

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

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Jessica Ward-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, Ottice 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.

Mr. Moron noted that the basketball was unable to attend due to not being able to miss school. Mr. Moron said we will be able to cut the trees blocking landing zone at airport and need to add action item to his report to engage a contractor to complete the removal.

Item Added to Agenda – Request for staff to engage a contractor to cut the trees causing the obstruction at the airport.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda with the change noted above. Motion carried 5-0.**

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

**1. County Bill List for Payment**

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the County Bill List for Payment. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Public Comments**

Mason Bean spoke as a concerned citizen regarding the public access closure. He requests Board rescind the order and open the access.

Debi Jordan spoke regarding unpermitted signage in Lanark Village. She spoke about the dog waste station and the lack of bags to pick up waste at Sewell Park. She offered to pick up bags from Eastpoint. She also asked the Board to consider getting a porta-potty at the park. She reminded Commissioner Sanders to bring up the issue of the trees on Pine Street near Parker.

**Awards and Recognitions**

**2. Coach Ray Bailey - Seahawks Boys Basketball Team**

Chairman Jones announced that the basketball team was not able to attend due to school.

**3. John Solomon - National Volunteer Week April 16th – 22nd, 2023**

Mr. Solomon presented a resolution for the Board's adoption recognizing National Volunteer Week April 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

## **National Volunteer Week April 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

**WHEREAS** the entire community can inspire, equip and mobilize people to take action that changes the world; and

**WHEREAS** individuals and communities are at the center of social change, discovering their power to make a difference; and

**WHEREAS** during the week of April 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, all over the nation, volunteers will be recognized for their commitment to service; and

**WHEREAS** the giving of oneself in service to another empowers the giver and the recipient; and

**WHEREAS** over 30% of the United States volunteer and is a great treasure; and

**WHEREAS** volunteers are vital to our future as a caring and productive community; and

**WHEREAS** a volunteer saves a national average of \$29.95 an hour for the organization it volunteers for.

**WHEREAS** in Florida, a volunteer saves the organization it volunteers for an average of \$27.68.

**WHEREAS** volunteers give of themselves for no other reason but to improve our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, Franklin County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, National Volunteer Week in Franklin County and also urge our fellow citizens to volunteer in Franklin County. Also, we urge others to recognize those who serve by tirelessly sharing their time and talent with those in need.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the resolution on National Volunteer Week April 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.** Commissioner Ward extended a thank you to all of the volunteers who do a lot in our community. **Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **4. John Solomon - Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition of Service**

Mr. Solomon presented a resolution for the Board's approval for Appreciation and Recognition of Service for Ms. Beverly Hewitt.

#### **Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition of Service of Beverly Hewitt**

**WHEREAS** Beverly Hewitt was appointed as a Franklin County Tourist Development Board member in 2012, and served as a Volunteer for the citizens of Franklin County for more than 12 years; and

**WHEREAS** Beverly demonstrated dedication and support to Franklin County and the Tourist Development's mission to promote tourism; and

**WHEREAS** as a TDC Board member, Beverly was a vocal and active steward of Franklin County and the TDC; and

**WHEREAS** during her volunteer service on the TDC board, Beverly was an integral part of many decisions that have positively impacted Franklin County and will continue to impact it for years to come; and

**RESOLVED** that the Franklin County Board of Commissioners expresses its appreciation to Beverly Hewitt for her enthusiasm and dedication to Franklin County and its residents posthumously. She will be greatly missed in our

community and on the Tourist Development Board of Directors.

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the resolution of Appreciation and Recognition of Service of Beverly Hewitt. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Constitutional Officers**

#### **5. Michele Maxwell - Clerk of Court**

##### **Subject: Kofile Records Imaging Project Update**

I am pleased to inform you that all official records for Franklin County have been scanned and the original books have been returned to my office. Kofile did an amazing job capturing the images from our old books. I now have the link on my website so you can search the records at your convenience. I also had enough money to have some old books completely preserved. One of those books have the original Last Will and Testament of Dr. John Gorrie dated in 1855. Clerk Maxwell gave a short demonstration of the Kofile records website and reminded the Board and public that CARES Act and ARPA funds were used to complete this project. Clerk Maxwell announced that her office is in the process of obtaining a property fraud alert service to residents. She noted more details will be shared at a later date when the program is ready to be launched.

### **Department Directors Reports**

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

Mr. Nabors explained to the Board that the month-long lease on the 320 CAT is up. However, there is still a couple more weeks of work to do on our airport ditches. Commissioner Amison said he was out yesterday with Mr. Nabors and they have done a tremendous job. It will alleviate a lot of the flooding issues. Mr. Nabors said they had to clear a right of way, and it's been twenty years since they were cleared out.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved rental of the 320 CAT for up to three additional weeks. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Moron said Commissioner Lockley remember that phone call about how everything backed up, he shouldn't be getting that call anymore. Commissioner Amison said that area is a low area. You aren't going to stop everything but at least we are not going to add to the problem. Mr. Moron said this gentleman's complaint was always the water that stayed in the ditches. Commissioner Amison said we as a county need to reach out to the railroad to see if they will come out and do something. We can't put our equipment on the railroad for obvious reason. He said he would like for us as a Board to have Attorney Shuler send an official request to the railroad.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Ward, to send a letter requesting the railroad dig their ditch out.** Commissioner Lockley said they don't use the railroad anymore so they don't maintain it. Mr. Nabors noted it has been several years since it was maintained. They want to maintain their easements, but they don't want to maintain the ditches. Chairman Jones said in DOT plan there is going to be \$12 million spent on the railroad. Not sure what they are going to do with it, but they plan to spend the money on it. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Nabors said sidewalks, shoulders, and grass season about to kick off. Normally around May but looks like were going to kick it of early. Chairman Jones thanked them for the cleaning up for the Chili Cookoff.

**Commissioner Ward spoke regarding a trailer on Messer Road that is on the county's right of way. Commissioner Ward made a motion to direct Attorney Shuler to send letter to owner informing them the trailer**

**is on county property, and that it has to be moved since it is on county property on county right of way. Does this include enforcement action if they do not comply with the letter? Commissioner Ward amended her motion to include enforcement action, Commissioner Amison seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Nabors to look at pine tree on Warren Drive right of way that needs to be cleared off. A man has complained that a limb may fall on his vehicle. Commissioner Lockley said you just can't go squatting on county property. Commissioner Ward said he may not be aware that it isn't his property. Attorney Shuler said there will be a notice sent giving them an opportunity to meet with myself and Mr. Nabors to get information. They need to move the property from the county's property, right of way. Chairman Jones said he is still trying to get the contact information for the property owner for the easement to clear Indian Creek up in Daisy Lane area. As we can get to it, I did notice all of the bike path on St. George has vegetation growing on it. Mr. Nabors said they cleared them up on east end.

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

### Replacement of Scale House

Mr. Davis announced the replacement of scale house will take place next week. Commissioner Ward inquired if this was going to interrupt Amnesty Day next week. Mr. Davis said yes, this is going to cancel Amnesty Day for next week. Chairman Jones noted that we need to get this information out to the public on the website. Mr. Davis thanked the Board for all of the support of the Seahawks basketball team.

Commissioner Sanders spoke of the huge accomplishment by the boys basketball team and noted the final four teams were Willison, Chipley, Hawthorne and Franklin. All four small counties in the state championship. People need to understand what small counties are. So proud of those fellows for going that far. Look at the positive and not the negative. Commissioner Amison said if you want some more positive, think we have the whole team returning other than a few. Chairman Jones noted the difference of the courts. We had 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and seniors. We probably had the youngest team. We look forward to them being here. Mr. Davis remind the board of day of ball on March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup> in Carrabelle at the Will Kendrick Park. Mr. Davis said he will send out the exact time the games will begin. Commissioner Ward said we have an issue with Vrooman Park with an osprey that has made a nest. We don't want to change the lights and disturb the nest. It is \$15k fine if we disturb the nest. We have reached out to FWC and they refereed us to the US WC. Osprey can make nest for life. We need to get a move on. Mr. Moron said we need to talk to our federal representative in senate. Commissioner Ward said she keeps getting complaints of people having dogs at Miccasamack Beach. Thanked Mr. Davis and his team for patrolling that area.

Mr. Moron presented the Item 2 from his report at this time.

### **2. Action Item: Junior/Senior Prom**

Motion to waive the Armory rental fee for the Franklin County School District's 2023 Junior/Senior Prom and would like the Board to consider waiving the rental fee. It would be the first prom in the Armory since it was closed in 2020. The Prom will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

**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 waiving the Armory rental fee for the Franklin County School District's 2023 Junior/Senior Prom. Motion carried 5-0.**

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

Mrs. Daniels was away at a meeting and was not in attendance at this time.

## **9. Dewitt Polous – Mosquito Control Director**

Mr. Polous said he had rescheduled Scott coming in on Friday and taking off on Monday. That way we can pick up inmates that aren't being used. Hopefully by the end of the month we can start larvae project. Commissioner Lockley inquired about the inmates. Yes, just few.

Commissioner Sanders inquired about the main drain off of 67 at Ave F. Mr. Polous said he has spoken with city, and they have issue with beavers. They were working to trap beavers. The water level is so high we can't get in there. Commissioner Sanders and Mr. Polous discussed this issue further. Mr. Polous will reach out to Mr. Putnal today.

Commissioner Ward said she noticed that Ms. Messer has passed her exam. Mr. Polous said she has really excelled. This is where there is forty people in a class and one person passes. Her and Scott both are pursuing that. She has done really well with that. Thinks there is provision in Greenleaf for compensation once these exams are passed.

#### **10. Erik Lovestrand – Extension Office Director**

Mr. Lovestrand had no action items. He did give insight on the issue with the osprey nest. He said the nest is considered active from the time an egg is laid. In between nesting seasons, osprey nest can be removed. He recommended double checking that information with FWC. Mr. Lovestrand noted they move between nesting seasons and the come back to nest. This time of the year they are rebuilding their nests and starting to lay their eggs.

#### **11. Whitney Roundtree – Library Director**

Ms. Roundtree gave an overview of all the events and activities of the library. She thanked the volunteers from the library board. Chairman Jones thanked Ms. Roundtree and staff for not just services but value-added services to our community.

### **Other Reports**

#### **12. John Solomon – TDC Administrator – Report**

##### **1. Raney House Grant HVAC**

On 2/8/23, the TDC voted to recommend awarding the Raney House Museum up to \$25,000 from the Museum Infrastructure Grant to replace the HVAC system in the Raney House Museum. This is a reimbursement grant.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved awarding the Raney House Museum up to \$25,000 from the Museum Infrastructure Grant to replace the HVAC system in the Raney House Museum. Motion carried 5-0.**

##### **2. Crooked River Lighthouse Museum**

On 2/8/23, the TDC board voted to recommend awarding the Crooked River Lighthouse Museum \$9,896.27 from the Museum Infrastructure Grant to install an integrated Park Sound System. This is a reimbursement grant.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved awarding the Crooked River Lighthouse Museum \$9,896.27 from the Museum Infrastructure Grant to install an integrated Park Sound System. Motion carried 5-0.**

##### **3. Fort Coombs Armory Tables/Chairs**

On 2/8/23 the TDC board voted to recommend the purchase of new tables and chairs for the Fort Coombs Armory Convention Center for up to \$15,000. These would be used exclusively for the Armory and events held at the Armory.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the purchase of new tables and chairs for the Fort Coombs Armory Convention Center for up to \$15,000. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **4. City of Carrabelle MOBI Mat**

On 2/8/23 the TDC board voted to recommend awarding the City of Carrabelle up to \$5,000 for purchasing and installing a Mobility Accessible Mat, “Mobi Mat” at McKissack Beach. This is 50 ft of Mobi Mat and covered signage. This is a reimbursement award.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved awarding the City of Carrabelle up to \$5,000 for purchasing and installing a Mobility Accessible Mat, “Mobi Mat” at McKissack Beach. Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Ward said she went had been out to see it and it is really great y’all are able to do this. Mr. Solomon said it is very helpful for erosion control also.

#### **5. Eastpoint Property and Design Process**

On 2/8/23 the TDC board recommended starting the Eastpoint and St. George Island Properties design process.

Chairman Jones noted that basically the TDC does not have the connections necessary to complete projects like these such as engineering, design, planning and permitting. They are asking to work with the county to begin planning for the project close to the auto parts store downward and the property on St. George Island which was purchased from Mr. Armistead. Chairman Jones noted they plan to use the island property for a TDC administration office.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved starting the Eastpoint and St. George Island Properties design process. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **6. Resolution Beverly Hewitt – *Item addressed earlier in the meeting.***

Chairman Jones said we will continue to work to make sure we are spending the TDC funds on things that enhance and don’t detract from things residents enjoy here in the county. Hopefully with help from the legislature we will be able to. Commissioner Lockley said the lady this morning said they need some restrooms. Mrs. Griffith said she doesn’t know that we would be able to construct restrooms with TDC funds at this location. Chairman Jones noted they are trying to get some things changed not only for us but the smaller counties who are tourist driven. Commissioner Lockley said we need bathrooms, places to eat, and places for people to sleep. Chairman Jones said you also need places for them to park but we can’t use TDC funds for that.

Mrs. Jennifer Daniels presented her report at this time.

Action Item:

1. Requests the Board’s approval and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Second Harvest of the Big Bend for providing food, water, and other resources in the event of a disaster.

Mrs. Daniels noted that Attorney Shuler has reviewed the contract.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Second Harvest of the Big Bend for providing food, water, and other resources in the event of a disaster. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mrs. Griffith presented Item 4 from her report at this time.

#### **4. BOARD ACTION: Authorize release of Emergency Management Vehicle to Auction**

The Franklin County Emergency Management Department is requesting authorization to release a 2006 F150 4x4 truck (Last four of VIN: 1972) to the county’s auctioneer Florida Auction Network for disposal. This vehicle is no longer operational and should be removed from the department’s inventory and insurance.

Board action to authorize the release of the vehicle to the auctioneer and removal from inventory once the vehicle is sold.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the release of the vehicle to the auctioneer and removal from inventory once the vehicle is sold. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **13. Ted Mosteller – Interim Airport Manager – Report**

Mr. Mosteller said he had received an estimate on repairing the high lift for \$5,248.18, and that does not include transportation from Panama City and back. Mr. Moron asked if that would replace all of the hoses, Mr. Mosteller said yes and includes the panel also. Commissioner Lockley asked if they were going to put it inside. Mr. Mosteller said he is going to try to have one by them. Mr. Moron said it has been difficult to find a contractor to enclose the pole barn. Commissioner Ward said we do need a building to store all of the equipment. Mr. Mosteller said we used FDOT funds to pay for this equipment but the county uses this equipment more than we do. I was wondering if we could get the county to share this expense with us. Mr. Moron said it's FDOT purchase and it is stored at the airport. Mrs. Griffith said it would actually be better to rent it to the different departments. Mrs. Griffith said it was purchased in 2008.

Commissioner Lockley inquired if they had advertised in the newspaper to enclose building and that it may be something the prisoners could do.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the repair of the high lift for \$5,248.18. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Moron said he will talk to the sheriff regarding use of inmate labor to enclose the building. It was noted that we have spent \$15k in the last year to maintain equipment. The hangar previously used for storage was rented out to collect income.

The Board recessed at 10:22 a.m., reconvening at 10:36 a.m.

### **14. David Walker - Weems CEO - Medical Stabilization Program - Update**

The following were in attendance for the presentation:

Mr. William Wanscott CEO of Colby Health Services

Courtney Alford Weems Memorial Hospital

Tom Ramsey via Zoom

David Walker CEO Weems Memorial Hospital

Michael Kozar Alliant

Mr. Walker said they believe this program will benefit persons and also generate revenue for the hospital.

Mr. Wanscott introduced himself and explained the program to the Board. Its is completely voluntary. These are patients that the hospital is dealing with already. COLBY detox provides policies and procedures, training for staff. We have a master level therapist or social worker on site Monday and Friday to deal with discharge. We also have activity techs to manage activities for the patients, Overseeing the program is a licensed social worker and a boarded addiction specialist. The boarded addiction specialists wrote all of the policy and procedures is available for training and consult on the patients. The patients that are admitted are screened by a nurse. The hospital approves the admission. They go through the ER first. Chairman Jones asked how this would work being voluntary. Any patient at anytime unless they are there on court ordered or psychiatric hold are able to leave. Mr. Wanscott said the referral sources are patient who reach out to another facility for admission to their program and they need assistance with withdrawal symptoms before entering a residential program. Commissioner Ward asked how much training these nurses have been through, Mr. Wanscott said about an hour of training and given the opportunity to ask questions. Detox patients are not a subset of what the hospital deals with. They are not a more difficult patient. Commissioner Ward said she has concerns. She said her concern is mixture of patients in the facility. Mr. Wanscott said they don't treat overdose. We are talking about benzodiazepines and alcohol withdrawal. Anything is possible but it is with any patients. We are stabilizing that patient clinically. To make sure the withdraw symptoms doesn't

cause any complications. Commissioner Ward said the last three that we dealt with we ended up having to intubated. She noted concern for safety and welfare of other patients and staff. She said she has had patients be combative with her, and knows that people can come into the ER and be combative. Mr. Wanscott said he understands and safety with staff should be priority. They come by choice; they are all there by their free will asking for help. No misbehavior or they are discharged. It is not common for them to be any more of a problem than the average patient. Commissioner Ward asked how much money and revenue stream this is going to bring into the hospital. Mr. Tom Ramsey said the program is valuable and he thinks it will help Weems to be more successful financially. Other places became profitable in the first month. Michael Kozar said these folks are being brought in as a medical diagnosis. We would bill out under medical diagnosis for detox. Commissioner Ward asked if COLBY would have additional staff. Mrs. Alford said the hospital will bring additional staff as needed. She noted the referrals have to come through her and then the ED. Patient acceptance will be based on staffing. Commissioner Ward asked if Weems would add security. Mr. Walker spoke and said they were looking at ways to increase security. They are in process having a Panic button added to every room. Chairman Jones asked if a contract had been signed with COLBY. Mr. Walker said yes, but we have a 90 day out. Substance abuse and overdose is part of statewide alignment health improvement plan. Chairman Jones inquired as to how many days stay it would be. Mr. Wanscott said 3-7 days. Commissioner Lockley asked Mrs. Alford if her and the doctor would be boots on the ground. He asked if she was comfortable with this. Mrs. Alford noted that the panic buttons will help and they will take one patient at a time. She said Dr. Conrad and herself are comfortable with this, and plan to take one at a time. She noted it will be a learning process. However, with the screening process, standard orders, and their staff, this going to be a great asset. Commissioner Amison said he has been told that a lot of the physicians are against this. Mrs. Alford noted she has had a lot of push back from nurses, issue is security. Security has been an issue for years. Mr. Walker said they are not against hiring a security company, etc. Commissioner Ward inquired as to how is this a good marry between having swing bed program and rehab. Just don't see how this is going to match up very well. Mrs. Alford noted that they plan to keep them to one end of the hall and to designate an entire hall as the program grows. A lot of symptoms should be controlled by these protocols. We do need to work to make sure these things don't happen. Mr. Walker we are trying to diversify our revenue income. Commissioner Amison asked how many detox patients there would be at one time. That will be based on in-patient numbers, swing bed and er. We won't accept referrals if we don't have the staff and room to support them. Commissioner Ward said she doesn't think this is a good mesh. Commissioner Sanders asked how many swing beds we have utilized. Mrs. Alford noted 2 at this time and there are a total of 20 swing beds. Commissioner Sanders asked why they are coming before the board if they have already signed the contract. Commissioner Sanders said she is concerned. She likes the idea of having more revenue come in but at what cost. Will the amount of money being made be worth the cost? Mr. Walker said we don't typically come to the Board for permission to start a program. Commissioner Sanders said its not about getting permission its about letting us know what is going on. Commissioner Amison asked how the money breaks down. We have a management contract based on cost to us. Commissioner Amison inquired about patient leaving on their own. How does that work? The insurance companies are paying for the days they are there. Weems or COLBY are left holding the bag per se. We just get one patient a month there and on average it will pay for the entire program for the month. COLBY screens based on CMS criteria. These patients don't have to be Franklin County residents. Medicines that Weems is going to have to increase. Mrs. Alford said they only added three meds. We won't order them in bulk and our pharmacy tech will monitor how much we use. The revenue will far out pace the cost of the program. Mr. Walker said we are not going to jeopardize our relationship with the Board. It's not a be all program for us. Commissioner Ward asked if Attorney Shuler reviewed the contract, he said he did not. Commissioner Lockley said what is the difference if someone goes out on the weekend gets tore up, is this the same thing. No, this is for those addicted, treatment for withdrawal symptoms. Mr. Walker said they understand the board's concerns and we don't want to cause any friction. Commissioner Lockley said these things are happening every day. People need help. Drugs, alcohol, sometimes it's not a one-time fix. Chairman Jones asked Mr. Ramsey about the cost of the program, if we have one patient a month, that will cover the cost of the program. I do think it is a lot to ask of Dr. Conrad and Mrs. Alford but they do seem to understand that and be okay with it. Chairman Jones said we need to do something about the security at this hospital. Please bring that back to the board. Commissioner Ward inquired as to the patients that are coming in for medical stabilization, who pays for the transportation. COLBY pays for this. Commissioner Ward said to make sure the Board is aware of what your plans are before you do it. I just think that this was, I am going to quit talking. Mr. Duffey Harrison – Chairman of Hospital Board asked the Board if they would like the hospital board to start sending a condense version of their board meeting minutes. He said they could send a monthly report. Mr. Moron said I think the issue is this board has charged Weems with getting as much revenue as they can. It is not their job to consider the political side of it. I think now they understand if there is a new program, they kind of need to come to the board ahead of time to get the feeling from it. Mr. Walker noted communication could improve. Commissioner Ward asked if the hospital's minutes



are posted online. Mr. Duffey said he wasn't sure, but definitely something that we should be doing. Attorney Shuler said if they are going to send bullet points to the board, they need to send those to Mr. Moron to add to the agenda for the next meeting. Commissioner Lockley said he thinks they are doing a good job and thanked them. Chairman Jones said the reason he wanted them to come today was due to public questions, make sure we aren't dealing on conjecture, hearsay. We can be informed and answer the questions of the public. It is nice to be able to say I know what you are talking about. Commissioner Ward said she would prefer Attorney Shuler review any contracts the hospital signs before they are signed.

### **County Staff & Attorney Reports**

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

##### **1. BOARD ACTION: DUNE WALKOVER 7TH STREET WEST**

On Thursday, the county received the attached permit for the replacement of the 7th Street Dune Walkover on St. George Island from the Department of Environmental Protection. Unfortunately, 7th Street was ranked as walkover in the worst condition and with the impending start of Sea Turtle Nesting Season on May 1st, all pile supports for the construction will need to be driven by that date. As the county is running out of time for standard procurement procedures, pursuant to the county's bid policy, it would be in the best interest for the public and the county to accelerate the turnaround time for this project and authorize emergency procurement for the replacement. The timeline is proposed as follows: advertise for bids on the county website beginning today, bids due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 20th, to be opened at the March 21st meeting with notice of award and contract documents approved pursuant to review and recommendation by the county's coastal engineers MRD and Associates.

Included in part of the field permit for this walkover is also additional erosion control measures such as the addition of parking stops and post/rope fencing (to eliminate forward encroachment onto dunes), and the full restoration of sea oats at the location. These project elements will be contracted separately, and the county will also be responsible for the demolition of the existing walkover.

Board action to authorize the bid as an emergency procurement and allow for an accelerated submission and contract award timeline for the replacement of the 7th Street Dune Walkover.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the bid as an emergency procurement and allow for an accelerated submission and contract award timeline for the replacement of the 7th Street Dune Walkover. Chairman Jones said that walkover will not make it through another season. Motion carried 5-0.**

##### **2. BOARD ACTION: FDOT TRANSPORTATION GRANT APPLICATIONS**

FDOT grant applications are due by the end of the day on March 17. The following four applications are being prepared for submittal by Franklin County.

- SCOP Application – Finish widening and resurfacing the east end of CR 30A. The plans are already complete for this project. The County just needs funds to construct the improvements. This is the County's priority SCOP grant.

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** beginning in 2022, Franklin County widened and resurfaced a portion of CR 30A with funds provided by a Small County Outreach Program grant (440621-1-54-01), and,

**WHEREAS** the cost of the project precluded Franklin County from widening and resurfacing the entire length of CR 30A that had been originally proposed, and

**WHEREAS** there remains 1.795 miles of CR 30A that was not widened and resurfaced under SCOP grant 440621-1-54-01, and

**WHEREAS** the Florida Department of Transportation has offered the opportunity to apply for funding through the Small County Outreach Program to widen and resurface the remainder of this road,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** that they support the application for a Small County Outreach Program grant from the Florida Department of Transportation for the widening and resurfacing of the remaining 1.795 miles of CR 30A, and Ricky D. Jones, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, is hereby authorized to sign the Small County Outreach Program grant application requesting funding for this project. This project is Franklin County's first priority for this year's SCOP Application.

- SCOP Application – A new project to build approximately 300' of new road at Alligator Point to smooth out the sharp curve at the intersection of Alligator Drive and Harry Morrison Island Drive. Franklin County has purchased the fire station property, and this new road will alleviate a sharp turn that has seen several accidents over the last five years. This is the County's second priority SCOP grant.

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** County Road 370, also known as Alligator Drive, provides the only access to Alligator Point and Bald Point in Franklin County, and,

**WHEREAS** since 1985 County Road 370 has been repeatedly washed out in the area south of the old KOA campground, resulting in Franklin County having to reroute the road further inland, creating a sharp curve beside the old Alligator Point Fire Station, and

**WHEREAS** at this sharp curve there have been several accidents of cars not negotiating the turn and running off the road, and

**WHEREAS** Franklin County has purchased the old Alligator Point Fire Station to provide the right-of-way for straightening out this sharp curve,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** that they support the application for a Small County Outreach Program grant from the Florida Department of Transportation for the reconfiguration of this curve to provide a safer route for Alligator Drive, and Ricky D. Jones, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, is hereby authorized to sign the Small County Outreach Program grant application requesting funding for this project. This project is Franklin County's second priority for this year's SCOP Application.

- SCRAP Application – Finish widening and resurfacing Phase II of the CR 67 project. The low bid opened for construction of this phase on December 20 was over \$850,000 above the project budget. The County is in the process of rebidding this project, but it is expected that the County will only be able to pave a portion of Phase II. This project will fund paving the remainder of the roadway in Phase II. This is the County's priority for a SCRAP grant.

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** Franklin County opened bids to widen and resurface County Road 67 from Crooked River Bridge to State Forest Road 166 (Phase II) as part of a Small County Road Assistance Program grant (440644-2-54-01), and

**WHEREAS** the low bid was more than \$850,000 above the available funding for this project, and

**WHEREAS** Franklin County had to reject all bids and is readvertising the project with the expectation that the County will only be able to accomplish a portion of the project, and

**WHEREAS** it is necessary to fund the widening and resurfacing of the remainder of this phase of the project, and

**WHEREAS** the Florida Department of Transportation has offered the opportunity to apply for funding through the Small County Road Assistance Program to widen and resurface the final portion of County Road 67 (Phase II),

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** that they support the application for a Small County Road Assistance Program grant from the Florida Department of Transportation for the widening and resurfacing of the remainder of County Road 67 (Phase II) from the end of the current widening and resurfacing to State Forest Road 166, and Ricky D. Jones, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, is hereby authorized to sign the Small County Road Assistance Program grant application requesting funding for this project. This is Franklin County's first priority for the Small County Road Assistance Program grant this year.

- **SCRAP Application** – A new project to widen and resurface CR 370, Alligator Drive. The road is the evacuation route for Alligator Point, but it has narrow 9.5' lanes. This will be the first phase of a project to eventually widen and resurface the entire road. This phase will design the improvements from the intersection with Highway 98 to Pine Street, a length of approximately 2.31 miles. Once the design is complete the County will apply for a construction grant. This is the County's second priority for a SCRAP grant.

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** County Road 370, also known as Alligator Drive, is the only access road for Alligator Point and Bald Point in Franklin County, and,

**WHEREAS** this road is the only evacuation route for these areas, and

**WHEREAS** this is a narrow road, consisting of two 9.5' wide lanes with no paved shoulders, and

**WHEREAS** Franklin County is desirous of widening and resurfacing County Road 370 to provide a safer driving surface, and

**WHEREAS** the Florida Department of Transportation has offered the opportunity to apply for funding through the Small County Road Assistance Program to design improvements to County Road 370,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** that they support the application for a Small County Road Assistance Program grant from the Florida Department of Transportation for the design of improvements to County Road 370 from State Road 30 to Pine Street, and Ricky D. Jones, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, is hereby authorized to sign the Small County Road Assistance Program grant application requesting funding for this project. This is Franklin County's second priority for a Small County Road Assistance Program grant this year.

Board action to approve the attached four resolutions authorizing the Chairman to sign the grant applications.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached four resolutions authorizing the Chairman to sign the grant applications.** Commissioner Sanders inquired if C30A was in Carrabelle. Mrs. Griffith said no that is balance that was not possible to get done before. Mrs. Griffith noted that she is working with FEMA on the C30 Gulf Avenue project. Commissioner Sanders noted that at the intersection of 98 and Gulf Drive the state or contractors for the state have dumped things down there.  
**Motion carried 5-0.**

### **3. BOARD ACTION: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CARRABELLE TRANSPORTATION GRANTS**

The city of Carrabelle has requested letters of support from Franklin County for their attached (3) FDOT SCOP transportation grant applications. The three applications are relative to the design and construction of roadway and drainage

improvements on three sections of Baywood Drive. Commissioner Sanders can discuss the proposed improvements if there are any questions as she has met with City staff.

Board action to authorize and approve the chairman's signature on the attached letter of support for the City of Carrabelle's SCOP grant applications.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized and approved the Chairman's signature on the attached letter of support for the City of Carrabelle's SCOP grant applications. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **4. BOARD ACTION: Authorize release of Emergency Management Vehicle to Auction**

The Franklin County Emergency Management Department is requesting authorization to release a 2006 F150 4x4 truck (Last four of VIN: 1972) to the county's auctioneer Florida Auction Network for disposal. This vehicle is no longer operational and should be removed from the department's inventory and insurance.

Board action to authorize the release of the vehicle to the auctioneer and removal from inventory once the vehicle is sold.

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

#### **5. BOARD ACTION: Replacement of Wheel Loader for Landfill**

Just this month, the county has paid off the 2016 compactor at the landfill. The next large piece of equipment that needs to be replaced is the 2008 John Deere 544 Wheel Loader which is at the end of useful life and in need of extensive repairs. Beard Equipment will give Franklin County \$35,000 in trade allowance for the 2008 loader towards the Sourcewell Contract price for a 2023 John Deere 544 P Wheel Loader. To date, the county has received (3) financing quotes and the best rate to date has been 5.40% fixed for (4) years with an annual payment of \$53,793.71 from the Landfill Tipping Fee Fund. Financing documentation to be ready for approval at the next meeting.

Board action to authorize the issuance of a purchase order for the 2023 Wheel Loader through Beard Equipment and authorization to trade-in and remove the 2008 John Deere Loader (property ID # A0004762) from the landfill's inventory.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the issuance of a purchase order for the 2023 Wheel Loader through Beard Equipment and authorization to trade-in and remove the 2008 John Deere Loader (property ID # A0004762) from the landfill's inventory.** Commissioner Ward inquired about the interest rate. Mrs. Griffith said she hopes the PeopleSouth rate will come back lower. She noted the John Deere rate was 5.99% when historically they offer lower rates. Chairman Jones inquired about paying for it and the landfill repaying county with interest. Mrs. Griffith noted this is the same mechanism we used to purchase the compactor using revenue from the landfill tipping fund. Those revenues come in throughout the year. **Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **6. BOARD INFORMATION: Playground Renovation and Rehabilitation**

On Thursday, I met with Steve Larson of Gametime and we visited the county's existing playgrounds (Kendrick Park in Carrabelle, DW Wilson Park in Apalachicola, Classie Lowery Park in Carrabelle, and Vrooman Park in Eastpoint). Gametime is a sole source provider of maintenance inspections and repairs/rehabilitation of playground equipment. With the rising cost of playground equipment, it is our hope that this new service will extend and enhance the life cycle of existing play structures by performing preventative routine maintenance and staying on top of concerns by contracting the professional removal of rust, replacement of damaged components and warranted safety upgrades as needed. Mr. Larsen is preparing quotes for an annual inspection contract and the necessary rehabilitation/repairs needed at each location to establish a baseline. It is the county's hope that the larger scale upgrade/renovation of the playground at Vrooman Park will be approved as part of the county's project amendment request with DEO's Hurricane Michael Assistance Grant. The quotes should be available for your consideration at the next meeting.

## MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES

Mrs. Griffith announced they will meet with Dewberry Engineers on site tomorrow at the Lanark St James Volunteer Fire Department for the possibility of locating a site for a new facility there.

Commissioner Ward noted the playground equipment at Vrooman Park is in need of some repairs and she likes this idea. Mrs. Griffith noted they discussed them sanding off the rusted areas and then painting. Mrs. Griffith noted the paint is a marine epoxy; it is the same texture used on barges and such. She said it should make it hold up longer. Chairman Jones said the TDC will discuss the rust issue at some of our county restrooms throughout the county and asking the TDC to help us with this problem.

### **16. Michael Morón – County Coordinator**

Mr. Moron noted there was an article in the newspaper recently that he suspect linked two topics together that the Board did not. He noted a discussion was held about moving the Supervisor of Elections office and looking at places to do so. At that meeting, Commissioner Sanders made it very clear that she would like me to have a discussion with Mrs. Riley before bringing this back before the Board. At a subsequent meeting, the Board discussed purchasing a property in Eastpoint with plans to be determined. These were two separate discussions and hopefully the article can be clarified. Commissioner Ward noted that she remembers talking about the Eastpoint property as a potential space for administrative offices but that it was a brain storming discussion. Chairman Jones noted that he believes the minutes reflect the possibility of administrative offices when the vote was made to pursue the purchase.

#### **1. Action Item: Peter Burgher's Airport Hangar**

Board action to request Attorney Shuler to negotiate a new rental agreement with Mr. Peter Burgher for his airport hangar. About 20 years ago, with the County's permission, Mr. Peter Burgher built a hangar at his own expense at the Apalachicola Airport and agreed to a \$1520 annual land lease. As he is maturing in age, Mr. Burgher would like to donate the hangar to the county but would like the county to consider a new 10-year rental agreement, where Mr. Burgher would pay approximately \$300 per month to cover the cost of the land as well as the hangar. If the Board is agreeable, Mr. Burgher could meet with Attorney Shuler to negotiate this new rental agreement.

Chairman Jones said it is going to be hard to determine fair market value with out the appraisal. Attorney Shuler said he would follow up this week. It is difficult to find a comp with similar items in the county. There seems to be some confusion about what Mr. Burgher is asking. Would like Board authority to meet with Mr. Burgher to see what he is wanting and then come back to the board with a presentation.

No action needed.

#### **2. Action Item: Junior/Senior Prom**

Motion to waive the Armory rental fee for the Franklin County School District's 2023 Junior/Senior Prom scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2023.

County staff received a request from the Franklin County School District to reserve the Armory for the 2023 Junior/Senior Prom and would like the Board to consider waiving the rental fee. It would be the first prom in the Armory since it was closed in 2020. The Prom will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

#### **3. Action Item: Permission to Place a Septic Line in the County Alley**

Motion to allow Mr. Gene Brown to place a septic line across the County's alley in Block 5 West, Unit 1, on St. George Island.

Mr. Mark Curenton has received a request from Mr. Gene Brown to place a septic line across the County alley in Block 5 West, Unit 1, St. George Island Gulf Beaches. Mr. Brown owns Lots 7 – 10 on the south side of the alley and plans to build some additional units on the property. As a point of reference, this is the old water department building. Mr. Brown bought Lot 23 on the north side of the alley for his septic system. The Health Department is requesting a letter from the County

giving permission to place the septic line across the County's alley.

Mr. Curenton said the Board has previously granted this type of request. Attorney Shuler said they have done this before but I do not have a clear recollection. We probably need more than a letter, possibly an easement. The Board discussed approving contingent upon Attorney Shuler getting with Mr. Brown to determine the legal document needed for this request.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved allowing Mr. Gene Brown to place a septic line across the County's alley in Block 5 West, Unit 1, on St. George Island contingent upon Attorney Shuler review and clarification. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **4. Action Item: Letter of Support for SGI Civic Club**

Motion to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of support for the Reeve Foundation grant application for playground furnishings.

The St. George Island Civic Club is applying for a Reeve Foundation grant to purchase high quality ADA Compliant picnic tables and an ADA Compliant water fountain for the planned renovated Inclusive Playground at the Lighthouse Park on St. George Island. The Civic Club is asking for a letter of support from the County that will be submitted with the grant application.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on a letter of support for the Reeve Foundation grant application for playground furnishings. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **5. Discussion Item: FDOT Response re: Causeway**

Attached to my report is an email from Mr. Jason Peters, P.E., FDOT Director of Transportation Operations. The letter addresses three requests made by the Board at your last meeting. The first item was changing the guardrail from the cable barrier system to the traditional guardrail installers, the second was moving the guardrail closer to the water to allow a driver additional room to pull over in case of emergency, and the third was to restrict access behind the guardrail system. Of the three requests, restricting access behind the guardrail will be addressed immediately, and the other two items will be evaluated and considered during the upcoming resurfacing project planned for April 30, 2025. If you have additional questions or comments regarding this letter, let me know and I will contact Mr. Peters.

#### **6. Discussion Item: FDOT Response re: Serenity Seaside Resort ingress/egress changes**

Last week I forwarded an email sent to Mr. Brian Pettis, FDOT Traffic Operations, from Commissioner Ward that stated concerns raised during the Serenity Seaside Resort PUD amendment public hearing. Attached to my report is Mr. Pettis' response to Commissioner Ward's email. Are there any additional questions for FDOT regarding this project PUD amendment prior to next meeting's continued public hearing?

Commissioner Ward said she is satisfied for the most part. Her only concern is the Y intersection. FDOT has some standards that they use, and they stated Florida statutes. Chairman Jones said the only thing that wasn't addressed was about the traffic studies. The sheriff's office has pretty much already done that.

#### **7. Discussion Item: Airport Operation Economic Development Board**

Attached to my report, is a draft document that states the mission, purpose, responsibilities, and duties of the Airport Operation Economic Development Board (AOED). This draft was created by Commissioner Amison based on a request from the Board at the last meeting. Commissioner Amison would like the Board to evaluate the draft document and be prepared to discuss proposed changes and adopt a final draft at the next meeting. After adopting the final draft, the Board could appoint members to the AOED. Commissioner Amison may have additional comments regarding the documents and AOED. Let me know if you have additional questions or comments regarding the creation of this new board.

Commissioner Amison briefly explained the reasoning behind having the manager and FBO as non-voting members. He

noted in doing so this gives them a more independent voice should matters of conflict arise. Chairman Jones noted the bylaws and documents are to provide a framework of what the public can expect from the board (AOED).

Mr. Moron added the following item for action at this time.

**Request for the Board to allow staff to engage a contractor to remove the trees on private property that are an obstruction to the runway.**

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Ward, to approve allowing staff to engage a contractor to remove the trees that are an obstruction to the runway.**

Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none.

Commissioner Lockley inquired as to where the obstruction was located. Commissioner Amison noted that it was the property on the corner when you turn onto Bay City Road. He said he had spoken with the owner, Mr. Crosby, and he was agreeable to allow the county to remove the trees causing the obstruction.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **8. Informational Item: Airport Apron Rehab – Notice to Proceed**

The County received the Notice to Proceed for the Airport Apron Rehabilitation project. As this project has been approved by the Board, the Chairman will sign the notice today which will give the contractor, Pettibone Concrete Construction, Inc., 150 calendar days to substantially complete the work and 180 calendar days as a final completions date. There are a \$500 daily liquated damages amount for each calendar day of delay.

#### **9. Informational Item: Senate Bill 250**

Last week, Mr. Bob McKee, FAC Deputy Director of Public Policy, sent an email asking counties to pay special attention to Senate Bill 250 – An Act Related to Natural Emergencies. I've attached a summary of the bill for your review. Mr. McKee estimated that the bill was expected to move quickly, possibly heard as early as this week, but would like to hear your comments and concerns. You can forward me your comments and concerns.

#### **10. Informational Item: Meeting with Cities on TRIUMPH**

Last Tuesday, Chairman Jones, Mrs. Erin Griffith, Apalachicola Mayor Brenda Ash, Apalachicola City Manager Travis Wade, Carrabelle Mayor Brenda LaPaz, City Administrator Courtney Millender, and I met to discuss TRIUMPH funding. After discussing our past attempts to fund projects, the group decided to meet with TRIUMPH staff to seek their guidance on creating projects that will successfully receive TRIUMPH funds and address the needs of the county and cities. Chairman Jones may have additional comments regarding the meeting.

Chairman Jones said at some point we need to be united in our request to TRIUMPH so that we can get some benefit to the county. We just need to support one another and put our best foot forward. We are going to meet with TRIUMPH and ask them what projects they will fund.

#### **11. Informational Item: Camp Gordon Johnston Parade**

As a reminder, 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. I will have information on the location of the golf carts/UTVs for the parade later this week.

#### **12. Informational Item: FAC Annual Conference & Educational Exposition**

Registration is open for the FAC Annual Conference and Educational Exposition that will be held from June 27 – 30, 2023 at the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek in Orange County. This is the most attended conference, so hotel rooms are filled rather quickly. If you are planning on attending, please inform Mrs. Cortni Bankston as soon as possible.

### **13. Informational Item: FAC Election of Officers**

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) is pleased to announce the election of officers for 2023-2024 will be held during the Annual Business Meeting as a part of the 2023 FAC Annual Conference. The Conference will be held June 27 - June 30, 2023, at the Hilton Bonnet Creek in Orange County. While each office is technically open for election except that of the President, which is automatically filled by the President-Elect, only the office of 2nd Vice President is anticipated to be vacant in June 2023. I can provide the eligibility and qualification requirements if you are interested in the vacant seat.

### **14. Informational Item: SGI Brewfest**

Below is information from Mrs. Amy Hobson regarding the SGI Brewfest.

The SGI Brewfest is a one-day beer tasting festival established in 2016 to promote the appreciation of craft beer. All proceeds from the event benefit the Franklin County Humane Society. The Franklin County Humane Society relies on this event for a substantial portion of their funding each year. In 2022 (after a three-year covid hiatus) the SGI Brewfest donated \$50,000 to FCHS. 2023 will be the 6th incarnation of the event and will be held on Saturday, April 22nd from 1:00-4:00pm in the parking area adjacent to Lighthouse Park. This year's event features an even broader selection of amazing craft beers, friendly faces and furry friends. Beers, beaches, and bettering the lives of animals. What's not to love?

### **15. Informational Item: SGI Shrimpfest**

Below is information from Mrs. Amy Hobson regarding the SGI Shrimpfest.

The St. George Lighthouse Association will be hosting the 2nd Annual SGI ShrimpFest on May 13, 2023, from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm in the western parking area adjacent to Lighthouse Park. This family and community-oriented festival will be a one-day event offering patrons great outdoor musical entertainment, a small fairway of games for the children sponsored by the Forgotten Coast Parrothead Club, and the chance to dine on the freshest and most delicious local shrimp dishes. Musical entertainment will be provided by two awesome acts. Local favorites, Flying Fish, will start the day and headlining this year's festival will be Bill Wharton aka "The Sauce Boss". Bill's music is a fun blend of roots and swampy Florida blues-rock. The SGI Shrimpfest is an annual fundraiser for the St. George Lighthouse Association, a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve, maintain, and promote the Cape St. George Lighthouse and Museum. Funds raised are vital for the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the Lighthouse, Keepers House Museum, and Lighthouse Park.

### **16. Informational Item: Next Meeting Date**

Your next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st at 9:00 a.m. (ET).

Commissioner Ward said she has concerns with Weems. I was told that staff received raises, I have concerns and feel like we may need to look into that further. Think we may need to have forensic audit. Mr. Moron said he will meet with Mrs. Griffith and Clerk Maxwell to come up with an option to get the information to you. Commissioner Ward noted that we have not received any numbers, every time you ask about it, you are diverted. Commissioner Sanders said she agrees. Chairman Jones said he does not believe this is an unreasonable request. Commissioner Ward said it would be beneficial to seeking the Phase 1. Commissioner Amison said we are sharing our HR department with two other hospitals and had inquired as to who is carrying the load. Why are we carrying the entire cost? We are already top heavy. The nurses not being adequately paid. The RNs have to push meds. Commissioner Ward said she heard that someone was going to Perry also. I don't know if I am getting the true story, but we need to figure this out. Commissioner Amison said the wage gap from Weems to neighboring counties is dramatic. Its hard to see them watching HR and maintenance director working two days a week here and they are making \$80k. Commissioner Ward said dealing with the COLBY patients is not going to be an easy task and they deserve to be compensated. Commissioner Amison said he is not against Weems. When I think of local healthcare, I am looking at it for our citizens. That is why I was leaning against the COLBY, because that doesn't really serve our citizens. Commissioner Sanders said she is receiving letters about parking lot off of Spring Street. Concerned about pedestrians walking back and forth off of Hwy 98. She asked Mr. Moron if they can contact FDOT see if they have been approached with this about a cross walk or something. Commissioner Ward said she received an email from Kimberly Toole from FDOT. I am going to forward the email to Mr. Curenton. It is something that we need to look at. Its my understanding that it is private property. Mr. Moron said I will copy you on the email to Mr. Curenton and keep you in the loop with the response.

### **17. Michael Shuler – County Attorney**



**1. Addendum No. 2 to Contract for the Purchase and Sale of Land from J.V. Gander, Jr. to Franklin County**  
Attached is a proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> addendum to the purchase and sale of real estate from Mr. Jimmy Gander. The real property is located next to property previously purchased adjacent to the Old Suwannee Swifty store in Eastpoint, FL, at the intersection of Highway 98 and Patton Drive. The first addendum extended the contract so that the parties could consider whether to agree to purchase a parcel running from Highway 98 to Patton Drive, Eastpoint, FL.

See the print-out from the Property Appraiser office showing property currently owned by Franklin County running from Highway 98 to Patton Drive. I have labeled the land currently owned by the county as “County” and the proposed purchase of land from Mr. Gander as “Gander”.

Board Action Requested: Board discussion and possible action whether to approve Addendum No. 2 and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Chairman Jones confirmed this property is being purchase with TDC funds.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved Addendum No. 2 and authorized the Chairman to sign. Motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Lockley stepped out of the meeting.**

**2. Department of the Army Request for Right of Entry for Formerly Used Defense Sites Program**

Attached is a request by the Department of the Army to enter upon Lake Morality Road to investigate the site for potential munitions, including, but not limited to, operating geophysical equipment, digging selected metallic objects to identify them and collecting environmental samples. Also attached is information from the Franklin County Property Appraiser’s office confirming that the area requested for entry is Lake Morality Road. What concerns me is that the Federal Government’s obligation to repair any damage to the real property (road) is strictly conditioned on its sole discretion to repair or pay damages or settle if funds have been appropriated. Does the Board want to grant the right of entry? Does the Board want to limit the right of entry to that part of the right of way that is not paved? Board Action Requested: Board discussion and possible action on the request for a right of entry.

Commissioner Sanders said she doesn’t want to see them tear up Lake Morality Road. Attorney Shuler said maybe we should have Mr. Moron reach out to them to see what their plans are. Commissioner Sanders said we don’t have to grant them access. There’s not going to be anything else out there that wasn’t the last time. Commissioner Ward said so if we say no can they come in still? Attorney Shuler said the oil spill money was 2010 how much money has been spent by the Feds.

**Commissioner Sanders made a motion to deny their request. Seconded by Commissioner Ward.** Commissioner Amison said from experience when it comes to old disposals, I have literally seen with my own eyes, just from my experience there is a reason why they gap it out. Keep that in mind the last thing I would hate to see for someone to get hurt. **Commissioner Sanders asked if the Board wanted to get more information on what they are looking for. Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Ward rescinded their motions.**

Chairman Jones said we need to address our concerns on what they are looking for and the condition of the road. Clarity on specifics of their plan. Attorney Shuler noted he will request more detail from them and report back to the Board once he receives a response.

**3. Unopened County Right of Way Between Gulf Beach Drive and Gorrie Drive at 7<sup>th</sup> Street East, St. George Island, FL**

Attached is an unsigned copy of the letter that I sent to the Wayward Winds Condominium, Inc., dated January 18, 2023, concerning an apparent encroachment of part of a gravel drive and deck into a county right of way. Also attached is an email from the person who lodged the complaint, also dated January 18, 2023. A survey from Thurman Roddenberry detailing the encroachments into the right of way is also attached. The matter remains unresolved through informal action and the encroachments remain.

Board Action Requested: Board discussion and possible action authorizing me to take formal enforcement action for removal of the encroachments shown, including filing a lawsuit to remove the encroachments, if necessary.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized Attorney Shuler to take formal enforcement action for removal of the encroachments shown, including filing a lawsuit to remove the encroachments, if necessary.** Chairman Jones said we have a lot of these types of issues on St. George Island where people are encroaching on other people's property or the county right of way. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Jones asked Attorney Shuler to address the access recently closed. I am scheduled to meet with their attorney on Friday with Mr. Moron. No member of the community has the authority to open up a county beach access that is closed. My position is you have four miles of beach front access.

Chairman Jones said he had gotten a couple of the contracts that we had asked about. I can't give you an exact date but my hope is before our next meeting there should be a regular dredge in the Eastpoint channel.

**Commissioner Sanders said she still wants to look at the fire department contracts. Do you have a way to see the original contract in the 80s? Attorney Shuler said we have searched the records and we have not been able to find them. Commissioner Sanders noted she would like to look at drafting a contract with fire departments, Lanark and Alligator Point specifically. She noted Hernando County had contracted with their fire department. They took and closed down one of their fire departments with the contract.**

Commissioner Sanders I don't know why but in the past week I have gotten a lot of emails about golf carts on Alligator Drive. Did you ever find the original study that was done about the speed limits on Alligator Drive? Attorney Shuler said he does have the study with Alligator Point. However, Dewberry was unable to find a sign and sealed study. Attorney Shuler said he will recirculate that study. Commissioner Sanders asked Attorney Shuler if he could reach out to his contacts at Alligator Point and see what has been said or what is circulating causing these emails. The sheriff has been going after parking issues and including golf carts.

#### **Commissioners' Comments**

There were no further comments.

#### **Adjournment**

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

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**Ricky Jones – Chairman**

**Attest:**

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**Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts**

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