

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
DECEMBER 19, 2023  
9:00 AM  
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Erin Griffith-Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator, Cortni Bankston-Zoning Administrator, and Jessica Gay-Clerk to the Board

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Swearing-In Ceremony**

**1. Commissioner-Appointee Anthony Croom Jr. -- Oath of Office**

Judge Gordon Shuler administered the Oath of Office for Commissioner Anthony Croom.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Moron explained that Mrs. Griffith would be presenting earlier in the meeting due to a previously scheduled meeting with FEMA.

**On a motion by Commissioner , seconded by Commissioner , and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

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

**2. County Bill List for Payment**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Payment of County Bills and the FCBCC Minutes from 11/7/2023, 11/21/2023 and 12/5/2023. Motion carried 5-0.**

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

1. BOARD ACTION: ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT DEWBERRY ENGINEERS (ITEM MOVED TO NEXT MEETING)

**\*\*Item delayed until the next meeting – still in legal review.\*\*** At the last meeting, the Board authorized staff to begin contract negotiations with the highest ranked firm Dewberry Engineers. Attached is the services contract and schedule of rates. For project services, the rate schedule may be subject to review by

various granting agencies and will require additional approval from the Board for specific task orders which will outline the scope of services, the amount and required completion date.

2. BOARD ACTION: CR67 PHASE II PROJECT, SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT AGREEMENT & RESOLUTION, ADDITIONAL PAVING FUNDS, CONSTRUCTION & CEI CONTRACT AWARDS

At the September 7th, 2021, meeting, the Board signed the \$1,970,050 grant award agreement for the design, permitting and construction of approximately 2.00 miles of CR67 from the Crooked Creek Bridge to SFR166. In December of 2022, the county went advertised for construction bids and unfortunately, as it was originally designed and permitted, the bids came in too high and FDOT was not able to obligate any additional funds for the project at the time. The project went back through the engineering and design process and a second bid package was advertised which included alternate bid items (no paved shoulders, 2' paved shoulders, 1' paved shoulders, etc..) to try to get the project within budget – when construction bids were opened for the second time in late November, even the low bid, which was for the approximate two mile section of road with no paved shoulders was still over the construction amount (\$1,667,450 after design and CEI) in the original grant award. After a lengthy negotiation process, FDOT has finally agreed to provide an additional \$72,879 to fund the original length of the project without paved shoulders.

A. Board action to approve and adopt the attached resolution of authorization for the chairman to sign the attached supplemental award agreement.

**RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Franklin County has opened bids for the construction of improvements to CR 67 Phase II from Crooked River Bridge to State Forest Road 166 (Financial Project Number 440644-2-54-01), and

WHEREAS the low bid exceeded the available funding in the existing grant award, and

WHEREAS the Florida Department of Transportation has provided a supplemental agreement to provide an additional \$72,879 to Franklin County to cover the cost of the low bid,

WHEREAS the Florida Department of Transportation requires the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners to adopt a Resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the Supplemental Agreement, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the Chairman is hereby authorized to sign Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to add \$72,879 to the contract for CR 67 Phase II from Crooked River Bridge to State Forest Road 166 (Financial Project Number 440644-2-54-01).

This Resolution adopted on December 19, 2023.

Commissioner Sanders has been closely following this project and she wants to be sure that the high-speed, high-traffic road is as safe as possible and as FDOT does not have the funds to pay for a paved shoulder, she has agreed to obligate an additional \$95,163.26 from her district's paving funds to construct a 1' paved shoulder on either side of the travel lanes.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and adopted the above resolution of authorization for the**

**Chairman to sign the attached supplemental award agreement. Motion carried 5-0.**

B. Board action to obligate an additional \$95,163.26 from District 2's paving funds towards the cost of one foot of paved shoulders at the edge of the travel lanes along CR67 Phase II. As this project is fully funded, the base bid with deductive bid alternate #1 in the amount of \$1,834,492.26 can be awarded to low bidder Roberts and Roberts as recommended by Dewberry Engineers.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Sanders and Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board obligated an additional \$95,163.26 from District 2's paving funds towards the cost of one foot of paved shoulders at the edge of the travel lanes along CR67 Phase II. As this project is fully funded, the base bid with deductive bid alternate #1 in the amount of \$1,834,492.26 can be awarded to low bidder Roberts and Roberts as recommended by Dewberry Engineers. Motion carried 5-0.**

C. Board action to issue the notice of award and sign the contract once available with Roberts and Roberts. As the project is now moving forward, the \$148,990 contract for CEI services (negotiations with highest ranked firm authorized in December of 2022), Southeastern Consulting Engineers, can be executed.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized issuance of the notice of award and sign the contract once available with Roberts and Roberts. Motion carried 5-0.**

D. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached CEI contract with Southeastern Consulting Engineers for CR67 Phase 2.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached CEI contract with Southeastern Consulting Engineers for CR67 Phase 2.** Commissioner Sanders noted that she is not only doing this because it is a hazard but also because it is an evacuation route also. **Motion carried 5-0.**

### 3. BOARD ACTION: NO COST TIME EXTENSION CR67 WOMACK CREEK PROJECT

Engineers have submitted a no-cost time extension to grant an additional 45 days due to rain and storms to the contractor for the completion of the CR67 Womack Creek Bridge Repairs Project.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached no-cost time extension.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison and Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached no-cost time extension.** Commissioner Ward asked if they give a timeline for completion. Mrs. Griffith said they are thinking mid-February at this point. Commissioner Sanders said she is not happy with the job so far and they have done a poor job. This is causing a traffic hazard. Thanked the sheriff's office and the road department for patrolling the area. Commissioner Sanders asked staff to stay on top of this issue noting there is additional rain coming over the Christmas holidays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

### 4. BOARD ACTION: FWC GRANT AGREEMENT – OLD FERRY DOCK CONST

In late 2018, the Board received an FWC grant to design and permit the replacement of the existing single lane boat ramp at the west end of Old Ferry Dock Road (constructed in 1985) with two twenty-foot-wide

ramps with a loading dock. Also included in the design and permitting process was an expansion of the boat basin with a new concrete wall to make the ramp more navigable. The final permits and design were approved by FWC and the Army Corp in 2022. The county submitted the construction funding application thereafter and just last week received the attached construction grant award agreement for \$1,480,468.75.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached construction grant award agreement for the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp Project.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached construction grant award agreement for the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp Project.** Chairman Jones highlighted for the public that it took four years to get the design and permit done. It is difficult when you are working with state and federal agencies. **Motion carried 5-0.**

#### 5. BOARD ACTION: NOTICE OF AWARD GEOFLORA GROUP BEACH PARKING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

At the last meeting, bids for the SGI Parking Improvements Project were opened and released to Dewberry Engineers for their review. The engineers recommend award to the low bidder, GeoFlora Group, LLC, in the amount of \$219,071.80 as their bid was complete and all requirements were met. This project will construct approximately thirty-two designated parking spaces in the commercial district of St. George Island between 1st and Chili Boulevard. The parking improvement will also include landscaping and storm water retention elements.

Board action to issue the notice of award to GeoFlora Group, LLC and to authorize the chairman to sign 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 authorized issuance of the notice of award to GeoFlora Group, LLC and authorized the Chairman to sign the contract documents once available.** Chairman Jones asked how quickly they would submit the notice to proceed. Mrs. Griffith noted that she expects it to be sometime in January. Mrs. Griffith noted that she has contacted Sign Design to make signs to put up for in progress. **Motion carried 5-0.**

#### 6. BOARD ACTION: AUDIT SERVICES ENGAGEMENT LETTER/CONTRACT

At the last meeting, the Board approved the audit review committee's recommendation and issued a notice of award to Lanigan and Associates. Attached is the audit engagement letter.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman's signature on the attached audit engagement letter with Lanigan and Associates.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman's signature on the attached audit engagement letter with Lanigan and Associates. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### 7. BOARD ACTION: GRANT MATCH DESIGNATION FOR 3RD TO 3RD RESURFACING OF SGI MULTI-USE PATH GRANT

Franklin County has received notice that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is working on

the grant award agreement for the design, engineering, and renovation of approximately .56 miles (commercial district, 3rd East to 3rd West) of the 10' wide multi-use path on St. George Island. In addition to resurfacing, the project will include the installation of surface warning tactile strips at seven (7) intersections, and the installation of waste receptacles, benches, wayfinding signage, bicycle repair station kiosks, and shade trees near the ends of the project area. The total estimated project cost is \$428,645 which will require a 20% grant match of \$85,729. FDEP is unable to finalize the grant award agreement until the county confirms availability of the cash match. Upon searching for a viable funding source for the match, the best option is the use of TDC sales tax proceeds. There were two auditor general opinions (Lake County and Walton County) which substantiated the viability of this option. The commission will need to make the appropriate legislative finding that the resurfacing improvements to the SGI Multi-Use Path will serve to promote tourism in Franklin County by improving user experience through adequate maintenance and facilities and also designate the trail as an extension of a nature center (part of funding objective e in the proposed plan). The path connects to the Great Northwest Coastal Trail Corridor via the Bryant Patton Bridge (Trail connectivity acknowledgement letter attached for reference) and ties the mainland trail to the St. George Island State Park at the East end. I do want to mention that this grant award was quite competitive and was ranked first for consideration by the recreational trails program. Special thanks are extended to community member Isaac Lang for providing the county with drone videography of the site conditions which was used in the project presentation to the committee.

A. Board action to make the legislative finding that the resurfacing improvements to the SGI multi use path will serve to promote and encourage tourism in Franklin County by improving user experience and that the path shall be designated as an extension of a nature center due to its connectivity with the State Park to the East and the Great Northwest Coastal Trail Corridor to the north.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board made the legislative finding that the resurfacing improvements to the SGI multi use path will serve to promote and encourage tourism in Franklin County by improving user experience and that the path shall be designated as an extension of a nature center due to its connectivity with the State Park to the East and the Great Northwest Coastal Trail Corridor to the north. Motion carried 5-0.**

B. Board action to authorize the availability of match funds letter to FDEP in the amount of \$85,729 for construction costs for the project and to include the project in the draft spending plan.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the availability of match funds letter to FDEP in the amount of \$85,729 for construction costs for the project and to include the project in the draft spending plan. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### 8. BOARD ACTION - LATE ADD ITEM: ROLLING LEASE PURCHASE PROGRAM ROAD DEPT. DUMP TRUCKS

It is time to renew the rolling dump truck lease-purchase agreement for the Franklin County Road Department. The Florida Sheriff's Association contract cost for a new 2024 heavy-duty Mack dump truck is \$187,795.28. The county will own two trucks for up to twenty-four months, making the first- and second-year lease payment of \$20,000 per truck. Before the third payment, the trucks will be traded again with Nextran at market pricing and replaced with two new model year dump trucks. This program allows the road department to have reliable dump trucks, covered by an added extended warranty with little maintenance expense year after year. This is the sixth renewal of the rolling lease program with vendors Leasing2 and Nextran which was previously Capital City Truck.

Board action to approve the attached resolution and authorization for the Chairman to sign the five-year

lease purchase agreement with Leasing 2 to finance the purchase of two new dump 2024 Mack Model 64BR dump trucks in the amount of \$302,112.06 from Nextran of Tallahassee and the trade-in of the 2023 trucks, last four of the VIN Numbers 3503 and 3502 subject to review and approval of the agreement by County Attorney Michael Shuler.

**RESOLUTION  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS the governing body of Lessee has determined that a true and very real need exists for the acquisition of the equipment described in the lease-purchase agreement presented at this meeting; and has further determined that the equipment will be used solely for essential governmental funds and not for private business use.

WHEREAS, the governing body of lessee has taken the necessary steps, including any legal bidding requirements, under applicable law to arrange for the acquisition of such equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners that the terms of said lease-purchase agreement and escrow agreement are in the best interest of the lessee for the acquisition of such equipment, and the governing body of lessee designates and confirms the following persons to execute and deliver, and to witness (or attest), respectively, Leasing 2, Inc. lease-purchase agreement and escrow agreement, if applicable, and any related documents necessary to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the lease-purchase agreement and escrow agreement.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 19th day of December 2023.

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached resolution and authorization for the Chairman to sign the five-year lease purchase agreement with Leasing 2 to finance the purchase of two new dump 2024 Mack Model 64BR dump trucks in the amount of \$302,112.06 from Nextran of Tallahassee and the trade-in of the 2023 trucks, last four of the VIN Numbers 3503 and 3502 subject to review and approval of the agreement by County Attorney Michael Shuler. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### 9. BOARD INFORMATION: UPDATED DRAFT TDC SPENDING PLAN

At the last meeting, the Board reviewed the first draft of the TDC spending plan. Commissioners have since reached out and requested the inclusion of sports tourism in the plan's objectives. The county wishes to pursue and promote sports tourism by hosting and attracting large tournaments and events to the county. Also, in the attached, there are minor corrections/modifications to the budgeted amounts to the spending categories for objectives e and f to support grant match requirements, project cost adjustments and additional clarification of project descriptions.

The TDC shall review the attached draft plan at their meeting on January 10th before the public hearing for adoption at the January 16th commission meeting.

Commissioner Ward noted since Roberts and Roberts are coming into the area to pave roads it would be a good time to get the list of roads that need to be paved. She asked Mrs. Griffith if they would please let the Board know when they are going to be here. Noted she would like for them to look at her list of roads for possible repaving or restriping. Commissioner Ward noted that she has her list of roads, and she would like to get with Mr. Nabors due to his wealth of knowledge of the roads in the county.

## Constitutional Officers

### 2. Heather Riley -- Supervisor of Elections -- Server Upgrade

#### Current Situation and Challenges

**End of Life (EOL) Operating System:** The operating system on the legacy production server has reached its End of Life (EOL). This means that the vendor no longer provides security updates or patches, leaving our system increasingly vulnerable to cyber threats. In an era where cybersecurity threats are evolving and becoming more sophisticated, operating on an EOL system poses a significant risk to the integrity of our voter registration data.

**Lack of Hardware Support:** The hardware of our current server is also no longer supported by the manufacturer. Without hardware support, we face the risk of hardware failures without the availability of timely repairs or replacements. This scenario could lead to unplanned downtime, during which voter registration processes could be disrupted.

#### Implications of Continued Use of the Current Server

**Security Vulnerabilities:** Continued use of the outdated server could expose sensitive voter registration data to hacking, data breaches, and other cyber-attacks, compromising the privacy and security of our citizens' data.

**Compliance Issues:** Operating on unsupported software and hardware will put Franklin County SOE in violation of state and federal data protection regulations, potentially leading to legal and financial repercussions.

#### Benefits of New Server Acquisition

**Enhanced Security:** A new server with up-to-date hardware and software will ensure that we have the latest security features and updates, protecting against cyber threats and unauthorized access.

**Increased Reliability and Performance:** Modern servers offer improved performance, higher reliability, and better uptime, ensuring that voter registration processes are smooth, efficient, and uninterrupted.

**Compliance with Legal Standards:** Upgrading to a new server will ensure compliance with current data protection and cybersecurity standards, avoiding potential legal issues.

#### Conclusion and Recommendation

The purchase of a new server is not just an upgrade; it is a necessary step to ensure the security, reliability, and efficiency of our voter registration and document management systems. The risks associated with continuing to use the outdated server and operating system are significant and could potentially lead to security breaches, legal challenges, and disruptions in voter registration processes. This investment will safeguard Franklin County SOE data, ensure operational continuity, and demonstrate our commitment to upholding the integrity of our electoral process.

**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 the Server Upgrade purchase for the Supervisor of Elections office in the amount of \$13,875.99.** Commissioner Ward noted that cyber security is very important to keep our citizens' information safe. Mr. Moron noted that the funds

would be paid out of capital outlay. **Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Awards and Recognitions**

#### **3. Sheriff A J Smith -- Recognition of School Resource Officers**

Sheriff Smith recognized the following School Resource Officers: Deputy Jamie Shiver, Sgt. Brock Johnson, and Lieutenant Allen Ham. Sheriff Smith spoke of the tremendous job they are doing noting a lot of times it is a thankless job. You really must have the best of your best in the schools because it is often delicate situations these deputies are in. A lot of folks do not want to work in the schools. They want to be there, and it makes a huge difference. Sheriff Smith recognized Gary Martina as their supervisor, noting he was not able to attend due to being out of town. Sheriff Smith read the resolution into the record as follows:

#### **Franklin County**

#### **School Resource Deputy Appreciation**

**WHEREAS** The Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners are dedicated to promoting a safe and secure environment for schools and its students by providing the highest-quality training to school-based law enforcement deputies.

**WHEREAS** School Resource Deputies (SRDs) Capt. Gary Martina, Lt. Allen Ham, Sgt. Brock Johnson, and Dep. Jamie Shiver are valuable and essential members of the education community who work diligently to bridge gaps between youth and law enforcement by assisting in informal counseling, education, and support to students, school staff, and the communities they serve.

**WHEREAS**, by training law enforcement to counsel, educate, and protect school communities, the men, and women of FCSO continuously lead by example and promote a positive image of law enforcement to our school children and school communities.

**WHEREAS** School Resource Deputies have the immense responsibility of collaborating with school staff to identify, develop, and promote safety while also providing valuable resources to foster positive relationships with students and developing strategies to resolve problems that affect youth so they can reach their fullest potential.

**THEREFORE**, in special recognition of the vital role our School Resource Deputies play in our community, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida in regular session, hereby proclaims December 19th, 2023, to be School Resource Deputy Appreciation Day.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the above proclamation in Recognition of School Resource Officers.** Commissioner Ward thanked the officers for everything they do. Commissioner Amison thanked each of them for all they do for the kids. Commissioner Croom expressed that the sheriff had the right people in place in the event something was to ever happen. They do not get enough credit, but they have one of the most important jobs in the county protecting the children. Chairman Jones thanked them noting that the first interaction a lot of those kids have with law enforcement is with them. Commissioner Sanders thanked them. **Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **4. Mitchell Griner -- Recognition of Volunteer Years of Service**

Mrs. Bankston presented a plaque to Mr. Griner for recognition of his 14 years serving on the Board of Adjustment and Planning and Zoning Board. Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Sanders thanked Mr. Griner for his service. Commissioner Amison thanked him also. Chairman Jones said it is a really important



and valuable asset to have advisory boards. It is a checks and balances.

### **Public Comments**

Ms. Debi Jordan spoke via Zoom expressed appreciation for the beautiful new fire engine recently delivered to the Lanark fire station. Ms. Jordan noted that volunteers have put forth admirable effort to get the station up and running and she eagerly anticipates the opening of the new station. She thanked Commissioner Sanders and the other board members for their role in this effort. She wished the board and staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. She gave a warm welcome to Commissioner Croom. She noted that she loves the new hawk crosswalks and is grateful they are there.

The Board recessed at 9:50 a.m. and reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

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

#### **5. Lynn Wilder -- Keep Franklin County Beautiful – Update**

Ms. Wilder gave a presentation on the Keep Franklin County Beautiful initiative and provided introductions of board members from Franklin and Keep Wakulla County Beautiful. Keep Franklin County Beautiful-a Keep America Beautiful affiliate. Keep America Beautiful, the nation's leading community improvement nonprofit organization, inspires and educates people to act every day to improve and beautify their community environment. Established in 1953, Keep America Beautiful strives to end littering, improve recycling, and beautify America's communities. We believe everyone has a right to live in a clean, green, and beautiful community, and shares a responsibility to contribute to that vision. The organization is driven by the work and passion of 700 Keep America Beautiful affiliates, millions of volunteers, and the collaborative support of corporate partners, social and civic service organizations, academia, municipalities, elected officials, and individuals. The three focus areas are to end litter, recycle, and beautify Franklin County. Ms. Wilder noted some of the benefits of being part of this organization are:

- a healthier environment and environmental stewardship
- cost savings to the county
- experience and support from a national, long-standing non-profit along with Keep Florida Beautiful and other local affiliates.
- Funding (Keep Florida Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful)
- Community pride and sense of ownership
- Small business opportunities

Commissioner Mike Kemp from Wakulla County spoke to the Board about the benefits of their program.

- 1,000+ volunteers
- 3,500 volunteer hours
- 5 cleanup events
- 2 beautification events
- 1 education event
- 3 adopt-a- highway groups
- 22,000+ pounds of debris
- 65 miles of roadways cleaned

Mr. Steve Cushman spoke to the Board about the various benefits of the program in Wakulla County.

- 36-40 thousand pounds of trash picked up each year through various efforts
- Brings the community together and brings resilience
- Spoke of the benefit of the funds paid through the county

Commissioner Sanders noted that had Keep Franklin County Beautiful at one time. She asked Mr. Moron to look at old reports and see how much money we gave them back then. Chairman Jones noted historical precedence from the past and we need to get back to it. We need to see what we need to do to revive this program.

**6. Nonda Meng -- Move on-street parking from Chip Morrison Drive to Alligator Drive -- Request  
President of Fire Department Dick Hosford**

Presentation: Alligator Point Beach Parking on Chip Morrison by APSTA and Homeowners

Objectives for today

- History of parking on Chip Morrison
- Issues related to parking
- Options
- Chip Morrison Property Owner Comments

History

- In 2010, Commissioner Sanders and APSTA had been working to seek solutions to the public safety challenges in the Alligator Point Community. Franklin County Engineer, Dan Rothwell, developed conceptual plans for the three current beach accesses.
- At that time, Chip Morrison was a paved through road, until 2016 with Hermine wiped out part of the road.
- The original parking design for Chip Morrison, created distinct parallel parking spaces. There were (5) five spaces in 2006.
- In 2010, the update shows (8) eight spaces.
- Parking committee was approved at the regular FCBCC meeting on July 5, 2022 (from the minutes):

Michael Moron had an Action Item:

Alligator Drive Parking Committee: At your May 17<sup>th</sup> Workshop on beach parking, the Board was in favor of two options to help solve the beach parking issues on Alligator Point. The first was the positioning of large boulders in strategic locations to avoid illegal parking as a short-term temporary solution. The other option was the formation of a committee that would look at long-term solutions to properly handle beach parking on Alligator Point. Commissioner Boldt is ready to proceed with the formation of this committee and would like Board authorization to allow him to work with APTA and other area residents to present a list of five to seven names that would serve on this committee. Once the committee members are appointed and given a mission statement by this Board, that committee will have a series of meetings to create some long-term parking suggestions for your review, and then present those suggestions, perhaps in a workshop setting.

Board action to authorize Commissioner Boldt to create and submit a list of appointees for the committee to look at long-term solutions for beach parking on Alligator Drive.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized Commissioner Boldt to create and submit a list of appointees for the committee to look at long-term solutions for beach parking on Alligator Drive. Motion carried 5-0.

- End of Chip Morrison Road creates turn around difficulties, since connection to Alligator Drive was

destroyed in 2016.

- Beach entrance off of Chip Morrison located on the 90-degree curve.
- The current parking is a safety hazard. Trucks stick out into the road on the blind curve.
- Noted illegal parkers move the boulders which creates more danger on the blind curve, need bigger boulders.
- Visitors are parking however they want to park.
- The depth of the parking is not consistent. The deepest spot to the tree line is 16 feet. Most trucks are 19 feet long.

#### Alligator Point Volunteer Fire Department (APVFD)

- President Dick Hosford, states that the fire department supports relocation of the current beach access parking on Chip Morrison. He expressed concern that “in the current situation of disorganized and erratic parking of visitor vehicles, any emergency response vehicle (EMS and fire service) could have extreme difficulty maneuvering through the 90-degree turn on Chip Morrison.”

#### Option 1: Close beach parking

The easiest, least costly, and safest solution is to close the beach parking, thus eliminating safety issues. This can be accomplished by having boulders/barriers/rocks put in the parking spots and add no parking signs. Keep the beach walkway access open. This option is supported by the FCSO.

#### Option 2: Update current parking

In the current location, create distinct beach parking spaces which will entail cutting back trees and bushes in the easement to accommodate vehicles.

- Installing concrete parking bumpers.
- Number each spot, with appropriate, clear signage.

This will also give the sheriff clear directions on how parking can be enforced. Note, this option will not eliminate the safety issues as discussed earlier.

#### Option 3: Supported by FCSO, APSTA, APVFD, and Chip Morrison Property Owners

- Move the existing parking to the south side of Alligator Drive, adjacent to the Chip Morrison turn, on County owned easement.
- Define parking spaces with numbers and cement stops.
- Utilize the old parking area to create a pedestrian walkway. Use cement barriers or rocks to delineate the pathway and prevent vehicle parking.

#### Chip Morrison Property Owners Comments

- There are 26 lots and 25 property owners who were contacted. Two property owners did not respond. All respondents were in favor of moving the current parking to Alligator Drive.

#### Homeowners Responses:

- “My biggest concern is safety, mainly for children, due to the fact that there are no clear parking spaces that meet any type of code specifications, therefore cars squeeze into spaces, or illegally double park. Children are often ‘unloaded’ in the street, unattended, while adults pack beach bags, coolers, etc. “
- “There are legitimate safety concerns with the blind corner and the amount of traffic that enters Chip Morrison during a busy weekend far outnumbers the amount of folks who successfully find a place to park so they end up trying to find a place to turn around. Simply, the parking

situation does not function safely, efficiently, or desirably for anyone, beach visitors or Chip Morrison property owners.”

- “During peak times, many cars are sticking out in the road making it nearly impossible to pull our boat down the road to the marina.”
- “On many occasions, I have encountered people, pets and numerous children walking out from between cars and stepping directly in front of my vehicle. The road is too narrow for this type of parking, and most do not park correctly, and their cars or trucks are half in the road.”
- “We would support the parking area be moved to the SE corner of Alligator Drive and Harbor Circle or close the beach access all together to solve this issue.”

#### Timeline

- The goal is to have this project completed by March 1, 2024.
- This would also allow time to re-educate the community about the new public parking location.

#### Supported by:

- Sheriff, AJ Smith, Franklin County Sheriff Department
- Alligator Point Volunteer Fire Department
- APSTA (Alligator Point St. Teresa Taxpayers Association)
- Chip Morrison residents

Thank you, Commissioners, for listening to the presentation and hopefully by working together, we can make beach parking safer for visitors and homeowners.

Chairman Jones noted that he really did not appreciate the comment about St. George Island gets all of the dollars and Alligator Point does not get anything. Chairman Jones inquired as to where the current access was located. Commissioner Sanders asked Ms. Meng if she had a photo of the new ‘No Turn Around’ sign Mr. Nabors recently installed. Commissioner Sanders inquired if future property owners wanted to develop their property, this could block their access. Commissioner Sanders noted that the past sheriff opposed parking on Alligator Drive. She noted they would try to get a resolution by March.

#### **Public Speakers**

Mr. Steve Frink spoke via Zoom noting this would be moving parking space from where drivers will be going 10 mph to 30 mph. He noted that APSTA does not represent the majority of residents on Alligator Point. He asked if they had spoken to the other 800-900 residents who will have to drive on Chip Morrison. A lot of issues here. The main issue is that all of Alligator Point needs to be involved. If you look at just pure safety the existing parking far outweighs the proposed.

Mr. John Berry spoke via Zoom suggesting making right of way wider to put the parallel parking, there are no signs that designate parallel parking, it does need to be surveyed to see if the beach is accessible via this way. Think how it was presented would be safer than how it is now.

The Board recessed at 11:05 and reconvened at 11:18 am

The Board moved to public hearings at this time.

### **Public Hearings 11:00 a.m.**

#### 12. 11:00 a.m. (ET) Public Hearing -- Public Road/Alley Abandonment

Notice is given that on the 19th day of December 2023 at 11 :00 a.m. (ET), or as soon thereafter as is possible, in the courtroom at the Courthouse Annex, located at 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, Florida, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners shall conduct a public hearing to consider adopting a resolution abandoning the following public road/alley:

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.

The abandonment is pursuant to Florida Statutes Section 336.09, 336.10 and 336.12.

Attorney Shuler announced the request for the public hearing. He noted a motion by the board was needed to proceed with a public hearing of considering whether or not to abandon the alley of Gunn Street. Chairman Jones noted that he was originally told he needed this property to increase his sewer/water etc. He owns an additional 17 lots. Attorney Shuler noted that he is not sure how many lots the business encompasses. Chairman Jones called for public comments.

Mrs. Barbara Sanders noted there was another map submitted by Mr. Sparks company that shows they own additional lots and they do have plenty of other room. She noted that she did not get an official reason of why he wanted the abandonment. Whether Attorney Shuler and I agree if it is legally noticed if there are additional petitioners the day before the hearing. You must make a finding that giving up this land for free, is in the best interest of the public. How does it benefit the public? Benefits the developers. What is the proof that this benefits public? You should not put on the public the burden to bring in the negative. Please consider this request and turn down.

Mr. Mason Bean noted that he thinks it is important to keep all public lands at all costs.

There were no further public comments.

Attorney Shuler noted that it is not his position that the other owner is a party to this request. Noting he would not consider them to be a petitioner. Ms. Jennifer Strahdam spoke via Zoom would like to support the request for the abandonment and will also be asking for extending the abandonment. She noted that they are trying to figure out where we can put a splash pad for the children while parents' shop. We support Mr. Sparks application and hope that you will support it.

Mr. Sparks spoke to the Board via Zoom. He clarified a few aspects. This property dead ends to Paddy's parking lot. This alley has not been maintained. It has been overgrown for the public's benefit. The VFD abandoned it for their purposes several years ago. It is very misleading when you say road or street. It is not a passable road. This has basically become a trail that runs through the property. Basically, we have done everything to properly dispose wastewater on St. George Island. The request for us to get a flow calculation, this area is being used for a reserve flow for the current septic field. I believe the county has encouraged property owners to properly maintain. Attorney Shuler asked Mr. Sparks if he were aware that if the board

were to abandon the alley that the interior lots would lose their public access and you would be required to provide access at your expense. Barbara Sanders said she drove down this road/alley last Thursday. You can drive all the way down to Paddy's. It is open and can be improved. The issue is not someone has to follow the rules to protect the bay. Private developers do not want to use their own property. She asked the Board to deny it. Attorney Shuler noted that Ms. Sanders is correct that case law is abundantly clear that the abandonment must be in the best interest of the public. There was an abandonment that was challenged at some point and reversed. Chairman Jones said to use the words of the FCC, one is not like the other. There are many easements in between every property. If we start giving away property, they are all going to ask for it. Commissioner Ward said she agrees, how do we know that a splash pad is going to go there. If we do this, it will set a precedent. I see both sides, but I have to say if we start this it is going to set a precedent for others to come back and get public land. Commissioner Sanders noted that she agrees, and we need to keep public lands. Commissioner Amison noted he does not understand how that affects the public in any way. They own both sides of the alley. Commissioner Croom said he went out yesterday after his orientation. He tried to look at the map and area. Commissioner Croom said he would like to table in order for him to be able to go out and look at the property with staff. **Commissioner Amison made a motion to table, seconded by Commissioner Croom.** Attorney Shuler noted that it must be tabled to a date, time, and place certain. Mr. Moron recommended postponing to January 2<sup>nd</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. **Commissioner Croom amended his motion to include tabling to January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am in the Board meeting room. Motion carried 5-0.**

The Board moved to the next public hearing on 47-foot height restrictions.

13. 11:05 a.m. (ET) Public Hearing -- Voting Requirements for Building Height Changes

Notice is given that on the 19th day of December 2023, at 11:05 a.m. (ET), or as soon thereafter as is possible, in the courtroom at the Courthouse Annex, located at 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, Florida, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners shall conduct a public hearing to consider adopting a county ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF FRANKLIN COUNTY FLORIDA REGARDING VOTING REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO ANY ORDINANCE THAT WOULD INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PERMISSABLE BUILDING HEIGHT IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Shuler presented the request to the Board. Chairman Jones noted that this will increase the voting requirements to 4 out of 5. The same will be required to make changes to the TDC plan. Chairman Jones called for public comments. Mason Bean asked the Board to keep this as strong as it can be. Noted that lot sizes used to be 100 now 40 feet. Diane Brewer spoke in favor of increases the voting process to make it harder to increase the height limit. Barbara Sanders spoke in favor of increasing the voting process. Where do we start measuring from? Grade? Crown of the road? It is a math question. Ask staff to definitively say where we start measuring from. David Covington asked the Board how 4 out of 5? In the new proposed ordinance do we have specification where the height is being measured from. Commissioner Ward said she felt this is very important to keep the aesthetic that we have. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, to adopt the ordinance that would require a 4/5 vote to change the height. Motion carried 5-0.**

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

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

### **7. Variance Requests**

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

#### **a. 1915 Indian Harbor Road**

A consideration for a request for variance to encroach 15 feet into the front 25-foot setback to construct a single-family residence and abstain from encroaching into the rear 50-foot wetlands setback at the property located at 1915 Indian Harbor Road, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Dan Garlick of Garlick Environmental Associates, agents for James and Gayle Tunnell, applicants.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request for variance to encroach 15 feet into the front 25-foot setback to construct a single-family residence and abstain from encroaching into the rear 50-foot wetlands setback at the property located at 1915 Indian Harbor Road, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **b. 4050 St. Theresa Avenue**

Consideration of a request for a variance to construct an addition 5.58 feet into the side 10-foot setback on the property described as Lot 6 Block H Cochran's Beach, 4050 St. Theresa Avenue, St. Theresa, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Mike Thornal, applicant.

Mrs. Bankston noted that their elevator and staircase will be

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request for a variance to construct an addition 5.58 feet into the side 10-foot setback on the property described as Lot 6 Block H Cochran's Beach, 4050 St. Theresa Avenue, St. Theresa, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **8. Critical Shoreline Applications**

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

#### **a. 1911 Hwy 98 West**

A consideration of a request to construct an 840 square foot single-family dock with (2) uncovered boat slips located at 1911 Hwy 98 W, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida.

Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for Anthony Dipaola, applicant.

#### **b. 1227 Watkins Drive**

A consideration of a request to remove an existing single-family dock and construct a new single-family dock that consists of a 4'x347' walkway, an 8'x20' terminus and (2) uncovered boat slips located at 1227 Watkins Drive, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida.

Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for Gary Baughman, applicant.

**c. 2164 Hwy 98**

Consideration of a request to construct a single-family dock that consists of a 219'x4' boardwalk, a 10'x16' terminus, with one boat slip located at 2164 Hwy 98, Lanark Village, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Dan Garlick, agent for James Houtman, applicant.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approve the Critical Shoreline Applications for 1911 Hwy 98 West, 1227 Watkins Drive, and 2164 Hwy 98. Motion carried 5-0.**

**d. 1988 Hwy 98 West**

Consideration of a request to remove an existing dock and construct a new 1,952 square foot single-family dock that consists of a 236'x4' access pier, a 12'x16' terminal platform, a 12'x12' covered jet ski, and a 16'x42' covered boat slip with a lift located at 1988 Hwy 98 West, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Florida Environmental & Land Services, agent for Harry Marsh, applicant.

Chairman Jones confirmed the property included a house

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the request to remove an existing dock and construct a new 1,952 square foot single-family dock that consists of a 236'x4' access pier, a 12'x16' terminal platform, a 12'x12' covered jet ski, and a 16'x42' covered boat slip with a lift located at 1988 Hwy 98 West, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 5-0.**

**9. Sketch Plat Applications**

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

**a. 1808 Highway 98 W**

A consideration of a sketch plat request to subdivide 2 lots located at 1808 Hwy 98 W, McKissack Beach Subdivision, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Jacqueline Etheridge, agents for Jacquelyn Quackenbush and Janice Davis, applicants.

**b. 1408 Dogwood Drive**

A consideration of a sketch plat request to combine 2 lots located at 1408 Dogwood Drive, St George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Thurman Roddenberry, agent for Randy Droll, applicant.

**c. 1301 Curlew Way**

Consideration of a sketch plat request to combine to lots (2.17 acres) at the property located at 1301 Curlew Way, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Thurman Roddenberry, agent for James Graves, Jr, Lina Graves, and Larry & Nancy Edwards, applicants

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner , and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Sketch Plat Applications for the following properties 1808 Highway 98 W, 1408 Dogwood Drive, and 1301 Curlew Way. Motion carried 5-0.**

**10. Final Plat Applications**

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

**a. 1808 Highway 98 W**

A consideration of a final plat request to subdivide 2 lots located at 1808 Hwy 98 W, McKissack Beach Subdivision, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Jacqueline Etheridge, agents for



Jacquelyn Quackenbush and Janice Davis, applicants.

**b. 1408 Dogwood Drive**

A consideration of a final plat request to subdivide 2 lots located at 1408 Dogwood Drive, St George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Thurman Roddenberry, agent for Randy Droll, applicant.

**c. 1301 Curlew Way**

Consideration of a final plat request to subdivide 2.17 acres at the property located at 1301 Curlew Way, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Thurman Roddenberry, agent for James Graves, Jr, Lina Graves, and Larry & Nancy Edwards, applicants

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Final Plat applications for 1808 Highway 98 W, 1408 Dogwood Drive, and 1301 Curlew Way. Motion carried 5-0.**

**11. Zoning Administrator's Report**

**Mrs. Bankston presented her report at this time.**

Mr. Moron said Mr. Duncan is actually in district one now. We should move Mr. Duncan to at large and then the two seats would have to be filled, Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Croom. **On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, to move Mr. Duncan to the at large seat and fill District 2 and District 3.** Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none. **Motion carried 5-0.** Commissioner Ward commented that any request for a dock permit requires a primary structure. She noted that moving forward she would not be in favor of a docks being built on property without primary structure.

**Public Hearings 11:00 a.m.**

**12. 11:00 a.m. (ET) Public Hearing -- Public Road/Alley Abandonment**

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The abandonment is pursuant to Florida Statutes Section 336.09, 336.10 and 336.12.

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

**13. 11:05 a.m. (ET) Public Hearing -- Voting Requirements for Building Height Changes**

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## AN ORDINANCE OF FRANKLIN COUNTY FLORIDA REGARDING VOTING REQUIREMENTS

APPLICABLE TO ANY ORDINANCE THAT WOULD INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PERMISSABLE BUILDING HEIGHT IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

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

#### **14. RFP -- Code Enforcement Services**

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners is seeking proposals from firms and individuals for code enforcement services. The selected firm/individual must be qualified to provide code enforcement services. The awarded firm will be expected to enter into a 1-year continuing services contract with the county with an option for renewal.

There were no proposals submitted. Commissioner Ward read the advertisement into the record. Commissioner Sanders noted that she had a gentleman contact her last week, but she referred them to Cortni and Erin. Mrs. Bankston noted that they are not sure how to handle that. Mrs. Bankston noted that a couple of people requested packets, but no one returned them. Commissioner Ward noted that we have to have someone to do this. Commissioner Ward noted that we have it budgeted. We have to get somebody.

### **County Staff & Attorney Reports (continued)**

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

1. Action Item: Livestream Weems Board of Directors Meetings
  - At your last meeting, the Board asked about the possibility of livestreaming the Weems Board of Director's meetings.
  - I discussed this possibility with Mr. David Walker (CEO). The responsibility of purchasing and maintaining the equipment and software, along with the constant technical support to livestream and record the meetings is the main issue that Weems staff would have to contend with.
  - While discussing this matter with Commissioner Ward, she suggested using Forgotten Coast TV (FCTV) to stream the Weems meetings as an option. FCTV currently streams the County Commission and the City of Carrabelle meetings.
  - I discussed this idea with Mr. Royce Rolstad (FCTV), and he is willing to enter into a short-term agreement with the Board to stream these meetings. This would remove any equipment, software, and technical responsibility from Weems staff.
  - Board discussion and possible action to authorize Attorney Shuler to create an agreement with FCTV to stream the Weems Board of Director's meetings.

Commissioner Ward noted that in talking about it, they would have to be paying, it is no different than paying Zoom. Commissioner Amison spoke in support of it. Chairman Jones noted that it is more transparent and there is no issue with record retention.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized Attorney Shuler to create an agreement with FCTV to stream the Weems Board of Director's meetings. Motion carried 5-0.**

2. Action Item: Advertise Vacant Parks & Recreation Position

- A County Parks and Recreation employee submitted his resignation effective Sunday, December 31, 2023. Mr. Davis (Parks & Recreation Director) is requesting authorization to advertise for this vacant position.
- **Board action to authorize Mr. Fonda Davis to advertise for the vacant Parks and Recreation position.**

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized Mr. Fonda Davis to advertise for the vacant Parks and Recreation position.** Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Ward noted that we must talk about why they are leaving. Mr. Moron noted that a lot of the reasons why is because they do not have enough people to rotate the weekends.

**Commissioner Amison noted that just contracting out the fields would free up staff to. Discussion Motion carried 5-0.**

3. Discussion Item: TRIUMPH Meeting Update

County staff met with TRIUMPH staff and Board member Leslie Weiss. In addition to TRIUMPH staff and Mrs. Weiss, there were representatives from Duke Energy, Florida Commerce, Space Florida, Opportunity Florida, Florida Great Northwest, Centric Aviation, FDOT Aviation, and AVCON. Commissioner Amison, Mrs. Erin Griffith, Mr. Ted Mosteller, Mr. Steve Kirschenbaum, and I represented Franklin County.

- Commissioner Amison will update the Board on this meeting.
- **Board discussion.**

Commissioner Amison said the meeting was very informative. Mr. Kirschenbaum went in and represented the county. The potential for the funding out there is astronomical. Mr. Kirschenbaum noted it was an honor to represent the county. Direct Mr. Moron to reach out to the group and bring back some information.

4. Informational Item: St. James Lanark Village Fire Department Update

The new SJLV fire truck was delivered yesterday (12/18). Ten-8 representatives stopped here on their way to the fire department for us to look at the truck. Commissioner Croom, a volunteer fireman, was here at the time and engaged the Ten-8 representatives about some of the truck's features and warranties. I have included some pictures of Commissioner Croom and staff with the new fire truck.

- As stated at the last meeting, a group of the SJLV firefighters selected Mr. Joe Ross as the fire chief. Chief Ross and I met last week to discuss plans for the fire department.
- The Chief is planning on sending one of older fire trucks to Ten-8 in DeFuniak Springs for repairs and certification. This truck will serve as a back-up to the new fire truck. The other two trucks will probably be sold.
- Chief Ross discussed his training and certification plans for the volunteer fire fighters and is in the process of contacting the State Fire Marshall's office to determine how quickly he can activate the department.
- He is submitting monthly bank statements to Erin as an accounting of the funds in their bank account and agrees that the County Commission should continue to serve as the oversight board and manage the MSBU funds for the fire department.
- Chief Ross would like to appear at a future meeting to discuss these plans in more detail.

2. Informational Item: AOED Regular Meeting

- The Airport Operation Economic Development Board will meet this afternoon at 5 p.m. (ET) here in your meeting room. The meeting date was moved due to the Christmas holiday.

3. Informational Item: Next Meeting Date

- Your next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 9 a.m. (ET).

**16. Michael Shuler – County Attorney**

1. Centric Aviation- Rentals

Proposed Addendum to FBO Lease Agreement to Allow Rental Cars

After the Board approved the addendum at the last meeting, it was brought to my attention that Centric intends to lease the cars through a third-party entity created by the principals of Centric Aviation. The third-party entity is Centric Car Rental, LLC, a New Jersey limited liability company d/b/a Quest Car Rental.

I am bringing this matter back to the Board not to readdress the car rental matter, but for the Board to consider Centric to rent the cars through this third-party entity. Paragraph I (k) of FBO lease agreement between the county and Centric Aviation allows them to provide services at the airport through a third-party entity, provided that the Board approves of that request.

Board Action Requested: Approve Centric's request to rent the cars through Centric Car Rental, LLC, a New Jersey limited liability company d/b/a Quest Car Rental.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved Centric's request to rent the cars through Centric Car Rental, LLC, New Jersey limited liability company d/b/a Quest Car Rental. Motion carried 5-0.** Commissioner Sanders asked Attorney Shuler what would be the last drop out day that we do not want to continue our contract with Alliant. Attorney Shuler noted there is a termination for convenience provision, and he will provide to the board this afternoon.

**Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Ward commented on the social media concerns regarding to the Hawks Crossing. It was a dangerous intersection, do not question my integrity or ethics. Furthermore, I did not choose where the crosswalk went, FDOT chose the location and type of equipment. Stand behind my decision.

Commissioner Sanders noted this Board has tried for many years to get a crosswalk there and they have always denied it. That is why I did away with my Facebook. I do not need the extra stress. My vote on the county Facebook is we have a website, and they can go there. Commissioner Ward said she tried to be as transparent as possible, but she was discouraged. The next day there was a post from a year ago where I talked about the cross walk and the FDOT representatives.

Commissioner Amison noted complaints about nails/screws they pulled up derelict vessel there. Howard is pointing out the fact that they did not contact us before they did it. There is a lot of debris that is still there. Now we have holes in our asphalt where the excavator. We need to get this addressed because it is going to cause a bigger problem as far as the asphalt and pavement. Got the contact information for the contractors who were doing the job and give that information to Mr. Moron.

Chairman Jones asked Attorney Shuler if there should be some type of contact with the county using our resources. Attorney Shuler noted that normally we are notified.

Commissioner Amison noted that this is a program through the state which provides funding to FWC. Biggest concern is

the asphalt and concrete compromised. Commissioner Sanders wished everyone a Merry Christmas. She told Mr. Croom he has done a good job today.

**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.