

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
NOVEMBER 21, 2023  
9:00 AM  
MINUTES**

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

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.

**Moment of Silence: Commissioner Noah Lockley Jr.**

The Board held a moment of silence in memory of Commissioner Lockley.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Chairman Jones spoke regarding his time on the Board serving with Commissioner Lockley. He noted he was special, and he will be missed. He will never be replaced. Commissioner Ward spoke regarding her time serving with Commissioner Lockley. She noted that everyone shared the same sentiment at the FC Association that he spoke his mind and was a great man. He will always be remembered, cherished and his legacy will live on. Commissioner Amison noted that he was only able to serve him for a moment. He noted he has always been a part of the community. He will be missed. His presence will be missed not just on this board but in the community in general.

**Approval of the Agenda**

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.**

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

**1. Approval of Minutes**

- Budget Workshop 7/27/2023
- Special Meeting 10/11/2023
- Special Meeting 10/26/2023

**2. County Bill List for Payment**

**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 Board listed above and the Payment of County Bills. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Department Directors**

**Jennifer Daniels - EOC Director - Request**

1. Request the Boards approval to purchase the Mobile Command/Trailer from Gulf County Emergency

Management. Below is the information from Gulf County EM with the Specs for the mobile command/trailer. Gulf County EM has a 2019 Criser 33 PBHS – Prowler Travel Trailer we utilize as a command post. Below are the specs: 2019 Criser 33 PBHS – Prowler Travel Trailer 37 Feet in Total Length, Triple Slide, Double Axle Two bedroom & 1 Bathroom - Awning, Air Conditioning, Outside Kitchen Generator Aftermarket add on: Leveling System / Stabilizer system Mounted to Trailer (\$5,000.00 purchase) Weight Distribution Hitch (\$1,200.00 purchase) We pull the trailer with a Ford F250 Diesel pickup truck using a hitch (bumper pull). We are asking \$15,000.00 for the trailer and all above listed equipment.

Mrs. Daniels apologized for coming after the budget noting that the budget funding fell through. Commissioner Ward noted that we would pay way more than this if we went out to purchase. She noted that she felt this was a good deal for the price. Mrs. Daniels noted that it comes with a leveling system and weight distribution system. Commissioner Ward noted that basically we will just have to remove the Gulf County emblem and replace with ours. Mrs. Daniels noted that they would remove the bed and replace with a desk and equipment. Mrs. Daniels noted that the revision is very minimal.

**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 the Mobile Command/Trailer from Gulf County Emergency Management.** Commissioner Amison noted that we need to check to see when the roof was last caulked so that we can maintain properly. **Motion carried 4-0.**

### **3. Cortni Bankston -- Zoning Administrator -- The Landings PUD Workshop Request**

Chairman Jones inquired as to what the schedule looks like for future workshops. Attorney Shuler noted there was some discussion about having a workshop on December 19<sup>th</sup> and sometime in January. Mr. Moron noted that December 19<sup>th</sup> is the week before Christmas and January 2<sup>nd</sup> is the day after New Year's Day. Mr. Moron said he would recommend January. Mr. Moron noted that we could hold on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, to schedule a workshop on the Landings PUD Workshop Request on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.**

### **4. Val Webb/Willie Tolliver – North Florida African American Corridor Project – Abandoned African American Cemeteries Grant Application**

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized a letter of support for the North Florida African American Corridor Project-Abandoned African American Cemeteries Grant Application.** Commissioner Amison noted that his grandfather may also have some history to provide. Commissioner Sanders noted there are more cemeteries throughout the county. Mr. Tolliver noted that if he is given the location, he would be glad to work with the county and apply for grants. **Motion carried 4-0.**

### **5. Sandra Brookes PhD. -- ABSI Update** *To be presented later in the meeting.*

### **6. Andrew Hartman/Tara Blauth -- Centric Aviation (FBO) -- Car Rental Proposal**

Commissioner Amison noted that the fees on the website are not very economical for our locals. Board discussion on surcharge rate, and future infrastructure. Commissioner Ward inquired if the Board could require, they come back for approval should they increase their fleet. Attorney Shuler noted that the Board can add this provision to their motion. Commissioner Amison said he proposed 10%, noting that it

is time the county gets some benefit, and we need to be self-sustained in the event we lose Jingoli.  
**On a motion by Commissioner Amison to approve the car rental proposal with a 10% surcharge agreement, seconded by Commissioner Ward. Motion carried 4-0.**

**RFP/RFQ/Bid Opening**

**7. Sealed Bids -- CR 67 PHASE II WIDENING AND RESURFACING PROJECT**

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>BID AMOUNT</b>	<b>BID BOND</b>
Roberts and Roberts Inc.	1538 Metropolitan Blvd Tallahassee, FL 32308	\$1,909,657.01	yes
CWR Contracting, Inc.	3660 Hartsfield Road Tallahassee, FL 32303	\$2,242,095.68	yes
Capital Asphalt, Inc.	1330 Capital Circle NE Tallahassee, FL 32308	\$2,678,469.72	yes

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to release the bid packages to the review committee for recommendation.** Commissioner Ward noted this is for 1.29 miles of road.  
**Motion carried 4-0.**

**8. Sealed Bids -- C30A EAST GULF AVENUE WASHOUT REPAIR**

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>BID AMOUNT</b>	<b>BID BOND</b>
NORTH FLORIDA CONSTRUCTION, INC.	PO BOX 129 Clarksville, FL 32430	\$274,859 (\$3,800 alternate)	yes
PIGOTT ASPHALT AND SITEWORK LLC	12 ASPHALT WAY CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327	\$235,657.95 (\$7,425 alternate)	yes

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

**9. Request for Proposals -- Auditing Services**

Noted for the record the review committee with consist of constitutional officers and Chairman.

COMPANY	LOCATION
Lanigan & Associates, P.C. Roberson and Associates	2630 Centennial Place Tallahassee, FL 32308
James Moore & Co., P.L.	121 Executive Circle Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Wade, Sanbury, Mauldin & Jenkins LLC	1401 Manatee Ave West Suite 1200 Bradenton FL 34205

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

**10. Request For Quotes -- Engineering Services**

Noted the review committee will consist of Michael Moron, Erin Griffith, and Mark Curenton.

COMPANY	LOCATION
GORTEMOLLER ENGINEERING, INC.	Panama City Beach, Florida
KISINGER CAMPO & ASSOCIATES	2615 Centennial Blvd., Ste. 102 Tallahassee, FL 33602

MADRID CPWG	16837 NW 22 <sup>nd</sup> Street Blountstown, FL 32424
DEWBERRY AND ASSOCIATES	Port St. Joe, Florida

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to release the quotes to the review committee for recommendation. Motion carried 4-0.**

The Board recessed and reconvened at 10:00 a.m. The Board moved to Mr. Moron’s report at this time.

**County Staff & Attorney Reports**

**11. Erin Griffith – Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator**

**1. BOARD ACTION: CR67 PHASE 3 GRANT AGREEMENT & RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION**

At the last meeting, the Board approved the Phase III grant agreement from the Florida Department of Transportation. After sending the agreement back to the grant manager, it was noted that FDOT noted had neglected to change some of the program details in the agreement and FDOT has since sent a revised award agreement. The amount and project scope of the award is unchanged (\$1,650,284 and resurfacing and widening of CR67 from Forest Road 166 to Forest Road 172).

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached corrected FDOT Agreement and resolution of authorization.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached corrected FDOT Agreement and resolution of authorization. Motion carried 4-0.**

**2. BOARD ACTION: NOTICE OF AWARD CARRABELLE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ROOF REPLACEMENT**

At the November 7th, meeting, the county opened bids for roof replacement at the Carrabelle Health Department. Four bids were received and released to consultant Traci Buzbee for review and recommendation. Ms. Buzbee has reviewed the bids which were submitted, and she has recommended award to the lowest bidder, MKM Quality Construction, Inc., at \$52,080 as all paperwork and documentation was in order. The replacement of the roof is being funded by the county’s LATCF funds.

Board action to authorize the chairman to sign the attached notice of award to MKM Quality Construction, Inc. and the construction contract documents once available.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the attached notice of award to MKM Quality Construction, Inc. and the construction contract documents once available. Motion carried 4-0.**

**3. BOARD ACTION: Transportation Alternative Program Grant Applications, Resolutions and Ranking**

It is time again for the county to submit funding applications for the Transportation Alternatives Program. The TA program provides funding for the construction of new sidewalks and multi-use paths. TA projects are also competitively scored and awarded based on a limited amount of funds available by

FDOT district. Franklin County is eligible to apply for two projects under this program. Mark suggests applying for the unfunded portion of the Phase IV CR 370 Alligator Drive path (from the Marina to the S-Curve) as the first ranked project and the design of the multi-use path along River Road in Carrabelle (may have greater success with multiple phase approach) as the second ranked project.

Board action to authorize the adoption of two resolutions authorizing submission of the applications and confirm the suggested ranking of the projects.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the adoption of two resolutions authorizing submission of the applications and confirm the suggested ranking of the projects. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **4. BOARD ACTION: SGI Fishing Pier Access Handrail Cap**

During the inspection of the SGI Fishing Pier seawall area after the damage caused by Hurricane Idalia, it was noted that the top cap boards on the handicapped access ramp to the pier had deteriorated and were warped and pulling apart from the fasteners. The top cap is now unsafe with exposed screws and nails. While the crew is onsite replacing the boat bumper in the basin, the contractor provided the attached quote for \$5,880 to replace 608' of the 2x10 pressure treated top cap on the handrails. The decking on the ramp is also nearing the end of life and as the replacement of the decking will be a much larger project, that replacement will be included in the revised TDC spending plan for consideration.

Board action to approve the attached quote for \$5,880 to replace the top handrail cap on the ADA access ramp to the fishing pier to be paid by the fishing pier maintenance fund.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached quote for \$5,880 to replace the top handrail cap on the ADA access ramp to the fishing pier to be paid by the fishing pier maintenance fund. Motion carried 4-0.**

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

Attached are 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. This is the final board meeting in which amendments and resolutions can be approved.

The 1st resolution is for \$156,056 in state grant funds received from the Florida Division of Historic Preservation and \$64,385 in insurance proceeds relative to the Carrabelle Beach Park Preservation Project. The 2nd resolution is for 42,779 in federal funds received from the LATCF consistency program used to refurbish some of the county playgrounds and the re-roof of the old annex roof in Carrabelle. The 3rd resolution is for \$183,184 in state grant funds received from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and \$88,996 received in private donations for the SGI Inclusive Playground Project. The 4th resolution is for \$7,857 in unanticipated interest earnings for the Revolving Loan fund which was transferred to ARPC for use in their revolving loan program for Franklin County businesses. The 5th resolution is for federal grant revenues of \$630,097 from the USDA to fund 75% of the purchase price for two new ambulances. The 6th resolution is for \$17,423 in federal grant revenues received for the CDBG housing program. The 7th resolution is for \$13,584 in unanticipated interest earnings for the road and bridge fund used to fund capital outlay for the department. The 8th resolution is for unanticipated settlement proceeds from the Government Software Assurance settlement for the Tax Collectors office and the upgrades that he made during the year with those proceeds. Board action to adopt the attached budget resolutions. I have five-line-item budget amendments for approval by the Board – budget amendments simply move budgeted amounts between line items during the fiscal year:

1. The budget amendment below is needed to adjust line items to move additional expenses within three departments with shared expenditures: Administrative Services, Fiscal Management and Planning Departments:

DECREASE 001.20.511.3100	County Commission – Professional Services	\$ 5,782.00
DECREASE 001.25.515.1200	Planning & Zoning – Other Current Charges	\$ 1,800.00
INCREASE 001.21.512.1200	Administrative Services – Regular Salaries	\$ 2,929.00
INCREASE 001.21.512.1400	Administrative Services – Overtime	\$ 1,788.00
INCREASE 001.21.512.2200	Administrative Services – Retirement	\$ 2,574.00
INCREASE 001.27.5132200	Fiscal Manager – Retirement	\$ 291.00

2. The budget amendment below is needed to fund specific projects during the fiscal year by the Franklin County TDC:

DECREASE 130.33.552.6300	TDC Infrastructure	\$818,907.00
INCREASE 130.33.552.4601	TDC Maintenance Dredging Channels	\$375,950.00
INCREASE 130.33.552.6200	TDC Land Acquisition – EP Nature Center	\$146,545.00
INCREASE 130.33.552.6200	TDC Buildings – Armory Convention Center	\$115,771.00
INCREASE 130.33.552.6201	TDC Buildings – Carrabelle Beach Park Reno.	\$180,641.00

3. The budget amendment below is needed to move budgeted funds from the Road and Bridge various operational line items and the fund’s Reserve for Contingency Line Item to cover cost increases in road base, overtime from lack available inmate labor, and the purchase of equipment.

DECREASE 140.41.583.9600	Road Department – Reserve for Contingency	\$60,525.00
INCREASE 140.41.541.5300	Road Department – Road Materials	\$60,525.00
DECREASE 140.41.541.1200	Road Department - Regular Salaries	\$27,788.00
DECREASE 140.41.541.2300	Road Department – Insurance	\$12,846.00
DECREASE 140.41.541.4600	Road Department – Repair & Maint.	\$15,351.00
INCREASE 140.41.541.1400	Road Department – Overtime	\$11,197.00
INCREASE 140.41.541.6401	Road Department – Machinery & Equip.	\$44,788.00

4. The budget amendment below is needed to move budgeted funds from the revolving loan funds’ reserve for contingency to the transfer to other government agencies line item as ARPC now manages a loan program that can aid local businesses.

DECREASE 151.99.584.9600	\$303,369.00 Revolving Loan Fund Reserve for Contingency
INCREASE 151.52.559.8100	\$303,369.00 Transfer to other governmental agencies

5. The budget amendment below moves funds within the health care trust fund to the line items which funded the 25% match for the USDA ambulance grant and the design and engineering costs incurred to date for another major upgrade for the ambulance service – a county-owned EMS station in Lanark Village.

DECREASE 125.52.581.9101	Budget Transfer to Weems Capital	\$253,473.00
INCREASE 125.52.581.6200	Health Care Trust Buildings	\$ 21,720.00
INCREASE 125.52.581.6401	Health Care Trust Capital Outlay	\$231,753.00

Board action to adopt the attached budget resolutions.

**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 \$156,056.00 from the Florida Division of Historic Preservation and \$64,385.00 in unanticipated insurance proceeds from Hurricane Michael for the payment of expenses relative to the Carrabelle Beach Park Restoration 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:

001.20.572.6201	Buildings – Carrabelle Beach Park	\$220,441.00
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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$220,441.00 in the GENERAL FUND to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 21st day of NOVEMBER 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 federal program revenues in the amount of \$42,779.00 from the United States Treasury for the payment of expenses relative to the LATCF Consistency Funds 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:

001.20.572.6203	Buildings – LATCF Building Repairs	\$ 5,238.00
001.20.572.6318	Buildings – LATCF Park Refurbishment	\$37,541.00



NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$42,779.00 in the GENERAL FUND to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 21st day of NOVEMBER 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 \$183,184.00 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and \$88,996.00 from private donations for the payment of expenses relative to the SGI Inclusive Playground FRDAP Project,

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:

001.20.572.6315	Infrastructure – SGI Playground Imp FRDAP	\$183,184.00
001.20.572.6316	Infrastructure – SGI Playground Imp Donations	\$ 88,996.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$272,180.00 in the GENERAL FUND to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 21st day of NOVEMBER 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 interest revenues in the amount of \$7,857.00 from the State Board of Administration and Centennial Bank for the payment of expenses

relative to the transfer of economic development revolving loan funds to ARPC to fund a new program,

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:

151.52.559.8100	Support – Other Government Agencies	\$7,857.00
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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$7,857.00 in the REVOLVING LOAN FUND to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 21st day of NOVEMBER 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 federal grant revenues in the amount of \$630,097.00 from the USDA for the payment of expenses relative to the purchase of two new ambulances,

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:

125.52.561.6401	Health Care Trust Fund – Capital Outlay	\$ 630,097.00
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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$630,097.00 in the HEALTH CARE TRUST FUND with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 21st day of NOVEMBER 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 federal grant revenues in the amount of \$17,423.00 from the Florida Department of Commerce for the payment of expenses relative to the CDBG Housing Program,

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:

150.52.539.3100	Neighborhood Revit. – Professional Services	\$ 15,800.00
150.52.539.4900	Neighborhood Revit. – Other Current Charges	\$ 328.00
150.52.539.8200	Neighborhood Revit. – Aid to Citizens	\$ 1,295.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$17,423.00 in the CDBG Fund to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 21st day of NOVEMBER 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 interest revenues in the amount of \$13,584.00 from the State Board of Administration and Centennial Bank for the payment of expenses relative to the operations of the Franklin County Road Department,

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:

140.41.541.6401	Road & Bridge – Machinery & Equipment	\$13,584.00
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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$13,584.00 in the ROAD & BRIDGE FUND to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 21st day of NOVEMBER 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 settlement proceeds in the amount of \$96,236.00 from Government Software Assurance Corp relative to the Tax Collector’s software settlement,

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:

001.23.513.4600	Tax Collector – Repair & Maint.	\$ 2,500.00
001.23.513.6400	Tax Collector – Machinery & Equip.	\$ 29,068.00
001.23.513.6401	Tax Collector – Machinery & Equip. (+\$5,000)	\$ 64,668.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$96,236.00 in the GENERAL FUND with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 21st day of NOVEMBER 2023.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the above referenced budget resolutions. Motion carried 4-0. On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the budget line-item amendments as outlined above. Motion carried 4-0.**

**6. BOARD ACTION: Tent and Termite Bond for 248 Highway 98, Eastpoint Location**

On Friday, the county closed on the acquisition of the old Gulf State Bank Building in Eastpoint. The attached quotes were previously provided during the county's inspection period for treatment and initial bonding of the building for the termite issue. The county will contract with Aero Pest Control as they are a regional provider for the treatment of buildings with Vikane gas. Once the building is tented, the county will then also have the soil treated with Termidor from Donnie's Pest Control and then bond to warranty the building from any future infestations.

Board action to authorize the chairman to sign the attached quotes and customer acknowledgments and to proceed with scheduling the tenting of the building for December 13th.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the chairman to sign the attached quotes and customer acknowledgments and to proceed with scheduling the tenting of the building for December 13th. Motion carried 3-1. Commissioner Sanders opposed.**

**7. BOARD ACTION: PERMISSION TO SCHEDULE AND ADVERTISE PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND THE TDC SPENDING PLAN**

As reported during this year's budget discussions, there was a change in the 2023 statutes which authorized the expenditure of up to 10% of tourist development tax proceeds to fund public safety services. However, before this could occur, the county must amend the TDC spending plan to reflect the change. A rough draft of the revised plan will be presented to the Board for review, changes and comments at the next meeting as well as sent on to the Tourist Development Council for their review, changes and comments prior to a draft being submitted for consideration and review at the public hearing. Board action to approve scheduling a public hearing for the 2nd meeting in January to amend the TDC spending plan.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison and Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved scheduling a public hearing for the 2nd meeting in January to amend the TDC spending plan.** Chairman Jones noted that since she is doing the work, we should find a way to compensate her from TDC funds. The Board discussed this further. **Motion carried 4-0.** Attorney Shuler noted that the legislature requires a majority vote plus one so it would require all the board to vote yes.

**8. LATE ADD: BOARD ACTION: SHERIFF'S BYRNE JAG GRANT AGREEMENT**

The Sheriff's Department has just sent the award agreement for the Byrne JAG Grant for the drug investigations unit. This award is for \$39,348 and funds a portion of the salary and benefits for a drug investigations officer.

Due to the item being added to the agenda, Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Sheriff's Byrne JAG Grant Agreement. Motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Ward noted the Muscoe lighting at Vrooman park is super bright. There is no excuse for not being able to play at night. They look great. Asked when the digging and drains will begin construction. Mrs. Griffith said they should start anytime and be finished before baseball season.

**9. BOARD INFORMATION: HMGP Generators Grant Program**

Bids will be opened at your next meeting for the HMGP Generators Grant Program. An addendum was issued on November 13th which removed two sites from the project scope. The existing EOC currently has an operational generator and after discussion with the EOC director Daniels and program consultant

Traci Buzbee, the new EOC will require a different sized unit and it was determined that a generator will be pursued for the new site instead and the current generator will remain at the existing location. The portable generator for the courthouse was also removed as the county's turn-key recovery program with the Florida League of Cities includes the delivery, connection, and setup of portable generators in the aftermath of a natural disaster without the large grant match, ongoing maintenance, inspections, servicing, enclosed storage, or upkeep that would be required with a portable unit. The generator project still includes permanent hard-wired backup generators for Weems Hospital, the Carrabelle Clinic, and the runway lights at the airport. A pre-bid meeting is set for Monday November 27th, beginning at the Carrabelle Clinic.

## **9. MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES**

At your next meeting we will be opening bids for the beach parking improvement project between 1st and Chili Boulevard on St. George Island. The county will also have the rankings for both the auditing services RFP and the engineering services RFQ available at the next meeting. Commissioner Sanders inquired about annex automatic doors. Commissioner Sanders said when Alligator Point leased the old fire department, they had to give us proof of insurance. She asked if they have given us proof of insurance for the new building. Attorney Shuler noted that we do not require it because we do not own the building. None of the others provide us with proof of insurance. Commissioner Sanders said she would like to know that they have adequate liability insurance.

Mrs. Bankston made an announcement regarding the P&Z meeting. She said that we had one member who will not be back for the meeting and one not able to come, so we do not have a quorum. We are going to have to cancel the meeting tonight and move to next week. The board discussed and this month's meeting will be cancelled and consolidated into next month's meeting.

Chairman Jones asked if we would be better served if we hire a company to give us a review of all our roads noting he would like to have that discussion. Mr. Moron noted that you want an engineer to go out and rate all the roads in every district. Then you as a group will rank the roads that need repair. Commissioner Ward said this whole mobilization thing gets us too. Would it benefit us to have our road department resurface and repaving roads? Can we get it cheaper by having our road department, do it?

## **12. Michael Morón – County Coordinator**

### **1. Action Item: Apalachicola Fire Department Repeater**

- At your August 16, 2022, regular meeting the Board approved a \$13,784.38 quote for a new repeater for the Apalachicola Volunteer Fire Department. The purchase and installation of this repeater was delayed due to the relocation of the Duke Energy tower.
- I received notice from Mr. Travis Wade (City Manager) that the city is ready to proceed with the installation, however the cost for the purchase and installation of the repeater is now \$38,473.
- I recommend paying for the repeater from the CRA funds that were returned to the County from the City after it was discovered that the City of Apalachicola's CRA was no longer active.
- Board action to authorize the purchase of a new repeater for the City of Apalachicola at a total cost of \$38,473.00 from the returned City of Apalachicola CRA funds.

Commissioner Amison asked should we get a confirmation it is compatible with the new system. He asked Mr. Moron to wait and put this on the next agenda. Mr. Moron noted that he will delay action until December 5<sup>th</sup>. Attorney Shuler inquired if this purchase is tied to the Board deciding on the land swap. Attorney Shuler asked that he be allowed to call Mr. Wade to discuss if this location is tied to the land swap, etc.

## **2. Action Item: SHIP Emergency Repair**

- A SHIP client, located at 24-3rd Street in Eastpoint, contacted staff regarding a warranty issue on his heater.
- I contacted Community Action (SHIP Administrator) about this matter, and it was determined that the best way to resolve this issue was a replacement of the unit using SHIP Emergency Repair funding.
- Since the client still has an active SHIP lien for the original rehabilitation project, Community Action would like Board authorization to allow the use of SHIP Emergency Repair funding to pay the \$5,342.00 invoice to replace the unit.
- Board action to authorize Community Action (SHIP Administrator) to pay an \$5,342.00 invoice, from the SHIP Emergency Repair funds, to resolve the warranty issue for the HVAC unit at 24-3rd Street in Eastpoint.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized Community Action (SHIP Administrator) to pay an \$5,342.00 invoice, from the SHIP Emergency Repair funds, to resolve the warranty issue for the HVAC unit at 24-3rd Street in Eastpoint. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **3. Action Item: TLH Foreign Trade Zone Letter of Support**

- Roy Baker (Opportunity Florida) informed Chairman Jones that Tallahassee International Airport is in the final stage of applying for a Foreign Trade Zone designation.
- In 2017 Franklin County sent a letter of support (attached) requesting inclusion within the Service Area of the TLH FTZ project. Tallahassee International Airport staff is requesting an updated letter of support for this same project.
- Attached is a 'postcard' of benefits for being included in the Service Area, which will be of 'no-cost' to Franklin County.
- Hopefully, this inclusion would help with our Triumph funding discussions during the scheduled December 8th meeting.
- Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on an updated letter of support for the Tallahassee International Airport Foreign Trade Zone application.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on an updated letter of support for the Tallahassee International Airport Foreign Trade Zone application. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **4. Action Item: Response to Tyndall Air Force Base Letter**

- Chairman Jones received a letter of interest from Colonel George R. Watkins, Tyndall Air Force Base Commander in support of a possible 8,000 ft. runway extension at the County's Airport.
- Chairman Jones plans to respond to Commander Watkins, thanking him for the letter of interest, and would like input from the Board on what to include in the County's response.
- Chairman Jones would like the Commander's letter and the County's response available for the scheduled December 8th meeting with Triumph, that will include other representatives, where funding and economic opportunities at the Airport will be discussed.
- Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of response to Colonel George R. Watkins.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on a letter of response to Colonel George R. Watkins. Motion carried 4-0.**

### **5. Discussion Item: Florida Hospital Association**

- The Board directed me to create a Request for Proposals for a consultant to assist the Board with determining the future of Weems Memorial Hospital. For the last few weeks, I have searched online and had discussions with individuals that have healthcare experience, especially with rural hospitals.
- These discussions and research led me to a conversation with Mrs. Mary C. Mayhew. Mrs. Mayhew (biography attached) is the President and CEO of Florida Hospital Association, of which Weems is a member.
- Mrs. Mayhew is familiar with Weems, and issues facing rural hospitals. With that knowledge, a discussion Mrs. Mayhew will have a lot of good advice and options for the Board to consider regarding the future direction of Weems.
- Mrs. Mayhew is scheduled to appear before the Board at your February 6, 2024, regular meeting. Prior to that meeting, she would like to meet with each of you to discuss your concerns and questions regarding Weems, so that her February 6th presentation is structured and well planned.
- Would you prefer to meet with Mrs. Mayhew in December or January?

### **6. Informational Item: NWF Funding Award**

- NWF Health Network send notification (attached) that Franklin County will receive \$84,578.14 from the State of Florida Opioid Settlement secured by Attorney General Ashley Moody. NWFHN will serve as the administrator of the funding between the state and Franklin County.
- Mrs. Erin Griffith, Mrs. Ginger Coulter (Sheriff's Department) and I met with Mrs. Tracie Moorer of NWFHN to discuss the possibility of using the funds at the County Jail.
- Mrs. Moorer will let us know if the options discussed during our meeting is an appropriate use of the funds. Once we have approval from NWFHN, the spending plan will be presented to the Board for review and approval.

Board discussion on this matter. Commissioner Ward noted the costs of the radiology machine may be more than what they realize. There is a lot that is entailed in having a radiology machine.

### **7. Informational Item: Saving Lives Award**

- Inform the Board that Sheriff Smith received the Saving Lives Award from NWF Health Network.
- Below is a copy of the press release.
- Sheriff A.J. "Tony" Smith was honored to receive the Saving Lives Award presented by NWF Health Network. This award was given for always responding to those in need and reducing Baker Acts by 15% in our region.

In the wake of the 2018 Parkland shooting, Florida lawmakers passed a comprehensive new law to promote safety, prevent trauma, and intervene with youth and adults in crisis. Specifically, Mobile Response Teams (MRT's) are required to be on-site within 60 minutes to connect those in crisis with alternatives to inpatient psychiatric treatment. The Franklin County Sheriff's Office under agreement with NWF Health agreed to be the bridge between persons in crisis and the Apalachee Center MRT team. These teams provide emergency behavioral health assessments and begin immediate on-site treatment. Since its inception more than 90% of the mobile responses were successful in avoiding the need for a "Baker Act". This would not be possible in rural counties without the aid of the sheriff's office.

"Our sheriffs are critical in making this mission successful," said Mike Watkins, CEO of NWF Health. "Sheriff Smith understands public safety and he values getting people the help they need quickly."

"Deputies interact with Individuals with mental health emergencies on a daily basis. Our partnership with NWF Health is so important to bring services to these folks who may not otherwise be



treated.", said Sheriff A.J. "Tony" Smith.

In the northwest Florida region – the 18 counties from Escambia to Madison – we have seen a net reduction of 15% in Baker Acts (even while our population increased nearly 5%). Perhaps most impressively, in our region, more than 10,000 children have been seen by MRT's and 90% of the responses did not result in inpatient treatment. Governor and First Lady DeSantis, and the Florida Department of Children and Families, have made the panhandle a priority and our communities are safer and healthier as a result.

**8. Informational Item: Sheriff Donation to ECCC**

- Inform the Board that Sheriff Smith donated a van to ECCC to assist with transportation of seniors and supplies. ECCC is aware that the van and the title is available for pickup.

**9. Informational Item: Meeting with Bryan Hall Jr. (Carr, Riggs & Ingram)**

- Mr. Bryan Hall Jr. of Carr, Riggs and Ingram is available, during the week of December 11th, to meet with each of you individually to discuss EMS and clinics financials. The meetings can be in person or virtual, let me know when you are available so I can schedule the meetings.

**10. Informational Item: FAC Calendar**

- Franklin County is featured in the FAC 2023 – 2024 Calendar: Skylines of the Sunshine State.
- The photo included in the calendar was submitted by Mr. Jeff Talbert.
- Commissioner Ward brought copies from the conference, but you should receive a complimentary copy by mail from FAC. Additional copies can be purchased at <https://fl-counties.site-ym.com/store/viewproduct.aspx?id=23015610>.
- Attached is a press release for your review, that will be circulated to the local media.

**11. Informational Item: FAC Legislative Day**

- The Florida Association of Counties Legislative Day is on January 17, 2024, in Tallahassee.
- Let Mrs. Cortni Bankston know as soon as possible if you are planning on attending as accommodations can get challenging as time passes.

**12. Informational Item: Rural Counties Day**

- January 24th – 25th, 2024 is Rural Counties Day at the Florida State Capital in Tallahassee.
- If the Board is interested in participating let me know so we could work on arrangements.

**13. Informational Item: Next Meeting Date**

- Your next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5th at 9:00 am (ET).
- There is a Public Workshop scheduled on that same day at 5:00 pm (ET) to discuss the St. George Island Golf Cart Ordinance (2008-01) and the use of Low-Speed Vehicles on St. George Island.

Commissioner Ward noted that she had spoken with Mr. Moron about a county Facebook page. She thinks it is a good idea. Most people get their news from social media. Think moving forward we may need to look at doing this. Mr. Moron said we are advertising two positions now. This person could take over as much of the zoning as possible. I would like to move Cortni to more of an administrative position. He said he would prefer when we start the Facebook page that we do not allow comments. Attorney Shuler noted his recommendation would be for informational purposes only with no comments allowed. Clerk Maxwell noted that the Clerk's Facebook page does not allow comments either. Noting they recently acquired an archiving service. Commissioner Ward noted that there was a write up about Commissioner Lockley in the association. She would like this to be shared with his family. The Board moved to Dr. Brooke's report at this time.

### 13. Sandra Brookes PhD. -- ABSI Update

Dr. Brookes gave an update on the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative. She presented a power point, and the highlights are listed below.

The ABSI seeks to gain insight into the root causes of decline of the Apalachicola Bay ecosystem, and the deterioration of oyster reefs. Ultimately, the ABSI will help develop a management and restoration plan for oyster reefs and the long-term health of the bay. ABSI funding is provided by Triumph Gulf Coast Inc. and Florida State University. Summary of the project:

Bay-wide surveys

- The eastern side of the bay is doing better than the west
- Areas cultched with small lime rock are performing much better than shell or un-clutched areas
- Lime rock areas are very patchy – some good spots, some not.

2021 Restoration Experiment

- Large lime rock (5-7 “) is performing best.
- Small lime rock (2”) is doing better than shell.

2023 Restoration Experiment

- Treatments performing equally with the exception of just lime rock (different material).
- High abundance of spat and seed and a small number of market oysters on most treatments.

The Apalachicola Bay System Management and Restoration Plan: Consensus built recommendations on how to restore and maintain a healthy, Apalachicola Bay System

Plan Development: Community Advisory Board

- Community Advisory Board members come from many stakeholder groups, including the seafood industry, government agencies, and local businesses.
- The CAB has met 26 times since 2019.

The Plan Framework

- A healthy and productive Bay Ecosystem
- Sustainable management of oyster resources
- The plan is supported and implemented
- Stakeholder education and engagement
- A thriving economy connected to a restored bay
- Additional strategies

Sustainable Management of Oyster Resources

Vision: A sustainably managed and enforced wild oyster fishery, with a management plan that protects the resource and provides fair access to stakeholders.

Outcome: By 2030, an ecosystem based on adaptive management plan will be in place to sustainably manage oyster resources in Apalachicola Bay.

Key Strategies and Actions Examples:

Evaluated management approaches that could be used to maintain a sustainable wild oyster fishery.

- Evaluate potential for limited entry fishery
- Consider recreational daily harvest limit
- Manage harvest areas to avoid effort concentration
- Consider bay-wide summer closure of oyster fishery
- Impose daily harvest limits

Next Steps:

November 29, 2023: Community Advisory Board final vote on plan.

December 2023: The Plan will be posted on the ABSI website.

January 2024: Hard copies of the plan will be distributed to management entities and other interested parties.

The Community Advisory Board will be replaced by the Partnership for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay. The partnership will:

- Help implement a sustainable management and restoration plan for Apalachicola Bay
- Make recommendations for changes to the Plan as needed
- Serve as communication hub between community and management entities
- Funding secured for four years from Oct 2023

Board discussion.

The Board moved to Mrs. Griffith's report at this time.

**14. Michael Shuler – County Attorney**

1. Request that Franklin County consider abandoning the entire 30' wide alley/Gunn Street in Block 3 East, St. George Island Gulf Beaches Unit 1. Attached is a resolution required for the Board to move to a public hearing to consider the petition of Patrick Sparks for abandonment of all the 30' wide alley/Gunn Street in Block 3 East, St. George Island Gulf Beaches, Unit 1, as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 7, Franklin County, Florida. A notice of intent to abandon the alley/Gunn Street is also attached. The advertisement must run longer than the usual 10 days, so the public hearing cannot be held prior to December 19, 2023.

Board Action Requested: Board action to approve the resolution and to schedule the public hearing for December 19, 2023, at 11 :00 a.m. (ET).

**RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO ABANDON A PUBLIC ROAD/ ALLEY  
AND SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING**

**WHEREAS**, Franklin County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, has heretofore acquired by dedication the public road/alley described hereinbelow; and,

**WHEREAS**, Franklin County, based on the written Petition of Patrick Sparks, has determined that the interest of the county and the public in said roads should be considered for abandonment as provided by law; and,

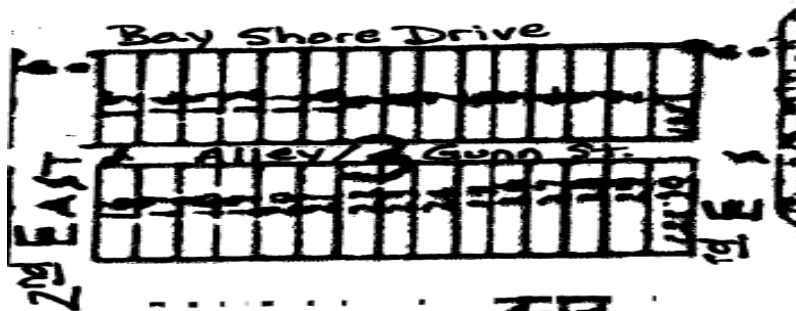
**WHEREAS**, following abandonment, ownership of the road/alley will transfer to SpartonSGI, LLC, a Florida limited liability company.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that on December 19, 2023, at 11 :00 a.m. (ET), a public hearing will be held to consider abandoning the following public road/alley as provided by law:

Public Road/ Alley to be Considered for Abandonment:

All of a 30' wide alley/Gunn Street in Block 3 East, St. George Island Gulf Beaches, Unit 1, as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 7, Franklin County, Florida.

A map of the public road/alley to be considered for abandonment which is shown below:



This Notice of Intent abandonment is adopted pursuant to Florida Statutes Section 336.09(2). This Resolution shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in Franklin County, Florida, once

at least two weeks prior to the public hearing and the proof of publication of the Notice of Public Hearing, this Resolution as adopted, and the Notice of Adoption of such resolution shall be recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court of this county in the Official Records of this county. Adopted in open session, this the 21st day of November 2023.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the resolution and authorized scheduling the public hearing for December 19, 2023, at 11 :00 a.m. (ET). Motion carried 4-0.**

2. Damages Claim by Patrick Gill and Ken Osborne - FACT Denied Our Claim. Does the Board want to Appeal that Decision? Attached is the FACT denial of the claim made to them for the damages claim against Franklin County by Patrick Gill and Ken Osborne. The denial is based on an exception to the policy for the flooding damages claimed by Gill and Osborne. Although dated November 6, 2023, I did not receive the denial until Monday, November 13, 2023. The County has 15 days following receipt to appeal FACT' s denial of the County's claim. A copy of FACT' s denial, the appeal procedure and the claim filed by Gill and Osborne is attached for your convenient review. Board Action Requested: Discussion and decision whether to appeal FACT's denial of the claim.

Commissioner Ward inquired about what happens if we do not appeal. Attorney Shuler noted that we would not getting any insurance coverage for any potential claims, and they would not appoint an outside counsel. It means that Attorney Shuler would be representing them. If they get a judgement against the county, the amount could be up to sovereign immunity limit which has increased to \$200K. The Board and Attorney Shuler discussed the process and backup for the project. **Commissioner Ward made a motion directing Attorney Shuler to not move forward with an appeal of the decision. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

3. Draft Ordinance for Increasing Voting Requirements for Height Limitation

A draft ordinance is attached. It is scheduled for a public hearing on December 5, 2023, at 11 :00 a.m. (ET). The 47' maximum permissible height would still have exceptions permitted by section 462 of the zoning code. A copy or section 462 is attached.

4. Draft Ordinance for County Wide Business License

A draft of a possible county wide business license is attached for discussion. It is not yet ready for a public hearing.

5. Request for Sale of Lands Owned by Franklin County

Regarding the request to purchase 12 lots owned by Franklin County in Carrabelle, Florida. After the Board requested additional information on this item. I reviewed the request and determined that eight of the parcels were not owned by Franklin County. I notified the individual and requested more information. I have not heard back.

Chairman Jones noted that we acquired these twelve lots because they were on the tax roll for taxes not being paid. Not okay with going to auction and selling for \$500. Attorney Shuler noted that the Board could set a minimum bid for the auction. Chairman Jones noted that at any point they could have purchased the tax certificates. Commissioner Sanders noted that is out there northeast of Carrabelle. Commissioner Sanders noted this could be used in the future by the county and city may do work forced housing. Attorney Shuler noted that the county does not own all the 12 lots they were inquiring about. Noted he had reached out to them by email, but they had not responded.

Attorney Shuler said he agreed with everything that was said about Commissioner Lockley and he was a good man. Commissioner Sanders noted that she is glad Commissioner Lockley was able to see her back in office and spoke of her years of service with him. Commissioner Ward wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**6. Possible Exchange of Land with Duke Energy**

Duke Energy was unable to meet with me on November 10, 2023. They are in process of rescheduling our meeting concerning the possible exchange of one lot owned by the County located next to Duke’s existing tower located in the Bowery Section of Apalachicola, FL for approximately 5 acres of land owned by Duke at the former site of the ABC Middle School. They have not provided me with a new date for the meeting.

**Commissioners' Comments**

Chairman Jones announced the Franklin County Seahawks basketball teams would be playing tonight at Arnold and that they are playing their first seven games away.

**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.