FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM MAY 16, 2023 9:00 AM

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Erin Griffith-Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator, and Jessica Gay-Deputy Clerk to the Board

Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Moron noted that Mrs. Griffith had some items added to her report. He noted the items had been published to the online agenda and provided to the Board.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda with the additions to Mrs. Griffith's report. 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 Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the County Bill List for Payment and the Board Minutes from the Regular Meeting on May 2, 2023. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Presentations and Requests

3. Ben Chandler - ARPC - Regional Rural Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Ben Chandler introduced the Regional World Transportation Plan. He noted this is a continuation of a project already started to the west of us who did a pilot project. Project will be a two year-full coverage in District three for long term transportation plans. This plan will help consolidate the process, so you are not going at it alone. As of February 2022, all five counties entered an interlocal agreement to have a regional transportation plan. Two or three representatives from each county committee will rank projects identified

through a series of workshops. There would be several guiding principles focusing on safety, system connectivity, resiliency, emerging mobility, and technologies. There will be extensive public involvement. We will come back as a workshop setting to identify priorities. As we establish committee, we will have specific ranking criteria for the committee to follow. This is an ongoing process to have a consistent long term transportation plan. Chairman Jones clarified to the board that it was not in the ARPC plan to provide a detailed analysis of all our roads like he had initially stated. This is not the purpose of this plan. The Board would need to do that analysis on their own.

4. Mike Kozar - Alliant CEO - Quarterly Update

Mr. Kozar gave an update on the operations of the hospital, explaining where they are and where they are going as well as an update on the financials of the hospital. Mr. Kozar noted the current state of healthcare in Florida with utilization of contracted staff soaring over 328%, skyrocketed total dollars spent on contract labor over 489%, and salary market adjustments increasing over 300%. Since 2019, drug costs have increased 17%, medical supplies have increased 19%, and hospitals' overall workforce costs have increased over 45% (\$6.2 billion). Hospitals have less cash on reserve with increased daily costs. There is less cash on hand and that cash is worth less. Operating margins in Florida declined by 5.3% in 2022. Margins matter because they allow hospitals to invest in critical health care services to meet growing demand, keep pace with the rapid changes in health care and subsidize access to community services. Mr. Kozar noted significant accomplishments which included Alliant Purchasing, emergency department coding, updating charge master based on review resulted in annual positive impact of \$115k, EMS upgrades, ancillary services upgrades, information technology improvements, annual salary survey implemented increased medical training for EMS, identified internal candidates to promote and train in larger roles, board education and leadership development, employee engagement survey, Leadership Development Institute, establishing an employee retirement plan for full time employees, coordinated with Franklin County Health Department by providing COVID antibody shots, testing, and booster shots, partnered with TMH to bring Dr. Newton to Franklin County, established a VA screening assessment, Medicare cost report, payor contracts/agreements, 340B program, increasing collections, implementing contract modeling to ensure insurance pays per contract. Mr. Kozar noted several goals and things they are heading towards which included CRS medical benefits (Medicaid eligibility vendor to help with continued growth in self-pay/charity care population), repatient (revenue cycle solution to help provide payment plans to cover out-of-pocket expenses for both essential and elective procedures), Trubridge (billing and collections provider for hospital and EMS services; holding weekly calls with our billing group to ensure timely and accurate billing), Rural Health Clinic Survey (annual survey conducted to assure compliance with certification criteria at both the East and West clinics), Alliant Hospital Operations Chief Clinical Officer will continue to coordinate with areas needing additional support to improve, as well as continue to support hospital with achieving agreed upon incentives such as readmission index, infection control, etc. They are currently going through the strategic planning process which is completed every two years formally and updated annually. The new 3D mammography equipment has been purchased and currently working towards ACR accreditation. Through chronic care management, they support on going health of the community and encourage preventative medical services. Looking at retail pharmacy in Carrabelle, swing bed/inpatient rehab services, and room to provide Hospice services to Franklin County residents. They are evaluating a new Early Out vendor that will increase patient collections after insurance has paid.

Chairman Jones inquired about the amount the county provides for the EMS subsidy. Mrs. Griffith confirmed the amount is \$764,252 annually. It was noted by Alliant representatives that the figures provided were only six months of data and not a full year. Commissioner Ward said she was the one who asked for numbers. She was looking for a little bit more of a breakdown. The mammography machine was donated, but you have it down like you purchased it. Mr. Kozar said this is listed as one of the accomplishments of the entire hospital. I apologize if it was misleading, this was funds raised by the community. Commissioner Ward said I just did not want the people who raised the money feel negated. Commissioner Ward said the

ventilators, etc. was purchased with Covid funds and American Rescue Funds were used to purchase these. Commissioner Ward said she would like to sit down with Mr. Kozar, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Ramsey to look over the financials in more depth. Mr. Kozar said at your earliest convenience we would be glad to sit down with you. Let us know what detailed information you want to know. Mr. Walker said we can give dates for this week or next week.

Commissioner Amison asked what we did with Colby agreement. Mr. Kozar noted the contract was cancelled at the cost of labor around \$50K. Commissioner Amison said why was not the board notified before that amount of contract. Attorney Shuler said his recollection was 32-33k month, the first few months were essentially half of the full amount. The 34 would have been prorated, one year would been about 33k a month. The reason why we were not approached was due to the amount. This contract well exceeded the \$50k. We found out the week before y'all presented the detox thing. Mr. Walker said if we make a purchase of \$50k or more we must bring that to the board. We have multiple contracts that are annually more than \$50k. Now we realize that with clarification from Attorney Shuler. Mr. Walker noted that is business as usual. Commissioner Amison said that could have been averted. He noted he is a businessman and would not gamble. If our county attorney had reviewed the contract, we would not have done that. Mr. Walker said since he has been CEO, they have never brought these types of contracts before the board. Commissioner Amison said you have three months that you are obligated for that is well over 50K. I am just baffled that we just took \$50k and threw it away. It was presented to us not that way. I even asked the CEO to put it pie graph. The reason why no one wanted to answer the question I feel like we were being deceived. Where did that money come from? Did that come from hospital fund or general fund? Mr. Walker said we did not deceive you. Commissioner Amison asked about salary increase would that be possibly due to shortage during covid? He inquired about the increase of salaries 1.6%. Mr. Kozar noting that was for every position down, some salaries may have increased more some may have not increased at all. If you have five rn vacant positions, you are not paying those salaries currently so your salaries will be lower. Commissioner Amison we have requested the salaries of the personnel out there and it took about five weeks, and the format is not legible. You had told us about sharing our departments and in that discussion was our human resources. We are carrying a full salary load with our human resources. Why are we paying a full-time salary with benefits for a part time position because you are sharing with the other hospitals? Mr. Kozar noted they never eliminated any of her duties or time at Weems. She was doing this outside of her obligations. We have since done away with that. We were intending to use her on her personal time. Mr. Walker said the person worked more than forty hours or more at Weems. We are no longer contracted with Calhoun. Commissioner Amison said it has come to my attention that we just hired two new positions. Heather Horan was a ministerial assistant for years and we have had her duties divided up. Commissioner Amison said if we have all this free time in human resources maybe we can share the load. Other hospitals are cutting out programs and adjusting. I am just making sure that we are not creating more overhead. We have housekeeping. One person on housekeeping? I have heard multiple times this month that we have not had clean rooms. I have been getting complaints about just nasty. It seems like we would approach that issue first and have a clean facility. If you have one housekeeper, they cannot be there 24/7? Are you trying to hire an additional employee? The last thing I want to think about going to a hospital is going to an un sanitized facility. I am under the impression that we have housekeeper 9-5. Mr. Walker noted that the housekeeper and front desk positions have been hard to keep staffed. Our top positions we have CFO (not a full time with benefits), we have Tom in finance, we have Courtney Alford she could use a nurse. We are not top heavy. Whenever no housekeeper available the house director must step in. We all pull together. Commissioner Amison asked if we are understaffed for nurses? How many full time rns do we have? Mr. Walker said full time maybe 8-10. We can use another nurse or two, especially in the evenings. Some of our staff work part time. Commissioner Amison said Dana Whaley and her nurse were trying to run the desk and see the patients. Mr. Walker said it is a difficult time to hire staff. My manager at the clinic has been at the front desk between AP and CB since October. Commissioner Amison asked about the swing bed program and asked was it lack services. Mr. Kozar said you need the therapy aspect. Swing bed is competitive because a lot of these facilities are opening a whole floor for patient rehab. What these facilities do as we have to transfer to a higher level of care. Commissioner Amison said he was trying to figure out why this has not taken off. Mr. Kozar said you have these for-profit facilities trying to get the patients to come to them and educate the community the services are available here. Commissioner Amison asked what the previous CFO made. Susan Daniels left in June her salary was approximately \$110K with benefits. Commissioner Amison said you are filling in part time at \$102K? We are also bringing in a controller from Northwest Florida – that is two people for that price tag currently. Mr. Walker said this is salary plus benefits. Mr. Walker said Heather said we are saving around 58K. Mr. Moron said when the famous Mr. Jim Coleman came before the board, and we talked about this. I do not want the public to think the board is against sharing the administration staff. In doing so if we are sharing, then we will be sharing salary. We get access to service with reduction in costs. That is what it was about, it was sharing administration staff to reduce the costs. They also promised to Commissioner Lockley they would come up with a plan regarding the cost of construction. I believe Mr. Walker wants to bring the plan to the board in the next 60-90 days. By sharing our costs, we would have reduction in administrative costs. That is what Commissioner Ward is asking, show me the beef. Commissioner Lockley said he understands you asking all these questions, they are new commissioners, and they need to know. Alliant is doing a good job if you look at what we had before and what we have now. They are holding their own and making money. You take chances sometimes you take chances, and they did not make it. We are not going to win on all of them. They caught it early enough to back up. As far as the \$50k cap, they have the authority to spend the \$50k. He said the money is there for us to build a new building. \$400k a year. Commissioner Amison inquired as to what is going to happen when the Covid money is gone?? Is that why we are in such a panic state to generate revenue? The true numbers are going to show up this year, next year. That is why we need to see these numbers not just for us but for the public. Mr. Kozar noted we are dealing with rising costs; how do we continue to rise? We must look at enhancing revenue most of the time that is bringing in more programs and services. We are doing better this year without the Covid money. The volumes were more encouraging to me. That to me shows we are making progress and growth. I am extremely encouraged, to see the growth and improvements. Commissioner Lockley said I believe you because they have a list out there who is doing good and who is doing bad. I see the one next to Sacred Heart. Mr. Walker noted rural hospitals have a hard time with sustainability. We have two clinics also. We have diversified revenue, bring in more hospitals. You must think about other avenues to bring in. Health care fund capital to pay for hospital, General fund is to fund the operational. Commissioner Amison said for clarification, EMS is funded through ad valorem. It was noted that \$700k comes from the EMS ad valorem tax. This does not cover the entire cost of services due to the large area the county encompasses. We cover the difference between the ad valorem tax and those services, probably a couple hundred thousand dollars a year. Commissioner Lockley said the state of Florida said you do not have to have a hospital but an EMS. Mr. Moron asked Tom you guys have a number as to what it cost to run EMS. This board has been asking for years what it costs to run the EMS, the clinics, and the hospitals. It is a pleasant surprise that you can separate what it costs to run the separate facilities. Commissioner Sanders said there are a lot of questions you are giving number to us and acting like they are good numbers. Are you going to have good enough numbers that you are not going to have to borrow money from the trust fund? Mr. Kozar said we are showing improvement, are we still at a deficit yes. But that hole is a little shallower. Our goal is to make those numbers of positive numbers. We are hoping to not have to come back and do that. Commissioner Sanders said one thing is Mr. David your comment is that is the price for doing business the fifty thousand dollars. That is not a good approach to take when you are handling public money. The other thing is y'all were saying you have people capturing the people who could do the swing beds. It starts at home. IF you all had a good program to come out to the community what is available and what is not available, what you are working on. Come out and say this is what we can do if you have a loved one who had a knee replacement and needs rehab, we like to take care of our own. You must make and meet those goals. How many times have I said something positive about Weems? We are never going to get any better until we get out there and make it better. Mr. Walker said part of our strategic plan is community outreach. We will work on that to work in the community to tell them what we can do. Commissioner Sanders need to have the attitude that we are holding our own and we can do better.

Commissioner Sanders how many EMS do we have? Walker said three running in the county and one truck.

Commissioner Sanders said there was a call for EMS out at Alligator Point, it took them 55 minutes to get there. It does not say anything bad about the ambulance service. Whatever we must do to keep it going. We need to do better on that. One thing that I asked back in February I wanted to know if we have EMS and EMT who are not making \$11-15 per hour. Mr. Walker said all our EMS and EMT should be making \$15 per hour. We had to bring them up per a state rule. Lous said we are competitive. Commissioner Sanders noted one issue we have with EMS is our hospital is in the eastern part of the county. One ambulance in county within 70 miles. Mr. Walker said since he has been a CEO, we make a lot of investment with EMS. We understand they are the main. Commissioner Sanders everybody may not use our hospital in this county, but everyone is going to use the medical emergency services. I appreciate your time, but I do not like the numbers. Commissioner Amison said the sales tax increases every year. Shouldn't with all the shared administration should not we be saving money? Is the ship ever going to right itself? Are we just going to keep following and spending more money? Mr. Walker noted if you looked at Weems years ago, we have always been terrible financially. Every rural hospital in the state is facing the same. Commissioner Ward said Thursday she will be at the hospital at 9. She requested to see the balance sheet and general ledgers. She noted that she wanted to see the beef. She noted that she could throw any number out there and people will think it is correct. She said she wants to see actual paperwork. She noted that she thinks they are a little top heavy also. You cannot run a hospital without nurses and doctors. She noted we are up for renewal of the Alliant contract, and she would like a copy of the Alliant contract. She said she would meet with them all on Thursday to try and figure this out. Chairman Jones noted we need new ways to generate revenue.

People do not do business with entities; they do business with people. They want to do business with a smiling face, people do business with people. The bigger issue we are facing is we have done this for fifteen years. We are halfway in halfway out with running the hospital. We need to be all in or have someone else's name on the door. Chairman Jones said he will not ask for another document and it take a month to get it, we will not do that again. He noted he would pass the gavel and make a motion himself before that happens again. Chairman Jones said we are going to break for five minutes and then move to public hearings.

At 10:57 am, the Board moved to the public hearings.

5. David Walker - Weems CEO - Quarterly Update & Request Request to increase the subsidy to Southland Emergency Medical Services.

Item addressed later in the meeting.

Public Hearings 10:00 a.m. (ET)

6. Golf Carts on Alligator Point 10:00 a.m. (ET)
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF GOLF CARTS ON PART OF ALLIGATOR
POINT, FLORIDA UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS PURSUANT TO
FLORIDA STATUTE 316.212; PROVIDING THOSE RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS;
PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN COUNTY ROADS AT ALLIGATOR
POINT, FLORIDA FOR THE USE OF GOLF CARTS; PROVISION OF PENATIES FOR
VIOLATORS; PROVIDING FOR INDEMNIFICAITON OF FRANKLIN COUNTY AS
CONDITION OF USE OF GOLF CART; PROVIDE FOR SURVIVABILITYAND PROVISION OF
AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Chairman Jones noted that you do not have to present a speaker card for public hearings. Attorney Shuler said it has been duly advertised and asked if the Board was ready to proceed with the public hearing.

Commissioner Sanders inquired about the verbiage on age of driver 16 years old or older and licensed driver. Commissioner Sanders noted the Board directed Attorney Shuler to speak with the Sheriff and asked if he had any objections to it. Attorney Shuler said he does not recall him voicing any objections to it. Commissioner Sanders noted to make sure we have proper signage up for the revised speed limits. Chairman Jones called for public comments at this time. He asked that speakers not duplicate each other. Sharon Rigsby voiced her support for the ordinance, thanked Commissioner Sanders for her assistance in getting this to the Board for approval. Sutton Webb thanked everyone for their hard work on this ordinance. In full support of the ordinance. John Dexter Thornton thanked everyone and voiced full support of the ordinance. John Berry noted Harry Morrison Drive does not tie into Alligator Drive. Does there have to be any additional language to include? Chairman Jones said he believed the ordinance it included the adjoining roads. Attorney Shuler said it does say any roads connected to any subdivisions that have access to Alligator Drive. Harry Morrison connects to another subdivision so it should be fine. Commissioner Sanders confirmed the ordinance covered all subdivisions that connect to Alligator Drive directly or indirectly. Commissioner Lockley asked if anyone in the audience was against the ordinance, and no one spoke up.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison and Commissioner Lockley, to approve the ordinance providing for the use of golf carts on part of Alligator Point as proposed. Commissioner Sanders said make sure the road department puts out proper signage. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Shuler requested a motion and vote from the Board on reducing the speed limit at the intersection that is closest to Highway 98 to 30 mph. On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Lockley. Commissioner Sanders asked about where the new part of the road is 25 mph would that be changing to 30 mph also? Attorney Shuler noted the uniform traffic code says 30 mph. Chairman Jones said they need to put proper signage coming in and going out. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Use of Electric Bicycles in Franklin County 10:10 a.m. (ET)

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE OF ELECTRIC BICYCLES ON AL PUBLIC BEACHES, MULTI-USE PATHS, SIDEWALKS, BICYCLE PATHS, TRAIL NETWORKS, PUBLIC PARKS, AND RECREATION AREAS OF UNINCORPORATED FRANKLIN COUNTY FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTIONS; PROVISION OF PENATIES FOR VIOLATORS; PROVIDE FOR SURVIVABILITYAND PROVISION OF AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Chairman Jones said he is the one who brought this issue forward to address before it became an issue. Trying to be proactive instead of reactive. The state of Florida defines an e-bike the same as a bike. I think we can have the decision as far as the beach; however, I believe on the bike paths, multi-use paths, we are going to have a hard time passing this with enforcement. I do not think they have a place on the beach. Attorney Shuler said the board has the authority to reduce the scope of the ordinance but cannot expand as advertised. Commissioner Amison said will that exclude the state park? If the state says they can use them on their beach. Attorney Shuler said as written it says all beaches in the county, the Board could exclude the geographically area if that is what they chose to do. Chairman Jones said I do not know if the state park allows e-bikes on the beach. Someone in the audience noted that they do. Chairman Jones said he is fine with taking no action or beach restrictions only. Commissioner Sanders noted that she has had a lot of people call her about this. A lot of the people were older and have invested a lot of money into these bikes. They did not want to ride on the beaches but the multi-use paths. Commissioner Ward asked Attorney Shuler if he had reached out to Attorney Hartman. He said he did speak to them, and he

was not able to speak on behalf of his client, however he did not believe they would have an issue with it. Commissioner Sanders said I feel good about it if we just limit it to the beaches. Or we can have the attorney clean it up a little bit and bring it back to us. Chairman Jones said the only thing is we must enforce it. We have enforcement issues anyway. Commissioner Ward said she too has been contacted by multiple people who opposed restricting on bike paths and multi-use paths. Attorney Shuler said he did speak with the sheriff and do not recall there being any objections. Only one thing he was not in favor of giving warnings and then a staggered fee amount. He was in favor of a set violation of the ordinance. In this case what I have presented to you was a civil fine of \$105 per violation. In terms of tabling this to a time certain, it will need to be a certain date time and place to avoid readvertising. Public beaches that are owned by Franklin County and by the state park system except for St. George Island State Park. Commissioner Sanders said she would rather see it on paper and get the comments from the public. I am thinking if we are having a problem with the beaches and destroying the beaches. Commissioner Amison said as of right now there is no restrictions on e-bikes.

Commissioner Sanders made a motion to table and readvertise.

Mr. Hodson from State Park said he has not had any complaints regarding the e-bikes. We see it more as an assistive device. We have had no complaints from the public or natural resources. We have never had any documented issues on sand dunes etc. I have seen some on the beach, but they do it responsibly. Commissioner Lockley asked about repeat offenders \$105 each time.

Chairman Jones said he brought it forward because of potential safety issues. But there have been no incidents. If we are going to try to enforce restricting them in certain spots, we are tasking our sheriff with an incredible task. Commissioner Sanders said she agreed. She said there are several companies in the county who are selling them. Mr. Moron said we would be asking to restrict use on paths that the state funded. Attorney Shuler suggested calling for public comments for anyone in favor of the ordinance. Chairman Jones called for public comments for those in favor of the ordinance. Robert Slider spoke against the ordinance. ordinance. Michael Pace spoke on behalf of Bicycle House and against the ordinance. Cheryl Klaus appreciated the proactive approach. Believes the ordinance would have an enforcement issue. Eve Devaughn believes dunes are already protected. Janet Jocelyn spoke in support of the ordinance prohibiting e-bikes from bike trails and multiuse paths. Jon D-T spoke against ordinance. It is about being a responsible rider. The sidewalk is the only place that would make sense to ban. have we defined what an e-bike is. There are some mopeds. If we are going down this path, make sure we have enforcement capabilities. Otherwise, it is doing no good. John Berry believes there is a bill on the e-bikes on Governor's desk. Whatever we do I do not think we can be more restrictive than state law. Chairman Jones said specifically the bike trail we have on the island is it a Sun Trail? It is a greenway trail. When we first started looking at this the sun trails are for non-motorized. Commissioner Amison withdrew his motion to table. Michael Pace noted he does the mapping for the sun trail. It is in preconstruction phase in Panacea. Attorney Shuler said based on the commentary it appears consensus is to not adopt the ordinance. Commissioner Sanders made a motion to not approve the ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Amison. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board moved to Item 5 at this time.

David Walker - Weems CEO - Quarterly Update & Request

Action item: Southland Emergency Medical Services

Commissioner Lockley confirmed this is for the er doctor, as well as inpatient. Commissioner Amison said they have had no increase since 2011. Commissioner Ward asked if there is a doctor who has this group. Yes, Dr. Hart. The contract terms do not change, just the amount. Commissioner Ward said it is going to go up

incrementally.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Southland Emergency Medical Services agreement contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review. Commissioner Ward said these doctors not only serve the er patients but also the inpatient. Motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Lockley said back when Dr. Hart came in, we were in bad shape.

NURSING CALL SYSTEM – \$49,068

Commissioner Ward inquired about what the nursing call system entailed. Mr. Walker said it is basically a call system to the nurses' station, with an emergency button. On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the purchase of the nursing call system. Motion carried 5-0.

Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board Report

1. Variance Requests

All Variance requests will be discussed and acted on an individual basis.

a. 328 Patton Street

Consideration of a request for a variance to encroach 47 feet into the rear 50-foot setback to install a vinyl seawall and limestone riprap at the property located at 328 Patton Street, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Ulrich Construction, agent for Gator Bait SGI, LLC.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request for a variance to encroach 47 feet into the rear 50-foot setback to install a vinyl seawall and limestone riprap at the property located at 328 Patton Street, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Critical Shoreline Applications

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

a. 328 Patton Street

Consideration of a request to construct a 98-foot Limestone Rip Rap & Vinyl sheet pile sea wall located at 328 Patton Street, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Ulrich Construction, agent for Gator Bait SGI, LLC

b. 380 Alligator Drive

Consideration of a request to construct a 4'x100' foot access pier, a 10'x16' terminal platform, and a 24'x12' boat roof at the property located at 680 Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc, agent for Jeffrey McClellan, applicant.

c. 1469 E Gulf Beach Drive

Consideration of a request to construct a 301'x4' single family private dock with a 6'x26' terminus and (2) 12'x20' Boat Lifts located at 1469 East Gulf Beach Drive, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for Greg Temples, applicant.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved each of the three (3) above referenced Critical Shoreline Applications. Attorney Shuler confirmed each of these were approved contingent upon state and federal permit issuance. Motion carried 5-0.

3. 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. 255 US Hwy 98

Consideration of a request for Commercial Site Plan review of a 5-foot fence installation located at 255 US Hwy 98, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Kevin Queen, owner.

Mr. Moron noted that the above referenced item should not have been added to the agenda as an action item. Mr. Moron noted that the county has not required permits for fencing in a long time. He said he would like to begin requiring them again, at no charge for residential and minimal charge for commercial. The permits would be approved by staff. Mr. Moron said we will go back to our original policy, and we will update the website accordingly. Commissioner Ward noted that we need consistency with policies. She noted that basically Mr. Moron is wanting to charge for commercial fencing and not residential. Chairman Jones noted the height restrictions are 46 feet and not 35.

4. Plat Applications

a. Enclave At St. James Bay Consideration of a request for preliminary plat review for Enclave at St. James Bay.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request for preliminary plat review for Enclave at St. James Bay. Mr. Bobby Miller attended the meeting to answer any questions the Board may have. There were none. Motion carried 5-0.

At this time, the Board recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

County Staff & Attorney Reports

- **5.** Erin Griffith Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator
- 1. BOARD ACTION: TAX COLLECTOR SERVER AND ROUTER

At the February 21st meeting, the Board approved the cancellation settlement of the contract with

Government Software Assurance Corporation for the Tax Collector's Office. At that same meeting, the Board approved depositing the settlement proceeds to the county's general fund and allocated approximately \$69,867.92 of the \$180,000 for hardware upgrades in the Tax Collector's Office. The settlement check has been received and the final hardware quotes from Net South (the contracted IT Services Provider for the Tax Collector's Office) total \$70,167.92 with freight.

Board action to approve and authorize the issuance of two purchase orders for the attached hardware quotes.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the issuance of two purchase orders for the attached hardware quotes. Motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Lockley absent.

2. BOARD ACTION: TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PATH APPLICATIONS SPONSOR CERTIFICATION FORMS

The Florida Department of Transportation has completed their preliminary review of the two Transportation Alternatives applications the County submitted in February: River Road and Alligator Drive Multi-Use Paths. The attached document says the County supports the projects, will provide any pledged match (which was none) and will maintain the project.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the Certification of Project Sponsor for both the River Road Multi-Use Path and the Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the chairman to sign the Certification of Project Sponsor for both the River Road Multi-Use Path and the Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path. Motion carried 4-0.

3. BOARD ACTION: AIRPORT OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL PHASE II FAA GRANT APPLICATION

At the last meeting, only one bid was received for the next phase of the Airport Obstruction Removal Project. Based on the bid submitted by Collins Land Services, AVCON prepared the attached FAA grant application package for County signature and submittal to the FAA.

AVCON has received approval from the FAA to proceed with awarding the base bid and Alternates A, C, and E (shown in the aerial below) once the grant application is processed and the agreement signed.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman's signature on the FAA grant application for the next phase of the Airport Obstruction Removal Project.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board, the Board approved and authorized the chairman's signature on the FAA grant application for the next phase of the Airport Obstruction Removal Project. Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Griffith requested the Board approve Task Order No. 10: Professional Grant Coordination, Bid, and Construction Phase Services Obstruction Removal-Phase 2 for the Apalachicola Regional Airport. The total for this task order is \$59,700.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, to approve the AVCON, Inc, task order as referenced above. Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none.

Motion carried 4-0.

4. BOARD ACTION: AIRPORT FUEL FARM NOTICE OF AWARD / TRIUMPH AMENDMENT

The request for additional funding for the Airport Fuel Farm project was approved at the bi-monthly Triumph Gulf Coast Board Meeting on Thursday, May 11th. After three attempts to solicit bids on the project, only one bid was received that exceeded the grant award. The attached amendment to the grant agreement increases the funding for the project from RESTORE's Triumph Gulf Coast from \$1,0590,000 to \$2,311,182. This amount will fund the sole bid and once the attached agreement is fully executed, the county can move forward with issuing the notice of award and construction contract documents at the next meeting.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman's signature on the attached amendment to the grant award agreement.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the chairman's signature on the attached amendment to the grant award agreement. Motion carried 4-0.

5. BOARD ACTION: E911 SYSTEM REGIONAL GRANT

At the June 15, 2021, meeting the Board approved the Region 1 GIS Mapping Grant (NG-911) grant agreement. This was a five-year grant program which interfaces mapping data within the region and leverages technology to enhance response times along with providing additional mapping detail and services to process incoming 911 calls. Years two through five of the projects are covered by a separate grant agreement which also required the chairman's signature. The E911 coordinator has requested retroactive approval of the attached as year's two through five began on April 1st, 2022.

Board action to grant retroactive approval of the agreement back to April 1, 2022 and authorize the chairman to sign the attached grant agreement for years 2-5 of the Regional NG-911 project.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board granted retroactive approval of the agreement back to April 1, 2022, and authorize the chairman to sign the attached grant agreement for years 2-5 of the Regional NG-911 project. Motion carried 4-0.

6. BOARD ACTION: CANCELLATION AND RE-ISSUE OF PURCHASE ORDERS FOR LANDFILL ROLL-OFF TRUCKS

In October of 2021, Franklin County issued purchase orders for the two-landfill roll-off trucks approved as part of the 2021/2022 budget process. At that time, it was estimated that the trucks would take around 8-12 months for delivery. Unfortunately, after numerous delays, there is still no firm manufacturing date for the two trucks from Ward International. Ward International did attempt to quote one other make and model truck for Franklin County but the truck was around thirty thousand dollars over the prior approved contract price.

On May 8th after waiting twenty months and still receiving no indication of a manufacturing date, the Landfill Director Fonda Davis asked for cancellation of the orders. Nextran Truck Centers of Tallahassee has since been able to locate two comparable 2024 Mack trucks through contract pricing with the Florida Sheriff's Association. The cost difference for the 30,000-pound hook-hoist truck is a cost increase of \$16,838.12 and the cost difference for the 20,000-pound hook-hoist truck is \$13,973 from the original purchase orders issued twenty months ago. This purchase was to be paid from the county's capital outlay fund with annual payments

from the department. The two Mack Trucks quoted by Nextran are already on the lot and can be ready with the hook-hoist attachments within three months.

Board action to formally acknowledge the cancellation of purchase orders 22-8940 and 22-8941 and approve the issuance of two new purchase orders to Nextran of Tallahassee for the 20,000- and 30,000-pound hookhoist roll off trucks per the Florida Sheriff's Association contract pricing.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board formally acknowledged the cancellation of purchase orders 22-8940 and 22-8941 and approved the issuance of two new purchase orders to Nextran of Tallahassee for the 20,000- and 30,000-pound hook-hoist roll off trucks per the Florida Sheriff's Association contract pricing. Motion carried 4-0.

7. BOARD ACTION: APPROVAL OF LIST OF ITEMS FOR AUCTION

On Saturday, June 3rd Florida Auction Network will host a county equipment auction onsite at 9:00 a.m. either at Chapman Auditorium (space permitting) in Apalachicola or at the Franklin County Road Department in Eastpoint. There will be a chance for interested parties to preview the items the day before the auction if interested – as soon as the Auction Flyer is available, we will post it to the county website along with the list of authorized equipment approved today.

Board action to approve the removal from inventory and authorize the sale of the attached list of surplus equipment at the upcoming auction on Saturday, June 3rd.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the removal from inventory and authorized the sale of the attached list of surplus equipment at the upcoming auction on Saturday, June 3rd. Motion carried 4-0.

8. BOARD ACTION: EXCAVATOR FOR ROAD DEPARTMENT/MOSQUITO CONTROL

At the February 7, 2023, meeting, the Board authorized the issuance of a purchase order for the budgeted excavator for the Franklin County Road Department which will also be shared by the Mosquito Control Department. Ring Power and the Road Department have since determined that the Caterpillar 309 Hydraulic Excavator will be better suited than the 310 that was originally quoted.

Board action acknowledge the cancellation of purchase order 23-8977, for \$199,374 for the Caterpillar 310, and to issue a new purchase order for \$197,903 for the Caterpillar 309 per the attached quote based upon Florida Sheriff's Association contract pricing.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison to acknowledge the cancellation of purchase order 23-8977, for \$199,374 for the Caterpillar 310, and to issue a new purchase order for \$197,903 for the Caterpillar 309 per the attached quote based upon Florida Sheriff's Association contract pricing. Commissioner Ward asked if we were going through the Florida Sheriff's Association to save costs. Mrs. Griffith confirmed. Motion carried 4-0.

9. BOARD ACTION: MANUAL CHECK FOR COASTAL DREDGING COMPANY FOR ADDITIONAL DREDGE WORK AUTHORIZED IN EASTPOINT

Board action to approve issuance of a manual check to Coastal Dredging Company, Inc. for the \$275,000 additional dredge work pending receipt of the fully executed contract documents approved at the May 2^{nd} ,

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved issuance of a manual check to Coastal Dredging Company, Inc. for the \$275,000 additional dredge work pending receipt of the fully executed contract documents approved at the May 2nd, 2023, meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Jones noted they are using a traditional looking dredge and working 24/7. The \$275K came from Tourist Development tax dollars which is allowed to be spent on channels, estuaries, etc. Commissioner Sanders inquired about the depth of the channel. Chairman Jones noted that he will be meeting with a representative next week who will provide him with reports and make those available to the Board.

10. BOARD INFORMATION: SGI BOAT RAMP WAVE STUDY

Attached to this report is the final copy of the wave analysis performed by MRD and Associates for Dewberry Engineers as part of the SGI Boat Ramp Improvement Design Project. The original draft concept called for a floating wave attenuation device; however, the study determined that the water depth and wind direction was such that a floating groin would not be effective at the location. After modeling the various design alternatives, the most effective design proved to be a pile supported vertical panel breakwater that was approximately 155 feet long and 75 feet from the mouth of the basin. This design would reduce the 4.7-foot incident waves to less than 1 foot within the boat ramp basis. The proposed wall would also provide calm water in the temporary mooring location on the side of the seawall beside the ramp. Engineers will now pursue the pile supported vertical panel breakwater for the design as suggested in the wave analysis report.

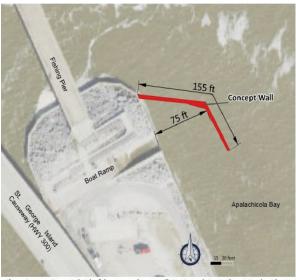


Figure 8. Concept sketch of the proposed wave wall structure relative to the existing boat basin

The concept sketch of the proposed wave wall structure is pasted below from the analysis report:

11. BOARD INFORMATION: MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES

6. Michael Morón – County Coordinator

1. Action Item: FAA Grants

Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on both Public Transportation Grant Agreements and accompanying resolutions. Attached to my report are two airport Florida Department of Transportation Public Transportation Grant Agreements (PTGA) for your approval. The first is an \$800,000 PTGA (416047-8) for Pavement Rehabilitation of the runways, taxiways, aprons, etc., and the second (451100-1)

is a \$400,000 PTGA for design and construct upgrades to the hangar roof. These projects were discussed with Mr. John Collins (AVCON) at previous meetings.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on both Public Transportation Grant Agreements and accompanying resolutions. Commissioner Amison inquired as to if this was strictly DOT or in partnership with FAA. Mr. Moron said FDOT sent the agreement, and he is unsure how much FAA is funding. He said normally FAA will fund and FDOT will put the match, so we do not have to. He noted he will find out the details and let Commissioner Amison know. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Action Item: ARPC Logo Redesign Agreement

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the ARPC agreement to design a new county logo. Chairman Jones, at the last meeting, asked the Board to consider engaging Apalachee Regional Planning Council's graphic design staff to design a new county logo. This new logo will be used on county stationary, vehicles, TDC signage, etc. Attorney Shuler has reviewed the attached ARPC agreement, so it is ready for approval and the Chairman's signature.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the ARPC agreement to design a new county logo. Commissioner Ward said that she knows that some of our emblems on the vehicles are different and the property appraiser has a different one. Will they all be the same? Mr. Moron noted that this will just be for county vehicles, not constitutional offices. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Action Item: ARPC GIS Amended Agreement

Board action to renew the ARPC agreement at \$65 per hour for GIS services. Recently, the Board agreed to Apalachee Regional Planning Council's request to increase their hourly rate from \$50 to \$65 per hour for GIS services provided to the County. Attorney Shuler has reviewed the amended agreement as directed by the Board, so it is ready for approval and the Chairman's signature.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, to renew the agreement at \$65 per hour for GIS services. Commissioner Ward just for clarification GIS is a mapping system that planning, and zoning uses and our county. She asked if this is the one 911 uses. Mr. Moron said this is not the same program the property appraiser and the sheriff's office uses. Chairman Jones said that this is also not to exceed \$10,000 or more. Mr. Moron said they have never charged us more than half that amount. Attorney Shuler noted the motion and second also included the extension. We were under the impression this contract was automatically renewed but it was not. Attorney Shuler asked for clarification on the motion and second to make sure if covered the renewal and the hourly rate increase. Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Sanders confirmed their motion and second was for both the renewal and hourly rate increase. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Action Item: CareerSource Rental Agreement

Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on a 3-year lease at with CareerSource for office space in the Fort Coombs Armory for \$400 per month. At your April 18th meeting, the Board was informed of CareerSource's search for new office space, and I recommended the offices in the Armory. Those offices were previously occupied by the SHIP program. Mrs. Bodine visited the Armory last week and is interested in leasing the office space. There is a 3-year lease (attached) that includes a \$400 monthly rate, already reviewed by Attorney Shuler, that is ready for the Chairman's signature.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on a 3-year lease at with CareerSource for office space in the Fort Coombs Armory for \$400 per month. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Action Item: Eastpoint Project Extension

Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on all necessary documentation for a six-month extension of the Highway Beautification Project for Eastpoint. Staff received a request from The Eastpoint Civic Association for a six-month extension on the FDOT funded Highway Beautification Project for Eastpoint, extending the deadline to December 31, 2023. The County applied for this grant on behalf of the Eastpoint Civic Association. There is no cost to this extension, however, the Chairman's signature will be required on a letter and other documentation that will be submitted to FDOT.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on all necessary documentation for a six-month extension of the Highway Beautification Project for Eastpoint. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Discussion/Possible Action: Brownsville Road Speed Limit

At your last meeting, Commissioner Amison discussed a speeding issue on Brownsville Road and the possibility of reducing the speed limit in that area. As part of Brownsville Road is within the City of Apalachicola, Commissioner Amison discussed this proposal with City officials, and they agreed to a speed limit reduction. Earlier this morning during the golf cart public hearing, Attorney Shuler may have discussed the Florida Statute that allows the County to reduce speed limits on County roads to 30 mph without a traffic investigation or study that may be related to this discussion. How would the Board like to proceed with this matter? Board discussion.

Attorney Shuler said he contacted Dan Hartman and shared his research with him so when he goes back to speak with his client, he will have all the information. Attorney Shuler said the Board would need to act on this matter. Mr. Moron said he will add to the June 6th agenda for action.

7. Discussion Item: Beach fires

Staff has been contacted by residents on the increasing number of beach fires on St. George Island beach. The main issue with these beach fires is the hot wood or other material used during the fire being left on the beach, sometimes slightly covered by sand, creating a safety issue for anyone walking on the beach. Currently, there is not an ordinance, or language in the Leave No Trace ordinance, that prohibits bonfires on the beach. Board discussion.

Commissioner Ward noted that we have no ordinance, but it is also an enforcement issue. Mr. Moron said this is basically party fires.

Attorney Shuler noted we do have an ordinance about warming fires on Old Carrabelle Beach but there is no ordinance prohibiting beach fires countywide. He noted there was an issue years ago where someone stepped on some hot coals on St. George Island and sued the county. Attorney Shuler noted that if the Board wanted to move forward with prohibiting fires, there would need to be an ordinance put in place. Chairman Jones said he is not in favor of creating any more ordinances that we cannot enforce. Chairman Jones asked Mr. Moron to contact the concerned citizens and let them know the Board has discussed and we are looking for a clear path forward.

8. Discussion Item: Senior Services Update/Garden Club

There have been discussions between Senior Citizens Council representatives and Mrs. Lisa Bretz of Area Agency on Aging regarding the use of the Senior Citizen Center located in Carrabelle as a congregate center for the senior citizens that were displaced when the Garden Club building was closed. Recently, I sent you an email indicating that the discussions are not going well. Mrs. Bretz informed me that Area Agency on Aging is willing to transfer the Garden Club building to the County, but they would need some assistance from the County Attorney. As the Board has expressed its willingness to own that building, I asked Attorney

Shuler to contact Mrs. Bretz to find out what assistance is needed. Hopefully, by your June 6th meeting, Attorney Shuler will have an update on the transfer of ownership of that building. Board Discussion.

9. Informational Item: LTPT Chairman

Inform the Board that your Local Technology Planning Team Chairman, Mrs. Pat O'Connell, is resigning from that seat for personal reasons. I would like to thank Mrs. O'Connell for her hard work on this committee and other county projects. She will be missed! Chairman Jones is in the process of finding a replacement.

10. Informational Item: Agendas

A few meetings back, we discussed approving a meeting and public comment policy for your meetings. One of the issues raised during these discussions was a better format for the public to view the agenda and related reports. This morning I will review the new agenda format for your review.

11. Informational Item: Beaver Dam Removal Update

At your May 2nd regular meeting, Mr. Dewitt Polous (Mosquito Control Director) presented a \$19,150 proposal to remove a beaver dam located in the City of Carrabelle. The Board approved this project but asked Mr. Polous to present this proposal to the City of Carrabelle and ask if they would contribute to the cost. The city agreed to a cost share amount of \$9,500. With that said, Chairman Jones signed the proposal. Mr. Polous will update the Board and the City as the project progresses.

12. Informational Item: Next Meeting Date

As a reminder, there is a workshop scheduled this afternoon at 1:30 p.m. (ET) to discuss the Travel Trailers, Motor Homes, & Mobile Campers Ordinance. There is another workshop scheduled on Tuesday, May 23rd at 1:30 p.m. (ET) to hear from Eastpoint Water and Sewer District representatives and the developer/contractor on a Public/Private "Workforce" affordable housing partnership project. Your next regular meeting is scheduled for June 6th at 9:00 a.m. (ET).

- 7. Michael Shuler County Attorney
- 1. Golf Cart Ordinance for Alligator Point *Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*
- 2. Ordinance Prohibiting Electric Bikes or E-Bikes *Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

Informational Items

- 3. Regions Bank vs. Lynn Long, Trustee, et al. (2022-71-CA)
 Regions Bank filed a mortgage foreclosure lawsuit against Ms. Lyon Long, Trustee. Franklin County is named in the foreclosure because of the stipulated final judgement we obtained against Ms. Lynn Long, Trustee, for abatement (removal) of the nuisance caused by her home and septic system that were severely damaged by Hurricane Michael. The house and septic tank have been removed. The county expresses no opinion regarding the validity of the allegations made in the lawsuit.
- 4. Bank of New York Mellon vs. Jeff Galloway, et al. (23-34-CA)
 A mortgage foreclosure lawsuit has been filed against Mr. Galloway. Franklin County is named as a defendant because of two special assessment liens filed for non-payment of the MSBU fire special assessments in 2007 (\$42.00) and 2012 (\$50.00). The county expresses no opinion concerning the validity of the allegations set forth in the lawsuit.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Ward noted Eastpoint Civic Association is in the process of replacing the welcome signs in Eastpoint and will place them to not obstruct view.

Chairman Jones announced the girls' softball team would be playing for regionals tonight.

Attorney Shuler added into the record the documents for the abandonment of part of Bay City Road, Apalachicola, Florida. He submitted a copy of the recorded Notice of Public Hearing, Resolution of the Board granting the petition for abandonment, and the Notice of Advertising the Notice of Adoption of Resolution.

Mrs. Griffith noted that Louie from EMS was not included on the mass emails regarding the upcoming auction. He has requested to add two items to the auction which include a 2006 Chevrolet Tahoe and a 2008 Chevrolet 4500. Attorney Shuler noted that the Board would need to approve the addition by motion and vote. On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, to approve adding the 2006 Chevrolet Tahoe and 2008 Chevrolet 4500 from EMS services to the upcoming auction list. Motion carried 4-0.

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.