty for violation of the RV ordinance. A copy of ordinance 82-6 is attached for convenient review.

Commissioner Sanders said her purpose for bringing up item 6. She has already contacted George Gonzalez's office. She said she was trying to build consensus with St. Joe Company. The people I worked with before I retired are not there anymore. The staff whom she had spoken to said it was a great idea and that she would check on it and get back. Commissioner Sanders said she has no problem going before the governor in the event the property is owned by the state. She asked Mr. Moron how are we coming along on the old annex as EMS? Mr. Moron said we are waiting for Florida Retrofit for a cost estimate. Mrs. Griffith said she had spoken to Oxydine, and Fisher Roofing. Once we receive a third proposal, we can move forward with that. Commissioner Sanders said to get one with a 30-40 life.

Chairman Jones asked if the Board needed to vote on directing Attorney Shuler to hold an RV ordinance hearing. Attorney Shuler said the Board initially began this process due to the inundation of violations of the ordinance. Attorney Shuler said his recollection is that the issue is funding for a code enforcement officer. The Board has already adopted code enforcement and hired a magistrate. Attorney Shuler said he had previously suggested the Board use employees with P&Z until the Board provides funding for code enforcement and that wasn't going to work because that person already had a full-time job. Chairman Jones asked if there were funds available for professional services. Mrs. Griffith said all of your legal defense, specialists needed along the way, appraisers, and surveyors are paid out of these funds. She noted there are quite a few functions funded out of that line item. Mrs. Griffith said there may be \$10-15k available but not enough for a full-time employee.

Attorney Shuler noted another option would be to hire a full-time employee or contract this out to a service provider.

Mr. Moron said there are things that could be tightened up. Attorney Shuler said one part of the proposed update to the RV ordinance is when the clock starts running. He said he is proposing anyone with an RV obtain a permit allowing for a 7-day stay per month. The current ordinance allows for a 7-day stay for an RV with a self-contained septic system, and 14 days if they can tap into an existing septic system. The current update does address the deficiencies. Mr. Moron said he likes the idea of requiring the permit to allow us to keep a database, and then the Sheriff's office could check the permit date for compliance. Attorney Shuler said we would create standards as to what storage actually means. Attorney Shuler said he will send the draft over to Mike. Attorney Shuler said the way the ordinance is written you would be creating processes, for criminal and code enforcement.

## **Commissioners' Comments**

### **19. Commissioners' Statement of Intentions**

Chairman Jones said we are looking at stating and discussing long-term goals. Franklin County has no adopted strategic plan. We have a capital improvement schedule. A document put together that citizens can read and see where the county is headed direction. Residents can have the ability to access where the county is headed.

Commissioner Ward:

We need to get it done stop talking about it.

Code enforcement

Workforce housing

Making private roads public roads

Departments becoming separate, maybe splitting up Parks and Recreation/Landfill

Gun range behind Humane Society

Contract State with County for cleaning ditches on highways (Mrs. Griffith said she believes there may be a contract)

State Forest owned lands, creeks, roads, etc. (we maintain it, let's get some of it back)

Fireworks (noise ordinance)

Mr. Moron asked Commissioner Ward and other Commissioners to prepare their statements for the delegation meeting to present to the State.

Commissioner Sanders:

Agrees with everything Commissioner Ward said.

Jobs

Expand on what we have (airport)

Make Franklin County the best in the world

Landfill (go to the state to see if we can get land to make a larger)

Code enforcement

Youth – sports

Commissioner Lockley:

He is going to make a list and present it down the road.

Likes what the others said, he likes production. We talk about it and never show up. Like with the hospital. In the end, if you are doing something people are going to notice.

Commissioner Amison:

Airport - Everything revolves around tourism right now, we need to diversify our portfolio.

The bay - we have to have a harder approach with the state. Do not do it in a combatable way but hold them accountable. If not, we are going to end up with something that we are against and do not have a say in.

There are a lot of things with the airport that are coming up. That would be our closest shot at getting our economy up. The bay is going to be a little bit further down the road.

Chairman Jones:

All of these are statements of intent. They are not going to happen tomorrow but the board discussing things we need to do to move us all forward. I will assure you that the stuff we have done post Hurricane Michael. We need to ask for additional funds from FEMA to mitigate these projects. I do think we should look at going to the governor and cabinet and asking for the land back.

We could do a sports complex or activity center.

Roads – hire someone to consult or tell us, prioritize a road list

Economy development – Getting things done

Landfill – we may have to look at making a transfer station

Eastpoint Water and Sewer looking at using our 45 acres for a workforce housing initiative, it's something the county is going to be asked to partner with, looking at adding over 180 housing units, criteria would be based on the job you hold instead of how much you make.

Code enforcement – try to do mandatory trash pickup

Questions about things in our zoning code, when I looked up what was online it was inaccurate. The comprehensive plan hasn't been updated. Reach out to ARPC to see if they can help us with drafting an update to the zoning code, and comprehensive plan.

Commissioner Sanders commented on the progress and state of the bay. We need to take care of our own. When you have the state and federal government it is hard for the local people to be taken seriously. Feels like it is not all that they are saying.

Chairman Jones said the river channel needs to be dredged. Nothing better for this bay than for them to release fresh water to come down. It needs salt and fresh water.

Commissioner Sanders asked how many times they have come to talk about our bay, one time and that was it.

Commissioner Ward said she reached out to him and that's why he came. There needs to be better communication with not only FWC but state and federal. Commissioner Sanders said we have to do like old times and knock-on doors in Tallahassee. We've got to make sure we have made it better for our future generation to make a living.

### **Adjournment**

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

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**Ricky Jones – Chairman**

**Attest:**

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**Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts**

The audio is available upon request. Please e-mail [jgay@franklinclerk.com](mailto: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.