

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
APRIL 2, 2024
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Jessica Ward-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, Ottilie 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 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.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes and Payment of County Bills

1. County Bill List for Payment

2. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Payment of County Bills and the minutes of the FCBCC Regular Meeting March 16, 2024. Mrs. Griffith requested the Board approve a manual check to the City of Carrabelle for their CRA. She noted that she expects to have all information this week and be ready to remit check. **Commissioner Ward amended her motion to include authorization for the manual check to the City of Carrabelle for their CRA. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Awards and Recognitions

3. Brenda LaPaz

Chairman Jones read the following resolution into the record.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
Brenda La Paz**

WHEREAS Brenda La Paz joined the City of Carrabelle Commission staff in 2011, and has been an active member of the Tourist Development Council (TDC) since 2015, and served on the Apalachee Regional Planning Council on the City of Carrabelle seat; and

WHEREAS Brenda La Paz was elected as Mayor for the City of Carrabelle in 2015, with an uncontested election in 2020; and

WHEREAS Brenda La Paz has provided outstanding leadership and guidance as the City of Carrabelle's Mayor; and

WHEREAS Brenda La Paz has governed many projects that include the restructure of Carrabelle’s CRA, partnering with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in the re-amortization of an SRF Loan saving millions of dollars in sewer fees, supported the development of 30 new affordable workforce single family residences, and numerous other projects showing her commitment to the citizens of Carrabelle; and

WHEREAS, the City of Carrabelle and Franklin County has been fortunate to have Brenda La Paz as a leader and resident, dedicated to the betterment of her city and community; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners to recognize and extend the deepest appreciation to Brenda La Paz for her years of service to the City of Carrabelle and Franklin County.

This RESOLUTION adopted this 2nd day of April 2024.

**BY: Ricky D. Jones, Chairman
Franklin County Board of County Commissioners**

Ms. LaPaz expressed her appreciation for the recognition as well as thanking each of the commissioners and county employees she has worked with throughout the years.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the resolution as written above. Commissioner Ward thanked Ms. LaPaz for her service noting it has been an honor to work with her. Commissioner Sanders noted that working together for the betterment of the people. All the people of Franklin County. She noted that it has been a joy. Thank you for all you have done and thanked the city commission for all they have done. Commissioner Amison noted that he appreciates everything she has done. Chairman Jones noted that it has been his distinct privilege to work with her. Noted that just as she said she has watched the commissioners and other staff, they have also watched her. Noted this is how we learn and become better. Our county is better for all of the service given. **Motion carried 5-0.**

4. Friends of the Library

Ms. Whitney Roundtree stated that the Friends of the Library have been instrumental in the procurement of facilities, as well as funding and facilitating after school programs; free music lessons; summer reading initiatives and so much more. She noted that we could not do what we do without them. Ms. Roundtree introduced Ms. Brenda Humphrey, as the President of Friends of the Library and Ms. Kathleen Oman, as Vice President. Ms. Roundtree presented the Friends of the Library with a plaque which read as follows:

**The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners
Appreciation Award**

Proudly Presented To

The Friends of the Franklin County public library

For

30 years of passion and commitment to providing informational, educational, and cultural

materials for the benefit of persons of all ages in the Franklin County community.

April 2, 2024

Ms. Oman thanked the commissioners and Whitney for the award and their strong support of the Friends of the Library. Ms. Humphrey noted that they have some new cultural materials, and they are going to start an Eastpoint heritage room at the Eastpoint library which they are very excited about.

Public Comments

Alex Pugh and Heather Bramblett spoke to the Board requesting clarification on the vendor parking location on St. George Island. Chairman Jones noted that all the Board did by motion was to prohibit vendors from parking in the parking lot especially sideways. He noted that Franklin Blvd is a state road, and you cannot legally park there. Chairman Jones noted that in the future they may be doing something to prevent parking altogether on Franklin Boulevard because it is a safety issue. Ms. Bramblett said so right now we are able to park anywhere in commercial right of way. We feel like putting all vendors side by side is like having four McDonalds beside each other. Chairman Jones noted that it is becoming more and more of an issue on county right of way. Noting there are citizens who do not know why we allow any vendors to be there because they do not pay taxes. If you have peddlers that are not buying their annual license, why is the county paying \$150k for a designated parking area if they do not want to be there. Ms. Bramblett noted they are parked in the county right of way of a parking lot where the building is being renovated. She noted that she went and asked the property owners just out of respect. Commissioner Amison noted that county staff reached out to DOT about using state right ways and they denied the request. Ms. Bramblett noted that they understand the safety issues.

Mel Kelly spoke via Zoom as previous mayor of Carrabelle and member of TDC, expressed her appreciation and thanks to Mayor LaPaz, noting she is grateful for her presence in her life. Ms. Kelly spoke about the signs at the county entrances, the newest welcome signs. It seems the graphic companies were not familiar with the area they are meant to reflect. The sand is a yellow and not a white yellow. They do not reflect our sandy beaches. She noted that it is difficult to make out the beach chair underneath of the words. Designer must have been an amateur who never visited Franklin County.

RFP/RFQ/Bid Opening

5. Notice to Receive Sealed Bids: Courthouse Renovations

Those pre-qualified General and Building Contractors are invited to bid on a General Contract for the Franklin County Courthouse Renovation project in Apalachicola, Florida. Bids will be received until 4:00 p.m. eastern time, on Monday, April 1st, 2024, at the Franklin County Clerk's Office, Franklin County Courthouse, 33 Market Street, Suite 203, Apalachicola, Florida 32320-2317. Bids received after this time will not be accepted or opened. Bids will be opened and read aloud on Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024, at the County Commission meeting at 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, FL.

Southland Contracting, Inc.
1843 Commerce Blvd
Midway, FL 32343
Bid Amount: \$1,177,303
Alternate #1: \$510,129
Bid Bond:

Monolith Construction, LLC

524 E First Street
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
Bid Amount: \$1
Bid Bond:

Commissioner Sanders made a motion to release bids to Ms. Tracy Buzbee for review and recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Ward. Commissioner Ward inquired if three bids were required, Mrs. Griffith noted that three bids are not required. **Motion carried 5-0.**

County Staff

6. Erin Griffith – Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator

1. BOARD ACTION: Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp

At the March 19, 2024, meeting, the Board opened construction bids for the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp Project. Project engineers Dewberry and Associates have reviewed the bids and recommend award to the lowest bidder, H.G. Harders and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$1,052,095.

- A. Board action to issue notice of award and to sign the construction contract when available to H.G. Harders and Sons, Inc. for the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp Project.**

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized issuance of notice of award and to sign the construction contract when available to H.G. Harders and Sons, Inc. for the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp Project. Motion carried 5-0.

As Franklin County follows the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act (F.S. 287.055) in selecting engineering firms for design improvements, the ongoing county engineering services contract with Dewberry and Florida Statute 287.055 allows for the county to negotiate with the contracted engineer for this project.

- B. Board action to approve the \$70,000 task order for Construction Engineering and Inspection for the Old Ferry Dock Ramp Project.**

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the \$70,000 task order for Construction Engineering and Inspection for the Old Ferry Dock Ramp Project. Motion carried 5-0.

2. BOARD ACTION: CR 67 Phase III

FDOT has concurred with awarding the construction contract for the CR 67 Phase III Project (widening and resurfacing of County Road 67 for approximately 1.79 miles from State Forest Road 166 to State Forest Road 172) to the low bidder, C. W. Roberts, Inc., in the amount of \$1,394,131.00.

- A. Board action to authorize the Chairman to sign the Notice of Award and construction contract (when available) with C.W. Roberts, Inc.**

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the Notice of Award and construction contract (when available) with C.W. Roberts, Inc. Commissioner Sanders asked if CW

Roberts is going to be there to continue on the Phase III project. Commissioner Sanders noted that she has not seen any of Roberts and Roberts guys out there. Can you find out when they are going to mobilize and begin? Mrs. Griffith noted that she will. Commissioner Sanders noted that she thinks we need to talk to our lobbyist about the funding of phases. If they are going to fund a project, they need to fund the entire project. We need to look into this; the part that was done while I was gone is going to be crumbled up when they get done with these phases. **Motion carried 5-0.**

At the February 20th, meeting, the Board issued the notice of award and authorized staff to begin contract negotiations with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for the construction, engineering, and inspection for the CR67Phase III Project.

- B. Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached contract with AECOM for \$141,685.32.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached contract with AECOM for \$141,6985.32. Motion carried 5-0.

3. BOARD ACTION: CR 67 Phase IV Supplemental Grant Award Agreement

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has required that Franklin County purchase \$108,300 in mitigation credits before issuance of the environmental permits for the CR 67 Phase IV Project (which is the final 2.6-mile section of CR67, from Forest Road 172 to the Liberty County line). Dewberry Engineers have negotiated with DEP to try to reduce the amount of required mitigation credits and FDOT has since said that these costs are eligible for reimbursement. FDOT has now sent a supplemental grant award agreement to pay for the mitigation credits.

Board Action to approve and adopt the resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign Supplemental Agreement #1 to Financial Project Number 451770-1-34-01 to provide Franklin County an additional \$108,300 to pay for the required mitigation credits.

RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS the Florida Department of Transportation has provided funds to Franklin County for the design of the widening and resurfacing of CR 67 Phase IV (Financial Project Number 451770-1-34-01), and

WHEREAS the Florida Department of Transportation has provided a supplemental agreement to provide an additional \$108,300 to Franklin County to cover the cost of mitigation credits required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as a part of the environmental permitting for this project, and

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 WHEREAS the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners has voted in an open meeting to have the Chairman sign the Supplemental Agreement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the Chairman is hereby authorized to sign the Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to add \$108,300 to the contract for CR 67 Phase IV (Financial Project Number 454770-1-34-01).

This Resolution adopted on April 2, 2024.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders made a motion to approve and adopt the resolution above authorizing the Chairman to sign Supplemental Agreement #1 to Financial Project Number 451770-

1-34-01 to provide Franklin County an additional \$108,300 to pay for the required mitigation credits. Commissioner Sanders asked why we are having to pay mitigation credits when it is county lands. Mrs. Griffith noted that it is coming into play since we are widening the road. She noted that we worked with them and tried to get them to change their mind. Chairman Jones noted that this is why they do in phases because they know they are going to do things like this. **Seconded by Commissioner Croom. Motion carried 5-0.**

4. BOARD ACTION: Womack Creek Bridge Repairs

In December, the County approved a time extension change order for North Florida Construction for the Womack Creek Bridge repair project due to weather related delays. The CEI contractor, AECOM, had to work for the extended period and has requested additional funds to pay for the additional inspection and monitoring work. FDOT has approved the request for additional funds for CEI and has provided Supplemental Agreement #2 to provide the additional \$48,875.00 in grant funds to pay for the additional inspection work. Project progress photos are included below showing workers completing the wire lathe for the new reinforced concrete culvert lining and on March 22nd, the concrete liner had completely hardened, and the flood gates were opened. Flood water is now draining through the newly reconstructed culverts.

A. Board Action to approve and adopt the resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign Supplemental Agreement #2 increasing the grant award by \$48,875.00 to Financial Project Number 449880-1-54-01 to provide Franklin County an additional \$48,875.00 to pay AECOM for the additional CEI work on the project.

B. Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the change order contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$48,875.31, to pay for the additional CEI work they had to do on the Womack Creek Bridge repair project.

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS the Florida Department of Transportation has provided funds to Franklin County for the completion of the CR 67 Womack Creek Culvert Repair (Financial Project Number 449880-1-54-01), and WHEREAS Franklin County has granted a 45-day time extension to the contractor to complete the project, and

WHEREAS the Florida Department of Transportation has provided a supplemental agreement to provide an additional \$48,875 to Franklin County to cover the cost of the additional CEI services required,

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 WHEREAS the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners has voted in an open meeting to have the Chairman sign the Supplemental Agreement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the Chairman is hereby authorized to sign the Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to add \$48,875 to the contract for CR 67 Womack Creek Culvert Repair (Financial Project Number 449880-1-54-01).

This Resolution adopted on April 2, 2024.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and adopted the above resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign Supplemental Agreement #2 increasing the grant award by \$48,875.00 to Financial Project Number 449880-1-54-01 to provide Franklin County an additional \$48,875.00 to pay AECOM for the additional CEI work on the project and the Board approved and authorized

the Chairman to sign the change order contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$48,875.31, to pay for the additional CEI work they had to do on the Womack Creek Bridge repair project. Motion carried 5-0.

5. BOARD ACTION: MRD Task Order County Wide Dune Restoration Project – Engineering and Construction Oversight Services

In February, the BOCC issued the notice of award to MRD & Associates for the engineering and construction oversight services for the RESTORE county-wide dune restoration project. The attached \$185,805 task order will include the engineering design/permitting, bidding and construction contract award services, construction oversight/inspection, and post-construction project monitoring. MRD will also be responsible for collecting and accounting for all necessary ‘licensing’ agreements from the beach front property owners prior to commencement of planting activities.

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached task order with MRD 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 to sign the attached task order with MRD and Associates. Motion carried 5-0.

6. BOARD ACTION: SUBMERGED LAND LEASE EASTPOINT CHANNEL SPOIL SITE

The county has received the attached submerged land lease as part of the spoil site maintenance obligation outlined in the original permitting requirements for the Eastpoint Dredge Project. The submerged land lease will also be a necessary component for the county permit application for future maintenance dredging and any cooperative planting and hardening efforts at the spoil site.

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached submerged land lease agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

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 submerged land lease agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Chairman Jones asked if we had to sign one of these with the Corps. Mrs. Griffith noted that we were told they were exempt. **Motion carried 5-0.**

7. BOARD ACTION: ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT SHERIFF’S TDC PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Pursuant to requests for additional traffic patrols made by commissioners, the Sheriff’s Department has provided the attached quotes to purchase (6) fixed solar powered radar control signs and (1) trailered radar control sign to use as auxiliary traffic control measures during the busy Spring and Summer tourism season. As the Sheriff’s first year TDC public safety request included the hiring of full-time deputies recently transitioned to reimbursement of the department for additional shifts to be paid by off-duty detail rate (due to the inability to fill those positions in time for this Spring), there will be funds left available in the first-year reimbursement to purchase the additional traffic control equipment. This equipment will also have the TDC decal attached whereas the public can clearly identify TDC funded safety improvements.

Board action to approve the Sheriff's request to purchase (6) fixed solar powered radar speed warning signs for \$24,992.88 from sole source provider 'Radar Sign' and one mobile unit for \$9,270.00 from American Signal Company to be placed in high-tourism locations to serve as a speeding deterrent to be reimbursed by the TDC's 10% Public Safety Services line item.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Sheriff's request to purchase (6) fixed solar powered radar speed warning signs for \$24,992.88 from sole source provider 'Radar Sign' and one mobile unit for \$9,270.00 from American Signal Company to be placed in high-tourism locations to serve as a speeding deterrent to be reimbursed by the TDC's 10% Public Safety Services line item. Commissioner Ward noted that this is TDC's funding according to the last statute update. Chairman Jones noted that these are similar to the ones on North Bayshore Drive which flash. Being placed on Alligator Point and the island because they are high traffic areas. **Motion carried 5-0.**

8. BOARD ACTION: PERMISSION TO REQUEST ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS/STATUTORY CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING PROPOSED PROJECT CONCEPTS INCLUDED IN THE TDC SPENDING PLAN

There were several project concepts and budget line items that were include in the conceptual TDC spending plan which were noted to need further clarification from the Attorney General's Office as the concepts/or costs may not have been specifically addressed in Florida Statute 125.0104:

- Are interest earnings on TDC funds restricted to the same authorized uses as sales tax proceeds? Can interest earnings fund other projects/services that may indirectly benefit tourism activities such as funding the cost of county-wide feasibility studies for various improvement projects (tourism parking in downtown locations) and/or economic development activities for various tourism related support industries?
- Is it possible for the county to construct a 'publicly owned and operated convention center or auditorium' and or a 'nature center' that also included an attached tourism information center/visitor center space using sales tax proceeds? The construction of a tourism information center/visitor center space was not specifically authorized in section 1(a.) whereas the costs to acquire, construct, extend, enlarge, remodel, repair, improve, maintain, operate, or promote referenced only publicly owned and operated convention centers, sports stadiums, sports arenas, coliseums or auditoriums, and later additions to this section including zoological parks, fishing piers or nature centers were specifically authorized in this section.
- Section 4 authorizes the use of sales tax proceeds to 'fund' convention bureaus, tourist bureaus, tourist information centers, and news bureaus as county agencies or by contract with the chambers of commerce or similar associations in the county, which may include any indirect administrative costs for services performed by the county on behalf of the promotion agency. Does the word 'fund' include all associated expenses such as the would-be construction costs for new facilities, or operation expenses of county-owned visitor center buildings (insurance costs, building maintenance, etc.)? Was it the legislature's intent for the word 'fund' to encompass all the related expenses?
- With expenditure categories authorized above, can tax revenues fund any related land acquisition, land improvement, design and engineering costs, and all other professional and related costs required to bring the public facilities authorized in other sections online? Franklin County does not qualify for section 6 (general infrastructure

improvements) whereas expenditures for those items are specifically authorized by statute – however, these costs would be necessary to construct a said convention center, nature center or auditorium which

are authorized for Franklin County in earlier sections of the statute. Would the land acquisition, improvement, design, and engineering costs be authorized expenditures for improvements authorized in other sections of the statute, such as those improvements authorized in sections 1 – 3?

Board action to authorize staff to consult with the county’s lobbyist to assist in drafting a formal request for an opinion/clarification regarding the project related questions above.

Chairman Jones noted that after the consultation with the lobbyist this information will come back to the Board. Commissioner Ward noted how long does it take to get these answers back? Just do not want to be a year down the road before we hear back.

On a motion by Commissioner Croom, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to consult with the county’s lobbyist to assist in drafting a formal request for an opinion/clarification regarding the project related questions above. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Amison inquired if she had reached out to Roberts and Roberts regarding the culvert on Bluff Road. She noted that she has not but will check into this. Chairman Jones said going back to our spoil site in Eastpoint. With what we have approved today, now we can go after a maintenance permit, that they did not have to have because they are federal. Staff with regional counsel, the permitted area goes all the way to boat ramp. See if they can do as a change order, to put hardening material behind the burn so it will not keep blowing out with rains. Trying to pursue grants to install jetties, DEP staff have been very helpful. Commissioner Ward sprinkler head sticking up, it looks like it is broken off. Commissioner Ward noted last night she received a text about a field that was having an issue after hours. How should I progress with getting after hours things done, make sure moving forward I know what to do?

9. BOARD INFORMATION: MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES

Department Directors Reports

7. Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Roads and Bridges

Mr. Nabors noted there are issues on Ridge and Wilderness Road, the water will run if people have pipes in. He suggested when working on storm drain maybe we can get some culverts for those who cannot afford. Three big holes fixed, maybe in future from county line to bridge get it paved. Commissioner Sanders noted that the water is staying on the road and really undermining it. Commissioner Sanders noted that Mr. Nabors called her last week, and DOT said the pipes need to be sandblasted and painted. She asked why wasn’t that part of the project? Mr. Nabors noted that he thinks everything will be good when it is done. Why did not DOT tell us when it was high and dry? Mr. Nabors noted that it was on a written report, and he sent to Erin and Mark. Mr. Nabors said that the Bluff Road issue is undermining the road and we need to look at getting that cut and fixed. Chairman Jones asked how much more expensive it would be to boar into the road, noting there are a couple of areas in his district that have dips. Commissioner Amison said he had spoken to Dewberry about it, noting he is going to find the cheapest way, but it would not work. Commissioner Sanders noted that she sees they are getting more inmates. Mr. Nabors no we are not, we had four this morning. Chairman Jones asked if we know how many we are getting before they come. Mr. Nabors said no, we just show up and they sign them up. Chairman Jones asked Attorney Shuler if we have a MOU for inmate labor. Attorney Shuler noted that they dictate the rules, and we follow them.

Commissioner Amison asked if there was anyone, we can talk to on the state level. Mr. Moron noted that he, Mr. Nabors, and Mr. Davis have met with the warden, and he said there is no guarantee on how many inmates would be provided. Mr. Moron noted that they have had this discussion before about us sending two vehicles and getting two inmates. Commissioner Ward said we do not want to disservice our citizens with getting things because of lack of inmates. Commissioner Croom inquired if the light on School Road was disassembled. Mr. Nabors noted that he believed it had been, but he would check on it. He noted that he is completing his department head meetings with everyone and will get with Mr. Nabors this month. Chairman Jones talked to Mr. Mike Millender about the area down there in front of his retail seafood place. There is a couple of big holes if we can put some stuff in there. Chairman Jones noted that he met with Mike Prill on island, we discussed the areas he lived in, there is severe water issues as far as improper drainage or things not draining properly. The benefit we have at Medley Street is there is a culvert in place. See what it would take, the cost, to replace the culvert pipe with a bigger pipe and put a baffle box on the end of it so that the water cannot come back in. Mr. Nabors said he met with the guy, and he wanted to dig ditches from Brown, Medley, two or three different roads. Chairman Jones there are several new residences that do not have culvert pipes. That may be an issue where the county can talk to them, this is what you need, if you get it, we will install it.

Mr. Moron presented item # 3 on his report at this time.

3. Action Item: Driveway Access on County ROW Request

- The County received a request (attached) to build a driveway on the County right-of-way on East Bayshore Drive on St. George Island.
- My recommendation is to have Mr. Howard Nabors, Road Superintendent, visit the site and review the request. Then forward his findings to Attorney Shuler for his recommendation.
- Board action to have county staff and Attorney Shuler review this request and advise the Board at your next meeting.

Chairman Jones asked if this goes across state property. You can see where a road used to be, but they are going to have to cut some stuff down. **On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized county staff and Attorney Shuler to review this request and advise the Board at their next meeting. Motion carried 5-0.** Commissioner Amison asked if they got to Mr. Thompson's ditch that we had an easement to. Mr. Nabors noted that they have not, but they will get to it.

8. Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Mr. Davis recognized Mr. Clay Nowling for his hard work and recent rescue of stranded dog in West Bayou. Mr. Davis read the following article published in the Apalachicola Times.

Apalachicola Times

By David Adlerstein March 19, 2024

A lot of times it is the quick thinking of a dog that rescues a person. In this case, a crew from Franklin County returned the favor. On Sunday, March 11, Mel Livingston, from Apalachicola, and Vermont architect Rob Brown, a regular winter visitor here for many years, were fishing on Whiskey George Creek north of Eastpoint in a small skiff. When they arrived in West Bayou, the men saw a dog immersed in the mud along the west bank. "It wasn't moving, except for its head, as though stuck," said Brown. "We couldn't get closer than 100 yards because the water was so shallow." The men called Franklin County

animal control, and quickly picked up Clay Nowling, the officer dispatched to the scene, at the boat landing off State Route 65. Brown and Livingston drove Nowling back to West Bayou where he stripped down and got in the water. "He waded, swam, flopped all the way to the dog. He almost had to be crawling in the mud," said Brown. "Next, he dug the dog free of the mud with his bare hands, and then helped the dog back to the boat by gently pulling him through the mud and shallow water. "Mel and I were amazed at Clay's determination to save Bailey's life," said Brown. The dog, a large 14-year-old golden retriever named Bailey, belongs to the John Richards family of Eastpoint, and they were waiting when the trio, plus dog, returned safely to the boat landing. "As it turned out Bailey had been missing for three days: they had all but given up hope to find him," said Brown. "John Richards later said Bailey was OK and eating like a horse!" "The hero of the day was Clay Nowling," said Brown. "He knew what he had to do, and he just went right ahead and did it, without a word of complaint. All the way back to the boat ramp he consoled Bailey, patting him, and talking to him. It was an impressive display of determination and caring. You have a fine young man on your team."

Commissioner Sanders noted that Clay is passionate about animals, and he is a good fellow to have. Commissioner Ward spoke with the Richards' family to let them know we were going to be recognizing you today. They wanted me to extend their appreciation. We are blessed to have each and every one of our county employees. Commissioner Amison said he was reading the paper, to echo Mr. Davis, we hear all of the negativity. It was good to read, and I wanted to thank you on behalf of the Commissioners. Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Nowling and expressed his appreciation. Mr. Davis noted the commissioners could call 850-653-8277 after hours for parks and recreations on-call number. An employee takes a phone home with them each night.

Mr. Davis reported the costs associated with Amnesty Day and roadside pickup. Commissioner Ward noted that she is astonished that we are spending this amount of money. We definitely need to come up with a different plan. People have gotten use to putting their debris out. I know we have some contractors who are putting their debris out and that is not what this is for. Other people from surrounding counties come here on Amnesty Days. Maybe if we are going to continue doing this, maybe we need to check id, those out of county need to be charged. Commissioner Croom noted that was his concern that there was out of county folks coming to dump. We need to come up with a resolution to determine in county and out of county. Chairman Jones asked if Gulf County held amnesty days. Mr. Davis noted he thinks once or twice a year. Chairman Jones said as we move to a transfer station model roadside debris is going to have to be looked at. Mr. Moron noted that there has to be a discussion for mandatory garbage pickup in Franklin County. Chairman Jones noted that we are about to receive about \$800,000 for bear resistance cans if the governor signs the budget. We are going to have to put mandatory trash pickup in place. Commissioner Amison suggested have a free decal to put in the window for residents for amnesty days. If they do not have a sticker they have to pay. Chairman Jones said in addition to that in asking the city of Apalachicola, they have mandatory trash pickup. They actually have a boom themselves. Commissioner Amison noted that they have to put the debris in large bags. Commissioner Ward noted that she would like to look into recycling, and she agrees with mandatory garbage pickup as well. Chairman Jones said when we stopped recycling it was because no one was buying it. We were just stacking it up, we were at the point where the board was going to spend money to update equipment for recycling when it was not going anywhere. Commissioner Amison asked if we had a way to mulch down the yard debris. Have we ever done that? Mr. Davis noted that yes, we do, and we give it away. You cannot really use it for gardens. Mr. Davis noted that we are about out of space to put it. Commissioner Croom inquired as to what the holdup is on the transfer station. Mr. Moron noted that he will set a time to meet with Commissioner Croom and Mrs. Griffith to discuss. Commissioner Croom noted that the building needs repairs. Commissioner Croom inquired about the number of positions vacant. Mr. Davis noted that he had one become available yesterday, and two in solid waste. Commissioner Ward noted that she does want some direction on who to call and what to do in the event of a facilities emergency over the weekend or night. Mr. Davis noted that

the protocol in place now, is for the person on call will receive the call out. Most repairs, the guys on call can handle. He noted that the recent hire familiar with carpentry, plumbing and electrical. Mr. Moron noted that they are very resourceful. Mr. Moron noted that if you call the callout number, that would be the correct channel. Commissioner Amison thanked Mr. Davis for a good show for Day of Ball noting that the crew did a great job. Mr. Moron noted that RESTOE is paying for Fonda's new building and the transfer station. It is going to run approximately \$6.5 million. Chairman Jones noted this is about a fourth of what it would cost to build a new landfill. Commissioner Ward noted that just to shut this one down it takes a lot, and you have to monitor it for a certain number of years afterwards.

Mr. Moron presented item No. 10 on his report at this time.

10. Informational Item: Sylvester Williams Park
 - Commissioner Croom would like to do some improvements to Sylvester Williams Park. Currently that is a City of Apalachicola Park.
 - Last week Commissioner Croom met with Mayor Brenda Ash, Mr. Travis Wade (City Manager), Mrs. Erin Griffith and me to discuss transferring Sylvester Williams Park to the County, which would allow county staff to seek funding for improvements.
 - The mayor would like a conceptual plan of Commissioner Croom's proposed improvements to the park before discussing this proposal with the entire city commission.
 - Commissioner Croom will work with the engineers to create that conceptual plan.

Commissioner Amison noted that if this field were up and viable it could be used for practices. Commissioner Croom said historically Commissioner Williams and was one of the things Commissioner Lockley was going to work on. Chairman Jones noted that it will fall under Parks and Recreations. Mr. Moron noted that this will affect his budget.

Mr. Moron presented item No. 4 on his report at this time.

4. Action Item: Lanark Village Engraved Bricks
 - Mrs. Pat Funderburk of Lanark Village is requesting permission to place engraved bricks around the pictured monument (attached) in Gene Sewell Park.
 - These engraved bricks will honor longtime hard-working volunteers in the Lanark Village community.
 - Board action to authorize the placement of engraved bricks in Gene Sewell Park to honor longtime hard-working volunteer in the Lanark Village community.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the placement of engraved bricks in Gene Sewell Park to honor longtime hard-working volunteers in the Lanark Village community. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Davis to help them with this if needed. **Motion carried 5-0.**

The Board recessed at 10:47 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

9. Jennifer Daniels – Emergency Management Director (Ms. Anthony)

Action Items:

1. Request the board's signing and approval of the MOU between FCEM and Arc on the Gulf regarding the evacuation and return of special needs residents during times of disaster.
2. Request the board's signing and approval of the MOU between FCEM and Franklin County Schools regarding the evacuation and return of residents during times of disaster.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the MOU between FCEM and ARC of the Gulf and the MOU between FCEM and Franklin County Schools as described above. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Request the board's signing and approval of the resolution to adopt Franklin County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Chapter 252 Florida Statutes, assigns to the Board of County Commissioners responsibility for disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, being prepared for disasters means being ready to respond promptly as danger threatens, to save life and protect property and to provide relief from suffering and privation; and

WHEREAS local services may be overburdened, or inadequate and local government will have to operate effectively in different ways than in normal times to provide timely relief and minimize hardships in the event of natural and technological disasters in Franklin County; and

WHEREAS many populated areas and parts of communities may require evacuation, shelter and food until the disaster ends, services are restored and needed supplies and materials are available; and

WHEREAS this plan is intended to provide the framework for the development of detailed operating procedures for all County forces charged with responsibility of protecting the public's health and safety from natural and technological disaster; and

WHEREAS Chapter 9G-6, Florida Administrative Code, requires each County to develop a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan; and

WHEREAS Chapter 9G-6, Florida Administrative Code, furthermore, requires the governing body of Franklin County to adopt by resolution, the Franklin County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:

The Franklin County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is hereby adopted.

ADOPTED in Regular Session this 2nd day of April 2024.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the resolution adopting the Franklin County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Motion carried 5-0.

Information Items:

1. 05Mar24 – FCEM held CERT training class.
2. 06Mar24 – FCEM held CERT training class.
3. 07Mar24 – FCEM held CERT training class.
4. 09Mar24 – FCEM staff participated in Camp Gordon Johnston Parade.
5. 11Mar24 – Delivered barricades to Florida Wildlife Commission to block washed out road.
6. 11Mar24 – Released statement regarding upcoming changes to hurricane forecast product.
7. 14Mar24 – FCEM staff met with local religious officials to discuss ways to integrate faith-based organizations into disaster recovery.
8. 20Mar24 – FCEM attended Transportation Disadvantaged meeting.
9. 21Mar24 – FCEM staff met with Craig Gibson to review Weems Memorial Hospital's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
10. 22Mar24 – FCEM staff participated in Career Day at Franklin County School.
11. 26Mar24 – FCEM coordinated with Road Department to install pole for St George Island Weather stem unit.

Ms. Anthony announced they will begin the general HAM ready class and it is free to anyone in the

community. It will begin weekly on Thursday, April 4th, and end on May 9th. The hours will be 3-5 pm, with Mr. Rob Zingarelli instructing.

Commissioner Croom asked if they will be doing the hurricane buckets this year. Ms. Anthony noted that as of now, no. They did not receive the grant funding this year. We are still looking for grants that we can use it to do. Commissioner Ward said if we do happen to get funding for that, she has been contacted by several local businesses wanting to donate items. Ms. Anthony noted that June 1st is the official first day of storm season through December 1st.

10. Dewitt Polous – Mosquito Control Director

Mr. Polous noted that the mosquito count has ticked up, and we have discontinued our ditch clearing. We are currently advertising for a part time position. He noted the larvae side program is still active. Chairman Jones asked Mr. Polous to summarize the mosquito control process. Mr. Polous said we use a permethrin-based product. We actually target mosquitos. They are a health issue. We collaborate these machines, the droplets have to be a certain size. The beneficial insects would basically have to fly into the fume and sit there to kill them. There is a lot of science behind it. Chairman Jones noted that we really do not have a choice about spraying for mosquitos due to public health issues.

11. Erik Lovstrand – Extension Office Director

Mr. Lovstrand was not present.

12. Whitney Roundtree – Library Director

Commissioner Ward noted that she went out to look at artifacts. I do not know if we could post some pictures to help identify some of these. They are dated 1880. Commissioner Croom asked about the landscape and lawn in Eastpoint. Ms. Roundtree noted that they do need the palm trees trimmed. Commissioner Ward noted that they are going to need some upgrades pretty soon such as carpeting and air conditioning. Ms. Roundtree noted that we recently replaced all ac in Carrabelle. Commissioner Ward noted that we need to be sure and talk about repairs needed during budget time.

Informational Items:

1) Solar eclipse viewing glasses are now available to the public at both library branches. Solar eclipse glasses were provided by the Space Science Institute through its Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL). The glasses are first-come-first served and one per patron until the April 8th, solar eclipse event.

2) April 7th – 13th is National Library Week. The library is here to serve you, and I would like to remind the public to visit our libraries in person or online at www.fcpl.wildernesscoast.org to learn about all the wonderful resources the library has to offer.

3) April 9th is National Library Worker Day. I would like to thank my dedicated staff: Morgan Anderson, Teri Daniels, Jamie Paulk, Thomas Riley, and Sharon Stump for all their hard work throughout the year.

4) April is also National Volunteer Month. I would also like to express my appreciation for all our library volunteer, especially to our Friends of the Library volunteers and board members.

Other Reports

13. Ted Mosteller – Interim Airport Manager

Mr. Mosteller noted that Kimberly Horn will be here tomorrow also. He reported the 997 zero turn has been taken to PC for repair. He reported a new issue: Al Ingal informed him the AC unit is not working correctly because the duct work was not installed correctly. Gunn said the system is messed up and no solution was offered. Mr. Moron said we will get with Steve the building official to see who he would recommend. Mr. Mosteller noted that the actual refrigeration system is working but the duct work is not installed correctly. We need a professional to correct the issues. Commissioner Ward asked at what point do we say enough is enough at the FBO. Are we fixing to redo in several months? We are throwing money at it. Mr. Mosteller that is why we are replacing the roof. It should be a grant. Mr. Mosteller said the plumbing had been leaking for years, no one knew about it. Mr. Moron noted that the building is an old building. It has been patched in the past. Now we are trying to use contractors to make repairs. As the buildings get older, we need to have the work done correctly using contractors. Mr. Moron said he and Erin have directed Mr. Mosteller to notify them of the problem, then have it fixed correctly. Commissioner Ward noted who was Stan? Does he have authority to authorize work being done and paid for? Commissioner Sanders said we are getting into the summer months, the road department has one mechanic, and the parks and recreation has one mechanic. On some of this equipment, you may have to send them off because the county mechanics first priority is the road department and parks and recreations. Mr. Ted noted this was in the making for over a year now. Scott is going over there and helping them do this work. Normally they just do oil changes. Commissioner Sanders noted that it may have to be sourced out. Chairman Jones noted the issue is with most of this stuff is that it is old. Honestly, it is just catching up with the county, for patching all these years and not being maintained. At some point you have to get some new stuff that does work. Chairman Jones asked if all of this has transpired since the last time we met. Mr. Mosteller noted that just the restrooms have not. Commissioner Amison noted the roof it is something that we are about to put out for bids. The reason we called Fisher in was to fix an immediate need, a patch. We have that auction coming up, now is the time to rejuvenate our equipment. If we have a piece of equipment that is going to continue to give us trouble, let us get rid of it. That is something that we really need to be looking at. I agree with Commissioner Ward, with someone authorizing a service be done outside of our knowledge. For years, the airport was a hobby airport, but now we are growing. The bathrooms are the first impression of Franklin County. We are dealing with buildings that are very old. Let us get some professionals in there. A lot of these professionals have equipment that we do not have. Commissioner Sanders said go through the equipment if you are wasting your time working on it, sit it to the side for the auction. Mr. Mosteller said there is a constant repair issue with farming equipment. Commissioner Ward noted that exposure to equipment is also an issue.

14. Steve Kirschenbaum – Interim Airport Manager

- USDA.

First, I would like to thank all for the ability with time constraints to submit a 2.5-million-dollar earmark request to Congress. This earmark if approved would give the County the ability to apply for the grant which would be sufficient funds to complete phase one of the proposed T-hanger complex that would yield approximately \$100,000.00 additional operating revenue at the airport annually.

- Shelter for Airport Equipment

Also, the ongoing issue of airport equipment deteriorating in the elements has been addressed temporarily in the form of County legal requesting the immediate termination of an inconsistent use of the helicopter hanger at the airport. Hopefully, the airport manager can regain control of this building within the next 30days as a temporary shelter for his equipment. Further Avcon our airport engineering firm recognizing the importance of a permanent solution is requesting FDOT to move \$500,000.00 on the 2025 budget to be earmarked for the construction of a permanent building on site to house all airport equipment.

- Eglin Vice Commander meeting at KAAF.

Earlier this month Commissioner Jones, I, the Airport Manager, the AOED Board Coordinator and representatives from Centric met with the Vice Commander of Eglin Airforce Base. It was a favorable meeting thy support our efforts at the site and they also discussed training opportunities local and are helping us with important contacts on base that have been successful with infrastructure improvements with Triumph funding.

- AOED Workshop request onsite at KAAF.

With the impending County auction onsite in May, the AOED is requesting a workshop onsite to survey all airport equipment with the Airport Manager to create a list of surplus equipment to be auctioned off and ultimately replaced with new equipment.

- KAAF Website

After a request from the County Coordinator the AOED has put together an initial website on the County platform to help us with marketing the airport regionally and to be an asset at the MRO convention in Chicago early next month. We will give the Commission a brief presentation on it at the meeting this coming Tuesday. We will have business cards made up for myself and the AOED Coordinator with this domain for distribution at the MRO event.

- Educational Facility

AOED Board member George Wilkerson would like to update the Commissioners at the meeting on his efforts towards establishing an educational facility at the airport and his needs to bring this to fruition.

- T-hanger license agreements

The AOED recommends the approval of a revised license agreement (subject to legal approval) which will be the platform for all future t- hanger users in the future at the site. Importantly this document absolves the County and all representatives of any liability regarding T-hanger usage and the County will be the licensor. It will be ready for a vote on the next scheduled meeting after legal review.

- Tyndall AFB License agreement

The AOED Board requests executing a license agreement with Tyndall AFB for placement of a training device at the airport. Tyndall has expressed the need for this important training device in the region. KAAF is the only airport on the Gulf Coast directly centered in the Gulf test range. Our country is calling out to Franklin County once again for our support in training for defense of our Nation again. The revised agreement will be ready for a vote on the next scheduled Commission meeting after final legal review

AOED Recommendations

- Parking Area

The Airport does not have ample parking for visitors. Directly behind the FBO building is the former foundation of a building. It is a 160' x 48' slab. The AOED recommends that the County has the road dept look at a possible option to utilize this area for short-term parking. In our view it needs defoliation pressure wash and striping and there will be ample parking for 20 vehicles.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison to engage engineer for conceptual design of expanded parking, seconded by Commissioner Croom. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Amison noted that the current parking lot is under the control of Centric under the lease agreement. This will allow for county staff and elected officials to have somewhere to park when they go out there for meetings and such.

- Annual T- hanger maintenance amendment

At the last Commission meeting the AOED made a recommendation for annual maintenance of all County T-hangers on site. We would like to amend that recommendation to include all County owned buildings on site. This annual maintenance in the AOEDs view will prevent future costly repairs to County owned properties at the site.

Commissioner Ward noted that she thought this was already being done by Mr. Mosteller. Mr. Kirshenbaum noted that what he is doing is fixing things when they break. What we should be doing is annual maintenance on the equipment and facilities. Chairman Jones noted that he does not believe we need a motion to do maintenance.

- AOED Board Coordinator Tom Mescher.

Commissioners, Tom Mescher has graciously volunteered to oversee finances at the airport and coordinate T-hanger uses. At this point the AOED has no real-time overview of finances at the airport. In order to make educated recommendations to the County on finances this needs to be addressed. The AOED recommends that Tom Mescher be tasked on behalf of the County be given the opportunity to oversee finances real time at the airport as well as T-hanger revenue and License agreements. We recommend that any reports for fuel sales, hanger lease revenue, rental cars and any other revenue coming to the County with reports from Centric, that Tom Mescher be copied on all correspondence and that some sort of interface with County's Fiscal Manager needs to be setup so the AOED is aware real-time of finances at the airport and can make educated recommendations to the County.

Commissioners, again thank you for the opportunity to serve and we look forward to KAAF becoming an economic engine and job creator for our County.

Chairman Jones noted that he does not know of any other volunteer board that receives reports directly. Commissioner Amison asked Mr. Kirschenbaum if that are asking for a report. Mr. Kirschenbaum noted that they are asking for Tom to be able to oversee and manage the t-hanger rental. For him to be oversight for the board and county for revenue coming in. Commissioner Ward noted that we have auditors, we cannot just divvy up. Theres more to it than just overseeing. Mrs. Griffith does a terrific job. Commissioner Amison noted that he believes they are getting confused and asked Mr. Kirschenbaum if he was asking to receive the reports at the same time the county does. Mr. Kirschenbaum said yes. Chairman Jones noted that is going to be a problem, because it has not been verified, not balanced with bank statements, etc. Mr. Moron noted that we have discussed this before and asked for the opportunity to work with Erin, so that we forward quarterly reports, with verified information. Mr. Kirschenbaum noted that they would like information on the amount of fuel being sold, hangars that are available for lease, etc. Chairman Jones noted that just like at TDC there is a monthly report of how much has been collected, spent, budgeted, etc. It would always be a month behind. He noted that there seems to be an overtone of lack of trust, we have to stop that, some of the terms being used seem that way. Commissioner Amison noted we have to have trust, but we also need to have oversight. We need to have that transparency. If a hundred gallons went out, we just need to see that. There is no check and balance. I think that is what Mr. Kirschenbaum is alluded to. Mr. Moron noted that he would have just liked a different approach and oversight of reporting is not a problem.

Commissioner Amison said the USDA just so you guys know I was part of that meeting. We were unaware of that deadline. If we would have known that deadline was approaching, we would have come here first. Just wanted y'all to know that was something that hit us really quick. Also, Mr. Kirschenbaum goes back and calls the feds to make sure they received the application . Mr. Dunn's office did not put the right email on the application, and we were able to resubmit to the correct email.

Presentations/Updates/Requests

15. Lynn Wilder -- SGI Turtle Patrol -- Sea Turtle Signs

Ms. Wilder presented two requests to the Board.

1. Sea Turtle Signs

Re: Request to install educational "Leave No Trace" signs at each SGI beach walkover

Sea turtle nesting season is about to begin! The SGI Sea Turtle Patrol and the Friends of the Reserve think that giving visitors a reminder of what “Leave No Trace” entails will help reduce the amount of litter, holes, and beach equipment left behind at the end of the day. We have provided a picture of the sign design and key messages. The metal sign will be approximately 12x8” in size. We would like to fund making and installing these “Leave No Trace” signs at each SGI beach walkover (about 22) between the State Park and the Plantation. We would like the County Commissioners permission to install them on the existing signposts (see photo), or on a supplied metal post. Note that not every beach walkover has an existing sign, so some would have metal posts installed. These signs will be installed before the beginning of Sea Turtle Nesting season (May 1st) or as soon as possible in May.

On a motion by **Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the placement of Sea Turtle signage as presented above.** Chairman Jones thanked Ms. Wilder, noting you cannot over communicate and every week you are changing your audience. Commissioner Sanders asked Michael to contact Ms. Darkel at Alligator Point to see if she would like some of those signs. Ms. Wilder noted that they are looking to put up a sign in Carrabelle. **Motion carried 5-0.**

2. Beach Toy Box – Proposing to place three on the beach side by the garbage cans for visitors to leave beach toys and take toys as needed. Mr. Moron noted that he verified Mr. Davis is on board with this project.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved placement of the beach toy boxes. Motion carried 5-0.

County Staff & Attorney Reports (continued)

16. Michael Morón – County Coordinator

2. Action Item: District 3 PZA Appointment

- The Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board District 3 seat is vacant.
- Commissioner Croom would like to appoint Ms. Trina Lockley, daughter of former Commissioner Noah Lockley, to that vacant seat.
- Ms. Lockley has expressed her interest on serving on this Board and has had numerous conversations regarding PZA matters with Mrs. Cortni Bankston, Zoning Administrator.
- Board action to appoint Ms. Trina Lockley to the Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board District 3 seat.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison and Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board appointed Ms. Trina Lockley to the Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board District 3 seat. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Action Item: TDC Members Advertisement

- During the last two meetings, the Board discussed changes to the TDC Membership Procedures.
- Attorney Shuler will present these proposed changes for discussion and approval.
- With that said, there are two members serving with expired terms, and two members that may not be available for the next scheduled TDC meeting, which creates a quorum issue.
- I suggest the Board authorize staff to advertise, based on Florida Statute and TDC Membership Procedures, for interested candidates to fill the seats that have members serving with expired terms.

- All application packets will be turned in at the Clerk's office, then opened and read aloud at your regular meeting. At that time, the Board would forward the application packets to a committee for review. After reviewing, the committee would send a recommendation to this Board for consideration and appointment.
- Board action to authorize staff to advertise for interested candidates to serve on the TDC.

Commissioner Sanders inquired if applications would be county wide? To completely leave from Carrabelle to Alligator Point out, y'all realize that is over a third of the county. Noted that she is not going to have District 2 not being represented. We are going to have to fix this in some way. Chairman Jones noted that this is important. Commissioner Amison said with the TDC board members, does not it have to be someone who owns a business. I do not know of any businesses in Alligator Point. Unless something changes, it is not fair. Not doing this to cause any problems but this is how I feel in my heart and mind. Commissioner Ward noted that the statute says any collector of the tax. Commissioner Ward noted that she does feel like this should be opened up to the entire county. Be interested to see how many applicants we get who are interested in these seats. Mr. Moron noted that the ad will be based on the statute. Commissioner Amison noted that both of the seats available are at large. You will not have the applicants that are qualified to apply there. Alligator Point is not developed right now. Commissioner Sanders noted that does not have anything to do with it. She noted that they have rental properties. Commissioner Ward noted we can pick from the applications that meet the requirements. The statute is kind of confusing. We have to vet these people to make sure they qualify. Commissioner Sanders noted that all these years the Chamber of Commerce seats did not meet the requirements. Commissioner Amison noted that is why he has been talking about this for the past two months. Commissioner Sanders noted that she just wants to make sure it is fair across the board. It may be one from Apalachicola and another from somewhere else. Commissioner Amison noted that we might end up with five from St. George Island. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to advertise for interested candidates to serve on the TDC. Motion carried 5-0.**

4. Action Item: Driveway Access on County ROW Request

- The County received a request (attached) to build a driveway on the County right-of-way on East Bayshore Drive on St. George Island.
- My recommendation is to have Mr. Howard Nabors, Road Superintendent, visit the site and review the request. Then forward his findings to Attorney Shuler for his recommendation.
- Board action to have county staff and Attorney Shuler review this request and advise the Board at your next meeting.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

5. Action Item: Lanark Village Engraved Bricks

- Mrs. Pat Funderburk of Lanark Village is requesting permission to place engraved bricks around the pictured monument (attached) in Gene Sewell Park.
- These engraved bricks will honor longtime hard-working volunteers in the Lanark Village community.
- Board action to action to authorize the placement of engraved bricks in Gene Sewell Park to honor longtime hard-working volunteer in the Lanark Village community.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

6. Discussion Item: Peddler's Resolution

- Last meeting, the Board approved a resolution that prohibited peddling/vendors on the newly created and paved parking lot between 1st Street West and Chili Boulevard and on Franklin Boulevard State right-of-way.
- The Board also approved proceeding with a concept for a designated Peddler's Cove parking area on St. George Island.
- Based on some feedback, there is confusion regarding these Board actions.
- The approval of the resolution did make the prohibition of using Franklin Boulevard and the new beach parking lot for peddlers/vendors immediate, however, approving the concept of the Peddler's Cove parking area does not immediately restrict the peddlers/vendors to that area. Peddlers/vendors can use other County right-of-way to conduct business.
- Board discussion.

Mr. Moron noted that he does not think that we should put them on the property the county recently purchased from Walter Armstead for approximately \$600k. That is prime property and could ne used for other things. As it stands right now, they can go anywhere in the county right of way as long as it is safe. Chairman Jones noted that at the time they began discussing this, there was only one vendor who had purchased their permit. Chairman Jones noted that we cannot give away prime property. He noted that he is not opposed to vendors. Commissioner Ward noted that she went over to the island on Saturday. The area that they thought they were going to be at. You could only park two or three trailers there. If we are going to enforce vendors parking there, then we have to address people parking there. There are food trucks in other places of the county. Most of the food trucks like in Carrabelle are on private property. Think the biggest thing we need to understand too is safety. We have to make sure everyone else is safe. Maybe perhaps a workshop so that the peddlers who have the license could come in and discuss. I do not know if a workshop might benefit the county. Commissioner Ward said she thinks the biggest thing is we have to address all issues. I see the issue with Franklin Boulevard that is dangerous. I just want the public to know we can always change things, rethink things, we are not against the peddlers. We are just looking for the right way to move forward. Commissioner Amison noted that Doug and Dail's have been here 20+ years. It is not like these are just pop ups. They have been there a couple decades. Chairman Jones noted there is not anyone who is going to put a brick and mortar building to sell seafood on the island. Mr. Moron noted that before we have a workshop, we need other options. However, the more people coming, the more issues. Commissioner Ward noted that we need to figure out what county property we have, come back with some information. Chairman Jones said he will schedule a meeting with the civic club and business association to get their input also.

7. Discussion Item: Traffic Light at H98 & Island Drive

- Based on conversations at the last meeting and with Board members, I sent a request to Webber, the local FDOT contractor, to have a stop light installed at the Highway 98 and Island Drive intersection.
- When there is a request for a traffic light a traffic count is conducted as part of FDOT traffic study. I asked that the traffic count is done between Memorial Day and Labor Day, when traffic and congestion is at its highest peak at that intersection, rather than after Labor Day, as it has been done in past.
- Webber acknowledge receiving my request.
- Since the submittal of my request, Chairman Jones has been working to seek funding for that project and would like to update the Board on his progress.
- Board discussion.

Since then, got a call back from Benny who said there was money there that was not before. Chairman Jones spoke with Representative Shoaf the Sunday before Easter. He had several residents in the county

reach out to him about the need for a traffic light there. He expressed all of the steps the county has done to get it done. He noted that it appears Representative Shoaf called Secretary Gainer and let him know that we already have a paving project in the works, we need a traffic light at Island Drive and Hwy 98. Mr. Moron asked Commissioner Ward to explain that the light in Carrabelle Beach is not a light, it is crosswalk. It is a midblock crosswalk; we were told HAWK and were given something different. Commissioner Ward noted that we have asked for the needed traffic lights and DOT keeps saying no. Glad to know we have someone to call to get things done. Commissioner Ward noted that it is addressing a safety issue. It has suppressed the speed through there. Noted that she also received slack about the \$400k cost, the funds came from ARPA funds which are federal funds. It was covid money.

8. Discussion Item: Healthcare Consultant

- Chairman Jones and I met with representatives from The Rybar Group, Stroudwater, and Baker Tilly Healthcare. These are the three Rural Hospital/Healthcare Consulting firms suggested by Mrs. Mary Mayhew.
- Based on the discussions, presentations from these firms will be at your May regular meetings. There is a possibility that all three firms will not be at the same May meeting.
- Chairman Jones has additional comments regarding the discussions.
- Board discussion.

9. Discussion Item: Duke Energy's Vegetation Management Program

- Duke Energy notified the County of two Vegetation Management Herbicide Applications in Franklin County (attached).
- The first is a 19.25-mile right-of-way that begins at the Crawfordville Substation, located at 537 Arran Rd., Crawfordville, FL, and ends at the Port St. Joe Substation, located at 1011 10th St., Port St. Joe, FL.
- The second is a 25.12-mile right-of-way that begins at the Port St. Joe Substation, located at 1011 10th St., Port St. Joe, FL, and ends at the Apalachicola CKT#2 Substation, located at 23 19th Ave., Apalachicola, FL.
- If you have additional questions, I can schedule a call with Mr. Bladimir Cardenas of Duke Energy.
- Board discussion.

10. Informational Item: PZA Public Hearings

- Mrs. Cortni Bankston (Zoning Administrator) scheduled public hearings for Land Use and Zoning request changes on Tuesday, April 16th (your next scheduled regular meeting) starting at 10:30 a.m. (ET) (notices attached). Contact Mrs. Bankston if you have any questions regarding the public hearings.

11. Informational Item: Sylvester Williams Park

- Commissioner Croom would like to do some improvements to Sylvester Williams Park. Currently that is a City of Apalachicola Park.
- Last week Commissioner Croom met with Mayor Brenda Ash, Mr. Travis Wade (City Manager), Mrs. Erin Griffith and me to discuss transferring Sylvester Williams Park to the County, which would allow county staff to seek funding for improvements.
- The mayor would like a conceptual plan of Commissioner Croom's proposed improvements to the park before discussing this proposal with the entire city commission.
- Commissioner Croom will work with the engineers to create that conceptual plan.

12. Informational Item: Triumph Meeting Reminder

- As a reminder, Triumph’s next regular meeting will be in your County Commission meeting room on Wednesday, April 10th at 10:30 am (ET). A copy of the notice is attached.

13. Informational Item: Apalachicola VFD Repeater Update

- I was notified and verified by Commissioner Croom that the new repeater for the Apalachicola Fire Department was recently installed. Commissioner Croom stated that communication and notification services are active.

14. Informational Item: Leslie Street Update

- Mr. Travis Wade, Apalachicola’s City Manager informed me that Dewberry Engineers submitted 90% plans for the Leslie Street project. Mr. Wade stated that once the final plans are approved, the city will begin the procurement for construction services process.

15. Informational Item: Next Meeting

- Your next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th at 9:00 a.m. (ET).

Chairman Jones last Regional Planning Meeting – some of the monies they are looking at getting to try to repair docks, dams need to be repaired, etc. Discussion on behalf of economic reasons, method and means to start dredging the rivers again. They had the full economic study of what it would do in regard to barges. The amount of weight they can move with barges. The Board is probably aware the RPC they have done the RLO. Weve changed the whole way we do it. Think it is more appropriate to start engaging the business lenders and then we will become the 20% to fund the loans.

17. Michael Shuler – County Attorney

Action Items

1. Possible Letter in Support of SB 770 Regarding Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

SB 770 is too large to attach to this report, so I am sending the enrolled bill to each of you via separate email. SB 770 seeks to rewrite the current Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, by adding consumer protections. In the past, this Board has opposed the PACE program because of the potential predatory impact on your constituents'. In sum, PACE is a lending program for solar energy panels that places the repayment obligation on the property owners tax bill and can result in the loss of the home via the tax deed process. PACE has not been a problem in Franklin County, but it could be, and it certainly has been a problem in other areas in the state with a larger population. An email from Tax Collector Rick Watson asking that the Board consider sending a letter in support of SB 770 and a sample support letter from Pasco County is attached. See pages 5-10 for exhibits.

Board Action Requested: Board authorization for the Chairman to sign a letter in support of SB 770.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign a letter in support of SB 770. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion Items

1. Partnership for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay ("*The Partnership*")

Commissioner Amison is proposed to act as the President of the 501(c)(3) corporate entity known as The Partnership. He has asked me if I think it is a conflict for him to be its President and a county commissioner. Based on the information provided to me by Ms. Betty Webb, the project coordinator, I do not see a conflict of interest because its primary purpose of The Partnership is to provide guidance to state regulatory agencies and because Franklin County lacks the authority to regulate or govern matters involving sovereign submerged lands owned by the State of Florida. While The Partnership may seek a letter of support or possibly funding in the future, such matters can be addressed on a case-by-case basis if and when they arise. See pages 11-29 for exhibits.

Board Action Requested: None requested, but since these involved a commissioner and the commission, I wanted to discuss it publicly instead of just being a mere information item.

2. Draft Ordinance Regulating Conduct in Public Facilities

A draft Facilities Rules ordinance for review and discussion prior to scheduling a public hearing is attached. You have already authorized a public hearing on this ordinance, but I wanted your input on the draft before doing so. See pages 30-38 for exhibits.

Board Action Requested: Discussion and direction from the Board.

3. Draft Business License Ordinance

A draft business license ordinance is attached for your review and discussion. You have not authorized a public hearing on this ordinance. See pages 39-43 for exhibits.

Board Action Requested: Board discussion.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized scheduling of a public hearing on the Business License ordinance. Chairman Jones does it stop when applied for or when license is issued. Attorney Shuler noted he will need to address that with staff. Upon completion application, payment of all penalties, the penalties will stop. We may have to change the penalty provision. I will copy what was approved with the working without a permit ordinance. Chairman Jones noted that upon speaking with county staff, these issues may be resolved. **Motion carried 5-0.**

4. Draft TDC Membership Procedures

Attached for review and discussion are the following three documents:

a. Fla. Stat. 125.0104(4)(e), which defines the members of the TDC advisory council.

i. See Page _ of this report.

b. A redline of the current membership requirements of the TDC advisory council. The proposed new replacement procedures for membership are shown in the body of the two-page attachment as red underlined language. The deleted original procedure is shown on the right-hand side of the page.

i. The intent of the proposed new language is to remove all current

membership procedures and simply follow the plain language of state statute s.125.0104(4)(e) as it relates to membership.

- ii. Regarding possible reappointment of existing members, the proposed new procedure would allow the county commission either to reappoint or require advertisement.
- iii. The proposed new procedure clarifies the existing rule for all advisory boards, which is that current members continue to fill expired terms until replace or reappointed by the county commission.
- iv. The proposed new procedure does not fix geographic limitations or requirements for TDC advisory council members. Instead, it provides the county commission with flexibility to appoint qualified members county-wide on a case-by-case basis as seats on the TDC advisory council come up for consideration. However, the Board can fix geographic requirements for advisory council members if it wants to. The only requirement is that all members must satisfy the requirements for membership set forth in s.125.0104.

c. A clean copy of the current membership requirements of the TDC advisory council. See pages 44-48 for exhibits.

(4) ORDINANCE LEVY TAX; PROCEDURE.—

(a) The tourist development tax shall be levied and imposed pursuant to an ordinance containing the county tourist development plan prescribed under paragraph (c), enacted by the governing board of the county. The ordinance levying and imposing the tourist development tax shall not be effective unless the electors of the county or the electors in the subcounty special district in which the tax is to be levied approve the ordinance authorizing the levy and imposition of the tax, in accordance with subsection (6). The effective date of the levy and imposition of the tax shall be the first day of the second month following approval of the ordinance by referendum, as prescribed in subsection (6), or the first day of any subsequent month as may be specified in the ordinance. A certified copy of the ordinance shall be furnished by the county to the Department of Revenue within 10 days after approval of such ordinance. The governing authority of any county levying such tax shall notify the department, within 10 days after approval of the ordinance by referendum, of the time period during which the tax will be levied.

(b) At least 60 days prior to the enactment of the ordinance levying the tax, the governing board of the county shall adopt a resolution establishing and appointing the members of the county tourist development council, as prescribed in paragraph (e), and indicating the intention of the county to consider the enactment of an ordinance levying and imposing the tourist development tax.

(c) Prior to enactment of the ordinance levying and imposing the tax, the county tourist development council shall prepare and submit to the governing board of the county for its approval a plan for tourist development. The plan shall set forth the anticipated net tourist development tax revenue to be derived by the county for the 24 months following the levy of the tax; the tax district in which the tourist development tax is proposed; and a list, in the order of priority, of the proposed uses of the tax revenue by specific project or special use as the same are authorized under subsection (5). The plan shall include the approximate cost or expense allocation for each specific project or special use.

(d) The governing board of the county shall adopt the county plan for tourist development as part of the ordinance levying the tax. After enactment of the ordinance levying and imposing the tax, the plan of tourist development may not be substantially amended except by ordinance enacted by an affirmative vote of a majority plus one additional member of the governing board.

(e) The governing board of each county which levies and imposes a tourist development tax under this section shall appoint an advisory council to be known as the “ (name of county) Tourist Development Council.” The council shall be established by ordinance and composed of nine members who shall be appointed by the governing board. The chair of the governing board of the county or any other member of the governing board as designated by the chair shall serve on the council. Two members of the council shall be elected municipal officials, at least one of whom shall be from the most populous municipality in the county or subcounty special taxing district in which the tax is levied. Six members of the council shall be persons who are involved in the tourist industry and who have demonstrated an interest in tourist development, of which members, not less than three nor more than four shall be owners or operators of motels, hotels, recreational vehicle parks, or other tourist accommodations in the county and subject to the tax. All members of the council shall be electors of the county. The governing board of the county shall have the option of designating the chair of the council or allowing the council to elect a chair. The chair shall be appointed or elected annually and may be reelected or reappointed. The members of the council shall serve for staggered terms of 4 years. The terms of office of the original members shall be prescribed in the resolution required under paragraph (b). The council shall meet at least once each quarter and, from time to time, shall make recommendations to the county governing board for the effective operation of the special projects or for uses of the tourist development tax revenue and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by county ordinance or resolution. The council shall continuously review expenditures of revenues from the tourist development trust fund and shall receive, at least quarterly, expenditure reports from the county governing board or its designee. Expenditures which the council believes to be unauthorized shall be reported to the county governing board and the Department of Revenue. The governing board and the department shall review the findings of the council and take appropriate administrative or judicial action to ensure compliance with this section. The changes in the composition of the membership of the tourist development council mandated by chapter 86-4, Laws of Florida, and this act shall not cause the interruption of the current term of any person who is a member of a council on October 1, 1996.

#1 No Chamber seats on the TDC.

#2 City seats. Commissioner Ward noted that she believes this is too much oversight and to keep the relationships with the cities good, we need to let them choose. Commissioner Amison said what if you have someone on the city who sits on the TDC. Chairman Jones noted that he is okay with the Board approving the cities recommendations. He noted this has been an issue before. Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Croom noted they are good with that. Commissioner Ward inquired what justifies the definition of tourist development industry. Attorney Shuler said in the past we have let the TDC go through the application and relied on them to say we recommend this person based on this requirement. Attorney Shuler noted that the Board could require they provide the Board with a summary of the qualification for each applicant. Chairman Jones said whatever we send out, it comes back to this Board or whatever review committee we designate, so we know there are for instance four names and not just the one they recommend.

Reappointment of existing board members.

Commissioner Sanders said she thinks they need to reapply. Commissioner Ward said she agrees. Mr. Moron noted that one thing he does like, say you are going to let the TDC be the committee reviewing this, you have to separate those who are reapplying from the process. Attorney Shuler noted whenever we review these applications you have to recuse yourself and not even in the room.

Chairman Jones noted that is why he suggested having an independent review board that way it is completely transparent. He noted there are a lot of people who want to serve, and they do not feel like they can get their foot in. All agreed for reappointments to reapply.

Separate review committee.

Chairman Jones said he is in favor of doing a completely new review committee unless there are no current sitting members reapplying. Commissioner Sanders said she thinks we need to hold off on this decision. Attorney Shuler your current review process remains in place unless you decide today. Commissioner Ward noted that the review board should come before this board. If you are looking at an application, some of the same people getting reviewed, and all applications were not reviewed. Attorney Shuler said you could have Mr. Moron send the ad out and have the Board be the review committee. Commissioner Ward said she wants to look at all of the applications. She does not just want to see what applications review committee recommends. Does the county commission want to be the review committee? And then you send the recommendations to TDC. Commissioner Amison said we could make the decision and keep TDC recommendation out of decision process. All agreed for FCBC to be the review committee.

Two Plan:

Attorney Shuler noted that the only geographic requirement is you have to be an elector of Franklin County. The commissioners have authority to make more restrictive. There is a rule of statutory construction that may interpret it differently. I do not view it as strenuous as others do. If you want to have a 2-2-2-2 plan you could do so, but you need to continue your discussion. Chairman Jones noted that he is okay with it being that way. He noted that he has been serving on the TDC since 2019. There has been a lot of representation that has not been there. I do want it to be fair. But if the commission does not want to look at first overlaying the geographic look at things, then I am always going to be pushing for representation in my district. Commissioner Amison said if he is looking at applications, I do not care if they are from my district, I am looking for the best fit on the Board. He noted that he is going to go with someone who has a broader interaction with tourist. You may end up with no representation if we go countywide so that is why I was cautioning the two-plan. I am looking at the resume and not where the individual lays their hand down. Commissioner Sanders so if you look at the qualifications and not the area that is what you need to look at. But let us not have five from the island. Commissioner Sanders said whoever the cities want to support she is going to support that appointment. All I am asking is it to be fair across the Board. Commissioner Amison noted that all he was saying about the cities is if they nominated someone who is a conflict. He noted there is an issue like this now with a current member. Commissioner Sanders noted that when it was one million no one wanted to be on the board, now that it is at three, they do. She noted that statute restricts what the funds can be spent on. Commissioner Ward if we say everyone county wide can apply. You may have none from district two and five. I am a commissioner from Franklin County as a whole. At the end of the day, it is what is best for the county as a whole. I am going to pick and choose who is going to do the best for the job. I have not had anyone from my area who has contacted me about applying. I see both sides. I do see the conflict of interest with that seat. We are doing this as the betterment of the county as a whole. I am okay throwing it out to everybody. Because that is going to opening up the opportunity more. Commissioner Amison said he is fine with county wide. He is just erring on the side of caution because he does not want to be in here next year because there is not representation from each district. He noted that it is going to come down to resumes and qualifications. Commissioner Sanders said she brought this up because we do things as a county. When the divvying out was done, Lanark, Summer Camp, St James Bay, and Alligator Point were not mentioned. Think you are missing, I just wanted you all aware of how the folks feel.

Noone in this county should ne feeling slighted. I am the messenger with the heart. Commissioner Amison said the reason he is cautioning on this, there may not be any representation over there at all. Commissioner Sanders said at least they know it is an open process. Chairman Jones said he is under the impression that I have a lot of highly qualified people in my district. The whole discussion of the 4-2s is fine with me. We are going to take from the entire county and fill with the best applicants. Commissioner Croom say we get four people highly qualified in Eastpoint are we going to be back here next year. Chairman Jones said no, we are settling this today. Commissioner Sanders noted that you will have this issue back before you in years down the line due to state legislative changes.

Attorney Shuler gave a summary of what he believed the Board had decided on.

- TDC counsel membership will not have seats set aside for Chamber
- The city representatives require approval by the BCCC including every term of a member there will be a reapplications
- The 4-2 plan is not going to be accepted by the Board. As long as they meet the requirements of statute and are electors of the county. They will not be district specific.

Chairman Jones said just because it has been an issue over time, if any board member cannot attend a meeting, they cannot send in a designee to sit in as a voting substitute. They can send someone to listen to the meeting but not to serve as their substitute. Commissioner Sanders noted that she is not really good with these perimeters. She said she did not say she wanted to do away with the 4-2s. Commissioner Amison said you are taking applications in countywide. It was spreading the representation as good as we can throughout the county. If we go countywide, they can be completely left out. The Board discussed who are the people involved in tourist industry. Chairman Jones noted that 92% of our industry is involved in tourism. Commissioner Ward asked if a real estate agent would be considered tourist industry. Mr. Moron said it seems you are okay with the way they applied but did not mind the four twos. Commissioner Sanders noted that yes it keeps it even. But you do not have anything east of Carrabelle. Mr. Moron noted that when he wrote it, he was looking at Carrabelle meaning the Carrabelle area. Maybe I should have said one from Carrabelle and one from the eastern end of the county. Chairman Jones good with countywide, Commissioner Amison good with countywide, Commissioner Croom good countywide, Commissioner Sanders good as long as the process is fair. She noted that she does not like to put numbers on things. The TDC board should consist of the best people in there to bring the dollars in to represent Franklin County.

TDC membership on counsel following state statute

City representatives will be appointed but approved by BOCC

The 4-2 plan was talked about at length and the Board chose to go countywide.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the following:

- TDC counsel membership will not have seats set aside for Chamber
- The city representatives require approval by the BCCC and there will be no substitutes
- Reappointments will require applications and BOCC approval
- The 4-2 plan is not accepted by the Board. As long as they meet the requirements of statute and are electors of the county, the members will not be district specific.

Motion carried 5-0.

Information Items

5. Code Enforcement Ordinance

On May 3, 2022, the Board adopted an ordinance adopting the procedures and penalties of Fla. Stat. Chapter 162 for the enforcement of Franklin County Codes and Ordinances. A copy of that ordinance is attached at page 49 of this report. A copy of Ch. I 62, Fla. Stat., is also attached to this report at pages 50-59.

6. Deed to Franklin County from City of Carrabelle

Deed from City of Carrabelle to Franklin County for EMS substation in Lanark Village is attached. See pages 60-63 of this report.

Commissioner Sanders noted that Michael Moron brought up the topic of Alliant, how many days do we have to give them to terminate? Attorney Shuler noted that 90 calendar days by either party for any reason

7. Alleged Injury at Ochlockonee Boat Ramp

Claim of Negligence Against County for Alleged [injury at Ochlockonee Boat Ramp is attached. The claim has been timely delivered to the county's insurance carrier. See pages 64-68 of this report.

8. FSCO Notice of New Policy

FCSO Notice of New Policy to Franklin County is attached. See pages 69-81 of this report.

10. Termination Letter to Billy Blackburn In re: Helicopter Hanger

A copy of the Certified Letter dated March 20, 2024, sent to Billy Blackburn in Re: termination of his occupancy of the Helicopter Hanger is attached. The signed certified mail receipt has not been received as of the date of this report.

Commissioners' Comments

There were no additional Commissioner comments.

Adjournment

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

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts

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