

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
SEPTEMBER 3, 2024
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

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

Attorney Shuler noted that he has one supplemental information item and possible action regarding SJLVFD and the MSBU election. **On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda with changes as noted above. 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 Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Payment of County Bills and the FCBCC Regular Meeting Minutes from 8/8/2024 and 8/20/2024. Motion carried 5-0.

Awards and Recognitions

- 3. Ted Mosteller -- Resolution of Appreciation**

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
TED MOSTELLER**

WHEREAS Ted Mosteller was born in North Carolina, then pursued his longtime interest in aviation by learning to pilot in the Tyndall Aero Club in 1962.

WHEREAS Ted Mosteller married Harriet Hance of Carrabelle in 1963 while completing his pilot training. Together they raised three children, Ted Jr., Marty, and Laurie: all three Florida State University graduates.

WHEREAS Ted Mosteller moved to Apalachicola in 1967 and secured a telecommunication position with the Florida Power Corporation (currently known as Duke Energy) and retiring April of 2003. With this skill he served as the lifelong electrician for the Apalachicola Seafood Festival.

WHEREAS Ted Mosteller volunteered at the Apalachicola Airport in 1993 while serving on the Aviation Advisory Committee and served as chairman.

WHEREAS in June 2021, Ted Mosteller was appointed and served as Interim Airport Manager for the Apalachicola Airport.

WHEREAS Ted Mosteller has been a great asset to Apalachicola Airport for the past 31 years as a volunteer and as an employee.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners to extend the greatest honor and appreciation for the dedication, knowledge, and love Ted Mosteller has given to the Apalachicola Airport, Franklin County, and the community. We wish you all the best.

This RESOLUTION adopted this 3rd day of September 2024.

BY: Ricky D. Jones, Chairman

Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Resolution of Appreciation for Ted Mosteller. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Bankston presented Mr. Mosteller a plaque of appreciation.

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners Appreciation Award

Proudly Presented To

TED MOSTELLER

There once was a man born from a plane,

He grew up in a house on Airport Lane

His passion for aviation never wavered it seems

Just the roar of the airport engine, made his heart gleam

To Franklin County he went with his family in tow

His unwavering commitment would be greater than we could ever know with exceptional contributions
and a heart of gold,

His knowledge of the Franklin County airport is unmatched tenfold. With that our deepest appreciation
cannot go unsaid

So today Franklin County honors you for your 23 years of service, Thank you, Ted

Commissioner Ward thanked Mr. Mosteller for his dedication to the airport as well as his volunteer efforts
in other parts of the county.

Mr. Mosteller's family attended via Zoom congratulating him on his retirement. Mr. Tom Mescher said it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Mosteller and he looked forward to working with him on the airport board.

Mr. Kirschenbaum said it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Mosteller. Commissioner Croom said he and Ted began volunteering together about ten years ago. He noted that Mr. Mosteller can outwork anyone out there. He thanked him for his time served and what he continues to do. Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Mosteller for his volunteer and hours worked with the county. He noted that it has been an honor to be around him, and he hopes that he does not become a stranger. Thank you. Commissioner

Sanders noted that she has known him all of her life. He has always been an up straight fine man. She noted the resolution and words on the plaque were true words.

Commissioner Amison noted that he cannot express the gratitude of everything Mr. Ted has done for this county. **Commissioner Amison made a motion to name the FBO hangar after Mr. Ted. Seconded by Commissioner Croom. Motion carried 5-0.** Ms. Elinor Mount Simmons noted that Mr. Mosteller has been a valuable member on the CareerSource Gulf Coast board. Thanked him and noted that Franklin County has a jewel. Ms. Kim Bodine noted that he has been on the board since 1996. She noted that he has been a chief supporter of hers and the things they do. She noted that he is always front and center. He is one of the finest men that I know. All the accolades he has received he deserves. He is one of the most loyal and caring individuals that I have ever known in my life. Ms. Cecile Hans thanks the Board for recognizing Ted, noting she is his sister-in-law. As a family member that married into the family, she said he is also a Christian role model for men. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to appoint Mr. Mosteller to the airport board, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Amison. Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

Department Directors Reports

4. Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Roads and Bridges

Mr. Nabors had no action items for the Board.

Commissioner Ward said she had someone reach out to her about a sign for a road. She believes it is a private road, but she will reach out to him to verify. Chairman Jones noted that if it is private, we still install the signs/ Mr. Nabors noted that we do, we just charge them for it. Commissioner Sanders inquired about the inmate labor. Mr. Nabors noted that we are getting about the same amount. He noted that he has been told they have a higher class of inmates, and they are concerned about putting them out. Commissioner Sanders noted that it may be something that we need to handle legislatively. Mr. Nabors noted that we have met with the warden, and he came here and spoke. Chairman Jones said we are still working five days a week. Mr. Nabors noted yes. Commissioner Amison noted that he received a text message saying what a wonderful job was done on their road. He thanked Mr. Nabors and his staff publicly. Mr. Nabors noted that was done with some of the new equipment that we bought, and it helps out a lot. Mr. Nabors noted that he has received a lot of calls about the state right of ways on 98. It is high and grass is grown over the bike path. Chairman Jones asked if we have the capacity to take care of this ourselves until we get an MOU with them. Mr. Nabors noted that we can, but it will cut us short on our other roads. Chairman Jones asked Attorney Shuler to get with them to discuss an update on the MOU. Attorney Shuler noted that he will get with Mr. Moron and check on it. Commissioner Amison asked if anyone had spoken to Weber. Chairman Jones noted that he has. However, they are so backed up. Commissioner Ward noted that they are a big company, and they should be able to cover. The state needs to do their part and help. Commissioner Croom said is Weber the company who also maintains the causeways, Chairman Jones noted yes. Attorney Shuler asked for Board clarifications do you want to try to do an MOU for the causeways, bike paths and right of ways? Include those areas as well? Chairman Jones said most of the bike paths are located near the state highways. Chairman Jones noted that he would like to include those areas as well. Commissioner Sanders noted that people have to realize we used to have 35 people working and now we are down to 15. Commissioner Ward noted that it is a seventy-mile-wide county. Commissioner Amison inquired about the traffic light. Mr. Moron noted that he has not heard back from Benny. He was supposed to find out if the city of Apalachicola or FDOT were responsible for repairs. Mr. Moron noted that Commissioner Amison has received complaints that the

sensor is not working properly. Chairman Jones noted that Attorney Shuler will work on getting the MOU together, and Mr. Nabors will go ahead and get them taken care of for now. Mr. Moron asked did we go to this contract because of the budget or that they could not maintain it as often as we wanted. Mr. Moron noted that they will not pay us for our timeline, but for the time they allot to do it.

5. Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Mr. Davis announced two new hires. James Winfield – new hire and Avery Scott – animal control officer. Commissioner Ward noted that we are discussing the litter control ordinance on Attorney Shuler’s report. Just wanted to get Mr. Davis’ opinion on this. Commissioner Ward said her only issue is the penalty amounts. Attorney Shuler noted that the penalties have to be reasonable, and he did not think starting out at \$500 would be reasonable. He explained the step up for each additional penalty. He noted that it is within the discretion of the Board. Commissioner Ward noted that she would like the initial fine increased to at least \$250. Commissioner Ward noted that she stated at the last meeting that she got blessed at the last meeting. She stands corrected that she was blessed because we called law enforcement. Commissioner Croom noted that with the ordinance, asked Mr. Davis if he has reviewed and would recommend any changes. Mr. Davis noted that he did mention about equipment. Attorney Shuler noted that there is several belt and suspenders. This ordinance that we are dealing with was a litter control ordinance. Then there was a provision added for people cleaning up their yards with things such as limb clippings, etc. Attorney Shuler there are instances now where people are land clearing, and this was not the intention of the initial ordinance. In order to solve this issue, land clearing is excluded from this ordinance. If you hire someone commercially to clean your yard this would be excluded. Then there is a size limitation, if you can fit your yard trash in this dimension it would still be picked up. If someone puts a larger pile, then it would be considered litter. The other issue was the size of the pickup, there is a size limitation of four inches in diameter and eight foot long. There are multiple layers to prevent issues. Chairman Jones said he is fine with having the discussion. The penalty cannot be so low that no one pays attention to. The penalties are there to make people comply. Chairman Jones noted that people can amnesty their yard trash on Mondays after the weekend. Also, once we get the business license in place, we need to monitor where people who are registered as lawn business and are never bringing their trash to the landfill. Mr. Moron noted that we will also have to phase out roadside pick up once the landfill is transitioned. Commissioner Ward noted that she does not want to completely do away with roadside pickup. Mr. Moron noted that he had discussed with Commissioner Amison, and he was afraid this would cause more trash burning.

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

1. Action Item: Budget Request

At your August 8th meeting, the Board heard from Community Moving Education, Inc., and from Early Learning Coalition, both seeking funding from your upcoming budget. As you are aware, your 1st Budget Public Workshop is scheduled for 5:15 p.m. this afternoon with the Board setting the tentative millage and budget. Based on a discussion on Friday with Mr. Fonda Davis and Mrs. Erin Griffith, I recommend that we fund Community Moving Education up to \$5000, providing the County receives a plan that will include the when, where, projected number of participants, additional funding sources and required non-profit documentation. I recommend that we fund Early Learning Coalition up to \$2,806.72 with the same requirements. In addition, I ask the Board to consider a \$5000 funding request for the Equal Shot Basketball program. Equal Shot is not only about improving basketball skills for both boys and girls in the county, but more importantly, it is about leadership and character building. This funding will allow them to expand training and leadership skills in the County. The Board has funded previous Equal Shot requests over the last few years. Another request for funding consideration is The Nest afterschool and summer program. As the Board is aware, Project Impact, which was the Apalachicola afterschool site,

did not receive funding this year so The Nest program opened an Apalachicola site to address the needs of the children and parents. The issue is, because this was a last-minute effort, The Nest was not able to apply for additional funds for this current fiscal year, so they are currently operating three sites, Carrabelle, Eastpoint, and Apalachicola, with a budget designed for two sites. The ask is a one-time allocation of \$10,000 to assist The Nest with running the afterschool and summer program for the three sites. Except for the Early Learning Coalition, the other three request will be funded from the current Parks and Recreation Youth Area Program Support budget. The Early Learning Coalition \$2,806.72 request will be funded from the General Fund. All four request will be one-time allocations and will not be included as part of the FY2025-26 budget. Board action to approve the four requests for funding as one-time allocations and from the funding sources as described in the report.

Commissioner Ward said the reason we are giving the Early Learning Coalition \$2806.72 is because that is what they requested. The reason we are giving the Nest \$10,000 is because this is county wide. Mr. Moron noted that these funds are remaining in Mr. Davis' budget, and he is agreeable to the disbursement. **On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the four requests for funding as one-time allocations and from the funding sources as described in the report.** Mr. Davis noted that these funds are usually spent to send the youth football/baseball teams to district, state, and world series. He noted that we did not have a team advanced as far as we normally do this year. **Motion carried 5-0.**

6. Jennifer Daniels – Emergency Management Director

Mrs. Daniels was not present, and Mr. Moron noted that she reported at the previous meeting.

7. Dewitt Polous – Mosquito Control Director

No action items. Commissioner Sanders noted that we do need to go back through from Tallahassee to Gray. Be a little more extensive, they just tore out the beaver dams and did not clean it out as good as I wanted them to. Commissioner Sanders noted that the culvert may be undermined at Ave F and Tallahassee Street. Mr. Polous noted that he will go over and take a look at it. Mr. Polous noted that he would like to purchase a small drone, to fly into the areas that we cannot get into, to inspect. Mr. Moron said if it is a one-time thing, we may want to hire a company. He said if it is being used for government purposes you may have to be certified. Attorney Shuler noted that 250 grams and above require the licensing and training, and anything under that does not. Attorney Shuler noted that he can probably help him with that. Commissioner Ward asked if he had funds in his budget to pay for this. Mr. Polous said he does not have it in this year's budget but could look into it for next year's budget.

8. Erik Lovestrand – Extension Office Director

Mr. Lovestrand had no action items for the Board.

9. Whitney Roundtree – Library Director

Mrs. Roundtree's report was deferred to next meeting.

Other Reports

10. Ted Mosteller – Interim Airport Manager

Mr. Mosteller presented his written report and had no action items for the Board.

11. Steve Kirschenbaum -- AOED -- AOED Report & Airport Fly-in Event Request

1. In lieu of the County's approved application securing the \$75,000.00 grant thru the Community Planning and Technical Assistance Grant Program to engage an aviation engineering firm to assist in the development of a comprehensive environmental report towards the feasibility of constructing an 1,100-foot runway extension at the Apalachicola Regional Airport. The AOED recommends the County move forward with the study as soon as the funds are made available. (Hopefully, John Collins from Avcon will be available by zoom)

2. With \$35,000,000.00 available to municipalities thru the Dept of Commerce Job Growth fund and with the County being approved for the first phase of the runway extension project thru the Dept of Commerce CPTA Grant program the AOED recommends applying for the actual runway extension grant in the amount of \$6,000,000.00. (Municipalities in the past have been funded for runway extensions thru this program)

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized applying for through Department of Commerce Job Growth fund for the actual runway extension grant in the amount of \$6,000,000.00. Motion carried 5-0.

3. A request for a Flyin for Saturday November 16th has been made by our local EAA Chapter at our airport in conjunction with the AOED and the County (info attached.) The event will be a free event to showcase our airport to the community, economic development groups, the Staff of our local Representative, Congressman and Senator, our newest partners at the site and potential businesses who may wish to locate at the site. The event needs approximately \$17,000.00 for site logistics food and warbird aircraft. It will be an incredible win, win for the County and the airport. The AOED Board recommends approving the event and the funding thru TDC funds and the airport operating account.

Chairman Jones noted that he would like to see an itemized budget. Mr. Moron noted that maybe the Board could approve up to a certain amount. Commissioner Ward noted that the airport has a separate budget and has funds to do things like this. **On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized spending up to \$15k from airport funds and asking the TDC to consider funding \$2000. The Board request staff bring back an itemized budget to them.** Commissioner Amison added that the president of the EAA did mention that he does have some pilots that want to take some students up to fly. He noted that maybe this will turn into something annually to bring exposure to the airport. Mr. Moron noted that he suggested they keep it close to Veterans Day to attract more attendees. **Motion carried 5-0.**

4. AOED Board member Wilkerson has secured a commitment from Haney College School of Aviation for a satellite educational facility at our airport. They are looking at a 08/01/2025 start date. The project was discussed at a meeting with Triumph representatives, and they tentatively agreed to help fund it. The AOED Board recommends starting the process of application to Triumph for the educational facility and equipment in conjunction with Haney.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved starting the process of application to Triumph for the educational facility and equipment in conjunction with Haney. Motion carried 5-0.

Info Items:

- There is no timeline for the Job Growth Grant, but it has dwindled from 75 million to

almost half of that, so I suggest we move on it quickly.

- Also available is a Rural Infrastructure Grant there is 20 million ready to be allocated. The deadline for that is Sept 15th. This grant could be utilized for construction of a roadway for access to developable sites on the eastern side of the airport.

- Tyndall AFB is excited about starting training with equipment at our airport. All equipment should be in place by Friday 09/06

- Skyborne aviation from Gulf County is planning their first flight of one of their airships to our airport some time in Sept or early October. Could be a great press opportunity!

- AOED Board member Wilkerson arranged a meeting with Tango flights. The program will help Franklin County youth gain an interest in aviation studies by building an aircraft each semester under expert supervision upon completion, the aircraft are sold, and the funds used to buy the next kit for the next group of students. A great precursor to the aviation university soon to open at the airport. Our hope is to include the Tango flights program in the Haney grant.

- Also, we met with another potential user for the site with Florida's Great Northwest, Opportunity Florida, and Triumph they asked to keep the project low key until it moves further in the pipeline.

Presentations/Updates/Requests

12. Kim Bodine -- CareerSource -- Local/Regional Plan Approval

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Local Workforce Services Plan for the years 2024-2028. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Chris Rietow -- ARPC -- Update and Dues Approval

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the ARPC update and increase dues in the amount of \$15,000 annually. Commissioner Sanders noted that as you know there has been an attack on the planning counsels throughout the state. I personally know what this has done for Franklin County. With resources that we are able to put our hands on, it outweighs the \$15k. Chris noted that they anticipate an additional grant for the living shoreline. Chairman Jones noted that included in this next phase is the work to shore up the spoil area in Eastpoint. They will be providing materials on the back side of the berm to shore it up. It will secure that area for future dredging projects. Mr. Moron noted the job they have done on the GIS, noted that Justin, we really like him. He is always here on Tuesdays before the meetings.
Motion carried 5-0.

County Staff & Attorney Reports

14. Erin Griffith – Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator

1. BOARD ACTION: RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND GRANT APPLICATION

The application window for the RIF (Rural Infrastructure Fund) grant program through the Florida Department of Commerce is open through September 16th. This program has 15 million dollars allocated for 31 rural counties and the municipalities within. There is also an additional 5 million dollars allocated for counties still impacted by Hurricane Michael (Calhoun, Gadsden, Holmes, Liberty, and Washington). In this program, there are two grant categories: a total participation grant for up to 100% of the cost of the project and a project planning and preparation grant whereas up to \$300,000 can be requested for infrastructure feasibility studies, design and engineering, or other infrastructure planning and preparation services.

The Board has mentioned in the past about the need for a county wide road condition assessment and inventory and this type of planning study would fit within the guidelines for the RIF program. A comprehensive inventory of county roads and condition would assist the commission and staff for determining which roads should be submitted for transportation grant projects, provide an adequate inventory for post disaster recovery, and determine priority for county funded paving efforts. Adequate infrastructure is a building block for economic development and fosters community investment.

Board action to approve submitting a project planning and preparation grant through RIF for the development of a county-wide road system inventory and conditional assessment study with priority ranking for repairs.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved submitting a project planning and preparation grant through RIF for the development of a county-wide road system inventory and conditional assessment study with priority ranking for repairs. Commissioner Ward noted that she attended a meeting last week and the RIF grants were discussed. She said she had forwarded this to Mrs. Griffith, but she was already working on it. Thinks this is a good step to move towards working on our road projects. Commissioner Amison asked if we could request multiple projects. Mrs. Griffith noted that we could, but they could not be in the same category. She noted that the total funds are 15 million and cover multiple counties. Commissioner Amison noted that at the meeting last week they were basically begging people to apply for the funds. They were basically afraid they were not going to get the requests to keep the funds coming. Mrs. Griffith noted that we could probably submit for the Phase 3 classroom project. Chairman Jones asked if we need to add to the motion. Yes. **Commissioner Ward amended her motion to include the added request, seconded by Commissioner Amison.** Commissioner Sanders asked if it would be able to fund something like the truck route? Mrs. Griffith noted that we could, it would just have to tie back to the economic. Commissioner Amison asked if it would be better if we ask for individual. Mrs. Griffith said it may be that we took a look at it and bring it back for retroactive approval at the next meeting. **Motion carried 5-0.**

2. BOARD ACTION: TRAIL-GO GRANT APPLICATIONS

The county was recently awarded a federal grant through the FDEP recreational trails program to resurface the SGI multi-use bike path from 3rd Street East to 3rd Street West. At this time, the project is still moving through the federal environmental review process (NEPA), and we anticipate that process will be completed sometime this month. On August 31st, the application window closed for the Trail-Go program through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Trail-Go program assists local government with the operation and maintenance of trails within the Florida Greenways and Trails Program which includes St. George Island's Multi-Use path. The maximum amount of the award is \$200,000 and the county can apply for additional segments. Two grant applications were submitted to the program for the resurfacing of 3rd Street East to 5th Street East and 3rd Street West to 5th Street West.

Board action to grant retroactive approval and authorization for the chairman to sign the attached Trail-Go funding applications for the SGI Multi-Use Path.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached Trail-Go funding applications for the SGI Multi-Use Path. Motion carried 5-0.

3. BOARD ACTION: SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR TAX COLLECTOR & TDC PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BUDGET AMENDMENTS

At the last meeting, the state's irregular mid-year salary increase for the tax collector was discussed and it was noted that a public hearing would be needed to amend the tax collector's budget for the current year to fund that increase. The 10% reimbursement for public safety services for the Tourist Development

Fund Budget was also not included in the current year as it was a statutory change last year and the county's spending plan was not amended until February (mid budget year). A public hearing is also required to amend the Sheriff's budget for the reimbursements received through this funding.

Board action to approve scheduling a public hearing for Tuesday, September 17th at 5:30 p.m. or later upon conclusion of the final public hearing for the county budget for the budget amendments needed above.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved scheduling a public hearing for Tuesday, September 17th at 5:30 p.m. or later upon conclusion of the final public hearing for the county budget for the budget amendments needed above. Motion carried 5-0.

4. BOARD INFORMATION: REMINDER - 1ST PUBLIC HEARING FOR COUNTY BUDGET, TONIGHT AT 5:15

The first public hearing for the county budget is scheduled for tonight at 5:15 p.m., at that meeting the Board will adopt and approve a tentative millage rate and tentative budget. The current proposed millage rate (5.4546 mills) that appeared on the TRIM notices is the maximum rate for the upcoming fiscal year. The 2024 taxable value as certified by the Franklin County Property Appraiser increased by approximately 13.91% over the prior year. In the current budget, the millage rate of 5.4707 generated \$16,628,246. In the upcoming budget, the preliminary millage rate of 5.4546 will generate \$18,885,873. The updated budget narrative with the summarized increases and decreases is attached to this report for reference.

Chairman Jones said the City of Apalachicola requested a representative from the board attend their meeting tonight to discuss the shift of the \$764k for ambulance services which is currently funded by our ad valorem to the health care surtax. Chairman Jones noted that he will be attending as the Board chair tonight.

5. BOARD INFORMATION: MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES

- LANARK EMS STATION OUT FOR BIDS – bids are due Monday, October 14th, mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., on Friday, September 27th.
- SGI PICKLEBALL COURT & BASKETBALL COURT – bids are due Monday, October 14th, mandatory pre- bid meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., on Friday September 27th.
- TRIUMPH FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNICATION SYSTEM PHASE I – Terms Sheet Approved – Grant award agreement anticipated on October 15th
- AIRPORT FUEL FARM – PROGRESS PHOTOS – Fuel storage tanks were delivered last week – progress photos pasted below.

LATE ADD – LICENSING AGREEMENTS DUNE RESTORATIONS

On a motion by Commissioner Amison to approve. Commissioner Amison inquired if the residents that are not communicating are they actual residents, or out of state property owners. Mrs. Griffith noted that a lot of them are out of state property owners. She noted that this is the participation rate the contractors normally receive. The sea oats will drop seeds and the benefit will be county wide. **Commissioner Ward seconded the motion.** Chairman Jones said there are those who will try to get in after the fact. I do not know that there will be a second round. Mrs. Griffith noted that with this being federal funds, I do not know that it will be possible. She noted that they will pose that question to them. Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Sanders asked if she had heard anything on the C30 project. Mrs. Griffith noted that we

have not, and I will get with Tracy Buzbee to see if she can move it along. Commissioner Sanders noted that this project goes all the way back to Hurricane Michael. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to direct staff to call our federal legislative delegation to let them know what is going on, and that FEMA is objecting to the coordinates of where C30 is located at. Then follow up with a letter with the Chairman's signature.** Mrs. Griffith noted that we have yet to receive an obligation for the SGI Fishing Pier repairs. They are still going back and forth with them. So, we can add both of them. **Commissioner Sanders amended her motion to include the SGI Fishing Pier repairs also. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion.** Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none. **Motion carried 5-0.**

15. Michael Morón – County Coordinator

1. Action Item: Budget Request

At your August 8th meeting, the Board heard from Community Moving Education, Inc., and from Early Learning Coalition, both seeking funding from your upcoming budget. As you are aware, your 1st Budget Public Workshop is scheduled for 5:15 p.m. this afternoon with the Board setting the tentative millage and budget. Based on a discussion on Friday with Mr. Fonda Davis and Mrs. Erin Griffith, I recommend that we fund Community Moving Education up to \$5000, providing the County receives a plan that will include the when, where, projected number of participants, additional funding sources and required non-profit documentation. I recommend that we fund Early Learning Coalition up to \$2,806.72 with the same requirements. In addition, I ask the Board to consider a \$5000 funding request for the Equal Shot Basketball program. Equal Shot is not only about improving basketball skills for both boys and girls in the county, but more importantly, it is about leadership and character building. This funding will allow them to expand training and leadership skills in the County. The Board has funded previous Equal Shot requests over the last few years. Another request for funding consideration is The Nest afterschool and summer program. As the Board is aware, Project Impact, which was the Apalachicola afterschool site, did not receive funding this year so The Nest program opened an Apalachicola site to address the needs of the children and parents. The issue is, because this was a last-minute effort, The Nest was not able to apply for additional funds for this current fiscal year, so they are currently operating three sites, Carrabelle, Eastpoint, and Apalachicola, with a budget designed for two sites. The ask is a one-time allocation of \$10,000 to assist The Nest with running the afterschool and summer program for the three sites. Except for the Early Learning Coalition, the other three request will be funded from the current Parks and Recreation Youth Area Program Support budget. The Early Learning Coalition \$2,806.72 request will be funded from the General Fund. All four request will be one-time allocations and will not be included as part of the FY2025-26 budget. Board action to approve the four requests for funding as one-time allocations and from the funding sources as described in the report.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. Action Item: Credit Card Agreement

Previously, the Board requested individual credit cards for Commissioners when they travel and attend conferences and events on behalf of the County. The Bank is requesting the authorization of a Resolution form, that will be signed by the Clerk, for the credit cards. Board action to authorize Mrs. Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Court, to sign the Resolution Form.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized Mrs. Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Court, to sign the Resolution Form. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Action Item: Airport Grants

There are two remaining FAA Grant Agreements for the Obstruction Removal Phase 2 project that require Board action. The first is a \$336,000 grant and the second is an \$87,322.50 grant. These two grants, along with the \$46,957 FDOT matching grant that was approved at a previous meeting, brings the project total to \$470, 279.50. Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the two FAA Grant Agreements as described above.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman's signature on the two FAA Grant Agreements as described above. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Action Item: Surveys on County Roads

Chairman Jones and Commissioner Sanders would like the Board to authorize surveys on two county roads. Chairman Jones would like to open Avenue D in Eastpoint. All the lots around the closed section of Avenue D have been sold and the homeowners would like access to their property. Commissioner Sanders would like a survey on South Spring Street in Lanark Village to determine the County's right of way boundaries on that road. Board action to authorize survey on both county roads.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized surveying on both county roads. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Action Item: Senior Services Advertisement

Attached to this report is a draft advertisement for congregate senior services for the County's Senior Center at the Garden Club Building in Carrabelle. I will meet with Lisa Bretz (Area Agency on Aging) tomorrow to review the advertisement. I will let you know if there are any substantial changes to the advertisement. Board action to authorize advertising for congregate senior services at the Garden Club Building.

Commissioner Ward noted should we make contingent upon the meeting with Mr. Moron. Mr. Moron said if there are substantial changes, then yes. If not motion to approve. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized advertising for congregate senior services at the Garden Club Building. Motion carried 5-0.**

6. Action Item: Weems BOD Appointment

Chairman Jones would like to appoint Mrs. Lynn Martina to the District 1 seat on the Weems Board of Directors. Most of you are familiar with Mrs. Martina as she has a successful seafood business and sits on other non-profit boards. Board action to appoint Mrs. Lynn Martina to the District 1 seat on the Weems Board of Directors.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board appointed Mrs. Lynn Martina to the District 1 seat on the Weems Board of Directors. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ward said she was asking Mr. Moron a couple weeks ago about our boards and how they are set up. What the term limits were and how often we can change those people. I have people calling me wanting to be on some of the boards. I want to get all of this information out there so that we know. Mr. Moron suggested a link on the website that list all of our boards, the members, and their terms. Chairman Jones said he thought the Board changed it so that all of our board term limits are four years. Mr. Moron noted that he does not believe it was done for all. Commissioner Ward said we need to be mindful when we have seats coming up so that we can advertise and as Board members start thinking about nominees.

7. Action Item: Interim Airport Manager

Last month, Mr. Ted Mosteller informed the Board that he would be stepping down as the Interim Airport Manager. The Board has indicated that it would like to advertise for a full-time Airport Manager that has economic development experience along with the ability to promote the airport. While we are working through that process, I recommend engaging another Interim Airport Manager. Mr. Steve Kirschenbaum, currently your Airport Operations Economic Development Board chairman has expressed interest in serving in this role. If the Board agrees, Mr. Kirschenbaum would step down from the AOED to serve as the Interim Airport Manager and would agree to the same contract that Mr. Mosteller has. Board action to engage Mr. Steve Kirschenbaum as the Interim Airport Manager with the same terms, amount, and conditions as the contract currently in place with Mr. Mosteller.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom and Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized engaging Mr. Steve Kirschenbaum as the Interim Airport Manager with the same terms, amount, and conditions as the contract currently in place with Mr. Mosteller.

Commissioner Croom asked would we need to fill the vacancy as chair on the airport board. Mr. Moron noted that the airport board will need to hold a special meeting to appoint a chair. He noted that he believes Mr. Wilkinson will make a good chair. Commissioner Amison noted that if we do this, we will not have a quorum. Mr. Moron noted that he is looking at October 1st to give the current board a chance to look over the applicants, and reorganize the seats caused from the vacancy. **Commissioner Amison amended his motion to reflect October 1st as the start date, seconded by Commissioner Croom and Commissioner Ward. Motion carried 5-0.**

8. Discussion/Action Item: PZA & AOED Members

The County currently has 2 vacant Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board seats. One of those seats is District 5 representative and the other is at large. Last week I sent you a link the included three letters of interest for those seats. Is the Board interested in appointing any of the candidates to the vacant seats? Based on Board action regarding the Interim Airport Manager, the Airport Operations Economic Development Board should have 3 vacant seats. The same link also included six letters of interest for the AOED board. Is the Board interested in appointing any of these candidates to the AOED vacant seats? Board discussion and possible action.

Commissioner Ward noted that only one of the applicants out of the three were from her district. Commissioner Ward noted that she does not feel like running another advertisement will help any. She said that she is good with appointing Ms. Roxanne Christie. Mr. Moron recommended appointing that seat today. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to appoint Roxanne Christie to represent District 5 on the PZA board. Seconded by Commissioner Amison. Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Jones noted that he is good with the Board acting on the at large seat, we have two applicants, Nicholas G. Skarzynski and Paul Riegelmayr. Commissioner Amison said he would like us to run the advertisement again. We will add to the pool of applicants. He noted that we may have applicants out there that we do not know about. Mr. Moron noted that I probably need to let you know where the other at large seat is so that we do not get one from the same part of the county. Chairman Jones noted that he has one representative from his district and one at large. Chairman Jones asked if we needed a motion and vote to readvertise. Mr. Moron noted that we just need direction. Mr. Moron asked if we are sending the AEOD board the applicants for their recommendation. Commissioner Ward noted that we have six applicants. Mr. Kirschenbaum noted that we have three seats available. Chairman Jones noted that it should be only two since we appointed Mr. Ted. Mr. Moron noted that we are switching Steve out for Mr. Ted. Mr. Moron noted that he thinks Tom does an excellent job as a coordinator and he has not asked to

get back on the board. Board gave Mr. Moron direction to forward the applicants to AEOD board for recommendation. Commissioner Ward asked why we did not do the same for the PZA board. Mr. Moron noted that PZA is district seats, and a couple at large.

9. Informational Item: Municode Update

I recently met with a Municode representative regarding issues with our ordinances. The first matter that requires clarification, Franklin County did send all the ordinances to Municode on a timely basis. Municode has the option of determining which ordinances are codified into the system. Specifically, the language in the Supplemental History Table states, "Ordinances that are of a general and permanent nature are codified in the Code Book and are considered "Includes." Ordinances that are not of a general and permanent nature are not codified in the Code Book and are considered "Omits." I am working with Municode to reconsider codifying the SGI Overlay ordinance and address some of the other concerns raised recently regarding PUD ordinances. I will continue to update the Board.

The Board discussed this matter and their dissatisfaction for the services being provided by Municode.

10. Informational Item: TDC Collections

- Attached to my report are the recent TDC collections.
- Mr. John Solomon will be at your next meeting to update the Board on recent TDC awards and other related TDC items.

11. Informational Item: Streetlights

- Chairman Jones and Commissioner Amison are requesting quotes for streetlights from Duke Energy. Those quotes will be on my September 17th report for approval.

12. Informational Item: Employee Title Change

- You will probably notice new job titles for Mrs. Angela Lolley and Mrs. Cortni Bankston. Mrs. Lolley's new title is Building and Zoning Coordinator and Mrs. Bankston is Community Services Coordinator. These new titles match their new job responsibilities.

13. Informational Item: Upcoming Conferences

- As a reminder, Commissioner Ward will be attending the Innovation and Policy Conference from September 18 – 19 in Escambia County.
- Mrs. Cortni Bankston will be attending the Florida Broadband Summit from September 11 – 12.

14. Informational Item: Sheriff's 9/11 Event

- Sheriff Smith is inviting the Commissioners to attend an 9/11 event at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 8:15 a.m. (ET). Let me know if you are planning on attending. (Flyer attached)

15. Informational Item: Leslie Street Update

- I've been informed that construction on Leslie Street will commence on Monday, September 9th.
- The Notice to Proceed has been issued and the pre-construction meeting has already taken place.
- I will continue to update the Board as the project progresses.

16. Informational Item: City of Apalachicola Projects

- The County received notices for two City of Apalachicola projects. Both are a CDBG-DR funded projects.
- One is a restoration of stormwater infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Michael project and the other is a riverfront revitalization project to repair damage caused by Hurricane Michael.
- Both notices are Early Notice for Floodplains/Wetlands, so contact Mrs. Angela Lolley, the County's Floodplain Manager if you have any questions.

17. Informational Item: FDOT Multi-Use Path

- Attached is a FDOT notice of upcoming field activities that include surveying, environmental assessment, and soil investigations regarding the US 98 from Hinton Street to Crooked River Road Multi-Use Path.
- Let me know if you have any questions.

18. Informational Item: Panhandle Players Invitation

- The Panhandle Players are inviting the Commissioners to a Ribbon Cutting on Friday, September 13th as the new curtain will be unveiled and the upcoming season will be discussed.

19. Informational Item: Next Meeting Date

- Your next regular meeting date is scheduled on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. (ET). Your final budget Public Hearing will be on that same day at 5:15 p.m. (ET).

16. Michael Shuler – County Attorney

1. The Planning Collaborative - Allara Mills Gutcher

Last month, the Board approved the cost estimate from Allara Mills Gutcher for planning services. Attached is the contract she has requested. It is consistent with the proposal you approved at your last meeting. FYI: The first workshop on the PUD (Planned Urban Development) authorization and evaluation ordinance will take place on September 10, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. before the advisory planning and zoning board. See pages 4-11 for attachment. Board Action Requested: Board approval of the contract from The Planning Collaborative.

Commissioner Ward noted on task #7 and #9, we are paying almost \$5000 for that PUD. I do not think it is right for the county to have to pay for something the people are requesting. Why do we have to foot that cost? Chairman Jones said I think she was going to be tasked with specific things, I think it is included not to be an absorbent cost on top of it, but we do need to have a PUD, something on the books that allows for it. Chairman Jones noted that in What Attorney Shuler presented to us, if still at that time they wanted to move forward with the PUD, she will walk the Board through that process. Commissioner Ward noted that she feels like we need to give that cost back to them. She noted that she realizes that we do need a PUD. Chairman Jones said if does not matter if it was this, or some other entity wanting a PUD, if the Board requires the applicant to absorb all of the cost and then denies the PUD, we could see a lawsuit against us. There is always a shared cost with us, what we have not seen in the past is the breakdown because we had a county planner doing this. Commissioner Sanders asked if Attorney Shuler is satisfied with this contract. Attorney Shuler noted that he is, Laura is very competent and capable, given the nature of what she is doing and reviewing the Landings, I would say it is a reasonable fee. He noted before all of those planning costs were hidden in Mr. Curenton's salary. Mr. Moron noted that he spoke with Justin, and he recommended her also. I recommend the Board accept the contract as presented. **On a motion by**

Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the contract from The Planning Collaborative. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Baker Tilly Contract

The final form of the services contract with Baker Tilly is attached.
See pages 12-22 for attachment.

Board Action Requested: Board approval of the contract with Baker Tilly

Commissioner Sanders asked Attorney Shuler to read the scope of services for the public.
Scope of Services

- First, evaluate the current and near-term financial viability of the Hospital through a financial analysis. This evaluation will both include and exclude the hospital surtax subsidy as it relates to the financial viability analysis. This evaluation is not anticipated to exceed \$40,000.00. If in Baker Tilly's judgment, the cost is anticipated to exceed \$40,000.00, it shall notify Franklin County immediately and the parties will engage in good faith negotiations regarding this cost.
- Execute a financial and operational performance review
- Based on the results of the review, recommend a management action plan
- Based on the results of the management action plan, work with the County Commissioners to execute the plan (if desired).

A good faith estimate for all four of these services is \$150,000.00. However, the final cost could be higher or lower than the good faith estimate. The parties agree to meet and discuss budget and timing of the completion of the project at least once each month in order to keep the project on budget and on time. It is anticipated that the final report will be delivered to Franklin County within six months of the execution of this letter agreement.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, contingent upon adding a sentence that a written report is provided to the Board to the contract. Mr. Moron noted that Mr. Kozar and David are aware that they will need to provide documentation as requested. **Motion carried 5-0.**

3. Cancel Public Hearing on Flood Ordinance Amendment

At your last meeting, the Board approved a public hearing to consider changes to the Flood Control Ordinance. Subsequent to that meeting, Mrs. Angela Lolley successfully negotiated an "auto-adoption" of the new flood maps issued by FEMA, so the immediate need for the public hearing is no longer necessary. Mrs. Lolley informs me that in the future, she will request that the Board consider further amendments to the Flood Control Ordinance. If you have questions, please talk to Mrs. Lolley regarding these changes.

Board Action Requested: Cancellation of the public hearing presently authorized for September 17, 2024.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized cancellation of the public hearing authorized for September 17, 2024. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion Item

4. Draft Ordinance Amending Litter Control Ordinance 2016-6

The attached draft amendment to the Litter Control Ordinance is for discussion. A copy of ordinance 2016-6 is also attached for convenient review.

See pages 23-32 for attachment.

Attorney Shuler asked for clarification from the Board on the penalty amounts. Chairman Jones said as long as we are not going below \$100. We need to clarify who is going to be issuing these fines. Currently if we send out code enforcement, it is going to be law enforcement. Attorney Shuler noted the penalties as drafted:

3. Section 5(b) Penalties and Enforcement, is amended as follows: Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance for the first time is guilty of a non-criminal infraction punishable by of fine of \$100.00 per day. plus, court costs. for the first five days of the violation. Thereafter, the daily fine increases to \$250.00 per day, plus court costs.

4. Section 5(c) Penalties and Enforcement, is amended as follows: Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance for the second time is guilty of a non-criminal infraction punishable by of fine of \$250.00 per day. plus, court costs, for the first five days. Thereafter, the daily fine increases to \$500.00 per day, plus court costs.

5. Code Enforcement: Franklin County reserves the right to enforce this ordinance through code enforcement, using the daily fines set forth herein. which shall become a hen on the property.

5. Draft lease with Friends of the Franklin County Library

Ms. Erin Griffith has informed me that she and Mr. Moron have tried for almost two years to get a loan assumption agreement with UDSA for the county to assume the USDA loan to the Friends of the Franklin County Library. The USDA has never provided them with a loan assumption agreement. As an alternative, I have suggested that the attached long-term lease with an option to purchase for \$1.00 be considered. However, the principal issue with this alternative is who will be around to remember to exercise the option to purchase? Board discussion whether to approve this stop gap lease to allow the county to directly pay the USDA loan payments and cover the property under the county's insurance policy. I plan to present the lease for decision on September 17, 2024. If approved, the new lease would take effect with the new fiscal year starting October 1, 2024.

See pages 33-39 for attachment.

Attorney Shuler noted that maybe the Board could authorize a letter from the Board asking them why it is taking so long. What can we do to move it along?

Information item

6. Barnacle Parking Enforcement Contract Update

Subsequent to the Board rejecting their last contract. progress has been made on all remaining items, except one. The only remaining item is that Barnacle is thus far unwilling to cap the potential liability in paragraph 9.4 of their contract concerning allegations of fraud. gross negligence or willful

misconduct by the County which may cause them to be included in a lawsuit. I plan to present this matter to the Board at your meeting on September 17, 2024.

****UPDATE ON SJLV FIRE DEPARTMENT****

I. St. James Lanark Village Volunteer Fire Department and MSBU election

On August 30, 2024, Mr. Moron and I met with Mr. Joe Ross and Mr. HalTy Larsen regarding the governance structure within the department and resolution of the issue of who is the fire chief. They both agreed that Mr. Larsen is the fire chief, and that Mr. Ross is the secretary and treasurer. They have both indicated that they also want to join in the request for an MSBU increase. They expressed a desire to create their own board of directors and to begin receiving their MSBU funds directly again.

The Supervisor of Elections has advised that she can conduct the MSBU election in March 2025.

Commissioner Sanders asked Attorney Shuler to make sure the contracts are ready for the fire departments, specifically Lanark Village, St James, Alligator Point, and possibly Carrabelle. Chairman Jones noted that is really something that we need countywide. Chairman Jones said all of these other entities who want to increase their MSBUs they have to go by vote of the people. Attorney Shuler said the way the 2013 ordinance was adopted a fee schedule was adopted. In that ordinance, you said any changes to the rate schedule require a vote of the people. Chairman Jones said we need to make sure we include North Bayshore Drive in the upcoming grants. EPWSD want to have a discussion with Erin for a CDBG grant to do some more septic to sewer conversions. Talked to property appraiser, there is an issue in the map room, where the paint is peeling. Attorney Shuler said during the break Commissioner Amison mentioned adding some additional stop signs on Brownsville Road. Attorney Shuler noted that he intends to get with Commissioner Amison and come up with a plan of where those signs would go and bring back to the Board.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Amison inquired about the invoice approval for Alliant. He noted that he has been told they are approving their own invoices. The hospital board should be representation for the county. He noted that there was a raise for CEO but to Commissioner Amison's knowledge, the hospital board did not approve. Mr. Moron said he will look into it. Commissioner Sanders said while we are checking on the invoice issue, we need to check on the CEO raise. Commissioner Croom inquired as to how the CEO became an employee of Alliant instead of the county. Commissioner Sanders noted that Hwy 67 is complete, but she is not happy with it. There's a hump in it. So, we will just wait, and assuming CWR is coming to do the third phase.

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.