

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
JANUARY 17, 2023
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Circuit 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

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

1. Approval of Minutes
2. County Bill List for Payment

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Regular Meeting minutes from 1/3/2023 and the Payment of County Bills. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comments

Nonda Ming spoke to the Board regarding the speed limit sign at 1497 Alligator Drive being overgrown. She noted that the sidewalks on Tom Roberts Road are also overgrown and unwalkable. She said that she loved the new road but our fellow friends are now parking on the road illegally. She asked the Board if something could be done to designate a no-parking zone. She also asked if reflectors could be added to the pavement. It is dark at night.

Rudy Ming spoke to the Board addressing parking as it is getting ready to heat up again. We really don't have a plan. As we move forward again, police presence, tow company, and the signs being put up will help.

The Board moved to Richard Lewis's presentation at this time.

Presentations and Requests

3. Michael Kozar - Alliant President - Weems/Alliant Update
4. Richard "Loui" Lewis - EMS Director - New Ambulance Request

Mr. David Walker and Mr. Lewis presented the request to the Board. They are requesting the Board approve purchasing two EMS vehicles in anticipation of receiving a USDA grant which will pay for 75% of the purchase. The total for two vehicles will be \$684,874 with a USDA grant covering \$513,700 and funds from the capital outlay fund contributing \$171,174. Mr. Walker asked the Board to approve purchasing the vehicles and authorizing the use of the \$171,174 from the hospital's capital outlay fund. Mr. Walker said in the event they do not receive the grant; they will come back to the Board for approval to purchase only one vehicle.

Commissioner Lockley made a motion to allocate 25% of the funds (\$171,174) to purchase two ambulances contingent upon approval of the USDA grant, seconded by Commissioner Sanders. Chairman Jones confirmed the request and that in the event the grant was not received, they would resubmit their request to the Board. Mr. Walker confirmed and said he anticipates the award notification to be within the next couple of months. Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Lewis what the oldest ambulance he had in his fleet was. He said the oldest is 2015 with 300K miles on it. He said they have five ambulances in working order but the maintenance cost is pretty high right now due to the high mileage. Commissioner Lockley said we have used this program in the past to purchase ambulances. Commissioner Sanders said she thought the Department of Health still did the baby grant, but they don't. Commissioner Ward asked if the ambulances are completely loaded. Mr. Lewis noted they are with radios built-in along with two additional radios, and a stretcher with a lift. Mr. Moron said we would take the older fleet and send it to auction, and anything made will replace the funds spent. Chairman Jones asked how long it takes to receive it. Mr. Lewis noted they had ordered one in 2021 and they are just now about to receive it. It can take anywhere from months to a year and a half. **Motion carried 5-0.** Mr. Walker recognized the members of the hospital board who were in attendance.

5. Betsy Mansfield PhD - FSU Coastal & Marine Lab - Introduction

Dr. Mansfield introduced herself to the Board noting she is a Coastal and Marine Lab Researcher working with Florida State University. She would like to meet with members of the community in order to record experiences and knowledge held within the Apalachicola community. She plans to do one-on-one interviews, 30-60 minutes each, to discuss the history of the bay, the oyster fishery, the oyster reef restoration, changes to the bay and community, and personal experiences of local members of the community. She provided her contact information for the Board to pass along to constituents who may be interested in meeting with her. Commissioner Sanders encouraged Dr. Mansfield to meet with the local oysterman noting they have a lot of knowledge that is not all scientific. The oyster fishery needs, no one has ever told us. If you could find that out, you will be doing good. Commissioner Lockley said a lot of the problem is, a lot of our people are out of work, and there is no communication. If you would come in every now and then and update us. Communicate with us so we can communicate with the community. Dr. Mansfield said she has connections with FSU and FWC and she will follow up with them also. Commissioner Amison said to be clear, you are not working with ABSI. Dr. Mansfield noted she works for Florida State University and she has communicated with FWC to understand what is happening in the bay. However, she hopes to provide a separate piece of information not previously collected that she could provide back to them. Chairman Jones spoke of a conversation he had right before the bay closed. He had run upon a gentleman who happened to be researching the bay and asked him what kind of scientific measures they were using to ensure their experimental tanks were mirroring the water conditions of the bay and how it changes. Chairman Jones said he believes the lack of trust stems from nobody ever wanting to hear what the local people have to say. If anyone knows the bay, our local oysterman does. Their methods may not be scientific but what they have done worked for years.

The Board moved to Michael Kozar for Alliant's presentation.

Mr. Kozar presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board with the following highlights.

Alliant's Mission ... "to help rural hospitals identify and achieve sustainable business models." A few significant accomplishments are:

- Electronic Health Record (HER) Change
Successfully transitioned hospital HER from Athenahealth to Evident/CPSI i.e., patient billing supported by Trubridge.
- Carrabelle Retail Pharmacy Study

- Proforma prepared/workshop held with County Commissioners
- 340B Drug Pricing Program
Alliant SME is engaged to promote compliance & optimization services.
- Interim Financial Services
Alliant leading efforts utilizing the local Alliant hospital Controller while CFO recruitment efforts are underway.
- Medicare Cost Report, Florida Hospital Uniform Reporting System (FHURS) & Florida DSH Survey
Annual preparation/timely submission of required financial regulatory reports.
- Monthly Hospital Operations Review (MOR)
Operational excellence focused on Growth/Utilization, Financial performance & Clinical/Quality outcomes.
- Board Education/Leadership Development
Annual Governance Retreat for Alliant hospital leaders, Board members, and all learned more about the challenges and opportunities in today's healthcare environment.
- Patient Safety Culture Survey
Facilitate annual survey engaging leadership with completing, resulting in clear, actionable data and planning.
- Annual Salary Survey
Alliant conducted the annual salary survey which includes both staff and management positions...results provide a base, maximum, and average hourly rate of all participating hospitals combined.
- Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Support
Local Alliant hospital Director of Clinic Operations provided onsite guidance/best practices.
- Care Coordination Services
Central Intake for all "Florida" Alliant hospitals to screen and forward all referrals from Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare (TMH) – returning patients to their local hospitals.
- Marketing/Communications/PR Strategist
Shared position – increase Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations services for TMH/Alliant hospitals.
- Alliant Purchasing
Comprehensive group purchasing organization – realized approximately \$54,000 in savings during the trailing twelve months.
- Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)
Developing a multidisciplinary treatment team that treats senior adults with a diagnosis such as major depressive disorder and/or generalized anxiety disorder.
- Market Human Resource Leadership
Shared position – expand leadership skills supporting Calhoun-Liberty hospital in such a capacity.

Mr. Kozar pointed out several Strategic Initiatives underway which includes plans for the upcoming Hospital Board Strategic Plan. The goals of the plan include the following:

- Roadmap of strategic initiatives moving towards a shared vision.
The typical process includes key stakeholder interviews, market assessment, physician needs assessment, quality analysis, planning session with the leadership team, and planning retreat with the board.
- To facilitate increased demand; improve and upgrade the condition of the current facility; a need to stimulate the economy; and a desire for the county's residents and their families to receive quality, patient-centered care in a modern setting with private rooms, WMH should undertake a capital construction and renovation program.

Mr. Kozar thanked all who support equipping Weems Memorial Hospital with continuing to meet the needs of the community, now and in the future. He noted Alliant is committed to working towards the

right solutions to fit the community's needs.

Commissioner Lockley inquired about the financial sustainability of the hospital. Mr. Kozar noted that the hospital is in a break-even position right now. He believes with the things they have in the works will improve. Commissioner Sanders asked if we had enough paramedics and EMTs to man the new ambulances. Mr. Lewis noted that we are short on paramedics and EMTs. Since Covid a lot are getting out of business. We will be replacing old ambulances, so we won't be adding additional ones.

We have five students who will be attending EMT school, and I am hoping to retain at least one of those. Mr. Walker said the rising costs of EMS may be seen in the future, maybe at the next meeting we could provide details and what EMS is costing. Commissioner Sanders asked if the pay is comparable to what others are making. Mr. EMT said the pay is comparable to ours in the district, maybe down south it is more. Commissioner Sanders said everyone uses the ambulance service, and we need to make sure we aren't leaving them out. Commissioner Amison asked how the cost breaks down. Mr. Kozar said each facility is sharing equally in the cost of that position. Commissioner Amison asked about salary comparison, and where are we on a regional comparison. Mr. Kozar said we are competitive across the board. The hospital embarked recently on the \$15 per hour. If you receive Medicare funds from the state, any caregiver must be paid at least \$15 per hour. Commissioner Amison inquired about the human resource officer, and if we are sharing her with other counties. Mr. Kozar said we are sharing her with Calhoun and Liberty. They help cover part of the salary. Mr. Walker noted that the hospital implemented a salary parity in 2018. We are bringing everyone up and it will be ongoing. Commissioner Amison said without registered nurses you don't have a hospital. You cannot run a hospital with LPNs alone. Commissioner Amison said he fears we are going to continue to lose RNs and then we are going to have to rely on travel nurses. Mr. Walker said we were getting poached because we didn't have any benefits. Commissioner Amison asked how many licensed RNs are on staff. Mr. Walker said we may have 10 or more. Mr. Kozar noted that one of the major issues is salary. Commissioner Ward asked if they could do a periodic update and include data in regard to numbers. Mr. Kozar said he would be happy to do that. He said he will get with Michael and plan a time in the near future to present to the Board. Commissioner Amison said he was nervous about the break-even. Mr. Walker said when a new facility is built the money will come out of the health care trust fund. Weems's operational account will not make the payment to the facility. Chairman Jones said let's plan for you guys to be back for the second meeting in April.

Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board Report

6. Critical Shoreline Applications

a. 2364 Schooner Landing

Consideration of a request to construct a 1,928 square foot single-family private dock that consists of a 4'x18' access walkway, an 8'x38' terminal platform, a 13'x38' covered boat lift and a 17'x38' covered boat lift at the property described as 2364 Schooner Landing, St.

George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Application submitted by Aaron Sarchet, agent for Stephen McDaniel, applicant. State and Federal Permits have been received.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the approved the request to construct a 1,928 square foot single-family private dock that consists of 4'x18' access walkway, an 8'x38' terminal platform, a 13'x38' covered boat lift and a 17'x38' covered boat lift at the property described as 2364 Schooner Landing, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Commercial Site Plan Applications

a. 79 Otterslide Road

Consideration of a request for Commercial Site Plan review for a 12,000 square foot Pole Barn on property located at 79 Otterslide Road, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida.

Application submitted by Bruce Millender, applicant. The applicant meets parking and setback requirements.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request for a Commercial Site Plan review for a 12,000 square foot Pole Barn on property located at 79 Otterslide Road, Eastpoint, Florida, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Preliminary Plat Applications

a. Boondocks By the Bay

Consideration of a request for preliminary plat review for Boondocks by the Bay for 4 lots located at 1911 and 1917 US Highway 98 E, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Thurman Roddenberry, agent for Daniel Floyd, applicant.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved a request for preliminary plat review for Boondocks by the Bay for 4 lots located at 1911 and 1917 US Highway 98 E, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Ordinance Amendments

a. Serenity Seaside Resort

Consideration for a request for Public Hearing to amend the current PUD Ordinance 2019-06 Serenity Seaside Resort Eastpoint, FL located in Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc, agents for Serenity Seaside Resort Eastpoint, FL, applicants.

Mrs. Bankston said the applicant is trying to change a few things including an egress off of South Bayshore Drive. The biggest discussion was rather or not DOT recommended they have the egress come out of South Bayshore. They have not and it is unsure whether DOT will even approve the change. The P&Z board recommended a public hearing. Commissioner Amison asked if DOT was recommending, they move the egress to South Bayshore, and Mrs. Bankston said no and they aren't sure if they will get a permit for it. Commissioner Ward asked if they had to prove that this egress is, concerned that when a public hearing is held and they put the egress back where it was then we will have to go back to another hearing. **On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved a request for a Public Hearing to amend the current PUD Ordinance 2019-06 Serenity Seaside Resort Eastpoint, FL located in Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida.** Attorney Shuler said there were two issues addressed in the amendment, the ingress and egress from Island Drive to South Bayshore Drive, and relocation of the density which they are not increasing but relocating on the parcel. Attorney Shuler noted none of these changes can be made without a public hearing. Mr. Dan Garlick spoke to the Board noting after the crosswalk was established, DOT recommended we go to Island Drive, they don't have jurisdiction over South Bayshore Drive. We actually had communication with DOR and they are the ones who made the recommendation. Mr. Garlick said he would be glad to answer any questions the Board may have. Chairman Jones noted that the Board will be able to ask any questions regarding the project at the public hearing. Mr. Garlick said they will be able to give a full presentation at the public hearing of all the changes. Mrs. Bankston said in speaking with Mr. Cureton she understood that they haven't formally asked for the permit off of South Bayshore Drive but they did recommend that they change the location. **Motion carried 5-0.**

RFP/RFQ/Bid Opening

10. Invitation to Bid: Renovation to the Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park Pavilions and Restrooms the Project includes, but is not limited to; miscellaneous site work, cast-in-place concrete, cast-in-place concrete repairs, masonry, miscellaneous steel, selective demolition, joint sealants, and painting.

1. RAM Construction & Development

20 Ram Blvd, Midway, FL 32343
\$424,000
Bid bond included.

2. Arris General Contracting, Inc.
7644 Broadview Farms Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32309
\$393,381
Bid bond included.

Request to release bids to Dub Shuler with the architecture firm for his review and recommendation.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to release bids to the architect for review and recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Invitation to Bid: 3RD STREET WEST DUNE WALKOVER

The project consists of the construction of a wood dune walkover project located at the end of 3rd Street West, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida, specifically between DEP Monuments R-82 and R-83. The pile-supported structure is 6 feet wide by 187.8 feet long for an area of approximately 1,127 square feet.

1. JW Shuttlesworth LLC
215 Walton Chase, Perry, GA 31069
\$115,986
Bid bond included.
2. MKM Quality Construction Inc.
1220 Sleepy Hollow Road, Mexico Beach, FL
\$54,255
Bid bond included.
3. Arris General Contractors Inc.
7644 Broadvia Farris Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32309
\$166,148
Bid bond included.
4. North Florida Construction Inc.
P.O. Box 129, Clarksville, FL 32430
\$142,710
Bid bond included.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to release bids to MRD and Associates for their review and recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.

County Staff & Attorney Reports

12. Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith

a. BOARD ACTION: Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Notice of Award and Scope Reduction

After consultation with FDOT in regard to the bids for the CR 370 Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Phases III & IV, the recommendation is to award the construction contract to the low bidder, Roberts & Roberts, Inc., in the amount of \$1,007,139.75. This is for a reduced scope of work to stay within the grant budget and will construct the multi-use path from East Harbor Circle to the S-curve. The county will need to submit

a later application for another phase of the path construction to reach the marina area. Board action to authorize the chairman to sign the attached Notice of Award and approve the reduced project scope.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board, the Board authorized the chairman to sign the attached Notice of Award and approve the reduced project scope. Chairman Jones asked how many linear feet this includes. Mrs. Griffith said she did not know right off. **Motion carried 5-0.**

b. BOARD ACTION: The SCOP, SCRAP, CIGP, and Transportation Alternatives Projects List

FDOT currently has four grant programs open for applications: the Transportation Alternatives (TA), the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP), the Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP), and the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP).

The TA program constructs new sidewalks and multi-use paths. Franklin County is eligible to apply for two projects under this program. The deadline for the TA applications is February 23, 2023. Mark suggests reapplying for the River Road path in Carrabelle and applying for the portion of the CR 370 Alligator Drive path (from East Harbor Circle to the Marina, as mentioned above) that the county is not able to build under the current grant.

The SCOP funds are for use on the County road system and must be related to road safety improvements, resurfacing or reconstruction, repair or rehabilitating county bridges, road-related drainage improvements, constructing road capacity, and paving unpaved roads. The County is eligible to submit two applications. There are approximately \$20 million in SCOP funds available in District 3. The deadline for the SCOP applications is March 17, 2023.

The SCRAP funds are for use on the County road system and are evaluated on the physical condition of the road, whether the road is used as an evacuation route, whether the road has high levels of agricultural traffic, whether the road is a major arterial route or a feeder road, whether the road is located in a fiscally constrained county and the impact of the project on the state or local economy. The County is eligible to submit two applications. There are approximately \$9 million in SCRAP funds available in District 3. The deadline for the SCRAP applications is March 17, 2023.

THE CIGP funds are for use on the State or County road system. If it is on the County Road system, it must relieve traffic congestion on the State road system. The County is eligible to submit one application. There is approximately \$2.8 million available in CIGP funds available in District 3. The deadline for the CIGP application is March 17, 2023.

Mark suggests two of the applications, either SCOP and/or SCRAP, be for the segments of CR 30A and CR 67 Phase II that the County had to trim to bring the recent paving projects within budget. That will leave 3 applications available for other projects. Please submit requests for other project concepts by the end of the month to allow time for review. One project idea is for the county to apply for funds to finish paving Mill Road, but FDOT has told us that paving unpaved roads is their lowest priority.

Board action to submit applications for the unfunded segments of the CR30A Project, the CR67 Project, the Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path, and the construction of the River Road Multi-Use Path as mentioned above.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved submitting applications for the unfunded segments of the CR30A Project, the CR67 Project, the Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path, and the construction of the River Road Multi-Use Path as mentioned above. Motion carried 5-0.

c. BOARD ACTION: Duke Energy Grant - Economic Development Strategic Plan RFQ Advertisement

Franklin County received a \$25,000 grant from Duke Energy to assist the county with the creation of a Strategic Plan for Economic Development. A strategic plan for economic development helps to steer the economic future of a community by outlining goals and the actions needed to realize those goals. The plan

will summarize economic strengths and weaknesses and will provide insight into ways for the county to encourage growth and provide better support for local businesses. Several strategic plans for economic development for other entities are attached as a reference for what types of analysis, goals, and implementation measures are included in a plan. All communities are different and Franklin County's plan will be tailored for community demographics, location, region, and local input/ideas from stakeholders. Board action to advertise 'requests for qualifications' for the development of an Economic Development Strategic Plan and support services for Franklin County.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved advertising 'requests for qualifications' for the development of an Economic Development Strategic Plan and support services for Franklin County. Motion carried 5-0.

**d. BOARD ACTION: MRD Task Order - Coastal Engineering Design, Permitting, and Specs
for (4) Additional Dune Walkovers**

As the County's existing dune walkovers on St. George Island are now approximately 25 years old, it has become necessary to replace some of the oldest and most deteriorated structures as the county parks and recreation department is no longer able to repair and keep the walkovers safe in their current condition. Dune walkovers serve as effective methods for erosion control by aiding in the preservation of natural dune topography and native vegetation. As Florida Statute 125 authorizes the use of tourist development sales tax proceeds for erosion control measures, I requested a proposal from the County's coastal engineers MRD and Associates to design, permit and engineer the replacement of up to four additional dune walkovers (those noted to be in the worst condition from the Parks Department: 7th – 10th Street West). Any replacement would have to occur before the start of the Sea Turtle Nesting Season on May 1st. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached task order with MRD and Associates for the design, permitting, and specifications for up to (4) dune walkovers at a cost of \$6,125 each.

The Board discussed acquiring estimates to replace all of the damaged boardwalks. Mrs. Griffith noted that the reason they did not include them all, is they did not believe they all could be completed before the start of sea turtle nesting season.

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 task order with MRD and Associates for the design, permitting, and specifications for up to (4) dune walkovers at a cost of \$6,125 each. Motion carried 5-0.

**e. BOARD ACTION: SGI Playground Improvements FRDAP Grant Amendment,
Playground Design Approval and Purchase Order**

On Monday, January 9th, the playground advisory committee met with the vendor for LSI Playground Equipment and chose a design. In the attached inclusive design, there will be a larger play structure for children ages 5-12, a smaller companion structure with integrated shade for children ages 2-5, two independent surface-mounted spinner pieces, and approximately 2800 square feet of inclusive turf surfacing. The equipment is made in America and includes hot dipped galvanized, aluminum, and high-quality PVC components all upgraded for coastal conditions. The \$287,858.87 quote is based on pricing in accordance with the vendor's contract with Clay County (piggyback contract pricing is an acceptable form of procurement in accordance with the county's purchasing policy). Unfortunately, as engineering and design standards require dedicated use zones and cushioned fall heights for surfacing, there was not enough room or funding for a swing area in the design. The project budget is \$300,000 in total with \$200,000 in funding provided from the FRDAP grant, \$40,000 in community contributions raised by the St. George Island Civic Club, and \$60,000 in beach park facility funds from the TDC. Project elements include playground equipment, surfacing, a picnic pavilion, landscaping, and low-voltage security lighting. A second fundraising effort was started this part Monday initiated by one of the playground advisory board members who encouraged additional donations to the SGI Civic Club to fund a small swing set and one

free-standing auditory toy in available space to the west of the playground's pavilion in the site plan. The park's oversized existing swing set will be relocated to another site to be determined within the county before the installation of the new equipment. All commencement documentation has been submitted to FDEP and once the grant amendment is fully executed (which reconciles the project elements outlined in the commencement documentation to the agreement), the county can proceed with the issuance of the purchase order.

- A. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign amendment 1 to the FRDAP agreement for the SGI Playground Improvements at Lighthouse Park.

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 amendment 1 to the FRDAP agreement for the SGI Playground Improvements at Lighthouse Park. Motion carried 5-0.

- B. Once the fully executed grant amendment is returned by FDEP, the Board action to approve the issuance of a purchase order for the inclusive playground equipment and surfacing to Rep Services, Inc. for LSI Playground Equipment based on the Clay County Contract Pricing.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the issuance of a purchase order for the inclusive playground equipment and surfacing to Rep Services, Inc. for LSI Playground Equipment based on the Clay County Contract Pricing once the fully executed grant amendment is returned by FDEP.

Commissioner Lockley inquired as to why we could not request the additional funds needed from TDC. Mrs. Griffith explained that with TDC funds there is a limitation on the amount of sales tax proceeds that can be spent on beach park facilities in a fiscal year. The cap is 10%. Mrs. Griffith noted that we have allocated around \$70k for the SGI bathrooms, \$60k for the playground, and assistance with the Carrabelle beachfront restoration. These projects together will tap out the limitation for this fiscal year. Commissioner Lockley said we need to ask them to remove the cap at the upcoming delegation legislation meeting. Chairman Jones said most of the other small coastal counties do not come anywhere near approaching as much of a tourism industry as we do. Chairman Jones noted that he will mention it to them at the meeting. **Motion carried 5-0.**

- C. Board action to approve the issuance of a separate purchase order pending confirmation of additional community funding for the swing set and additional auditory toy to be located outside of the FRDAP project site plan.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the issuance of a separate purchase order pending confirmation of additional community funding for the swing set and additional auditory toy to be located outside of the FRDAP project site plan. Motion carried 5-0.

- f. BOARD ACTION: Authorization to issue a manual check for missed pay request for Armory Project

Board action to authorize the issuance of a manual check to Cook Brothers for the Armory Project. The contractor's invoice was mistakenly omitted from the check run approved this morning.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the issuance of a manual check to Cook Brothers for the Armory Project. The contractor's invoice was mistakenly omitted from the check run approved this morning. Motion carried 5-0.

g. BOARD INFORMATION: Miscellaneous Project Updates

Mrs. Griffith reported the county project website will be published on the county website in the next couple of weeks. We are looking for funding for the Island View Park permanent restrooms. Chairman Jones asked if there is any way with the way it was originally funded, that we could ask for help with restrooms. we could do these improvements. Mrs. Griffith said she did reach out to them but they said they don't have the amount of money they had back then. Chairman Jones said once we get past this year our 10% outlook looks different as we get things paid off. It may be that we have to wait until October to do.

Commissioner Sanders said she would like to look into what Wakulla County did and how they afforded the walking path project. Chairman Jones noted that it is coming our way. They plan to have those trails all the way from Tallahassee to Pensacola. Commissioner Sanders asked when the deadline for the FRDAP grant was. Mrs. Griffith said it should be coming up relatively soon. Mrs. Griffith said she was thinking about Island View Park, and if we could tie the restrooms to a picnic pavilion. Commissioner Sanders said one thing we could do is get that place mowed off, it is head high. Chairman Jones said he will be meeting with the executive director for ARPC and he will ask her specifically where we are in the project and how soon we can see it come to Franklin County.

13. County Coordinator – Michael Morón

a. Action Item: Airport Apron Rehabilitation Project

Last year, the Board advertised, received, opened, and accepted a recommendation to award the Airport Apron Rehabilitation project to Pettibone Concrete Construction. Pettibone was the only bidder for this project but was not able to start until now. The construction contract for the total amount of \$1,175,401.75, funded by two FDOT grants and one FAA grant, is attached for your review and approval. Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the \$1,175,401.75 Pettibone Concrete Construction Contract for the Airport Apron Rehabilitation project.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved authorized the Chairman's signature on the \$1,175,401.75 Pettibone Concrete Construction Contract for the Airport Apron Rehabilitation project. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Action Item: Airport Economic Development Council Advertisement

Attached to my report is the Airport Economic Development Council advertisement that will be posted on the County's website and in the local newspaper. The language-seeking interested volunteers to serve on this council were taken mostly from your comments during the December 20th meeting. Board action to proceed with the advertisement for the Airport Economic Development Council members.

Mr. Moron recommended the Board makes Friends of the Airport like a sub-committee to the airport board. They have some good ideas for the airport. Mr. Moron also would like Ted as the airport manager acts in the same way Cortni acts for planning and zoning. He would prepare agendas, take minutes, and store the minutes here at the courthouse. He could report what the board met about to the county commission. Commissioner Amison said his main thing is the economic value of the airport, but the advertising in the name is veering away from the actual airport. If we could throw in airport. It is not prompting that we need some aviation know-how. It looks like we are getting away from the operational side of the airport. Commissioner Amison said he would not recommend the airport manager sit on the board. The board would be making decisions that could affect the FBO doesn't think they should have a say-so on board. Commissioner Amison said he would like to see this board have more minds at it, there may be something we aren't familiar with especially in contracts. I am not an expert in aviation, but if you have some people who have that knowledge that is what this board should bring. Mr. Moron asked Commissioner Amison if he wanted more of an even split on the board. Commissioner Amison said he would rather see three people who have aviation knowledge and two that have the business and other aspects of it. This airport needs to thrive and then we can reap the other benefits from it. Mr. Moron asked if Commissioner Amison wanted

two separate boards. Commissioner Amison said he wanted one board. Commissioner Sanders asked if we could use the FBO as a non-voting board member. Mr. Moron said he had looked around and other counties the FBOs were involved. She said she can see where Commissioner Amison is coming from because sometimes the FBO may be the problem. Commissioner Amison said you don't want someone sitting on the board who is immediately affected by a vote that is making decisions. He said not saying we are leaving them out as far as information wise, and they would be more than welcome to attend the meeting.

Mr. Moron said so just more general airport experiences. Commissioner Amison said when he sees this it looks like we are looking for some people who want to get involved to get some businesses out there. We need to have a good little mix of it right now it is lopsided to economic development. Chairman Jones said if we were able to get an MRO at the airport that's going to bring the economy and help the airport. He said this could be as much as a nine-member board. Commissioner Amison said we could have a few more. At least 50% of the members need to be airport operational. Commissioner Sanders suggested TDC market the airport. Mr. Moron suggested that maybe tapping into a set of tourists who fly in for the weekend, basically need some transportation to and from. Commissioner Sanders suggested branding the airport to market it and she does not like the name of the committee. Mr. Moron noted this is the same name he presented at the last meeting. Commissioner Amison said TDC doesn't advertise at our airport when the land they are already here. He said he would rather see them advertise at other airports. Commissioner Sanders noted the success of the airport fly ins held in the past. Commissioner Amison noted he understood the TDC inclusive but said if we start pulling from people who already have a full plate. He doesn't want Mr. Solomon to feel obligated. We could always have a representative from the board contact Mr. Solomon to get his opinion on things they are wanting to do. Chairman Jones said he mentioned this for a temporary time until the county moves forward for whatever they are going to do with like Wakulla County in hiring someone to do economic development. Wakulla has done this and they have had a return on their investment. If we did that, that could supersede having the Chamber of Commerce or TDC member on the board. Mr. Moron said to clarify the name, do we want operations in it. Commissioner Amison said something like Airport Operations and Economical Development. Commissioner Sanders said Franklin County Apalachicola Airport Operations and Economical board. Mr. Moron said so we are going to add anyone with airport experience who would like to serve. Chairman Jones said he would also like to include rent hangars, pilot who fly from there, etc. Mr. Moron said so we are removing the FBO and TDC from the list. Commissioner Amison noted we needed to speak with Mr. Solomon and let him know we are going to include TDC but do not expect him to feel obligated. **Commissioner Amison made a motion to create the Airport Operations and Economical Board, add more airport experience, remove the FBO, leave TDC until we decide how many members and who will sit on board. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Moron asked Commissioner Amison to update the Board on the inspection. Commissioner Amison said they met with the inspectors and we do have one obstruction that we are working on. As far as the runway is concerned there is one tree that I need to go speak with someone about that is keeping that runway, it's a problem. We are back in business with it. The only thing is worst case scenario that runway goes to say just a utility runway. I don't understand that one bit, other than from an insurance aspect. The land clearing looks really good. We have some rough terrain out there and we talked to Buster about renting some equipment to smooth it out. The fence needs some maintenance. FDOT was really pleased and they come back in April to do there full inspection. Commissioner Lockley asked if the tree was on private property. Commissioner Amison said yes. He said he is quite sure he can come to some type of agreement with the property owner. **On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the rental of the CAT equipment for 30 days for \$9,550 for the airport maintenance.** Chairman Jones called for public comments since the item was not on the agenda. There were no public comments. **Motion carried 5-0.**

c. Action Item: Board's Meeting Procedure and Policy

Attached to my report are the final draft of the Board's Meeting Policy and Procedures for your review and approval. If approved today, the policy and procedures will be in effect at your February 7th meeting. Board action to approve the final draft of the Meeting Policy and Procedures.

Commissioner Ward made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lockley. Commissioner Ward commented that she likes that our public can speak for five minutes vs three minutes. She said she also thought the Board should respond to them. She said she knew a lot of things are not able to be fixed or addressed. Chairman Jones noted the policy does allow for the Board to make a motion to add something to a future agenda. Mr. Moron said he will make sure it is also under public comments. Commissioner Ward said she would like the information in the agenda provided sooner to herself and the public. She said she knows staff is waiting on other entities to provide the information. It takes away from the public to look at the material in order to ask questions. Mr. Moron said he has no problem with turning in what we have on Friday what we have. Mr. Moron noted that if something comes in on Monday the Board is slowing down us acting unless we add something like today. The criticism we got in the past is that we have added something to the agenda when no one was there. Commissioner Ward said it is important we maintain transparency with the public that may be looking at the agenda and attachments online. Mr. Moron said we could put our reports in on Friday, but if other things come in how, you want us to handle that. Commissioner Ward said she certainly doesn't want to delay anything but she wants the public to be informed. Commissioner Ward said also people need to understand that we are not going to have minutes until they have been approved by the Board. Chairman Jones said this is an attempt to have something in writing and adopted by the Board on how we are going to conduct meetings. It gives our residents a way to know how we conduct our meetings. Commissioner Jones said we are one of the few counties in Franklin County that provides commissioner level documentation to the public. We are about as transparent as we can be with that. Commissioner Lockley commented that he didn't think they should allow repetitive public comments. Chairman Jones said he is gone with setting a deadline, it may take a while to catch up, but we will do that in order to provide more transparency. Mr. Moron explained the process of adding attachments and suggested adding the attachments separate. Chairman Jones asked if we could have two separate links, one for agenda and one for attachments. Commissioner Ward said feels we should give the citizens time to review the documents and ask any questions. Commissioner Amison asked why the couldn't amend their reports on Monday. Mr. Moron said we've received some criticism they had received that they were trying to hide things. Mr. Moron discussed putting the agenda in draft status until Monday. Commissioner Ward said she likes to review the agenda and documents ahead a time, so that she can do her investigation on the items. Mr. Moron asked if we could table this item until we get all of this revised in the draft. **Commissioner Ward amended her motion to table this item. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Chairman Jones noted some corrections in the notes section. 1. Citizens input a couple of notes left there, how this will be changing from something we have done before 2. Workshops one comment period, we have had workshops when comments were back and forth. Then it is like Commissioner Lockley referred to earlier, and people are repeating what others said. Commissioner Lockley said we keep everything out in the open. **Motion carried 5-0.**

d. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Code Enforcement

At your last meeting, one of the items discussed during the Commissioners' Statement of Intentions agenda items was to proceed with hiring a code enforcement officer. I asked Mr. Paterson and Mrs. Bankston (Complaint Department) to provide a list of complaints received over the last year. Based on that list of complaints, there have been 8 – RV, 6 – unauthorized land use, 4 – trash, and 3 – land clearing and fill. In addition, there have been 13 – building department related and 9 – turtle lighting complaints. My recommendation is that this list of complaints, excluding the building department and turtle lighting, is forwarded to Attorney Shuler so that he can verify that there is an ordinance in place to address these issues and that the language for any pre-existing ordinance is current and has adequate penalties for the violations. During your discussion on this item, you may want to add other items to the list. Board discussion and possible action.

Commissioner Lockley said based on these numbers we are going to be paying someone a lot of money to do nothing. He said these could be worked out in two weeks. Commissioner Ward said for example the land clearing and fill, some are having to get a permit and some are not. There is no continuity or consistency. If we cannot enforce people to come get a property then we don't need to have that as a requirement for a permit. I feel like me personally that we need to potentially eliminate this and come back later, change the verbiage until we get someone to enforce it. Have it to where it is specific and easy to understand. I do think we have a lot of ordinances on the book but some are from 1982. There may need to be some changes made. We to make sure the ordinances are enforceable. I think we need to eliminate the landfill permitting for now. Commissioner Lockley said they have to get a permit in the beginning, if you put on the permit if you aren't doing the right thing we are coming for your permit. Commissioner Ward said the problem is the building permit is not being enforced. Neighbor A says you don't need a permit, neighbor B goes to clear and then neighbor C says he has to have a permit. There is no consistency. Commissioner Lockley said hire a code enforcer like the city. Chairman Jones said I personally can never do away with having this requirement. It is a problem. When we get further into this code enforcement stuff this county needs to look at a business license. When you talk about these land fill permits and all of us our neighbors, etc. It is another thing when there are businesses who never get a permit to clear or add fill. The biggest thing I have in my district is they will get the permits, but then do what they want to because there is no enforcement. Another thing I get a lot of complaints about is people using county right of way. Commissioner Ward said we need to enforce it for everyone and require everyone to get a permit. Mr. Moron said keep in mind the state passed legislation that you can't be anonymous anymore. What we need to be careful with, I don't want them using you guys as a back door way of getting complaints in. This is a recommendation for a procedure if we want to change this. Mr. Moron discussed the options of employee or employer. Commissioner Ward said she thinks it would be in our best interest to be a sub-contractor. I want it to be the sheriff's office or someone else. We may spend way more money paying insurance retirement, salary, and benefits. We can start out full time and if we have to move to part time we can. Commissioner Amison said right now we have a code issue we have to call the sheriff's department, correct? We have no enforcing agency right now. Attorney Shuler said there was no particular board action that said step one, two, etc. over the years essentially what has happened is administration handles complaints as best they can, they do a wonderful job at resolving complaints. At some point staff reaches a level of frustration in their attempts, and they unleash the lawyer on people and people get sued. The court system grinds, its slow and most commissioners are going to want a very timely response to a complaint that you have received and the court system is not geared to have that quick response time. Staff is usually the first step, they will handle in house. If they cannot resolve it, they will refer you to my office. They normally respond to attorney's letters. The flexibility is built into the code enforcement ordinance. The board can still go through a misdemeanor or court system. The board can decide to do other types of enforcement. Commissioner Ward a lot of times, the health department is involved. RFQ for code enforcement at the next meeting.

e. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Public/Private Roads

Another item discussed at the last meeting was the redesignation of certain private roads to county roads. As there are public county roads that need maintenance and perhaps paving, I recommend that the county engage an engineer that can inventory all county roads and provide an estimate of what it would cost to house those roads upgraded to an acceptable standard, which may include paving. Then, provide the engineer with a list of private roads that the Board would consider accepting as public county roads and request an estimated cost to have those roads upgraded to an acceptable standard. With that information, the Board could proceed with designating a funding source for this project.

Chairman Jones said the ARPC is planning on doing this. That is one of the things they are going to do is to have all roads surveyed to see what it would take to get them up to standards. The bad thing is the hold-up with DOT, it might save us some dollars, but it won't happen quickly. However, that is something that is on the list of to-do projects. Commissioner Ward said she's okay with just letting ARPC spend the money. Chairman Jones said he should have an update on Thursday.

f. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Supervisor of Election Location

Another matter that has been discussed at recent meetings is a new permanent location for the Supervisor of Elections office. As this Board is aware, the availability of property in Franklin County is at a premium. Staff is asking for some direction from the Board so we can have some options to present at a future meeting for your consideration. Board discussion and possible action.

Chairman Jones has located a seller and it's in an area we can build on ground level. The purchase price will be based upon the appraised value. We will add to the next meeting's agenda to vote on acquiring an appraisal for the property.

g. Informational Item: Carrabelle Senior Center Update

Last week, Mrs. Lisa Bretz called to provide an update on the closing of the Garden Club building used as a congregate site for Carrabelle seniors. Her staff and attorney are reviewing the deed for the Garden Club building to decide who AAA can transfer ownership of the building. In addition, they are verifying that all seniors that received services prior to the closing of the Garden Club building, either at the congregate site or at home, have been contacted and provided phone numbers and names in case those seniors have questions or need additional services. I will forward those numbers and names contact to you for distribution to your constituents. Later this week, I should receive the information needed for this Board to recommend a candidate to fill the vacant Franklin County representative seat on the Area Agency on Aging Board.

h. Informational Item: Carrabelle ARPC Appointment

The City of Carrabelle has appointed City Commissioner Sebrina Brown to serve as the County's Municipal Elected member on the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. Commissioner Brown's contact information has been sent to ARPC.

i. Informational Item: Duke Site Readiness Meeting

On January 5th, Chairman Jones and I met with the Duke Energy Site Readiness team to discuss the next steps. Chairman Jones has an update for the Board.

j. Informational Item: Airport Inspection/Removal of Notice to Air Missions (NOTAMs)

Runway 18

On January 4th, Commissioner Amison, Mr. Ted Mosteller, Mr. Howard Nabors, and I met with FDOT representatives to inspect Runway 18 at the airport with the anticipation that, based on the vegetation and tree removal project, the NOTAM would be removed. Commissioner Amison has an update for the Board.

k. Informational Item: Building Inspector Advertisement

Attached to my report is an advertisement for a Building Inspector. The Board included funding for this position, which will work with Mr. Steve Paterson your Building Official, in the current budget. The advertisement will run for a few weeks, then Mr. Paterson will interview the applicants and select a candidate for the position. I will keep the Board updated as the process moves along.

l. Informational Item: Legislative Delegation Reminder

As a reminder, the Legislative Delegation will be held in this meeting room on Tuesday, January 31st at 11:00 a.m. (ET). I will pass on any information received regarding the agenda and meeting procedure.

m. Informational Item: Internet Service Provider Workshop @ 1:30 p.m.

There is a workshop scheduled this afternoon to hear from T-Mobile and Consolidated Communications regarding broadband in Franklin County. Members of your Local Technology Planning Team will be in attendance and will participate in today's workshop.

n. Informational Item: Next Regular Meeting Date

Your next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th at 9:00 a.m. (ET). There are no workshops scheduled on that day.

Commissioner Sanders the little league coaches want to hold a football banquet for the boys. Is there something we can do to reserve the armory for them? Mr. Moron asked Commissioner Sanders to have the coaches coordinate with Mr. Fonda Davis.

14. County Attorney – Michael Shuler

1. HLS v. Franklin County (RV Park Development Application litigation)

Attached is Franklin County’s Certificate of Attendance and Authority for the mediation to occur on January 27, 2023, that was filed with the court last week. This Certificate is required by the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure and designates me and Mr. Moron as the authorized representative of Franklin County with full authority to negotiate on behalf of Franklin County. This only means that Mr. Moron and I can recommend a settlement for consideration by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners. We will not have final settlement authority. If a recommended settlement is reached, the Board will at a future date consider whether to accept or reject it. Board action requested: Ratification of the Certificate of Attendance and Authority.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified the Certificate of Attendance and Authority. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Proposed Walmart Opioid Settlement Sign-on Request from Attorney General

Attached is a two-page document sign-on agreement from Attorney General Ashley Moody requesting that Franklin County participate in the proposed settlement with Walmart. The deadline is March 18, 2023.

Also attached is a one-page memo from the Attorney General explaining her request. The following information is from the Attorney General’s website on the proposed Walmart Opioid settlement:

“On October 19, 2022, Florida entered into an agreement with Walmart to distribute 672,000 Naloxone kits to first responders over the next 10 years. Florida will also receive up to \$215 million from Walmart, with a portion of the funds being sent directly to Florida’s cities and counties. All these proceeds must be spent on opioid abatement, including prevention efforts, treatment, or recovery services. The settlement terms include an initial participation date (30 days after the execution date) by which all Litigating Subdivisions must join to become initial participating subdivisions. Once achieved, all Non-Litigating Subdivisions have 150 days (March 18, 2023) from the execution date to sign on. As in the last settlements participation is critical to achieving maximum benefit. (Emphasis added by Thomas M. Shuler).”

I did not see the Exhibit stating the amount of money that Franklin County can expect to receive. However, we cannot change the amount, so I am asking the Board to take action. However, if the Board wants that information before making a decision, we have until March 18, 2023, so there is time. The Attorney General’s website indicates that 221 governmental entities have signed on to date. Any funds received by Franklin County can only be used for opioid abatement. Board action requested: Board action to approve the sign-on agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign it on behalf of the Board.

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 the sign-on agreement and authorized the Chairman to sign it on behalf of the Board. Commissioner Ward asked if this would be specific to the purchase of Narcan. Attorney Shuler said they do mention it in the documentation but he is not certain. This is just more money going into the pot for the abatement of opioid use in the county. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Jones noted one of the public comments was for the sewage setback ordinance. Mr. Moron called for Daniel Jackson and he was not available to speak.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Ward inquired if Attorney Shuler had received the information she sent regarding the ultra-lite plans on Carrabelle Beach. Attorney Shuler confirmed he had received and will research. Commissioner Ward wanted the public to be aware this matter is being look into.

Commissioner Sanders inquired about the outcome of the lawsuit with the Alligator Point Fire Department and the gentlemen who fell. Commissioner Sanders inquired as to when the Board would be looking into a contract with each of the fire departments. Attorney Shuler said he doesn't recall being directed to draft any contracts with the fire departments but will research the minutes to confirm. Commissioner Ward noted she has spoken to Mrs. Griffith about looking into replacing the railing at Carrabelle Beach and the playground equipment grant for Vrooman Park. Attorney Shuler said that in the last conversation, he had regarding the Alligator Point Fire Department lawsuit they were in pre-litigation settlement negotiations. So, if they have reached a settlement, he doubted there would have been any lawsuits filed. There is most likely no public information available at this time. Chairman Jones invited the Board and the public to come out and support the students at the county high school basketball game.

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.