

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
AUGUST 1, 2023  
9:00 AM  
MINUTES**

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

Commissioner Absent: Noah Lockley

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, and Erin Griffith-Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance Approval of the Agenda**

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

Chairman Jones noted there were several changes to the agenda.

1. Board action for direction to FDOT to remove trees on state right of way that are causing obstruction in Eastpoint. (Chairman Jones)
2. Board action for direction to FDOT to remove trees on state right of way that are causing obstruction in Lanark and St. James Bay. (Commissioner Sanders)
3. Board action to approve second invoice for removal of spoil material. (Attorney Shuler)

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda with the additions as stated above. Motion carried 4-0.**

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

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

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Payment of County Bills and the Board minutes from the Regular Meeting on June 20, 2023.**

**Public Comments**

Ms. Sharon Eaton expressed concerns of a new 60-foot road being built close to her home in Lanark endangering an oak tree that she cared for. She noted that she was never notified and is objecting to them building the new road. Commissioner Sanders said she does not normally answer back during public comments. However, she asked Mr. Moron to investigate this matter to see if it was county property, and to make sure they were not doing anything wrong. Chairman Jones noted that maybe the total easement is 60 foot and not the road. He noted roads are normally 20-24 feet wide. He noted that if it is a power easement, the Board has no say in that. Chairman Jones said it is an issue to be investigated. He noted that county roads should only be worked on by county employees.

Ms. Debi Jordan voiced her concerns about the new road also. She spoke about a handful of fence violations that have been issued recently in Lanark. She urged the board to look at the restrictions of the S4 special zoning. Ms. Jordan would like the board to hold a hearing to let the residents voice their opinions and suggestions on the S4. Mr. Moron noted that in doing so it may affect how we deal with code enforcement. If each time a violation is issued, we hold a hearing.

### Constitutional Officers

#### 3. Michele Maxwell - Clerk of Court

##### a. Value Adjustment Board Appointment

Commissioner Ward said she does not mind serving again and suggested Commissioner Amison be appointed also. Chairman Jones inquired if the board had a citizen member in mind to appoint. Clerk Maxwell noted that Mr. Donnie Gay has served in years past. However, he is unable to serve due to current commitments. Commissioner Ward gave a brief description of the duties. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to appoint Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Amison. Seconded by Commissioner Ward. Motion carried 4-0.** Chairman Jones asked if anyone had any suggestions for a citizen member. Commissioner Ward asked if we could put an announcement out to see if any citizens were interested in serving. Mr. Moron noted that he will add it to the website to see if there are any interests.

##### b. Free Property Fraud Alert Service

Clerk Maxwell announced the new property fraud alert service offered through the clerk's office. She demonstrated the website <https://temp.propertyfraudalert.com/FLFranklin> and sign-up process.

### Department Directors Reports

#### 4. Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Roads and Bridges

Mr. Nabors noted there had been some complaints on South Bayshore and Tom Roberts Road. Commissioner Ward noted that she had received an email from Benny Jacobs regarding a complaint. She made the public aware this was not in her district however she did not mind helping to resolve the issue. She wanted fellow commissioners to know that if they receive complaints, she does not mind them making decisions to resolve the issue. Commissioner Sanders noted that Ward had not stepped on any toes, and she too had been in contact with the citizens and Mr. Nabors. Commissioner Sanders said the citizens need to understand that the road department has a schedule they abide by throughout the county. The work will get done when they can get to it. Commissioner Sanders encouraged employees to be careful in the heat. Commissioner Ward echoed Commissioner Sanders and noted that we do not need to disservice our community due to lack of inmates. To get services, the residents are awaiting we are going to have to pay employees. Commissioner Amison noted that there are some pine trees down laying on top of an oak tree in between Big Oaks and the Kirvin property. Chairman Jones brought up the item added to the agenda regarding direction to FDOT to remove trees on state right of way that are causing obstruction in Eastpoint north side of Hwy 98. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to send a letter to FDOT regarding the removal of trees on state right of way that are causing obstruction in Eastpoint north side of Hwy 98. Motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Amison noted that we have a lot of trees that are impeding visibility. Chairman Jones said we can address them, but we do not have anything written out showing all the easements. Some are 60–100-foot rights-of-way. We must make sure what the easement is. Mr. Moron noted that if Howard's

department could not handle it, we would have to contract it out. He encouraged each of the commissioners to look at their districts for a list. Commissioner Ward noted that we also must account for Duke Energy and trees being entangled in lines. Commissioner Sanders noted there were some in Lanark causing safety issues. Commissioner Amison said the biggest concern for him is having to get out in the road to see. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to have Benny Jacobs look at the trees in Lanark obstructing traffic. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Chairman Jones suggested engaging contractor to give us a layout of the condition of all roads in the county. He noted some owners have spent money on roads to get them up to standards. We could have him look at those roads also. Mr. Nabors suggested maybe doing some type of maintenance yearly if homeowners pay for materials.

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

**9. BOARD ACTION: AMENDED LAND USE PLAN OLD FDOT BUILDING EAST OF CARRABELLE**

Franklin County has a long-term lease agreement with the State of Florida for the old Carrabelle Annex location east of Carrabelle. As the county is responsible for the maintenance of this location during the duration of the lease, the county will need to either commit to repairing the pole barn structures or request permission to demolish any of the old/unsafe storage areas. The parks department is in favor of asking the State for permission to demolish the unsafe pole barn/storage structures and plans to purchase a metal carport to safely shelter their equipment. The attached amended land use plan also provides a timeline to the state for the replacement of the roof on the main building (which is currently out to bid).

*Board action to approve the attached amended land use plan.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached amended land use plan. Motion carried 4-0.**

**10. BOARD ACTION: LANDFILL TRANSFER STATION BOXES**

The landfill transfer station boxes have been repaired and re-welded several times already. The boxes are at the end of their useful life and are nearly unsafe for transport. The attached \$48,364.56 quote for three boxes from Marathon Equipment is based on Sourcewell Contract Pricing.

*Board action to approve the purchase of (3) boxes for the landfill transfer station based on Sourcewell contract pricing to be paid from the Landfill Tipping Fee Fund.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the purchase of (3) boxes for the landfill transfer station based on Sourcewell contract pricing to be paid from the Landfill Tipping Fee Fund. Motion carried 4-0.**

**11. BOARD ACTION: EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT LANDFILL CAP MATERIAL**

At The June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board approved the emergency purchase of up to \$100,000 in clay material from the landfill tipping fee fund to address the FDEP preventative measure plan to mitigate and slow leachate production from the landfill. The notice of corrective action letter from FDEP is included for reference. To be able to fund this emergency procurement of clay, the budget amendment below is needed as the transfer to fund the additional material.

INCREASE: Landfill Tipping Fees Repair & Maintenance \$100,000.00

DECREASE: Landfill Tipping Fees Transfer to General Fund \$100,000.00

*Board action to approve the budget amendment above to fund the emergency procurement of clay for the landfill cap.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the budget amendment to fund the emergency procurement of clay for the landfill cap. Motion carried 4-0.**

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

Mr. Moron noted that he had received an email praising animal control staff and how they had handled a situation. Commissioner Ward commended employee and asked Mr. Davis to please pass along. Mr. Davis had technical difficulties and was unable to speak to commissioners. Chairman Jones noted a few highlights from his report: having to find new vendor for waste tire hauler; compactor down for three weeks. Chairman Jones said each of the commissioners could contact Mr. Davis individually should they have any questions for Mr. Davis. He thanked him for all he does.

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

Action Items:

1. Request the Board's approval and signature of the Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant (EMPA) in the amount of \$105,806.00. This is the grant we receive from the State every year.

**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 to sign the Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant (EMPA) in the amount of \$105,806.00.** Chairman Jones asked if this grant was calculated into the draft budget. Mrs. Griffith confirmed that it was calculated in. **Motion carried 4-0.**

2. Request the Board's approval and signature of the extension of the disaster debris removal and disposal services contract with Crowder Gulf for (1) one year.

3. Request the Board's approval and signature of the extension of the disaster debris removal and disposal services contract with SDR for (1) one year.

4. Request the Board's approval and signature of the extension of the disaster debris removal and disposal services contract with Ceres Environmental for (1) one year.

5. Request the Board's approval and signature of the extension of the disaster debris removal and disposal services contract for DP&O for (1) one year.

Chairman Jones confirmed that these are all (2) two-year contracts with a request for a (1) one year extension. Mrs. Daniels confirmed and requested the Board approve a fifth contract extension that had come in late (Tetra Tech).

6. Request the Board's approval and signature of the extension of the disaster debris removal and disposal services contract with Tetra Tech for (1) one year.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous**

**vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the (1) one-year extensions for the disaster debris removal and disposal services contracts with Crowder Gulf, SDR, Ceres Environmental, DP&O, and Tetra Tech.** Due to the fifth contract being added to the agenda, Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none. **Motion carried 4-0.** In Commissioner Lockley’s absence, Commissioner Ward asked if we were ‘storm ready’. Mrs. Daniels confirmed that we are.

**7. Dewitt Polous – Mosquito Control Director**

Mr. Polous had no action items for the Board. He gave a brief overview of his written report. Mr. Polous noted that Rusty and the mechanics had put together the ‘beaver deceiver’. If this works, there are several other places throughout the county it can be used. He noted in the future there needs to be talks with the city about Gray Avenue and Hwy 98 as it bottle-necks up there. Commissioner Sanders noted the new ‘bricks’ being placed in the ditches to kill the mosquitos seems to be a money and time saver.

**8. Erik Lovestrand – Extension Office Director**

Mr. Lovestrand had no action items for the Board. Chairman Jones asked if we had any youth who attended the 4H camp this year. Mr. Lovestrand noted that two participants of the public speaking contest attended.

**9. Whitney Roundtree – Library Director**

Action Items:

1. Permission to close both library branches December 11th, 2023, for the annual Wilderness Coast Libraries Staff Development Day at the Wakulla Library. Linda Bruno will be presenting a workshop on Servant Leadership. WILD will reimburse staff for travel.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized closing both library branches on December 11th, 2023, for the annual Wilderness Coast Libraries Staff Development Day at the Wakulla Library. Motion carried 4-0.**

2. Permission to temporarily change Tuesday hours at the Carrabelle Branch from 9-5 to 12-9 PM to accommodate Community Action’s “Getting Ahead” program.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized temporarily changing Tuesday hours at the Carrabelle Branch from 9-5 to 12-9 PM to accommodate Community Action’s “Getting Ahead” program. Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Moron presented the following item from his report at this time.

10. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Eastpoint Library Branch Loan Assumption

Last week, Chairman Jones, Mrs. Erin Griffith, and I met with Friends of the Library representatives. The reason for the meeting, as stated during the Budget Workshop, was to discuss the possibility of transferring ownership of the Eastpoint Library building to the County with the County assuming the balance of the outstanding \$165,530 USDA loan on the building. Because of escalating insurance, maintenance, and other costs related to the building, it has become a serious financial burden on the Friends of the Library to continue ownership of the building. Is the Board willing to have staff and Attorney Shuler discuss options with USDA to assume or pay off the loan balance?

Board discussion and possible action.

Chairman Jones spoke in favor of the request noting the Friends of the Library want to be involved in the programs at the library. They would rather spend their time in the library instead of managing the building. Chairman Jones noted the property consists of about (13) thirteen acres. However, over half of the

property is wetlands. **On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff and Attorney Shuler to discuss options with USDA to assume or pay off the loan balance. Motion carried 4-0.**

At this time, Clerk Maxwell announced that Mr. Mason Bean had graciously volunteered to serve on the Value Adjustment Board. **On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board appointed Mason Bean as the citizen to serve on the Value Adjustment Board. Motion carried 4-0.**

### **Other Reports**

#### **10. Ted Mosteller – Interim Airport Manager**

Mr. Mosteller had no action items for the Board. FDOT with the change of personnel and my final draft for security plan has been approved. We are in line to have license renewed. Make note that Saturday I was approached by another pilot looking to rent box hanger. He was willing to build his own on leased property. We had AEOD meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> and he deferred to Mr. Kirschenbaum. Commissioner Amison inquired if Centric had provided the list of tenants for all t-hangers. Mr. Mosteller said they had not yet done so. Commissioner Amison noted that they have not coordinated with the airport manager. Whenever we ask for this stuff Centric needs to cooperate. Especially with the safety plan, this could shut the airport down. There needs to be a better relationship with our manager and FBO.

### **Presentations/Updates/Requests**

#### **11. Steve Kirschenbaum - AOED Chairman - Presentation**

Mr. Kirschenbaum noted his intentions for getting on the board was to bring opportunity to the community.

Mr. John Collins spoke to the Board about a conceptual design of t-hanger project at the airport. Mr. Collins noted that there is a demand for the hangers. He noted the estimate to construct the buildings would be about \$100 per square foot. He said the county could approach Triumph for funding and or FDOT for additional funding. He noted the idea was to allow for land leases to private individuals for development. The first steps in the project would be acquiring FDOT support funding and approving formally changing the funding allocation from utility improvements to hanger improvements. He noted the airport had around \$800k allocated for utility improvements this year. He said at the AOED board meeting, the board unanimously agreed the hanger development was a better option over utility improvements. He said the \$800k would not entirely fund the entire build. However, the plan would be to fund the design and entire build out and to construct as much of the utilities as possible. Previously the FDOT said they would not provide funding due to the way the Centric agreement was set up. However, with that being resolved, FDOT has confirmed they would provide funding for hangers. Mr. Collins noted that Mr. Kirschenbaum was requesting the Board approve to formally change the current year funding of the utility improvement program to the hanger improvement program. The following resolution was drafted and will be provided for Board approval as follows.

RESOLUTION  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APALACHICOLA REGIONAL AIRPORT MANAGER TO COORDINATE WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FOOT) TO CHANGE THE PROJECT NAME FOR FOOT NUMBER 425613-6 FROM:

"Design and Construct Utility Improvements"

TO:

"Design and Construct West Hangar Developments"

AND REVISE THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION ACCORDINGLY.

WHEREAS Franklin County owns and operates the Apalachicola Regional Airport which serves the Franklin County regional area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THAT THE WORK SPECIFIED IN THE REVISED PROJECT NAME AND DESCRIPTION IS SANCTIONED AND THE APALACHICOLA REGIONAL AIRPORT MANAGER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO COORDINATE THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FOOT AND PROVIDE THE AGREEMENT TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR SIGNATURE.

Chairman Jones inquired if the Board had been provided a copy of the resolution. Mr. Moron noted that he inadvertently omitted it from the packet. Mr. Kirschenbaum noted that one other thing to consider was the FDOT is very overextended, and they are looking to cut projects that is not allocated. If we get this inked up it is written in granite, but if we sit on it, we could lose it. Chairman Jones noted that he is fine with approving this today. However, the Board cannot approve a resolution that they have not seen. Mr. Moron noted that this is a general resolution. He would recommend approving the resolution contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review and approval. **Commissioner Amison made a motion to approve the resolution contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review and approval. Seconded by Commissioner Ward. Motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Amison asked if FAA was opened to any funding for this project. Mr. Collins said the only way they would ever fund a hanger would be if all the runways and lighting was in tip top shape. Mr. Collins noted that is not uncommon for some airports to not spend the money given by FDOT. The money goes back to FDOT, and they must find someone to fund a project. The money would then be allocated to a shovel ready project. That is why it is important to already have a plan in place. This opens the door to make sure we can pull that money to Apalachicola and not other places. Chairman Jones said the potentiality we are talking about a million and a half to two million dollars for the project. Mr. Kirshenbaum replied saying the total project would be about \$8 million, however, they believe to it will be about \$2 million for the box hangers. Mr. Kirshenbaum thanked the Board for their support on this. He said the next step with the Board's blessing would be to sit down with representatives with Triumph to find out how this project could be eligible for funding. He noted they planned to prioritize upcoming projects for Mr. Collins, and then start marketing. Commissioner Amison said he met with FDOT representative Tim Williams. He said the state of Florida outspends all the other 49 states combined. He said my job is to get you money. He said there is a lot of potential to get money to the airport. Commissioner Sanders noted she is concerned that the FBO is not getting information to Mr. Mosteller. Commissioner Sanders said we have a good start to getting this airport up and running. She said she does not want anyone taking away from the manager if he has reports to get out. Commissioner Amison said he believed that Centric was worried about giving out client's personal information. He noted that those clients would still rent from the airport even if Centric went away. Commissioner Ward said it is a county owned airport. Mr. Mosteller said they were reluctant to give out the tenants' emergency contact information. Commissioner Ward said she would like to give them a deadline. Commissioner Amison said they have updated the list and FDOT is happy with it. However, it is still missing contact information etc. Down the road if FDOT comes back and says it is not complete, they are going to call the airport manager. It is ridiculous that we have a vendor that is not working with our staff. Chairman Jones said we need to know who is there. Mr. Moron said he will go ahead and request the information on behalf of the Board and go from there.

## **12. David Walker - Weems CEO - New Building Presentation**

Mr. Walker spoke to the Board about moving forward with the hospital project as originally presented to AHCA in 2020. Mr. Walker proposed building the shell of the proposed building. However, only finishing

the inside of the emergency room and diagnostic center currently. Mr. Walker noted they do not have a definite price point but the estimate from TMH was \$700 sq foot and architect was \$1,000 sq foot. On the high end for ED and diagnostics, the total cost would be between \$13 and \$17 million. Mr. Walker recommended using USDA loan funding to fund the project and use the healthcare fund for other healthcare needs. He noted that by using the previously proposed plans, the county may save money and the one million dollars to create the plan may not be wasted. He noted that there are some new building codes coming in 2024. However, if AHCA approves stage three, the codes would be locked in at that time. Chairman Jones wanted to make sure we were not moving forward with plans that were out of code. Mr. Walker said a secure room in the emergency room would also have to be added in. Commissioner Ward noted that these plans were based on 2014 FGI guidelines for AHCA and some would have to be revised. Commissioner Ward inquired if we had received a revised estimate for the ED stand alone. Chairman Jones recapped his interpretation of what Mr. Walker was requesting which is moving forward with a shell of the entire building heated and cooled and completion of the ED and diagnostic center. Chairman Jones noted that he would rather not piece meal it together and would rather build the entire building at one time. Mr. Walker confirmed noting they planned to build the shell of the 10-bed wing and not complete it inside. Mr. Moron noted he was hearing that they are trying to build the project as approved as not to waste the money already spent. Commissioner Amison inquired if Mr. Walker had an idea of the cost for the financial feasibility study, architectural study and possible permits needed? If it is going to cost \$800k for these things, would it be better to start all over? Commissioner Amison asked if it would be more cost efficient to eat the one million dollars and go back to what you asked the Board in February which was an ED only. Chairman Jones asked if they had plans for the ED only. Mr. Walker said they had only given him a price point. Chairman Jones asked if the ED only document had been approved yet. Mr. Walker said no it has not. Chairman Jones noted that the document they are looking at is what AHCA originally approved. He noted they needed an estimate of the cost to build the ED only to compare to the cost of building the originally planned. Commissioner Ward spoke concerns about building codes and requirement having changed since 2017. She asked if they could have the architect draw up plans for stand alone ED. She noted that she agrees with Commissioner Amison, and we need to make sure we do it the most fiscally responsible. We need to make sure we do not lose money in the long run. Mr. Walker noted that AHCA had already approved the plans, but we could start over. However, it may take us two years to get through the process. He said he was just trying to preserve some of the costs. Mr. Moron noted the Board needed to decide if they wanted to do an ED or build the entire building and build out the ED and diagnostics. Chairman Jones said if we resubmit what we have, ACHA is over the building codes, they are not going to or I do not think, they are going to say since you submitted before codes change you can build it. We need to get to a point that we can move past this. A new hospital facility in Apalachicola is just the beginning of the road. If we are spending time addressing the hospital, we cannot address the other healthcare issues in the county. We need to get past this and move on to other things that are just as important and lifesaving. If covid taught me anything, it is that I do not want to depend on any other county for your health care needs. Commissioner Sanders said he believed we talked about a free-standing ED. Mr. Moron said we did but we did not make a clear direction on where they were to go. The Board discussed requesting a quote on how much the freestanding ED would cost. Commissioner Ward asked if being designated a critical access facility we had to complete the entire project. Mr. Walker noted you do not have to do the entire build out at one time. Commissioner Sanders said she would like to see some updated numbers on the full project and on the free-standing ED. Chairman Jones said it is good to have an estimate but if we are going to make a real hard decision, we need to know for sure that we are good with this way or that way. Mr. Walker said we will need to engage with our architects again. Commissioner Amison said he would rather spend a little money now to make the best decision. Rather know what we are deciding on. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to direct Mr. Walker to request a hard number for a stand-alone ED and the shell built with diagnostics. Mr. Walker said put a stand-alone ED connected to the hospital. Commissioner Sanders said yes and with diagnostics. Seconded by Commissioner Amison.** Chairman Jones said once we get to a building, we have still been trying to hash out with Triumph that even though they cannot build a building. We are



looking at getting funding for equipment, etc. Commissioner Sanders asked if we received any money from Hurricane Michael. Chairman Jones said we did receive some. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Walker to see how quickly he could get that back to them. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Walker noted the USDA grant has been approved. We have two new vehicles for \$171,000 and the USDA will pick up the other half of that tab. Mrs. Griffith noted that she hopes to have a design proposal of the Lanark EMS station ready for the next meeting.

### **Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board Report**

#### **13. Variance Requests**

##### **a. 324 Patton Street**

A consideration of a request for a variance to encroach 47 feet into the rear 50-foot setback to install a vinyl seawall, limestone riprap, and backfill with clean soil to protect from future erosion at the property located at 324 Patton Street, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Dale and Susan Stephens, applicants.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request for a variance to encroach 47 feet into the rear 50-foot setback to install a vinyl seawall, limestone riprap, and backfill with clean soil to protect from future erosion at the property located at 324 Patton Street, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Dale and Susan Stephens, applicants. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **14. Critical Shoreline Applications**

##### **a. 324 Patton Street**

Consideration a request to construct a Vinyl seawall, limestone riprap, and backfill with clean soil along the western property at the property located at 324 Patton Street, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Dale and Susan Stephens, applicants.

##### **b. 371 Smith Road**

Consideration of a request to construct a single-family dock consisting of a 4'x398' boardwalk over wetlands that will connect to a 4'x72' dock with a 6'x26' terminus located at 371 Smith Road, Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agents for Charles Martin, applicant.

#### **15. Commercial Site Plan Applications**

##### **a. 24 Island Drive**

Consideration of a request for Commercial Site Plan review for two enclosed storage facilities to expand his current business at the property located at 24 Island Drive, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Christopher Varnes, applicant.

#### **16. Plat Applications**

##### **a. Heron's Crossing**

Consideration of a request to final plat approval for 31 Lots located on Leisure Lane, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Application submitted by Garlick Environmental, agent for Efiuff II St. George Island Property, LLC, applicant.

#### **17. Re-Zoning & Land Use Change Applications**

##### **a. James & Rhonda Delaney**

Consideration of a request for Public Hearing to rezone a 5-acre parcel from R-3 Single Family Estate Residential to R-3MH Single Family Estate Residential/Mobile Homes located at Section 30, Township 5 South, Range 7 West, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by James and Rhonda DeLaney, applicants.

**b. James & Rhonda Delaney**

Consideration of a request for Public Hearing to rezone a 5.28-acre parcel from R-3 Single Family Estate Residential to R-3MH Single Family Estate Residential/Mobile Homes located at Section 30, Township 5 South, Range 7 West, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by James and Rhonda DeLaney, applicants.

Commissioner Ward noted that she will have to abstain from voting on the 24 Island Drive item due to the applicant being a relative. Attorney Shuler noted the Board could vote on this item separately. Chairman Jones inquired about the Island Drive request asking if this was an addition to the existing. Mrs. Bankston noted this is for the property across the street and he is expanding his business. Mrs. Bankston noted the {&Z board voted unanimous on all items and the critical shoreline to be contingent upon state and federal permits.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, the Board approved items 14 a. & b., 16 a., and 17 a. & b. excluding Item 16 a. Motion carried 4-0.**

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, the Board approved Item 16 a. Motion carried 3-0, Commissioner Ward abstaining.**

**18. Zoning Administrator's Report**

1. Board approval to reinstate term limits for PZA Board Members to serve same 4-year term as the District Commissioner.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved reinstating term limits for PZA Board Members to serve same 4-year term as the District Commissioner. Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Moron noted the at-large members will serve the term of whatever district they live in.

2. Commercial Site Plan Application Fee
  - a. Board approval to require an application fee for Commercial Site Plan Review of \$250.00.
  - b. Board approval to charge double fee for Commercial Site Plan projects started without Board approval

Chairman Jones noted we need to look at a realistic way to address this. He noted that people start businesses, and we do not even know they have opened. Look at something different for the penalty. Mrs. Bankston noted they would also be charged a double permit fee if the fail to apply for site plan review before the project begins.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved items 2. a. & b. regarding Commercial Site Plan Application Fees. Motion carried 4-0.**

3. Critical Shoreline Application Fee

- a. Board approval to require an application fee for Critical Shoreline Applications of \$125.00.
- b. Board approval to charge double fee for Critical Shoreline projects started without Board approval.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved items 3. a. & b. regarding Critical Shoreline Application Fees. Motion carried 4-0.**

**RFP/RFQ/Bid Opening**

**19. Invitation To Bid - Franklin County Old Carrabelle Annex Re-roofing Project**

Sealed bids from Florida Licensed General Contractors will be received by the Franklin County Clerk’s Office, Franklin County Courthouse, until 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on Monday, July 17, 2023, located at 33 Market Street, Suite 203, Apalachicola, Florida 32320-2317 for the Franklin County Old Carrabelle Annex Re-roofing Project located at 1647 Hwy 98 E, Carrabelle, FL 32322. Bids will be publicly opened by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners at the County Commission Meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, located at 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, Florida 32320-2317. Sealed bids can be mailed, or hand delivered to the Franklin County Clerk of Courts Office at the Franklin County Courthouse, 33 Market Street, Suite 203, Apalachicola, FL 32320 and should be clearly labeled on the envelope ‘SEALED BID: Franklin County Old Carrabelle Annex Re-roofing Project.

Company	Location	Bid Amount	Bid Bond
Parker Brothers Roofing	4553A Woodville Hwy, Tallahassee, FL 32305-3426	\$112,900.00 (metal) \$42,900.00 (alt bid – shingles)	yes
Centennial Roofing	714 Transmitter Road, Panama City, FL 32401	\$46,000.00 (metal)	yes
MKM Quality Construction Inc.	Mexico Beach	\$38,810.00 (\$7.25 sq ft)	Cashier’s check
BGN Contractors	1901 East Ave, Panama City, FL 32405	\$49,575.00 (metal)	yes
LAG Construction Company	1010 Arkansas Ave, Lynn Haven, FL 32444	\$49,001.00	yes

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized county staff to release the bid packages to Doug Shuler for review and recommendation. Motion carried 4-0.**

**20. Request for Qualifications - Professional Engineering and Construction Oversight Services for a Dune Restoration Construction Project**

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners, in conformance with the Consultants' Competitive Negotiations Act (CCNA), Florida Statutes §287.055, et. seq. and the policies and procedures of Franklin County is soliciting sealed statements of qualifications from qualified professional engineering firms that are interest in providing Professional Engineering and Construction Oversight Services for a Dune Restoration Construction Project.

Company	Location
MRD Associates, Inc.	543 Harbour Blvd, Suite 204, Destin, FL 32541

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized county staff to release the RFQ to Layton and Associates for review. Motion carried 4-0.**

The Board recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Sanders absent.

### County Staff & Attorney Reports

#### 21. Erin Griffith – Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator

##### 1. BOARD ACTION: CONSOLIDATED SOLID WASTE GRANT APPLICATION

Attached is the annual consolidated solid waste grant application. In the current fiscal year, the award was \$90,909. This annual operating grant helps to offset some of the costs associated with the Solid Waste Department by providing funds for some fuel expenses, tire, and hazardous waste disposal charges, and testing fees.

*Board Action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached Consolidated Solid Waste Grant Application*

**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 to sign the attached Consolidated Solid Waste Grant Application. Motion carried 4-0.**

##### 2. BOARD ACTION: TAX COLLECTOR WEBSITE UPGRADE, TRANSLATION KIOSK, DESKTOP COMPUTERS AND NEW CREDIT CARD PROCESSING TERMINALS

At the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Board approved the cancellation settlement with Government Software Assurance Corporation for the Tax Collector's Office for a refund of approximately \$180,000. The Board has since approved hardware upgrades for the office in the amount of \$70,167.92 funded by the proceeds and the Tax Collector has now requested additional upgrades for his office be funded from the refund in lieu of requesting a budget increase for those items in the upcoming fiscal year. Translate Live is a system utilized by other offices around the state which relies upon a kiosk where both employees and customers who speak other languages can communicate with ease. To add the translation kiosks at both the Apalachicola and Carrabelle location it would cost \$4,698. Also requested is \$2,500 to redesign and update the office's website to be more user friendly, new desktop computers and DMV monitors with install from contracted vendor NetSouth for \$19,370 and (7) new credit card processing terminals.

*Board action to approve the Tax Collector's requests to fund the translation kiosks, website redesign, desktop computers, DMV monitors and replacement of the credit card terminals from the Government Software Assurance refund.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Tax Collector's requests to fund the translation kiosks, website redesign, desktop computers, DMV monitors and replacement of the credit card terminals from the Government Software Assurance refund. Motion carried 4-0.**

### **3. BOARD ACTION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN TASK ORDER**

Franklin County received a \$25,000 grant from Duke Energy to assist the county with the creation of a Strategic Plan for Economic Development. A strategic plan for economic development helps to steer the economic future of a community by outlining goals and the actions needed to realize those goals. This plan will summarize economic strengths and weaknesses and will provide insight into ways for the county to encourage growth and provide better support for local businesses. Franklin County's plan will be tailored for community demographics, location, region, and be comprised of local input/ideas from stakeholders. Pursuant to the ongoing professional services contract with Management Experts, consultant Traci Buzbee has submitted the attached task order to gather the stakeholder input, host public involvement meetings, perform the analysis and gather the community information and resources to develop the plan.

*Board action to approve the attached task order with Management Experts to develop the county's Economic Development Strategic Plan funded entirely by the grant from Duke Energy.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached task order with Management Experts to develop the county's Economic Development Strategic Plan funded entirely by the grant from Duke Energy. Motion carried 4-0.**

### **4. BOARD ACTION: HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT – MARITIME MUSEUM PROJECT**

The Tourist Development Council was awarded a historic preservation grant in the amount of \$188,500 for the exhibits needed for the Maritime Museum at Buddy Ward Seafood Landing Park. The grant manager has approved the attached proposed contracts with Forgotten Coast TV for videographic interviews and videography for video displays, and the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce to provide historic photography, videographic research and development of the displays.

*A. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached \$10,000 contract with Forgotten Coast TV for the videographic interviews and videography for video displays at the Maritime Museum.*

**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 to sign the attached \$10,000 contract with Forgotten Coast TV for the videographic interviews and videography for video displays at the Maritime Museum. Motion carried 3-0.**

*B. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached \$25,000 contract with the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce for historic photography, videographic research and development of the displays at the Maritime Museum.*

**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 attached \$25,000 contract with the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce for historic photography, videographic research and development of the displays at the Maritime Museum. Motion carried 3-0.**

## **5. BOARD ACTION: SHERIFF'S DEPT LAW ENFORCEMENT SALARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT**

The Florida Legislature has approved the second-year funding of law enforcement salary assistance for fiscally constrained counties. As part of the grant agreement, the Sheriff's Department was required to submit a spending plan to FDLE to outline how the funds were allocated to eligible employees. In the attached spending plan from the Sheriff's Office, the \$539,122 annual allocation will be distributed as follows:

"For RANKED POSITIONS, the plan is as follows:

Based on a combined FICA and CURRENT Retirement Contribution rate of 40.32%, the Sheriff's Office has a net of \$324,646.32\* to distribute for *deputy sheriffs and correctional officers* in our agency. The remaining \$130,897.40 will be used for fringe benefits (FICA and Retirement) for a grand total of \$455,543.72 FOR ALL SWORN STAFF funded by this grant.

The funds will be *divided equally* among *existing* qualified (see above) personnel (POSITIONS) who were employed by our agency prior to June 1, 2023. If a qualified, existing employee who is receiving the supplement should leave employment at any time during the grant period, a replacement employee will receive the funding (on a first come-first serve basis). In the event the position is unfilled, his or her portion would then be divided equally between the remaining employees. This means that each employee's supplement to his/her salary is subject to change during this grant. It should be noted by ALL recipients of this grant funded salary assistance program, that there is no guarantee of how long these funds will be funded by the State of Florida, and that each employee should be mindful of that fact. Additionally, it should be noted that should the retirement rates change DURING this grant, that the salary supplement amount will change accordingly.

ADDITIONALLY: ALL UNRANKED SWORN STAFF WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL \$2,206.02 PER YEAR (PLUS FRINGE BENEFITS) FOR A TOTAL OF \$83,578.28 (includes benefits, based on 27 positions)."

*Board action to grant retroactive approval and authorization to the chairman to sign the attached Law Enforcement Salary Assistance Agreement which had to be returned prior to July 31<sup>st</sup> to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board granted retroactive approval and authorization to the chairman to sign the attached Law Enforcement Salary Assistance Agreement which had to be returned prior to July 31<sup>st</sup> to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Motion carried 3-0.**

## **6. BOARD ACTION: SHERIFF'S DEPT JUSTICE ASSISTANCE METH GRANT AGREEMENT**

The Franklin County Sheriff's Department has received \$50,270 in federal funds through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to assist in combatting the Meth problem. The funds will be used to purchase thermal monocular cameras, one patrol vehicle, solar panels, and housings for the cameras.

*Board action to grant retroactive approval and authorization for the chairman to sign the attached agreement for the Sheriff's Meth Grant which also had to be returned prior to July 31<sup>st</sup> to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board granted retroactive approval and authorization to the chairman to sign the attached agreement for the Sheriff's Meth Grant which also had to be returned prior to**

**July 31<sup>st</sup> to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Motion carried 3-0.**

Mr. Moron presented Item No. 6 from his report at this time.

1. Action Item: FCSO JAG Grant

Attached to my report is an executed Certificate of Participation (COP) for an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The deadline for submission was yesterday so the Chairman signed the COP. The JAG is an ongoing grant that is used by the Sheriff's Department to supplement his budget. Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Certificate of Participation.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified the Chairman's signature on the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Certificate of Participation. Motion carried 3-0.**

**7. BOARD ACTION: ALLIGATOR DRIVE MULTI-USE PATH PROJECT**

As this latest phase of the Alligator Drive multi-use path project took a long while to begin due to slow approval process of additional grant funds, there was an unusually long period of time from the selection of AECOM for CEI services and the subsequent award of their contract. During this time, AECOM lost their employee who served as the residential compliance specialist for the project and had to subcontract to another firm to fill that role. This transition to a subcontractor cost \$2,132.46 more than the cost of their employee. FDOT has approved the increase and has provided additional grant funds to cover the increased cost.

*A. Board action to approve and adopt a resolution authorizing the chairman to sign the Supplemental Agreement from FDOT for the additional \$2,132.46.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and adopted a resolution authorizing the chairman to sign the Supplemental Agreement from FDOT for the additional \$2,132.46. Motion carried 3-0.**

*B. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman's signature on the attached contract amendment with AECOM for an additional \$2,132.46.*

**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 contract amendment with AECOM for an additional \$2,132.46. Motion carried 3-0.**

**8. BOARD ACTION: WOMACK CREEK BRIDGE REPAIRS CONSTRUCTION & CEI CONTRACT**

North Florida Construction returned the signed contract for the construction of the repairs to the Womack Creek Bridge on Highway 67 along with their payment and performance bonds. The county has also received the CEI contract back from AECOM Engineers. As the last two meetings were cancelled, we will need retroactive approval for the chairman's signature to July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It was important that this project move forward as quickly as possible as the county has just received another deficiency notification from the bridge inspector.

*A. Board action to grant retroactive approval and authorization for the chairman to sign the construction contract with North Florida Construction.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board granted retroactive approval and authorization for the chairman to sign the construction contract with North Florida Construction. Motion carried 3-0.**

*B. Board action to grant retroactive approval and authorization for the chairman to sign the CEI contract with AECOM Engineers.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board granted retroactive approval and authorization for the chairman to sign the CEI contract with AECOM Engineers. Motion carried 3-0.**

## **9. BOARD ACTION: AMENDED LAND USE PLAN OLD FDOT BUILDING EAST OF CARRABELLE**

Franklin County has a long-term lease agreement with the State of Florida for the old Carrabelle Annex location east of Carrabelle. As the county is responsible for the maintenance of this location during the duration of the lease, the county will need to either commit to repairing the pole barn structures or request permission to demolish any of the old/unsafe storage areas. The parks department is in favor of asking the State for permission to demolish the unsafe pole barn/storage structures and plans to purchase a metal carport to safely shelter their equipment. The attached amended land use plan also provides a timeline to the state for the replacement of the roof on the main building (which is currently out to bid).

*Board action to approve the attached amended land use plan.*

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

## **10. BOARD ACTION: LANDFILL TRANSFER STATION BOXES**

The landfill transfer station boxes have been repaired and re-welded several times already. The boxes are at the end of their useful life and are nearly unsafe for transport. The attached \$48,364.56 quote for three boxes from Marathon Equipment is based on Sourcewell Contract Pricing.

*Board action to approve the purchase of (3) boxes for the landfill transfer station based on Sourcewell contract pricing to be paid from the Landfill Tipping Fee Fund.*

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

## **11. BOARD ACTION: EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT LANDFILL CAP MATERIAL**

At The June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board approved the emergency purchase of up to \$100,000 in clay material from the landfill tipping fee fund to address the FDEP preventative measure plan to mitigate and slow leachate production from the landfill. The notice of corrective action letter from FDEP is included for reference. To be able to fund this emergency procurement of clay, the budget amendment below is needed as the transfer to fund the additional material.

INCREASE: Landfill Tipping Fees Repair & Maintenance \$100,000.00

DECREASE: Landfill Tipping Fees Transfer to General Fund \$100,000.00

*Board action to approve the budget amendment above to fund the emergency procurement of clay for the landfill cap.*



*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

## **12. BOARD ACTION: VROOMAN PARK UTILITY EASEMENT FOR BALLFIELD LIGHTING PROJECT**

Duke Energy has submitted the attached easement request for additional transformers and electrical infrastructure to be placed on county owned property to power the new energy efficient ballfield lights at Vrooman Park. This easement is necessary for the connection of the new lights.

*Board action to approve the attached easement with Duke Energy to allow for the placement of the electrical line infrastructure for the park subject to review and approval of the agreement by County Attorney Michael Shuler.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the approved the attached easement with Duke Energy to allow for the placement of the electrical line infrastructure for the park subject to review and approval of the agreement by County Attorney Michael Shuler. Motion carried 3-0.**

## **13. BOARD ACTION: SHORT TERM LINE OF CREDIT FOR STAGGERING TDC BEACH PARK FACILITY FUNDING**

Franklin County is limited by statute to spending on 10% of TDC sales tax revenues each year for beach park facilities. In the current fiscal year as part of beach park facility funding, the TDC has funded a \$99,000 transfer to the parks department which offsets the maintenance cost of the beach park facilities, a \$60,000 contribution to the beach park playground on St. George Island (funded by a mixture of state, TDC and private donations), and will pay off the loan on the SGI restrooms in the current year. The renovations of Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park are also being funded by a mixture of funding provided by a Historic Preservation Grant, Hurricane Michael insurance proceeds and approximately \$180,641 to be paid by TDC beach park facility funds (a portion of this project will need the short-term financing to roll forward into the next fiscal year for the funding allocation to stay below the 10% cap). As Franklin County's pristine beaches are the primary draw for tourists, the enhancement, development, and improvement of facilities at the county's beach park locations are important for furthering the advancement of tourism and improving visitor experience.

*Board action to authorize staff to explore short-term financing options for a Beach Park Facility rolling line-of-credit to enable the county to make necessary facility enhancements at the beach park locations while working within the 10% cap limitation.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to explore short-term financing options for a Beach Park Facility rolling line-of-credit to enable the county to make necessary facility enhancements at the beach park locations while working within the 10% cap limitation.** Chairman Jones asked how much we are looking at financing right now. Mrs. Griffith noted that it would be around \$120,000 and for a short term. Commissioner Amison asked where the interest rates were right now. Mrs. Griffith noted that Earl from Peoples South quoted 5.75% and she has not received a quote from Centennial or any other quotes at this time but intends to reach out to others. **Motion carried 3-0.**

## **14. BOARD ACTION: CEI TASK ORDER FISCAL YEAR 23/24 DUNE WALKOVERS & PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR CONSTRUCTION**

As part of the planned replacement of the existing dune walkovers on St. George Island, the field permits have now been issued for the next three dune walk overs: 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> West (those ranked to be in the worst condition by the Parks Department, for work to begin upon conclusion of Sea Turtle Nesting Season after October 31<sup>st</sup>). It has become necessary to replace the deteriorated structures as the county parks and recreation department is no longer able to repair and keep the walkovers safe in their current condition. Dune walkovers serve as effective methods for erosion control by aiding in the preservation of natural dune topography and native vegetation. As Florida Statute 125 authorizes the use of tourist development sales tax proceeds for erosion control measures, I requested a proposal from the County's coastal engineers MRD and Associates to also assist in the bidding and contract award, on site construction engineering and inspection services for the next three as the county will be bidding the upcoming dune walkovers as a single comprehensive project. As the county has sufficient time due to the early issuance of the permits, it will be possible to complete all elements prior to the next sea turtle nesting season: demolition of the existing dune walkover, construction of replacement dune walkover, planting of sea oats, parking stops and post and rope barricade to prevent forward encroachment onto the dune structures. The rise and run of each dune walkover are permitted within DEP guidelines and all will be unique to the specific site conditions and topography. The field permits with design are attached for reference.

*A. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached task order with MRD and Associates for construction, engineering, and inspections for the next (3) dune walkovers at a cost of \$9,686 each to be paid by TDC sales tax proceeds.*

**and authorized the chairman to sign the attached task order with MRD and Associates for construction, engineering, and inspections for the next (3) dune walkovers at a cost of \$9,686 each to be paid by TDC sales tax proceeds. Motion carried 3-0.**

*B. Board action to approve advertising for construction for the next (3) dune walkovers.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved advertising for construction for the next (3) dune walkovers. Motion carried 3-0.**

## **15. BOARD ACTION: ISLAND VIEW PARK UPDATE & REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL LANDSCAPING SERVICES**

When Island View Park opened to the public in August of 2018, the county received an operational maintenance grant from DEP's BP Settlement Funds to assist with certain park maintenance expenses (not typical for most grant programs). The grant funds can ONLY be used to maintain the existing elements of the park and requests to fund a fence, a new gate, restrooms and/or a picnic pavilion have all been denied. On Friday, we received approval for reimbursement from FDOT for the county to contract with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to maintain the landscaping (necessary mowing, invasive plant removal, replacement of dead plants and other landscaping maintenance activities along the waterfront at the park location) subject to review of the contract by FDEP prior to award.

*Board action to approve advertising for proposals for landscaping maintenance services at Island View Park.*

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved advertising for proposals for landscaping maintenance services at Island View Park. Motion carried 3-0.**

## **16. BOARD INFORMATION: ISLAND VIEW PARK UPDATE**

The county received nearly \$9,000 from the county equipment auction for the brick pavers salvaged from the parking area damaged by Hurricane Michael. The county hoped to use the proceeds from the sale of the pavers to install a park style post and three slat wooden fence along the Highway 98 side of the parking area (see sample photo at right). The parks department will handle the removal of the chain link construction fencing. *Board action to approve the attached \$8,400 estimate from Jason White Construction for the construction of approximately 300' of three slat wooden fence to be paid by the park's June auction proceeds.*



**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached \$8,400 estimate from Jason White Construction for the construction of approximately 300' of three slat wooden fence to be paid by the park's June auction proceeds.** Commissioner Ward noted that we were not required to go out for bids since this project was under the \$10,000 threshold. Chairman Jones inquired if Commissioner Sanders was aware of what style fencing was proposed. Mrs. Griffith said she can reach out to Commissioner Sanders and the motion can be contingent upon her approval. **Commissioner Amison amended his motion to include contingency of Commissioner Sanders approval, seconded by Commissioner Ward. Motion carried 3-0.**

Chairman Jones noted that next year he intends to have TDC entertain the idea of funding new restrooms at Island View Park.

## **17. BOARD INFORMATION: SHERIFF'S REVISED BUDGET REQUEST AND TDC FUNDING REQUEST**

Attached is the Sheriff's revised budget request removing the (2) new deputy positions that were requested to be funded by Tourist Development and the reduced line item for fuel. Also attached is the Sheriff's request for funding consideration (along with an alternate proposal) which was sent on to TDC administration for consideration. I wanted to provide a change in the statutory language made by House Bill 7063 in this year's legislative session for the public below. Franklin County is unique as we have a tourism-based economy without the population base or revenues of most other coastal counties. This uniqueness unfortunately limits our county by statute on what can be done with the sales tax proceeds. The language just added by the legislature allows for Franklin County as a 'fiscally constrained' county to be able to expend up to 10% of tourist development sales tax revenues to reimburse public safety expenses related to increased tourism and visitors.

The next meeting of the Tourist Development Council will be held on August 9<sup>th</sup> and at that meeting, the council will review the funding request from the Sheriff's Department and will make a recommendation on the request. Upon receipt of the recommendation, the request will next come back to this board for an approval to move forward and at that time, the Board will need to take action to schedule a public hearing to formally amend the TDC spending plan to allow for up to the 10% of revenues be allocated for public safety services pursuant to the change in statute.

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(5) AUTHORIZED USES OF REVENUE.—

(c) A county located adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic Ocean, except a county that receives revenue from taxes levied pursuant to s. 125.0108, which meets the following criteria may use up to 10 percent of the tax revenue received pursuant to this section to reimburse expenses incurred in providing public safety services, including emergency medical services as defined in s. 401.107(3), and law enforcement services, which are needed to address impacts related to increased tourism and visitors to an area. However, if taxes collected pursuant to this section are used to reimburse emergency medical services or public safety services for tourism or special events, the governing board of a county or municipality may not use such taxes to supplant the normal operating expenses of an emergency medical services department, a fire department, a sheriff's office, or a police department. To receive reimbursement, the county must:

1.a. Generate a minimum of \$10 million in annual proceeds from any tax, or any combination of taxes, authorized to be levied pursuant to this section;

b.2. Have at least three municipalities; and

c.3. Have an estimated population of less than ~~275,000~~ 225,000, according to the most recent population estimate prepared pursuant to s. 186.901, excluding the inmate population; or

2. Be a fiscally constrained county as described in s. 218.67(1).

The board of county commissioners must by majority vote approve reimbursement made pursuant to this paragraph upon receipt of a recommendation from the tourist development council.

## 18. BOARD INFORMATION: MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES

Mrs. Griffith noted that she will be bringing back at the next meeting a design task order for the EMS station in Lanark. She noted that a mandatory pre-bid meeting for the Vrooman Park field improvements is scheduled for mid-August. Commissioner Ward inquired about the progress of the Vrooman Park improvements. Mrs. Griffith noted that we are out for bids now and will be opening bids at the next meeting for replacement of fencing for fields 1 & 2 and 3 & 4. Mrs. Griffith noted that the playground renovations are going on now. She said bids will be opened for the field drainage improvements and ADA access path at the first meeting in September.

### 22. Michael Morón – County Coordinator

#### 2. Action Item: Floodplain Certification Compensation

Mrs. Angela Lolley (Building Department) received her Floodplain Administrator certification back in August 2022 but has yet to be compensated for receiving this certification. It is the practice of the Board to compensate employees that received certifications that directly impact their current positions per their job description and responsibilities. I recommend a \$3500 increase, retroactive to August 2022, for Mrs. Lolley as the County's certified Floodplain Administrator.

**Board action to authorize a \$3500 increase to Mrs. Angela Lolley's salary, retroactive to August 2022, as the County's certified Floodplain Administrator.**

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized a \$3500 increase to Mrs. Angela Lolley's salary, retroactive to August 2022, as the County's certified Floodplain Administrator. Motion carried 3-0.**

#### 3. Action Item: Pay Plan Classification Adjustments

In 2021, Evergreen Solutions LLC., was engaged to develop a job classification and pay plan, especially with the impending state mandated \$15 per hour minimum wage. After the plan was created and

implemented, it was discovered that some employees did not correctly complete their Job Assessment Tool, which is the information used by Evergreen to assign classifications to employees. The Board allowed employees to resubmit their JATs for Evergreen's review and possible reclassification. Evergreen's re-evaluation produced the following recommendations (detailed breakdown attached) for your approval.

- Parks and Recreation Department: New Class Code Maintenance Specialist at pay grade 6
- Road Department & Landfill: New Class Code Equipment Operator IV at pay grade 7
- Landfill: Employee Classification Correction
- Building Department: Class Code Correction

**Board action to adopt the additional pay plan and job classifications as recommended by Evergreen Solution based on their re-evaluation.**

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the additional pay plan and job classifications as recommended by Evergreen Solution based on their re-evaluation. Motion carried 3-0.**

4. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Evergreen Presentation on Certification, Incentive Pay Program, and future pay increases

At your June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and July 27<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop, there was a lengthy discussion regarding certification and incentive pay for County employees. Mrs. Erin Griffith and I discussed these two items with Evergreen, and they would like the opportunity to discuss how they can assist the County with creating these policies and programs with the Board. Would you be willing to hear a presentation from Evergreen at one of your August meetings?

**Board discussion and possible action.**

**Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve adding them to a future agenda with a comment. Seconded by Commissioner Amison.** Commissioner Ward said she would like to explore other options. She noted that she does not know where they are basing their criteria. Not everyone is like Franklin County. She would like to keep our options open also. Chairman Jones said it does not matter who you talk to, they are going to base it on surrounding areas. Chairman Jones said the only thing they were tasked with was compression and getting everyone to \$15 per hour by a certain date. Chairman Jones noted that the main issue was having to break the increase down into five years versus increasing all at once. This would have caused the millage rate to increase. **Motion carried 3-0.**

5. Discussion/Possible Action Item: On-call Policy

Earlier this year the Board discussed creating an On-Call Policy, especially for employees that are called out for non-disaster emergencies. Attached to my report is an email and two On-Call policy options for you review. How would the Board choose to proceed with this policy?

**Board discussion and possible action.**

Mr. Moron, recommend we wait until after the discussion with Evergreen. Chairman Jones noted an issue with employees getting paid and receiving leave time. We need to make sure that is as clear as it can be. This item was deferred until after Evergreen's presentation.

6. Action Item: Change to Leave Donation Policy

Currently, the Board has a policy that allows for the transfer of sick leave between employees in cases of emergencies or hardship. I would like the Board to consider adding the transfer of comp time leave to this policy. It would allow employees with available comp time to donate that leave to employees that may need it due to an unforeseen health situation.

**Board action to request the County's labor Attorney to amend the leave donation policy to include comp time leave.**

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized county staff to request the County's labor Attorney to amend the leave donation policy to include comp time leave.** Chairman Jones clarified that employees could use comp time as leave time. Mr. Moron confirmed. Mr. Moron noted that he would like to look at having leave time like the Clerk's office, all just in one bucket. Mr. Moron noted that if the board liked he could get both of that language for the board's review. Chairman Jones noted that he would like to move forward with the vote as is today and Mr. Moron could bring this information back for their review.

**Motion carried 3-0.**

7. Action Item: FCSO JAG Grant

Attached to my report is an executed Certificate of Participation (COP) for an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The deadline for submission was yesterday so the Chairman signed the COP. The JAG is an ongoing grant that is used by the Sheriff's Department to supplement his budget.

**Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Certificate of Participation.**

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

8. Action Item: Dredge at Buddy Ward Boat Ramp

A couple weeks ago, Commissioner Amison and I met with Mr. Curtis Huggins to discuss the possibility of additional dredging around the Buddy Ward (aka Lombardi) boat ramp. Mr. Huggins approached the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers about amending the current 2-mile area dredge contract by reducing the planned dredge area on the eastern end by approximately 4300 linear ft. as he was pumping more water than "sludge". He would then dredge that same linear ft. area on the western end of the planned dredge area, which would result in a dredge west of the boat ramp. This could be done at no additional cost to the County nor any shoaling issues on the eastern end of the channel. The Corps is asking for the County's approval of this amendment before proceeding. Commissioner Amison may have additional information to share with the Board.

**Board action to approve the amendment to the 2-mile dredge plan as describe above.**

Commissioner Amison explained that the map we had was not the map. That was the permit map and not the contract map. Chairman Jones noted that is the same problem we were having in Eastpoint. The trade off area is about 400 yards. The way he explained it to me it is only accumulated about three inches of material. So, we are pumping water. The trade off will be water for getting some material out of there. The update is they are at a standstill because we are at full capacity at the spoil site. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the amendment to the 2-mile dredge plan as described above.** Chairman Jones noted that Commissioner Amison may need to speak with the people he has been talking to about the project in Eastpoint. Commissioner Amison said it is two different contractors and it has been longer since Eastpoint has been dredged. **Motion carried 3-0.**

9. Action Item: Eastpoint FDOT Project

As stated in previous meetings, the County applied for and received a FDOT Highway Beautification Project on behalf of the Eastpoint Civic Association. The Civic Association is seeking your approval on sign locations along Highway 98 in Eastpoint and the adoption of a maintenance agreement for the signs. The Eastpoint Civic Association will be responsible for the maintenance of the signs. Attached to my report is an Illustrative Plan Proposal, a resolution supporting the Eastpoint sign program, an FDOT Community Aesthetic Feature Agreement, and information on the Community Aesthetic Feature

Agreement for your review, approval, and the Chairman's signature.

**Board action to approve location and style of the signs and authorize the Chairman's signature on the resolution supporting the Eastpoint sign program and the FDOT Community Aesthetic Feature Agreement.**

Commissioner Ward asked to put the pictures up on the screen. She said she had spoke some time ago about moving a sign near 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Think they did a good job with whoever designed it. Chairman Jones said there is like five different locations. The only one we have an issue is at 4<sup>th</sup> Street. They are wanting to move it further away from the road and put it. Who is our engineer of record for this? We would have to check with civic club. Chairman Jones said Mr. Benny Jacobs had discussed with him putting a culvert in the ditch. He said he could not just put it there, but if we had an engineer, we may could get it approved. If it involves putting another culvert pipe there, we need to have someone else weigh in out it. Just know that is something we will have to get ironed out before that sign is ever put up. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approve location and style of the signs and authorize the Chairman's signature on the resolution supporting the Eastpoint sign program and the FDOT Community Aesthetic Feature Agreement. Motion carried 3-0.**

10. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Eastpoint Library Branch Loan Assumption

Last week, Chairman Jones, Mrs. Erin Griffith, and I met with Friends of the Library representatives. The reason for the meeting, as stated during the Budget Workshop, was to discuss the possibility of transferring ownership of the Eastpoint Library building to the County with the County assuming the balance of the outstanding \$165,530 USDA loan on the building. Because of escalating insurance, maintenance, and other costs related to the building, it has become a serious financial burden on the Friends of the Library to continue ownership of the building. Is the Board willing to have staff and Attorney Shuler discuss options with USDA to assume or pay off the loan balance?

**Board discussion and possible action.**

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

11. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Possible Building Purchase

As the Board is aware, staff has been actively looking for a new location for your Building Department, Planning and Zoning, and Administration offices. The purpose of moving these offices would allow for the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) office to move from its current location to the Annex location now occupied by these three departments. The building condition and size in addition to the County paying rent are some of the reasons to move the SOE from its current location. At a previous meeting, the Board authorized staff to start negotiations with a build to suit developer for a location in Eastpoint for the three offices. As those negotiations are ongoing, another potential location has become an option. The building that was previously the Gulf State Bank Building Eastpoint branch, located on the corner of Highway 98 and Island Drive, is for sale. The current asking price is \$1.17 million. Mrs. Erin Griffith, Mr. Steve Paterson, and I were able to tour the building and we think it would be adequate for immediate use. A future addition to the building, would create additional space for other uses. Preliminary talks with the realtor included possible negotiations. Would the Board authorize staff and Attorney Shuler to negotiate with building owner and based on the negotiations, secure a sales contract, and get the two required appraisals?

**Board discussion and possible action.**

Commissioner Ward noted that she believed this was a good fit and would suit the needs of the county.

**Commissioner Ward made a motion to negotiate with building owner and based on the negotiations, secure a sales contract, and get the two required appraisals. Seconded by Commissioner Amison.** Chairman Jones said we are looking to get a high and low and begin negotiations there. Are we going to

wait until we receive the high and low to order appraisals? Attorney Shuler explained the process noting once a sales contract is presented, he will bring it along with the appraisals to the Board for approval.

**Motion carried 3-0.**

12. Discussion/Possible Action Item: FDEP Notice of Intent Apalachicola Dock Project

The County received a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Consolidated Notice of Intent to Issue Environmental Resource Permit and Lease to use Sovereign Submerged Lands (attached). This is the permit received by the City of Apalachicola to build three docks that was discussed at your April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. At that meeting, the Board authorized a letter of objection to FDEP and our State Legislative Delegation. Based on the FDEP notice, the State is planning on issuing the permit. I have not heard from any City of Apalachicola representatives on their plans regarding this project.

**Board discussion and possible action.**

Commissioner Ward noted that she believes this is going to be a danger. She wanted the public to know this was not the decision of the Board, but FDEP.

13. Action Item: Advertisement for Zoning/Building Department Employee

As discussed at your budget workshop, the Building and Zoning departments will share funding and responsibilities for the vacant approved position in the Building Department's budget. Board action is needed to approve advertising for this position.

**Board action to advertise for a vacant position in the Building Department that will be shared by the Building and Zoning departments.**

Commissioner Ward asked if the building department could pay for the employee. Mr. Moron noted that they could pay for half. Commissioner Ward asked how that worked and if we must break that down. How do they determine how many hours we are paying from building funds vs. zoning? Commissioner Ward noted that she just does not want the county to get in bind like that. Mr. Moron said he will make sure the job description is clear. Mr. Moron said by next year's budget we will know if that position needs to be all building or all zoning.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized advertisement for a vacant position in the Building Department that will be shared by the Building and Zoning departments. Motion carried 3-0.**

14. Action Item: Advertise for LTPT District 1 Member

With the resignation of Mrs. Pat O'Connell from the Local Technology Planning Team, Chairman Jones is requesting Board approval for staff to advertise for candidates to fill the vacant seat on the LTPT. Mrs. Cortni Bankston should have an update on broadband activity for the Board at a future meeting.

**Board action to advertise for a LTPT District 1 member.**

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved advertising for a LTPT District 1 member.** Chairman Jones noted that he had discussions with the company Madison County contracted with for coop. They were able to do an MOU with Duke Energy and they were able to run internet on the power poles. We need to move forward and see what else we can explore. **Motion carried 3-0.**

15. Action Item: Scenic Byway Appointment

Attached to my report is a request from Mrs. Dixie Partington, on behalf of the Byway Management Authority, to add a county representative to that authority. The Byway Management Authority governs the Scenic Byway. Would the Board like to advertise for this representative along with the ad for a LTPT District 1 Member?



**Board action to advertise for a Byway Management Authority member.**

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized advertisement for a Byway Management Authority member. Motion carried 3-0.**

16. Action Item: Bridge Warning Signs

Due to some recent tragic events regarding individuals jumping from our bridges, Commissioner Ward would like the Board to consider adding signage to our bridges and overpasses warning individuals of the danger of jumping from our bridges.

**Board discussion and possible action.**

Chairman Jones said there is areas in our bay that move very rapidly. Commissioner Amison noted the other thing is the depth people are unaware of. Commissioner Ward said this was not her idea. She was contacted by Captain Ham at the sheriff's office. I do not want anything liability wise coming back to the county. Chairman Jones said are we talking of putting these on the Eastpoint and St. George Island fishing piers? Yes, and we would not be able to put them on the state bridges without approval.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved adding signage warning individuals of the danger jumping from our bridges. Motion carried 3-0.**

17. Discussion Item: EMS Budget Information

At your June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mr. Byan Hall of Carr, Riggs and Ingram presented Weems audit. During the presentation, the Board asked Mr. Hall for financial information on the County's Emergency Medical Services department. Mr. Hall is asking for specific direction regarding this request. Based on our conversations, it appears that the Board wants a financial breakdown of EMS services as a department of Weems and an estimated financial breakdown as EMS as a possible county department.

Board discussion.

Commissioner Amison said he would also like a breakdown of the hospital, clinics, and EMS.

18. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Alliant Contract Discussions

As the Board is aware, the Alliant Management contract expiration date is approaching. I would like the Board to consider the creation of a committee that would include Chairman Ricky Jones (BOCC), Chairman Duffie Harrison (Weems), David Walker (Weems), Mike Kozar (Alliant), Mrs. Erin Griffith and myself to discuss terms for a renewal. I would also suggest that Mr. Kozar and Mr. Walker meet with each Commissioner to discuss their individual concerns. If you would prefer, I can add this item to next meeting's report.

Board discussion and possible action.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the creation of a committee that will include Chairman Ricky Jones (BOCC), Chairman Duffie Harrison (Weems), David Walker (Weems), Mike Kozar (Alliant), Mrs. Erin Griffith and myself to discuss terms for a renewal. Motion carried 3-0.**

19. Discussion Item: Ethics Class

Last month we discussed scheduling a in person ethics training class with Attorney Jennifer Shuler on Saturday in July or August. Attorney Shuler is not available to teach this class, so the other options are to have staff register each Commissioner with FAC to take the class virtually on your tablet, which will be on your own time and convenience, or stream the FAC class in this meeting room on a Saturday where all

attendees would receive certifications after completing the class. Let me know what is preferred based on your schedule. Board discussion.

Chairman Jones said he believed it would be good to do it on a Saturday, but we need to make sure everyone is available. He asked Mr. Moron to check with Commissioner Ward first since she works on Saturdays, and then provide the dates to the other members.

#### 20. Discussion Item: RV/Camper Ordinance Status

At your June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board discussed possible changes to Ordinance 82-06 (Travel Trailer, Motor Homes, and Mobile Campers) based on a recently held workshop with public comments that ranged from enforcing the ordinance in its current state to allowing for hardship situations. There are many viewpoints from Commissioners, staff, and the public on how the County should move forward with this ordinance. How would the Board like to proceed?

Board discussion.

Commissioner Ward said in talking with county staff she likes the hardship and thinks that is the only way we can go with this. I understand people abuse it, so we need stiffer rules and penalties. She said she has changes written down. Attorney Shuler noted the ordinance he drafted did not have any provision for hardship. He said he made the ordinance very restrictive. Chairman Jones said regardless of what we do its going to take us a few months to implement the new ordinance. Whether we want to say the hardship is something they get annually. I do think we need to make a hardship consideration. That does not mean that we should be okay with any RVs on our barrier islands, and we should not have any rental RVs on residential property. Those are some things I think we need to look at. Commissioner Ward said the stiffer the better for the ones that are not complying. We need to add in that you are only allowed one RV. There was some discussion about changing the zoning, but that is going to be hard to do. The biggest thing to me was the stiffer fines and hardship. Commissioner Ward said she wants to make sure that they have a true hardship, and we must decide what constitutes a true hardship. Mr. Moron said it sounds like each of the commissioners need to sit down with Attorney Shuler and express their concerns.

Commissioner Ward said she gets a lot of calls about drainage. She said there is no requirement for culverts in residential neighborhoods. We need stormwater management plan for the whole county. Some of the drainage pipes are not large enough to sustain when we get these thunderstorms. We need to do something moving forward strategically to prevent issues. If we need to make a residential drainage stormwater plan, it is something we need to look in to.

Chairman Jones said we are starting to have growth management issues and we must address them. We have never been strict on the amount of fill but if we are addressing stormwater we must deal with fill. Chairman Jones said we will follow up with staff and have it added to a future agenda. Chairman Jones noted that a workshop would probably be the best way to address the fill and stormwater issue. Mr. Moron recommended getting the P&Z board's opinion and schedule a workshop. Chairman Jones noted that some of the fill issue is dealing with the new flood plain and they must build it up.

#### 21. Informational Item: TDC Collections

Attached to my report is the most current TDC Collection report. Feel free to call Mr. John Solomon (TDC Administrator) if you have any questions.

#### 22. Informational Item: Wake Zone Signage Update

Last week I discussed replacing and the enforcement of Wake Zone signs with Ms. Grimes of FWC's Boating and Waterways division. I forwarded information sent by Mrs. Grimes for your review. After you have had the opportunity to review the information, we can discuss how the Board would like to proceed with this matter at a future meeting.

23. Informational Item: SJLV Fire Department Update

Mrs. Griffith, Mrs. Traci Buzbee and I are scheduled to meet with Ms. Lauren Tingle, Division of State Fire Marshal Grant Specialist, on Thursday to discuss the \$450,000 Legislative Appropriation to purchase a fire truck for the St. James/Lanark Village fire department. I will update the Board on a timetable and process to purchase the truck at your next meeting.

24. Informational Item: TRIUMPH Meeting

For your information, I have attached the Triumph Gulf Coast August 17 meeting public notice. The agenda will be posted at [www.myfloridatriumph.com](http://www.myfloridatriumph.com) prior to the meeting.

25. Informational Item: FAC Calendar Contest

The Florida Association of Counties annual calendar event is now open. This year's theme is Skyline of the Sunshine State. As with past calendar contests, TDC will advertise, gather, and submit pictures to FAC on behalf of the County.

26. Informational Item: FAC Rural Counties Days

The Florida Association of Rural Counties Days is scheduled for January 24 – 25, 2024. If the Board would like to discuss any Franklin County involvement, let me know so I can add it for discussion at a future meeting.

27. Informational Item: Next Meeting Date

Your next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. (ET).

Commissioner Ward spoke of the benches in Eastpoint, homeless camping out on them, graffitiing them. Chairman Jones said they have already moved them to different places. He noted that no one has spoken to him about this issue. He noted they do not have a defined downtown designation. Mr. Moron noted they were installed for those using the walkways. Chairman Jones said if there is one bench causing an issue, we can move it. Commissioner Ward said she will have Captain Ham reach out to Chairman Jones.

Chairman Jones asked if we had done anything to approve the September FACT board. Commissioner Ward is now the representative for our district. Chairman Jones said he is now an at-large member. Mr. Moron said he will add to next agenda for approval.

**23. Michael Shuler – County Attorney**

1. Buddy Ward Reef Patch “F” and “G”

I recently received a request for Franklin County to consider the execution of a manifest document for the deployment of reef materials for the Buddy Ward Reef for Patch Reefs “F” and “G”. The documents and the email chain are attached for your convenient review.

As stated in paragraph six of the attached “Explanation Sheet,” (which I’ve marked with an asterisk)”. The shaded portion of the form at the bottom is to be filled out by the materials inspector. The cargo manifest must be completed by an entity representing the holder of the applicable artificial reef permit (which is Franklin County) to assure that all materials meet the requirements of the permit.”

Representatives of the reef project will be present at the meeting to discuss and answer any questions that the Board may have about the manifest form or the reef project.

I am told that time is of the essence. Also, to save money, FWC is loading the materials for the Carrabelle reef project onto the same barge. I have contacted the City of Carrabelle and they have confirmed that they have already approved their manifest.

Board Action Requested: Board discussion and possible approval of the artificial reef manifest form.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the artificial reef manifest form.** Mr. Grayson Sheperd noted that they are working on a future project which is the Franklin County 30 Mile Reef. It will be a larger location and beneficial to both ends of the county. **Motion carried 3-0.**

2. Centric Aviation – “Randolph Hanger”

At your June 16, 2023, meeting the Board approved a lease of a hanger commonly referred to as the “Randolph hanger” to Centric Aviation. A proposed addendum is attached for the Board’s consideration regarding possible future lease of space presently used by EOC for storage. The addendum speaks for itself.

Board Action Requested: Board discussion and possible approval of this amendment to the leased space and the monthly rental payment, to take effect only once EOC elects that it does not need the space.

Chairman Jones inquired as to why this is being brought up with the EOC still occupying the space. Commissioner Amison noted that once they vacate the building, it will be FAA property. Commissioner Amison noted that this space is needed for EOC staging. They will need this space even once they are in their new building.

The Board determined this to be a premature request.

3. Centric Aviation – “FBO Lease”

At your June 16, 2023, meeting the Board approved a fixed base operations lease to Centric Aviation. A proposed addendum is attached for the Board’s consideration regarding the use of the airport during declared states of emergency. The addendum speaks for itself.

Board Action Requested: Board discussion and possible approval of this amendment to FBO lease for use of the airport during declared states of emergency.

The Board discussed broadening the addendum to include any state of emergency. Attorney Shuler noted they could approve the amendment with the change.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, to approve the amendment to FBO lease for use of the airport during declared states of emergency with the change of language to include ‘any’ state of emergency. Motion carried 3-0.**

4. FDOT Request for Easement on Highway 98

This request concerns the same land that Franklin County recently provided FDOT with an easement. This is a new form that was presented by the FDOT representative upon being informed that Franklin County approved the resolution and easement originally requested. FDOT now seeks an acknowledgement of a voluntary donation and waiver of payment from FDOT to Franklin County. The form speaks for itself.

Board Action Requested: Board discussion and recommendation of approval of the FDOT acknowledgement and waiver form.

**Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Amison.** Commissioner Ward noted this is for the resurfacing project along Hwy 98 and they needed this easement for erosion control. **Motion carried 3-0.**

5. Sports Tourism

Commissioner Ward spoke in support of this idea. Chairman Jones noted the economical benefits to the county. Commissioner Amison echoed this. Chairman Jones noted the TDC board has already made the decision to fund our board has to make the legislative finding. Commissioner Ward noted she would like to defer until we have a full board to allow Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Lockley to weigh

in.

6. Resolution

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APALACHICOLA REGIONAL AIRPORT MANAGER TO COORDINATE WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) TO CHANGE THE PROJECT NAME FOR FOOT NUMBER 425613-6 FROM:

"Design and Construct Utility Improvements"

TO:

"Design and Construct West Hangar Developments"

AND REVISE THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WSTIFICATION ACCORDINGLY.

WHEREAS Franklin County owns and operates the Apalachicola Regional Airport which serves the Franklin County regional area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THAT THE WORK SPECIFIED IN THE REVISED PROJECT NAME AND DESCRIPTION IS SANCTIONED AND THE APALACHICOLA REGIONAL AIRPORT MANAGER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO COORDINATE THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FOOT AND PROVIDE THE AGREEMENT TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR SIGNATURE.

7. Coastline Invoice \$7,875 for Removal of Spoil Material

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the payment of the Coastline invoice in the amount of \$7,875.** Chairman Jones said what we were looking at was the Corps told us it was a certain amount, and it was determined not to be sufficient. Mr. Butler was caught in the middle; they were giving him more material than contracted for. He was given insufficient data. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Commissioners' Comments**

Chairman Jones said we have an issue brewing with the residents of Sunset beach and 300 Ocean Mile concerning an 8-foot county easement between the two properties. He said he has tried to get them to resolve the issue without the county getting involved. I was told yesterday by several residents that was not the case, people have been threatened, cussed, threatened to be arrested and prosecuted for walking across what probably is the county owned 8-foot easement. Chairman Jones asked Attorney Shuler to reach out to both HOAs and see if we can resolve the issue. If they cannot resolve it and allow people to access the beach between the properties, the county may have to take the ten-foot setbacks and clear a twenty-eight-foot path. Attorney Shuler said the information you are receiving it is the HOA and not particular owners. Chairman Jones confirmed it is the HOAs who have sent letters out. Residents at one has received calls from the other HOA threatening lawsuits, etc. Chairman Jones said he is trying to let them work it out themselves and not put the heavy hand down to start with.

Commissioner Ward congratulated Chairman Jones for being the 2023 Advocacy Award recipient. Chairman Jones noted the conferences are beneficial and we realize we are not the only ones dealing with issues. Everybody is having infrastructure problems, waste, water, etc. Its all the same everywhere you go. The benefit is there is other commissioners you meet at other counties; you can call them when you cannot call your fellow commissioners. Chairman Jones said by motion and vote of the representatives from our counties, 13 for senate district 3, Commissioner Ward is now a board member for the FACT board of directors. Commissioner Amison said the county should know that you are all ambassadors for the county. Franklin County may be little but y'all were represented very well. Chairman Jones noted a letter was received where they are trying to do a proposed downtown district in Carrabelle.

## **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.