

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
FEBRUARY 7, 2023
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, 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 Approval of the Agenda

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

Chairman Jones stated the following changes to the agenda:

- Remove Item 12. Valentina Webb & Betsy Nofziger - Elder Care Community Council - Senior Services Update & Request until the next meeting
- Add Ms. Jenna Harper from ANERR request.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda with the changes notated above. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes and Payment of County Bills

County Bill List for Payment

Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting 1/17/2023
- Workshop 1/3/2023
- Workshop 12/6/2023

Commissioner Ward noted a change to be made in the minutes from the Regular Meeting 1/17/2023. On page 4 during the Alliant Weems presentation, edit name in paragraph one, sentence two. It should read Mr. Kozar instead of Mr. Lewis. Chairman Jones clarified the regular meeting minutes were from January 17th not February 7th meeting.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Payment of County Bills and the meeting minutes from Regular Meeting 1/17/2023, Workshop 1/3/2023, and Workshop 12/6/2022 contingent upon the changes as stated above. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comments

Mr. John Berry spoke to the Board regarding a need for contracts with the volunteer fire departments, a matter he had previously brought up in September 2022. Mr. Berry would like to know if there has been any movement on that item and if not why. Mr. Berry spoke on fiscal management and the extension of Alligator Drive. He is not sure why it is contingent upon a study. He inquired about county title services for purchased properties noting he thought it was a service that should be bid out.

Ms. Barbara Rohrs spoke to the Board regarding the non-ad valorem tax, stating her fire department (Lanark) was dismantled about fifteen years ago, there is not a fire hydrant past Indiana Street. She said she had spoken with someone at the City of Carrabelle and was told how expensive they are. She would like the Board to have further discussion regarding the installation of fire hydrants in this area. Chairman Jones said he does think it is something that can be discussed after public comments.

Mrs. Nonda Ming thanked the Board for Mr. Nabors quick response in cleaning the sidewalks the very next day! Thank you!

Ms. Debi Jordan thanked the Franklin County Animal Control on a very swift response to an at large animal. Mr. Albert was very kind and gentle with the animal. Thanked Commissioner Sanders for all that she is doing for the residents at Lanark.

Ms. Linda Hudson spoke about an incident of neighbor's wild pigs as follows. There was an incident where a neighbor's wild pigs were roaming the neighborhood rooting up my yard. I happened to be out of town and my neighbor who looks out for our place when we are gone, Judy Schlan, who is here with me, alerted me to the incident. I spoke with Kenny at Animal Control who was going to trap them. I also spoke with Lt. Brennan at the Sheriff's Office about the situation. He spoke with Animal Control and also contacted FWC. Animal Control was told by FWC that they could not trap them because they were wild animals. FWC and Animal Control were at my house and I was contacted by Animal Control who said they needed permission to go on my property which I approved. Animal Control told me that the owner could round them up with his dogs or FWC could shoot them. Rounding the pigs up with dogs was not a solution to an ongoing problem with the pigs. I instructed them to be shot which the owner did. Afterwards I spoke with Officer Kyle of FWC who was one of the officers on site. I asked if an individual could be in possession of wild animals. After some research Officer Kyle advised that one must obtain a "live pet permit" from the Department of Agriculture to live catch wild hogs and transport them. Officer Kyle's jurisdiction only involves visually seeing the transportation before he can issue a citation for the lack of a permit. He stated this issue would fall under a county livestock ordinance. This is why I am here today. If our county has such an ordinance, who enforces it. If not, I would like for the county to consider it. It is my understanding that the cities of Apalachicola and Carrabelle have such ordinances, but not the county. This is a residential area and this is not the first time this individual has had wild hogs that have roamed the neighborhood. He uses them to train his dogs.

Chairman Jones said he doesn't know the status of what Ms. Rohrs spoke on but there is supposed to be fire hydrants every so many 1000 feet. We need to check into this. Commissioner Sanders said Courtney Dempsey with the City of Carrabelle said that are all tied up with their water and sewer lines out to Woodill Road and once those are done, they will be able to start a new project. Commissioner Sanders said she would support a grant to do the western end of Lanark as it has grown tremendously over the past five years. Chairman Jones said he would like for us to verify the issues with fire hydrants, and if there is an issue, we may have to find a way to address the issue. Mr. Moron said we would have to go through the water and sewer department. Mr. Moron asked if this was a growth problem because there was a time Lanark had their own water and sewer and the City of Carrabelle extending services out to the area.

Ms. Rohrs noted at that time the area was just know as a sand pit. The community has grown at a great number, she said that she had went to Carrabelle several years ago to address the issue. She asked if they

give Commissioner Sanders a timeline. Commissioner Sanders said she hopes it will be soon. She asked Mr. Moron to check back with them. It may could be part of the program with the ARPC.

Commissioner Lockley asked what the deal was on the wild pigs. Chairman Jones asked if they were wild hogs or someone's pets. A gentleman with Ms. Rohrs (he did not state name for the record) reported that FWC determined when they got to the house, they were wild pigs. The resident was using the wild hogs to train his dogs to catch wild hogs. Chairman Jones asked if there is some issue with him catching wild hogs and holding them. He said he does have to have a permit to catch the wild hogs. FWC said he can't ask him for the permit unless he sees them transport. Chairman Jones said it seems FWC is in the prime place to enforce the matter but they do not want to. They have authority on the water, land, everywhere. Commissioner Lockley asked if you could bring a wild hog into a residential area. Attorney Shuler said he does not have the 28-page animal control ordinance in front of him. He does not believe it is allowed but with Chairman's permission, I will get with Mr. Davis and look at the ordinance. I will provide Mr. Moron some legal advice to pass along. Commissioner Amison said hogs are feral animals and he is not sure why they can't be trapped if they are destroying property. He said that he would check into that with FWC to educate himself.

Ms. Victoria Hart spoke to the Board about the status of the contracts with the fire departments and the county. She requested the Board authorize Attorney Shuler to draft these contracts.

Department Directors Reports

- **Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Roads and Bridges**

Mr. Nabors reported his department has been grading roads and cutting back right of ways. He noted the excavator for the airport was delivered today and hopefully they can get started in the morning.

The Board addressed Item No 12 from Mrs. Griffith's report at this time.

12. Board Action: Road Department Excavator

During last year's budget process, the Road Department was approved to purchase a new excavator which would be shared with the Mosquito Control Department to aid in the clearing and maintenance of ditches. The attached \$199,374 quote for a Caterpillar 308 Excavator from Ring Power is based on contact pricing through the Florida Sheriff's Association and the purchase is to be paid from the capital outlay fund with annual payments from the road department. Board action to approve the quote and authorize the issuance of a purchase order.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the quote and authorized the issuance of a purchase order for the Caterpillar 308 Excavator from Ring Power in the amount of \$199,374. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Lockley noted there is a bad drop off at Magnolia Cemetery. Mr. Nabors said he will get it taken care of. Commissioner Ward thanked Mr. Nabors for all they do especially with being shorthanded. Commissioner Sanders said the forestry were cutting some blocks off of Duval Road. They were tearing up the road pretty bad. She sent a message to forestry and they have agreed to grade every day. At the end of project, Mr. Nabors will come and give his approval on the repair before they leave. Glad that they stepped up to the plate and offered to do it.

Mr. Nabors said we also have the trailer at the end of Messer Street, maybe we can get up with the owner to see what they plan on doing and if they will move it etc. Commissioner Ward said she has spoken with Attorney Shuler and she will get with Mr. Nabors after the meeting with an update on this matter.

Chairman Jones said we had an issue for a long time where Indian Creek goes by Daisey Street toward down by the lodge. One of the previous owners filled up the creek, the current owner is acting like they want to

give the county an easement. If so, we will need assistance in getting it cleaned out. Chairman Jones said he will get with Attorney Shuler with the address and owner information.

- **Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director**

Mr. Davis reported that he has been invited to a baseball meeting to discuss some issues. Mr. Davis reported that he received an email from Mr. Moron's office, with a recommendation that we clean all easements on St. George Island. Mr. Davis said Ms. Triana Lockley contacted him about using the armory for sign up and practice for girls cheerleading. Mr. Davis said he will get with Attorney Shuler to get some type of hold harmless to allow them to use the facility. Mr. Davis reported the football banquet is scheduled for the 23rd of this month. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Davis to update the Commissioners after the baseball meeting.

Commissioner Ward said she had received a phone call regarding Vrooman Park and apparently there has been some drug use at the park. The sheriff wants to post a sign prohibiting drug use on the park premises. Commissioner Ward said she wants signs up and video surveillance. She said she does not want a child running around and get a needle in their foot. Commissioner Ward said the sheriff noted there has been drug activity at the other parks also. Mr. Moron will reach out to Mr. Stone to make an appointment to have him come out and give us a quote for the system. Mr. Moron and Attorney Shuler noted there was no need for a motion to change the signage. Commissioner Ward said she is willing to pay for the cameras out of pocket if she needs to. Commissioner Amison said he agrees with adding cameras to the DW Wilson and Vrooman Park. Commissioner Sanders said she thinks it's a good idea with having the cameras at all the bathrooms. Mr. Moron confirmed he will get a proposal and provide back to the Board for approval.

- **Jennifer Daniels – Emergency Management Director**

Action Items: All MOUs below were Reviewed and Approved by County Attorney Shuler.

1. Request the Board's approval and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Gulf County ARC & Transportation for providing transportation for our special needs residents in the event of a disaster.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Gulf County ARC & Transportation for providing transportation for our special needs residents in the event of a disaster and authorized the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Lockley asked if they were the only ones who bid. Mrs. Daniels said we didn't go out for bids on this one. They are the company who have provided this service for years and were always the lowest when we did ask for bids. **Motion carried 5-0.**

2. Request the Board's approval and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Franklin County School Board for providing transportation for our transportation disadvantaged residents in the event of a disaster.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Franklin County School Board for providing transportation for our transportation disadvantaged residents in the event of a disaster and authorized the Chairman to sign. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Request the Boards approval and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Franklin County Radio Club for providing Volunteer Ham Radio Operators, Equipment Repair and Testing, Training, and Planning.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Franklin County Radio Club for providing Volunteer Ham Radio Operators, Equipment Repair and Testing, Training,

and Planning and authorized the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Ward noted that HAM radios are out of date. Mrs. Daniels said during Hurricane Michael that was Liberty County's only form of communication. This system is a backup to a backup to a backup. This same team is helping us to build a radio network so that we can communicate from one end of the county to the other. We have gotten permission with the City of Carrabelle to put a repeater on their water tower, I am working on funding to pay for it. Once up and in place we will be able to communicate with VHF, UHF, and HAM. Commissioner Amison said he was a HAM operator in the ARMY, and they work when all else fails.

Commissioner Sanders asked about the radio with Williams Communications. Mrs. Daniels said we purchased a radio several years ago but we have not been able to connect it to the sheriff's radio because of confidentiality. We are working with Williams Communication so that instead of sheriff giving us his information, we can give him our information in order to communicate with him during an emergency. Williams Communications has had our radios for two years. We had another meeting with them last week. We are working with FDEM to help us set up some talk around channels. We understand there is a confidentiality issue and we are just trying to find another way to communicate. Commissioner Sanders noted that it is needed due to the various locations in the county with little to no cell phone service. Hoping by next months report will have a new radio system to report on. Commissioner Amison asked if they heard back from FAA inspection with the wall system, Mrs. Daniels said yes, they put the equipment in and everything is good to go. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Lockley asked how far away we take residents for shelter. Mrs. Daniels said normally we transport to Leon County. If we run into issues with lack of space, we have used Wakulla and Liberty County. Commissioner Lockley said these days the storms are wide, do you'll have some shelters a little further that you contact? We have a list of all shelters that are opened and if we need to move farther west or east, we do so.

- **Dewitt Polous – Mosquito Control Director**

Mr. Polous gave the Board an update of his department. He reported work on ditches in Eastpoint, and maintenance on all trucks and buildings. Mr. Polous reported that one of the chemicals currently used may no longer be available. He said he spoke with some of the distributors and they are having problems gathering all of the components to produce the stuff. We went ahead and purchased enough for his year and possible next year. In the future we have to go with a different product that may be exceptionally higher. Commissioner Lockley asked if the cold weather would help with the mosquitos. Mr. Polous said it does help, but it does not necessarily kill them. It does make them a little more dormant. What really helps is when we have the rain events in the wintertime, the ditches fill up and stay full. The natural predators help us more. When it dries up and then rains that when we have the issues. Chairman Jones asked on Gilbert Street if they went parallel with the road or perpendicular to Indian Creek. Mr. Polous said they did perpendicular and it turned out really good.

- **Erik Lovestrand – Extension Office Director**

Mr. Lovestrand updated the Board on the Extension Program in his written report. Mr. Lovestrand had no action items.

1. Extension office has been advising citizens regarding best practices for dealing with landscape vegetation damage following the Christmas freeze and will be providing a presentation at the Alligator Point HOA in the near future. Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Lovestrand for attending and all he does for the county.
2. Extension office staff is involved in collection of scallop predator exclusion cages from last year's Scallop Sitter program. These are being returned to FWC for cleanup to be used by volunteers in the 2023 program.

3. 4-H Archery club continues to meet and have practice/learning sessions twice per month.
4. Family Nutrition Program Assistant continues classroom teaching in Franklin County schools with nutrition curricula.
5. Extension Director conducted multiple field visits and assisted clientele via telephone, email communications, and in-person visits during this period. Topics included zoysia turf diseased issues, injured wildlife, recycling of aquaculture oyster shells, citrus disease in Carrabelle, consulting with Apalachicola Community garden, live oak health, pine tree management following injury, HACCP requirements for seafood dealers, native landscaping, stink bug outbreak, and more.

Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Lovstrand for all he does for the county.

- **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.

1. The permanent PT library assistant position has been filled.
2. The Carrabelle library is extending their hours. Effective February 6th, the library is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. This will allow more time for afterschool programming.
3. Patrons now have access to a new digital streaming service. Wilderness Coast has added Kanopy to our list of digital resources to bring you ad-free films and series that can be enjoyed on your TV, mobile phone, and tablet online. Patrons can simply download the app, select their library and login with their library cards.
4. The Association for Small and Rural Libraries opened up its first ever award opportunities in various categories. Wilderness Coast Public Libraries' Central Administrator, Courtney Whitaker, has graciously nominated Ms. Roundtree for the ASRL Solo Librarian of the Year award.
5. February 18th – “Souper Celebration” Soup, Bread, and Book Sale at 10:00 a.m. The Friends of the Franklin County Library is having their annual Soup, Bread, and Book Sale Fundraiser at the Carrabelle branch on Saturday, February 18th at 10:00 .am. This year will feature some new cultural elements, including local musicians and art on display.

Commissioner Sanders and Chairman Jones thanked Ms. Roundtree for all she does for the county.

Other Reports

- **John Solomon – TDC Administrator**

Mr. Solomon updated the Board on the TDC as listed in his written report. Mr. Solomon had no action items for the Board.

1. The October 2022 collections were \$280,910.
2. The November 2022 collections were \$146,699.
3. It All Starts with a Tourist Infographic and 2021 Visit Florida Economic Impact by Tourism in Franklin County report.
 - a. The Rockport study also showed that Franklin County is the second-highest visitor spend per resident in the state. In 2021, the visitor spends per resident reached \$31,000.
 - b. The study also shows that every 45 visitors to Franklin County creates one job in the county.

Mr. Solomon reported visitor spending in 2021 by visitors who live 50 miles or more outside of county totaled \$384.5 million. Mr. Solomon noted that Franklin County is third in the state of the increase in spending since 2019. He noted 93.7% jobs in the county are supported by visitor spending. Mr. Moron asked

Commissioner Ward and Mrs. Griffith to provide additional information on the legislative delegation meeting. Commissioner Ward noted she spoke on behalf of the Board regarding the 10-million-dollar cap on beach projects/facilities. What is good for Okaloosa County or larger counties, is not good for Franklin. She said she reiterated to them again asking about decreasing that for the small rural counties. Mrs. Griffith spoke of how two parts of the statute are obstacles for Franklin County. Those are the population being less than 100k (cap of 10% beach park facilities) and not generating \$10 million a year in tax revenues. Commissioner Ward said Representative Shoaf did bring up the potential bill for first responders and law enforcement using the proceeds from bed tax. I am hoping we can get some type of leeway with this statute to benefit our small county. Mr. Solomon said he spoke with Representative Shoaf also. He pointed out to him there is only two counties affected by the 10%/ population cap. in Florida, Franklin, and Gulf. The small counties cannot improve at a rapid rate do support the industry. Commissioner Lockley said they are setting us up, they don't want a small county to interfere with the larger counties. Mr. Moron said what we are speaking of now is a complaint we have had for years, being able to use the TDC funds to support the infrastructure for the tourism industry. Chairman Jones said it does appear that the language in the statutes is averse to smaller counties especially those that are tourist based. Chairman Jones said in conversation with Representative Shoaf the bill that he has presented allows 10% to use for first response. Commissioner Amison asked if Mr. Solomon had a relationship with the other smaller counties. If we could get in the ear of some of the smaller counties, Mr. Solomon said the best thing to do is speak with other directors. They will support it because they don't have any issue with it. Commissioner Ward congratulated Mr. Solomon's on being selected to speak at the upcoming conference on June 1st.

- **Ted Mosteller – Interim Airport Manager**

Commissioner Amison asked where we were with the hangar rentals. Mr. Mosteller said John Bone is selling out and leaving the county. He has been a huge asset to the airport. He and Centric are working on a lease agreement and he is subleasing to Centric. Commissioner Amison said the issue is there is no sub-leasing within the contract. Commissioner Amison said if they want to rent a hangar they need to come through the county. There could be some issues with tenants requesting reimbursement, etc. Chairman Jones said he wasn't aware but has had some people contact him about renting it. Commissioner Amison said our contract should supersede their sub-letting agreements. Attorney Shuler said per the contract the tenants cannot sublet without Board approval. Commissioner Sanders said she has had several people reach out to her with interest in renting a hangar.

- **Lori Switzer - Hurricane Housing Recovery Program**

Action Items:

1. Hurricane Housing Recovery Funds (HHRP) When we received the HHRP funding, November 2019, you approved the guidelines for spending these funds as follows: Home Repairs: Up to \$50,000 with a 15-year lien Mobile Home Replacement: up to \$75,000 with a 10-year lien (due to the increased cost of the homes this limit was increased to \$86,000) Mobile Home Repairs Up to \$20,000 with a 10-year lien All of the HHRP funds are spent, with the exception of one final mobile home repair. We have \$5,064.38 left for this project located at 305-24th Avenue, Apalachicola. Since we only have this small amount for repairs, I need your guidance on how long the lien time should be. We can either complete this project as a grant with no lien or reduce the lien time from 10 years to whatever amount of time you decide. Request: I am requesting Board action to either complete the project at 305-24th Avenue, Apalachicola as a grant with no lien or reduce the lien time.

Mr. Moron noted the state allows the Board to set the rules and amend them. Commissioner Lockley said he doesn't see why we need to do 10 years for \$5K. Mrs. Switzer said with SHIP they do not do a lien with \$5K. Commissioner Ward asked if they had done grants instead of liens in the past. The Board has with the SHIP program.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote

of the Board present, the Board approved completing the project at 305-24th Avenue, Apalachicola as a grant with no lien. Seconded by Commissioner Amison. Motion carried 5-0.

Presentations and Requests

- **Valentina Webb & Betsy Nofziger - Elder Care Community Council - Senior Services Update & Request**

This item has been postponed to a later date.

- **(Late Addition) Jenna Harper - Manager - ANERR**

ANERR Catalyst/Science Transfer Proposal

Ms. Harper requested a letter of support for the grant application. The proposed project addresses objectives 2 and 3 of the NERRS Science Collaborative grant program. The proposed effort will amplify and enhance collaborative research by creating a stakeholder group that will evaluate results of late-developing oyster restoration experiments and outcomes of implementation of initial restoration and management strategies (objective 2) and promote the use of science by providing input to agencies conducting restoration and management activities as well as promoting outreach and information access to a broad spectrum of stakeholders (objective 3).

Chairman Jones noted this grant is basically going to make sure you have monies in place that you can have proper meetings, notice meetings, minutes for meetings, etc. The deadline for this is the 17th of this month. Ms. Harper noted they would hope the funding will cover the group for approximately a year. Working through the CAB, we believe the successor group will look similar, to include community oysterman, seafood industry representatives, and local business owner representatives. They will then be matched with the agency representatives. We are not making that decision; we want input from the community as to what the successor makeup should be. It could be a commissioner appointed board or it could be volunteers. The more community voice that we have the better off we are.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized providing a letter of support with the ANERR Catalyst/Science Transfer Proposal/grant application. Motion carried 5-0.

Planning & Zoning Adjustment Board

- **Critical Shoreline Applications**

- a. 399 Hwy 98**

Consideration of a request to construct a Commercial Dock that will consist of a 49'x4' access walkway, a 60'x6' terminus with 3 finger piers creating 5 Boat slips at the property described as 399 Hwy 98, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Requested submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for Jeanne Dail, applicant. Decision will be contingent upon State and Federal Permits.

This item was tabled at the Board's November 15, 2022, regular meeting to allow the completion of the dredge project. With the delay of the dredge project, the applicant would like an approval from the Board with a contingency that the project will not start until the dredge is completed. This will eliminate any issues or confusion with having to revisit or review the application once the dredge project is complete.

The Board discussed this request noting the time it will take for state and federal permits as well as completion of the dredging project.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the request to construct a Commercial Dock that will consist of a 49'x4' access walkway, a 60'x6' terminus with 3 finger piers creating 5 Boat slips at the property described as 399 Hwy 98, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida, contingent upon State and

Federal Permits. She said she agrees this is going to take a while to complete the application process.
Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

County Staff & Attorney Reports

- **Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith**

1. BOARD ACTION: Ferrovia Services Bridge Cleanup Contract

The county has an agreement with the Sheriff's Department to clean the bridges for \$22,004 per year (which was the same amount that the county had paid the previous bridge cleanup contractor). Ferrovia Services sub-contracts the litter control for the state-owned bridges to Franklin County for their contract value of approximately \$10,004 per year. The county (Sheriff's Department) cleans the bridges more times than the state stipulated schedule.

Board action to authorize the chairman to sign the attached renewal of the Ferrovia Services Bridge Cleanup Contract.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the attached renewal of the Ferrovia Services Bridge Cleanup Contract. Motion carried 5-0.

2. BOARD ACTION: Hickory Dip Road Design Task Order

At the December 20th meeting, the Board authorized county staff to negotiate with county engineers Dewberry for design of the widening and resurfacing of .372 miles of Hickory Dip Road to North Bayshore Drive. Dewberry Engineers has submitted a task order in the amount of \$44,247 which will be fully funded by the Florida Department of Transportation SCOP design grant.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached task order with Dewberry Engineers for the Hickory Dip Road project.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached task order with Dewberry Engineers for the Hickory Dip Road project. Motion carried 5-0.

3. BOARD ACTION: CR67 Phase IV Design Task Order

At the December 20th meeting, the Board authorized county staff to negotiate with county engineers Dewberry for the Design of the widening and resurfacing of the final 2.6 miles of CR67 from Forest Road 172 to the Liberty County Line. Dewberry Engineers has submitted a task order in the amount of \$261,690 which will be fully funded by the Florida Department of Transportation SCRAP design grant.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached task order with Dewberry Engineers for CR67 Phase IV.

Commissioner Sanders made a motion to approve. Commissioner Sanders asked why Liberty County's roads are two feet wider than ours. It really needs that extra for the log trucks and such travelling. Let's widen that part if we can match Liberty County. **Seconded by Commissioner Lockley and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached task order with Dewberry Engineers for CR67 Phase IV. Motion carried 5-0.**

4. BOARD ACTION: SCOP Grant Agreement CR67 Womack Creek Bridge Repair Construction

Franklin County has received \$1,329,213 from the Florida Department of Transportation's Small County Outreach Program for construction and CEI to replace the headwalls on the Womack Creek Culvert Bridge on CR67.

- A. *Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached grant agreement and resolution of authorization.*

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, 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 and resolution of authorization. Motion carried 5-0.

- B. *Board action to authorize advertising for construction engineering and inspection (CEI) services.*

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized advertising for construction engineering and inspection (CEI) services. Motion carried 5-0.

5. BOARD ACTION: Resolutions and Ranking of Transportation Alternatives Grant Applications

Attached are two resolutions authorizing the chairman to sign the grant applications for the two Transportation Alternatives projects the County is applying for this year: the unfunded construction portion of the Multi-Use Path Project Phases III and IV which would add 5' bike lanes onto the shoulders of the road along Alligator Drive from the Marina to the S-Curve and the design and construction of a multi-use path along River Road from the junction of River Road and Mill Road to U.S. Highway 98. As the design work is already complete for the unfunded portion of the Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path, this project has the highest likelihood of being funded in the next cycle and staff recommends ranking this project 1st and River Road 2nd as River Road would require design and construction.

Board action to authorize the chairman to sign the TA grant applications, adopt the two attached resolutions and accept the ranking recommendation above.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the TA grant applications, adopt the two attached resolutions and accept the ranking recommendations above. Motion carried 5-0.

6. BOARD ACTION: Reject Bids and Readvertise CR67 Phase II

The Florida Department of Transportation will not allow Franklin County to reduce the scope of work on the CR67 Phase II widening and resurfacing project (1.29 miles on CR67 from Crooked River Bridge to SR 166) for the low construction bid (\$2,477,201.88) opened on December 20th to fit within the grant award. The total award for this project was \$1,970,050 and this was to include the design/permitting work, CEI and construction.

Board action to reject all bids and readvertise the project with bid alternatives.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board rejected all bids and approved readvertising the project with bid alternatives. Motion carried 5-0.

7. BOARD ACTION: County Road Paving Project Change Orders: Dunlap Street, Garrett Lane, East Pine between 5th and 6th

The following are change order estimates to the existing county road paving contract with Coastline Clearing and Development, LLC: pave the unpaved end section of Dunlap Street for \$52,700, resurface the road and

cul-de-sac at the end of Garrett Lane for \$31,500.00, and pave over the milled asphalt between 5th and 6th of East Pine for \$52,500. The three change orders above will be paid from District 1's paving funds.

Board action to approve the attached change orders mentioned above.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached change orders mentioned above. Motion carried 5-0.

8. BOARD ACTION: DEO Hurricane Michael Assistance Grant Amendment Request

In September, the county was granted a project scope modification and extension to June 30th, 2023, to fund two projects relative to locations which had been impacted by Hurricane Michael: 1) the acquisition of the old Alligator Point Volunteer Fire Department and 2) replacement of the ballfield lights at Vrooman Park. The acquisition of the VFD is now complete and the county is working to obtain cost estimates to apply for transportation grant funding to design and construct a new section of roadway to straighten the dangerous curve once the VFD vacates the property. The County has issued a purchase order for the new Musco Sports Lighting System at Vrooman Park, and delivery is anticipated within 8-12 weeks once the lighting submittal is reviewed and approved by Dewberry Engineers. As the lighting project may not be 100% complete by June 30th, staff suggests that the board move forward with an extension request to December 31st, 2023, and also ask for the remaining funds to be earmarked for additional needs for lighting, playground refurbishment and shelter at Vrooman Park.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached amendment request for the DEO Hurricane Michael Assistance Grant.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached amendment request for the DEO Hurricane Michael Assistance Grant. Commissioner Sanders inquired about the construction of the new section of roadway, the fire department needs to know they will have to move should we receive funds to construct this road. Attorney Shuler noted that there is language in the contract that puts the fire department on notice that the construction of the road is priority. **Motion carried 5-0.**

9. BOARD ACTION: 3rd Street Dune Walkover Notice of Award and Construction Contract

At the January 17th meeting, the county opened bids for the construction of the 3rd Street West Dune Walkover on St. George Island. Four bids were received and released to coastal engineers MRD and Associates for review and recommendation. MRD and Associates has reviewed the bids which were submitted, and they are recommending award to the lowest bidder MKM Quality Construction, Inc. at \$54,255 as all paperwork and documentation was in order.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached notice of award and contract documents for the 3rd Street Dune Walkover.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached notice of award and contract documents for the 3rd Street Dune Walkover. Chairman Jones noted these projects are being funded by TDC funds. **Motion carried 5-0.**

10. BOARD ACTION: Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park Repairs Notice of Award and Construction Contract

At the January 17th meeting, the county opened bids for the Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park Repairs Project. Two bids were received and released to project architect Doug Shuler with BFBS Architects of Tallahassee for review and recommendation. Doug Shuler has reviewed the bids which were submitted and recommends award to the lowest bidder Arris General Contractors, Inc. as all paperwork and documentation was in order.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached notice of award and contract documents once available for the Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park Repairs.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward seconded by Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached notice of award and contract documents once available for the Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park Repairs. Commissioner Ward wants to assure the public the park will keep the same style and look, it is just being refurbished. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**11. BOARD ACTION: RESTORE MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AMENDMENT:
Current RESTORE Projects: County-Wide Dune Restoration and SGI Storm Water Improvements**

The county has formulated scopes, project details, preliminary construction cost estimates and has completed the 45-day public comment period for the US Treasury for the RESTORE County-Wide Dune Restoration, the St. George Island Storm Water Improvements Project, and the Landfill Transfer Station required for a multi-year implementation plan amendment.

During the public comment period, only one comment was received, and it was regarding the county-wide dune restoration project. The comment suggested alternative beach-restoration strategies and after discussion with coastal engineers MRD and Associates, it was decided that the current strategy explained in the dune restoration study was the best approach as it was financially feasible and in compliance with the RESTORE Act Program guidelines.

In the attached amendment, the start dates for construction activities were changed from early fall to November due to the slow eight-month progression of the right-of-way transfer agreement for the existing two retention ponds and the proposed third through the various legal departments of the State of Florida. The county requested the ROW acquisition in May of 2022 and received a draft agreement just last week. This agreement is in review with the project engineers and we hope to have the agreement ready for approval at the next meeting.

A. Board action to approve and adopt the attached resolution authorizing the attached amendment to the multi-year implementation plan.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and adopted the attached resolution authorizing the attached amendment to the multi-year implementation plan. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Board action to submit the construction funding grant application to Treasury.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved submitting the construction funding grant application to Treasury. Motion carried 5-0.

For information only:

The purpose and objective of the estimated \$1.5 million dollar County-Wide Dune Restoration Project as outlined in the attached Multiyear Plan Amendment Narrative:

Purpose: In April 2022, MRD Associates, Inc. completed a County-wide Dune Restoration Study funded with Planning Assistance dollars provided by the RESTORE Act Direct Component Program. This study identified four (4) shoreline segments along approximately 11 miles of coastline in need of restoration and provided cost-effective solutions to rebuild and increase the stability of the dunes. Based upon the findings and recommendations of this study, the County intends to pursue the construction template dune and coastal hammock restoration at the two county beach park locations: St. George Island's Lighthouse Park (Current Cost Estimate: \$215,782) and Carrabelle Beach Park (Current Cost Estimate: \$228,944) and implement a county-wide dune vegetation project (Current Cost Estimate: \$257,250). A varied vegetation footprint of between 6 and 7.5 feet could be installed along the toe of the dune areas along 11 miles of public beaches (the four project segments shown in figure 27, page 34, of the attached report consisting of four miles of St. George Island, .8 miles of Carrabelle Beach, 5 miles of Alligator Point and 1.2 miles of Bald Point). Native coastal vegetation would be placed on 18" centers in staggered rows for a natural look. Approximately 171,500 plants would be needed for the county-wide effort at an estimated installed cost per plant of \$1.25. Franklin County would obtain written consent from interested private property owners for the plants to be installed along the dune line. As cited in the study 'Native dune vegetation provides significant benefits to beaches, dunes, uplands, and wildlife (FDEP, 2022). Salt tolerant dune plants: build protective dunes by trapping and stabilizing wind-blown beach sand, reduce erosion losses by wind and storms, provide a buffer against storm surges and salt spray, provide shelter for wildlife, and block light pollution for nesting and hatchling sea turtles.'

Objectives: 1) Improve existing dune structures at public park facilities by increasing crest elevations, crest widths, and side slopes utilizing template dune restoration methods; 2) Improve existing dune structures by assisting beach-front property owners by planting vegetation to assist in the development and growth of the dunes on private property.

The purpose and objective of the estimated \$4.5 million dollar St. George Island Storm Water Improvements Project as outlined in the attached Multiyear Plan Amendment Narrative:

Purpose: Franklin County contracted with Dewberry Engineers for the planning and design phase of the St. George Island Storm Water Improvements project. This phase is nearly complete and was funded with Planning Assistance dollars provided by the RESTORE Act Direct Component Program which determined the need for the installation of approximately 1,489 linear feet of 18" piping and 3,186 linear feet of 24" piping, and 3,270 square yards of asphalt patching and resurfacing, sod improvements, other required piping and restoration activities to complete the overall objectives of the Storm Water Improvements project. The purpose of this phase is to fund the construction portion of the project which will include all activities mentioned above to extend, enhance and construct storm water drainage facilities to increase the capacity for the commercial district of St. George Island.

Objective(s): 1) Increase storm water drainage capacity.

The purpose and objective of the estimated \$2.5 million dollar Landfill Transfer Station and Administrative Building as outlined in the attached Multiyear Plan Amendment Narrative.

Purpose: Franklin County is coming to a crossroads whereas there are only two options to extend the capacity of the landfill: 1) the County will need to acquire or purchase a large tract of suitable land, complete a lengthy permitting process through FDEP and build a new landfill at an estimated construction cost of \$10 to \$15 million; OR 2) the County will construct a 'County Transfer Station' operation in lieu of a new landfill to dispose of waste at a private facility inland at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million. A possible alternative site for a new landfill has not been identified and coastal property is expensive and in short supply. Franklin County proposes pursuing option #2 at this time to construct a transfer station operation with RESTORE Act Direct Component Program dollars. In July 2022, Franklin County contracted with Dewberry Engineers to conduct a Franklin County Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station Feasibility Study in order to produce pre-construction design services. The Feasibility Study will estimate costs to permit and construct a Municipal Solid Waste transfer station and administrative building utilizing capacity, intended

size and level of service of the proposed facility based on current and future tonnages; estimate the manpower and equipment operations costs to properly operate and maintain the proposed transfer station; and determine the estimated cost to transfer municipal solid waste to a selected disposal facility. Franklin County will use the results of the Feasibility Study to formulate a scope of work and budget for construction costs.

Objective: 1) Construct Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station operation and administrative building; and 2) Extend current capacity (remaining useful life) of existing landfill

12. BOARD ACTION: Road Department Excavator

During last year's budget process, the Road Department was approved to purchase a new excavator which would be shared with the Mosquito Control Department to aid in the clearing and maintenance of ditches. The attached \$199,374 quote for a Caterpillar 308 Excavator from Ring Power is based on contract pricing through the Florida Sheriff's Association and the purchase is to be paid from the capital outlay fund with annual payments from the road department.

Board action to approve the quote and authorize the issuance of a purchase order.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

13. BOARD INFORMATION: Miscellaneous Project Updates

- **County Coordinator - Michael Moron**

1. Action Item: Travel Trailer Ordinance Amendments

At your last meeting, during the Code Enforcement discussion, the Board discussed the different complaints received by staff. Travel Trailers and RVs received the most complaints, and by that Wednesday after your Tuesday's meeting, staff received 5 additional Travel Trailers/RV complaints. I ask the Board to consider authorizing Attorney Shuler to schedule a public hearing for the updated version of the Travel Trailer ordinance. A draft copy of the ordinance recently sent by Attorney Shuler is attached to my report. Board action to authorize Attorney Shuler to schedule a public hearing to update the Travel Trailer/RV/Camper ordinance.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized Attorney Shuler to schedule a public hearing for the second meeting on March 21st at 10 a.m., to update the Travel Trailer/RV/Camper ordinance. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Action Item: Code Enforcement Advertisement

During the same Code Enforcement discussion, the Board discussed proceeding forward with a vendor rather than an employee to provide code enforcement services for the County. From my research of similar size counties and cities, I have enough information to proceed with creating a Request for Qualification for these services. Once received, the packets will be reviewed by a committee, and that committee's recommendation will be sent to this Board for your approval. I will present the RFQ advertisement at your next meeting for your approval.

Board action to authorize the creation of a Request for Qualifications advertisement for Code Enforcement services.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the creation of a Request for Qualifications advertisement for Code Enforcement services. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Action Item: New Administrative Support Position

As you are aware, Mr. Mark Curenton County Planner is on his countdown to retirement. Even though his title is County Planner, Mr. Curenton's workday is mostly grant related. These are mostly FDOT, FWC, and Historic grants, which are different from the grants Mrs. Erin Griffith is currently working on. In addition, Mr. Curenton is the only FDOT Local Agency Program certified person in the county, which qualifies the county and both cities for applying for FDOT LAP federally funded grants. Knowing this, Mr. Curenton, Mrs. Griffith, and I have an option for your consideration. It would be a natural transition for Mrs. Griffith to work closer with Mr. Curenton, so she is able to fully assume his grant responsibilities once he retires, however, based on Mrs. Griffith's report this morning, it is obvious that she "has more on her plate than she can say grace over". It is recommended that the Board approves the creation of a new administrative support position. The primary responsibility of this new position will be to assist Mrs. Griffith with some of the day-to-day grant maintenance responsibilities, allowing Mrs. Griffith the opportunity to work closer with Mr. Curenton. The same day-to-day responsibilities for grants managed by Mr. Curenton would also be assigned to this position to further assist with the transition. Both Mrs. Griffith and this new hire would attend all necessary LAP certification classes, therefore, having two county staff LAP certified. This position could be funded from Professional Services for the remaining of this budget year, added to the budget for next year, but funded from Mr. Curenton's vacant position that following year. I will address Mr. Curenton's planning responsibilities at a future meeting.

Board action to authorize the creation of new administrative support position and advertising to fill that position.

Mr. Moron said LAP allows access to the county for federal grants for the roads. He said without that certification it will cut down on a lot of the grants we can get.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the creation of a new administrative support position and advertising to fill that position.

Commissioner Lockley inquired as to what this item was. Mr. Moron noted that this will be paid from professional services and added into next year's budget. Commissioner Lockley noted he doesn't want to overload Erin's plate. Commissioner Sanders asked if we could hold off on this until the next meeting.

Mr. Moron said he is presenting this on behalf of Erin. Commissioner Sanders said she wants to make sure that she is okay. She said she is all for lightening the workload but let's make sure it is done right. **Commissioner Ward rescinded her motion, Commissioner Sanders seconded it. Motion carried 5-0.**

4. Action Item: July 4th Meeting

Your first regular meeting in July 2023 is scheduled for Tuesday, July 4, 2023. Would the Board prefer to move the regular meeting to Wednesday, July 5, 2023, or is there another date the Board would prefer to have the meeting? Board action to move the July 4th regular meeting to another date.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized rescheduling the July 4th meeting to July 5th. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Action Item: FAC Legislative Day

The Florida Association of Counties 2023 Legislative Day is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2023. As the Board is aware, parking and hotel rooms are scarce, so inform staff as soon as possible if you are planning on attending. Board action to approve travel and expenses for the FAC 2023

Legislative Day on March 15, 2023.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved travel and expenses for the FAC 2023 Legislative Day on March 15, 2023. Commissioner Ward and Chairman Jones said they will be attending. Traveling on the 14th and back on the 15th. **Motion carried 5-0.**

6. Informational Item: Gate at Workcamp Entrance

I've received complaints from the Sheriff, Mr. Ted Mosteller – Interim Airport Manager, and Mr. Shane Phillips – Maintenance Supervisor, of illegal access and activity at the workcamp. This activity includes bonfires, dumping, and other issues, which creates security issues for the County and the Airport. I've asked Mr. Mosteller, with the assistance of Mrs. Erin Griffith, to seek some quotes from contractors to install a gate and fence at the entrance of the workcamp. Hopefully, this will deter any further activity. If not, the next step will be a security camera system.

Commissioner Amison spoke of this being a liability and would like a gate installed.

7. Informational Item: CDBG Consultant

Ms. Marie Dingman of Summit Professional Services, the County's CDBG Consultant, is scheduled to appear at your next meeting, February 21st, to update you on the \$700,000 housing grant, discussed at a recent Governor's press conference. Hopefully, the grant documents will be ready for signature on the 21st. In addition, Summit Professional Services will host a workshop that same afternoon here in your meeting room.

Commissioner Ward understands they are going to have applications at the meeting for people to apply. Chairman Jones said he believes this will just be an informative meeting. Commissioner Ward asked for Mr. Moron to confirm as she has had people reach out to her who would like to apply. Commissioner Ward noted this is not available for people within the city limits. The cities will have to have their own CDBG grants.

8. Informational Item: EPWSD Workforce Housing Project

Chairman Jones would like to update the Board on an Eastpoint Water and Sewer District Workforce Housing project. I've attached information from Chairman Jones about this project.

Chairman Jones noted the Eastpoint Water and Sewer District owns 45 acres. They are considering a workforce housing project on 40 of those acres.

This Development Conceptual Plan is designed for 160-Detached Single Family New Construction and 32 Single-family Town Home, the project's Investors / Developer envision an affordable housing community solution to combat the housing crisis that much of the nation is experiencing with our First Responders including Government Employee Staff, Teachers, Medical Staff, Local County Staff, and Municipality Employees. This concept is also scalable and can be used for Apartments and Plex's. Chairman Jones noted Mr. Fuentes from EPWSD will make a presentation to the Board in the future. Chairman Jones said workforce is what is going to qualify occupants. The payment cannot be anymore than 30% of your income. Chairman Jones noted the biggest enticement is that Eastpoint is an economic investment zone.

Commissioner Lockley would like to make sure this is for workforce housing. Commissioner Amison noted with it not being federally funded you can set your own salary qualifier.

It became a lot clearer when the governor did the hometown hero project last year.

9. Informational Item: Camp Gordon Johnston Parade

The 28th Camp Gordon Johnson Veteran's Parade will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2023. The parade starts at 10:45 a.m. (ET) beginning at the intersection of Highway 98 and 10th Street, traveling through 10 blocks of Carrabelle on Highway 98, and concluding at the intersection of Tallahassee Street and Highway 98. Let me know if you are planning on participating so staff can secure adequate golf carts/ATVs for the parade.

10. Informational Item: ARPC Meeting Notes

Attached to my report is a summary of highlights and news from the January 19, 2023, Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) Board Meeting. If you pay close attention to the attachment, you will realize that Chairman Jones was selected as the Chairman of the ARPC Board. Congratulations sir!

11. Informational Item: Leon County Strategic Plan

At your January 3rd meeting, Chairman Jones asked each Board member to state their long- and short-term goals with the intention of creating a Strategic Plan for Franklin County. Recently, I received a copy of Leon County's Strategic Plan which I have included ([click here for link](#)) for your review as there will be additional discussions regarding a Franklin County Strategic Plan at future meetings.

Mr. Moron shared a letter from the Franklin County Senior Citizens Board. Commissioner Ward said she is not happy with it; we give them money. Commissioner Ward said she and Mr. Moron were supposed to meet with them and now they are saying they don't want to meet. We may potentially need to pull the funding. It is unacceptable. Commissioner Sanders said she agrees with Commissioner Ward. The building was built with fundraisers, food sales, etc. the building was built for all seniors of Franklin County. Commissioner Sanders said apparently these people don't understand the need the few people who were using the Garden Club. Those folks that went to Garden Club do not feel a kinship with the people in Apalachicola. But for somebody to be just across the road and not twenty-four hours a day used, ridiculous. Infuriates me, to say we don't want you. Commissioner Ward said they can't dictate who they want it the club. Commissioner Ward said I know their meeting was in February but I don't know and do not see it in the minutes. Mr. Moron noted that Ms. Bretz would like to hold a workshop to explain to the seniors where they are and what they are doing. Mr. Moron said he held off on scheduling the workshop in order to hear what the FC Senior Citizens board had to say today. He said maybe he will reach out to the mayor to see if we can use their meeting room for the workshop. Commissioner Sanders noted every member of the county should be treated fair and right. If they cannot welcome every person who comes to them then maybe we need to reconsider the amount we give them at the next budget. Commissioner Ward asked how much we give them quarterly. Mrs. Griffith said I think we give them about \$15k a year. We funnel it through Area Agency. Mrs. Griffith said we have not issued any funds to them for this quarter until this is resolved.

Chairman Jones said he has had several residents ask him all over the county. We need to find out the status of our SHIP program. There has been some turnover, but some applicants are saying their status is stale. We need to get this rolling. The legislature is talking about funding SHIP at a larger level this year. Mr. Moron noted that we don't want them to see that we haven't spent the money, and them think we don't need it anymore. Chairman Jones asked Mr. Moron to look into this and update the Board.

Commissioner Sanders inquired as to where we are on pursuing the building for EMS. Mrs. Griffith noted that we are waiting on a meeting with Doug Shuler in order for him to write bid specs and determine what all needs to be done.

Commissioner Sanders asked if they were going to be able to take the fence down at Island View. Mrs.

Griffith asked did we want to remove it or leave it to where it can still be securely closed. Commissioner Sanders said if we are going to leave it we need it to be a nicer one. Commissioner Sanders said the north side of the road still needs to be mowed.

Chairman Jones asked if water and sewer is available on the south side of the road. Mrs. Griffith said she was not sure that there is. At one time St. Joe Company was going to assist with moving the road behind the north side but I do not think that any of that occurred. Commissioner Sanders said she would like Doug Hattaway to be invited to the open house. Commissioner Sanders noted that Mr. Hattaway said it would warrant a phase two for that portion of it. Chairman Jones said where the porta-potty is there is probably room to build a small restroom. Chairman Jones said if not, then we could contact DOT to see if we can get permit to run it under the road.

- **County Attorney – Michael Shuler**

- 1. Possible Purchase of Land**

On January 17, 2023, the Chairman stated that he wanted the issue of the possible purchase of land located in Eastpoint, Florida, to be discussed at the next board meeting. The land in question is owned by David and Stephanie Barber and is located adjacent to the old Highway Patrol Station in Eastpoint, which is owned by Franklin County and is the location of the TDC Administration building. According to the Property Appraiser's website, the land is a vacant parcel of land approximately 5.6 acres in size and has access along both C.C. Land Road and Highway 98, Eastpoint, Florida. A map from the Property Appraiser's website showing the approximate size and location of the parcel in question is attached hereto for your convenient review. As with recent purchases by the County, the property owners have stated a range of value acceptable to them in the amount of \$500,000.00 and \$600,000.00. The County can only pay the appraised price. The County will select the appraiser and is obligated to pay the cost of the appraisal. If the appraised value is within the agreed upon range, then the parties close and equally pay all costs, including the appraisal. If the appraisal is outside the range of value, then the parties can negotiate a new deal, not to exceed the appraised value, or cancel the contract. If the contract is cancelled, then the county will be responsible for payment of the appraisal. To date, the appraisal costs have not exceeded \$1,000.00. A draft contract for the Board's consideration and approval is attached hereto. Board Action Requested: Discussion and possible Board action to authorize entering into a conditional purchase and sale agreement as set forth hereinabove and authorizing the Chairman to sign the contract.

Chairman Jones asked how long it is taking to get appraisals back. Attorney Shuler said it is taking around 4-5 months. Now the FED has been actively raising rates, there are a lot fewer closings. Chairman Jones said this property is not in a flood zone. The owners are saying if the county is interested to let them know. Commissioner Ward said she likes that this property abuts other county owned property. Attorney Shuler said there is also access along CC Land Road and Highway 98.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized entering into a conditional purchase and sale agreement as set forth hereinabove and authorized the Chairman to sign the contract. Motion carried 5-0.

- 2. Franklin County Critical Shoreline Ordinance In re: Local Regulation for Distance between Sewerage Systems and the Waters/Wetlands of Franklin County**

The public hearing is scheduled for February 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. (ET). Since the ordinance, if adopted, means that Franklin County will effectively adopt the rules and regulations of the State of Florida for the set back of aerobic and septic systems from the waters and wetlands of Franklin County, does the Board want to formally request that the Department of Health send a representative to discuss

the State regulations with the Board and Public at the public hearing? Board Action Requested: Discussion and possible action to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter inviting a representative of the Department of Health to appear at the 2/21/2023 public hearing at 10:00 a.m. (ET) to discuss the setbacks required by the State of Florida for aerobic and septic systems from the waters and wetlands of the State of Florida.

Commissioner Ward said she believes it would be a great idea to have a representative from the health department to answer any questions we may have. Commissioner Amison said our wetlands are moving in and we may want to have that information before making these changes. Reach out to ARPC to see if that information is available. Mr. Moron said he has been receiving speaker cards on it. He said it will be good to have someone from the state to give the facts of why they set the setbacks they have.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign a letter inviting a representative of the Department of Health to appear at the 2/21/2023 public hearing at 10:00 a.m. (ET) to discuss the setbacks required by the State of Florida for aerobic and septic systems from the waters and wetlands of the State of Florida. Attorney Shuler noted the preamble to the 1989 ordinance contains legislative findings by the Board that the purpose of the setback was to protect the wetlands and the bay. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Closure of 8' Wide Beach Access Opened without County Permission (approximately located at 957 E. Gorrie Drive, St. George Island, Florida.

Sometime during 2022, someone improperly removed shrubs and native vegetation, including sea oats, to open-up one of the several hundred 8' wide beach access paths owned by Franklin County on St. George Island. This particular beach access is located in the vicinity of 957 East Gorrie Drive, St. George Island, Florida, between 9th Street East and 10th Street East. The County has constructed a dune walkover at 10th Street East within easy walking distance from this improperly opened beach access. The County also has provided for an unimproved beach access path at 9th Street East, which is also within easy walking distance.

Only Franklin County should open public beach access paths owned by Franklin County. The County did not open-up this walking path to the beach. Therefore, I recommend that the Board close it, barricade it with a substantial fence and post a no trespassing sign and another sign stating that the beach access path located at approximately 957 East Gorrie Drive, St. George Island, Florida is closed and directing the public to the dune walkover located at 10th Street East or the beach path open at 9th Street East.

I have included a photo of the improperly opened beach access path and a location map. "X" marks the approximate location of the improperly opened beach access path. Board Action Requested: Motion to close the 8' walking path described above at approximately 957 East Gorrie Drive, St. George Island, construction of a substantial wall or fence barricading access to the walking path, the posting of no trespassing signs and another sign directing the public to the dune walkovers at 10th Street East and the open path at 9th Street East.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved a motion to close the 8' walking path described above at approximately 957 East Gorrie Drive, St. George Island, construction of a substantial wall or fence barricading access to the walking path, the posting of no trespassing signs and another sign directing the public to the dune walkovers at 10th Street East and the open path at 9th Street East. Chairman Jones noted they not only cleared the path but took out sea oats and everything in its path. Motion carried 5-0.

4. MOU Between Franklin Count and the Apalachee Regional Planning Council to Administer Franklin County's Revolving Loan Fund and Use Such Revolving Loan Funds to Seek

Additional Funds

Attached is a draft MOU for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council to administer \$307,357.78, plus interest since 12/21/22, for Franklin County's revolving loan program to benefit low and moderate income persons. The ARPC will only spend this money in Franklin County, but plans to try and leverage these funds to seek additional funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration for use within the ARPC District, including Franklin County. However, Franklin County's \$307,357.78, plus interest since 12/31/22, shall only be spent in Franklin County.

Board Action Requested: Board discussion and possible action to approve the MOU and authorize the Chairman to sign it.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the MOU with Apalachee Regional Planning Council and authorized the Chairman to sign it.

Commissioner Sanders inquired about the revolving loans that have been on the books since 1985. Chairman Jones said he believed those were still on the books and need to be cleared up. Mrs. Griffith noted that we will need to do a transfer to clear the books. Chairman Jones said the executive board acts as the board who hears all of the applications. Chairman Jones noted that as soon as they receive this, they plan to use it as a match. This program provides nontraditional lending for business owners who aren't able to get loans through traditional methods. Chairman Jones said out of all the loans out, none have ever defaulted. He said as soon as the planning council receives the funds, they plan to use it as a match. Mr. Moron asked if we could use these funds in connection with industrial park at the airport. Chairman Jones said yes, it is very possible. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Jones asked Attorney Shuler if we are close to having a lease with the Lighthouse Association. Attorney Shuler said he has received a response from their attorney and they are still stuck on the same items from 2018. However, he believes they are resolvable.

Commissioner Sanders said she believes the Lanark Village fire department will need oversight once they are up and running. Chairman Jones said he had spoken with both fire departments in his district and they were both fine with having an agreement with the county.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Ward announced that she received an email from Clint Davis with FDAC inviting her to be a liaison. There is a meeting on February 28th and she plans on bringing up the four-wheeler trail. Commissioner Sanders noted that she is a liaison as a homeowner. Attorney Shuler said he would like to speak with Commissioner Sanders after the meeting. He has an issue with two commissioners being on the same board.

Commissioner Lockley said in speaking about SHIP they are working because I see one of the contractors has put in for payment. Chairman Jones said he was referring earlier to how some of the applicants have hit a stall, just want to make sure we don't need to readvertise, etc.

Chairman Jones announced the boys' basketball team will be playing tomorrow night at either 5:30 or 7 and then Friday night for the championship.

Commissioner Sanders asked what the status of the dredging was. Mr. Moron said they were supposed to reach out on Wednesday. They were supposed to see if they can use a dredge from Timmy. Attorney Shuler said he called same individuals that Mike did because he wanted to check on the status. He told me they are close to deciding on the local dredge, they have not received or provided a core contract between hooks/coastal. They are working, their backup is to get one of their dredges from another location.

Chairman Jones said he had received three or four documents in an email from someone that is outside of

the conversation so he will send those to you all. Commissioner Sanders said we would like to be updated. Commissioner Amison said the Corps has not responded back to us. Chairman Jones said it is because of all the different levels. Chairman Jones noted he has already been corresponding with Rubio's office.

Adjournment

There being no further business 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.