

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
APRIL 4, 2023
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Jessica Ward-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, Ottilie 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 (via Zoom), 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 the changes to the agenda which included an amended report submitted by Mrs. Griffith. **On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda with the changes as noted above. Motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Minutes and Payment of County Bills

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

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the County Bill List for Payment and the FCBC Regular Meeting March 21, 2023, minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

Awards and Recognitions

3. Superintendent Steve Lanier - Franklin County School District Boys Basketball Team and Cheerleaders

Superintendent Steve Lanier introduced the boys' basketball team, cheerleaders, coaching staff, and administration staff. In attendance was school board members Fonda Davis, Melonie Inzetta, and Pam Marshall; school administration Sherry Ware (ABC School principal) and Danielle Rosson (FCS principal); Ray Bailey (head coach), Tydron Wynn (assistant coach, and Chairman Ricky Jones (assistant coach). Superintendent Lanier thanked the Board for the generous donation for the state trip. We have some wonderful young men and learned a lot on that trip. We have a young team, with three seniors. He thanked the Board for the hospitality and friendship the county commissioners. It was a nice week for our basketball team. Superintendent Lanier recognized the cheerleading team along with their sponsors, Lacey Hamm and Nicole McNair. He recognized the athletic director, Anna Bull. He said it is great to be a Franklin County Seahawk. The future looks very bright. The cheerleaders presented a gift to the Board in appreciation for their support. The team, cheerleaders, and coaching staff took a picture with the Board. Coach Bailey thanked the Board for their generous donation. Commissioner Lockley said he is proud of the fellows. You went where a lot of people will never go. But you are going back next year so get ready. Commissioner Ward said you guys are awesome, and Franklin County is going to be on the map for years to come. Congratulations. Commissioner Amison said participate in sports because you cannot go back and bring it home next year. He said to continue to keep those grades up because without the grades you cannot continue. We are proud of you and appreciate what you do for the community. Commissioner Sanders said she is going to be looking at them next year. If you can dream it, you can

achieve it. We are proud of you and thank you for representing Franklin County. Chairman Jones said we have turned a corner. Guys hard work always pays off. The biggest advantage I have is watch them over the last decade. Watching boys become men. Thank you and the sky is the limit. Superintendent Lanier thanked the Board for their encouragement and wisdom.

Public Comments

Ms. Wanda Rose from Carrabelle brought up an issue in 2010 when working with the census regarding street signs and names. Emergency personnel need to be able to find a street name and house number in an emergency. Require property owners and business owners to have numbers visible.

Ms. Nancy Barnwell submitted a public comments card but was not present.

Department Directors Reports

4. Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Roads and Bridges

No action items. Mr. Nabors noted that it was cheaper to keep the excavator for a month. He hoped to have all airport ditches dug by the end of the week. I do have some emails and stuff on crosswalks at Alligator Point. We should start cutting grass this week. Chairman Jones said he will get with him about signs on South Bayshore. Commissioner Lockley asked if there was anywhere else in the county, he could use the excavator on. Mr. Nabors said he does not think there is anything he can use it for. Commissioner Ward thanked Mr. Nabors and his crew for putting some lime rock and grating the Vrooman Park area for the Fire Department cook-off. Commissioner Sanders said the people of Lanark love you all for correcting the issues in the area. We received some pictures regarding an S curve at Alligator Point, how can I explain why we cannot move it. Mr. Nabors explained that it would have to be repaved if you removed the rocks. You cannot put lime rock that close to the water. Commissioner Sanders noted we are going to have to do something about that. Mr. Nabors said maybe we could get a paving crew to do it when they are in the area. Commissioner Sanders noted that the Womack Creek area is in bad shape. Commissioner Amison reiterated that they have done a wonderful job on the ditches at the airport. Mr. Moron thanked Mr. Nabors and Commissioner Amison for working with the City of Apalachicola. He said they found one or two broken spots on the line and there were some issues about who was to repair it. Mr. Nabors noted that Commissioner Amison was able to use his charm to have the city help repair the lines. This has been an ongoing issue for years. Mr. Nabors noted that they got it fixed quick too.

5. Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Mr. Davis noted the Day of Ball was a success. He reported the scale house is up and running. He would like to hold an employee appreciation lunch and would like to request permission to close during this time so that staff can participate. Commissioner Lockley made a motion to authorize closing for the appreciation lunch, seconded by Commissioner Sanders. Attorney Shuler noted the Chairman would need to call for public comments. Mr. Moron said he does not think it is necessary and Mr. Davis should be able to close with appropriate notice to the public. Mr. Davis spoke of the low number of inmates they have been receiving and how they share with Mr. Polous. Commissioner Amison said tell your crew they did a phenomenal job. Let them know that on behalf of the Board. Commissioner Sanders said it was fun and I loved watching the kids play ball. I love having the vendors there also.

6. Jennifer Daniels – Emergency Management Director

Action Item:

1. Request the Boards Approval to put out an RFQ for a consultant with FEMA Public Assistance & Long-Term Community Recovery Planning.

Mrs. Daniels noted that it should be an RFP instead of an RFQ.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved advertising for an RFP for a consultant with FEMA Public Assistance & Long-Term Community Recovery Planning. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Daniels introduced Mr. Joshua Preiser as the new Special Needs Coordinator. He is a former

Air Force meteorologist.

Mrs. Daniels noted NWC should issue this year's hurricane forecast by May 25th. She noted in the list of names there is a Franklin.

Commissioner Ward asked when we would know if we were receiving the funds for the Build-a-Bucket. Mrs. Daniels noted that she has been talking with Danny at Duke to see if we can work with the counties around us as several other counties have applied. We are already looking at other options with it being so late and getting into storm season.

7. Dewitt Polous – Mosquito Control Director

Mr. Polous noted that he got with Mr. Putnal on the three beaver dams, one they had me open, but they cannot get close to others. We talked about what our options are, we are thinking of mini excavator. Its literally a lake out there. You can't even start to get through it now. It really needs to be opened. I think if we could get someone to come down Southwest Specialties, amphibious excavator. Think that is our only option, not sure how much it is going to cost. It is just going to get worse. Commissioner Sanders said if we have significant rain fall, we are in trouble. How many culverts do we have in there? Two at Gray Avenue, he has trapped like thirty beavers. Commissioner Sanders asked if they could get the iron gates to keep them from going in the pipes. We have ended our ditch maintenance so Fonda will be getting the inmate squad. Commissioner Ward congratulated Mr. Polous and Mr. Scott Tucker on receiving their Hazardous Materials Operations/OSHA Level II training. Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Polous for everything they do.

8. Erik Lovestrand – Extension Office Director

Mr. Lovestrand had no action items for the Board.

9. Whitney Roundtree – Library Director

Action Item:

1. Permission to advertise and fill the vacant FT Library Assistant position.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized advertising and filling the vacant FT Library Assistant position. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Roundtree gave a brief update of the activities at the library. Chairman Jones noted we are a small community and y'all do a really good job at the library. It is world class what you are doing at our libraries. Ms. Roundtree reminded the Board and public that the library has a Facebook page and website to keep the public informed of upcoming activities and events.

Other Reports

10. Ted Mosteller – Interim Airport Manager

Mr. Mosteller presented his report to the Board. Mr. Mosteller noted there is a piece of equipment at the airport, that the Board needs to decide on whether to repair or decommission. He noted Commissioner Amison may could give more information. Commissioner Amison said you have a piece of equipment that is obsolete. The military is the only one who uses it. The military does not want to throw any money at it. He said it would be his recommendation that we decommission it. If Tyndall wants to replace it, then they could do so. Chairman Jones asked if Mr. Mosteller could get a quote so that we know how much it will cost. At our next meeting we can decide one way or the other. Mr. Mosteller said he could do so and there is no time deadline. Commissioner Sanders said keep up the good work. Commissioner Amison inquired about the gates at the work camp. Are we anywhere close to that? Do we have some official bids? Mr. Mosteller said he spoke with a company regarding chain link fencing, and it was approximately \$11,500. Commissioner Amison asked if this was for an electric gate. Mr. Mosteller said no, and an electric gate would double the price. Mr. Moron said if it is over \$10k we can get three bids.

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

7. BOARD Action: Triumph Funding Request Letter – Airport Fuel Farm Project

At the last meeting, the county opened bids for the Airport Fuel Farm Project - This was the third time the county has bid on the contracts and although a bid was finally received, it was unfortunately over two times the Triumph grant award value. This seems to be the county's new normal when it comes to construction projects as the costs of construction have skyrocketed in the past few years. On March 28th, myself, Michael Moron and John Collins met with Cori Henderson with Triumph and asked for guidance moving forward – she suggested the county draft an official letter of request to increase the amount of the grant award, as it was nearly double the initial award, and also encouraged the county to pledge an additional match of another \$25,000 (which would also double the county's support for the project, as that is what the county would be asking Triumph to do).

- Triumph grant: \$1,059,000
- AVCON professional services: \$188,455
- Budget available for const.: \$870,545
- MDM bid: \$1,992,725.90
- Additional amount needed: \$1.3M (includes \$180k contingency)

Board action to approve sending a project amendment request to Triumph and authorizing an additional \$25,000 in airport funds to pledge as a match for the Fuel Farm Project.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, to approve sending a project amendment request to Triumph and authorizing an additional \$25,000 in airport funds to pledge as a match for the Fuel Farm Project. Due to this item being a late add to Mrs. Griffith's report, Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none. **Motion carried 5-0.**

11. Cortni Bankston - Broadband Webpage & Code Enforcement Portal

Mrs. Bankston presented the webpage to the Board, Chairman Jones noted that it looks comprehensive, however he will look at it as well as the other board and let her know if there are any changes. Mrs. Bankston presented the Code Enforcement Portal on the county website. Chairman Jones said what is helpful is when you do express a concern make sure you give us an address. We have had some that we don't have all the information. Mrs. Bankston said the more information the better. We recently received a letter from John Doe, but it doesn't follow state regulations. They must give their first and last name along with the address. Chairman Jones and Mr. Moron noted that is a state law. Mr. Moron said the person making the complaint must be identified. Mr. Moron said he plans to have a proposal for a code enforcement officer and building inspector for the Board to review on 4/18.

Commissioner Ward said she has people calling her about complaints. They want the commissioner to be the code enforcement officer. Attorney Shuler noted that the Commissioners cannot act on the complainant's behalf to file a complaint for them. The county has created a complaint portal. According to state law until the complaint is received, the commissioners cannot act on their behalf. Mrs. Bankston noted there are multiple ways they can file a complaint. Commissioner Ward noted the paper trail is very important. Chairman Jones noted he has been directing people to send an email to concerns@franklincountyflorida.com and letting them know that is the way we can begin trying to address your complaint. Mrs. Bankston said she will write the name down when they call. If you don't want to file a complaint you have to tell me that ahead of time. Chairman Jones said we handle a tremendous amount of capacity with a small amount of people. Commissioner Ward said multiple people have multiple hats that they wear.

Presentations and Requests

12. Kim Bodine - Executive Director CareerSource - Request for Extension

Mrs. Bodine would like the BOCC to approve the Request for Extension to Provide Direct Services
Commissioner Ward asked if Attorney Shuler had reviewed the contract. Attorney Shuler said he had not, but recommended approval contingent upon his review.

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

vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Request for Extension to Provide Direct Services contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board recessed at 10:09 a.m. and reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

13. Jim Warta - Consolidation Communications - Public/Private Broadband Partnership

Mr. Warta would like the BOCC to participate in a Public/Private Broadband project.

Ms. Pat O'Connell spoke to the Board and noted they appreciate all the work that Consolidated Communications has done in the county. She said the planning team had met with Consolidated yesterday. She said the team looks at four criteria which is affordability, reliability, accessibility, and true high speed. Our concern was one of the areas that had been identified for funding was Bald Point. Most of the roads on Bald Point are owned by the state and do not have anyone living there. We gave them all these cluster areas that do not have access or quality access. Yesterday they committed to looking at these areas. They have not been looked at because they are expensive. It is going to be expensive. I would encourage you to support Consolidated but if they will pick up one of those expensive areas, we will support them at the state level. We are going to need a lot of grants to cover this county. Need everyone to push. Mr. Jim Warta shared his presentation. Chairman Jones noted this is a good first step, but our intention is do more. Mr. Warta noted they plan to do all they can to assist the county. You are our customers. Commissioner Lockley asked if the cities were included. It was noted that they are not. Mr. Warta noted that we must focus on the unserved. If we put an application in for the areas that are showing served it would be denied. Ms. Adriene Elliott spoke and asked to look back to the map of the Apalachicola area. All the area is outside of our district and mostly unserved is Mr. Amison's district. My main concern is this is 1.5 million dollars of taxpayers' money. This will be infrastructure. Encourage Consolidated to look at this area and Eastpoint area. I think that some effort in coming down to the area. We are looking favorable. Mr. Warta noted \$853k is what we will be asking for. Absorb cost, we still have the back-end stuff. For us to do this program and participate in it, it is at cost to us. Ms. Elliott thanked Consolidated Communications for what they are doing in the area. We could continue to work with Consolidated. Commissioner Lockley asked if the city limits are covered. Ms. Elliott said nothing in the city of Apalachicola would be covered by this map. Mr. Warta if we must overbuild it would be very costly. Mr. Moron said he lived within the city limits. I can throw a stone and hit the workers working. He noted he was being charged for high speed but does not have it. In future grants and partnerships, we must look at the little pockets so that everyone benefits. Commissioner Lockley inquired as to if the two schools in that area have it. Mr. Moron said he believes the charter school is on Unity. I am not sure what the hospital is with. The state attorney has a Unity line coming in here. They provided a higher speed to offices, schools etc. DEO has been revamping their definitions. They are using served and unserved, or underserved 100 up 100 down. In the real sense by the new definition the county is underserved. Please know we are going to partner for more. We are going to be firm in what we are looking for. Mr. Warta said what we have done is went to our competitors' websites and see where there are underserved. I don't think it is a good idea to put something more expensive in it. They are due by the 14th of this month. I am not confident to say if we put in a high number, we may not get it. Commissioner Amison asked if the current customers who have fiber on Bluff Road, was that part of a grant. Fine with partnering with Consolidated. So, I am just trying to understand. So, if you are asking for 1.5 million you are going to use 850k, your company is going to spend 800+. Our cost to provide the drops and devices to the home we are monetarizing that now. Area in my district that is underserved, you are trying to hit these areas so that you can get this grant. Because if you show the areas that are being served you will not qualify for the grant. Commissioner Lockley are y'all going to do like Mediacom and go to the state. Then we have no say so. Mr. Warta said they want a partnership. Commissioner Sanders what this is an accumulation of in the mid-2000s the state took control of the right of ways and gave it to the telecommunications industry. Now that they don't have to that's what it is. You are looking at district two over there pretty much all of it is underserved. When the state took the control from the county that is when our say and visibility with companies like Consolidated and Mediacom. Ms. Elliott said we know the county have had sorted relationship. Suggest because the deadline is the 14th to approve with a contingency there is a private-public partnership.

Commissioner Ward said we know the map is in accurate, but I know there is a time sensitive issue. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve contingent upon the interest of private and public partnership and we continue to look for other underserved areas of our community because I know this is not the only underserved area we have. Seconded by Commissioner Amison.** Commissioner Amison said just from personal experience these areas off Squire Road we were at the end of line. You

cannot even stream a movie if you have Netflix, etc. Now that we the fiber line we were able to get rid of Dish Network. That was the only internet option we had. We did not have Mediacom because of an easement issue with the railroad. You have a lot of area there. Basically, this is getting our toe in the door.
Motion carried 5-0.

Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board Report

14. Commercial Site Plan Applications

The Board will consider action on all Commercial Site Plan applications with one motion. A Commissioner may request to have an application considered with a separate motion.

a. 2118 Hwy 98 E

(This item was tabled at the March 21, 2023, regular meeting) Consideration of a request for Commercial Site Plan review for Beach Cottages located at 2118 Hwy 98 E, Lanark Village, Franklin County, Florida. (Zoned C-3 Commercial Recreational). Application submitted by Edward Golson, applicant.

Mrs. Bankston presented the request to the Board. She said he is proposing for Beach Cottages. Chairman Jones inquired if they were like what they have at Coastline, movable. Mr. Golson noted these will not be movable, but permanent. The question about the curve, we check on that and there is 600 feet line of site so there will not be an issue with the curve. DOT has not placard it as a curve also. Commissioner Sanders said she wanted it tabled because she wanted to look at it, but she is not going to have an opinion one way or the other. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Amison.** Commissioner Amison asked the square footage and zoning. Mr. Golson noted that it is permanent 760 square feet per unit and the zoning is C3 Recreational. Commissioner Lockley asked if he is going to put people to work. Yes sir. Commissioner Amison asked what Commissioner Sanders concerns were. Commissioner Sanders noted her concerns of it in a high hazard coastal area, it is right there on the ground, when we have storms in that area Ho-Hum moves the RVs out during storms, it is a bad area to have that, between DOT having a right of way and the setbacks. I am just concerned with where it is going to put those cottages at. I have always been concerned about that area because East you have Ho-Hum and west of there is nothing, I am real concerned about that. Commissioner Amison noted if it is zoned as R1 and they built a house there, you would have the same. Commissioner Sanders said if it were R1 you would only have one house if that because its not a full acre. Commissioner Sanders said the main thing she has a problem with is the process. The planning and zoning board met on this, I have a problem with the planning and zoning, I don't think they look at things like I look at. Just because Planning & Zoning approved it, we are supposed to rubber stamp it. Sometimes we look at it differently than Planning & Zoning does. Commissioner Amison asked if Commissioner Sanders had any constituents' express concerns. She noted that they did not know about it. Mr. Golson said this will be built to the structure of a house, it is up to code. I do not understand why that would be a difference as far as a storm. **Motion carried 4/1, Commissioner Sanders opposed.**

Mrs. Bankston said she had spoken to Attorney Shuler about there not being a set term for the P&Z board. Does the Board want to keep the terms as is or set a term? Chairman Jones said they used to be three-year terms. He said he is sure they would want a term, and not a life sentence. Mr. Moron said he and Cortni will do some research and recommend something to the Board at the next meeting.

County Staff & Attorney Reports

15. Erin Griffith – Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator

1. BOARD ACTION: CDBG Housing Policy

The county's current CDBG Housing Policy was modeled after the county's SHIP Program Housing Policy and was adopted in 2016. As SHIP and CDBG are two different programs with different requirements, the county's CDBG consultants Summit Professional Services have assisted in revising the current policy to

make the program more adaptive to the needs of qualifying residents. The commission has also emphasized that this program is there to help and assist residents and requested this policy modification (where possible within program guidelines) to ensure the county is doing all it can to assist homeowners with the process. In the attached DRAFT policy, the changes from the 2016 version are summarized below:

- Page 1 of current policy: “The term of the loan will be for five years for loans of less than \$25,000, seven years for \$25,000 to \$40,000, and ten years for loans of more than \$40,000.” Replace with: “The Deferred Payment Loan (DPL) involves a security instrument (lien) requiring repayment of the loan only if the homeowner sells or transfers ownership of the rehabilitated home, ceases to use it as his/her primary residence within five years of the date of the DPL, or fails to maintain reasonable required standards of care and maintenance (as evidenced by the homeowner’s failure to address code violation citations within the timeframe specified by the County’s Code Enforcement Officer) within five years of the date of the DPL. During the five-year period, the principal is ‘forgiven’ or subtracted from the principal balance in equal monthly amounts, so that at the end of the fifth year of owner-occupancy (by at least one of the homeowners if jointly owned), the loan is fully amortized. There is no interest charged during the five years. If the sole homeowner dies, or both/all homeowners die within the five-year loan period, repayment of the loan will not be required.” (Page 5 – new policy)
- Page 2 of current policy: “The limit of CDBG financial assistance for replacement site-built housing is \$95 per square foot, up to \$114,000 per home.” Replace with: “An average maximum amount of \$140,000 may be expended on anyone housing unit. This amount may be exceeded only by a recorded vote of the Board of County Commissioners. Budget constraints may require the use of mobile or manufactured homes in place of site-built homes.” (Page 9 – new policy).
- Page 3 of current policy: “The homeowner must obtain flood insurance for the complete replacement or new construction value of the home if the home is in a 100-year floodplain. The flood insurance must be maintained by the owner for the full term of the CDBG deferred payment loan.” Replace with: “The property must be fully insured for flood insurance, for the period of one year, if located in the 100-year flood plain. The CDBG program may cover the cost of the one-year policy for eligible very low (30% adjusted median) and low (50% adjusted median) income households.” (Page 7 – new policy)
- Page 4 of current policy: “have not received more than \$5,000 in housing assistance within the past five years, or \$10,000 within the past ten years, from the County or other government program such as weatherization, excluding loans requiring repayment.” Replace with: “If the homeowner has previously received CDBG housing rehabilitation assistance, a) they shall not be assisted again for at least five years AND b) should not be assisted again after five years until all other eligible homeowners on the Applicant list have received assistance.” (Page 3 – new policy)

Board action to adopt the attached revised Franklin County Standard Housing Assistance Plan for Community Development Block Grant Projects with the changes summarized above.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the attached revised Franklin County Standard Housing Assistance Plan for Community Development Block Grant Projects with the changes summarized above. Commissioner Ward noted this is intended to help more people qualify. **Motion carried 5-0.**

2. BOARD ACTION: RESTORE SGI Storm Water Project FDOT Right-of-Way Agreements

At the last meeting, the commission authorized the Chairman to sign the Joint Use Pond Agreement and accept ownership of the Right-of-Way areas as specified in the attached exhibit for use in the development of the St. George Island Storm Water Management System for the commercial district. This approval was granted, and the Chairman was authorized to sign the attached agreement allowing Attorney Shuler an additional two weeks to reach out to FDOT to request the changes that he had mentioned at the last meeting. As two weeks have passed without a response from FDOT, Attorney Shuler gave the confirmation for the Chairman to proceed with signing the agreements as authorized by the Board. FDOT will also require the adoption of a formal resolution to accept ownership to go along with the signed Joint Use Pond Agreement.

Board action to approve the attached resolution accepting formal ownership of the right-of-way areas of Franklin Boulevard in the attached exhibit subject to the provisions of the joint-use pond agreement.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner

Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached resolution accepting formal ownership of the right-of-way areas of Franklin Boulevard in the attached exhibit subject to the provisions of the joint-use pond agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

3. BOARD ACTION: Womack Creek Bridge Repair CEI Ranking

At the last meeting, the Board opened the responses to the request for qualifications for construction engineering and inspection relative to the Womack Creek Bridge Repair Project. Responses were released to the ranking committee and AECOM was the highest ranked firm.

Board action to authorize the Planning Department to begin negotiations with AECOM to develop a contract to perform the CEI services on this project.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Planning Department to begin negotiations with AECOM to develop a contract to perform the CEI services on this project. Motion carried 5-0.

4. BOARD ACTION: Formal Transfer of 1996 Revolving Loan Fund Balance to ARPC

At the February 7th meeting, the Board approved an MOU for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council to administer and manage the balance of the county's revolving loan fund. ARPC will only spend this money in Franklin County and can also leverage the funds to access additional funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration for use within the ARPC District, which includes Franklin County. The county has issued the check for the balance of the fund and will need approval from the Board to officially close the fund and make the necessary internal accounting entries, budget resolutions and amendments. One additional check will be issued to ARPC later to transfer the small amount of interest earnings from the previous months as part of the closure process.

A. Board action to approve the line-item budget amendment below:

Increase: Transfer to other government support agencies, 151.52.559.8100 \$303,369

Decrease: Revolving Loan Fund Reserve for Contingencies 151.99.581.9100 \$303,369

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the line-item budget amendment noted above. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Board action to adopt the attached budget resolution for unanticipated revenues which will incorporate estimated interest proceeds of \$9,222 into the fund prior to distribution of the balance.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the attached budget resolution for unanticipated revenues which will incorporate estimated interest proceeds of \$9,222 into the fund prior to distribution of the balance. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Board action to approve the removal of the accounts receivable balance of the 1996 revolving loan fund of \$327,899.99.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the removal of the accounts receivable balance of the 1996 revolving loan fund \$327,899.99. Motion carried 5-0.

5. BOARD ACTION: SUNS Project – C30A Living Shoreline

Over the past two years, Erik Lovestrand and I have been attending the SUNS Work Group Meetings. SUNS stands for Scaling Up Nature-Based Solutions and is a work group comprised of scientists and stakeholders with the intent to pursue natural strategies to make the Florida panhandle more resilient against storm damage. The SUNS program is funded by the by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Coastal Resilience Fund, and the Nature Conservancy is the lead agency. The Coastal Resilience Fund is accepting proposals for mitigation projects through April 12th.

Franklin County has twelve areas of concern with possible project ideas. Of those areas of concern, the C30 shoreline is the only project ready for an engineering and design grant shoreline resilience application. This location sustained heavy damage during Hurricane Michael and the permanent repairs to the two areas of washout were just finished in July of last year at a cost of over \$860,000. After the washout was repaired, the county resurfaced 3.4 miles of C30 along the washout area at a cost of over one million dollars per mile. Shoreline resilience in this area is badly needed to protect the roadway infrastructure.

Board action to approve the submission with support from the Nature Conservancy of a non-binding pre-proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Coastal Resilience Fund for the engineering and design of the C30A Shoreline Resilience Project.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approve the submission with support from the Nature Conservancy of a non-binding pre-proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Coastal Resilience Fund for the engineering and design of the C30A Shoreline Resilience Project. Chairman Jones inquired about the length of the project; Mrs. Griffith said the entire length of the shoreline. **Motion carried 5-0.**

6. BOARD Action: E911 Maintenance Grant

The Annual Tri-County Rural E911 Maintenance Grant application was due by March 31st. This grant pays 100% of the annual maintenance expenses of \$34,748 for the E911 system. E911 Coordinator Renee Brannan completed the grant application and had the Chairman sign on the 31st to meet the deadline.

Board action to grant retroactive approval and authorization for the Chairman's signature on the E911 Maintenance Grant Application.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board granted retroactive approval and authorization for the Chairman's signature on the E911 Maintenance Grant Application. Motion carried 5-0.

7. BOARD INFORMATION: Miscellaneous Project Updates

Commissioner Ward said she receives a lot of phone calls about the CDBG and SHIP programs and what they offer. I think we need to streamline that process and have the community and commission understand the process. That way I know where to direct people asking for help.

Mr. Moron said we did discuss this yesterday. I am getting a lot of calls from SHIP contractors and applicants saying they are not hearing anything. Maybe put Tim Center on the agenda and let him report to the Board. If needed, then hold a workshop so that we know who goes where for what. We can add to the next agenda for him to come answer questions, and then decide if we need a workshop to include CDBG.

16. Michael Morón – County Coordinator

1. Action Item: Airport Operations Economic Development Board

Board action to appoint 5 members and two alternates to the Airport Operations Economic Development Board.

At your last meeting, the Board reviewed, discussed, and approved the responsibilities and duties of the Airport Operations Economic Development (AOED) Advisory Board. With that completed, the Board agreed to begin the process of appointing 5 members and two alternates to the Board this morning. You should've received a link with eleven candidates, including the Airport FBO. The Airport FBO representative will attend AOED meetings but not as a voting member. Even though appointments will not necessarily be from each district, it is customary for each Commissioner to appoint a member and then the Board accepts, by motion, the appointed members, unless there is an objection to one of the appointees. Are there any other matters to discuss before appointing members?

Chairman Jones said he thinks we are ready to appoint but some of the names of the candidates are not residents and our bylaws say they must be Franklin County residents. Attorney Shuler said the bylaws can be amended by the Board. The Board discussed amending the bylaws to remove the Franklin County

residency requirement. Members may or may not be Franklin County residents.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the responsibilities and duties of the Airport Operations Economic Development (AEOD) Advisory Board removing the requirement to be a Franklin County resident in order to serve on the board. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ward said she is having a hard time picking just one. She said she was trying to look at what the board is going to do and knows we are looking at business owners and not just pilots. Commissioner Amison noted that she thinks that Commissioner Amison should give his thoughts being this is his district. Commissioner Amison noted he is in total agreement; they all would make great board members. There are a couple that it may be difficult for them to attend meetings, etc. These guys are everyone qualified. Commissioner Amison said he appreciated the Board's support; he said he is going to give y'all the table and each of you pick a person. Each of the Board members chose an applicant from the list and appointed as follows:

Commissioner Lockley appointed Mr. Tom Mescher. Commissioner Ward appointed Mr. Bijan Neshat. Chairman Jones appointed Mr. Andy Shoaf. Commissioner Sanders appointed Mr. Mark Nobles. Commissioner Amison appointed Mr. Steve Kirshenbaum. The Board then appointed two alternates, Mr. Neil Nichols and Mr. Ken Weeks.

Commissioner Amison made a motion to appoint Tom Mescher, Bijan Neshat, Andy Shoaf, Mark Nobles, and Steve Kirshenbaum as board members on the Airport Operations Economic Development Advisory Board and Neil Nichols and Ken Weeks as alternates. Seconded by Commissioner Lockley. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Action Item: Airport Catex Short Form

Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the FAA's Categorical Exclusion Short Form for the Obstruction Removal project.

As part of the Obstruction Removal project at the airport, the FAA requires an environmental study. Mr. John Collins (AVCON) is working with the FAA to get the environmental study completed so the County could proceed with the Obstruction Removal project. Last week the FAA required the Chairman's signature on a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) Short Form (attached) prior to today's meeting. To avoid any delays to this project, and based on Mr. Collins' recommendation, I suggested to the Chairman that he sign the document. Today, Board action is needed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the CATEX.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified the Chairman's signature on the FAA's Categorical Exclusion Short Form for the Obstruction Removal project. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Action Item: Duke Staging at Airport

Board action to approve Duke Energy's emergency response staging site plan site plan at Apalachicola Airport and confirm Mr. Mosteller, Mrs. Daniels, and myself as points of contacts.

Attached to my report is Duke Energy's proposed Staging Site at the Apalachicola Airport for your review and approval. This proposed site is submitted every year prior to the start of Hurricane Season and is activated during a hurricane or other disaster in our area. I've sent a copy of the site plan to Mr. Ted Mosteller, Mrs. Jennifer Daniels, and Mr. John Collins for their comments. Mr. Collins only concern is that there is adequate access to the fuel farm, t-hangars, and box hangars. Duke Energy is aware of these concerns and will provide access if the staging site is activated. If the Board has no additional concerns or questions regarding the site plan, Board action is needed to approve the site plan and confirm Mr. Mosteller, Mrs. Daniels, myself as points of contacts.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved Duke Energy's emergency response staging site plan at Apalachicola Airport and confirmed Mr. Mosteller, Mrs. Daniels and Mr. Moron as points of contacts. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Action Item: Apalachee Center Request

Board action to authorize Apalachee Center to release the County's annual budget contribution and to research the benefits of participating in the Low-Income Pool program for additional mental health funding.

Mr. Jay Reeve (Apalachee's Center CEO) as explained in his attached email, has two requests for the Board. The first request is for permission to authorize the release of the County's annual budget contribution, specifically for Baker Act and Marchman Act funding, to Leon County. If this Board is agreeable, I would ask Mr. Reeves to provide Franklin County with the same report that is provided to Leon County for our records. His second request, which is really a suggestion, is to contact Leon County about providing technical assistance to allow Franklin County to participate in the Low-Income Pool program. If the Board is agreeable, and as suggested by Attorney Shuler, I would like the opportunity to first find out if there are any "strings" associated with this program.

Board discussion

5. Action Item: Gulf County Request

Board action to authorize a letter of support for federal funding for a floating drydock project in Gulf County. Gulf County is applying for federal funds for a floating drydock. This is the same floating drydock project that Gulf County applied for Triumph funds in 2021 and Franklin County sent a letter of support (attached). Gulf County is asking the Board to consider another letter of support for the same project, with basically the same wording, addressed to the Federal Government.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized a letter of support for federal funding for a floating drydock project in Guld County. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Action Item: Weems Request

Board action to authorize a \$49,689.74 payment for the new nurse call system from the capital outlay sales tax funds.

At a previous meeting, the Board directed Mr. David Walker (Weems CEO) to get a quote for a new nurse call system as part of a hospital security upgrade program. Mr. Walker has received a \$49,689.74 quote for a nurse call system that will be an upgrade for both the Inpatient Units and the Emergency Rooms. Mr. Walker considers this a capital outlay purchase and would like the Board to approve payment for this nurse call system from the capital sales tax funds. Mr. Walker is working on an IT upgrade but will fund this upgrade from another source.

Commissioner Lockley made a motion approve, seconded by Commissioner Amison. Commissioner Amison said we have no one here from the hospital but we are approving an item. Commissioner Ward said she had questions. Mr. Moron said keep in mind they will be here on the 18th with Alliant for a detail on accounting. Commissioner Ward said she wanted to know exactly what type of system this is? Is it going to be tied into the sheriff's office? She also noted that she has a problem with it being funded from the capital sales tax fund. Mr. Moron said he will recommend getting those answers from hospital administration. **Commissioner Lockley rescinded his motion. Commissioner Sanders made a motion to table the request. Commissioner Amison seconded.** Chairman Jones said these are all good questions and we need to know what we are doing. **Motion carried 5-0.**

7. Discussion Item: Weems Wages Report

The Board received a copy of Weems' employees' wage report that covered the last 5 years. Would the Board like additional information regarding employee wages from Weems?

Mr. Moron noted that Weems administration did send the headings of the report to Erin and himself on Friday afternoon. Commissioner Amison and Chairman Jones said they would like a different format. Commissioner Ward said she could barely read what was sent, how do we determine if it is correct or not. A couple of position unsure of what it is. What is a RHC practice manager at \$31? Junior bookkeeper? What is their job description and what do they do? Commissioner Ward discussed the salary gap between people who have been there since 1980. Commissioner Amison expressed concerns with the layout of the report noting it does not show who is getting paid. It gives no clarity on salaries. This is just another smoke screen. This is ridiculous. We waited this long. I'm tired of the smoke screens. It doesn't take a month to get this together. Commissioner Sanders said HR person is going to Chipley or Calhoun liberty let that person be an Alliant employee. It is a doggone shame what they are paying all the employees. The EMS and EMTs, paramedics, and nurses that is pitiful. That is why we have such a large turnover. HR person if they are going to different hospitals, I hope that Franklin County is not paying the bulk of this person.

Mr. Moron noted the Board could schedule individual meetings with Mr. Walker to answer each of your

individual questions. Please reach out to me and let me know if you want me to schedule a meeting for you. Commissioner Amison asked if the Board is well within their rights to request these salaries. Attorney Shuler said it is his belief that it is. This is not the first time this issue has come up. Mr. Moron noted an individual that has been critical of Weems in the past, once the email was sent to you it became a public record. The county had nothing to do with that, that individual who forwarded the employee's email who sent it, caused it to be subject to public record. Commissioner Ward said she has a disclosure in her emails regarding public records. Commissioner Amison said he spoke with the individual bright and early this morning and the attachments that were sent were not his. He was being lumped in there and it got back to the hospital CEO. He explicitly told me that he did not send an invoice. He said he did not take pictures and send it to anyone. Commissioner Ward said if he got called into the office, he shouldn't get retaliated against for speaking up.

8. Discussion Item: Fresenius Dialysis Center Ribbon Cutting

Chairman Jones, Mr. David Walker (Weems CEO) and I attended the Fresenius Dialysis Center ribbon cutting ceremony in Port St. Joe. This event was well attended by Gulf County and the City of Port St. Joe elected officials, and of course, Fresenius staff members. I had the opportunity to talk to some of the attendees and they are very interested in a Franklin County partnership with financial support. If the Board does not object, I would like to schedule a meeting with Gulf County and Fresenius representatives to discuss this matter further, which hopefully, would include the use of their mobile unit in Franklin County.

Commissioner Lockley made a motion to authorize staff scheduling a meeting with Gulf County and Fresenius representatives to discuss this matter further, which hopefully, would include the use of their mobile unit in Franklin County, Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Commissioner Sanders inquired as to why the Board did not support this before. Chairman Jones it was the way they wanted us to fund it. Commissioner Amison spoke in support of the partnership noting the need for dialysis in our county. **Motion carried 4-0. (Commissioner Lockley absent).**

9. Discussion Item: Proposed Docks Request in Apalachicola

The City of Apalachicola has received a request to build three docks (see attached plan). Commissioner Amison has many concerns with this proposed project that he would like to discuss with the Board this morning. Attorney Shuler may comment on his emails with the State regarding the comment period.

Commissioner Amison said this is a navigational hazard. Ms. Elliott, City of Apalachicola Commissioner, said it has not officially come before the city commission. I did reach out to Commissioner Amison about it and knew the navigational hazard. Commissioner Amison noted that he has seen firsthand two shrimp boats roll there and that is a clear shot. I am pro progress. We have not had docks protruding out. We are a lot different than Carrabelle. We have a city that has dumped millions of dollars at the mill pond for our commercial fleet. They would impede access to it. Attorney Shuler noted the letter was received on the morning of the March 21st meeting and did not give the Board an opportunity to respond before the deadline. Chairman Jones noted if this is allowed it would shut down the public dock over time. It could affect the miles etc. Attorney Shuler noted the official comment period has passed with the state. We can still send a letter. Mr. Moron said we can send this to the state and city. Commissioner Amison noted that we should include strong language in this letter in opposition and copy the state representative and state senator. **On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison to send a letter of opposition to the State, State Senator and State Representative.** Commissioner Ward inquired about the riparian line setback requirements from the channel and the Board discussed. **Motion carried 4-0. (Commissioner Lockley absent.)**

10. Discussion Item: Triumph Meeting

Chairman Jones, Mayor Brenda Ash (Apalachicola), Mayor Brenda LaPaz (Carrabelle), and appropriate staff will meet with Triumph staff on Friday, April 21st. The main topic for discussion is Triumph's staff assisting the County and both cities with applications for projects that will be funded by the Triumph Board. Are there any projects the Board would like Chairman Jones to discuss at this meeting?

11. Informational Item: Part-time Assistant Position

Back in February, I requested, and the Board approved, a new administrative support position to assist Mrs. Erin Griffith with her grants and projects and assist her with assuming Mr. Curenton's grants and projects as he gets closer to his well-deserved and long-awaited retirement. Mrs. Griffith and I have discussed this matter and decided to proceed with advertising a part-time position for now and will discuss a possible change to full-time status during the budget workshops.

12. Informational Item: Next Regular Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. (ET).

17. Michael Shuler – County Attorney

Action Items

1. Addendum No. 3 to Purchase of Gander Property

Addendum no. 3 reducing the purchase price from a minimum of \$195,000.00 to the appraised value of \$145,000.00 is attached for the Board's consideration. Mr. Gander has already signed the agreement. Board Action Requested: Board discussion and possible action to approve Addendum No. 3 reducing the purchase price of the Gander property to \$145,000.00 and authorizing the Chairman to sign Addendum No. 3.

Chairman Jones noted this purchase is funded by TDC funds. Attorney Shuler confirmed 100%. This extends that property. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved Addendum No. 3 reducing the purchase price of the Gander property to \$145,000 and authorizing the Chairman to sign Addendum No. 3. Motion carried 4-0.**

2. Cancellation of Contract of Barber Property

A cancellation of contract is attached. The contract established a minimum purchase price of \$500,000.00. However, the property was appraised at \$280,000.00 and the Barbers did not want to reduce the purchase price, as is their right under the contract. The Barbers' have already signed the cancellation. Board Action Requested: Board discussion and possible action to approve the cancellation of the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign it.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the cancellation of the contract and authorized the Chairman to sign it. Motion carried 4-0.

Information Items

3. Capital City Consulting

Attached is the signed agreement authorized by the Board at its last meeting on March 21, 2023, together with the two authorization forms I completed authorizing Ron Laface and Megan Fay to act as your lobbyists.

4. Golf Carts on Alligator Point

I have prepared the advertisement for the workshop the Board authorized regarding the possibility of authorizing golf carts at Alligator Point. The workshop is scheduled for April 18, 2023, at 1:30 P.M. in your regular meeting room to discuss possible terms and geographic location of an ordinance authorizing golf carts at Alligator Point.

5. Purchase of John Deere Tractor Approved by the Board

Attached is my March 27, 2023, letter to Peoples South Bank, Apalachicola, Florida, providing an attorney's opinion concerning Franklin County's tax-exempt status and authorization for the loan by the Board.

6. Airport Right of Entry Agreement

Attached is a copy of the Right of Entry granted by Dennis Crosby to remove pine trees from part of his property for the purpose of allowing the county's contractor to enter upon his property and remove pine trees to protect the airport runway approach. The agreement also provides that Mr. Crosby holds harmless and releases the county from any liability.

Commissioner Sanders spoke about the Capital City Consulting contract. We need to have someone lobby on our behalf about opening of the Apalachicola Bay for oyster harvesting. I would like to bring that up at the next meeting so we can vote on it. We want to see some action of the Apalachicola Bay being opened. Commissioner Amison asked if it was necessary for a vote and motion to add something to the list. Chairman Jones noted that appropriations have been our focus. Most of the conversation has been with county staff or Attorney Shuler. I do not know if that is open-ended or if we just get some items.

Mr. John Berry spoke to the Board regarding the Capital City Consulting and understands by Florida law that they are exempt from the RFQ process. He inquired if priorities have been communicated to them and how do we set those for the next budget cycle. He recommended taking that \$75K and moving it to next year.

Chairman Jones noted the actual contract is \$72k. He said the priorities were established and they were discussed at the appropriations meeting. He noted the Board discussed this matter in public meetings also. We did not want to continue getting nothing. If we get any return, we will not have wasted that. Last year we got zero funds from state funded legislative. The best way to keep our taxes down is by getting appropriations and grants. Our total approved budget this year was \$83 million and only \$14.5 million is funded by ad valorem taxes. It is vital and valuable to find revenues to fund these projects and sometimes you must spend money to do that. The policy and procedures of the Board do not require an RFQ process.

Chairman Jones noted that we need to look at getting a business registration or a short-term rental agreement. He said there are property owners doing things at their business that was not on their site plan. Need a business registration and short-term rental registration.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Ward received a call from Senator Simon apologizing to the Board and the community. I did reiterate our request for appropriations. I do not know whose jurisdiction that follows under but there is an issue with addresses/street signs in Lanark. Mr. Moron said the county was going to work with them to install some signage, but they turned it down. Commissioner Sanders said they are still working on it. Commissioner Ward said it was very interesting that the state and federal government own most of our property. The state owns 348,800 acres, federal government owns 264,193 acres, and the county owns 50,155 acres. This leaves our tax base at less than 14.4%. However, we still have one of the lowest millage rates in the state. She noted that when they were at Legislative Day, Mr. Wilton Simpson indicated he is wanting to try and alleviate that. In other words, we have someone at the top who is advocating for returning some of the state-owned land back. Mr. Moron noted FAC needs to change the formatting for how it works with legislative day.

Commissioner Amison noted to the public they can reach out to the Board if they have experience or suggestion on matters. He said reach out and talk to us. If you have information on anything that can benefit this county, we will discuss it. You guys have experience out there in the community. Commissioner Sanders said she is glad we have the airport committee picked out. Job diversity, think it is going to be good. Chairman Jones once we get this board established instead of trying to chase down, we can structure it on the agenda FAA is going to be there and make presentation about grant applications.

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.