

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
NOVEMBER 4, 2025
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

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

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

Approval of the Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Croom, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda as published. 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 minutes from the FCBCC Regular Meeting on 8/6/2025 and revised minutes from the Regular Meeting on 9/16/2025. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Constitutional Officers

3. Ginger Coulter -- Sheriff's Office Finance Director -- FDLE Award # JG222

Request to authorize the Chairman's signature on Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

Mr. Moron will get in touch with Ms. Coulter to make sure she is coming over to present, if not, the Board will address later in the meeting.

Directors & Administrators' Reports

4. Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Roads and Bridges

There were no action items on Mr. Nabors' report.

5. Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

There were no action items on Mr. Davis' report.

6. Jennifer Daniels – Emergency Management Director

1. Requests the board's approval and signing of the 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$47,947.11.

Ms. Amanda Anthony presented the action item to the Board on behalf on Mrs. Daniels. **On a motion by**

Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$47,947.11. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Anthony reported the Starlink equipment arrived, and has been programmed. They are being distributed now. Commissioner Croom asked who is installing the Starlink. Ms. Anthony noted that if they want our assistance, we are happy to help. They are pretty much plug and play at this time.

7. Dewitt Polous – Mosquito Control Director

There were no action items on Mr. Polous' report.

8. Erik Lovestrand – Extension Office Director

There were no action items on Mr. Lovestrand's report.

Commissioner Ward inquired about Mr. Lovestrand's retirement. Is that something that IFAS will hire for? Mr. Moron noted yes, and he will ask Mr. Lovestrand to appear at the next meeting in December.

9. Whitney Roundtree – Library Director

Action Items:

Letter of Support – Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant Explanation:

The Franklin County Public Library is applying for the Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant through the American Library Association. This program provides funding for small and rural libraries to improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities by engaging their communities in identifying local barriers and implementing practical improvements. The Franklin County Public Library seeks funding to address physical access barriers at the Eastpoint Branch, which currently lacks an automatic door opener and has limited high-contrast wayfinding signage. These improvements will enhance accessibility for patrons with mobility or vision challenges and ensure equitable access to library facilities and services across both branches. As part of the grant requirements, the application must include a Letter of Support from the governing body. The attached letter, to be signed by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners, affirms the County's support for the project and commitment to fostering accessibility and inclusion in public spaces. Requested Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Letter of Support for the Franklin County Public Library's application to the Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant program.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the Letter of Support for the Franklin County Public Library's application to the Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant program. Motion carried 5-0.

Presentations/Updates/Requests

10. Stephanie Howze -- The Nest Program -- Letter of Support

Mr. Moron noted that he will reach out to her, and we can address later in the meeting.

11. Ken Jones & Jim McClellan -- Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition -- Discussion & Request

Mr. McClellan noted that the resolution does not oppose dredging. The resolution says we would rather be a part of the process so that we can verify. Chairman Jones noted that the issue you have when dealing with Corps of Engineers, the only thing I would be leery of would be where the county entered a lawsuit with the Corps. They stopped dredging the channels altogether. McClellan noted the more we can stick together, we have a lot more leverage. Chairman Jones noted that the biggest economic advantage would be more fresh water into our bay. Fixing the problems in the bay are not as simple as doing one thing and calling it done. But getting water is a big part of it. It could potentially have unknown benefits that we cannot quantify. Commissioner Amison noted that on the resolution you are saying you are not opposed to dredging, but in the resolution, it seems the board does not want any dredging. That was my hang up with the resolution because it looks like we do not want any full-scale dredging. Mr. McClellan noted that he took the language from Tri River's letter. Those are Phil Clayton's words, no one wants full scale dredging. Commissioner Ward noted that this sentence is the confusion with the Board. Commissioner Ward asked if Attorney Shuler has reviewed, he noted that he has not received it yet. She said she would ask that he review, and Chairman Jones asked that he check the language, can we check the resolution. Mr. McClellan noted that he can forward this to Attorney Shuler. Commissioner Sanders noted that until we get approval from Attorney Shuler, I think we need to table this. Mr. McClellan noted that he believes they will roll something out in February. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to table the issue until the next meeting agenda, seconded Commissioner Amison. Motion carried 5-0.**

The Board moved back to the following item at this time.

10. Stephanie Howze -- The Nest Program -- Letter of Support

\$107,040 to offset the funding deficit due to budget cuts

Commissioner Ward noted that this program is a big help to our parents who do work. You guys do perform a great service to our county. If there is anything I can do to help. I do think Attorney Shuler should review but I am going to make a motion to approve contingent upon his review.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the letter of support contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review. Commissioner Croom asked how many residents in Apalachicola does the Nest serve. Stephanie noted that we have 56 students from Apalachicola who are coming to Eastpoint. The activity bus is bringing those kids back to the ABC School in the evenings. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Ms. Stephanie presented the Board with a handout regarding the official GoFundMe account. If you know of anyone who wants to contribute, please share. Commissioner Amison inquired about the Board giving the \$10k as they did last year. Mrs. Griffith noted that these funds were out of the Parks and Recreation funds which normally cover fees to ball teams, etc. Chairman Jones asked would you be opposed to us adding it to the next agenda for action, Commissioner Amison noted that will be fine.

The Board recessed at 9:39 am and reconvened at 9:50 am.

County Staff & Attorney Reports

12. Erin Griffith – Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator

Chairman Jones noted that we have a few speaker cards for some of Mrs. Griffith's items. He called Ms. Cheryl Clause, and she had no comment. Chairman Jones called Mr. Todd Moses, and he had no comments.

Commissioner Ward asked to pull item three to address separately. **On a motion by Commissioner Croom, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved items 1-2, and 4-11. Motion carried 5-0.**

The Board moved to item three at this time.

1. BOARD ACTION: BUDGET RESOLUTIONS 2024/2025

Attached are resolutions for the adoption of unanticipated revenues as part of the end-of-the-fiscal year bookkeeping. These funds were not included in your original adopted 2024/2025 budget because at the time of budget adoption they were unanticipated. Florida Statute 129 allows a county 60 days after the end of a fiscal year to incorporate unanticipated revenues into the prior year's budget.

The 1st resolution is for \$60,000 of state grant revenues and \$10,000 of contributions from ARRA received for the 2025 Buddy Ward Artificial Reef Project. The 2nd resolution is for \$724,562 in federal grant revenues received for the RESTORE SGI Stormwater Project. The 3rd resolution is for \$15,584 in state grant revenues received for the Island View Park O&M Grant. The 4th resolution is for \$75,457 of state grant revenues received for the TDC's Maritime Museum Project. The 5th resolution is for \$608,702 of federal grant funds received for the HMGP Emergency Backup Generators Project. The 6th resolution is for \$50,161 of federal grant revenues received for the construction of a new EOC building in Eastpoint. The 7th resolution is for \$85,000 in state grant revenues received for the development of a county-wide vulnerability assessment. The 8th resolution is for \$45,450 in state grant revenues received for the design and permitting of the SGI Boat Ramp Breakwater Project. **Board action to adopt the attached budget resolutions.**

2. BOARD ACTION: AUDIT SERVICES ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Attached is the engagement letter from the county's auditor, Lanigan and Associates, for the preparation of the fiscal year 2024/2025 audit. The auditors have already sent standard requests for financial information to the various constitutional offices and the Board, and the fiscal year end closeout is in progress. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman's signature on the attached audit engagement letter with Lanigan and Associates.

3. BOARD ACTION: LEGISLATIVE LINE-ITEM APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

As the 2026 legislative session is beginning earlier than usual, the county's legislative line-item appropriation requests are due to the State this month. The project concepts below have been submitted for board consideration:

- Sylvester Williams Park Energy Efficient Storm Rated Sports Lighting (estimate attached)
- Planning Assistance Grant to complete an update of the county's comprehensive plan
- USCOE Planning Assistance Proposal to address critically eroding shoreline around Sike's Cut local match (scope of work proposal from USCOE attached)
- Fire Truck for Alligator Point/St. James Volunteer Fire Department
- Fire Truck for St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department

Board action to approve the list of projects above for submittal as the county's legislative line-item appropriation requests.

Commissioner Ward noted that she pulled this item because we have talked about a shooting range in the past. I know that the Humane Society needs to be moved, we talked to FWC but that did not work. All I want is somewhere people can go to shoot the pistols, etc. I want the Board's opinions and thoughts. We have to do something because of the Humane Society. It is not conducive. I know the shooting range was there first, we need to figure somehow to move it. Chairman Jones noted that the best next step to do, is to see if the Humane Society is willing to move. Commissioner Ward noted that she does not think they are willing to move. Chairman Jones noted that I know we are doing this land swap. Attorney Shuler noted the purpose of the land swap was for a tower. Commissioner Ward noted that she will reach out to the humane society and ask if they want to relocate. Commissioner Amison asked did not we reach out to the state and see if they would fund it? Commissioner Ward noted that they wanted it to be manned, insured, look at certain way, and we realized it was too much. Commissioner Sanders noted in the past we have reached out to the forestry, FWC, etc. and we have not been successful. Chairman Jones noted that we could ask for land and funding? Commissioner Amison said ask for 20 acres and if we get 5 that will be great. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to ask for twenty acres and the funding to build a range and add \$50K to our legislative request to construct a shooting range and 20 acres of land from the state up Highway 65. Commissioner Amison seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Moron noted that Erin's report is not on the printed agenda, he will provide to anyone who is in the audience today. It is correct online. Commissioner Sanders said on the fire truck for Alligator Point, that is the one for Alligator Point/St Teresa. Mrs. Griffith confirmed. Attorney Shuler noted that the ABC School still owns the old charter school site.

4. BOARD ACTION: FRANKLIN COUNTY 2025 ROAD RESURFACING

At the last meeting, the county opened bids for the 2025 Road Resurfacing Project which included reclaiming and resurfacing approximately nine different roadway segments located in Districts 1, 3 and 5. It was noted upon opening the bids, that the construction contract would be awarded based upon the lowest base bid for all roadway segments included in the bid and not all segments may be awarded due to budgetary constraints. Dewberry Engineers have reviewed the bids and have recommended award to the lowest responsive bidder, Robert, and Roberts. At this time, the county will proceed with awarding the following segments:

- resurfacing approximately 0.263 miles of Shuler Street and State Street (District 1) \$129,465.14
- resurfacing approximately 0.107 miles of 7th Street (District 5) \$45,549.70
- resurfacing approximately 0.136 miles of 8th Street (District 5) \$62,480.30
- reclaiming and resurfacing approximately 0.326 miles of Bear Creek Road (District 5) \$85,045.00
- reclaiming and resurfacing approximately 0.141 miles of Beacon Street (District 5) \$63,761.25
- reclaiming and resurfacing approximately 0.163 miles of Frank McKamey Way (District 5) \$69,448.05
- replacing and pavement patchwork in Apalachicola of an existing pipe at the intersection of 15th Street and Avenue M (District 3) \$53,474.00

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the notice of intent to award the roadway segments above to lowest responsive bidder Roberts and Roberts and to sign the contract documents once available.

5. BOARD ACTION: ANNEX COURTROOM RENOVATION PROJECT REJECTION/READVERTISEMENT

At the last meeting, only one bid was received for the Annex Courtroom Renovation Project. The bid was sent to project architect Doug Shuler of BFBS for his review and recommendation. The architect has found the bid to not be sufficient/complete and has recommended that the county reject the bid that was received and readvertise the project. There were also several discrepancies that were noted in the advertised bid specifications for the project that will be updated prior to readvertisement. Board action to reject the bid and readvertise the courtroom renovation project with additional clarifications in the bid specifications.

5. BOARD ACTION: HEALTH DEPARTMENT SIDING PROJECT CHANGE ORDER 1 & 2

The siding replacement project at the Apalachicola Health Department is quickly moving to completion. The attached change orders address some additional areas of rot repair (change order #1 \$1,779) and the replacement of the rusted gutters (change order #2 \$6,795.01). 100% completion photos will be included in the informational section of my report for the next meeting. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign change orders #1 and #2 for the Apalachicola Health Department Siding Repairs.

6. BOARD ACTION: ARMORY CONVENTION CENTER PROJECT CHANGE ORDER #1

As construction is progressing quickly at the Fort Coombs Armory Convention Center, project architects had submitted the attached \$17,635.10 change order to repair the damaged floor joists in the restroom areas, removal of carpeting and wood finish for the previously excluded office spaces, and the substitution of available wood material for window refurbishment. This project is still on target for a completion date in early March of 2026 and the amount is within the architect's original estimated cost for the project. Board action to approve and grant retroactive authorization to October 21st, 2025, for the chairman to sign the attached change order for the Armory Convention Center Renovation Project to be paid by TDC sales tax proceeds.

7. BOARD ACTION: CR67 PHASE IV STRIPING CHANGE ORDER #1

Attached is change order #1 for the CR67 Phase IV project. This \$3,092.10 change order will black-out approximately 350' of the tapered striping that connected the previous phase of widened roadway to the newest section. FDOT has reviewed the attached and has agreed to cover the cost of this change order. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached change order #1 with contractor Roberts and Roberts.

8. BOARD ACTION: RESTORE SGI STORM WATER PROJECT CHANGE ORDER #1 CONSTRUCTION & CEI

Attached is change order #1 for the RESTORE SGI Storm Water Project. This \$99,393.00 change order will include the excavation and regrading of the two existing retention ponds back to their original permitted capacity and is the option recommended by the project's inspection engineers Southeastern Consulting. Work is progressing quickly, and the contractor has completed all work that would impact FDOT's resurfacing contractor for the resurfacing of Franklin Boulevard and Island Drive. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached change order #1 pending review and approval of the change order by the US Treasury.

9. BOARD ACTION: TRIUMPH FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNICATION SYSTEM PRELIMINARY TOWER LOCATIONS AND TOWER CO-LOCATE REQUEST

As design of the first responder communication system is quickly moving forward, engineers have developed a preliminary list of five tower construction sites and three possible lease site locations (West of Apalachicola, SR65, St. Teresa). The (5) conceptual tower sites are as follows: Duke Energy Parcel (Apalachicola), Sheriff's Office (Eastpoint), Kendrick Park (Carrabelle), north parcel from Leonard's Landing (Alligator Point/St. Teresa), and one site on St. George Island (former recycle bin location at 3rd Street West and Bayshore right-of-way). IF the US Air Force will allow for the first responder communication system equipment to be co-located on their existing tower at 7th Street on St. George Island, the county would not need to construct a new tower there (which would be preferred). Before moving forward with the slate of preliminary construction plans, the consultants have suggested that the county send a formal request to the US Air Force to see if the equipment for St. George Island could be co-located on their existing tower. All conceptual tower locations will be subject to the county being able to obtain the necessary variances, permits, and approvals from local, state, and federal agencies.

(A) Board action to approve of the preliminary list of conceptual tower construction sites noted above.

(B) Board action to authorize a letter of request to the US Air Force to request permission for co-location of the first responder communication system's equipment on their existing tower at 7th Street.

10. BOARD ACTION: WEBBER INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT BRIDGE CLEANUP CONTRACT RENEWAL

Attached is the renewal of the Webber Infrastructure bridge cleanup contract. The county has an agreement with the Sheriff's Department to clean the bridges for \$22,004 per year (which was the same amount that the county had paid the previous bridge cleanup contractor). Webber Infrastructure essentially sub-contracts the litter control for the state-owned bridges to Franklin County for their contract value of approximately \$10,004 per year. The county (Sheriff's Department) cleans the bridges more times than the state stipulated schedule. Board action to authorize the chairman to sign the attached Bridge Cleanup Contract with Webber Infrastructure.

Mrs. Griffith presented the project updates as follows:

11. BOARD INFORMATION: MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES

- Lanark EMS – preliminary walk-through inspection went well, requested change order from contractor for appliances for the location to be turn-key for EMS
- RESTORE County Wide Dune Vegetation Project – planting efforts to begin this week on St. George Island, pre-construction meeting was just held on-site earlier this morning – Alligator Point Areas to follow in a few weeks
- RESTORE County Wide Dune Restoration Project – dune construction at Carrabelle Beach Park and St. George Island's Lighthouse Park is now out to bid, 45-day solicitation period required by RESTORE, bids to be opened at the next meeting
- SGI Multi Use Path – project to begin as soon as the fully-executed construction contract is received Chairman Jones noted that in an upcoming meeting we will hold a public hearing for the TDC spending plan. He noted the update is needed due to the rule changes in how the money can be spent.

Mrs. Griffith presented the Sheriff's JAG Law Enforcement Drug Investigator Grant for Board approval.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the JAG Law Enforcement Drug Investigator Grant. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Michael Morón – County Coordinator

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved items 1-3. Motion carried 5-0.

1. Action Item: APSTA Christmas Parade

- The 2025 APSTA Christmas Parade and Celebration is scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 6th.
- The parade will start at the old fire station on Alligator Drive and proceed down Alligator Drive to the marina, where it will disband.
- The Sheriff's Office was contacted and will assist with traffic control.
- Board action to approve the APSTA Parade route, scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 6th.

2. Action Item: Wendolyn "Sissy" Smith @ FACE Class

- At the last meeting, the Board was informed of Mrs. Wendolyn "Sissy" Smith's registration for a Florida Association of Code Enforcement Officer Safety and Field Applications class in Gainesville from December 1st – 4th.
- This 4-day class offers training for the Code Enforcement Officer's personal safety, to better stabilize threatening situations, diversity training, how to identify and properly handle situations involving hazardous materials and much more.
- Board action to approve travel and expenses for Mrs. Smith to attend the class.

3. Action Item: SHIP LHAP

- Attached to this report is the Franklin County State Housing Partnership (SHIP) 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP).
- The County's LHAP is the guide that outlines the specific ways that the SHIP funding will be used.

- Currently, the county has 5 different housing strategies, Down Payment/Closing Cost, Owner Occupied Rehabilitation, Emergency Repair, Disaster Recovery Grant, and Demolition/Reconstruction.
- Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the LHAP Certification and required Resolution.

4. Discussion/Action Item: Bear Resistance Canister Purchase

- During two sessions, the Florida Legislature approved a total of \$1,006,000.00 for the purchase of bear resistant canisters for Franklin County residents.
- Last week, the Board held a workshop to determine if the county should proceed with purchasing the canisters or start the process to enact county-wide mandatory garbage pick-up then purchase the canisters.
- Based on the discussion at the workshop, it seems like the preference is to purchase the canisters now and then consider mandatory garbage pick-up later.
- Attached is a Rehrig Pacific Company proposal quote for 3,793 bear resistant canisters. Rehrig Pacific Company is on the state contract list and has provided this service for other Florida counties, therefore, there is no need to advertise for quotes.
- Is the Board ready to proceed with the purchase of the canisters?
- Mr. David Telsco (FWC) mentioned that some of the legislative funding could be used to purchase canisters from our current providers, however, staff has not researched this matter to determine what requirements or specifications must be met to purchase these canisters.
- Board discussion and possible action to authorize the purchase of the bear resistant canisters from Rehrig Pacific.

Chairman Jones noted that is actually \$1,060,000. What is his 3,793 based on? Mr. Rodrigo noted that this quote is for the \$1,006,000 so it will afford adding some more containers. Chairman Jones noted that he can see buying used cans as a hold up. I do not think that the representative and senator pushed for us to get this money to buy used cans. Commissioner Amison noted that if the property owner already has a bear proof can we do not need to give them one. He noted that it would put the service providers at a loss. Mr. Moron noted that once their cans get destroyed, they can be provided one from the county. Commissioner Ward asked how it works if the cans county purchased are destroyed. Mr. Rodrigo noted that we have a three-year warranty on the body and lid, one year warranty on the components. He noted unless a bear mauls a cart, these hold up good in the field. We honor anything compromised for three years. Mr. Moron said can we give everyone a free can, but our current haulers not issue deposit refunds. Attorney Shuler noted that we cannot make that decision. Commissioner Ward noted who is going to pick up the cans? Chairman Jones noted that their current providers will pick them up. Mr. Moron noted that when people see the new cans, they are going to want one. Commissioner Amison noted that they may have to offset that loss with an increase in their service. Commissioner Amison noted that I want new cans. Chairman Jones noted that he is good with that. Mr. Moron noted that we get an amended proposal for \$1,000,000 we hold back \$60K, will you sell us the additional cans at the same price? Mr. Rodrigo noted that if we do an initial purchase of \$1,000,000. It will depend on if the additional \$60K were for inventory if we are not distributing them. We will honor the price. Chairman Jones noted why not leave the numbers like they are and keep the \$54k in reserve. Mr. Rodrigo noted that the deliveries are just estimates. Commissioner Amison noted that we just need to get the carts, and then we can work out the logistics. Commissioner Ward asked do we have somewhere to put the cans? Yes, they will go out in the field at the road department. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom, to purchase 3,793 carts at \$1,006,000. The additional \$54,000 in funding allocation will be determined at a later time. Motion carried 5-0.**

5. Discussion/Action Item: IT Services

- Ever since the recent email breach of the county's dot gov account, I have spent a lot of time working with our Microsoft vendor and our Teams phone vendor resolving security issues.
- I have been advised by the county's Microsoft vendor, and others, to engage professional IT support to assist with the technical issues we are experiencing.
- I met with Mr. Kevin Ward and Mr. Casey Lemieux (both of Eagle Tree Technologies) about engaging their services to resolve our issues. Eagle Tree Technologies provides IT support for your Sheriff's Department, Weems Memorial Hospital, and the School District.
- Without publicly explaining the list of issues that requires immediate attention, they agreed to start working on the technical issues, as soon as this week, at a rate of \$5000 per month.
- Depending on the severity of some of the issues, it can take anywhere from three to six months to resolve. I should know more after the first forty-five to sixty days.
- After these issues have been resolved, the Board could consider an annual contract that would address normal IT desktop issues and regular maintenance of your network.

- I consider these technical issues to be an emergency.
- Board action to declare this matter an emergency and authorize Eagle Tree Technologies to provide the necessary IT support at a rate of \$5000 per month for up to six months.

Commissioner Ward noted that she has had issues with her email all week. With cyber security being a big thing now, we need to have people be aware of what phishing email looks like. Commissioner Croom reiterated that staff needed training for phishing. Mr. Moron noted that the goal is to get cyber security insurance, however, this is a step we have to take in order to move to that. Commissioner Ward noted this dual authentication is something we need to look into also. Mr. Moron noted that is something we have now. Yes, we have to refine it so that it is not so inconvenient now. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to declare this an emergency and authorize Eagle Tree Technologies to provide necessary IT support at a rate of \$5,000 per month for up to six months, seconded by Commissioner Croom. Motion carried 5-0.**

6. Discussion Item: FWC Commission Meeting

- The FWC Commission regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5th and Thursday, November 6th in Belle Glade.
- As it currently stands, the recommended Final Rule Language for the Apalachicola Bay Oysters (attached) will be presented to the FWC Commission tomorrow afternoon.
- Board discussion.

Mr. Moron noted that if they accept the final language tomorrow, we will be stuck with it. Commissioner Amison noted that he spoke with FWC at the partnership meeting last week. The big thing he posed was the limited number of harvesters. The first initial opening they are only going to allow people that have a harvest history participate. I am just throwing a round number out there, we had upwards of 400 people who had an active license at the downturn. My problem with this is, why is this language in there, I can understand the initial opening, but moving forward, once we qualify 100 license, that 100 number is the number moving forward? I cannot understand what the justification for this language. Another discrepancy is the bucket standard. This is what we are going to measure by. A sixty-pound bag is going to weigh 80-90 pounds. Type of language for summer bars? Reopening bars, they need to make sure they take a good survey of the bars. Commissioner Sanders noted that she believes they are putting something out there that is going to cause the harvesters to fail before they put their tongs in the water. Commissioner Amison noted that any major changes moving forward could put off the January 1 opening to October. He noted that if he has to sacrifice the January 1st opening in order to change the limit to be set at a higher number of folks. If there is only so much that can be caught, then so be it. Chairman Jones noted that they are acting like if I had a violation, it could keep me from getting a license. So, if you get a ticket and you pay it, that can become a violation. I think staff is under this false sense that there is going to be 400 people who want to go oystering. I do not think it is going to happen. They might want to consider if you get the license and then you do not meet the quota after two years, then you do not get to renew it. Then you know that people are not just getting license to be holding them and not harvesting.

Mr. Moron noted that finance missed some checks this morning and they are asking the Board for a separate motion to pay them.

\$26,881.94

Tide Marketing

Forgotten Coast TV

Bay Media

Key Data

L&S Lawn Service

Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approve issuing manual checks to pay the invoices as noted above. Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Ward noted that we may have to change our meeting in January due to Legislative Day on the 21st. So, we need to look at changing that. Mr. Moron said he will add to his next report.

Commissioner Croom said he would like to add for discussion at the next meeting our engineering services. Mr. Moron noted that you would like to add so that the county could have multiple engineers. Chairman Jones noted that at the planning council we have had back and forth, we can keep increasing staff, but at some point, we are going to need a larger space. We have gone through the process with nine different companies, we have made contracts with nine different firms that give the counties more bandwidth that the counties can use. It is not everything they do but we have partnered with them for individual things. I meant to include that, but I will send that to Mr. Moron.

7. Informational Item: PZA Meeting
 - The Planning and Zoning Adjustment (PZA) Board November regular meeting will be on Tuesday, November 18th.
 - PZA meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month, but that would have your November meeting scheduled for November 11th, Veteran's Day.
 - The November 18th meeting will have items from the October meeting. That meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.
8. Informational Item: AOED Meeting
 - Airport Operational Economic Development Board regular meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month, however, in November and December those meetings dates are on holiday weeks.
 - Those meetings have been changed to Wednesday, November 19th and Tuesday, December 16th.
9. Informational Item: FDOT 5-Year Work Program
 - The FDOT 5-Year Work Program is attached to my report for your review.
 - This report also includes projects for the Apalachicola Regional Airport and Carrabelle-Thompson Airport.
 - Let me know if the Board would like a FDOT representative to appear at a future meeting to discuss any of these projects.
10. Informational Item: New Streetlight
 - Commissioner Croom requested a new streetlight on Paradise Lane.
 - The work order is attached.
11. Informational Item: Rules of Procedure for Meetings
 - A signed copy of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings is attached.
 - A link to these procedures will be on all future agendas and on the County's Agendas & Minutes webpage.
12. Informational Item: Fake Invoices
 - Residents are continuing to receive fake "county" invoices asking them to wire funds for approved permits.
 - I ask that all residents, mostly zoning applicants, to be diligent and call the office if they receive a suspicious email.
 - We are trying to educate all zoning applicants of the county procedures regarding permit approval and payment.
13. Informational Item: Upcoming Meeting Dates
 - Your next regular meetings will be on Tuesday, November 18th.
 - Your December regular meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd and Wednesday, December 17th.

14. Michael Shuler – County Attorney

1. OUD Ordinance Hearing Dates:

I request that the Board select one of the following dates for a hearing on the PUD Evaluation Ordinance: December 2, 8, 11, 15, 18. December 9, 2025, is available for Allara, but not preferred, as she has another public hearing earlier that day in another county and would require quite a bit of travel for her on that date. However, if that is the only date that works for the Board, then December 9th is available. I will schedule the public hearing for 5 p.m. (ET) on the date selected by the Board. Board Action: Board discussion and selection of a date for the public hearing on the PUD ordinance.

The Board consensus was December 2nd at 5 pm.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized Attorney Shuler to schedule and advertise a public hearing on the PUD ordinance for December 2nd at 5 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Code Enforcement Workshop

What date does the Board want to schedule for the workshop on the proposed code enforcement ordinance? Board Action: Discussion and selection of a date for the workshop on the code enforcement ordinance.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized Attorney Shuler to schedule and advertise a workshop on the proposed code enforcement ordinance for January 20th at 1:30 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

3. TDC Administration Contract

On October 15, 2025, the Board selected the Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce, Inc. to provide TDC administrative services. The 5th addendum extending the term of the administrative services contract from November 1, 2025, until October 31, 2027, is attached. Board Action: I request Board ratification of the 5th Addendum extending TDC administrative services contract from November 1, 2025, until October 31, 2027.

4. Accenture Contract -MSBU Fire/Rescue Rate Study

Attached is the contract for the MSBU fire and rescue rate study. The Board approved this proposal on September 30, 2025. Board Action: I request Board approval of the contract and authorization for the Chairman to sign it.

5. Sylvester Park Lease Amendments

Chairman Jones called for public comments due to item 5 being added to the agenda. There were no public comments. **On a motion by Commissioner Croom, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved items 3, 4 and 5. Motion carried 5-0.**

Attorney Shuler noted he received an email from ARPC attorney, but he has not had a chance to review. Commissioner Sanders asked had he heard from Barnacle; just that they received my letter. Commissioner Ward asked if there is any way we can put a booster down there? Mr. Moron noted that it would have to be one of the provider's such as Verizon, etc.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Ward spoke regarding her meeting with Capital Health Plan. She gave an overview of her meeting. Chairman Jones gave an update of ARPC meeting at airport in Tallahassee. Commissioner Sanders noted that she will be attending the Alligator Point meeting this weekend and she will see when they want to hold the special zoning discussion. Commissioner Sanders noted that we still need something in Carrabelle as far as pharmacy, we need to get with Mr. David Walker. Mr. Moron noted that what the decision is going to be is whether we are going to stay critical access or move to rural. Chairman Jones updated the Board on the recent ARPC meeting and the designation they are seeking. He said in some point in the future if they should get it, it could benefit our airport. Attorney Shuler asked Commissioner Sanders to inquire at the APTA meeting about the possible overlay, bills SB 180 we will still be included as of a week ago. Attorney Shuler noted that the motion to dismiss the Bert Harris claim was filed yesterday. Commissioner Amison asked should be engage with our lobbyist. Chairman Jones noted that would have to be done at the federal level, but we could do it. Mr. Moron noted that we would just have to contract with them for federal. Commissioner Sanders said a lot of people's benefits have been cut out federally. I just want to make sure that if our folks in Franklin County need food we are able to meet the need. Mr. Moron noted that the Chairman reached out to him yesterday, he said he would reach out to Franklin's Promise to see if they have a list. Chairman Jones noted that we need to get something together that we can publish, that people are aware of when these food pantries are going to have food available. Commissioner Sanders noted that Second Harvest provides a lot, and they are running low.

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.