

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
DECEMBER 5, 2023  
9:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

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

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

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval of the Agenda**

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, 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. County Bill List for Payment**

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Payment of County Bills. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Awards and Recognitions**

**2. Richard 'Louie' Lewis - Resolution of Appreciation**

Mrs. Bankston presented a resolution of appreciation for Richard 'Louie' Lewis on behalf of the Board. Mrs. Bankston read the resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

**RICHARD "LOUIE" LEWIS**

WHEREAS Richard "Louie" Lewis has been a great asset to the Franklin County starting as an EMT in 2010, then progressed to a Paramedic in 2012, appointed as a Captain in 2016, and has been the EMS Director since 2019 devoting 9 years of service to the Franklin County Community, and

WHEREAS Richard "Louie" Lewis has applied for and received various grants which assisted him in providing community training programs, such as the CPR Education and Emergency Responder Training for fire departments and,

WHEREAS Richard "Louie" Lewis has improved EMS billing and collections, has improved relationships with surrounding counties to improve mutual aid, developed a quality assurance program to ensure high quality patient care and much more and

WHEREAS the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners is greatly appreciative of all of Richard "Louie" Lewis' time and efforts in creating a positive environment that puts the needs of the County and

patients before the needs of his own, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners to sincerely thank Richard “Louie” Lewis for his dedication and years of service he has given to Franklin County and the community.

Mr. Lewis thanked the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to serve the county.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Resolution of Appreciation for Richard ‘Louie’ Lewis. Motion carried 4-0.** Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Lewis for fostering the leadership in his organization. Commissioner Ward noted that he has saved this county a lot of money by doing the extra leg work to go out for funds available. Thanked Mr. Lewis and his crew for their work in the county. Commissioner Amison noted that Mr. Lewis was a leader who led from the front, and we hate to lose him. Commissioner Sanders noted that he will always be welcome in Franklin County. Mr. Walker spoke regarding Mr. Lewis noting the partnership between the ambulance service, the hospital, and the clinics. He noted they are a big fan of Mr. Lewis. Thanked him for his service and continued support of EMS. Commissioner Ward noted that Mr. Lewis did have a program where he would go into people’s homes that were not able to come into the office. Mr. Lewis noted that he has confidence in his successor.

### **Public Comments**

Michael Martin spoke to the Board he is the chairman of the Bungalows by the Gulf. He noted the current owners have 37 units, he would say probably 32 are residents or part time residents. It no longer has the intentions of the original developers. It will help with insurance pricing and give the owners the right of homestead exemption. He would like to change the zoning from commercial to residential. Mr. Curenton has suggested an R5. The R5 has a parking restriction that is way too high. Asking the Board to move forward helping our complex. Mr. Martin asked Chairman Jones to support the zoning change with a variance or zoning change. Chairman Jones explained he would need to request a variance through the process of applying through Planning and Zoning. He noted that he will get with Cortni and Mr. Curenton to file the correct paperwork to begin this process.

## **Department Directors Reports**

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

Mr. Nabors had no action items for the Board. He noted they have been fighting the rain in several areas of the county. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Nabors to make sure the contractors know to keep the pumps running to keep the roads cleared. Commissioner Ward said she appreciated he and his guys moving the heavy benches. Chairman Jones asked if moving into December we have stopped all Friday work, Mr. Nabors confirmed that we have. Mr. Nabors noted that they are still short on inmates. Chairman Jones asked Mr. Nabors to go back and tap down the asphalt added on St. George Island, making sure there is some type of angle to it. Mr. Nabors said 1<sup>st</sup> Street East Pine is in bad shape. Maybe some time we get some more paving done we can keep that in mind. Chairman Jones noted that this is part of the stormwater management plan we are working on.

### **Information Items:**

- Hosting MOT class (Maintenance of Traffic). This will be a 3-day class held at our facility on December 12, 13 and 14. Training provided by Webber Infra. The purpose is to train employees and surrounding interested parties of surrounding areas in correctly placing, maintaining, and removing temporary traffic control devices, inspect placement and operational functions of traffic control devices, and Instruct individuals in Flagger training administration and more safety standards.
- Christmas Holidays- December 21, 25, 26

- New Year's Day Holiday – January 1
- Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District (see attached documents) (November 2, 2023 – November 29)
- Inmates received (November 2, 2023 – November 29, 2023)

Mr. Nabors invited the Board and Mr. Moron to the Christmas party on December 20<sup>th</sup> noting Ring Power will be doing the cooking. Chairman Jones wished Mr. Nabors and his staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mr. Nabors wished the Board the same.

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

Mr. Davis provided the Board with an update highlighting the following from his report.

Information Items:

Employee New Hire Announcement: The Franklin County Parks & Recreation Department is pleased to announce that Jeff Wren and Tahja Rowe have filled the open entry-level positions. Their effective start date was Monday, December 4th.

Carcass containers receiving calls about them being nasty and not being used correctly. The other issue is the concession stand in Carrabelle we had been letting some organizations use it. There were some drugs found inside of it yesterday. Not sure if it had been left opened but there are no signs of it being broken into. Mr. Davis noted that if anyone else calls he would probably not let them use it. Chairman Jones noted that we may have to limit use to the Dixie Leagues only or where we have a specific person who is responsible for it. Commissioner Sanders asked if they were able to intercept the drugs. Mr. Davis noted that it was marijuana tobacco and another drug found. Commissioner Sanders noted that we just need to crack down on it. Commissioner Amison inquired about the lights at DW Park noting that he believes there is something wrong with the timer. He noted that the lights have been on from 9-10 pm. Mr. Davis noted that the timer is set at 10 pm. Chairman Jones wished Mr. Davis and his staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mr. Davis wished the Board the same.

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

Ms. Anthony provided the Board with an update highlighting the following from Mrs. Daniels report. Mrs. Daniels was out of town at a conference.

Information Item: The EOC started pushing out a weekly newsletter in November, therefore we only be placing the major highlights from the month in the information item of our reports henceforth.

1. Hurricane Season officially ended this year on November 30, 2023.
2. EOC staff picked up the mobile command purchased from Gulf County Emergency Management. We are currently looking into minimal remodeling ideas for the interior to improve workspace functionality.
3. EOC staff worked in conjunction with Weather Stem on the installation of three new Weather Stem site, located on St. George Island, Dog Island, and Alligator Point

Commissioner Ward thanked them for keeping the community informed of things throughout the community with the alerts.

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

Mr. Polous noted his appreciation for Mr. Dewey and his staff. His family needed their services, and they were very helpful. Mr. Polous provided the Board with an update of items on his report.

Information Items:

(September 28, 2023 – November 29, 2023) • We have ended our adulticide program as of now (Spraying).

- Beginning our ditch maintenance with inmates on December 4, 2023. We will also be utilizing the new mini excavator purchased to improve and maintain these mosquito outfall drainage ditches throughout the county.
- Treated 58,670 acres for adult mosquitoes using 316.6 gallons of the adulticide we use called Kontrol 4x4.
- Received request calls; 3 from Apalachicola, 2 from Eastpoint, 2 from St. George Island and 1 from Carrabelle.
- We installed 2 beaver deterrents for the area on Baywood Drive in Carrabelle and repaired 1 on Lighthouse Road in Carrabelle as well.
- We will be closed for the Christmas Holidays on Thursday, December 21, Monday December 25, and Tuesday December 26. We will also be closed on Monday January 1 for New Year's Day
- Trap Counts

Chairman Jones noted that he seen a video advertising something that goes on the end of tractor to put in culvert to open beaver homes and pull them out. He noted he will get with Mr. Polous to give him some information.

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

Mr. Lovestrand attended via Zoom noting he does not have any additional items except his written report.

Informational Items:

General Extension Activities:

1. Extension Director participated in a Natural Resources Team meeting to collaborate on NW District projects.
2. Extension Director participated in working at the UF/IFAS building during the North Florida Fair. This provides opportunities to share information with the public regarding Extension topics that they express an interest in.
3. The Extension Office in Apalachicola will not be staffed from December 22 – January 1. However, the Extension Director's phone number will be posted on the door and provided on the answering machine for those who need immediate assistance.

Sea Grant Extension:

4. Extension Director participated in the final Community Advisory Board meeting of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative. A draft of the management plan for Bay restoration was approved and will be finalized before distribution shortly.
5. Extension Director participated in the ANERR fall Reserve Advisory Committee meeting.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

6. Family Nutrition Program Assistant continues teaching nutrition curricula in Franklin County schools.

4-H Youth Development:

7. Extension Director participated with NW District 4-H faculty in a post-meeting about this year's Ag Adventures program, to discuss feedback surveys from the youth and teachers that participated. This allows faculty to adjust next year's event to help things run smoothly.

Agriculture/Home Horticulture:

8. Extension Director conducted multiple field visits and assisted clientele via telephone, email and in-person visits during this period. Topics included palm tree health, soil report interpretation, sand retention on SGI beachfront property, and more.

Chairman Jones wished him a Merry Christmas and Happy New. Mr. Lovestrand wished the same to the Board.

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

Ms. Roundtree provided an update to the Board from her report.

Informational Items:

1. In a partnership with Disc Village Narcan/ Naloxone distribution boxes are now available at both library branch locations.
2. I will be attending the Florida Public Library Directors meeting and the Small and Rural Library assembly in Tallahassee on December 7th and 8<sup>th</sup>.
3. The libraries will be closed December 11th while the staff and I attend the Staff Development Day hosted by WILD at the Wakulla County Public Library.
4. The Franklin County Public Libraries will be closed December 22nd through the 25th for the Christmas Holiday. The libraries will also be closed January 1st for New Year's Day

Commissioner Ward inquired about the Vector security system and if it has been installed. Ms. Roundtree noted that it has been installed and working properly. She inquired about the fire alarms. Mr. Moron noted they had to make a switch and he will explain that off record. He noted they had updated so that she is able to control the temperature remotely. Chairman Jones asked if that included adding some additional cameras. Mr. Moron confirmed that it did indeed. Chairman Jones wished Ms. Roundtree a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Ms. Roundtree wished the Board the same.

#### **Other Reports**

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

Mr. Mosteller provided the following additions to his written report. He noted the zero turns were taken to Tallahassee for annual warranty checkups. He thanked Mr. Davis for loaning his trailer. He noted that there are some new T-hangar leaks that are being addressed. He updated the Board on the order for a diesel fuel storage tank with dispensing for airport use from Gander. It appears that Centric is using the existing tank for their re-fueler trucks and ATV-thus we need our own. Chairman Jones inquired as to where the new tank will be placed. Mr. Mosteller noted that it will place beside the existing tank. Chairman Jones wished Mr. Mosteller a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

##### **10. John Collins -- AVCON**

Please find attached Task Order No. 12, West Hangar Development, for the December 5 BCC agenda. This task order will provide all planning and design services for all five of the hangar buildings and associated civil improvements identified in Exhibit B (last page of task order). The goal of this task order is to prepare the design documents and get everything ready to bid. We will then construct as much of the civil improvements as possible with the existing FDOT grant (\$800k) and have the hangar buildings ready when the FDOT makes additional funds available, or if we are successful with Triumph, or other funding sources.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached Task Order No. 12, West Hangar Development. Motion carried 4-0.**

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

##### **3. Action Item: AVCON Agreement**

As the Board is aware, the county has become more active with airport operations and airport economic opportunities. In addition, AT&T recently contacted county staff about the possibility of building a tower around the old workcamp property. With that said, the county is relying on Mr. John Collins (AVCON) to assist with research, advice, and recommendations when opportunities such as these are presented to the County for evaluation. Mr. Collins has been doing this work free of charge, as there is no approved

agreement in place to pay AVCON. I requested a task order (attached) from Mr. Collins, for your review, that would allow for compensation. Having this in place would allow Mr. Collins to invoice the County for authorized services. The task order has a \$5000 not-to-exceed amount and will only apply if the request for services from the County is not covered by other Task Orders or agreements. This task order will expire once the \$5000 threshold is met.

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on Task Order #13 with AVCON for professional on-call airport consulting services up to \$5000.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman's signature on Task Order #13 with AVCON for professional on-call airport consulting services up to \$5000.** Commissioner Ward asked if we could request AT&T to put a tower up Hwy 65 as well. Mr. Moron said someone has a letter in about that, but we have not received anything back yet. Commissioner Amison inquired about the height of the tower and if that would obstruct the airport runways. Mr. Collins noted that his gut is that it is going to encroach, but he is looking into. If we are asked to do something, then we will invoice for the hours worked on the request. Commissioner Amison noted that he knows Mr. Collins does things without compensation and goes over and beyond so he is in favor of this motion. Chairman Jones clarified that this would be done in conjunction with Mr. Moron and/or Mrs. Griffith. **Motion carried 4-0.**

4. Action Item: AOED Board Appointment

The County has received three applications/letters of intent for the vacant Airport Operations Economic Development alternate seat. The applicants are Mr. Steve Norton, Mr. George Wilkerson, and Mr. Gordon Hunter. I recommend that the applications/letters of intent are sent to your Airport Operations Economic Development Board for review and a recommendation. That recommendation would be presented to this Board for consideration and possible appointment.

Board action to forward the applications/intent letters to the Airport Operations Economic Development Board for a recommendation.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved to forward the applications/intent letters to the Airport Operations Economic Development Board for a recommendation.** Chairman Jones inquired into why we are requesting a recommendation from the board. Mr. Moron noted that he is trying to find a way for all our boards to feel inclusive noting that the Board does not have to agree with the recommendation. **Motion carried 4-0.**

5. Discussion Item: AOED Board Member

On a related matter, one of your current Airport Operations Economic Development Board members, Mr. Ken Weeks, informed Mr. Steve Kirschenbaum (Chairman) that he is moving to Wakulla County, however, will continue to work in Franklin County. If memory serves, Mr. Weeks was appointed to the AOED based on his involvement with the school district's drone program and indicates that he will continue with that program. Does the Board have any issue with leaving Mr. Weeks on the AOED or would you prefer that he resigns?

Board Discussion.

Commissioner Ward noted that she does not have a problem with him staying on the Board knowing he is still active with the community. Commissioner Amison noted that he feels the same.

6. Discussion Item: FAA FBO Lease Review

Last week, I forwarded you an email from FAA that contained a Lease Agreement Compliance Review letter regarding the county's FBO lease. After my review of that letter and conferring with Commissioner Amison, Attorney Shuler, Mr. John Collins (AVCON), and Andrew Hartman (Centric), we came to the

same conclusion that FAA staff reviewed a draft FBO lease that did not include the changes and mark-ups that resulted in the version of the FBO lease approved by the Board. I sent a reply to the FAA office asking that they review the Board approved FBO lease and if there were any concerns after that review, we would schedule a call with the intention of resolving those issues. Board discussion.

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

## 2. BOARD ACTION: AIRPORT STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS ADVERTISEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION BIDS

The design, engineering and permitting is now complete for the \$950,000 FDOT Storm Water Improvements Project at the Airport. The project will include the removal and replacement of concrete pavement, stormwater structure repair, dewatering, removal and replacement of stormwater structures and pipes, excavation and embankment, and sodding. A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the County Emergency Management Building, 28 Airport Road, Apalachicola, on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 11:00 am eastern time.

Board action to authorize advertising for construction bids for the Airport Storm Water Improvements Project.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized advertising for construction bids for the Airport Storm Water Improvements Project. Motion carried 4-0.**

The Board recessed and reconvened. The Board moved to the public hearing at this time.

## 12. 10:00 a.m. (ET) Public Hearing - 5-Year Capital Improvement Schedule

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing, to consider adopting an updated 5-Year Capital Improvements Schedule as part of the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan.

Exhibit A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE 2023-2028						
PROJECT	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
<b>Infrastructure</b>						
Weems Hospital ER Addition/Expansion			\$-14,000,000		\$ 14,000,000	Unfunded
New Emergency Operation Center		\$ 4,000,000				Funded
Airport Industrial Park					\$ 4,500,000	Unfunded
SGI Stormwater Improvements		\$ 5,000,000		\$ 5,000,000		Unfunded
Landfill Transfer Station & Administration Building		\$ 2,000,000	\$ 6,000,000			Unfunded
County-Wide Dune Restoration Project		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,000,000			Unfunded
Dredging Project - Eastpoint & 2 Mile Channels	\$ 6,000,000					Funded
Kentucky Avenue (Lanark Beach Subdivision) Stormwater Mitigation/Drainage Improvements				\$ 1,500,000		Unfunded
Las Brisas Stormwater Mitigation/Drainage Improvements				\$ 750,000		Unfunded
Sawyer Street Stormwater Mitigation/Drainage Improvements				\$ 500,000		Unfunded
Bluff Road Stormwater Mitigation/Drainage Improvements			\$ 250,000			Unfunded
County Jail Window Replacement				\$ 200,000		Unfunded
Dispatch Building at Sheriff's Department					\$ 700,000	Unfunded
Communications System Upgrade EMS/Fire/Dispatch		\$ 600,000	\$ 11,000,000			Unfunded
Broadband Improvements		\$ 200,000		\$ 1,500,000		Unfunded
Additional Government Office Space (SCLC Building Dept. of Cities)		\$ 765,000				Funded

**Exhibit A**  
**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE 2023-2028**

PROJECT	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	Funded	Funding Source
Courthouse Roof / Exterior Sealant		\$ 500,000	\$ 900,000				Funded	ARA Funds
<b>Parks and Recreation</b>								
Fort Coombs Amory Phase III			\$ 1,000,000				Funded	TDC
Vrooman Park Improvements	\$ 600,000						Funded	FRDAP/DEO Grant
SGL Beach Access Walkovers	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000				Funded	TDC
SGL Beach Parking Improvements	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000					Funded	ARA Funds
SGL Lighthouse Park Improvements	\$ 300,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 200,000				Funded	TDC
D.W. Wilson Park Improvements			\$ 800,000				Funded	TDC
Kendrick Park Improvements			\$ 200,000				Funded	TDC
Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park - Repair Picnic Shelters	\$ 400,000	-	-				Funded	DEP Grant/TDC/In-Proceeds
Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park - Parking Property					\$ 600,000		Unfunded	Grant Funding
Island View Park Restrooms & Pavilion		\$ 700,000					Unfunded	Grant Funding
SGL Fishing Pier Restrooms		\$ 234,520					Unfunded	Grant Funding
SGL Seawall East Repair			\$ 615,000		\$ 615,000		Unfunded	Grant Funding
SGL Seawall North Repairs					\$ 2,000,000		Unfunded	Grant Funding
SGL Boat Ramp Improvements	\$ 80,000				-		Funded	EBL2
SGL Boat Ramp Improvements Construction					\$ 1,000,000		Unfunded	Grant Funding
Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp Const.		\$ 1,558,389					Unfunded	FBIP & Sport Fish Restoration
<b>Transportation Facilities</b>								
CR 30A - Sta 270+00 to Hwy 98				\$ 1,500,000	\$ 4,124,181		Funded	FDOT SCOP
CR 300 Gulf Beach Drive Resurfacing						\$ 4,000,000	Unfunded	Grant Funding
CR 370 Alligator Dr. Sidewalk	\$ 371,000						Funded	FDOT LAR
CR 370 Alligator Dr. Sidewalk Ph. III	\$ 1,007,140						Funded	FDOT LAR
CR 370 Alligator Dr Sidewalk Ph. IV					\$ 800,000		Unfunded	Grant Funding

Page 2 of 4

**Exhibit A**  
**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE 2023-2028**

PROJECT	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	Funded	Funding Source
Otter Slide/Avenue A Sidewalk			\$ 46,000		\$ 750,935		Funded	FDOT LAR
River Road Multi-Use Path							Unfunded	Grant Funding
SGL Multi-Use Path Improvements Phase 1 3rd to 3rd Resurfacing		\$ 400,000					Unfunded	Grant Funding
SGL Multi-Use Path Improvements Additional Phases Resurfacing				\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,400,000		Unfunded	Grant Funding
CR 379 Mill Road Reconstruction			\$ 1,086,026			\$ 1,086,026	Unfunded	FDOT Grant
CR 67 Repaving - Bridge to SFR 166	\$ 1,970,050						Funded	FDOT SCRAP
CR 67 Womack Creek Culverts	\$ 1,320,213						Funded	FDOT SCOP
CR 67 Repaving - SFR 166 to SFR 172		\$ 1,650,284					Funded	FDOT SCRAP
CR 67 Repaving - SFR 172 to Liberty County		\$ 3,140,281			\$ 3,140,281		Unfunded	FDOT Grant
Patton Drive Resurfacing	\$ 54,602		\$ 655,225	\$ 655,225			Funded	FDOT CIGP
Hickory Dip Resurfacing	\$ 44,242	\$ 513,978					Funded	FDOT
CR 370 Alligator Drive Resurfacing Multi-Phase					\$ 7,000,000		Unfunded	FDOT
Apalachicola Airport - Stormwater & Drainage	\$ 600,000						Funded	FDOT Aviation
Apalachicola Airport - Pavement Rehab	\$ 800,000						Funded	FDOT Aviation
Apalachicola Airport - Pavement Marking	\$ 300,000						Funded	FDOT Aviation
Apalachicola Airport - Utility Imp.		\$ 800,000	-				Funded	FDOT Aviation
Apalachicola Airport FBO Roof			\$ 200,000				Unfunded	FDOT Grant
Apalachicola Airport Maintenance Building						\$ 200,000	Unfunded	Grant Funds
Apalachicola Airport Fuel Farm	\$ 1,300,000						Funded	Triumph
Apalachicola Airport - Fence				\$ 500,000			Funded	FDOT Grant
Apalachicola Airport - Runway Rehab					\$ 1,500,000		Funded	FDOT Grant

Page 3 of 4



Exhibit A  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE 2023-2028

PROJECT	2023-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	Funded	Funding Source
TOTAL	\$ 15,406,252	\$ 24,172,452	\$ 39,152,251	\$ 13,005,225	\$ 42,130,377	\$ 5,286,026		

Page 4 of 4

Mrs. Griffith presented the revised 5-Year Capital Improvement Schedule to the Board at this time. Chairman Jones called for public comments at this time. There were none in the room. Mr. Moron called for public comments on Zoom and there were none. Chairman Jones said in talking with Mrs. Griffith, this is not every project the county is doing, but this is what the county is pursuing. It does not included projects like FDOT, etc. Mrs. Griffith noted that this is projects in the future. Commissioner Ward noted that she has something to be added, however, she would like to confer with one of the constitutional officers first. Chairman Jones noted that it can be adopted and amended with additions. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the 5-Year Capital Improvement Schedule as presented. Motion carried 4-0.**

Mrs. Griffith read the following ordinance into the record at this time.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FRANKLIN COUNTY  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADOPT A NEW FIVE YEAR  
SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

WHEREAS Franklin County is required to annually update the Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements in its Comprehensive Plan,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that the currently adopted Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements is repealed and a new Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements, as shown in the attached Exhibit A, is adopted.

Any other ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are herewith repealed. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by law. This ordinance adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023, in a regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners.

**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 ordinance pertaining to the New Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements. Motion carried 4-0.**

**11. Cortni Bankston -- Zoning Administrator**

1. Approval of Planning and Zoning Board member Appointment Jim Putnal for District 2

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board appointed Mr. Jim Putnal for District 2 to the Planning and Zoning Board. Motion carried 4-0.**

Informational Item:

Link Collins new hire to the building department. Mr. Moron noted she will help the building department and Mrs. Bankston with zoning.

**12. 10:00 a.m. (ET) Public Hearing - 5-Year Capital Improvement Schedule**

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing, to consider adopting an updated 5-Year Capital Improvements Schedule as part of the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan.

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

**Presentations/Updates/Requests**

**13. Kim Bodine -- CareerSource -- Resolution of Intent for Regional Planning Area**

**Memorandum of Understanding**

A. CareerSource Gulf Coast requests the Franklin County Board of County Commissioner Chair to approve and sign the attached Resolution of Intent to Form a Regional Planning Area. The area will be known as the Northwest Florida Workforce Collective. This collective will include the Local Workforce Boards of CareerSource Escarosa, CareerSource Okaloosa-Walton, CareerSource Chipola and CareerSource Gulf Coast. CareerSource Florida, in accordance with Florida's REACH Act, requires Local Workforce Development Areas to form regional planning areas to be approved by the CareerSource Florida Board and the Governor. CareerSource Gulf Coast's Board of Directors has agreed with three other Local Workforce Development Boards to request to be approved as the WIOA Regional Planning area of Northwest Florida in an effort to develop, align and integrate strategies and resources to support regional economic growth. The CareerSource Gulf Coast would like to request the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners authorize the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with Infrastructure Agreements between CareerSource Gulf Coast and: Tri-County Community Council MOU/IFA, NCBA MOU/IFA, Haney Technical College MOU/IFA, and Gulf Coast State College MOU/IFA

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to approve and sign the attached Resolution of Intent to Form a Regional Planning Area. Motion carried 4-0.**

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with Infrastructure Agreements between CareerSource Gulf Coast and: Tri-County Community Council MOU/IFA, NCBA MOU/IFA, Haney Technical College MOU/IFA, and Gulf Coast State College MOU/IFA. Motion carried 4-0.**

B. The Florida Department of Commerce (FLCOMM) and the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act require local workforce development areas to partner/work with specific entities within the community and to outline their commitments through the execution of a memorandum of understanding (MOU/IFA) between partners. All one-stop partner programs must contribute to the infrastructure costs and certain additional costs of the one-stop delivery system based on their proportionate use, as required by 20 CFR 678.700 and 678.760, 34 CFR 361.700 and 361.760, and 34 CFR 463.700 and 463.760. A partner's contribution must be an allowable, reasonable, necessary, and allocable cost to the program, consistent with the Federal Cost Principles set forth in the Uniform Guidance.

It is also required that each MOU/IFA be approved by the chief elected officials in each county where CSGC serves. These documents were renewed earlier this year, however; modifications have been made and approved by the CareerSource Gulf Coast Board of Directors to bring them into compliance with state administrative workforce policy.

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

#### **14. Sealed Bids -- SGI Parking Improvements 1st and Chili Blvd**

Project is located in Franklin County, Florida and consists of the construction of a public parking lot and associated appurtenances adjacent south to Gulf Beach Drive West between 1st Street West and West Chili Blvd.

Mrs. Griffith noted that one bid was received from a company who did not attend the mandatory pre-bid conference. Attorney Shuler noted that it would be his recommendation that the Board disqualify their bid for failure to attend the mandatory meeting.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to disqualify the bid submitted by Pigott Asphalt and Sitework, LLC, due to their failure to attend the mandatory pre-bid meeting. Motion carried 4-0.**

Mrs. Griffith opened the bid packages as follows:

COMPANY	LOCATION	BID AMOUNT	BID BOND
GEOFLORA GROUP, LLC	APALACHICOLA	\$201,971.80	YES
NORTH FLORIDA CONSTRUCTION, INC	CLARKSVILLE	\$247,529.50	YES
ROBERTS AND ROBERTS, INC	TALLAHASSEE	\$242,106.70	YES
PIGOTT ASPHALT AND SITEWORK, LLC	CRAWFORVILLE, FL	<b>Disqualified; They did not attend the mandatory pre bid meeting</b>	

**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 bid packages to Dewberry and Associates for their review and recommendation. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **15. Invitation to Bid -- Critical Facilities Generators**

Notice is hereby given that the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners invites qualified

firms to submit a bid to install generators for their critical facilities.

Emergency backup generators for Weems hospital in Apalachicola, Weems clinic in Carrabelle and the Airport runway lights.

Mrs. Griffith opened the bid packages as follows:

LAWSON & LAWSON ELECTRICAL SERVICES, INC	TALLAHASSEE	\$682,828.00	YES
BGN CONTRACTORS	PANAMA CITY	\$608,702.00	YES
ZIBATT ENGINE SERVICES INC	JACKSONVILLE	\$954,005.48	YES

Chairman Jones inquired if this would include backup generator for the clinic in Apalachicola. Commissioner Ward noted that she would think the hospital generator would cover the clinic. Mrs. Griffith noted that she will check to see if the Weems hospital generator includes the clinic. Mrs. Griffith noted a mandatory pre-bid meeting was not held. However, there was a voluntary pre-bid meeting. To her knowledge, none of them showed up to the sites. Chairman Jones confirmed that the bid packages will be turned over to Ms. Traci Buzbee for review and recommendation.

**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 bid packages to Traci Buzbee for review and recommendation. Motion carried 4-0.**

### County Staff & Attorney Reports

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

##### 1. BOARD ACTION: CR67 PHASE 3 ADVERTISEMENT FOR CEI SERVICES & CONSTRUCTION BIDS

At the last meeting, the Board approved the Phase III (widening and resurfacing of approximately 1.8 miles of CR67 from SFR 166 to SFR 172) grant agreement from the Florida Department of Transportation. The county will receive the fully executed copy of the award agreement back from FDOT sometime this next week.

Board action to authorize advertising for CEI services first and later construction bids for the CR67 Phase III Project.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized advertising for CEI services first and later construction bids for the CR67 Phase III Project. Motion carried 4-0.**

##### 2. BOARD ACTION: AIRPORT STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS ADVERTISEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION BIDS

The design, engineering and permitting is now complete for the \$950,000 FDOT Storm Water Improvements Project at the Airport. The project will include the removal and replacement of concrete pavement, stormwater structure repair, dewatering, removal and replacement of stormwater structures and pipes, excavation and embankment, and sodding. A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the County Emergency Management Building, 28 Airport Road, Apalachicola, on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 11:00 am eastern time.

Board action to authorize advertising for construction bids for the Airport Storm Water Improvements Project.

***Item addressed earlier in the meeting.***

### 3. BOARD ACTION: WEBBER INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT BRIDGE CLEANUP

In February, the Board approved the renewal of the Ferrovia Services bridge cleanup contract. The county has an agreement with the Sheriff's Department to clean the bridges for \$22,004 per year (which was the same amount that the county had paid the previous bridge cleanup contractor). Ferrovia Services sub-contracted the litter control for the state-owned bridges to Franklin County for their contract value of approximately \$10,004 per year. The county (Sheriff's Department) cleans the bridges more times than the state stipulated schedule. Ferrovia Services has since transitioned to Webber Infrastructure and a new agreement must be signed with them to reflect the new corporate name. The county attorney has reviewed the attached and Webber has also approved and acknowledged the county's use of the Sheriff's Department as a sub-contractor.

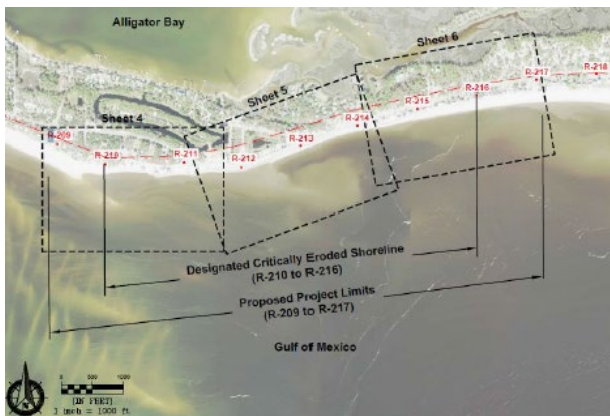
Board action to authorize the chairman to sign the attached Bridge Cleanup Contract with Webber Infrastructure.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the attached Bridge Cleanup Contract with Webber Infrastructure. Motion carried 4-0.**

### 4. BOARD ACTION: ALLIGATOR POINT BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECT PERMIT APPLICATION

Back in 2020, the County submitted a \$200,000 grant application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Beach Management Division for the design and permitting phase of the 1.3-mile Alligator Point Beach Nourishment Project. In August of 2021, the Board signed the \$200,000 grant award agreement. In July of 2022, after much deliberation and unfavorable public commentary regarding the project, the county approved moving forward with a limited task order with coastal engineers MRD & Associates. Of the original project scope, the county authorized only the completion of design, engineering and permits (tasks 1-4), however, would not authorize the portion of the task order associated with the funding mechanisms for the maintenance costs of the project (analysis of MSBU/MSTU, task 5). The design and engineering are now complete, and the permit application can be submitted to the US Army Corp of Engineers. There are no plans to move past the permitting phase at this time. This grant will however result in an approved design, permits and quantities for development of viable cost estimates should a natural disaster ever warrant a change in public opinion towards beach nourishment in the future.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached USACE permit application for the Alligator Point Beach Nourishment Project. An excerpt of the project area is pasted below:



**On a motion by Commissioner , seconded by Commissioner , and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached USACE permit application for the Alligator Point Beach Nourishment Project. Motion carried 4-0.**

**5. BOARD ACTION: AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE RANKING RESULTS AUDITING SVCS RFP**

At the last meeting, the Board opened responses to the RFP for auditing services. Three firms responded to the solicitation: Mauldin Jenkins of Bradenton, Lanigan and Associates of Tallahassee, and James Moore of Tallahassee. The proposals were distributed to members of the audit review committee which was comprised of the chairman of the Board and the constitutional officers. The proposals were ranked separately by the review committee members and results were tabulated and announced at a public meeting held on behalf of the committee on Friday, December 1st. Lanigan and Associates with their \$120,000 proposal for the services was the highest ranked firm by the audit review committee.

Board action to issue a notice of award to the highest ranked firm Lanigan and Associates by the audit review committee and authorize the chairman to sign the contract documents once available.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved issuance of a notice of award to the highest ranked firm Lanigan and Associates by the audit review committee and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract documents once available. Motion carried 4-0.**

**6. BOARD ACTION: REVIEW COMMITTEE RANKING RESULTS ENGINEERING SERVICES RFQ**

At the last meeting, the Board opened responses to the RFQ for engineering services. Four firms responded to the solicitation: Madrid CPWG, Gortemoller Engineering, Inc., Kisinger Campo & Assoc. and Dewberry Engineers, Inc. The responses were distributed to members of the review committee, which was comprised of County Planner Mark Curenton, County Coordinator Michael Moron, and me. The highest ranked firm was Dewberry Engineers. As these responses were ranked on qualifications alone, the next step will be for the commission to accept the recommendation and authorize staff to begin contract negotiations.

Board action to issue a notice of intent to award and authorize staff to begin contract negotiations with the highest ranked firm Dewberry Engineers. A final contract will be brought back to the board for approval at your next meeting.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized issuance of a notice of intent to award and authorize staff to begin contract negotiations with the highest ranked firm Dewberry Engineers. Motion carried 4-0.**

**7. BOARD INFORMATION: DRAFT 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. Before this can occur, the county must amend the TDC spending plan to reflect the change. A rough draft of the revised plan is attached to my report for the Board to review before sending the draft on to TDC for their review and recommendations. The attached draft plan clearly outlines the goals and objectives for Tourist Development and provides a guiding document for budgeted revenues and expenditures going forward. The 2023/2024 plan budget allocates the current year's revenues as % totals: a maximum of 9% can be spent for administrative activities, 40% in advertisement and promotional activities, 21% towards objectives e & f of the plan (museum improvements and operations, erosion control efforts, maintenance dredging and visitor center activities), 10% for public safety services, 10% for beach park facilities, and 10% as a reserve. Interest revenues are earmarked for engineering and design costs associated with projects and carry forward funds are proposed to be allocated to a variety of projects which fit within

Florida Statute and the objectives of category e. and f. of the plan including: the replacement of (3) additional dune walkovers on St. George Island (erosion control), replace decking on the access ramp to SGI fishing pier (fishing pier maintenance), replace theater curtains at Chapman Auditorium (improve publicly owned and operated auditorium), improve the press box and concession building at Kendrick Sports Arena in Carrabelle (improve sports arena), construction of the Eastpoint Nature Center building, boardwalks, paths, parking, interpretive signs and displays (nature center), construction of a second county convention center (size appropriate for population and area) on St. George Island (convention center – 1st convention center in county is Fort Coombs Armory Convention Center in Apalachicola), finish renovations to Fort Coombs Armory Convention Center in Apalachicola, upgrade the batting cages, scoreboards, and concession area at the D.W. Wilson Sports Arena in Apalachicola (improve sports arena). Spending plan concepts are subject to the governing body making the appropriate legislative findings for the use of sales tax proceeds and/or some concepts and project elements may necessitate clarification on eligibility for funding by the state attorney general.

Commissioner Ward said at the last meeting it was determined that Mrs. Griffith had done a lot of the work without compensation. She asked if the 9% could be used to compensate. Mrs. Griffith said she did include this contractual and in house staff. Noting wording was added to authorize TDC to reimburse the county for this. Commissioner Ward noted that she is glad to hear about the windows and doors for the armory. She asked if we could add additional electrical outlets. She noted there are only two outlets in the entire building. Mrs. Griffith noted that she will get that included. Mrs. Griffith noted that on the draft planned budgets, that does total the \$7,355,766. Some of the categories will move around but the total will stay the same. Chairman Jones noted that this will go before the TDC board and then back to the Board. Mrs. Griffith noted that if they have any comments or changes to please get with her.

## 8. MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATE

SGI Parking every effort to complete by Chili Cookoff in March

Boat bumpers replaced in basin area on St George

Working on the handrails

Working on Lanark fire station with Commissioner Sanders, not quite ready for a public update.

Commissioner Ward noted that we all have roads in our district that need help. Is that something that we could workshop and have the community attend to give input? Chairman Jones said it may be more beneficial to hire someone to prioritize. Chairman Jones noted that are we going to approach roads as a county thing or continue doing it as districts. Commissioner Ward noted that she does not like how it is set up with the paving and how we are charged a mobilization fee of \$6000. Noted that recent quotes she has received are outrageous. Chairman Jones said if the legislation will agree with the ask from the association of counties which is giving all the flexibility to the counties to ask their voters if they want the additional tax. As it now our budgets are so limited district by district. The conversation with the people at the state about the price of gas at the pump in Franklin, it would put us in even a better light. Commissioner Sanders noted she has been working with Erin to get a quote for the road in Carrabelle that the health department is on. The city is paving nearby, and the county may could tag onto the project.

## 17. Michael Morón – County Coordinator

### 1. Action Item: Apalachicola VFD Repeater Update

At your last meeting, I informed the Board that the City of Apalachicola's Volunteer Fire Department was ready to proceed with the purchase of a radio repeater for the department's communication system. The Board approved a \$13,784.38 purchase order for the repeater at your August 16, 2022, regular meeting, however, the cost for the repeater is now \$38,473. The Board asked that I verify that this radio repeater

would be compatible with a new communication system that the county is in the process of applying to Triumph for funding. This system will be like Wakulla County's recently approved communication system. Williams Communication, the City's vendor, informed Mr. Travis Wade (City Manager) that the repeater would be compatible as a primary or back-up for the new system. The Board's other question was if this repeater would be installed on Duke Energy's current tower or the new tower that is still in the planning stages. Mr. Wade confirmed that this repeater will be installed on the current Duke Energy tower and then moved when the new tower construction is completed. The county will purchase the communication repeater; however, the City of Apalachicola will be responsible for any cost associated with moving the repeater to the new Duke Energy tower. As stated on November 21st, I recommend that the cost for the repeater is paid from the CRA funds that were returned to the county from the City of Apalachicola.

Board action to authorize the \$38,473 purchase of a radio repeater for the City of Apalachicola's Volunteer Fire Department from the returned City of Apalachicola CRA funds.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the \$38,473 purchase of a radio repeater for the City of Apalachicola's Volunteer Fire Department from the returned City of Apalachicola CRA funds. Motion carried 4-0.**

2. Action Item: SGI Lighthouse Camera Quote

At your November 7th meeting, the Board authorized staff to request a quote from Vector Security for the common areas around the SGI Lighthouse and beach bathrooms. This was based on an incident where individuals started small fires in the beach bathrooms. I met with Mrs. Amy Hodson (Lighthouse Executive Director) and Mr. Stone Grable (Vector) to review the security needs. We agreed on five HD exterior cameras with monitoring and after hour notification would be appropriate. Vector submitted a quote of \$1,245 for the five exterior HD cameras, which includes installation, and a \$49.50 monthly monitoring fee.

Board action to approve the \$1,245 installation cost and the \$49.50 monthly monitoring fee for five HD exterior security cameras to cover the common area around the SGI beach bathrooms and Lighthouse.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the \$1,245 installation cost and the \$49.50 monthly monitoring fee for five HD exterior security cameras to cover the common area around the SGI beach bathrooms and Lighthouse.** Commissioner Ward noted that all these cameras we are buying are coming out of our general fund. However, we live in a society now where people do not value other properties. The hope is that this will deter future incidents or help catch the offenders. **Motion carried 4-0.**

3. Action Item: AVCON Agreement

As the Board is aware, the county has become more active with airport operations and airport economic opportunities. In addition, AT&T recently contacted county staff about the possibility of building a tower around the old workcamp property. With that said, the county is relying on Mr. John Collins (AVCON) to assist with research, advice, and recommendations when opportunities such as these are presented to the County for evaluation. Mr. Collins has been doing this work free of charge, as there is no approved agreement in place to pay AVCON. I requested a task order (attached) from Mr. Collins, for your review, that would allow for compensation. Having this in place would allow Mr. Collins to invoice the County for authorized services. The task order has a \$5000 not-to-exceed amount and will only apply if the request for services from the County is not covered by other Task Orders or agreements. This task order will expire once the \$5000 threshold is met.

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on Task Order #13 with AVCON for professional on-call airport consulting services up to \$5000.



***Item addressed earlier in the meeting.***

4. Action Item: AOED Board Appointment

The County has received three applications/letters of intent for the vacant Airport Operations Economic Development alternate seat. The applicants are Mr. Steve Norton, Mr. George Wilkerson, and Mr. Gordon Hunter. I recommend that the applications/letters of intent are sent to your Airport Operations Economic Development Board for review and a recommendation. That recommendation would be presented to this Board for consideration and possible appointment.

Board action to forward the applications/intent letters to the Airport Operations Economic Development Board for a recommendation.

***Item addressed earlier in the meeting.***

5. Discussion Item: AOED Board Member

On a related matter, one of your current Airport Operations Economic Development Board members, Mr. Ken Weeks, informed Mr. Steve Kirschenbaum (Chairman) that he is moving to Wakulla County, however, will continue to work in Franklin County. If memory serves, Mr. Weeks was appointed to the AOED based on his involvement with the school district's drone program and indicates that he will continue with that program. Does the Board have any issue with leaving Mr. Weeks on the AOED or would you prefer that he resigns?

Board Discussion.

***Item addressed earlier in the meeting.***

6. Discussion Item: FAA FBO Lease Review

Last week, I forwarded you an email from FAA that contained a Lease Agreement Compliance Review letter regarding the county's FBO lease. After my review of that letter and conferring with Commissioner Amison, Attorney Shuler, Mr. John Collins (AVCON), and Andrew Hartman (Centric), we came to the same conclusion that FAA staff reviewed a draft FBO lease that did not include the changes and mark-ups that resulted in the version of the FBO lease approved by the Board. I sent a reply to the FAA office asking that they review the Board approved FBO lease and if there were any concerns after that review, we would schedule a call with the intention of resolving those issues.

Board discussion.

***Item addressed earlier in the meeting.***

7. Discussion Item: Longevity Bonus

The Board has engaged Evergreen to create an Incentive Bonus program which will include annual employee reviews, and a Certification Pay program that will increase the salary of any employee that receive a certification as part of their job description and responsibilities. I would like the Board to consider asking Evergreen to create a Longevity Bonus program for your review. This program will give employees a bonus for every five years of service. For instance, they would receive a bonus on their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, and 25th employment anniversary dates. To be clear, I am not asking the Board to adopt this program today, rather to allow Evergreen to create this program and present it for your review sometime next year.

Board discussion.

Mr. Moron noted that he likes this program to reward employees for their dedication. Also, this would be something we could budget for, having each employees start date. Chairman Jones noted that this will be something that can be presented to the Board with the costs associated with it. Mr. Moron noted that he plans to have Erin present this to the Board for next year's budget. Commissioner Sanders noted that we

do need to do something that increases longevity with the county.

8. Informational Item: The Reserve's Public Meeting – 10-year Management Plan

The Reserve is holding a public meeting on Wednesday, December 13th at 5:00 p.m. at the Reserve office (108 Island Dr., Eastpoint) for anyone wishing to comment on their 10-year Management Plan. On Thursday, December 14th there will be an advisory meeting on the same Management Plan. Chairman Jones and Mr. Mark Curenton have been invited to the advisory meeting.

The Wednesday, December 13th meeting information, including a link to the draft management plan, is on the County's website.

9. Informational Item: SJLV VFD Update

Attached to my report is an update from newly elected St. James Lanark Village Volunteer Fire Department, Mr. Joe Ross. Let me know if you have any questions regarding the information on this email and I will have Chief Ross contact you.

10. Informational Item: Triumph Meeting

Commissioner Amison, Mrs. Erin Griffith, Mr. Ted Mosteller, Mr. Steve Kirschenbaum, Mr. Andrew Hartman, and I will meet with Triumph staff along with representatives from other agencies to discuss funding for a runway extension and other airport economic opportunities on Friday, December 8th. The Board will be updated at your December 19th meeting.

11. Informational Item: 2024 Holiday Calendar

Attached to my report, as submitted by Mrs. Michele Maxwell (Clerk of Courts), is the 2024 Courts and County Holiday Calendar. Let me know if you have any questions.

12. Informational Item: County Departments Holiday Schedule

Attached to my report is your departments' Christmas and New Year's Day holiday schedule. This schedule will be posted on the County's website.

13. Informational Item: SGI Golf Cart & LSV Workshop

As a reminder, there is a workshop regarding golf carts and low speed vehicles on St. George Island this afternoon at 5:00 p.m.

14. Informational Item: Next Meeting Date & Time

Your next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. (ET).

**18. Michael Shuler – County Attorney**

**Non-Action Items**

**1. Helicopter T-Hanger at Apalachicola Airport**

At your last meeting, the Board directed that I obtain and review the lease for the Helicopter T-Hanger. Centric Aviation has advised that there is no written lease of the Helicopter T-Hanger. They further advise that the tenant was inherited from the prior FBO and that after searching their records, they find no written agreement. Centric also advises that all the written license agreements have expired and that there are some hangers, like the Helicopter T-Hanger, that the tenant did not sign and send back the agreement, or words to that effect. I have informed the Airport Advisory Board that they should review and make a recommendation to the County Commission concerning all the T-Hangers.

**2. Draft Ordinance for Increasing Voting Requirements for Height Limitation**

A draft ordinance is attached. The public hearing has been re-scheduled to December 19, 2023, at 11:05

a.m. (ET). The 47' maximum permissible height would still have exceptions permitted by section 462 of the zoning code. A copy of section 462 is attached.

### **3. Possible Exchange of Land with Duke Energy**

Regarding the possible exchange of one 30'x80' 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: I followed up with Mr. Collins about the meeting they requested. I also spoke with Mr. Wade of the City of Apalachicola, and he advises that installation of the Apalachicola Fire Department's new communications antenna is not dependent on first constructing the new tower being proposed as part of our land swap dealings with Duke Energy.

### **4. Draft Resolution Abandoning all an Alley in Block 3 East. St. George Island. FL**

A public hearing will be heard on December 19, 2023, at 11 :00 AM (ET) to consider adopting the resolution or abandonment of all or the alley in Block 3 East, St. George Island Gulf Beaches Unit I. as recorded in plat book 2, page 7, Franklin County, Florida. A copy of the draft resolution to be considered at that public hearing is attached. A copy of the notice of public hearing is also attached.

### **Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Amison spoke regarding the hospital board meetings being videoed. He said he would like access to the videos without having to rely on someone to send to him. He asked Mr. Moron to reach out to them to see if there is something needed to accommodate this. Commissioner Ward said she agrees, and she has heard that they have agreed not to continue videoing the meetings. Commissioner Amison noted that we want them to continue recording them. Mr. Moron noted they changed from Zoom to Teams and in Teams they were not able to record. He noted that he offered his assistance, and they have not taken him up on the offer yet.

Chairman Jones asked Ms. Donna Butterfield to come forward at this time. He noted that she has been filling the position on the hospital board for district 1. Ms. Butterfield announced that she and her husband must move to Tallahassee. She appreciates the opportunity to serve and the support that all of you have given her. She said the Board always let her talk whenever she felt something was important. She told the Board to hang in there, that it was going to be a fight, but a necessary one.

Commissioner Ward noted there have been a lot of social media talk about the gas prices and how one store can charge more than another. She noted that she and Chairman Jones have researched this and unfortunately, we have no control over that. The Department of Agriculture has a bureau of standards. The lady I spoke with said she gets calls all the time. They have no authority to set the price of fuel and have no control unless it is during a state of emergency. Commissioner Ward said she confirmed with the DOA that the county has no authority to regulate the pricing. It is up to the consumer as to where they want to get fuel. Commissioner Ward said the problem is when fuel is sold in our county, we get the tax from those sales to repair roads. Commissioner Sanders said she tells people if they want their roads paved in Franklin County, they need to purchase gas in Franklin County.

### **Recess**

The Board recessed and reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

### **19. 5:00 p.m. (ET) Workshop -- Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles on St. George Island**

Chairman Jones called the workshop to order. Chairman Jones informed the public that Commissioner Sanders was unable to attend due to sickness. He explained that today's workshop was to acquire public input before the Board proceeds with updating the policy. He noted that in the past the Board has created policy and then requested public input. Chairman Jones said with the input received today from the public, a draft policy can be created using this input. He noted that the current ordinance for St. George Island was passed in 2008 and there are some inclusion and things for safety that need to be revamped. Chairman

Jones explained that due to recent change in state laws LSV vehicles can go anywhere that the speed limit is 35 mph and on roads up to 45 mph for a distance up to a mile and a half. The issue is complicated, but we need to hear from the public so that we can address the issues. Chairman Jones noted this is for safety, giving examples of how EMS and fire trucks do not need to have to deal with these vehicles on the roadways during an emergency. At this time, Chairman Jones called public comments. Laura Knoblock noted disadvantage of not being able to drive golf cart on East Gulf Beach Drive. Researched statutes and found out she could purchase LSV. Struggling to understand what the issue is. Worked with sheriff's office to make sure we were getting everything done according to state law. Recently went back to sheriff's department, asked for data activity on golf carts vs LSVs for the last three years. Received all activity from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023- October 23, 2023. 42 calls that were not on Gulf Beach Drive, 17 calls on Gulf Beach Drive, of those were 4 were on East Gulf Beach Drive. You can only cross Franklin Blvd. Assuming that you were able to cross Gulf Beach Drive. Struggling to understand what a safety issue is. Four instances in a ten-month period. Seems to be the issue is that golf cart accidents, people speeding and underage drivers. The issue is more with underage drivers. Perplexed why the solution appears to be banning LSVs when they have added safety issues including lights, turn signals, etc. Chairman Jones noted that he does not believe we are speaking of banning LSVs. We just need an ordinance that encompasses both. Chairman Jones noted that the ordinance would need to include both categories. If we want to change it, we want public input. Greg Stonewell spoke to the Board via Zoom noted that he believes the law on the books covers the LSVs. What current law is not being covered? Chairman Jones said the bigger thing we are facing, are the complaints we are receiving about the LSVs that resemble golf carts that were being rented and going down all streets. That is how we came about researching LSVs. Mr. Stonewell noted that he owns an LSV and operates it safely on East Gulf Beach Drive. Mr. Stonewell spoke in opposition of restricting use of LSVs and believes it to be more of an education issue than an ordinance issue. Chairman Jones explained that there must be policy in place to have enforcement. Chairman Jones we are tasked with making sure the public is safe. Mr. Stonewell noted he would urge the Board to not punish the law-abiding citizens because we are going so slow. Additional ordinances on LSVs owners would be an unfortunate decision and feel that it would be punishing the wrong group. George Kalet spoke as a homeowner and previous owner of an LSV. He noted that he previously owned an LSV and never drove on Gulf Beach Drive because he realized the safety issues. Mr. Kalet noted people ignore the no bikes on Gulf Beach Drive also. He noted that he has witnessed overturned golf carts driven by under agenda drivers. Can we really risk emergency vehicles being bogged down by 25 mph vehicles on the main artery? Mr. Kalet noted that the plantation does not allow renters to use golf carts, only owners. Mr. Kalet noted that he would like to make sure the rights of homeowners at Ocean Mile are taken into consideration.

Gail Reigermeyer spoke noting that St. George Island is a unique place because it is composed of visitors, full time residents, events, and part time owners. The key is that as a community we do not have an infrastructure like they do in other communities. The safety issues – expressed concerns of multiple LSVs and people needing the main artery. Keeping the LSVs and golf carts in the outlying areas minimizes the problem. Rental companies getting into rentals and trucking them in. She noted that these things cause frustration on people like her who have places to go and people to see. It effects quality of life. Ms. Reigermeyer requested that in considering this the Board limit the number of golf carts per business. Reign in the multiple businesses under one person. Eliminate golf carts on the bike path. Please think about the quality of life for those of us who live here.

Chairman Jones noted the bike path on St. George Island was paid for by the state. It is a non-motorized path. We cannot just say put them all on the bike path, because the state could come back and say we are not using it as initially intended and funds allocated for. Laura Knoblock noted she is struggling to understand that people are concerned with LSVs not pulling over for emergency vehicles. Chairman Jones noted the issue has been added to with the rentals. We have had an issue with underage drivers. Commissioner Ward noted that we live in a time where there is a lack of respect. Theres really no way to control that. Chairman Jones said there is no decision going to be made today, this is all for discussion. Mr.

Kalet noted that the problem is the state has allowed LSVs on 35 mph roads. Commissioner Ward noted that we can always make the law stricter, but the issue is Florida Statute. It would not hold up in court because the law supersedes the ordinance. We are just trying to make it more enforceable and where the public can still utilize what they want. Landon spoke noted that he manages the golf cart rental company on the island. He noted that he personally does not rent to anyone under 25. He said that he has had two flips, one by a teenager and one by a 21-year-old. Feels like LSVs should not be punished because some are not in compliance. The issue with speed, they can be bumped up but then there is a safety issue. David Covington spoke noting the importance of code enforcement, enforcement is key. Trying to make sure we have enough effective enforcement on the island from the sheriff's department. We do not have the same winters that we used to have. We are having a learning curve of teaching these people how we do things. Need more of police enforcement on island with TDC funding. More education to explain to people why we are doing these things. Mr. Covington noted that he was unaware that you were not allowed to cross Gulf Beach Drive. Chairman Jones noted that he thinks there are some crossings in the center of the island, from like 3<sup>rd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Covington noted he thinks we need to clarify where owners/renters can cross. Effectively communicate with the public and explain to them why we are doing these things. He noted that he does not think that we should be putting these things on Gulf Beach Drive. Attorney Shuler noted that he believes the ordinance provides for crossing on Gulf Beach Drive. Chairman Jones noted that some citizens have mentioned increasing the speed limit to 46 mph or above which would eliminate access of LSVs on Gulf Beach Drive. However, he noted he is not in support of increasing the speed limit. We are trying to find a way to make this work. Ms. Knoblock noted that there is some type of caveat in statute that would allow you to drive on the highway for a certain distance where speed limit is higher. Mr. Stonewell spoke noting that what he understands is the Board wants to find a way to make this work. Making this work makes it seem like there is an identifiable problem. Confused as to what is not working that would involve changing the code specifically regarding LSVs. Not one of the concerns have identified LSVs as the problem. What is the problem that needs to be solved? Concern is I do not understand what needs to be fixed. Chairman Jones noted that we are here for public input. The county can be stricter than any state statute, but we cannot be more lenient. He noted that the Board is receiving complaints and we must make sure that we are making people safe. It is a difficult job, but we had a workshop to begin crafting. Mr. Stonewell said it sounds like the public is confused because it feels like there are golf carts all over the island. Chairman Jones noted that some people feel like it has expeditiously grown in the past few years. Mr. Stonewell noted that it sounds like there are enforcement, alcohol, etc. issues. Chairman Jones said Commissioner Ward made a statement about the sheriff's time being well spent are on golf carts. Unless we get help from the FHP, the sheriff's department is the only people we can look to enforce. Chairman Jones said he is glad the state passed what it did. Our problem has been trying to find a way to spend the TDC funding. This change will allow us to use some of this funding and put enforcement in place. Commissioner Ward noted this is not us getting rid of LSVs. We are trying to make it the best of both worlds. But do it in a way that it is safe. It is a catch twenty-two. We want to make the right decision, but we do not want to overreach our authority. We must make it so that our law enforcement can enforce the laws. Mr. Stonewell asked how we deal with owners that are letting their renters use their golf carts. How do we deal with that regarding enforcement? If the renter is not the owner of the golf cart and gets pulled over, how does that work? Chairman Jones noted that is a good question. He said it is one thing if you have a brick and mortar building where you are renting. But you also have people that are renting all the way from Apalachicola and trailering them over. In just the last two years we have went from about 30-40 total, and just about all the businesses he talked to are renting that many themselves. At some point it is going to get to be a problem. Mr. Stonewell noted that you also have people bringing their own down on trailers. Chairman Jones said as we clean up some of that language and it needs to be clear and precise number. Does this Board want to consider making it where there is some sticker they must purchase from the county? Possibly discourage people who do not live her. Attorney Shuler noted in section seven the ordinance already authorizes requiring a registration. Mr. Stonewell thanked the Board for holding the workshop and allowing discussion. Mr. Kalet thanked Commissioner Ward for reading the rental contract, noting that she is probably one of the few people who have read it.

Mr. Moron noted that the Board may consider having two separate ordinances one for golf carts and one for LSVs. Grouping together may be causing an issue with the residents. Chairman Jones noted that what is going to happen over time, is they will all be LSVs. If you make golf carts stricter, the next time they upgrade they will just go to an LSV. Commissioner Ward noted that it boils down to education and enforcement. She noted that the sheriff department does the best they can with what they have. In addition, these rental companies and homeowners who rent houses out, there is no way we can do anything about the renters who do not abide by the rules. There are a lot of variables to this, you have residents and visitors who utilize them. Chairman Jones noted that even if we had hired someone for code enforcement, they would not be able to handle this. That is for law enforcement. Commissioner Ward said it is an interesting topic with a lot of variables. Chairman Jones noted that at the end of the day safety is the main issue. Commissioner Ward noted that the 2008 ordinance was signed by Commissioner Lockley. Commissioner Amison asked why we could not be creative with this and redirect them to the back roads. There are ways we could work with this and make it doable. Commissioner Amison noted that enforcement is key. Commissioner Amison and Chairman Jones both expressed their gratitude for those who were able to attend and provide input.

### **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.