

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
MAY 2, 2023  
9:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Jessica Ward-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, and Otlice Amison

Commissioners Absent: Noah Lockley

Others Present: Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Erin Griffith-Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Jones noted that he would like to add something to Mr. Moron's report. We are looking at some possible letters of support to the Governor according to conversations with the company who is represented us legislatively. We are looking at over three million dollars in funding. The letters of support would be for the Lanark Fire Department fire trucks, EOC and a letter supporting the City of Apalachicola's efforts in preserving the bay.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve the agenda with the addition as Chairman Jones proposed for the letters of support to the Governor. Motion carried 4-0.**

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

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the FBCC Regular Meeting and Workshop minutes from April 18, 2023, and the Payment of County Bills. Motion carried 4-0.**

**1. County Bill List for Payment**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Department Directors Reports**

**3. Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Roads and Bridges**

Mr. Nabors had no action items for the Board. He noted they have begun cutting grass but have not started working on Fridays. They plan to do that in May. The number of inmates available has been up. Commissioner Ward noted that she will get with Mr. Nabors after the meeting about some signs possibly putting up in Carrabelle area.

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

##### **Extended FMLA Request for Henry Rochelle**

Henry Rochelle has been out on FMLA leave while recovering from an accident. Henry had been receiving donated sick leave and the original 12-week employer accommodation period ended in March. Henry has since transitioned to unpaid leave, requesting board action to allow an additional unpaid accommodation period whereas his county provided insurance premiums will be paid on his behalf and his job will be held until June 30th, 2023.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Motion approving extended FMLA Henry Rochelle

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved an additional unpaid accommodation period whereas his county provided insurance premiums will be paid on his behalf and his job will be held until June 30th, 2023. Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Davis noted the Franklin County Animal Control Department is pleased to announce that Clay Nowling has filled the open entry-level position. His effective start date will be Wednesday, May 3rd. Mr. Davis noted that the scale house is up and operational. Chairman Jones asked if we are planning to have another amnesty day to make up for the one when we were closed. Mr. Davis said he thinks we can keep up with the ones that are scheduled.

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

Ms. Amanda Anthony spoke on behalf of Mrs. Daniels. She noted they had no action items for the Board. Commissioner Sanders said she wanted to remind people that Liberty and Gadsden County in 2005 when Hurricane Dennis came through, we did not have sufficient trucks, and those counties brought trucks in. It really means a lot to the people to help surrounding counties.

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

Mr. Polous gave some information on the quote from Southland Specialties for the beaver dam removal in Carrabelle. He noted he has contacted Courtney Millender, City Administrator for the City of Carrabelle and asked her if she thought the city could help by splitting the cost if approved and she said she would speak with the city commissioners. Chairman Jones inquired if the Board needed to approve this total today. Mr. Polous said it is up to the Board, we do not have commitment from the city. Chairman Jones noted it may be best to approve this total with contingencies we are going to ask the city of Carrabelle to help us with the cost.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve the Southland Specialties quote contingent upon requesting the City of Carrabelle help to offset the cost.** Commissioner Ward asked if this would come out of his budget, Mr. Polous noted this will come out of the general fund. Commissioner Sanders noted that we would need to maintain this area to prevent this from happening again. **Motion carried 4-0.**

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

Mr. Lovestrand had no action items for the Board and there were no questions for him.

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

Ms. Roundtree was absent but had no action items for the Board.

## Other Reports

### 9. John Solomon – TDC Administrator

#### Action Items:

On 4-12-23, The TDC Voted to recommend awarding the History Culture & Arts Museum, the lowest responsive bidder, Gunn Heating and Air, \$11,800 from the Museum Infrastructure Grant to replace the HVAC system in the History Culture & Arts Museum. This is a reimbursement grant.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved awarding the History Culture & Arts Museum, the lowest responsive bidder, Gunn Heating and Air, \$11,800 from the Museum Infrastructure Grant to replace the HVAC system in the History Culture & Arts Museum. Motion carried 4-0.**

### 10. Ted Mosteller – Interim Airport Manager

Mr. Mosteller provided the Board with a replacement cost for the NDB, and it was \$26,000. He recommended the Board decommission the equipment. Mrs. Griffith presented the following item to the Board at this time.

#### 1. Obstruction Removal - Apalachicola Airport

The project can generally be described: Survey, removal, and disposal of trees and other vegetation.

Mrs. Griffith announced there is only one bid and it is from Collins Land Services. She noted the bid bond is attached. Mrs. Griffith read the first three bids because there were several alternates.

**Base Bid \$176,875**

**Alternate A \$35,325**

**Alternate B \$370,975**

**Commissioner Ward made a motion to release the bid to AVCON for recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Amison.** Commissioner Ward said for the record John Collins and this gentleman are not related, Chairman Jones confirmed. Chairman Jones asked if we tried to do all of this, would the base have covered all of it. Mrs. Griffith said the base would not cover the alternates; the alternates are in addition. The base bid is the approaches on all the runways. There are several phases as money comes available. Mr. Moron said this keeps us from having to go out to bid again. **Motion carried 4-0.** Commissioner Sanders asked if the airport board meeting was promising. Mr. Mosteller said yes it was.

Mr. Steve Kirshenbaum spoke to the Board as the chairman of the Airport Development Economic Board. He noted they had a preliminary meeting with county staff and Commissioner Amison to discuss the contract. He said they have high hopes for the group. Commissioner Amison asked if he could relay to the board that we do not expect them to build mountains overnight. We do not want them to get discouraged. Mr. Kirshenbaum noted that they are going to get them briefed on Sunshine Laws. Chairman Jones noted that everyone is kind of new to the process, it is a board much like the TDC and planning and zoning. They make recommendations to the Board and then we make the decisions. It might help ease some of their understanding on the process. Mr. Moron noted we will start having ethic classes for all our volunteer boards as noted in his report.

## Presentations and Requests

### 11. Frank 'Dusty' May – Letter of Support - Waterflow

Mr. May presented the following request to the Board.

According to NFWFMD flow meters installed and maintained by the USGS, from October 2020 to October 2022, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) diverted more than ONE TRILLION THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY-FIVE BILLION gallons of fresh water and sediment away from Apalachicola Bay. 700 billion gallons a year is an unfathomable number, to break it down EVERY MINUTE

1.3 million gallons of precious freshwater and valuable sediment are lost forever from Apalachicola Bay, where they would nourish, and discharged as harmful runoff into St. Joe Bay and St. Andrew Bay. Again, this is government data available to the public. We can give you the links to the flowmeters if you would like. Since the GIWW is a federally managed navigable waterway, any efforts to restore our hydrology will, by necessity, involve the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Even if State or Local governments had the money to solve the problem, they do not have the jurisdiction to do so. The Corps must be involved. USACE involvement requires a 7001-feasibility study, a 3-year max duration and a \$3 mil max expense split evenly between the USCOE and Non-federal sponsors. This study now has considerable momentum inside the Corps. Through our friends at Dawson and Associates in Washington, DC, our group, Baysavers, has been allowed Non-federal sponsor status and the Apalachicola Bay, St. Joe Bay, St. Andrew Bay, and Lake Wimico environmental degradation 7001- Feasibility Study has been approved for funding by the Mobile District of the Corps. The USACE is ready to move on this, the State of Florida is the problem! This 7001 Study will only move forward with participation from the State. We have developed a potential timeline of what it would look like if the State of Florida agreed to participate in this study. I am meeting with Lyle Siegler, Director of NFWFMD, on Wednesday, April 26th to share this information with him. In Summary, this 7001-feasibility study is the critical next step in restoring the sediment-rich. In Summary, this 7001-feasibility study is the critical next step in restoring the sediment-rich waters of Apalachicola Bay, the clear waters of St. Joe and St. Andrew Bay, and the natural hydrology of our precious Panhandle. We have been attempting to get FDEP and NFWFMD to co-sponsor and participate in this study for two years, and those of us who live here are getting frustrated and disheartened by the seeming lack of urgency pertaining to this issue. THIS IS NOT JUST AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE: We in the Panhandle depend on the health and productivity of these ecosystems for our livelihoods! Please Sir, we need your help to encourage our state agencies to work together with the USACE to help us protect, preserve, and restore the unique ecosystems that make the Panhandle of Florida the World Class destination it is. We sincerely ask the board to write a letter of support for this study to NFWFMD and to FDEP. Chairman Jones asked that the thing that has change is St. Joes has added the canal. The Corps of Engineer originally dredged the canal then Ed Ball had them dredge the canal to St. Joe Bay. Chairman Jones asked if we have another Hurricane Michael event is it going to flood the river. Dr. May said the control of the flow will be flexible. There are numerous of these in Louisiana. They make these decisions based on studies. Chairman Jones asked how much of this had to do with when the Corps quit dredging the Apalachicola River. Dr. May noted they are not saying there are no other problems, however, here is a problem no one has addressed. This will benefit Franklin County. Chairman Jones said it sounds plausible, but this county has heard these things year after year, and we are still at the place we are at. Dr. May said the State can back away after the findings are published but they cannot dispute the findings. Dr. May said this project can be economically model to create jobs to propose to Triumph. Chairman Jones said he thinks that will be difficult because anytime we have proposed to Triumph, they did not want to hear hypotheticals. Dr. May said all we are asking for right now is for you to write a letter to DEP in support. Chairman Jones said we might be looking at two, because if you have one that you open daily, you may need one for events. Dr. May explained that we are not really looking at events, but the daily volume. Commissioner Amison asked if the Corps had control of the intercoastal, why do you need the state? Because through the 7151 process the Corps must have a nonfederal sponsor. Once the study occurs and the Corps realizes they are liable for a larger portion they may be liable for a larger amount. You must have a local non-federal sponsor for the Corps to come in and do this. Commissioner Amison noted that he grew up on Lake Wimico and he is familiar with the area. Dr. May noted that they do not winter waterfowl up there much anymore. Commissioner Amison said the more we have gotten restricted with our water flows the worse conditions have become. There are still problems that exist, but this problem is solvable. Chairman Jones asked since we are not sure how the letter needs to be worded; we could wait until we hear back from Dr. May before approving. Dr. May said he would ask the Board to do that and will contact Mr. Moron with the wording requested. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to table, seconded by Commissioner Amison, motion carried 4-0.** Commissioner Ward noted issue with over talking during presentations. She noted there may be a need to notify speakers before presentations begin of how to refrain from talking over commissioners.

## **12. Robert Amick – St. James/Lanark Village Fire Department – Update**

Mr. Amick attended the meeting via Zoom giving the Board an update on the fire department in St. James/Lanark Village. He noted they have been doing recruiting, cleaning massively, beautification, trying to get the volunteers active in the community. We are currently up to twelve on the roster. We have been doing some hands-on training. We have done the basic ropes and knots with them. We have been doing equipment familiarization with them. We have accessed the trucks and there are some issues we are working

out with the city manager. We have a professional truck manufacturing company that is going to do a full inspection and let us know what we need to have them up to speed and fully functional. That should be happening by the end of the month. We have a volunteer fire fighter week in Ocala at the college, we have encouraged as many as possible to go. We had six attend. We had two of them come out who attended pump up courses, two of them have large animal rescue certification, and two of them are certified in wildfire fighting now. We are moving forward with training them ourselves as well as through professional training. Chairman Jones said we are looking at getting enough money to buy a new fire truck for that department should the Governor approve the funding Mr. Amick said soon we will run them all through the EMR class so they will have basic medical skills, CPR, etc. Commissioner Sanders thanked Mr. Amick and Eric for what they have done to get this program back up and running. We appreciate what you all are doing. She said that she cannot wait to see those trucks running again out there. Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Amick for everything they have been doing. Commissioner Sanders said when it comes to firefighter recognition day, I would like to recognize all those folks at that time. I would like to start doing like we talked about, recognizing our volunteers. It changes your life when you go out and volunteer.

### **RFP/RFQ/Bid Opening**

#### **13. Obstruction Removal - Apalachicola Airport**

The project can generally be described: Survey, removal, and disposal of trees and other vegetation.

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

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

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

##### **1. BOARD ACTION: ALLIGATOR DRIVE MULTI-USE PATH PH 3 & 4 CHANGE ORDER #1**

At the pre-construction meeting, several cost saving design concepts were suggested by contractor Roberts and Roberts for the Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Phase 3 & 4 project. Changes include a reduction in base materials and the addition of crosswalk striping for safety. This section runs from the boat ramp at the S-Curve to East Harbor Circle. The attached change order reflects a net reduction in cost of \$113,594. The new contract price will be \$893,545.75.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached change order contingent upon approval of the design changes by FDOT.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached change order contingent upon approval of the design changes by FDOT. Commissioner Ward said very rarely do we have a reduction in a change order, so this is great. Motion carried 4-0.**

##### **2. BOARD ACTION: TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ADAMS STREET IN EASTPOINT**

The Florida Department of Transportation has requested a resolution from Franklin County authorizing the temporary closure of Adams Street in Eastpoint for approximately three days. FDOT's resurfacing of Highway 98 from Eastpoint to Carrabelle will require the replacement of an underground pipe at the intersection of Adams Street and US Highway 98. The closure will be advertised 14 days prior to taking effect (date unknown at this time) and traffic will be detoured onto North Franklin Street or Jefferson Street during the three-day period.

Board action to adopt the attached resolution allowing the temporary closure of Adams Street for FDOT's US Highway 98 Resurfacing Project.

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

**of the Board present, the Board adopted the attached resolution allowing the temporary closure of Adams Street for FDOT's US Highway 98 Resurfacing Project. Motion carried 4-0.**

3. BOARD ACTION: DEO HURRICANE MICHAEL ASSISTANCE GRANT VROOMAN PARK

Attached is the executed amendment for the DEO Hurricane Michael Assistance Grant. The amendment approved the addition of the following elements to the scope of work at Vrooman Park: energy efficient wind-zone compliant sports lighting for the basketball court, a roof structure for the batting cage and the refurbishment of the playground.

Attached is a \$36,792.53 estimate based on OMNIA contract pricing from Gametime Playground Equipment for the replacement parts and pieces needed for the refurbishment of the playground equipment and a \$16,750 estimate from NSP to professionally remove rust, install the replacement components, and perform the necessary safety upgrades at the playground. County staff requests acknowledgement of NSP as a sole source service provider (as no other vendors have been located within the service area) specializing in the refurbishment, repair, and replacement of playground parts. Musco Sports lighting has also submitted a quote based upon Sourcewell contract pricing for \$44,250 for energy efficient wind-zone compliant sports lighting for the 84' x 60' basketball court.

- A. Board action to approve the attached quote from Gametime based on OMNIA contract pricing.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached quote from Gametime based on OMNIA contract pricing. Motion carried 4-0.**

- B. Board action to waive the county bid policy and acknowledge NSP as a sole source service provider of playground maintenance and refurbishment services and approve the attached quote from NSP for the repair/refurbishment work.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved waiving the county bid policy and acknowledge NSP as a sole source service provider of playground maintenance and refurbishment services and approve the attached quote from NSP for the repair/refurbishment work. Motion carried 4-0.**

- C. Board action to approve the attached quote from Musco Sports Lighting based on Sourcewell Contract Pricing.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached quote from Musco Sports Lighting based on Sourcewell Contract Pricing. Motion carried 4-0.**

- D. Board action to approve advertising for bids for a 28' x 65' x 14' metal roof structure for the batting cage.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved advertising for bids for a 28' x 65' x 14' metal roof structure for the batting cage. Motion carried 4-0.**

Chairman Jones asked if there was any way that we can do like a change order to put a sidewalk from where it is now to the playground and make two separate parking lots.

4. BOARD ACTION: E911 SYSTEM MAINTENANCE GRANT 23-04-22

Franklin County has received the spring 2023 Rural County E911 Maintenance Grant agreement from the

Florida Department of Management Services. E911 Coordinator Renee Brannan had submitted this annual application in March. This grant will pay up to \$28,421.21 of the annual maintenance expenses for the E911 system.

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the E911 Maintenance Grant Agreement.

**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 E911 Maintenance Grant Agreement. Motion carried 4-0.**

5. BOARD ACTION: CONSIGNMENT AGREEMENT RENEWAL – FLORIDA AUCTION NETWORK

Franklin County has begun working to compile a list of surplus equipment and vehicles. One item of particular interest to the community may be the old theater seats out of Chapman Auditorium which are being replaced by the Panhandle Players. These seats are not original to the building but still antique/unique in their own regard and some residents had expressed interest in the seats. Once the renewal agreement is approved, Florida Auction Network can proceed with planning an on-site auction to be held at Chapman Auditorium on Saturday, June 3rd, 2023. The auction will have items from Franklin County and other local government agencies should they decide to participate. The auctioneer fee will be 5% of the gross sales price of any county owned item and Florida Auction Network handles all advertising, administration, accounting, and title work at the sale. The county had great success with the auction held by the FAN last spring at the Franklin County Road Department.

Board action to approve the 2023 renewal of the consignment agreement with Florida Auction Network, LLC.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the 2023 renewal of the consignment agreement with Florida Auction Network, LLC.** Commissioner Ward noted some of these seats were purchased by family members and memorialized for deceased. Mr. Rolstad said that is correct and we have removed those name plates and plan to put those on a plaque. The new chairs are different and will not allow for the plates to be placed back on them. **Motion carried 4-0.**

6. BOARD ACTION: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN TASK ORDER COURTHOUSE ROOF REPAIRS & STRUCTURAL SEALANT BID SPECIFICATIONS AND CEI

In 2022, as allowed under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Franklin County opted to obligate revenue loss funds to carry out governmental services. Included in the county's draft ARP spending plan was the Courthouse roof replacement and exterior sealant project. Southeastern Consulting Engineers, SCE, performed the initial inspection and assessment as part of a task order to conduct in-depth structural inspections of the Courthouse and provided their findings in a descriptive report which outlined various issues causing leaks and damage to the building. These inspections and findings will serve as the basis to develop the design and bid specifications. During the inspections, there were unanticipated repair items which will require specialized architectural services in addition to the general services provided by SCE. The attached \$44,040 task order with Southeastern Consulting Engineers will allow for SCE to engage an architect specialized in historic preservation to assist in the development of the building's envelope design, specifications, bidding services and perform construction administration inspection to see the project to completion.

Board action to proceed with the additional task order with Southeastern Consulting Engineers.

**Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve.** Commissioner Ward noted as time goes on our courthouse is very old, and at some point, we are going to have to start really looking at our courthouse

soon. We are going to have to look at a major renovation or looking at building a new courthouse. Mrs. Griffith said included in the American Rescue Plan spending plan there was a full roof replacement and complete sealing of the outside of the building. **The motion was seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized proceeding with the additional task order with Southeastern Consulting Engineers. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### 7. BOARD ACTION: DRAFT BUDGET REQUEST LETTER TO DEPARTMENTS

Franklin County is beginning preparations for the fiscal year 2023/2024 Budget. All budget requests must be submitted by June 15, 2023. I have prepared the attached draft budget request letter with the following instructions:

“At the direction of the Board, please keep your request to the minimum that your department can operate while providing the same level of services. It is unknown at this time what the financial impact will be on the county and state’s revenue estimates from this extended period of high inflation.

The upcoming budget will include the year three implementation of the five-year pay plan as developed by Evergreen Solutions. The five-year plan offered a statistical peer-data-based solution to address wage disparity, market value discrepancies, some wage compression issues, and a gradual escalation in base salaries to meet the looming \$15.00 minimum wage mandate in 2026. In addition to completing the attached form for your department’s annual operating budget, please complete the attached capital improvement form (repairs, capital outlay, or improvements est. to cost more than \$15,000) to assist with planning for the long-term capital needs of your department.”

Board action to authorize sending the budget request letter as drafted or with any changes/additional instructions.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward.** Chairman Jones said he is very hopeful that we can move our millage rate back some this year. **By a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized sending the budget request letter as drafted or with any changes/additional instructions. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### 8. BOARD ACTION: 7th STREET DUNE WALKOVER ADDITIONAL EROSION CONTROL EFFORTS

The 7th Street Dune Walkover Project permit also included additional erosion control measures relative to parking along Gorrie Drive. The attached \$3,200 quote + the cost of base material of \$45/ton (total labor + base material to not exceed \$5,000) from Jason White Construction will complete the installation/delineation of (8) parking places perpendicular to Gorrie Drive with wheel stops fronting post and rope fencing which will prevent forward encroachment onto dune structures. Once sea turtle nesting season concludes in the fall, the county can then move forward with planting the 2,000 sea oat plants to fill in the bare areas along the beach sides of the dune walkover. Duke Energy has a Sea Oat Grant Program and may be able to assist with the cost of the 2,000 plants.

I also want to mention that sometime last week someone took the cutoff 4’ sections of the 6”x6” posts used in the construction of the handrails at the 7th Street Dune Walkover Project. This material was county material and could have been repurposed as the material for the post and rope fencing or used in other park projects. These cutoff sections of material were not going to be discarded. After this unfortunate occurrence, the county may need to close the entirety of access points during construction in the future instead of simply the small area right at the entry to a dune walkover to prevent the loss of materials. If someone innocently took this material assuming that it was scrap, we ask that it please be returned to the parks and recreation department.

Board action to approve the quote from Jason White Construction to be paid by TDC sales tax proceeds for



the additional erosion control measures outlined in the 7th Street Dune Walkover project design.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the quote from Jason White Construction to be paid by TDC sales tax proceeds for the additional erosion control measures outlined in the 7th Street Dune Walkover project design. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### 9. BOARD ACTION: ROLL-OFF TRUCK FOR LANDFILL

Deferred until next meeting – quote not received from vendor in time.

#### 10. BOARD INFORMATION: MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES

- Site work SGI Playground Improvements to begin tomorrow.
- Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park Restoration Project is underway.
- Seafood Landing Park West of Apalachicola will be closed for public access for a period of three weeks beginning Friday, May 5th due to dredge operations.

Chairman Jones noted we were able to get the Third Street and Seventh Street walkovers done before turtle season. He noted that he was talking to someone in front of Cheap Butts in Eastpoint they should be starting with the improvements to the pavement soon.

Commissioner Ward said she rode around with Roberts and Roberts. We all have road paving funds, what I wanted done is going to cost what I have in road paving funds. I do not know if we need to contact our legislators. I do not know if we can look at other contractors to see what their prices are. There are a lot of roads in our area and a lot of stuff I want to do, but I only have so much money. Commissioner Sanders said if inflation gets any worse than it is, it is going to be worse. A lot of people do not understand that is where we get the money for paving is our gas tax. Commissioner Ward said as we go to a more environmentally conscious world, we are not getting the gas tax. Are we going to start getting funds from the charging stations? I know it is in the future, but I would like to be prepared. Chairman Jones said it is never going to be cheaper than what it is today. What might change is how we approach it? We normally split the gas tax between the five districts. We may need to have someone look at all the roads in the county and give us a grading for all the roads. We may could do it with a bond and pay for it with the gas tax. Mrs. Griffith said she would like to get permission to speak with our county engineers about the county funded projects being a contract price on materials. That way we could have a level playing field. Of course, that would be only with county funded projects and not DOT. Mrs. Griffith said she will speak with them and let the Board know. Commissioner Sanders said in Gadsden County they had an opened ended bond that they did their roads with, and the Levy County had their own road crew. Commissioner Ward said the county is growing and we must make sure we have the infrastructure in place to accommodate. Chairman Jones said we were asking the legislator to look at the cap on the TDC funding. If we could get that changed it may help us with this also.

#### 15. Michael Morón – County Coordinator

##### 1. Action Item: Supervisor of Elections

Board action to proceed with the described plan and authorize staff to negotiate with the build to suit developer for a project cost range to present to the Board for review.

At a previous meeting, the Board discussed the need for a new location for the Supervisor of Elections office. As directed by the Board, I discussed different locations with Mrs. Heather Riley (SOE) and the best option to relocate the Supervisor of Election's office in Apalachicola is the offices that currently house your Administration, Planning and Zoning, and Building Department offices. Mrs. Riley, her staff, and her IT department visited the offices and are very much in favor of relocating to this office. So, the next matter is, where will these offices go. With all the past Board discussion regarding new locations for county offices,

the developer for a commercial development project, located on the corner of Highway 98 and South Bayshore, approached staff to discuss a build to suit option. This contractor would sell the county land with a building that would house your Administrative, Planning and Zoning, and Building Department offices. The building would also include a smaller Commission meeting room, as an alternate meeting site, or to host public hearings or workshops that affects property closer to that location. If the Board agrees to this plan, staff will submit requirements and a rough floor plan to the developer, so he could then provide a project cost range to the county. With that information, the County could proceed with a purchase contract with an agreed price range contingent upon an appraisal, and if the appraisal is within the asking price range, we would proceed with the purchase. Staff is currently looking at funding options for this project.

Chairman Jones asked if what the Board was doing today was asking the developer to draw up a price and we would need two appraisals like what we did with the Barber property. Commissioner Amison said basically you are asking us to authorize staff to request a quote for the construction and purchase.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized proceeding with the described plan and authorized staff to negotiate with the build to suit developer for a project cost range to present to the Board for review.** Commissioner Ward inquired if some of the fees collected from the building department could be used for this purchase. Mr. Moron said yes, the building department has funds to cover about half of the estimated cost. Mrs. Griffith noted these funds could only be used for the square footage that the building department would occupy and their percentage space of any shared space. Commissioner Ward said she is all about saving money and noted this money must be spent within a certain period. Mrs. Griffith noted that we do not anticipate the high level of permit activity continuing in the future. It has been unprecedented in the past years. Commissioner Sanders said she would not want to pin the Board down to that one area. There may be some other land in Eastpoint for sale or land the county already owns. She reminded the Board the county is seventy something miles long. If we can get it closer to the east, we like getting it closer. Chairman Jones said in the rescue plan funds we had set aside a half million. Mrs. Griffith said we had sat aside about \$750k that we could use to make any changes to accommodate the Supervisor of Elections transition and then for the new building. Commissioner Sanders noted that in doing this, it does bring the Supervisor of Elections under the umbrella of the courthouse and that will make people feel better. Chairman Jones said in addition to funding the SOE would not have the monthly recurring cost for rent. **Motion carried 4-0.**

## 2. Discussion Item: FBO Contract

Attached to my report is the most recent draft version of Centric's (Airport FBO) contract that has been reviewed by staff and Attorney Shuler. The Airport Operations Economic Development (AOED) Advisory Board did their initial review of an earlier draft of the contract at their first regular meeting on Tuesday, April 25th, but the AOED has scheduled a special meeting on Wednesday, May 10th to finalize their review and forward their concerns, comments, and recommendations to this Board as you for your review as you consider approval. Mr. Steve Kirschenbaum, AOED Chairman, would like to update the Board this morning on the AOED's plan to review this contract at the scheduled Special Meeting. I will add the final draft of the contract to my May 16th report as an action item for your approval.

Commissioner Sanders asked if we are not going to go out for bids. Mr. Moron said the last time we went out for bids it was just Centric and Crystal Air. The Triumph had praise for Centric. Commissioner Sanders just wants the public to understand how we got here. This is the best FBO that we can get.

Attorney Shuler said the latest draft for everyone's review and recommendation, one issue that came up is a ten-year period instead of five. He has requested the Board consider a ten-year period. Other than that, one issue, we have a final draft for both boards to consider. Chairman Jones said he is good with the airport board making a recommendation and he is good with a ten-year period. We need to make sure that this airport board, that everyone has their documents for them all to have the information to discuss. Mr. Moron said he will prepare that for them and get with Ted to distribute to the board. Commissioner Sanders said she would like to have the right to review the contract in five years to make sure they are doing what they are supposed to. Attorney Shuler said there will be a termination for cause in the contract.

3. Action Item: Ethics Training for Volunteer Boards

Board action to engage Attorney Jennifer Shuler to provide sunshine/ethics classes to all County's volunteer boards.

As was probably mentioned during the FBO contract discussion relating to the Airport Operations Economic Development (AOED) advisory board, there is a need for each of your volunteer boards to receive some ethics training. This is an idea that Chairman Jones has mentioned on more than one occasion. I asked Attorney Shuler to contact Liberty County Attorney, Jennifer Shuler, about the possibility of providing sunshine/ethics classes to each of your volunteer boards. Attorney Jennifer Shuler has submitted two options, \$250 per hour for live training and \$150 per hour for virtual (Zoom) training. I will attempt to schedule these classes during the date and time when each board meets. Attorney Jennifer Shuler is available on May 23rd to give her first class to the AOED.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved engaging Attorney Jennifer Shuler to provide sunshine/ethics classes to all County's volunteer boards.** Chairman Jones said he has brought this up several times but not because anyone has done anything wrong. It is because realizing the seats we sit in what it means if you violate Sunshine Law, I want our volunteers to be protected. Commissioner Amison noted this is for the volunteer's protection. We want the volunteers to continue serving but we want to make sure they are safe as far as criminally. **Motion carried 4-0.**

4. Action Item: Eastpoint Affordable Housing Workshop

Board action to schedule a workshop to discuss a Workforce affordable housing project with EPWSD representatives and the developer.

A few meetings back, Chairman Jones mentioned that the Eastpoint Water and Sewer District (EPWSD) was working with a developer to create a Public Private "Workforce" affordable housing project partnership. Since this proposed project will be in unincorporated Franklin County, Chairman Jones would like to update the Board on this project and schedule a workshop with EPWSD representatives and the developer. The next available meeting date for a workshop will be on Tuesday, June 6th, at 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Jones said if there is any way that we can have it in May, that is what the developers and EPWSD had requested. There is going to be an ask from this partnership from the county. We have forty-five acres that EPWSD own, we are talking about using thirty-seven to thirty-eight of those acres to build at least 160 homes and 32-40 townhomes. They plan to sell the homes and making the townhomes long-term rentals. We have talked about narrowing the criteria down to health care, education, law enforcement and government. That is not set in stone but is what we have talked about. Mr. Moron suggested approving the workshop contingent upon being able to schedule for a day in May agreeable to all. Commissioner Ward noted that she would need to rearrange some things in her schedule, but she would prefer scheduling when most of the Board could attend. The Board discussed holding the workshop on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 p.m. and all members were agreeable.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized scheduling a workshop to discuss a Workforce affordable housing project with EPWSD representatives and the developer for Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.**

5. Action Item: Crime Stoppers LOA

Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature, after Attorney Shuler's review, on a Letter of Agreement designating Big Bend Crime Stopper as the County's agent for the purpose of applying for and receiving monies from the Crime Stopper Trust Funds.

Attached to my report is a request from Big Bend Crime Stoppers to renew the Letter of Agreement allowing them to act as the County's agent for the purpose of applying for and receiving monies from the Crime Stopper Trust Fund. Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code requires renewal of this agreement every three years. Also attached, is the 2020 Letter of Agreement signed by Commissioner Lockley, the

Chairman at that time. I would ask the Board to authorize Attorney Shuler to review both the statute and code to verify that there are no substantial changes over the last three years.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature, after Attorney Shuler's review, on a Letter of Agreement designating Big Bend Crime Stopper as the County's agent for the purpose of applying for and receiving monies from the Crime Stopper Trust Funds. Motion carried 4-0.**

6. Discussion Item: ABSI Rocks

Last week, some of you might have received pictures or some other type of correspondence regarding what appeared to be larger size rocks being placed in the Bay as part of the Apalachicola Bay restoration project. Commissioner Amison, your ABSI representative, would like to discuss what he has found out based on his "investigation".

Commissioner Amison explained the placement of the rocks. Commissioner Amison said basically ABSI is doing a pilot study. They are trying to figure out what material is going to work best. He said ABSI had agreed to do a 6–8-inch material out. He noted that ABSI was unable to get the 6–8-inch material. What they did was found some 4–6-inch material. With that bigger material is not what they are planting to grow oysters on, that is a foundation. Due to deterioration of the bars the oysters are not growing flat. This is not a complete restoration project this is just a pilot study. They were not expecting that big of material, and they had Timmy trying to break it up. Hopefully the concrete works the best, it is the biggest bang for our buck. They do not know until they get those pilot studies completed. Again, this is not a restoration project it is a small pilot area. The restoration is not coming until FWC gets the material and gets ready. A lot of people were under the impression that this was a restoration and that is not the case. Chairman Jones noted there are a lot of moving parts as to what all is going on. People see what they see and draw assumptions from it. Commissioner Sanders inquired as to where this area was. Commissioner Amison noted it was Cat Point. Commissioner Sanders noted that Cat Point was one of the most productive bars we had, and people are very protective over it. Commissioner Amison said what a lot of people do not understand is FWC is not going to get this federal money unless they have so much scientific data. Commissioner Amison encouraged people with knowledge to get involved in a non-confrontational way. Get involved with it. Chairman Jones noted that you must maintain yourself as part of the conversation, state what you want to state, but understand that you need to stay engaged in the conversation. Commissioner Amison said he understands our local people, you have people who have worked on this water, there is a lot of emotions involved, there are language barriers with individuals at the state.

Apalachicola Bay System Initiative Proposed Oyster Restoration Experiment Spring 2023

The second proposed ABSI experiment will expand on the first by using a stable base of limestone (~5-8" diameter) or concrete (~4-6" cm diameter). The effectiveness of concrete will be compared with limestone as it is readily available, does not have to be mined and is slightly less expensive than limestone. The reefs will be rectangular (50 ft x 26 ft), oriented perpendicular to the prevailing W-E current and will have a larger footprint than the previous experiment (~1300 ft<sup>2</sup>) to facilitate easier deployment and sampling. Half of these reefs will be supplemented with natural shell and total reef height of all treatments will be 15". Objectives 1. Determine the stability of reefs constructed with limerock and concrete 2. Determine whether supplementing the reefs with shell improves performance 3. Assess reef-associated communities for each material type, including predator prevalence 4. Evaluate the effectiveness of seeding experimental reefs with hatchery spat 5. Collect in situ data on long term temperature and salinity at each site to provide context for biological observations. Treatments 1. Limerock (15" tall) 2. Limerock (12" tall) + shell (3") 3. Concrete (15" tall) 4. Concrete (12" tall) + shell (3") Methods Deployment of Experimental Reefs The target deployment site for this experiment is northern Cat Point, between two previous planting sites (FDEP RESTORE site planted with small limerock in 2016 and Career Source site planted with fossil shell in 2017). Site selection was based on historical oyster presence, current presence of live oysters in the area (RESTORE plant site) and the availability of hard substrate. Four replicate sites will be designated within the study area,

each with one reef of each treatment (n = 16 total). Within each replicate site, the treatment reefs will be deployed with the longer side in a north-south orientation, so the long axis of the reef is perpendicular to the prevailing (east west) current. The reefs within each site are arranged to minimize interference with each other under most current regimes (Fig. 1). Bottom surveys have been done to ensure reefs are deployed on hard substrate. High resolution post-deployment mapping will be conducted using FSUCML boat-mounted sonar to provide baselines for subsequent changes in reef topography and footprint. Experimental reefs will be constructed with the help of local oystermen. Monitoring Experimental Reefs (detailed monitoring methods TBD). All reefs in each replicate area will be surveyed quarterly with non-destructive visual techniques using tong sampling. Six single tong samples will be taken per site on the bow, mid and stern of the port and starboard sides of the vessel. The total weight and volume of material, material type, number and size of live oysters and boxes will be recorded together with predators (stone crab, crown conch and oyster drills) found in each sample.

#### 7. Discussion Item: TRIUMPH Meeting

On Wednesday, April 19th, Chairman Jones, Mayor Brenda Ash, Mayor Brenda LaPaz, County staff, and staff from both Cities met with Triumph Board Member Leslie Weiss and Triumph staff. Chairman Jones will update the Board on what was discussed at that meeting.

Chairman Jones explained at the meeting they discussed a device we could add to our airport that would help us in discussions with Tyndall using our base. They talked to us about contacting the contract office at Tyndall to have discussion about anything they would use the airport for. They were really excited about the airports at Apalachicola and Carrabelle. They also discussed the City of Apalachicola water flow. Mrs. Griffith noted the device discussed was some type of infrared flight regulation equipment – you may have some citizens who may not like the increased military operations at the airport. Chairman Jones asked Mr. Mosteller about the equipment, and he said he was not familiar with it. Chairman Jones noted they planned to schedule another meeting after legislative session is over with. Mr. Moron said they mentioned about all these funds for rural airports. They said we may could benefit from whatever legislative funding should if it passes. Chairman Jones noted between now and August they are going to open \$1.5 billion in funds for rural airports. A lot of positive discussions for the county and the airport. There are residents who live out there and when we do decide to do more activity out there, we may need to have discussions with residents. Commissioner Amison noted most likely the IFR is for night missions. He said he has a gentleman he can contact to get more specifics. Mrs. Griffith noted Andrew might be interested in doing some type of flight training. Commissioner Ward noted that Andrew is the Centric owner, who is our FBO. Commissioner Amison said he is looking at Triumph to get a flight school? Mr. Moron confirmed. Chairman Jones noted in the future having MRO at the airport as well where you can work on the planes as well. Mr. Moron said they did the City of Carrabelle should look at the airport for more funding. They said the City of Apalachicola should look at the harbor master building at the mill pond. Mrs. Griffith said we also talked about the radios for EMS. We are going to try and mimic Wakulla County, so that all departments will be on the same system. Commissioner Sanders said you remember when everyone was telling us the 800mz was all that. Mr. Moron noted that now it is almost unusable. Commissioner Sanders noted that we need a system that works county wide. Chairman Jones said they asked us to resubmit the paperwork for the fuel farm, they are looking at funding the entire amount. Mrs. Griffith because we delayed the bidding, it would be better to package together with generator so that all components work together. Commissioner Amison asked Mr. Mosteller if we have something running out at the airport running all the time. Mr. Mosteller said no, we have something running the runway lights. The only thing running is our contractors doing apron rehabilitation.

#### 8. Discussion Item: Senior Center Meeting

On Thursday, April 20th, Commissioner Ward, and I met with the Franklin County Senior Citizen Center executive board. Commissioner Ward will update the Board on what was discussed at that meeting.

Commissioner Ward gave an update to the Board on what was discussed at the meeting. Ms. Bretz should be contacting Mr. Moron to schedule a workshop so that we can sit down and discuss a solution. We need to make a way to benefit all our citizens in Franklin County. We are here to make sure that it happens and

like it is supposed to be. Commissioner Sanders noted that sometimes it takes pulling funding to get things done. If they had not refused to meet with Commissioner Ward to start with this would not have happened. Commissioner Ward said she tried to be judicious, but she was firm. She noted that she is going to fight for what is right for the community. Chairman Jones asked if this funding had been given to anyone else. Mr. Moron said the funds were reallocated to the programs providing the services. Once Ms. Bretz has proposed a plan, the Board can decide how to reallocate the funds. Commissioner Ward said it was a miscommunication and it was never their intent to say that they could not help. Just want to let the public know that as well. Chairman Jones said he is good with this being resolved. This is not a shot at anyone, but I have been places before that I did not feel welcome. I do not want to get any calls or texts saying they quit going because they did not feel welcome.

Chairman Jones requested the Board authorize letters of support as follows:

2023-2024 GAA Appropriation Line Item 2479A – Lanark/St. James Fire Truck  
2023-2024 GAA Appropriation Line Item 2710 – Franklin County EOC  
HB 407 Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, to authorize the letters of support regarding funding appropriation to replace the St. James/Lanark Village Fire Department Fire Truck; funding appropriation to commence construction of a replacement Emergency Operations Center in Franklin County; and to express support for HB 407 Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern.** Commissioner Sanders asked if we could contact the City of Carrabelle to make sure they did not need a letter of support. **Commissioner Ward amended her motion, seconded by Commissioner Amison. Motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Ward noted we have fifty acres of land up Highway 65. She would like to see a large sports complex built. One centralized area that we can have these big events. We could use TDC funds. There are certain things we must do to use these funds. We will be attracting people to the community with this facility.

Commissioner Ward noted that she receives calls about the shooting range behind the humane society. WE need to figure out somewhere to potentially move it to.

Commissioner Ward noted an issue with the Eastpoint sign at 4<sup>th</sup> Street. She has received complaints of people not being able to see around the sign. She said she is not sure if that is our sign or if an association or group put it there. She noted that she would like to possibly move the sign, maybe heightened, or lowered. Chairman Jones said he believes it was purchased with TDC funds. The beautification project being done will have signs. I am not sure why they are delayed in doing it, the funds have already been received from DOT. Commissioner Ward said she will contact Mr. Rex Pennycuff with the Eastpoint association to see where they are on replacing the signs. Chairman Jones said he had already contacted someone regarding clearing the 50 acres and they would do it for the timber. There is a validity to sports tourism, it is an economic driver. Chairman Jones noted that in discussions with Duke they have noted this is something they may be looking at for the future. Commissioner Amison noted the drainage issue at Vrooman Park. He noted that a lot of the tournaments are now one day and so you may not necessarily need the overnight accommodations. Commissioner Sanders said there is still forty-five acres at Kendrick Park to be developed.

#### 9. Informational Item: Next Meeting Date

Your next meeting date is on Tuesday, May 16th at 9:00 a.m. (ET). There is a Workshop scheduled at 1:30 p.m. (ET) on that same day.

#### 16. Michael Shuler – County Attorney

##### Action Items

##### 1. Draft Golf Cart Ordinance for Alligator Point

A draft ordinance authorizing the use of golf carts on part of Alligator Point is attached for board discussion.

The public hearing on the ordinance is scheduled for May 16, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

The purpose of the discussion is for the board to provide guidance to me regarding the draft and whether the Board has any corrections or additions to the draft so that they can be made prior to the public hearing.

Copies of the golf cart ordinances on St. George Island and Eastpoint are attached for your convenient review and comparison.

Board Action Requested: Board consideration and discussion of the draft ordinance.

Chairman Jones said there has not been any discussion with the Franklin County Sheriff's office who will be enforcing the ordinance. Attorney Shuler said he has not had any discussion with the sheriff's office. He did have some guidance from the engineering company. Commissioner Ward noted on number ten under operator qualification. She thinks it needs to specifically state 16 years or older with a valid driver license. Commissioner Sanders asked Attorney Shuler to reach out to the sheriff's department to let them know we are creating this ordinance. Chairman Jones noted that as soon as we get past this one, we will most likely need to schedule a meeting for St. George Island golf cart use.

## 2. Draft Ordinance Prohibiting Electric Bikes or E-Bikes

A draft ordinance prohibiting the use of electric bicycles on is attached for board discussion. The public hearing on the ordinance is scheduled for May 16, 2023, beginning at 10:10 a.m. (ET).

The purpose of the discussion is for the board to provide guidance to me regarding the draft and whether the Board has any corrections or additions to the draft so that they can be made prior to the public hearing.

Board Action Requested: Board consideration and discussion of the draft ordinance.

Chairman Jones said he believes reducing the scope will create issues. Commissioner Ward said she disagrees. She said she agrees with public beaches, but a bicycle path and trail paths she sees there may be an issue with particularly pointing out areas. Commissioner Sanders inquired about gas powered bikes. Attorney Shuler said there is already an ordinance in place regarding gas powered bikes. Commissioner Ward said under Florida statute an e-bike is considered a bicycle. She noted that in court it may be hard to defend. Attorney Shuler noted there is still a pretty good ordinance under county ordinance. Commissioner Sanders noted that it is dangerous. Attorney Shuler noted that the Board could reduce the scope of area but could not increase it. Paragraph five the barrier islands, I have exempted them from ordinance, we have no way of enforcing. Options to the Board you could have first violation a warning and then have a monetary amount for the second and third violation. We may want to consider a substantial monetary penalty. You could also consider it a second-degree misdemeanor for chronic offender. Commissioner Ward noted that Attorney Shuler should reach out to the sheriff's office to receive their input for the penalty amounts.

## 3. Dredge Contract with Coastal Dredging Company, Inc.

Now that the issue of the type of dredge being used in the Eastpoint Channel has been resolved, attached is the contract for the dredging of each end of the Eastpoint Channel that the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers was not going to dredge. The contract amount is \$275,000.00 and will be paid from TDC funds. The contractor has already signed.

An excerpt from the minutes on 11/15/22:

Action Item: Eastpoint Dredge Project At the last meeting, staff was authorized to contact the Army Corp's dredge contractor Mike Hooks Enterprises to see what could be done to dredge the entirety of the Eastpoint channel as the Army Corp's contracted scope fell short. After discussions with the contractor, there appears to be about 1400 additional linear feet that will need to be dredged to make the entire channel navigable. In the attached schematic, the areas in the pink boxes will be the site of the additional dredge work. Coastal Dredging Company, Inc. (subcontracted dredge operator for Mike Hooks Enterprises) has provided the attached estimate of \$275,000 for the additional dredge work and confirmed that there is capacity available for the additional volume of spoil in the permitted disposal site with no change to the existing permits. There are also several areas where dry sediment has accreted (sandbars) which have blocked the old channel. For the removal of the dry sediment, a land-based contractor will need to be engaged. As this project is time-sensitive with the dredge contractor already mobilized and on-site, staff sought bids from three local

contractors to quote what it would cost to remove the dry sediment. Of the estimates received, the lowest was Coastline Clearing and Development, LLC for \$52,000. County Attorney Michael Shuler will also need to draft temporary access easements/agreements with property owners to provide access for the land-based dredge efforts. Does the Board wish to proceed with time-sensitive emergency procurement to pursue the attached scope of work and proposals mentioned above? Discussion and possible action. Commissioner Ward made a motion to declare an emergency bypassing the ordinary bid process to pursue the attached scope of work and proposals mentioned above. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. Commissioner Lockley said he wants to be sure they are dredging both channels at the same time. Chairman Jones noted that both channels are federal navigational channels. He said our issues have been lack of connectivity with funding sources. He said he plans to stay engaged with the Corps of Engineers so when they begin their next round of funding, they have Franklin County in it. Commissioner Amison asked if Mr. Moron if he had spoken with the Corps regarding the spoil sites. He has had a lot of landowners wanting to know why they cannot pump it to the barrier islands to protect the area. Mrs. Griffith said they did the uplands disposal site because it was easier with the permitting process. The State of Florida does not like open water disposal sites. Mr. Moron said he will reach out to the Corps and have them give him a call. Motion carried 5-0."

Board Action Requested: Approval of the contract and authorization for the Chairman to sign the contract.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the contract and authorization for the Chairman to sign the Coastal Dredging Company, Inc.** Chairman Jones said he will be reaching out to this contractor to make sure they come back to take care of the area around the boat ramp. **Motion carried 4-0.**

## 2. Easement for Sewer Line

An easement for a sewer line is attached for the Board's consideration. An excerpt from your March 7, 2023, meeting:

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.

Board Action Requested: Motion to approve the easement and authorize the chairman to sign it.

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

## 3. Lease for Lighthouse Association on St. George Island, Florida



Attached is a proposed lease for part of lighthouse part to the Lighthouse Association for 15 years, at \$1.00 per year, subject to a provision that either party may terminate for convenience upon six months written termination. This lease is substantially like two 15-year leases at the Chapman Auditorium.

Board Action Requested: Motion approving of the lease and authorizing 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 lease and authorized the Chairman to sign it. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### Information Item

#### 4. Business Registration

Attached is a copy of Fla. Stat. s. 163.211 on Licensing of occupations preempted to the State. The Legislature has preempted to the state all registration and licensing required for a person to perform an occupation.

Chairman Jones noted a discussion about business registration. The other side is with short-term vacation rentals. The county needs to have a reasonable way to know what kind of issues we have. If we ever want to make sure it is a bigger house, that needs to be discussed by us, we currently have a regulation in the county with commercial regarding stormwater and parking, with residential there is neither. He said he will get some documentation together so that Mr. Moron can distribute for discussion. Mr. Moron said Commissioner Lockley did not attend today due to him being under the weather. Commissioner Amison said on Brownsville Road near Prado, it is a racetrack. How do I go about reducing the speed limit? Commissioner Ward said she goes below the speed limit on this road. The problem is enforcement. Attorney Shuler said he can take the information with the reduction of speed limit on Alligator Road and bring something back to the Board at the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Jones said the radar signs in his district has helped the speeding. Attorney Shuler said part of Brownsville is city jurisdiction. We may need to ask the city to consider reducing the speed limit on their portion of Brownsville Road. Commissioner Sanders said that is one of the things that comes up in Lanark. Even though the speed limit is 20 mph there is still people speeding.

#### Commissioners' Comments

There were no additional Commissioners' 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.