

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
OCTOBER 3, 2023
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Jessica Ward-Vice-Chairman, and Cheryl Sanders
Commissioner Present Via Zoom: Ottice Amison
Commissioner Absent: Noah Lockley
Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Erin Griffith-Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator, and Jessica Gay-Clerk to the Board

Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Chairman Jones noted that Commissioner Amison is attending via Zoom.

Approval of the Agenda

Attorney Shuler requested the Stormwater Management draft ordinance be added to the agenda under his report. Mr. Moron noted that Clerk Maxwell would like to add a manual check to the bill run for Kelley's Funeral Home for \$850.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda with the two changes as stated above. Motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Minutes and Payment of County Bills

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the minutes of the FCBCC Regular Meeting 9/15/2023 and Special Meeting 9/29/2023 and the Payment of County Bills. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Comments

Debi Jordan spoke to the Board via Zoom regarding letter sent to commissioners.

Constitutional Officers

Michele Maxwell - Clerk of Court

Clerk Maxwell presented the following information to the Board.

Escheatment Tax Deeds

Pursuant to F.S. 197.502(8), three years after the day the land was offered for public sale, the land shall escheat to the county in which it is located, free and clear. All tax certificates, accrued taxes, and liens of any nature against the property shall be deemed canceled as a matter of law and of no further legal force and effect, and the clerk shall execute an escheatment tax deed vesting title in the board of county commissioners of the county in which the land is located.

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on August 18, 2020, not to purchase these properties. Therefore, they became eligible for escheatment to the county on July 14, 2023, and August 11, 2023. The Clerk's office is authorized by law to execute and record an escheatment tax deed for the following properties. Attached you will find a copy of each escheatment deed recorded in the public records of Franklin County.

TDA# 405-2014
Parcel # 02-07S-04W-4212-0030-0010
Applicant- FCBOCC
Owner- SGI Land Company, LLC
Amount Due- \$30.00

TDA # 406-2014
Parcel # 20-07S-04W-4212-0031-0010
Applicant- FCBOCC
Owner- SGI Land Company, LLC
Amount Due- \$30.00

TDA # 407-2014
Parcel # 20-07S-04W-4212-0033-0010
Applicant- FCBOCC
Owner- SGI Land Company, LLC
Amount Due- \$30.00

TDA # 408-2014
Parcel # 20-07S-04W-4212-0034-0010
Applicant- FCBOCC
Owner- SGI Land Company, LLC
Amount Due- 30.00

TDA #409-2014
Parcel # 20-07S-04W-4212-0035-0010
Applicant- FCBOCC
Owner- SGI Land Company, LLC
Amount Due- \$30.00

TDA # 410-2014
Parcel # 20-07S-04W-4212-0037-0010
Applicant- FCBOCC
Owner-Forgotten Coast Land Comp, LLC

Chairman Jones noted this may be something we can look at in the future for workforce housing.

Department Directors Reports

Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Roads and Bridges

Mr. Nabors had no action items. He noted he has a couple issues at East and West Sawyer and Brown on St. George Island. Through the years the people around that have built land up and it floods surrounding properties. He said he had talked to landowners and told them he would bring to the board. Maybe figure something out to remedy. Chairman Jones said find out what historically was there, leg up getting DEP to recertify or reapprove. Mr. Nabors said landowners said they will work with us, or DEP. Chairman Jones

asked Attorney Shuler what steps we will need to take. Attorney Shuler noted that Mr. Pierce is no longer with us. Mrs. Griffith noted that MRD or Dewberry should be able to assist in getting a plan. Chairman Jones said the next step would be to engage them and find out what steps we need to take to resolve.

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

6. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Florida Forest Service – Timber Sale Access Request
 - The County received a request (attached) from the Florida Forest Service for access to an approximate 2.5-mile span of McIntyre Road for a timber sale.
 - As the Board is aware, McIntyre is a weight restricted road, so a special use agreement may be in order if the request is approved.
 - Commissioner Sanders and Mr. Howard Nabors (Road and Bridge Superintendent) are aware of this request.
 - Board discussion and possible action to approve the request.

Commissioner Sanders noted that she believes we should turn this over to Attorney Shuler. Attorney Shuler said the Board years ago enacted axil limitations for that road. More recently the Board amended the ordinance and provided for exception for beetle infestation remedy. Does not meet guidelines. Thinning of timber does not meet the perimeter of the county’s ordinance and a special permit cannot be issued. It is the prevue of the Board to do whatever.

Commissioner Sanders said she will go with what Attorney Shuler recommended. **Mr. Moron said with no action we are basically denying the request.**

Attorney Shuler said thinning is a normal part of growing timber. If you do not thin, then your timber does not grow, and you end up having to sell small trees. The ordinance only allows special permits for treating beetle infestation. He said he would like to be able to help them, but the board’s ordinance says what it says. Chairman Jones asked if they have requested the board amend our ordinance. Attorney Shuler noted that one could interpret yes.

Chairman Jones asked if we are still doing the Friday schedule. He said he had noticed that we have been getting a lot of inmate labor but not a lot on Fridays. Mr. Nabors noted they were having issues with drops and such, and they did not let them out this week. Commissioner Ward said she will get with him after the meeting. Commissioner Sanders thanked Mr. Nabors and Mrs. Daniels for getting the message boards up at Womack Creek.

Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Action Item:

Mark Custer Resignation/Equipment Operator

VACANT POSITION: Due to the resignation of Mark Custer on Friday, September 29, 2023, as an equipment operator in the Solid Waste Department a position is now available as an equipment operator. BOARD REQUESTED ACTION: Motion to advertise for a Solid Waste Equipment Operator.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to advertise for a Solid Waste Equipment Operator. Motion carried 3-0.

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

8. Discussion/Possible Action Item: County Park Maintenance Contractor
 - As the Board is aware, the County’s Parks and Recreation Department is severely understaffed and is

about to lose another employee.

- In addition, the access to inmates is limited.
- I have discussed the possibility of engaging a contractor to maintain all county sports fields with Mr. Fonda Davis (Parks and Rec Director) and Mrs. Erin Griffith (Fiscal Manager) as an option.
- This option will allow the current Parks and Recreation staff to focus on the County's beaches, boat ramps, and parks that do not have sports fields.
- If the Board is interested in exploring this option on a trial basis, staff could seek estimates, and based on that amount, determine how to proceed with engaging a contractor.
- Board discussion and possible action.

Chairman Jones noted that he is good with getting prices and bringing it back to the Board for discussion.

Commissioner Ward noted that unfortunately this may be something that we have to do in other positions. The only thing is these people may be getting paid way more than our current employees are getting. Mr. Moron said there are smaller counties and school districts are doing this now. Mr. Moron noted that our own school district has hired someone to maintain the football field. Mr. Moron would like to get a cost per field, I need a sense of what it is going to cost. Must make sure Mr. Davis has this in his budget. Mr. Moron hopes that the cost of an employee and use of equipment will balance out. Mrs. Griffith noted that the other public properties can be maintained adequately. Mr. Moron said we just need direction. He asked Commissioner Amison if he was good for it. He said we have had some of these positions advertised but we do not have people coming in to apply for these jobs. We will not know until we get the numbers. Commissioner Sanders said we did a study with employees who received pay raises etc. We have had some good people work for us because they are still not getting enough pay. You lost one of the best people that has ever done fields because we could not pay him enough money. We need to take care of county employees better than we do. I think we need to let department heads take care of their departments. We have got two people that left Fonda's department, and multiple other departments. We must let these department heads do what they need to do. We are taking on those contractors and replacing our employees. Looking out for the people of Franklin County. Mr. Moron said it is not just a county employee problem, everybody is looking for people to work no matter what they pay. Mrs. Sanders said she just does not like we are losing good employees and then having to go out for contractors to fill these positions. We must take care of family first. Chairman Jones said that is why the Evergreen thing was complex. We would have had to go up on the millage rate if we had done it at one time. When we adopted the study, we went from having a discussion of giving \$500 a year raise or \$1000 one time. We have been dealing with compression of wage issue also. Chairman Jones noted the performance pay model would fall back on the directors/supervisors to do evaluations. Chairman Jones noted that he does not necessarily believe we have to go outside of the county to find a contractor. Commissioner Sanders noted that it disturbs her that people are leaving the county positions to make it. Mr. Moron noted Mr. Davis' staff is the most labor-intensive department of the county. These people must work on Saturdays or Sundays. Chairman Jones noted that we may need to talk with Evergreen about differential pay for their employees since they must work weekends. Commissioner Ward said this is why she said we should let the directors do the same as most elected officials and use them. Commissioner Ward noted however that \$19K is a neighboring county's starting pay. The climate we live in no one wants to work for no amount of money. Commissioner Ward said we must do something because there is no one to work. We cannot have Mr. Davis short staffed and overwork the employees we do have. Commissioner Sanders said at the end of the day when we do the incentive and stuff, we need to give our department heads the ability, if they have an employee who does extra, let the department heads reward them for it. Chairman Jones noted that at a local restaurant they were paying dishwashers \$25 per hour plus overtime, and they could not keep workers.

Jennifer Daniels – Emergency Management Director

Action Items:

1. Request the board's approval and signing of sub grant agreement for Hurricane Idalia compensation.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized Chairman Jones to sign the sub grant agreement for Hurricane Idalia compensation. Motion carried 3-0.

2. Request the board's approval and signing of statewide mutual aid agreement.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized Chairman Jones to sign the statewide mutual aid agreement. Motion carried 3-0.

Dewitt Polous – Mosquito Control Director

No action items. We have installed a beaver trap on Lighthouse Road. Commissioner Sanders asked when closing mosquito, end of October first of November. The main ditch in Carrabelle is back like it was. Mr. Polous noted it is not at the culvert but another blockage somewhere else. Chairman Jones said we are having a problem with one owner on the end of Daisey Street. They have had that blocked now for a while. Checking with other property owners to see if we can get access to an easement to let it flow. Mr. Polous noted this was previously owned by Mr. Garrett and he believes there was an easement. Chairman Jones noted that Mr. Pennycuff has property and Ms. Estes has property at Lakes on the Bluff common areas, that could be possibly used for easement.

Erik Lovstrand – Extension Office Director

No action items. Chairman Jones asked him to elaborate on number 9 on his report. Mr. Lovstrand noted that this program takes these kids out into the farm fields near Quincy. We have participation planned from ABC School and First Baptist School. They get to see crops and learn about different crops grown here in the panhandle. Mr. Lovstrand noted that he teaches about peanuts. They get to travel through a maze. They get to spend about a half a day learning about the Ag products here in Florida. Chairman Jones noted that the more things we can expose the kids to the better off we are.

Whitney Roundtree – Library Director

Action Items:

1) Appoint a new board member to the Wilderness Coast Libraries Board.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board appointed Mrs. Jennifer Daniels to serve on the Wilderness Coast Libraries Board. Motion carried 3-0.

Informational Items:

1) The first portion of our State Aid for Libraries application has been submitted.

2) The Friends of the Franklin County Public Library will be hosting their annual meeting at the Eastpoint Library at 4:00 PM on October 18th, 2023. We will also be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Eastpoint location. Light refreshments will be served.

3) Join us for Amazing Animals with Jerry Walls on October 20th. We will be learning about spiders, snakes, and scorpions. This is a free, educational, and interactive event for all. This event will take place at 3:00 PM at the Eastpoint Branch and 5:00 PM at the Carrabelle branch.

4) I will be representing the library at the annual SGI Spooktacular event. I will be passing out free children's and books and candy provided by the Friends of the Library. The Carrabelle library will also be a trick-or-treat stop for October 31st. Come by and show us your costumes.

Other Reports

John Solomon – TDC Administrator

Action Items:

1. On 8-9-23, the TDC Board voted to recommend the 2023-2024 Small, Large, and Museum Grants for approval.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the 2023-2024 Small, Large, and Museum Grants. Motion carried 3-0.

Information Items:

1. June Collections were \$502,792.12

2. The Franklin County TDC won 2 State Tourism Flagler Awards at the beginning of September. One for our Villages Re-engagement Campaign and one for our social media campaign “Don’t Take our word for it”.

Ted Mosteller – Interim Airport Manager

Mr. Mosteller attended via Zoom. He noted that the security plan had to be used on Sunday morning due to a bomb threat. The FBO received an email threatening multiple bombs at the airport. TSA determined the email address was not credible. Commissioner Ward asked if they could track down the email address and said it sounds like we have a plan in place to handle these types of things.

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

4. Action Item: Airport Maintenance Position

The new FBO lease that was approved in July 2023, allowed for funding of a new Airport Maintenance position that would work under the supervision of the Airport Manager. A copy of the advertisement is attached for your review. Once approved, the ad will run concurrently in-house and publicly. Board action to approve advertising for an Airport Maintenance Specialist.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved advertising for an Airport Maintenance Specialist. Motion carried 3-0.

5. Action Item: Airport Pedestrian Gate at FBO Repairs

Mr. Ted Mosteller (Interim Airport Manager) and Mr. Tom Mescher (AOED Vice-chairman) explained that the pedestrian gate lock at the Airport FBO needs repairing. Mr. Mosteller and Mr. Mescher obtained a quote (attached) for the equipment and will do the installation themselves. In addition, they would like to purchase signs to direct pilots and passengers where to enter the ramp area once they return to the Airport.

The total cost for the equipment, signs, with shipping should be around \$550. Board action to approve up to \$550 for the purchase of equipment and signs for the pedestrian gate at the Airport FBO.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, to approve up to \$550 for the purchase of equipment and signs for the pedestrian gate at the Airport FBO. Commissioner Ward inquired if the funds would come out of airport funds. Mr. Moron confirmed. Motion carried 3-0.

Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board Report

1. Lot Reconfiguration Applications

Lot Reconfigurations requests will be discussed and acted on an individual basis.

a. 2140 Hwy 98 West

This item was tabled at the September 19, 2023, meeting for further information. A consideration of a request to reconfigure three (3) existing lots for a more proportionate split of road and water frontage that will be similar in width to give each lot more buildable space at property located at 2140 Hwy 98 West, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Martin Wohl, applicant.

b. 1808 Hwy 98 West

This item was tabled at the September 19, 2023, meeting for further information. A consideration of a request to reconfigure on parcel back into two (2) lots with both lots being proposed as approximately 80 feet in width each at the property located at 1808 Highway 98 West, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by David Quackenbush, applicant.

Mrs. Bankston presented Mr. Curenton's report on the lot reconfiguration.

RECONFIGURATION OF LOTS AT 1808 HIGHWAY 98 WEST AND 2140 HIGHWAY 98 WEST, CARRABELLE

On September 19, 2023, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners heard two requests for reconfiguring existing lots of record to create more evenly sized lots.

"Grandfathering" is an allowance for existing lots that do not meet some newly enacted regulation to still be used. For example, when Franklin County enacted a minimum lot size of one acre, there were thousands of already established lots that were less than one acre in size. All these lots were grandfathered in so they can still be built upon even though they are not one acre in size.

There are two different dates for "grandfathering" lots of record. Ordinance 79-8 established standards for the installation of septic tanks in Franklin County, including the requirement that a lot must be at least one acre in size. A provision was made to allow "Variances may be granted for installations of lots of record, if deed or plat is recorded prior to August 17, 1978." This is the date the County follows for lots that are not hooked up to a central sewer system.

Section 460 of the Franklin County Zoning Code states: "USE OF EXISTING LOTS OF RECORD – Lots existing as official lots or plots on July 1, 1981, shall be considered in compliance with this ordinance except as provided herein:" followed by requirements for consolidating contiguous lots in common ownership, none of which apply to either of these two cases. This date would apply for lots less than the minimum lot size if central sewer is available.

1808 HIGHWAY 98 WEST

This property has three existing lots of record. There is one 94' wide lot, one 50' wide lot, and one 15' wide lot, all created prior to 1978. This was originally the property of John and Roberta Burda. It has now passed to their two daughters, and they want to split the parcel into two lots that are the same size.

2140 HIGHWAY 98 WEST

This property has three existing lots of record. There is one 111' wide lot, one 114' wide lot, and one 50' wide, all created before 1978. The owner desires to reconfigure the lots so there are three lots with each having similar frontage on Highway 98.

SIMILAR SITUATIONS IN THE PAST

On November 17, 2020, the County Commission approved reconfiguring Lots 6, 26, and 27, Block D, Lanark Beach, Unit 1. These lots, at the west end of Lanark, have a Duke Energy transmission easement running through them. The purpose of the reconfiguration was to increase the size of Lot 26 to make it easier to meet the required setbacks. Lot 27, which has a house on it, was made smaller and Lot 6 is unbuildable because of the easement.

On April 5, 2022, the County Commission approved reconfiguring three lots located at 1788 Highway 98 West. Originally these lots were of unequal width running from Highway 98 to the beach. The approved reconfigured lots are not as long and narrow, being more suitable for the construction of residences. Commissioner Ward asked if we need to wait until Commissioner Amison is back. Do not want the applicant to not have a full board, and do not want it to be detrimental. Chairman Jones noted that Commissioner Amison is not able to take any action via Zoom per rules put in place by the Governor. There were two representatives in attendance on behalf of the applicant.

Chairman Jones explained why Commissioner Ward suggested tabling until the full board could be in attendance. Commissioner Ward thinks it would be prudent to table and only fair to the applicant for them to have a semi-full board.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to table both items until the next meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Sanders. Motion carried 3-0.

RFP/RFQ/Bid Opening

Invitation to Bidders

8TH, 9TH, AND 10TH STREET WEST DUNE WALKOVERS

The FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS will receive sealed BIDS from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in constructing the 8TH, 9TH, AND 10TH STREET WEST DUNE WALKOVERS on St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida

COMPANY	LOCATION	BID AMOUNT	BID BOND
MKM Quality Construction, Inc.	1220 Sleepy Hollow Road Mexico Beach, FL 32456	\$189,744.69 Alt Bid: \$4,355	Yes
Scruggs Construction	125 Hidden Harbor Drive Alligator Point, FL 32346	\$224,701.52 Alt Bid: \$6,949	Yes
Michael L. Anderson, Inc.	P.O. Box 1405 Lynn Haven, FL 32444	\$324,856.80 Alt Bid: \$3,685	Yes
Hydra Engineering & Construction, LLC	36 Jasper Thomas Rd Crawfordville, FL 32327	\$667,250 Alt Bid: \$6,700	Yes
North Florida Construction, Inc.	P.O. Box 129 Clarksville, FL 32430	\$359,070 Alt Bid: \$13,400	Yes
H.G. Harders & Son, Inc.	5521 East Highway 98 Panama City, FL 32404	\$510,577 Alt Bid: 7,872.50	Yes

Commissioner Sanders made a motion to release the bids to review committee MRD Associates, seconded by Commissioner Ward. Motion carried 3-0.

County Staff & Attorney Reports

Erin Griffith – Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator

1. BOARD ACTION: UPDATE TITLE VI AND NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY AND PLAN

The county abides by nondiscriminatory policies and procedures and State and Federal Grants require the acknowledgement and documentation of these practices at a minimum of every three years. The previous acknowledgement and policy were last signed in February of 2021. The updated documents include a mandated data collection disclosure and will bring the county policy into compliance with the new rules from the United States Treasury.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the updated Title VI and Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the updated Title VI and Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan. Motion carried 3-0.

2. BOARD ACTION: ADVERTISE FOR CR67 PHASE II WIDENING & RESURFACING

The \$1.97 million-dollar FDOT CR67 Phase II grant includes the design, CEI and construction costs to widen and resurface approximately 1.29 miles of CR67 from the Crooked River Bridge to SFR 166. The county first advertised for bids in December and unfortunately the low bid was almost \$500,000 over the approved grant award. FDOT was unable to come up with additional funds for the project and would not allow for the project length to be reduced without a full readvertisement with engineered bid alternates. FDOT would also not allow for a secondary grant application for the funding deficiency so long as the existing grant was open.

Board action to approve advertising for construction bids for the CR67 Phase II widening & resurfacing project.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved advertising for construction bids for the CR67 Phase II widening & resurfacing project. The Board discussed the high prices for the project. Commissioner Sanders noted that she hopes they do the widening of the road when they get to Phase 3 because this is an area the log trucks use. **Motion carried 3-0.**

3. BOARD ACTION: ADVERTISE FOR C30 GULF AVENUE FEMA REPAIRS

C30 Gulf Avenue in Carrabelle is the last outstanding Hurricane Michael recovery project. The repairs on this road have been delayed due to discrepancies with the FEMA project reports as the GPS coordinates were duplicated in the FEMA system post disaster. There are sections of C30 in Carrabelle and to the west of Apalachicola which was a separate damage description. In addition to the GPS coordinates, some project quantities were also replicated between the two project sites. The county will need the hard construction numbers to be able to get the corrections and modifications approved through FEMA and project awarded.

Board action to approve advertising for construction bids for the FEMA repairs of C30 Gulf Avenue.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved advertising for construction bids for the FEMA repairs of C30 Gulf Avenue. Motion carried 3-0.

4. BOARD ACTION: VROOMAN PARK BATTING CAGE ROOF

At the August 15th meeting, the board opened bids for the metal batting cage roof structure at Vrooman Park. Only one bid was received, and that bid was \$31,701 which was over 50% more than the amount

that had been budgeted in the DEO Hurricane Michael Assistance grant. Commissioner Ward had also reached out to Hatfield Pole Barns for a quote but did not receive a response. Just yesterday, I received a quote response from Keen's Portable Building for the fabrication and installation of the metal pole barn roof structure for \$18,019.84. In accordance with the county bid policy, for purchases over \$10,000 up to \$25,000 three solicitation requests and a minimum of two responses are required if it is determined that more vendors are not available. As the county has gone through the full advertising procedure and later two requests for direct solicitation, this should satisfy the requirements of the county bid policy for fair and open competition at that purchase price.

Board action to authorize the issuance of a purchase order to Keen's Portable Buildings in the amount of \$18,019.84 for the metal pole barn roof over structure at Vrooman Park.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to authorize the issuance of a purchase order to Keen's Portable Buildings in the amount of \$18,019.84 for the metal pole barn roof over structure at Vrooman Park. Commissioner Ward noted that Mr. Hatfield did say he emailed her a quote, and she knows that we are having issues with our email server. Commissioner Ward inquired if the \$18k included building and installation. Mr. Moron confirmed that it does. **Seconded by Commissioner Sanders. Motion carried 3-0.**

5. BOARD ACTION: Budget Resolutions – Fiscal Year 2022/2023

Attached are three resolutions for the adoption of unanticipated revenues as part of the end-of-the-fiscal year bookkeeping. These funds were not included in your original adopted 2022/2023 budget because at the time of budget adoption they were unanticipated. Florida Statute 129 allows a county 60-days after the end of a fiscal year to incorporate unanticipated revenues into the prior year's budget. As grant invoices are processed for work completed through September 30th, resolutions and amendments will be a part of my report through the end of November.

The 1st resolution is for \$1,035,069 in federal grant funds received through the Florida Department of Transportation for the Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Phases III & IV. The 2nd resolution is for \$672,382 in state grant funds received from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for the Hurricane Michael Assistance Grant. The 3rd resolution is for \$137,737 in state grant funds received from the State Fire Marshal's Office for the installation of a sprinkler system at the Armory.

Board action to adopt the three attached budget resolutions.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the three budget resolutions as stated below. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS Franklin County will receive unanticipated federal grant revenues in the amount of \$1,035,069 from the Florida Department of Transportation for the payment of expenses relative to the Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Phase III & IV and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and

WHEREAS FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.20.572.6301 Infrastructure – Alligator Point MU Path \$1,035,069.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$1,035,069.00 in the GENERAL FUND to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 3rd day of OCTOBER 2023.

**RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS Franklin County will receive unanticipated state grant revenues in the amount of \$672,382.00 from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for the payment of expenses relative to the Hurricane Michael Assistance Grant and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and

WHEREAS FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.20.572.6101 Land – Old Alligator Point Fire Dept. \$232,027.00

001.20.572.6303 Infrastructure Vrooman Park Imp. \$440,355.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$672,382.00 in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 3rd day of OCTOBER 2023.

**RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS Franklin County will receive unanticipated state grant revenues in the amount of \$137,737.00 from the State Fire Marshal’s Office for the payment of expenses relative to the Fort Coombs Armory Convention Center Sprinkler System Project and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and

WHEREAS FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.20.511.6203 Buildings – Amory Grant Project \$137,737.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$137,737.00 in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 3rd day of OCTOBER 2023.

6. BOARD INFORMATION: REPAIR QUOTES 248 HWY 98, EASTPOINT

At the last meeting, the Pillar to Post detailed property inspection report was provided to the Board. Repair quotes have since been received from Cates Electric and Gunn HVAC to address the mechanical issues noted in the inspection report. Attached are the two repair estimates – Cates Electric’s estimate totals \$11,140 and the Gunn report includes repair estimates and full replacement cost estimates for the components. Gunn does recommend full replacement of the oldest air conditioning unit as it is likely at the end of useful life.

The appraisal reports have not yet been received.

7. MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES

American Rescue Plan Project Status and Spending Plan Update

DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED AMOUNT
FCSO - (2) Message Boards (Est, Bid Opening 04/04/22)	Complete	\$31,524.58
FCSO - Antimicrobial Surfacing Franklin County Jail	Complete	\$83,265.30
Clerk Imaging of Records Phase II (Sales Order)	Complete	\$192,632.67
EOC Storage Point of Distribution Remodel and/or Acquisition	TBD	\$60,000.00
Beach Parking Improvements	In Progress	\$350,000.00
Courthouse Roof Replacement and Structural Sealant	In Progress	\$900,000.00
SOE and/or County Office Relocation (Construction/Acquisition/Etc.) *	TBD	\$734,205.00
TOTAL DRAFT SPENDING PLAN		\$2,351,627.55

Chairman Jones asked Mrs. Griffith if she had heard back from our CDBG team about any movement on that program. He noted he was asking because it was last November when the Governor said we are getting the money. Mrs. Griffith noted they have already advertised for mobile home replacement, permitting, environmental before being able to move forward with construction.

2. Michael Morón – County Coordinator

1. Action Item: County Health Department Core Contracts

- As done every year once the County’s budget is approved, the Department of Health submits their Core contracts for approval.
- Mrs. Sarah Quaranta, Administrator, stated that there are a few changes to the contract and will explain those changes.
- Board action to approve the County Health Department Core Contract.

Pan Care operates on one side of Carrabelle clinic. In partnership they give us a little bit of money.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the County Health Department Core Contract. Motion carried 3-0.

2. Action Item: The Management Experts, LLC – Legislative Appropriations

- As the start of the next Legislative Session is upon us, and both Representative Shoaf and Senator Simon’s staff has requested the County’s legislative funding appropriation forms.
- As was done last year, staff is recommending the engagement of Mrs. Traci Buzbee, of The Management Experts, LLC., to assist with the appropriation requests.
- Last year, with the combined efforts of Mrs. Buzbee and the County’s lobbyist, the County received most of the requested appropriations, in one case, more than what was originally requested.
- If approved this morning, Mrs. Buzbee will work from the list of requests presented to the County’s Legislative Delegation on September 27th. Mrs. Buzbee will present these request forms at your October 17th meeting for final review and approval as they are due in the respected legislative offices in early November.
- Do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Buzbee, prior to the October 17th meeting, to discuss any ideas or concerns regarding the appropriation requests.
- Board action to engage The Management Experts, LLC. to assist with the completion of the Legislative Appropriation requests.

Chairman Jones asked if he has had any discussion with any of the commissioners to see if there are any things that were not discussed that they would like to add. Mr. Moron suggested each commission contact Ms. Buzbee.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved engaging The Management Experts, LLC to assist with the completion of the Legislative Appropriation requests. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Action Item: Buddy Ward Park – Security Camera Upgrade

- Recently, there was a vandalism incident at the Buddy Ward Park bathrooms.
- As we reviewed the museum security cameras, it was discovered that the recorder may have suffered some damage from a lightning strike, therefore there was no information to review.
- A new security recorder, that will be monitored as part of the access control system, will cost \$1,735 installed with a \$10 monthly monitoring fee.
- Board action to authorize a new security camera recorder for \$1,735 with a \$10 monthly monitoring fee.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders.

Commissioner Ward noted this is becoming a constant issue and we need to hold people accountable. Whoever is doing this we need to make them pay to repair it. Commissioner Sanders said she would like to tie this into the sheriff’s department also. Mr. Moron said he is trying to tie it in so that the sheriff’s department is notified as it is happening. Chairman Jones said will it be motion activated. Yes, but it will most likely be recorded all the time. If it is recording all the time, you must sit through hours of footage to find a few minutes. Mr. Moron said he would prefer the search versus the motion failing and not catching the crime. Chairman Jones said going forward do we have to state where we are putting cameras. At the end of the day what if they go and shoot them out. Mr. Moron said with this camera we can have it directly backing up to cloud storage. Commissioner Ward said if you have something saying this area is under surveillance you are covered. They do not need to know where they are at. Attorney Shuler said part of the purpose of posting signs is to be proactive.

Chairman Jones asked does this area have signage. Mr. Moron said he will double check. Commissioner Amison asked would this bring all the parks on the same systems. Mr. Moron said it is a slow transition, but they are trying to get it all under the same umbrella. **Motion carried 3-0.**

4. Action Item: Airport Maintenance Position

- The new FBO lease that was approved in July 2023, allowed for funding of a new Airport Maintenance position that would work under the supervision of the Airport Manager.
- A copy of the advertisement is attached for your review.
- Once approved, the ad will run concurrently in-house and publicly.
- Board action to approve advertising for an Airport Maintenance Specialist.
Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

5. Action Item: Airport Pedestrian Gate at FBO Repairs

- Mr. Ted Mosteller (Interim Airport Manager) and Mr. Tom Mescher (AOED Vice-chairman) explained that the pedestrian gate lock at the Airport FBO needs repairing.
- Mr. Mosteller and Mr. Mescher obtained a quote (attached) for the equipment and will do the installation themselves.
- In addition, they would like to purchase signs to direct pilots and passengers where to enter the ramp area once they return to the Airport.
- The total cost for the equipment, signs, with shipping should be around \$550.
- Board action to approve up to \$550 for the purchase of equipment and signs for the pedestrian gate at the Airport FBO.
Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

6. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Florida Forest Service – Timber Sale Access Request

- The County received a request (attached) from the Florida Forest Service for access to an approximate 2.5-mile span of McIntyre Road for a timber sale.
- As the Board is aware, McIntyre is a weight restricted road, so a special use agreement may be in order if the request is approved.
- Commissioner Sanders and Mr. Howard Nabors (Road and Bridge Superintendent) are aware of this request.
- Board discussion and possible action to approve the request.
Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

7. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Cameras and Signage at Gun Range

- Commissioner Ward would like to update the Board on her discussions with FWC representatives regarding a new gun range in Franklin County.
- To address the safety concerns at the current gun range, located behind the Humane Society, would the Board consider security cameras and adopting safety rules and procedures for the range that would be posted and enforced by the Sheriff's Department?
- Board discussion and possible action.

Commissioner Ward spoke to the Board about her discussion with FWC representatives regarding a new gun range in Franklin County. Commissioner Ward indicated that it would require too much to go through FWC and she felt it was going to cost too much. The Board discussed option of installing security cameras at the current gun range and adopting rules and procedures for safety. Chairman Jones noted that even if it is moved, the Board would need to adopt an ordinance to enforce rules and procedures to be enforced.

Chairman Jones said one issue we have even if we do move it, if we are going to have standard rules, we are going to have to do it by ordinance. Open when other office is closed? In talking to Mr. Doug, the current chair of board for humane society, they have started putting monies into the building within past year. What

we have now that we did not have a year ago is the possession of the Eastpoint Library which includes several acres where we could possibly build to suit a humane society. We just want people to feel safe. Our landfill, animal control, sheriff office, a lot going on for guns to be going off. Maybe we should have a set of rules for the gun range. Commissioner Ward said FWC was wanting to charge people to use it to maintain it. People do not want to pay to shoot a gun. Some of our people do not want to pay for it. Chairman Jones said he does not agree with the amount they are charging at the one in Apalachicola because it was paid for by the county. Attorney Shuler confirmed it would have to be done by ordinance. Mr. Moron noted that he would need a motion to allow him to get proposal for cameras and to begin the process of public hearing for an ordinance on rules and regulations at the shooting range. Attorney Shuler noted an employee has suggested moving the parking back away from the range to prevent people from dragging TVs out to shoot up. Board discussion about accessibility and mobility issues for people who are not able to walk a long distance. Attorney Shuler recommended the Board direct them to gather information on rules and regulations bring it back and let the board look at it, kind of like we are going to do with the storm water management plan, then decide whether to take it to a public hearing. Commissioner Sanders noted that this was Commissioner Ward's district and she wanted her to give her input. Commissioner Sanders said she would not use a range. Commissioner Amison said if you have accountability. If you charge a small fee, we could put that money back in make improvements. He noted he would like to roll it around and bring back some ideas. Commissioner Sanders said the only time she knows where people are using the ranges is to site in their guns. Chairman Jones asked Commissioner Ward if we come up with the money what kind of range are they talking about building. Commissioner Ward said massive, the plans would be the original plans. The cost was approximately \$400k back in 2013 and with some of the federal grants we could get we would only have to come up with \$100k. We could use inmate labor to clear off property. She noted they would want it manned and they would charge a fee, they would want more acreage. Chairman Jones noted that the one in Panama City is manned by FWC. Mr. Moron noted that he believed it was like a contract employee. The Board discussed the plan further. Commissioner Ward asked do we need to make a motion to proceed with the cameras. Attorney Shuler noted that he would not need a motion to gather information about gun range rules to bring back to the Board. The only action item is on the cameras. Mr. Moron noted that he is asking for direction to get bids on the cameras. The Board determined that no motion was needed at this time. Mr. Moron will gather quotes for the cameras and work with Attorney Shuler to gather information on the gun range rules, etc., to bring back to the board.

8. Discussion/Possible Action Item: County Park Maintenance Contractor

- As the Board is aware, the County's Parks and Recreation Department is severely understaffed and is about to lose another employee.
- In addition, the access to inmates is limited.
- I have discussed the possibility of engaging a contractor to maintain all county sports fields with Mr. Fonda Davis (Parks and Rec Director) and Mrs. Erin Griffith (Fiscal Manager) as an option.
- This option will allow the current Parks and Recreation staff to focus on the County's beaches, boat ramps, and parks that do not have sports fields.
- If the Board is interested in exploring this option on a trial basis, staff could seek estimates, and based on that amount, determine how to proceed with engaging a contractor.
- Board discussion and possible action.
Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

9. Discussion/Possible Action Item: Vacant Advisory Board Seats

- The County has advertised vacant advisory board seats (Local Technology and Planning Team (LTPT), Airport Operations Economic Development Board, Byway Management Authority, and Regional Rural Transportation Plan Technical Advisory Committee).
- The County received at least on letter (email) of interest for each seat except for the LTPT.

- Is the Board ready to start the selection process for each seat except for the LTPT?
- Board discussion and possible action.
Chairman Jones noted that he has been in contact with someone who used to work in IT. They are just looking to see if it will fit in their schedule.

10. Discussion/Possible Action Item: County Logo

- At a past meeting, the Board authorized staff to create a new county logo.
- Attached is a final draft version for your review.
- Is the Board ready to accept this version as the official County Logo or would you like some additional time to review?
- Board discussion and possible action.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve. There was discussion among the Board regarding Commissioner Lockley’s review and approval due to his absence. **Commissioner Ward amended her motion to approve contingent upon Commissioner Lockley review and approval. Seconded by Commissioner Sanders. Motion carried 3-0.**

11. Informational Item: County Vacancies on Indeed

- The County has advertised two new vacant positions, a Zoning & Permitting Receptionist, and a Grants Coordinator Assistant, on the County’s website and in the local newspaper for at least a month and received two applications for each position.
- To increase the application pool, staff will run these advertisements on Indeed.
- Indeed, is an online resource to search for, apply to, and compare job opportunities.
- The new closing date for these advertised positions is October 20, 2023.

12. Informational Item: BOCC Ethics Training

- I am looking at October 14th, 21st, or 28th for your Ethics Training class. Let me know if any of the Saturdays present a schedule conflict for you.

Chairman Jones only available 28th.

Commissioner Ward noted she was not available on 21st but good on the 28th.

Commissioner Sanders noted she is available on any day.

Commissioner Amison noted he has a conflict on the 28th but he will talk to Mr. Moron about taking the training online.

13. Informational Item: FDOT 5-Year Plan

- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) invites you to attend a hybrid public hearing regarding the Tentative Five-Year Work Program for fiscal years 2025 through 2029, on Thursday, October 19 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (CDT).
- The purpose of the tentative work program is to provide direction on where and when to build transportation system improvements. The program is used to forecast funds needed for improvements across all modes of transportation such as roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, freight, trails, transit, aviation, and seaports.
- This Tentative Work Program provides proposed transportation projects for the 16 counties in FDOT District Three, which include: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington.
- This hearing is being held to present information and receive community feedback.
- The Department is offering multiple ways for the community to participate in the hearing. All participants, regardless of the platform they choose, will be presented with the same information.

- Virtual and In-Person participating options, along with the above information, will be on the County’s website for public information.

14. Informational Item: NWFMD Assessment

- “The Northwest Florida Water Management District has completed the Draft 2023 Water Supply Assessment (WSA) Update. The goal of each WSA update is to quantify the water supply needs for all existing and future uses, and to sustain the water resources and related natural systems in northwest Florida through a 20-year planning horizon. Each update includes an evaluation of existing available water resources and recommendations for regional water supply planning. Assessments also provide a technical resource for local governments, utilities, and the public.”
- “This is an opportunity for local governments, water utilities, other stakeholders, and other affected and interested parties to provide feedback on the draft results of the Draft 2023 WSA Update report, available on the District’s website, <https://nwfwater.com/Water-Resources/Water-Supply-Planning/Water-Supply-Assessments/>.”
- “Please provide any comments to my attention on or before October 6, 2023.”

15. Informational Item: Next Meeting Date

- Your next regular meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Jones asked Mr. Moron if he had heard anything back on the thing we are working on with Mr. Gilbert on SHIP. Mr. Moron noted that he has not heard anything yet. Chairman Jones noted that we need to circle back around on the school bus stop lighting issue. We may need to talk to the school district to see if we can nail down the stops, they are going to use for the next four or five years and get a plan to install lights. Chairman Jones noted there are a bunch of bus stops, and they cannot be done all in one year. Chairman Jones asked how the other commissioners were handling complaints and people with concerns who want to bypass legislative intent when they directed us to put a requirement in place for name and complaint in writing. Mr. Moron said you do not want to allow yourself to be drafted into some type of ethics question. Chairman Jones noted that it puts us in a precarious spot. Commissioner Ward said she receives the same complaint. She says she directs them to the complaint portal. She noted that she does not want to become her own code enforcement officer. She agrees it does put us in a precarious situation. Hopefully, when we get a code enforcement officer this will alleviate some of this. Commissioner Sanders noted she thought it was a good idea to get some of our staff to train and qualify to be a code enforcement officer. She does not mind going out there and enforcing the laws. Commissioner Sanders noted that she does not think Mrs. Bankston is interested in this. Commissioner Ward noted that handling the complaints is a process also and things may not happen overnight. Chairman Jones said we are trying to handle things that everyone else was handling thirty years ago.

3. Michael Shuler – County Attorney

1. Possible Purchase of Former Gulf State Bank Building

The county has received the inspection reports and obtained written cost estimates. I have been in contact with both appraisers; however, the appraisals have not been received. Today (10/2/23), I am advised that one appraisal will be received later today and the second by the end of this week. The repair/replacement cost estimates are as follows:

Electric: \$11,140.00

HVAC System: 1 repair is \$570.00; however, replacement was recommended as it is a 2006 unit. Replacement of System I is \$7,000.00.

System 2 repair is \$1,125.09. A replacement cost was provided, but no recommendation was made.

System 3 repair is \$140.00. A replacement cost was provided, but no recommendation was made.

Termites: The cost of tenting and treating the Formosan termites is \$23,592.00.

Attorney Shuler noted it was his recommendation to table until we get the appraisals in, and Mrs. Candace can be here so that we can all discuss together. Chairman Jones said he believed this was a good idea since we do not have the appraisals back in.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, to table this item until the appraisals are received.

Commissioner Ward asked if we could get Mr. Lovestrand to give his opinion on the termite infestation, are they invasive, etc. Mrs. Griffith noted the representative from Donnie's Pest Control said they are seeing an influx of termites since Hurricane Michael. Mrs. Griffith noted the armory had subterranean and wood termites. Chairman Jones noted the report stated there was evidence of termites. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Mrs. Griffith noted that she just received the closing statement for the three acres on Highway 65 and she will have that on her report at the next meeting.

2. Possible Sell of Land to Duke Energy

Duke Energy has contacted Franklin County regarding the possible purchase of a small parcel of land next to a tower located in the old Bowery section of Apalachicola, described as Block H2, Lot 5 by the Property Appraiser's website.

Does the Board want to engage in a discussion with Duke Energy regarding the possible purchase and sale of land as requested? The Property Appraiser's website indicates a market value of \$30,000.00; however, an appraisal is recommended.

Board Action Requested: Board discussion and possible action authorizing negotiations between the Board and Duke Energy for the possible purchase and sale of land. Terms would be returned to the Board for future action.

Commissioner Ward – who would pay for the appraisal? Attorney Shuler typically we would pay for it because we want the appraiser working for us. Then should we close, we will recoup that cost from Duke Energy. Commissioner Sanders asked if the Board could authorize Attorney Shuler to talk to them without making a motion. Attorney Shuler said we can hold off on ordering the appraisal. Attorney Shuler would like the board's approval through motion. Commissioner Ward said she thinks we should wait for Commissioner Amison to be present. The Board directed Attorney Shuler to add it to the next meeting to allow for a full Board.

Public Hearing Notice on Stormwater Management System Requirements for Single Family Residentially Zoned Property, including C4 Lots Used Only as a Single-Family Residence on St. George Island, Florida.

The Board discussed the proposed ordinance briefly. Attorney Shuler asked if the Board wanted to have some sort of initial threshold for owners to bring in a certain amount of fill without having a stormwater plan? Chairman Jones thanked Attorney Shuler for his work on this draft. He noted he is fine with stating as it is presently for the public hearing, so that they public can weigh in on it. He noted that 85-95% of complaint calls have been about SGI. Its potentially affecting properties around them. Commissioner Ward said maybe we can use this as a guinea pig for some of the other areas. Each of our districts are different. Will provide draft to Mr. Curenton and may be tweaked a little bit. I will make sure to get final draft out to the board. Chairman Jones asked do we need to because of the nature we are dealing with try to fast track? Do we need to put a halt to provided permits for landfill? Attorney Shuler noted that we already have in place an ordinance that requires permit for landfill and clearing. Mr. Moron asked if they come in and pull a permit how do we control how much fill. Mrs. Bankston said we do not have anything that says how much fill they can bring in. We have nothing to back up limiting the amount of fill. Mrs. Bankston said she would feel more comfortable with halting permit issuance until the Board puts something in place. The Board

scheduled a special meeting on Wednesday, October 11th at 10:00 am to discuss this further and moratorium on fill until we get ordinance in place. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved holding a special meeting on Wednesday, October 11th at 10:00 am to discuss this further and a moratorium on fill permits until we get ordinance in place. Motion carried 3-0.**

Chairman Jones noted he and Mr. Moron are meeting with the sheriff tomorrow to discuss the bear problem. This is the same thing we expressed to FWC when they were here. Chairman Jones noted that one of the things that he perceives may come up that might help is mandatory trash pickup for Franklin County. Chairman Jones noted that he would like to have a workshop on golf carts on St. George Island, noting he thinks the board can still designate certain roads that are restricted. He noted that businesses renting golf carts and low speed vehicles, should attend the workshop to discuss the issue. They can either comply or we can do away with rentals on the island. The Board discussed holding a workshop on November 7th @ 5 p.m. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized Attorney Shuler to schedule a workshop to discuss golf carts and low speed vehicles on St. George Island on November 7th @ 5 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.** Chairman Jones noted he is not averse to golf carts, but we do need a standard of practice.

Commission Ward noted that she would like the Board to discuss countywide voting. She asked Attorney Shuler to elaborate on that at the next meeting, noting it was on the ballot many years ago, and everyone voted that they wanted it. Commissioner Ward would also like the Board to discuss the public/private road issue and adoption of private roads to public roads. She would like to add discussion on both topics to the next meeting.

Chairman Jones noted he would like to bring back the business license for discussion. Noting the reason has more to do with addressing code enforcement. If we have the registration, we can revoke that business' registration. Chairman Jones would also like to bring back discussion of renaming our parks and start advertising and promoting sports tourism.

One of things we are trying to address through legislation this year is for the opportunity for all small counties to benefit from the additional one cent sales tax. Since we chose the small county surtax first, none of the others are available. Chairman Jones noted that over half of Orange County's sales tax is collected through tourism. He had asked Mr. Solomon to calculate the amount paid through Franklin County by tourism and noted 65% of our sales tax is paid by tourists.

Commissioner Ward noted that at the legislative delegation meeting when Chairman Jones was talking about it someone was sighing when you said tax. She said she was hoping he would bring this up, so people know it is not an additional tax on the residents. It would also have to be done by referendum.

Commissioner Amison commented on a possible ordinance on mud motors. He said most of the complaints are coming from local duck hunters. If its left to the state it could be a no motor zone. If that happens it is going to be crabbers, people that make a living. Just hate for the state to come in with a hard first when it is something we could be proactive about. We could do something like the airboat ordinance. FWC meeting scheduled but not sure when. I will get that information to Michael. Chairman Jones asked if we need to take any action on this today. Attorney Shuler noted he will get with Mr. Amison and discuss. Commissioner Sanders noted that when the county-built Kendrick Sports Complex, they named it so it could be used as a sports complex, and we do not have to rename it.

3. Sovereign Immunity of Advisory Boards

Recently, the question of whether members of your various advisory boards, to include the hospital board and TDC (which each have limited decision making authority as opposed to being strictly advisory), are

protected by the limited waiver of sovereign immunity from tort liability pursuant to Fla. Stat. 768.29. In short, it is my opinion that the members of your various advisory boards, including the hospital board and TDC, are protected by sovereign immunity and are not personally liable while they are acting within the scope of their function. The exclusive remedy for any injury or loss to property, personal loss or death is an action against the county. However, the protection of the advisory board members is subject to the limitation that they may be personally liable for injury or loss resulting if that person acts in bad faith or with malicious purpose. Mrs. Griffith was informed that the advisory board members, not including the hospital, are covered by the county's insurance policy with FACT. I spoke with Mr. Walker, and he informs me that the hospital also has a policy in place for the hospital board (just as the hospital has its own insurance coverage on other matters). If the board wants specifics on the insurance coverages, then that information will be gathered and provided. Please let me know if you want any additional information. Limitation: My advice on this matter is limited to my client, Franklin County. I do not represent the individual members of your various advisory boards.

4. Public Hearing Notice for Lanark Village Golf Cart Ordinance

A public hearing will be held on the Lanark Village Golf Cart ordinance on October 17, 2023, beginning at 11 :00 a.m. (ET). A copy of the ad is attached.

Commissioners' Comments

There were no additional commissioners' comments.

Adjournment

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

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts

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