

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
MARCH 4, 2026  
9:00 AM  
MINUTES**

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

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

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Jones speaking, alright, Mr. Moron, I think Attorney Shuler has an amendment to our agenda before we approve it this morning. Attorney Shuler speaking, Mr. Chairman, what I am asking the Board to do this morning and this request to amend the agenda is to add a request for an executive session pursuant to chapter 280, 6.011 sub paragraph eight, regarding the lawsuit filed by the Landing at SGI LLC versus Franklin County. Franklin County Circuit Court case number 2025-CA-56.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda with the addition of Attorney Shuler's request for the Board's consideration to schedule an executive session (shade meeting) regarding the Landings lawsuit. 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 Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Payment of County Bills and the FCBC**

**Public Comments**

Rudy Meng speaking, Alligator Point, good morning gang. Spring break is here. Georgia starts on the ninth, and we started to get busy last weekend with parking so hopefully I do not need to say anything. The gang is here to talk about the barnacle. That was really all. We really need this to move ahead because it is going to be crazy. It is beautiful weekend this weekend, and you guys are going to be busy. We are going to be swamped. Would appreciate that the barnacle gets moved forward and used this weekend. That is all. Thank you.

Al Stone speaking, good morning, commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to speak and address you today and for all that you do. First, I want to commend the fact that we do pledge allegiance to the flag, and we honor God every time we come into this room together, and those are things that should affect our leadership. And obviously, there is all kinds of things from building and development and ICE and jail that have been spoken of in the last months and still are before us. But leaders have to accept a cost, three costs, I would encourage you to think about, maybe govern your life much like they govern mine. You will have to make hard decisions that negatively affect people you care about. And I would even say it, it will negatively affect people that you love. That is one of the hardest thing about being a leader, is it negatively affects sometimes the people you care about. The second thing is probably just as hard to swallow as the first. You will be disliked by many despite your many attempts to do what is best for the most, I encourage you as commissioners and represent our community, which you do an awesome job, and I would not do, y'all do such a better job than I would ever do, but you will be disliked by many, and despite your many attempts to do what is best for the most. Third, as I close, you will be misunderstood, and you will not always be given the opportunity to defend yourself. You will make decisions that negatively affect those you care about. You will be

disliked by many despite your attempts to do your best for most, and you will be misunderstood, even though you will never be given the opportunity to defend yourself. These are the costs that all of you have in your life every day, but that is why you were elected. Miss Ward when we first met, stopped me in the middle of my meeting the very first time I spoke to this six years ago, maybe five, however, many years ago that it was. She stopped me, and she said, you have done this before. I was asked just recently why do you do what you do? Because as a citizen, we should all support you. I am sorry for the cost. It is a cost to you, but I am grateful to God that you are leaders. I really, truly am, and our citizens that put you there, though they may not be here in this room and they not, might not speak at this mic, they are glad you are here too, because you are here. They voted that, to put you there. Thank you for what you do. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you. Mr. Stone, that was all for public comments.

### **Department Directors Reports**

Chairman Jones speaking, Mr. Nabors is not here or Mr. Davis, but they have no action items on their reports. So, commissioners, if you have anything that you need to discuss with Mr. Nabors and Mr. Davis, please feel free to reach out to them. The same with Mr. Polous, there was no action items on his report. Mrs. Daniels, we are up to you. Good morning.

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

No action items

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

No action items

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

Mrs. Daniels speaking, good morning, commissioners. I have one action item this morning, and what I'm doing is requesting the board's approval and signing of a memorandum of understanding between Franklin County Emergency Management and Walton County Emergency Management that allows our Emergency Management Office to coop out, which means, if we have a storm that is above our capabilities, or our building is destroyed, or something to that effect, we need to have alternate locations that we can go to. We will take our mobile command that we purchased two years ago and have set up and we will run our EOC out of that mobile command at another location until we can get safely back in here to do our job here. But we need an MOU with the other counties to do this. This is the first of three that I am trying to do. We are trying to do one with Leon County and also with Liberty County. So, we kind of have a place to go in all three directions if ever we needed to do that. I had Attorney Shuler look it over, and the Walton County's attorney have looked it over and agreed on. But that is the goal with this is just so we are planning ahead for if we were to experience something like how Hurricane Michael affected Gulf County, we need that alternate location so we can keep our operations up and running and not put us behind the eight ball. So that is what these are for. Chairman Jones speaking, you mentioned possibly others. Where are those locations possibly going to be? Mrs. Daniels speaking, two of the others that we are looking at, we have got an agreement from their county EM directors, but we are working on getting the MOU worked out with them. One is Liberty County and one is Leon County. Chairman Jones speaking, you said the attorneys already reviewed this one here? Mrs. Daniels speaking, yes, sir, Attorney Shuler has reviewed it. And also, Walton County, their attorney has reviewed and this is their agreed upon. **MOU. On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the MOU as presented.** Commissioner Croom speaking, what about other counties? Have they inquired about coming to Franklin? Mrs. Daniels speaking, they have not yet, but we have always had a mutual understanding with the other counties through mutual aid. If they need to come, they can, but we wanted to make sure, with us being compliant through FEMA, that if we have any expenses that we are going to incur by going to this other county, this helps to cover us, to show that, yes, we've pre planned, that we have our documentation in advance, so that we can file with FEMA for those kind of expenses incurred. And so right now Walton County, they have the general understanding that, yes, they can come in anytime and any other county commissioner, yes, sir, we would be more than happy to welcome any other county. Chairman Jones speaking, I do like the idea of a formalized agreement, though, I think it benefits everyone, because the last thing you want to be worried about if you really get into a tight time where things are going on or some kind of formalized agreement. So, thank you for bringing that to us. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Ward speaking, I know we had the issue of the oil situation out on Chapman Road. I just want to say that I appreciate all of our county departments. It was the road department, Mr. Davis and his department, those guys were out there. I saw Mr. Howard and Mr. Davis out there with you. Y'all work together as a team to fix the situation.

And I just want to say that there is not a lot of counties that work together like that, and so it is nice to know that in a pinch, to serve our citizens and to make sure our citizens are safe and well taken care of, and their environment safe, that y'all work together and getting the job done. So, thank you. Thanks to Mr. Davis and his team, and Mr. Nabors and his team for y'all working and everybody else who worked together to get it taken care of. Mrs. Daniels speaking, we have a great group of employees for this county, and that is how we get stuff done, when we come together. I did speak to DEP last night, and I am working on the cleanup process for that, and I will send a report to everybody to show you where we are and what we are looking at next. And I have got to get with Erin about it. I have not had a chance to yet.

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

No action items.

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

No action items.

Chairman Jones speaking, she did not have any action items, but I did see she had something in her report, thanking the board for paving the parking lot at the Eastport branch of the library. I do not know if you have had a chance to go look at it, but it is a lot nicer than it was. Thank you, commissioners for that.

#### **8. James Osteen -- EMS Director**

No action items.

#### **9. Steve Kirschenbaum – Interim Airport Manager**

Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, just have one action item and two discussion items. The airport board wanted to come up with a policy for a hanger wait list and what they were targeting is local pilots. They came up with an agreement that if you want to be on the waiting list, Carrabelle does this, it is \$150 nonrefundable fee to the county to be on the waiting list, and people that are given priority are local people first, and then it expands out from there. So, this way, we have aircraft at the site that are going to be fueling servicing, not a person from another state that rents a hanger and comes in a couple times a year. So, the policy that they came up with at the AOED meeting seems pretty self-explanatory. I sent it to you with the report. What I would like to know on Erin's end, it is \$150 fee. The FBO will keep the waiting list. It will be a shared waiting list. Can we still have the clients that are on the waiting list mail the check to you and just get back to us and let us know they are on the waiting list? Mr. Kirshenbaum speaking, we are going to have an updated waiting list for the airport, for hangers, and they are going to have to pay \$150 fee to be on the list. So, when they pay the \$150 fee, how would you like to handle that would actually be a deposit scenario. No, it would be a nonrefundable \$150 to be on the list. Mrs. Griffith speaking, well, if it is nonrefundable, that would actually be the same where it would be mailed into the clerk's office. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, okay, so it would be mailed to Michelle, and if you could notify us that you received it, so we could update it on the list. That was my one action item, and this way they would all be serious inquiries. Chairman Jones speaking, well, I do like that idea. So, if you have a waiting list that does not cost anything to be on the list, you can have an info list, but if they are actually serious about using or having a space there under \$50 isn't on the you know, it is not a deal breaker you know, when you talk about planes, right? That is not a problem. So, I like that idea myself. Any discussion or question from the Commission? Is this something that Attorney Shuler had a chance to look at? Mr. Kirshenbaum speaking, no, I could get that to him. I did not have him look at it. Chairman Jones speaking, so, commissioners, if you are good with it, if you want to approve it, I think we need to make it contingent on Attorney Shuler's review. **On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the hangar waiting list agreement contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, the two discussion items were Florida Commerce in the midst of this job growth grant thing, and we are not out of the picture yet. They did the first round of disbursements, but they assured me, Franklin County is still in the running. They have been asking us for additional information, but also, they had sent us across something about opportunity zone. Would we like to file paperwork to be part of it? And I spoke to Commissioner Jones about it, I spoke to the county coordinator about it, and I think it is a wonderful way to get investment in the airport. If we could get either the airport to be a standalone opportunity zone or an extension of the East Point opportunity zone. But what is great about companies that invest in this is they are companies that are liquid, that have capital gains that they do not want to pay taxes on, and if they invest those capital gains into a project at our airport, it is tax exempt for the first seven years. And Commissioner Jones, if they go 10 years and they sell it, there is no capital gains taxes on the sale. So, it makes it attractive to invest in our airport. And with us doing this whole Master

Plan revisit, I think this would be a wonderful thing to do. And Donnie Maddox, one of the AOE do board members, has been tasked with doing that. They told me not to do this as an action item, to do it as a discussion item. And if you are okay with them proceeding with it. Chairman Jones speaking, I will say this, Team Franklin is really close to actually getting some kind of deal done to start with workforce housing. So, if it can be done where they can either extend the current opportunity zone or do another, have actually have two if we have to take away one to do the other. I think we are shooting ourselves in the foot, because the housing probably will not happen without the opportunity zone. It is a very important part of it. So, and that is really close, actually, if we ever start to build the first house, then everybody will believe so that is actually where we are at. So that is the only thing I will say. Mr. Kirshenbaum speaking, so how about if I have Donnie Maddox, who is our rep for the airport board at Team Franklin bring this back to Bill Williams and the Team Franklin board and see how you want to. Chairman Jones speaking, we just need to all be saying the same thing is all I am saying. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I was going to bring that up too. I actually talked to Michael about it last week. I was under the impression, in reading some of the language that, in my opinion, if I think it is going to be there, it is going to be an extension, I do not think they are going to trade it one for the other, because we already have that opportunities on established but if I read the legislation verbiage correctly. It is more like an extension, and I asked Michael about it, because I was not for sure if the county had to do that or if that is something the airport board themselves could do. Chairman Jones speaking, last time we did it, I am sorry, the last time we did it, Commissioner Sanders did not the state, the governor asked us to weigh in on and that is how we wind up in East Point. Yeah, so we will ultimately come back to us. Commissioner Ward speaking, okay, because that was my biggest thing was, I did not know if we wanted to extend it to the east to the west, or extend it both, and if the commissioners in the specific districts wanted him, wanted it in their area, which I am all for it. I mean, I think it helps, helps with things, but anyway. Chairman Jones speaking, it is specifically designed, the federally qualified economic opportunities zone is specifically designed and designated to have a mechanism to where those in our community that have the money to reinvest in our community are encouraged to do so. They do that by a seven-year deferral on current capital gains taxes that are due by investing in an opportunity zone project. There is quarterly reporting to the federal government. But if you do that for a full decade after that decade, if you want to sell that project, there are no capital gains taxes on the sale. So, it is particularly designed not for outside people, but to get people that are in our community, that have the means to invest, to invest in our community. That is what it is designed for. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, so, I will have Donnie touch base with Team Franklin and see how they want to proceed from there. And if it is a question of losing one zone to get another, absolutely not. The second thing there was something brought up a week or two ago about a potential conflict of interest with me being airport manager and raising funds, and potentially raising funds from people who do business with the airport. So, what I am going to do is David Bowen, Diane Bowen, who runs people South Bank, has volunteered to do the fundraising for the air show, and we would like to keep it a third weekend of November event as an ongoing event. We were not going to do it this year, but we got so much positive input about wanting this to be an annual event that we would like to do it again, third weekend of November. The not for profit through this whole mix up thing, the not for profit, that was the recipient of the firm's sponsor, the Education Foundation, is concerned about the potential financial liability if we do not meet our numbers. And last year, the numbers were \$100,000 we came in with around \$105,000 so they were nervous if, God forbid, we do not come in with the right amount. So, they are more than happy to be a recipient of a portion of the funds, which I would like to continue doing, because the Education Foundation is helping us with projects in the county, but the Friends of Apalachicola Regional Airport is going to be a not-for-profit organization. I would love and we got a very strong group of people that would like to be board members of that group. I would like for them to be the funnel through not for profit to take over the air show. I have got David Bowen from the bank. I have got David Hughes from the school district. I have got somebody from the ABC school. I have got Ken Goodman, a person in the plantation, Mark Goldstein from the Parrot Heads. We got a bunch of people, Phil Shelley that I'm going to pick the strongest of the strong to be the board of that group, and just wondering if you would allow me to move the air show in that direction, and potentially, if it's friends of Apalachicola Regional Airport, they could, as this event grows, donate a portion of the proceeds back to a project at the airport too, as well. Chairman Jones speaking, I do not think this board cares about who actually runs the air show. But I will say this, since you bring it up publicly, your name does not to be involved with that board, right at all. That was the tension between, the conflict or potential conflict. So, if we are going to have a clean break, when you have a clean break, and you know, if they are going to run their show, that is fine, but right now, you are our airport manager, you do not need to be involved with that, or there does not need to be any kind of conversation. And I am not being anyway with you, I am just being straightforward, Steve. There is not to be any kind of conversation of, you know, donating to the airport so they can get something else that kind of stuff's got to go away. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, exactly, and that was not my intent. It was for the foundation. But I still have to be involved running this thing and putting everybody together. The fundraising will not be me.

Chairman Jones speaking, right, but you need to hand it off when that board gets formed. They need to be running it. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, I will definitely delegate responsibility, but I still have to be on the outside. Chairman Jones speaking, no, sir, you do not. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, looking in on it. Commissioner Amison speaking, are you referring to being on the organizational side of it as far as? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, the board? Commissioner Amison speaking, no, I am talking about the air show. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, yes. Commissioner Amison speaking because I have been getting mixed up here. As far as this board with the Friends of Apalachicola, you should not be the one setting up those board members anyway. That will need to be someone else. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, no, that will be them. Commissioner Amison speaking, because I think what Commissioner Jones is saying, as far as the, and I am not trying to speak, trying to figure out where we are going here organizationally, obviously, you have got to be a part of that. Be an airport manager, but as far as the money and all that stuff that needs to be somewhere else with this nonprofit. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, absolutely, but I cannot, not, I can't not be involved in it. Commissioner Amison speaking, he is not, that is what I am saying. He is not saying that. Chairman Jones speaking, I am talking about the money. So, if we say we are doing this for potential conflict, we are completely doing away with conflict, right? So, whatever we do, there has to be a clear line of demarcation, because I will remind you and that board, or any other board, if you serve and are advisor to this county commission, you fall under Sunshine Law as well, right? And sunshine law violations, orange jumpsuits, they are not slaps on the hand. We just make sure it is all clear. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, they are going to need my advice and my talent, and having done this before, all right, so I have your blessing to do that. I will bring back who they set up as board members to the next meeting, and as long as everybody is comfortable, I will have them get the not-for-profit status and everything else for the organization. Any other questions on my report or on this issue? Chairman Jones speaking, any other questions commissioners or concerns? Steve, thank you. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, thank you, and this event, I will tell you, is becoming the cornerstone event. Everybody is talking about it. Thank you, guys.

The Board recessed at 9:29 am and reconvened at 9:37 am.

## RFP/RFQ/Bid Opening

### 10. Invitation to Bid: 8TH STREET EAST DUNE WALKOVER

The project consists of the demolition and replacement a wooded dune walkover located at 8th Street East, St. George Island, and parking improvements to prevent forward encroachment onto the dunes. The replacement 8th Street East dune walkover (DEP Monument R-90 and R-91) is a 6-foot wide by 173 feet long wood pile-supported structure. Parking improvements to prevent forward encroachment onto the dunes consisting of re-grading the existing material, adding gravel, installing post and rope fencing, relocating the existing signs and trash receptacles, and installing wheel stops.

Mrs. Griffith opened the bids as follows:

COMPANY	LOCATION	BID AMOUNT	BID BOND
Michael L Anderson, Inc	4033 Oak Forest Dr Panama City, FL 32404	\$179,008.60	Yes
Holley Development Corp	406 S Waukesha St Bonifay, FL 32425	\$361,562.50	Yes
CP Squared LLC	204 10 <sup>th</sup> St Apalachicola, FL 32320	\$102,961.90	Bond application, no bond included engineers to follow up on bid bond
MKM Quality Construction	1220 Sleepy Hollow Rd Mexico Beach, FL 32456	\$99,730.87	Yes
Galloway Construction Inc	122 Oyster City Dr, Suite A Eastpoint, FL 32328	\$145,290.49	Yes
JT Ruby Inc	Lake Butler, FL	\$132,165.05	Yes

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Croom, and by**

**a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to release the bid packages to MRD and Associates for review and recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.**

**11. Notice to Receive Sealed Bids: FRANKLIN COUNTY ISLAND VIEW PARK FRDAP IMPROVEMENTS**

Additions to Island View Park which consist of approximately 743 sq ft of concrete pad for modular restroom and covered pavilion, A 16’x30’ pre-engineered pole barn for the pavilion cover, a modular restroom facility and utility connections, etc. Island View Park is located approximately 1.8 miles east of Carrabelle, Florida.

COMPANY	LOCATION	BID AMOUNT	BID BOND
Anderson Marine	4033 Oak Forest Dr Panama City, FL 32404	\$250,043.48	Yes
Infrastructure Inc	6143 Pickwick Rd Tallahassee, FL 32309	\$188,835	Yes
CP Squared LLC	204 10 <sup>th</sup> St Apalachicola, FL 32320	\$149,930	Bid bond application only; engineer will have to follow up.
Certus Builders Inc	PO Box 116 Bristol, FL 32321	\$124,651.74	Yes
Galloway Construction Inc	122 Oyster City Dr Suite A Eastpoint, FL 32328	\$90,276	Yes
BGN Contractors	25 W Oak Avenue Panama City, FL 32401	\$192,403.64	Yes
Legends Construction & Design Inc	354 Oakwood Trl Crawfordville, FL 32327	\$88,545	Yes

**On a motion by Commissioner Sanders seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to release the bid packages to Dewberry for review and recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator Report**

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

**BID OPENINGS:**

Today we are opening bids for two projects – both required interested bidders to attend a mandatory pre-bid meeting.

**8TH STREET EAST DUNE WALKOVER**

This project consists of the demolition and replacement a wooded dune walkover located at 8th Street East, St. George Island, and parking improvements. The replacement 8th Street East dune walkover (DEP Monument R-90 and R-91) is a 6-foot wide by 173 feet long wood pile-supported structure. Parking improvements to prevent forward encroachment onto the dunes will consist of re-grading the existing material, adding gravel, installing post and rope fencing, relocating the existing signs and trash receptacles, and installing wheel stops.

*Board action: Release the bids to project engineers MRD & Associates for their review and recommendation for award.*

**FRANKLIN COUNTY ISLAND VIEW PARK FRDAP IMPROVEMENTS**

This project consists of adding an approximately 743 sq ft concrete pad for a modular restroom with covered pavilion, a 16’x30’ pre-engineered pole barn for the pavilion cover, a modular restroom facility and all appurtenant utility connections, etc. at Island View Park approximately 1.8 miles east of Carrabelle, Florida.

*Board action: Release the bids to project engineers Dewberry & Associates for their review and recommendation for award.*

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**On a motion by Commissioner Croom, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved items 1-3 from Mrs. Griffith's report. Motion carried 5-0.**

**1. BOARD ACTION: RESTORE TASK ORDER – LANGTON & ASSOCIATES**

Staff requested the attached task order from RESTORE consultant Langton and Associates. Task Order #2 for the RESTORE Landfill Transfer Station Project will allow Langton to assist with general grant administration services during the project implementation and construction period. Langton will assist the county with developing the RFQ solicitations for the design, construction, engineering, and inspection components of the project and will aid in the county meeting Treasury guidelines for procurement and solicitations. Board action to approve Langton's Task Order #2 for the County-Wide Dune Restoration Construction Project to be billed hourly to not exceed \$18,696 for the implementation phase of the project.

**2. BOARD UPDATE TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**

FDOT's transportation 2026 grant program application period is nearing close. One project that was missed during the annual update of the capital improvement schedule was the county's application for the resurfacing, safety, and drainage improvements along West Bayshore Drive on St. George Island. Inclusion of projects on the county's Capital Improvement Schedule scores additional points on grant applications. Board action to approve and adopt the attached resolution to amend the Franklin County Capital Improvements Schedule of the Comprehensive Plan to include the proposed roadway resurfacing, safety, and drainage improvements for West Bayshore Drive.

**3. BOARD ACTION: SCOP, SCRAP, AND CIGP RESOLUTIONS OF AUTHORIZATION FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS**

At the last meeting, the Board approved the project list for the 2026 FDOT Transportation Grant Applications.

There are three FDOT roadway grant programs open for applications through March 25th & 26th: the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP), the Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP), and the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP). In total, the county can submit (5) applications for the various programs. SCOP program funds (2 applications) are for use on the County Road system and must be related to road safety improvements, resurfacing or reconstruction, repair or rehabilitating county bridges, road related drainage improvements, constructing road capacity and paving unpaved roads. SCRAP program funds (2 applications) are for use on the County Road system and are evaluated on the physical condition of the road, whether the road is used as an evacuation route, whether the road has high levels of agricultural traffic, whether the road is a major arterial route or a feeder road, whether the road is located in a fiscally constrained county and the impact of the project on the state or local economy. CIGP program funds (1 application) are for use on the State or County Road system. If it is on the County Road system, it must relieve traffic congestion on the State Road system.

**SCRAP PROGRAM APPLICATIONS:**

- **Widen and resurface Lake Morality Road east of Carrabelle, SCRAP 1<sup>st</sup> Priority Application** - This road serves as a designated truck route to deter heavy traffic from the residential areas of downtown Carrabelle. This road connects CR67 to US Highway 98 and this connection provides quick access to a northern route evacuation road for residents during hurricane evacuations. Lake Morality Road also sits just north of the Franklin Correctional Institute and is frequently traveled by staffers and supply delivery trucks for the prison. This proposed project will widen and resurface the roadway from 22' to 24', add 2' of paved shoulders, and upgrade signage and striping.
- **Widen and resurface Lighthouse Road in Carrabelle from Frank McKamey to Beacon Street, SCRAP 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority Application** - This road is a feeder road and runs parallel to US Highway 98/SR 30. This proposed project will resurface and widen the roadway from 18' to 24', upgrade signage and striping.

SCOP PROGRAM APPLICATIONS:

- **Resurface West Bayshore on St. George Island from SR300 Franklin Boulevard to 4th Street West, SCOP 1<sup>st</sup> Priority Application** - This is a feeder road in poor condition which provides access to the water utility. This proposed project will resurface the roadway, add safety improvements for pedestrians/motorists and alleviate two areas of drainage concern.
- **Widen and resurface 4th Street in Eastpoint from US Highway 98 to the intersection with Avenue A, SCOP 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority Application** - This road alleviates traffic from the state highway system and provides connectivity to throughfares Otterslide Road and Avenue A which runs parallel to US Highway 98. 4th Street serves as a connector road for both residential and commercial traffic.

CIGP PROGRAM APPLICATION:

- **Widen, resurface, and stabilize the shoulders of C30 Gulf Avenue from the intersection of US Highway 98 to the city limits of Carrabelle – CIGP Priority Application.** This road relieves traffic from the state highway system and feeds traffic into the marine street area of Carrabelle. This proposed project will widen and resurface the roadway from 18' to 24', stabilize two areas of washout along the shoulders of the road and install safety improvements at the intersection of C30 and Highway 98 East of Carrabelle.

Board action to approve the ranking order and five attached resolutions of authorization to submit the 2026 transportation grant applications.

Mrs. Griffith speaking, okay, the restore SGI stormwater project, the roadway resurfacing has begun for that for that project to follow will be the excavation of the two existing retention ponds, also the landscaping improvements kind of at the front, and then hopefully the TDC section six roadway resurfacing as well. Chairman Jones speaking, so how was that going to fit in the if we are doing it as a like a change order. Mrs. Griffith speaking, we are, it will be at the at the tail end, because we still have probably another week before we have the independent professional analysis available. The Patton Drive Road resurfacing project, resurfacing is underway. DW Wilson Sports Arena lighting project, the light poles have been installed. We are pending connection to Duke Energy. The project has been moving along quickly, and Retail Strategies has met the first deliverable requirement for the commerce grant, and has provided the visit data for the SGI commercial district to provide economic documentation for the section six project analysis, which is attached the 2025 report provided data from Retail Strategies data partner KLI. KLI was able to capture approximately 10% of cell phone user, cell phone traffic in the geo fence report area of the commercial district of Saint George Island. KLI's 10% tracking data logged 101,174 unique visits to this area of the 10% data collected approximately 23.2% of the unique visit counts were comprised of cell phones with billing addresses located within Franklin County. The 23.2% number would consist of work-related visits and residents, excluding visits by residents, the estimated annual visit count for the commercial district is 777,016 visitors. The EMS director applications were due this past Friday, and Franklin County had received 14 applications, and we will begin scheduling interviews this week. And also, the Vrooman Park basketball court was resurfaced as well. Chairman Jones speaking, did they finish it already? I knew they were working on it. Mrs. Griffith speaking, they did. It had striping on it yesterday. Chairman Jones speaking, my son was asking when it was going to be because they want to play basketball. I have a question, where are we on the park that we are trying to do in East Point? Mrs. Griffith speaking, well, no, we are waiting to hear back from Dewberry. Actually, we should have the bid specifications ready to go on that one. We think within about a week, I actually got the East Point water and sewer application on my desk. Chairman Jones speaking, do we have anything else we can do to help speed that along? Because I really want that first stage to be done and ready to use by July 4. Is there anything else we can do that needs to be done to speed that along, other than what we are doing? Mrs. Griffith speaking, as far as just waiting on the bid specification packet that is it at the moment. Chairman Jones speaking, I will make some phone calls. Anyone else have anything for Mrs. Erin? Commissioner Amison speaking, Mr. Chairman, I do just on the Donnie Wilson Park. We have got the easement and all that square with all we are waiting on them was just throw the juice to it. Mrs. Griffith speaking, that is correct. Yeah. If I even followed up with Catherine Lopez with Duke Energy, just to make sure that they had everything, and they confirmed that they did. So apparently, Duke's waiting on the green light from their administrations. Commissioner Croom speaking, on our EMS director applications, who all is going to be on that board? Mrs. Griffith speaking, let us see it will be Michael Moron, EMS consultant, Louie, and then also Colby Redfield, who is actually the medical director at Weems now. Commissioner Croom speaking, with the EMS department, I saw where there was open physician, paramedics,

correct? Is everyone having to reapply? Mrs. Griffith speaking, yes, current employees, and that was actually a suggestion by our labor attorney. They actually recommended doing it that way, because basically everyone is going to be a new hire. So, everyone reapplies. You know, of course, they will be given favorable treatment, but yes, we are encouraging everyone to apply. Commissioner Croom speaking, pay grade will stay the same. How will that work? Mrs. Griffith speaking, actually, that was on my report from, I believe the 18th. There was a difference in grade for somebody that was actually coming across as a Weems employee. There was a grade difference. Chairman Jones speaking, any other questions? Mrs. Erin, I do have one thing, I would like you to send information to all the commission, because I do not think we all are aware of it. There was a decision made by this board, I don't know, six or seven years ago, maybe in regard to county employees, if I think it was set up so if you didn't have somebody that had worked for the county for a certain amount of years, they couldn't get a benefit of insurance if they retired before 62 or 65 or some age anyway, they couldn't continue to have county insurance until that year. The issue is, I think there were some unintended consequences to it, because we have had people that have worked for the county for almost 30 years. They had a break in their employment, but now they are not going to be able to do that. So just if you would send that information to the board so we can add it to our next agenda and have a discussion about it, to see what the board wants to do, if anything about it. Commissioner Croom speaking, with what the Chair just asked about with insurance, can we also, I want to inquire about, like, the employees' sick time, vacation time, like, how much comp time with that stuff?

The Board moved to item 15 at this time.

**4. BOARD INFORMATION / MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES:**

- RESTORE SGI Stormwater Project – roadway resurfacing has begun.
- Patton Drive Resurfacing Project – resurfacing is underway.
- DW Wilson Sports Arena Lighting Project – light poles have been installed, pending connection to Duke Energy, project moving along quickly.
- Retail Strategies has met 1<sup>st</sup> deliverable requirement for Commerce Grant. Also pulled geofence visit data for the SGI commercial district to provide economist documentation for the Section 6 project analysis. See attached – vendor report captures approximately 10% of visit data from cellular service providers, to get the estimated total counts – take the 10% values and multiply by ten.
- EMS Director Applications were due this past Friday; Franklin County received 14 applications; the county will begin scheduling interviews this week.

**Presentations/Updates/Requests**

**13. Kaitlyn Katic -- Pape-Dawson Consulting Engineers -- Request**

The request includes wanting to remove the trees to enhance reliability of the future substation and fencing. These trees fall just outside the property line and will be extremely close to the fencing that is to be installed soon. Also, many of the trees are not in a healthy state. Vines are choking out most of these pines and are already in the process of killing a few so we would prefer to remove them. We have included a photo to show the unhealthy trees.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the removal of the trees as requested. Motion carried 5-0.**

**14. Sharon Ofuani -- Executive Director of Big Bend Crime Solvers -- Request**

Every three years, per subsection 16.555(5)(b) of the Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code Rule 2A-9.002 state that a "Letter of Agreement" be obtained from each county commission authorizing Big Bend Crime Stoppers,

Inc. to act as your county's agent for the purpose of applying for and receiving monies from the Crime Stopper Trust Fund. Monies from the Trust Fund can only be utilized by Big Bend Crime Stoppers, Inc. as permitted by the OAG guidelines.

Ms. Ofuani speaking, good morning, everyone. Mr. Moron speaking, I want to provide a little bit of background history before. In the narrative you saw where, every three years we signed this, this agreement, I know you have some newer commissioners. I do not think Commissioner Croom was on there when we did this the last time. So, I just I asked that they gave an update as to what they do, how the project works, how they help the sheriff's department. You know, in that role, before the board considers renewing that three-year agreement or sending that letter, well, Same difference. Okay.

Ms. Ofuani speaking, thank you so much, and I am very delighted to be here with you. I tell you; you remind me of my years, my 33 years that I spent with the City of Tallahassee and attending commission meetings. It has been a while, but and I actually retired in 2011 and I took this job as the executive director Big Bend Crime Solvers. Now that has been 15 years ago, and it has passed very quickly. Let me go through some information, and I will get to the reason that we are asking you to do what you have done since I have been here since 15 just to give you some background crime solvers, is a national organization. We have been around since 1976 and in the Big Bend area, we have been around since 1980 before I go forth. Caitlin, would you please go ahead and join us? I want to introduce her in a moment, I ask her when I see her join us and I am coming. So, as I said, we have been around since 1984 Big Bend Crime Solvers the system of seven counties, Liberty, Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson, Taylor, Wakulla. And of course, and Franklin, as far as I can tell you, our records have been a part of this organization, probably since 80. In fact, all of our counties have been with us for a long time. We are in the second judicial circuit, like why it was formed, like is, as well as when we talk about the Big Bend, we think about that curve on the map. And I guess that's why Taylor County is a part of Big Bend Crime Solvers, although it is not in the second judicial circuit. Many people think that we are police organization, a law enforcement organization. We are not for profit, organization, and we want to make sure that people know that there is a distinction between us and because we want to be about getting as many tips as possible when it comes to having information to solve crime, the other person that I want to right now is Caitlin Grimes. She is the law enforcement coordinator. Her job as the organization is to assist law enforcement in the fight by helping people and encouraging people to report crime when it comes to hand. The tips that we receive, that is the law enforcement. Each respective law enforcement's responsibility to do that, obviously, and Kate, Kate Allen is works with Tallahassee Police Department, and she receives the tips through the software, and we provide the P free software, and she works with each of the respective law enforcement coordinators in each of our county. Counties, we have a law enforcement coordinator who will receive the tip once the tip comes in from Caitlin comes in through our system agencies that is in from Franklin County, and she has a name of a person that that tip is forwarded to for them to investigate work in our p3 system and let us know the status of we can talk about some of that more in A Moment. Again, we have changed our name, our mission remains the same. Each year, every three years, per the law that you see in the documents that I have provided, we must ask each of our counties, do they want to continue with us representing them as relates to receiving funds from the Office of Attorney General's Crime Stoppers trust fund. Each year, every three years, we do this. As you see, you have always sent a letter to the attorney general indicating that, yes, we would like to continue, and we certainly hope you would do the same today. You all, we receive approximately, let me tell you how the funding works. We received \$14 of \$20 that is collected for everyone who goes through our court system that is collected by the OEGs. Because of the diversion program that states attorneys have we do not always get any funds. Once a case is taken off the books, it does not go through the court, then we receive fewer funds every year since I have been here, receive less and less funding right now. As it relates to Franklin County, we receive about 30, \$3,300 from that. And that is the beauty of the Big Bend Crime Solvers organization, because to together, combined with seven pounds, we are stronger. I want you to know that every service we provide, and I am going to tell you some of those, regardless of the amount of money we receive for your county, you receive 100% of the same benefits. Say that Leon County, of course, is the largest for us, receives some of those services are, we have three ways to receive a tip. The more ways a person can make a tip, the merrier for all of us, and right now, you can do it online. You can do it on our website, and we have, of course, our 24/7 all of these methods are 24/7 far as that go, we can also call in a tip. I want you to know things have changed. When I came here 15 years ago, most calls were received by phone. Most calls these days are received through our mobile app just the way of the world. You also receive, as far as a benefit, it is the services of one law enforcement coordinator in Caitlin, whoever takes all the tip of the two and she disseminates them throughout the county. And when anything comes in for your county, she receives it and get it to your law enforcement court. We pay out tips. The rewards that we pay out for tips for an arrest is \$500 up to \$5,000. I will give you more statistics a moment, but I want you to know now that we also have something new. We will pay rewards for tips that will prevent a crime. We finally have realized, you know when you pay for an

arrest, that is after something has happened. Now we on the proactive side. We want to be preventive, and we will pay the same amount, \$500 to \$5,000 for the prevention of a tip. You have access to our web page, and we have a link to you as well. If anyone wants to come to our site and want to connect with your law enforcement directly. They certainly can do that. We use every method to promote, and that is our role, to promote to the community. Law enforcement is our partners, as well as the community is our part. The other side, we stand in the gap trying to make sure that people understand that there is an alternative to promoting a crime. Go to your law enforcement if you'd like to, but we know folks, some people are fearful or just don't want to, but they have information, and it's a wonderful thing to have in your community, a source like us, where the tip can be made to an alternative source, and we will use we promote our services on every source of medium, social media, newspapers, Facebook, radio, Instagram, television, billboards, in every way that we possibly can. We have one of the other services is we have a special place on our website that talks about co and wanted criminals. You can put your wanted criminals on our website as well as have it on yours. We provide promotional materials for community events to your law enforcement agency. We have also participated in community events there. We host, hopefully, we have done it once a year, training with law enforce, your law enforcement coordinator on the Pete read system. And this comes together once a year with the other law enforcement coordinators in our area, and they talk about whatever they feel is necessary to stay in touch and informed. You have two administrative staff with me and my assistant to help manage this program. So those are the services. And I think what is important that I have said and is that regardless of the amount of money that we collect on your behalf, you get 100% of services, and particularly the \$500 to \$5,000 in terms of a reward, I can tell you one of our much smaller counties, even than yourself, but we receive even much, much less than what we received from you last year had a homicide, and our payout was even more than that. So that is part of what is in it for you. A little more, yeah, I think it would be also good just to let you know what you did specifically as it relates to Franklin. I mean, some of yours in the last three years see the price, three tips. And even since the doc that you have there did not have a tip that we received, it is very recent, within weeks ago from Franklin County. Over the years, I can remember helping Franklin County with some of their concerns with crime. I believe it was about 2020 a partner Sheriff's Association which was helping your county solve a crime with electronic he promoted it. We have helped enhance the reward for that particular crime. I remember also there was poisoning of some pets going on in your county maybe three years ago or more. And we also help promote that on TV for you. Put out some, really some posters and things, and created a poster for you all to help with that. So indeed, while we may not get many tips from your county, we are a source that can help you when you do need the help and when someone does want to make a tip, other than coming directly to our enforcement. So, I am going to stop there, because you may have some questions for me, but I want you to know that our organization is a fact. Organization does work, law enforcement throughout out, throughout indeed, caller or assist. You have the report from 24 the end report from 24 to 25 that did go back and look at some statistics over the last three. I can tell you that statistically, we receive 120 tips a month. Some of those tips are for information only. Some of them, the just do not leave enough information. Some of them are and certainly a good percentage of those good tips that that are ordered on so people are calling us. We want to keep them calling us. We want to use our resources to promote that this is a is truly an anonymous tool that you can that you can use as your personal tool. That is what I call it to report crime. So, most of the tips that we receive is giving some statistics I am about to wind up. Most of the tips are drugs, but we also get tips against every kinds, every offense that there possibly is. We do collect many, many and remove many guns off the street, as you see in that particular port that you have been 34 and even since this, we have got another five guns to add to that, and with more of arrest, we pay out rewards in every \$500 truly all the way up \$5000 throughout that whole range, depending on the severity of the case. And actually, do we have the money too to do that. So that is just a little bit about what we do, how we do it. Caitlin and I are here to answer any questions. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you. So, I will say this. I want to thank you for being here today. I did want the commissioners to hear this more than more than anything, I wanted to make sure this was not just something else we had on agenda for a signature, and nobody really knew that we even had this kind of agreement in place. So, I do think it is important, you know, for our sheriff's office to know that this is something that the county's signed in with as an agreement. So, if there is any way we can utilize it, maybe more than we have, it is noticed by having it be a presentation at our meeting instead of just another signature on the agenda. So, thank you for being here today. Commissioners do you have any questions?

Commissioner Croom speaking, yes, Mr. Chair, I do. Miss Sharon thank you for the presentation. You actually answered one of my question was, how much did come from the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund on behalf of Franklin County over the past three years. What I do want to see is, and if you would send this to the coordinator to disseminate amongst the commissioners, is performance and impact. I want to see how many tips were submitted to Franklin County in the last three years, how many arrests or cases was closed as a result of it, and how much money, reward money was paid out locally. You do not have to tell me right now, but if you would send that information in to the county coordinator. Miss Sharon is increase in public awareness in Franklin County. I see it a bunch over in Bay

County and Gulf. I do not know if that is a different region, but I would like to see the public awareness and maybe a billboard with the number you know, because everyone, everyone you know, may not know. So that is all I had. Ms. Ofuani speaking, may I respond to that and thank you, Commissioner, I would love to have more visibility in Franklin. We have used Oscar radio periodically to promote I would love to come as any community group invite me. I would love to do that. In terms of public awareness and billboards. I have asked Lamar Billboard, and there may be others in your areas, I do not know. I have asked Lamar billboard, but they tell me they do not have any in Franklin. And I said, what is the closest you can so there have been, periodically, we have done that, but a small being as small as we are being so naturally, some of our resources do not allow us to always have the consistency that would love to have in your community, but we can improve. Commissioner Croom speaking, I do not know if any billboards we have. I know I think a couple, but I do not really know. I think there is, that I can name off the top of my head, four. But anyways, that was my stance on increase of public awareness campaigns. Thank you. Chairman Jones speaking, any other questions, commissioners. So, the request is to just have me sign an updated agreement that will extend for three years. It starts July of this year, correct? Mr. Moron speaking, yes, that is correct. **Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I will make a motion to approve the letter.** Of course, obviously we have to change to update it from Attorney General Moody to Uthmeier, with that I will make a motion. Commissioner Croom speaking, second with a comment. Commissioner Croom speaking, has Attorney Shuler reviewed this yet? Mr. Moron speaking, no, he approved it with three years ago. Once I get it updated, I will send it back to him before I have the chairman sign. **Commissioner Ward speaking, I will amend my motion to make it contingent on Attorney Shuler's review. Commissioner Croom seconded.** Chairman Jones speaking, Ms. Ofuani, do you have a question? Ms. Ofuani speaking, I just want to comment. If you would make certain that you put Crime Solvers and not Stoppers. I still say Stoppers sometimes myself, but the document should say Crimes Stoppers. Chairman Jones speaking, yes, ma'am, thank you. Commissioner Sanders speaking, we have been supporting the Big Bend Crime Stoppers for years, for a long, long time, and I saw in a couple of cases where it has kept us on leads in solving some cases down here. But anyway, we always, I agree with you, Mr. Chairman, that we always need to, kind of like second guess the signature. We have done the letters and everything, and let the people know what services are available for Franklin County. If we do not say it, they do not know. Chairman Jones speaking that is right. Any other discussion before we vote? Chairman Jones speaking, all in favor, any opposed? That is a five to zero vote. **Motion carried 5-0.** Ms. Ofuani, thank you all for being here today. We really appreciate you. Ms. Ofuani speaking, thank you. Look forward to actually seeing you before the next three years.

#### **15. Colin Heffron (President) & Tanya Evans -- Barnacle -- Discussion**

Colin Heffron speaking, morning, everybody, and thank you, everybody for your time and opportunity to speak. My name is Colin Heffron. I am the president of Barnacle Parking, and I just wanted to speak to the current situation and our hopes that we can continue our, you know, business partnership to see Barnacle start to help and improve some of the parking issues and compliance that you guys are seeking. For some background, we initially entered into an agreement just about a year ago, but things did not, frankly, get off to a great start. We may have had some issues with the devices, but having seen some feedback and Facebook posts and conversations with Major Segree and the sheriff, we recognize that this is not only an issue that the people and the citizens care about, but that it is also important to the commission and the sheriff's department. So, we had sent an employee of ours, Tanya, to go down about a month ago to try to get the devices working, go through some extra training, and I was very happy to see that all the devices were working as intended, and that includes in the different areas that may have had some satellite or coverage issues previously. Again, you know, I am happy to let you guys know that we did extensive testing with Major Segree and the devices were working. And that gives me confidence, because moving forward, we have been in conversation with the sheriff's department to make sure that the issues that surface previously do not surface. Again, and so we commit to providing consistent training, consistently being in touch with the team, so that our technology, the Barnacle, can help out from a compliance issue, from a parking issue and from a resource issue, to make that this problem does not go unaddressed for the for the county, for the board, and then for the citizens and the sheriff's department as well. I, you know, just wanted to get in front of everybody as well. I know that we are in the process of discussing either continuing the relationship or leaving it as is, but I wanted to make sure that you heard from myself, the president, that we are very committed to making amends and improving that relationship that we've had, because I have full confidence that with training, with the devices working, and confirmation of that, that our technology will be able to assist in some of the parking issues that you've been seeing, especially as we enter in the busier season, spring break, and the increase in flow of traffic and people that will bring. If anybody has any questions for me. Chairman Jones speaking, commissioners do you have any questions? Commissioner Sanders speaking, I have got some questions, but I will wait until after the sheriff's department weighs in. Commissioner Ward speaking, I have some comments and

concerns too, but I will wait for the sheriff's office staff to speak. Chairman Jones speaking, looks like we are asking for you to speak Brad. Major Brad Segree speaking, good morning, commission and Colin and Miss Tanya. Appreciate you guys zooming in, as we have talked about, we are here for the Barnacle today, and I have got the device here. Wanted to bring it over at the request of Miss Sanders, just so you guys can see it here in person, see how big it is, see what area it would cover on the windshield. I have no doubt that the commission is going to have some questions for me as patrol major for the Sheriff's Office, and what, maybe, what has taken place in the past as a result of our experience with the Barnacle and what we hope to see as a sheriff's office as we move forward, in hopes that that we do gain your trust and ability to continue the contract in some form or another through the Barnacle company. So, you have questions of me, please. Commissioner Sanders speaking, Major Segree what was the reason why we did not have it working down there at Alligator Point the Barnacle? Major Segree speaking, I personally believe it was as a result of several issues. You know, I submitted a letter to each commission, originally stating that some of it was, I believe user error, and I am not going to completely rule that out. And when I say user error, I am talking about us as law enforcement. But I do also believe that as me and Commissioner Jones spoke one time before that, if there was an upgraded service down in the Alligator Point area, that the device or cell service may work in a better fashion, if you will. And from what I understand, there is a Starlink that has been installed on Alligator Point. I can speak as when Miss Tanya came down and we went and done a test on Alligator Point, each device I deployed them personally, we had zero issue. We tried it from the point marina to what we all know as the third parking area, second, first, and even on the Bald Point area that day. We did experience about a 15 to 18 second delay, but it was not a result of the Barnacle. It was because of my cell service, which we rely upon when we deploy the device. But after about that 15 to 18 second delay, my cell phone gained service. I was able to successfully deploy the device that day. So other than that delay, we had zero issues on Alligator Point. We then transitioned to Saint George Island, where we tested it on both the east and west end of Saint George Island, because, as we all know, we talk about rebuilding some of the parking areas as we move forward, we all believe, me, along with other individuals from the sheriff's office, that we are going to battle parking issues on Saint George Island as well. And right now, from everything else we have seen, what we tried to get a comp, tow truck, citations, things of that nature. This is our best option. I hate to use the word failed, but, but I think I've also spoke that to each one of you, whether as a patrol major failure, communication training, whatever it may have been, I do believe there was a failure in some aspect and but again, I believe this is going to be the best, our best option for compliance from our visitors to Alligator Point, for them to adhere to our parking regulations on Alligator Point to free up law enforcement manpower and hours and time consumed by going down on the beach or trying to track down whoever may be parked illegally, we could simply place this device go about our day enforcing the laws that are required. Commissioner Sanders speaking, can I ask another question, Brad or either Miss Tanya or Mr. Collin? It has been told to me that, after so many hours, I am telling the secret probably, but after so many hours that the Barnacle, you can just pick it up off the windshield, how long do the batteries on this Barnacle last? Mr. Heffron speaking, Commissioner, the batteries last about six to seven days deployed. Commissioner Sanders speaking, well, I can tell you that the sheriff has done assured me yesterday that if the Barnacles on there, after a certain amount of time he is having things towed, it is not going to sit there and have six or seven days, I was told six or seven hours I knew somebody. But the other thing is major. Thank you. I appreciate that for you to come and for Colonel Coulter come to me know y'all have a busy time, and it is fixing to get busier, because we are fixing to get spring break, and that is why we want to go ahead and move into this. But you are the president of the company, right, Mr. Colin. Mr. Heffron speaking, yep. Commissioner Sanders speaking, let me ask you a question. We entered into agreement with you about a year ago. We had these things, the barnacle they, for some reason, did not work, whether it be internet human error or whatever, but the board has kept on paying money, I think too. How much was it that we all paid?? \$18,000. Mr. Colin, you know what I am going to ask you, what are y'all willing to credit the board with if we agree to get in another contract on these barnacles for, not only just Alligator Point for St. George Island too. What are y'all willing to do, as far as let us see some money? Mr. Heffron speaking, understood and, you know, I agree with that there. There was a failure, you know, be it training communication device, and I want to take responsibility for that, because I believe that it can still be a solution that improves some of the parking challenges that you guys have been having. And I had been discussing with Tanya about giving some concessions on free months for the, you know to make up for what had, you know, the gap that had, you know, come through. And typically, in these situations, we think about it on like, a month, monthly basis. The contract itself was, it was a 12-month commitment, and so I would be happy to, you know, as a show of good faith, but then also, you know, to continue to hopefully grow to meet, you know, whatever the scale of the parking challenges that you guys are experiencing, but you know, anywhere from two to three months, you know, completely free. So basically, the term would be a 12-month contract renewal. However, we would price it for 10 months, basically to make up for the slowness, but also to show you guys that I want to take responsibility for this. You know, who, whatever the cause was previously. You know, that is less important to me. It is my technology. You know, it is our responsibility to put Major Segree and his

team in the best position. And so, I think, you know, two months, three months for free, effectively, or priced into the 12-month agreement, is what I think makes sense, to show you guys good faith, to account for the non-usage, and to make sure that you know we are doing what we can to show you guys that we accept the responsibility we still want to move forward, but we acknowledge that it did not start off as I would initially hope, and I do not expect that to continue to be the case. Commissioner Sanders speaking, well I just want to let everybody know that when these were introduced to the Alligator Point folks, they were overwhelmingly supportive of it and they are also supportive of being wise and about spending county money. So, this is the reason why I mentioned about some kind of a refund credit or whatever, but we are, I am still going to look at the sheriff's department and, you know, I am going to try to do what the people want, because I know that there is a problem with parking now. We have come a long way in the past few years, but we still got a lot to go. And do I think this barnacle can help? I do but, do I want one on my car? No, I am not going to be parking down there. I can tell you the designated parking place, I am telling you, but no, I am going to let some of the other Commissioners ask questions, and then we will go. Thank you, Mr. Colin. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, in speaking with Major Segree, my concerns are this, as a commissioner, I am not, I do not like to think of myself as a micro manager. I do not micromanage our departments. I have a full faith in the directors and our elected officials, our sheriff to do their jobs and do their jobs effectively. I will call and check on things from time to time, but to me, no news is good news, and I believe there was a lack of communication on a lot of people's parts, and not to get into the weeds. I feel like that, I will be if, if, hypothetically, we do move forward with this. And I feel like we should, I feel like we should give it another shot, but I have got questions, I have got concerns, and I will be riding around with you guys. So, on a Saturday, I want y'all to tell me who is going to be zoned in that area. I would like to ride along with them with that device to ensure that it is acting appropriately and that it is working appropriately. I feel like I will be calling. I will be checking I would like for that communication. Now I know, and Mr. Collin or Tanya, I do not know if y'all can answer this, but did you guys? Do you guys have a report for each barnacles you have contracted with whoever. Do you guys have a number list that you could pull up and say, alright, the barnacles in Franklin County, there were three deployed this week, or zero deployments? Can you guys? Because that is my thing too. If you guys were not seeing that, there were not any deployments, you know we have parking issue. Did you communicate with the sheriff's office? Ask why or try to resolve the issue? Mr. Heffron speaking, yes, thank you for your question, Commissioner. Firstly, yes, we do have reports, you know, on a device basis, that can aggregate and inform you of usage, where that usage is happening, you know, on a daily, weekly, monthly basis. So, you could certainly have insight into that. And to answer your second question, I think that that that is where you know, the gap or failure was created, was in the communication, because that is something that I want to improve. And specifically in this instance, because you are right, you know, if we are seeing zero deployments, you know, but we are still communicating, we need to be more deliberate and be more of a resource to make sure that we understand why usage is not happening, or if there are training issues, or if it is as small as not fully understanding that process. And that is why I think Tanya going down last month to meet in person with the team and go through that process which was which was successful, in the sense that successful tests were done, both in deploying the device, but also making sure that the service is communicating with the devices, so that the whole system is operating efficiently, and the department, the sheriff's department, is benefiting from, you know, the resource time savings that the barnacle can afford because of the motorist release and the ability for the violators to handle it, you know, on their own time and return the barnacle. Commissioner Ward speaking, again, same thing with sheriff's office. You know the communication, and I know we do not, you know we cannot nail down with a cell phone service. Was it user error? We could be here all day trying to really ascertain, try to figure that out, and still not have an answer. But if we do hypothetically move forward with this, is there a way? I know you, Commissioner Sanders asked about a discount on the on the contract. Is there a way that we can do like, a month-to-month contract to say, or a six month or three-month contract to say? All right, well, if it is not working, your team has come down and determined that it is not a user error, user error. Is there a way we can get out of that contract instead of having to pay for the year? I know you said we are paying for 10 months, essentially, but is there basically out of that contract that we could get?

Mr. Heffron speaking, you know, I do not have an issue with that. I think I want to stand by our technology and have it working the way that we say and advertise it to work. So, you know, we can include some sort of language in that renewal or new agreement that you know, has the stipulation that you know this is contingent upon barnacle maintaining service. And then to your other question, in terms of, you know, the six months, 12 month, you know, I have confidence in this. And like you said, we could, we could go back and forth about, you know, what the root cause was. What is important to me is that the sheriff's department now has the confidence in the device after having gone through the training. So, if a six-month contract, you know, makes the commissioners and everybody feel a bit more comfortable before making a longer-term commitment, I think you know that makes sense. And if that is the result of

what has unfolded on, you know, the previous year, you know that is only that is on us, right? And you know, we want to rectify that and make sure that everybody from the county feels comfortable, you know, using the funds and not wasting them, and making sure that you are getting what you are, you know, promised from our technology. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I know we are just discussing this today, and we are not making a vote, but I will say, as far as I am concerned, and I will let some other commissioners chime in as long as we can. And I appreciate you guys being amendable to all of these requests. I am okay with, with having Attorney Shuler possibly renegotiate a contract, amend the agreement. I do believe that they, they are a great device, you know, in terms of keeping our sheriff's office where they are having, not having to trace people down. I have, I am going to give them, in my opinion. I know we are not voting, but I want to say I will, like, I would like to give it another shot based on the information. And then, you know, with Cody and Tanya being so amendable and trying to help the process and try to make it right, but I will, I do want this, and this is my request if, again, hypothetically, we all determine this is the way we are going to go. I want numbers every week. I do not know how y'all when you are reporting once a month. Okay, whatever numbers y'all pull. I want those numbers emailed to me and our board so that we can know, okay, well, he got, they got zero this month. Well, it is, it is spring break or it is summer, we know that they have got to have deployments these this weekend or whatever. And, like I said, Major, I would like to ride around with whoever is in that area during some of the peak times on a Saturday or Sunday. I guess Saturday is the most peak day, right? Saturday, so that I can actually be a part, because I said I am not a micro manager, but when I see something wrong, I am going to be involved and make sure that it is working right. Not nothing against you or the colonel or the sheriff's office or you guys at barnacle, but I just want to make sure that we are getting our money's worth and training. I guess you guys, if we need someone to come down and maybe retrain, can we do that? Mr. Heffron speaking, yeah, and then, you know, we also offer virtual training, if needed. And you know without a doubt, you know, my main priority is to make sure that you are confident in the processes that you know we are helping the sheriff's department, major sea green and his team, and you know if that includes more training if there's a new employee or individual that's brought on to the team that wasn't for training beforehand, you know that that is part of what our program and technology provides. And as a new technology, training is you know, incredibly important. And I think the good thing is, is that our we want to make our process and device as simple, quick, and safe as possible, and so, you know, the incentive is fully behind us to make sure that we are providing that and you know, moving forward, that is, you know, without a doubt, that is a commitment we are we want to make. Commissioner Ward speaking, thank you. That is all I have. Major Segree speaking, Commissioner Ward, I totally agree accountability is key here and I will accept that moving forward, should we again enter into this agreement. I know Commissioner Jones; he gets that monthly report. We have talked about that. He has called me on a couple occasions so that report would be generated. I definitely encourage each of you, if you would like to jump in that patrol vehicle and Ms. Cheryl says no, come and experience some of what we do see on Alligator Point, Saint George Island, whichever area of the county it is that you may want to jump in. But I would also like to say, keep in mind with this, with the barnacle, as we progress into spring break and then our summer months, I think that, I hate to use the word naive, but almost I may use that word is simply if, if we deploy the device five times, ten times, to gain compliance or to gain education, to get it so the community, the visitors, adhere to our parking ordinance. We are going to go a period of time that is going to sit in that drop box. It is not going to be deployed because of sheriff's office campaign on Facebook that talks about the barnacle, signage that is going to be deployed to talk about the barnacle. So ultimately, our ultimate goal is that it sits in that drop box, and we do not have to use it because we have gained compliance and adherence to our parking regulations. So, no doubt we are going to get reports and I hope to see it deployed on some windshield. I am going to take some photos and we are going to blast it everywhere. I am sure the sheriff is going to have fun putting it on Facebook but I do know also, again, there is going to come a time where it is going to sit in the car, it is going to sit in that box, because we have come to that ultimate goal of zero parking issues on Alligator Point. Mr. Moron speaking, we are still thinking college kids spring break. Their head is just hard. They do not listen. But anyway, yeah. Commissioner Sanders speaking, can I just say something? What you are saying is true, Brad, because if you remember last year and Rudy and Nanda are out there and checking ahead last year, when it was cold, that we were going to have barnacles start having barnacles for parking problems down alligator point, you did not have a single problem. There it was after they found out that the barnacles did not work that we had they did not see them. But the one thing I think is going to help it immensely is by this board approving the emergency management person, Jennifer Daniels, to put Starlink down there. I think you are going to see that because it that is a problem. And I just want to tell Colin the internet stuff in Franklin County, the death, we have all kinds of problems, dispatch, and all that. Hopefully, that will change soon, but I agree with you and I might Commissioner Ward, let us just give it a shot, another shot, and see if it worked. This time, we will individually be monitoring it. I do not micromanage, but I can monitor, but I will not be riding in that. Major Segree speaking, can I ask a question as well? And I know we still maybe got a little more discussion or some questions. But if we, if we look at revamping the contract, or looking at having to restructure the contract to a six month or 10-month

period, or whatever, if. And you are in agreement with us doing that, is that going to delay us at this point? Do you hope not from using the barnacle sure hope not because that that would, that would be a big hindrance at this point, if we have to wait on a new contract to be drafted, which, as we all know, takes some time, that would be a hindrance.

Chairman Jones speaking, well, so let me clarify two things. Yes, sir, this is written over here for discussion, but that does not mean the board cannot take action today. Yes, clarify that, because it is on our agenda. So, we could possibly take an action to extend this contract, but let them know that we are planning on amending the contract going forward for a short time, for some of the reasons that were discussed today. But let me say this even before I go there, I had to double down to be honest with you, I do think it will work. I do think we also need on St George Island. I do not think it is a problem. I think the Starlink has also been added to the island, so that should also help. I have no issue with it being utilized. The issue I brought before this board was the fact that I could continue to get reports so there were zero fines being issued. That is why I was the one that brought it up. Look, it is different if, if we have had 10-15, or four, you know, and now we have compliance and we are not using anymore, that is different. But that never happened. So, I am the one that brought it back to the board, but I am fine with, extended the contract. I am fine with. I think we have just as big or bigger parking issues on St George Island, because it is way more people. So, I am fine with even expanding the contract, but that is something an expansion would have to be handled in a minute. You know what I mean? We cannot vote on that today. Mr. Moron speaking, so Mr. Chairman, can we consider this? If I can get Colin and Tanya to agree. Can we consider March like a free month, while I work with Attorney Shuler and Colin and Tanya to work out an agreement and hopefully have it back at the next meeting. So, by April 1, you have the new agreement approved in their place. If that works for them, would that work for the Sheriff's Department? Colin, how you guys feel about that? Commissioner Amison speaking, let me look this is, this is a question, I guess, for y'all. The training when Ms. Evans came down, who received the training? Major Segree speaking, when the original training took place? We done it at the sheriff's office. We brought in our command staff, our lieutenants for the road patrol. Ms. Tanya did the training via zoom, if you will, in the sheriff's office, actual Sheriff's Office, we each had a barnacle device in front of us that we she went through the you know, the training there. It was not an in-person training, which a lot of times I believe is more important. Ms. Tanya, you hear that, Colin, I think that in person training does benefit more, but that is where it took place. It was at the sheriff's office via Zoom call. Commissioner Amison speaking, another question, since we obviously have communication issues as far as cellular, what happens if it gets deployed and then someone cannot, you know, make a transaction because they do not have, you know, they might have T mobile or whatever. Is there an override with the sheriff's department that y'all can do? Major Segree speaking, we can override the system via key, and we can remove the device. And if at that point of paper, citation is necessary, we could, we could issue that citation, okay? Commissioner Amison speaking, the reason I am asking because some of the questions been asked to me, and I know we probably touched on that a lot a year ago, when we when we first went into this. My other question and is, with those reports, those monthly reports, did that go to the clerk's office, or did they go to the Sheriff's Department? Major Segree speaking, Commissioner Jones was receiving those reports, and Commissioner I am not familiar. I do not know if they come directly from them. If they come from the clerk, I know they did not come from the sheriff's office. Chairman Jones speaking, I just know I kept seeing them and it was six months before I even realized what they were. Major Segree speaking, now keep in mind, you know, we as moving forward again, monitoring and being, you know, under that thumb, if you will, we can, we can keep an eye and keep track of that, and we could see, and I could send a report. He could send a report. Captain Ham could send a report to a designated individual the number of times it has been deployed, or things of that nature. Commissioner Amison speaking, I was just curious if it was, if those kind of reports, I think Commissioner Ward had asked Colin if those reports can be made. I am just trying to figure out who is going to receive those reports. That going to be the Sheriff's Department. Is it going to be the clerk's office? You know, obviously she is getting transactions from this. Commissioner Amison speaking, so, I just did not know where those reports were going to come into, right? Major Segree speaking, and of course, I could not answer, but again, I know Commissioner Jones was getting some reports. Yes, I do not know where they were coming from commissioner. Commissioner Amison speaking, okay, then this goes to Colin, just from a business perspective. When we first, initially discussed this over a year ago. I mean, I supported it, but I was sitting there, in my mind's eyes, we are in a 12-month contract for something that we are really going to need roughly four to five months out of the year. And I was fine with it, because I know we have issues, and we are also potentially going to expand to St George Island. We have parking issues there, and then other areas, as our county obviously grows, we are going to have, you know, continue problems. My only heartburn with it is looking at 13 months later is that we spent and this is just me, but I'm sitting there saying, okay, I approved this purchase or this service, knowing that I'm only going to get four or five potentially good months out of it, so I'm going to spend 18 grand for 12 months now we get that month 13, and we realize that we paid for a service that never worked. So, I had some heartburn with it, and I will say this, I support having something done there, whether it is your company or another company or what, but I am one of five, but I want to tell you two to three months really is not going to satisfy me. I would like to see

five to six months of credit, and then we can have a serious discussion about renewing this contract, as far as I am concerned. And again, I support our Sheriff's Department, if this is a tool that they can work with. I am fine with it, but just from a business standpoint and watching the taxpayers' dollars, I believe you need to come off the pocket a little bit more than that to satisfy Commissioner Amison, and now I am one of five, but honestly, I think that would be justifiable. Keep in mind also, obviously we support some type of enforcement with that. So, we are obviously wanting to grow. And if you are a little more, like I said for me, if you can be a little more generous with that rebate or refund, whatever we are going to call that, hopefully we can do business down the road. But that is all I have got. I appreciate it. Commissioner Croom speaking, Colin, I got a question for you, yes, sir. What cell service do they use? Is it whatever tower is pinging off of, or is there a specific cell service? Mr. Heffron speaking, exactly, sir, the technology is built to leverage the closest and most efficient provider in the area. So, it will depend on where that device is and who the prominent carrier in that territory is. Commissioner Croom speaking, as some others of the commission stated already about micro manager, I am not a fan of micromanage as well, but I do understand, and I do understand that we cannot be completely hands off, and we still have to check on things from time to time, which I do, and that goes from the Commission to command staff at Sheriff office as well. I think today, discussion with barnacle, with them, you know, with us, potentially going to disagreement with a credit and modifications in our contract. That is something that I support. We have got to do something down at Alligator Point, I was in favor of this last time. Hey, that did not work out. But, you know, between operator era and some company issues, I think, with talking with major Seager, I think, you know, we probably should give it another try with those stipulations. Commissioner Sanders speaking, one more thing. Now I do not know who I am going to have to ask this to. So, you get the barnacle. You take your credit card or whatever you got down to that little station thing, how does it work? Major Segree speaking, yes, ma'am and, of course, they will be able to explain it a lot more in depth than what I can. But once the device is placed on the vehicle, you come back off the beach or wherever you are at from enjoying your day and parking illegally. You see it is device on the vehicle. It has a QR code, QR code right here, and or a website that you can log into via your phone, and it will accept that credit card information right there. It will give you a release number on your phone via text or website, you would punch that number into the keypad. It would release the device so you do not have to go to a box or anything at that point. You are doing all that right at your vehicle where it is at, the device would release. You can actually hear the suction cups releasing from the windshield. You would take that device. It gives you instructions at that point where our drop box is, which, again, is on Alligator Drive, right there, across from the new fire department. It gives the actual physical address of that drop box and information of how to deploy it back into that drop box. So, me, as a motorist, I would come do all of that, pay my fine, pay the information, take the device, drive to that location, slide it into what appears to be like a mailbox, if you will, and it goes into that and is ready for its next use. Commissioner Sanders speaking, if the thing does not, the barnacle does not communicate with something credit card not going to communicate. Major Segree speaking, and currently, another reason why we are not trying to use them on Saint George Island at the present time is because we only have one drop box. And of course, we could not require somebody from Saint George Island to drive all the way down. Commissioner Ward speaking, they are probably going that anyway, most of them. Major Segree speaking, most are, but anyway to drive drop the device into that one drop box. If we decide that as going forward, we want to utilize it on Saint George Island, which, again, I believe we will, we are going to have to, of course, acquire another drop box and put it in a central location for that. Chairman Jones speaking, well, I am hopeful that the amendment we are discussing also has in it expanded service, not just narrow down to six months, but also add additional service. So, I think it is a conversation we need to have. Commissioner Ward speaking, how many barnacles right now do we have? Major Segree speaking, we have six devices and one drop box. Commissioner Ward speaking, how does it work? Like does six devices come with one drop box? Or I know we discussed this when we approved the first time, but just refresh my memory, if you do not mind. Or for the people that are here listening today. Major Segree speaking, Kyle and Tanya, I will let y'all speak. Mr. Heffron speaking, the drop boxes, we sell separately to the devices. And so, in this instance, you guys had gotten the six units plus the one drop box. Those are kind of separate line items. Maybe this is not the appropriate time to propose this, but you know, if a second drop box would be helpful in the sense that you, you would be able to deploy more confidently in both the areas you know that that is certainly something that I would be happy to include in the concession and or follow up amendment, you know, to account for the gap, and the bad experience leading up to this. Chairman Jones speaking, so let me clarify. I think what she was asking can the drop box hold six devices. Mr. Heffron speaking, oh, yes, sir.

Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I guess the question I should ask, is there a certain number of devices that come with a drop separate items, but how many total can go in a drop box? Mr. Heffron okay, it is, I believe you guys have a large drop box so that that is up to seven devices. Commissioner Ward speaking, thanks. Chairman Jones speaking that is helpful. Anyone else. So, do we need? I mean, we are good with what, where we are at. Is there any action needed by us today? Commissioner Ward speaking, I think we need to as Mr. Amison said, I do not feel

personally comfortable motioning. I want them to be able to use it, but a month, I do not think how. I mean, we could probably have it back by so if we could have a free month this month, we could still use the devices. In the meanwhile, they have Attorney Shuler reach out to Cody and Tanya and the sheriff's office and with what we discussed today, and negotiate and Michael with a negotiate a new contract and then have it at our next meeting. Okay? Mr. Moron speaking, it is, and Attorney Shuler will probably, may jump in here. So, I am thinking we do need some action if we are going to allow them to use this as the free month as we negotiate everything else. Mrs. Griffith speaking your original cancelation here, I think had a termination date of January. Chairman Jones speaking it did. So, by motion and vote we need to agree that it is going to be extended until we can amend that contract. So, either way, there does need to be some action by us. We took action to try to interpret it. Mr. Moron speaking, now, I hate building the plane as we fly it, but I do need Colin and Tanya to also agree that this will, they consider this a free month as we negotiate, you know, for terms for the renewal version of the contract. That also has to be agreed to today and included in the motion based on their agreement you know; March will be a free month. And you know, with the intent of having a new agreement before the board, agreement approved by both Barnacle and the board before you for authorization at the next meeting. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman does Attorney Shuler, have anything to say? I do not want to put him on the spot if he is not feeling well, but I did not know if he. Mr. Moron speaking, I've been taking notes for him, just in case. I know he is there. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, Mr. Colin, is this conversation agreeable to you, sir. Mr. Heffron speaking, yes, sir. And just so I am clear I have no issue, and I think it makes sense for March to be considered a, you know, a free month while we prepare the renewal, you know, new terms that need to satisfy everybody, and we will account for that. But certainly, if that is the best path forward to give you guys the confidence to account for, you know, some of the failures of last year, and then we can get closer to a renewal, you know, pending good performance. You know, you guys are satisfied. You know, no issues with that.

Mr. Moron speaking, one other term to put in the record me trying to pretend to be Attorney Shuler is that by agreeing to this one free month, in no way agrees to a new contract. This is a free standing one month based on the old contract as we negotiate another one. Chairman Jones speaking, yes. Mr. Heffron speaking, yes sir. **Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I will make that motion. Commissioner Croom seconded.** Chairman Jones speaking, we have a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom. So, we are agreeing to extend this contract until next month, when we can have at our meeting ready to discuss an extension or an amendment to the contract, recognizing it has been offered this month to be free by Barnacle from payment by the county as part of the negotiation. Mrs. Griffith speaking, just because the prior notice that Shuler did expire January 11, we do have a gap of time then from January 12 through, you know, essentially March 1. So that that should likely also be waived because we have received no services then for that period as well. Mr. Moron speaking, yes. So basically, what she is saying is this closes a loop. Sorry, it is a finance loop. So, in no way can we be charged between the expiration of the contract and March 30. Chairman Jones speaking, basically, we cannot answer that, only Barnacle. Mr. Moron speaking, I know, but kind of relaying what she is saying. So, Colin would have to agree to that on record right now. Mr. Heffron speaking, and to speak to that, I think that there are, there is one month of outstanding invoices from the previous term. You know, we can pause that and basically consider this like an interim period. Chairman Jones speaking about two for January and February. Mrs. Griffith speaking, so there's only January at the moment, but January was billed for a full month, and Shuler had actually stipulated that should be prorated, so that was one reason I was waiting for today to actually process that invoice. Mr. Heffron speaking, okay, yeah, and you know, I think if, so January and February are still out, in the sense that they are part of the previous contract agreement. Then March, you know, would be in, you know, not considered part of that contract. So, we can pause those include the month of March as a free you know, use, and then get together to determine what the best path forward is. Should you continue to agree and should the service be satisfactory. Chairman Jones speaking, alright, that sounds good. Mr. Colin, I am sorry that we are asking you to make these kind of decisions. Mr. Moron speaking, February, the contract ended in January. He is talking about pausing. Ms. Evans from Barnacle speaking, the invoices, the reason that you got those invoices is because we gave you guys some grace before we started to invoice you, because I am the account manager. So, if you look, if you read the terms of the contract, it is the full, it is the way the contract is written. The contract is a full \$18,000. You were not invoiced for the full \$18,000. Those last two invoices bring it to the full \$18,000. So, the way the contract reads is it is a full \$18,000 so it is broken out into 12 payments to bring it to a full contractual \$18,000. So, they are billed out into 12 payments. So, the last payment would be coming for the January payment, and the February payment, it is not the months of service, it is the amount that you pay for. Mr. Moron speaking, it is not about months of services. Ms. Evans speaking, that is why you have a January and a February invoice. Chairman Jones speaking that is fine. We just need the question answered, but thank you. Ms. Evans speaking, so that is why you have the two outstanding invoices, so you will not be billed again. For the march invoice, you will not get invoiced. Chairman Jones speaking, does that answer the question? Mrs. Griffith speaking, it does. Chairman Jones speaking,

so let me say this to try to, I probably should have said this last meeting, and I did not, I want to say it today. We are hoping that we can form a relationship with Barnacle that will help with Franklin County and our parking issues. And I can tell you right now, the people that we have that work in our Sheriff's Department, from the top down, are some of the best to be had. We support them in everything they do, because I know that they are protecting and serving the people in this community and of this county. So, if that is what they are saying they want to do, I support it for no reason other than that. But you know, I do want to make sure we understand going forward in this contract amendment we are talking about, we are also talking about expanding service, because I believe we need to have it on St George Island. Guys I do not know if you have ever been told this, but when St George Island fills up during tourist time, we almost double the size of our county. So, we definitely have parking issues, and they definitely need to be addressed, so that will be part of what we are talking about doing. Mr. Heffron speaking yes sir. Chairman Jones speaking, so we thank you for all that input. Let us make sure we know what we are doing here. So, we have voted on extending this through March. Realize that we are not going to be billed for March, and we are teeing up to have a contract extension discussion at our next meeting, that would include expanding services to St George Island, including them being continued on Alligator Point. Mrs. Griffith speaking, do you want to consider doing the amendment at this point? Or do you want to consider doing the amendment sometime later on, like to make sure that it is effective, or that that we can actually get it working for Alligator Point first, before adding anything? Commissioner Amison speaking, well, I would like to know before we spend another \$8,000-10,000. Mrs. Griffith speaking, I mean, this is kind of a second go, so it would be best to. Commissioner Amison speaking, I want to just get through this free month, that is the contract, and see what they can come back as far as, can say you know what transpired. Chairman Jones speaking, so that is the motion. Mr. Moron speaking, let me make sure I am clear on our intent for myself and Attorney Shuler is to have something for you to look at, yes at the meeting on the 18th, for you to decide if Commissioner Amison might be in full agreement or not based on the concession. So, we have to have that discussion, though, so that we get something solved as soon as possible. Chairman Jones speaking, to support what is happening with the sheriff's office. Chairman Jones speaking, so is there any more discussion before we vote? All in favor? Any opposed? That is unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.** Thank you for your time today. Thank you both for being here. Brad, thank y'all. We appreciate it.

The Board recessed at 11:20 am and reconvened at 11:33 am.

## **County Coordinator & Attorney Reports**

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

Mr. Moron speaking, before I begin, there is a hand raised on the attendees of Miss Theresa Jacobs, I did not see a speaker card, so that is why I did not recognize Miss Jacobs, but I do not know if she did it accidentally or not. I will try and get with Miss Jacobs afterwards and see what the issue is, and then we will figure it out. I have one item which is actually a discussion action item, which Commissioner Amison, as you see my narrative, he attended the last partnership meeting, and he wants to discuss this with the board. He was informed of the amounts in the house budget, the senate budget, versus what the governor would like them to approve for Apalachicola Bay funding. And I will let him take over after he speaks to the board informs you guys, you guys have this discussion. What he is looking for in the end is a letter, the chairman to sign a letter of support for this actual funding request.

Commissioner Amison speaking, it is basically a repeat of last year, if y'all remember, the governor asked for 20 million. I think at the time, the Senate had agreed on five, and then the house was zero, and then they settled at 2.4. This year, it is a \$30 million ask from the governor. We were updated at the partnership last week that this was FWC update. Where it was at right now was the senate was at 15 million, and the house was at 2.1. No, I am sorry, I got my numbers crossed. It was 2.1 last year, and I think the house, or this year, is at 2.4. I know the city of Apalachicola has done sent a letter off to the legislators trying to support, you know, give them support of the governor's request. I figured that we as a county need to kind of mirror that as well. I do not know what to do at this point, because we all know this whole community knows without material in the water, our bay is never coming back. That is just the bottom line. I mean, call it what it is. But obviously, the rest of the state of Florida only want to just to me personally, and this is just me, but when our bay opened up, it was, you know, it is on fire. Everybody was excited all the state, and everybody wanted to take a picture holding a bag of oysters, and, you know this and that, yeah, but now, when it comes time to pony up, it is nothing again. So that is my frustration. So, take that for what it is. But the ask is that we get the chairman to sign this and see if we can get some support from the legislators during the session up there.

Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I do have a couple questions in terms of the letter, and I am trying to

pull it up right now. But is there a way that we can broaden that? I know we are the request is sending it to the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee on ag, environmental, general government. But can we expand that and send it to any and everybody out there that we can, I mean anybody that we do not send it the governor, because he is obviously asking for it. But send it to the senator Albritton, sent it to speaker Perez at the house, and to this individual here, that way they know where we stand, and also remind representative Perez that we gave him a bag of these oysters that he did not know how to shop. Right? So, I mean, I agree with Commissioner Anderson. It is frustrating, you know, they say they will not, they will not. They want, they support, support, support, but then their actions, or otherwise, you know, gives us otherwise ideas about what. So, I would like to do that, as long as the rest of the board's okay with that. Just expand it, in addition to sending it to Senator bro door, to Speaker of the House, Perez and Senator Albritton for the senate president. Anyone else invite everybody to be given a letter?

Commissioner Sanders speaking, but now you have, what you have to remember is that, if I am not mistaken, I think the session goes out 13th, which is next Friday. It is going to happen quickly. We need to do it quick, because this is where they start to get together, to bounce out, you know, the half and cents trying to, you know, come together. So, if we do not go ahead and get that thing in there, we are going to miss an opportunity. Mr. Moron speaking, yeah, tomorrow, Angela and I will get the letter together. Besides sending it snail mail, I will make sure it goes out by email tomorrow, which will indicate it is going to be followed up with a with a letter from the you. Commissioner Amison speaking, can I ask a question just for my education on this? Because I am obviously still learning the state and the county, for that matter, but don't they have to read in the comments or whenever, when they are in session, don't they have to? I do not know exactly how that works, into the minutes? Commissioner Ward speaking, I do not know how that works, because we do. Obviously, somebody says the letters they have paid this part of your public record. I do not know how that works up from the state. Chairman Jones speaking, I do know just to help clarify, because I had the same concerns, so I reached out to the representative when I saw the three of the 15 and the 2.1, I think it was, and he assured me that that, yes, that is what the house has said. But there's also money in a bill, agricultural bill that is close to 25 million. Commissioner Amison speaking, but that goes to the Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Sanders speaking, yes, that is going to be in your Department of Agricultural budget. Man, it is what they are going to have. Commissioner Ward speaking, they are going to have to spend that throughout the state. Commissioner Amison speaking, that is the thing on the governor's ask with the FWC. It is specific in there. The language is Apalachicola Bay. Chairman Jones speaking, we can ask them to see if that specific language that I did not ask, but that is what I was told. So, there's money in that preparation request, but there's also money in the language of a bill. Commissioner Sanders speaking, because you remember, they did some legislation, and they did the Apalachicola Bay, but then I am on the bottom it with the Big Bend for like fifty counties and all that. So, if it is specified for Apalachicola Bay, this is the only place they will be spent at. But if it is not, then you do not have to shoot. Mr. Moron speaking, you know, Mr. Chairman, how about reaching out to the lobbyists and see if there is any way. Let me copy Erin and put a trigger word, a trigger sentence that say, hey, that money that is going to Department of Ag, could you designate some of that specifically for the bay? Yeah, see, he could help us construct the wording, the way the conversation, too. Yeah, okay. Commissioner Croom speaking, I know take way more than this, because we always talk about material, but have we ever reached out to Leavins over here with all the oyster shells that they got? Like, how does that work? Commissioner Amison speaking, I am not going to speak specifically on Leavins' business, but a lot of those oyster shells, what the trend is now, and people do not realize this is that. Whenever they buy shelves, or, you know, I saw shelves are shut oysters and predominantly all that comes from Louisiana, Texas, and out of state, and it has done that for years. They do not shuck Apalachicola oysters. Now, what is happening is those companies are wanting their shells back. So that's part of purchasing that. If you will notice, at Leavins on the other side of the road, they got those vats set up, and they are putting their shells in those vats. They are putting more semi-trailer back out because that, per se, is still part of property of the and that is a trend that is starting to happen more and more. I know it is in discussion with another oyster dealer and. You all know her, but I am not going to throw any names out here, but she is a little more you know, she can get her feathers ruffled, and they told her, we want our shells back. She said, when I buy that bag oysters, I buy everything in that bag. Those are my shells. But in that discussion, like she told me, eventually, you know that to stay in the game, you are going to have to comply down the road somewhere with who is the person you are purchasing from, but that is what that is. A matter of fact, me and my dad was riding the other day, and he made the joke and said, Darren, and better get that fella in here. They do not have a mountain. But to answer your question, a lot of those shells have to go back. They bought them from I have had that discussion with FWC and partnership. We have discussed that because a lot of times have just changed. They are doing, they are more proactive out there on, you know, shelling and stuff like that. You know, replanting their beds and all than we are in Florida, to be honest with you. It is a shame, but that is the case. But you got to look at the size of the shellfish programs out here. They got a lot more area where, here it is just Apalachicola, the Big Bend area right there, and then

the rest of the state do not really care, until you open it after it has been closed five years, and everybody wants one, and they will not get a picture. But that is basically where we are at. Chairman Jones speaking, so, do we ever make a motion or a vote? **Commissioner Ward speaking, I did not, because I asked if we could expand on it. So, I am going to make a motion to expand and send letters to the honorable Broder, to House Representative speaker Perez and to Senate President Albritton. Commissioner Amison seconded.** Mr. Moron speaking, so the list that I have in the narrative, plus the Speaker of the House and the Senate President basically what we are doing. Commissioner Ward speaking, correct. And again, in Perez's letter, say you remember eating the oysters. I am serious because he got a bag. Send him a picture. Yes, I got the picture. Let me send it to y'all. Chairman Jones speaking, so, we do have a motion and second Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Amison. Commissioner Croom speaking, Chair, I got a question, since we are on discussion with the second so would it be beneficial for a lobbyist or one of us to appear before the appropriation committee on this. Chairman Jones speaking, I guess we could. I do not know how that what they do that. We need to find out. Mr. Moron speaking, we could ask our lobbyist to give us a little guidance on that. Commissioner Croom speaking, our lobbyist at the school had to go, different situation. Sometimes it is good to see people in person. Chairman Jones speaking, alright, any more discussion before we vote? All in favor, opposed? That is unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Moron speaking, alright, commissioners making a note, I am sorry. Alright, so everything else is informational. Commissioners, item two, Duke sent in their annual staging for both the airport. I sent the airport to Mr. Kirschenbaum and to Mr. George Wilkinson, Chair of AOED and, I believe to Andrew also, so they have a copy of that. If you guys have any issues or comments with either staging area, please let me know, and I will reach back out to Duke. Commissioner Amison and Commissioner Sanders both had separate conversations with separate people from FWC about the report. Basically, I am hearing from both of them. It looks like April, because they have to gather the information, review it, and then have it where they can present it to you in that manner. So that is what we are looking at. If I hear anything different, I will let the board know. Commissioner Amison speaking, I can elaborate on that real quick. Originally going back, the intention FWC was leaning more towards an October opening, and they thought they were going to have ample time to get this app, get all that done. Well, remember, in August, I think it was August when we were Havana, the FWC commission actually said, no, we are going to open it in January. So, they were burning the candle at both ends to try to get this implemented. Then they have been very lenient. FWC has on violation stuff like that because they knew they were having some issues. Technically, everything, the hell in hell out, the reporting. And I asked Morgan specifically about that, because I knew we had discussed bringing them before us at the prior meeting here, and she said late on, late April would be more than likely a better time, because they are they have conflicting reports on their end, because the DAX, who has to track oysters for consumption reasons, their numbers are higher than what they're actually got on FWC. So, it is going to take a little while for all that to kind of the dust to settle, so to speak, and then they have an actual, accurate report. And I for one, would rather them show up here with all the information, then having to get back with us. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I did call John Kramer because some of the oystermen called me. This is the only thing I called him about, and they wanted to know where they had to reapply for October or not? So that is what the discussion was with John Kramer, and then I said, when did y'all expect to have the information to be able to come the Board? And he said, you know, sometime in April. Commissioner Amison speaking, I would lean towards the latter part of it as well. Chairman Jones speaking, just whenever they are ready is fine, but yeah, some of those questions do need to be answered so people will know ahead of time. What else? Michael? Mr. Moron speaking, the item for Tom Messer, he serves as a coordinator for the AOED. Unfortunately, he was depending on someone to take over some of his responsibilities out in Wisconsin. He teaches, I think there is a teenage class on flying and stuff, and that person backed out. So, Tom is more engaged there than he planned to be. So, he is asked to step away from his responsibilities as an AOED coordinator. I will serve on this role, and, you know, see if it changes, if he can take, pick it back up, if not, then we will, I will come back to the board and we will try and figure out someone else. But I would like the board to, the original agreement was that we took Tom off the board to serve in this role, and if he ever stops in his role, we could put him back on the board. There is still that slot open. I want to make sure you guys do not mind me asking Tom, would he mind serving? Because he could still contribute a whole lot via zoom to their meetings. If the board is in agreement? I did not really ask for action. I just want to make sure you guys are good with that. That was our original agreement when we moved in from a board member to the coordinator. Chairman Jones speaking, is he still going to be living here? Mr. Moron speaking, oh yeah, yeah, he will be living here. And to let you know the AOED has done something really cool, so now they meet twice a month. The second Tuesday of the month is a workshop where they discuss in more detail a lot of the items that is before them that they are interested in moving on to. So, by the time they get to their regular meeting at the fourth Tuesday of the month, they have pretty much talked out some of the stuff that is on the agenda. So, it is more of a business-like meeting where they move on and make motions and that. So yeah, the two meetings bring him here

extra. It is a little bit more work, but it is working out really well for AOED. Let me tell you guys that much really, it really is. It kind of solves the results of one of the items on that plan to basically charge for the waiting list. That was one of the results of a very long workshop discussion with Andrew, yeah, I attached ARPC meeting notes. Is there anything else, Mr. Chairman, that you want to bring to life? Chairman Jones speaking, I would like to make sure this board is aware. You probably are and to make sure the public is also aware. So, all the different organizations that we have, whether it be the Florida Association of Counties, the Small County Coalition, the Regional Planning Council, all these different organizations, they are all as engaged as they should be and can be, about the issues in the legislature this year, the concern taking away home brew. So it's even at the ARPC level, they are things that they're attempting to do or discussing, as far as planning approval of stuff being built on property, there's just a litany of things that they're making sure, not only are we continuing to be kept up to date on where the discussions at but if and when the opportunity presents itself, kind of the talking points to make sure they understand what they're voting on, some of the things that some of the consequences they're going to create that they maybe haven't thought of. Because that is the thing any of us can pass anything at any time, but sometimes there are unintended consequences. You know that you cannot force it. So, it is our job to make sure that they definitely are seeing that at the state level, where they are passing things that concern home rule and our ability to legislate for the people of our county. That was some of that stuff was in those notes. So y'all see it when you look at it. Mr. Moron speaking, item six, Mr. Chairman, just for the board record, I signed on some documents for the phase two of the Franklin 98 living shoreline project. Is so that they include that area in front of the in East Point, the visitor center, visitor center, sorry, TDC, visitor center. That is just for a reference point for that document. I am sorry, your meeting dates there. So, I have a three items, three I just want to discuss with the board that came up. One of them, yeah, came up yesterday. One I got a call. She was in the doctor's Park, 11 doctor's office from Renee, pretty upset up to now, she has not received, yesterday, she said any, if I'm not mistaken, but I know for sure she has not received all the inventory list from all the volunteer fire departments for the emergency work that this board commissioned Williams to do, because those same some of those chiefs stood in front of you guys and said, hey, we have a dire situation. We need you guys to do something. You guys got some paid from ad valorem money, basically, to get this done. And so, we are there. We are waiting for that inventory. I think there is some confusion where some of the chiefs think, well, if they are getting paid all this money, I think they are referencing the big project, which is the, you know, being funded by Triumph, and where we have these weekly meetings with the communication, no, this is not that. So that group will be more hands on. They will be more involved, because you probably will be getting more newer radios as part of that deal. This is just you guys' paid Williams to create a, I hate the word temporary, but a newer network that would allow all the volunteer fire departments to talk to Sheriff, to talk to each other, to talk between departments. But William needs that list, because right now we are the Sheriff Department is good to go. They already hit the switch. Williams is good to go. But without that list, then they will not be able to communicate. Chairman Jones speaking, the other thing that come up when I was talking to Mr. Day, was, so they could charge us extra. They could come and inventory each department and do it their self, and then try to turn it on one at a time. But that is not going to be there better than what they got right now, to try to phase it in. The whole idea is to get all the inventory just turn it over. Mr. Moron speaking, she told me, in one day, if everybody cooperates, they can have this done in one day. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I contacted fire departments I am supposed to contact, yeah, and they messaged me back thumbs up. Mr. Moron speaking, I will double check with Jared from Williams Communication, and then reach back out to each of you and let you know who reported. Okay, I know today, she said she is with her father at the doctor's appointment, but I will get her talk to her about that tomorrow. Let me make sure because we need to get this done commissioners as soon as possible. I will work on that and have her call you guys tomorrow. Commissioner Ward speaking, if I need to call anybody, let me know. Mr. Moron speaking, okay, I sure will. Mr. Moron speaking, next item I have is, so on Friday, the Chairman met with 2k Web Group, which is now Tide Marketing, and they had a very good meeting. So, we think we have a plan. Actually, I got a long email from them right before the meeting about the steps, how we are going to move forward for the ADA website thing. So, we seem to be good there. As a matter of fact, the meeting was so good, it looks like they are going to work with the Chairman on some other marketing projects to help market the county. Because I know that there are things that the Chairman has on his list he wants to deal with, and they are willing to do that. So that is a good move. Very successful. And I thank you for that, sir, and that by the next meeting, I should have the organizational chart that Commissioner Croom has been working diligently. Yep, with that, I think him, and he's tasked Angela, she has been working with him. I think he is at a point where he is ready. What I will probably do, send it to you guys, just in case you have any little tweaks, run it back by the commissioner, and then we should have it presented for approval at the next meeting. I think that is it. Chairman Jones speaking, I will say too Michael, we are talking with Sterling and Tana, Mr., and Mrs. Kendrick the other day. So, I do think we have something we can work with for ADA compliance, because I remind the board, yes, we have a little bit of time, but time sure goes by when you are doing what we are doing, and the ADA compliance that is under the federal government now that is coming, involves fines and penalties

if you are not compliant, it is a serious thing. It is really you do not think a lot about it until you start thinking about site plans. That is drawings, and, you know, it has got that has got to be something where it switches and it is something they can read, yeah, you know this building that builds north of the road, or it is got to be legible for those that have need that compliance. Mr. Moron speaking, I do not look good in prison attire, so I would prefer we get it worked out. Chairman Jones speaking, but also, I talked to them about just so you guys know, also talked to them about redoing our web pages and putting them all under one everything that is the county. So, from administration to building department, the zoning department, road department, emergency management, everything, mosquito control. Everybody has got a part on that web, and it is a consistent looking field. Another thing I talked about that we have talked about in recent years, but we have not moved it on, but I think they are wanting to help with the project, is coming up with a strategic plan, something that is a document that our residents can look at. This is what we plan to do for the next five years, of where your money is going to go should we get our hands on it. They are all in. Mr. Moron speaking, think they are more excited about that than the website. Commissioner Sanders speaking, sometimes you cannot do that because you do not know what the funding mechanisms are going to be state level. But I would love to do that to see and that is what I do. You know, like four years ago, when I came on board again, I had a vision. What was my vision? And I have accomplished it. Okay, what is my vision for the next four years? You know that is what we need to do at the board. Then we know what we are going. Commissioner Croom speaking, with your website, if you reference, I see on Jackson County's website, but they got a spot on there. I would like to see a spot incorporated for your org chart which shows complete transparency of the positions and everything. Now with, when we talk about the org chart, I do not want to, I want, I do not want to get confused with what we call position control sheet, which right, which shows every position part time and all that will not be on our org chart. You will see our exposition. So just want to make sure y'all know position control and org chart is two different things. Mr. Moron speaking, yeah, before I go, just in case there is another person that are raising their hand, I will ask them to give me a call like Miss Jacobs at 653-5077, they did not fill out a speaker card, so I cannot recognize them at this time, all right, and it could be about the fire department, I don't know, but they give me a call, I'll try and work with them. That is, it, sir. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I have got something really important. On the 14th of March, we are going to have Camp Gordon Johnson Day. Did we make a decision whether we are going to try to do some of those side to sides from the different departments, or we are going to get one big thing from Matt? Mr. Moron speaking, so, after I said and I agree to renting one the last time I was scolded by my finance director, telling me, you got to be careful with that. What we are allowed to do as rentals or not, so I will have to wrap it up as travel down the road. You guys are registered for the parade. Angela took care of that. So, yes, so it is now just getting a ride. Commissioner Croom speaking, mine is quick, Michael, where we at on, I remember I brought to you, I let the board know I was in a meeting at the county office, and with, like, a SHIP and one of the guys he jokingly falls over and, like, I thought he was, like, he did a stumble. I am thinking, like, quickly, where is the AD? We did not need it. Did not have it. So, I attached Michael with working on with, I guess EMS, or whoever, Richie Louie about making sure we got ADs in our county offices. That is immediately what I thought of I knew I did not have one in my truck. It was my other vehicle. So, where we at on the whole AD? Mr. Moron speaking, Louie has them now. They came in. He has them. He is programming them, and he is going to install them here probably within the next week or two. So, one in East Point, one in the Carrabelle annex, one at Solid Waste. Am I getting this right? And two, road department will have one up front, I think, have one in the garage, in the shop, in the back, I believe not the garage shop. Commissioner Ward speaking, and I guess, speaking of that, are they going to have some kind of training? Mr. Moron speaking, yes Louis will provide training. Commissioner Sanders speaking, if somebody did that to me, I just have to do CPR. It is miraculous. You know, you never do know when you are going to have to have that type of training. My brother and I, just got to tell this story, and this relates to the ambulance service. We were at a local establishment last Monday, was a week ago, and one of the servers, I could tell she was sick. And I had my cousin there, and she is an oncologist nurse. I said, you need to take her. But anyway, I said, take care of that lady right there. Make a long story short, she ended up having a heart attack. But you know what was right there? The ambulance. Because we knew something was wrong with him, we call the ambulance to her establishment. We knew something was wrong. She would have been dead if we had done that. So that is what we are talking about, emergency medical, medical services. That is what we are talking about. That is the best you can be, right there, you know, because you do not never know when you go need it, like you did not know. Play a prank. I go and tell somebody I am picked to put CPR on. They said, I am fine, you know, but it is a real thing. It really happens. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I do have something for Michael. I know last year in terms of talking about SHIP, we had a way where we came up because I know SHIP is obviously a state funded program, and I know that each individual county can make their own rules. Last year, I thought we decided to incorporate being able to purchase mobile homes through the ship funds. I want to see if there is an additional way that we can make it to where, so say, for example, someone already has an existing new mobile home on a piece of property that is being sold. I guess the question what we need to see if we could do is

if we can apply SHIP for down payment assistance for mobile homes that are already existing. I know that we don't, I know we would have to change the language with SHIP. We just have to, like we did with the mobile homes, we have to change the verbiage in our county. How we do it within the county? I do have someone checking in on that for me, someone from Wakulla County, because Wakulla County does it, and I think Gulf County does it. I have got someone checking into how their language is, and so when I find out what that is, I will get it to you so that we can maybe incorporate that. Okay, the next time we want to just go ahead and check with Florida Housing too. Check it out. Michael Cheney, he is our kind of our contact with Florida Housing. Thanks, that is all. Chairman Jones speaking, and it still would not change the amount, the percentage that we are able to spend toward. Mr. Moron speaking, I am so glad you said. I have to make sure because they have this crazy 30% cap on manufactured homes. So, I am hoping that a down payment assistance. Chairman Jones speaking, manufactured homes are not the same for them. Mr. Moron speaking, that is the term. So, there are two terms. So manufactured replace mobile for them, and then the other term is modular. Modular they treat like a stick built. So yes, there are no, no restrictions there. But mobile manufactured, they treat different 30% modules considered the same as home. So, what I have to figure out, they will this crazy 30% cap. Chairman Jones speaking, it will still apply. Does not matter what you do. I hate if you do it as down payment assistance or full purchase, it is still going to apply, yeah, but if. Commissioner Ward speaking, yeah, we I would like to have the flexibility that way, if something comes up then, and you know, maybe there is a way around the 30% cap. Chairman Jones speaking, I do not know either. We will see, but it is pretty tight. Mr. Moron speaking, not to make this discussion going much longer, but if Rural Renaissance kicks in. It would help our SHIP program. Chairman Jones speaking, it would help a lot of our programs, because it provides, if anybody for SCRAP and SCOP, yes, road pavement assistance that I think right now we could submit two a year. Under Rural Renaissance, we could submit either four or five a year. Mr. Moron speaking, yeah, it is a big difference, but I will check on that for you. Commissioner Amison speaking, Chairman, I got one thing for Michael. The hospital board has been asked to evaluate Mr. Walker. Remember, we had that discussion, check into that and see Mr. Chairman Jones speaking, well, he is an employee of Alliant. Commissioner Amison speaking, that is what I was trying to get to the bottom of, if that is the case, that should be an evaluation of this board, not the hospital. Last year he got pay raise, and we were not aware of it. So just check into that, if you would please, because I am not sure where that is going. And I have had a couple board members, hospital board members, that are kind of like, what are we supposed to do, and whatnot. Mr. Moron okay, I sure will, sir. Chairman Jones speaking, Michael, I have one other thing. Where are we at with SHIP, also? Mr. Moron speaking, I am waiting for Carolyn herself to call me back. So, what I have is an agreement. I am waiting for a little bit of change in the terminology. So, we have one year. We actually have three fiscal year, but one year we have that we really need some help cleaning up in order to move on, because it is delinquent with the state, and if so, it is from when Community Action had it, I believe. So, what I have gotten a proposal from Caroline. It is outside the other ARPC from management of the other funds, of the other SHIP funds that we have. So, I do not want to confuse the two. This will be prior to the years that we agreed to in the agreement. I just wanted this to be a separate agreement. This is like a onetime thing, 30 hours get this year, audit it, and fix for us so we can move on. So yes, I kind of, I do not know if Carolyn was out of the office or what. I reached out to her earlier. I am going to reach out again this afternoon, after our we have a two o'clock meeting and find out what is going on, because I need to get that done. And that I will it is below any amount that I need to bring to the board. I am just going to sign that and get that moving so I have that information item that I signed it. But that is where we are once, we get that year audited and closed, we are on, you know. So, we, the state already approved the new LHAPs. You know, where we put the manufactured homes, we kind of put it in years past where it was not. So, we could spend some of that past money on that. So, I just need this one year closed out. Chairman Jones speaking, so I need to ask a question subsequent to that. So there's a family in my district that were in that process when Courtni was still here, and they moved out of their house into something that was less than the house that needs to be replaced by SHIP, because the house was that bad, because they were under the impression, from what they were told, that it was going to move along quicker, and it's almost a year later, yes. So is there any conversation we could have to find a way to completely clear their property and at least give them an RV or something to leave it until they until we get the SHIP stuff straight. Mr. Moron speaking, not on the SHIP. You cannot use the SHIP money for that. Chairman Jones speaking, okay. Well, is there another way to have that conversation. Because they actually moved to a place that was worse than what they were replacing with SHIP. They do not have a lot of stuff, because they were told to, you know, this will all get replaced. If you find somebody to give it, to give it to them, now they are using a camp stove. It is not a good situation. Mr. Moron speaking, I will see. So, there were three applications accepted, but at a time this whole 30% cash was not known. Modular is good because it is like a stick built. The issue is, once you give them a modular, know that I do not know what their current situation is, but it is property to evaluate differently, their taxes, the insurance, a whole lot of other things. I do not want to put them in a in a position to lose basically, you know, by doing a modular, and they like, look, because with that, then this involves their property too. If there is a problem, they do not pay their taxes, somebody else buys their tax

certificates and all that. Yeah, you know, I do not want to make it, it would look like we are doing a better job. But honestly, we could be setting somebody else more conversation, yes, so you can potentially put them in more of a financial burden I can. I will not feel good about that. Commissioner Sanders speaking, who do the people contact that are in the pipeline to get something done or an update? Mr. Moron speaking, I will have Tina Boone. Tina Boone is our local point of contact for the SHIP program, so I will have her reach out to all three and update them as to where we are. She is very good with that. Commissioner Amison speaking, I mean, we even picked out colors. Mr. Moron speaking, so, I do not want to call their names publicly, the three applicants, let us not do that. That is not fair to them. Commissioner Ward speaking, so Senate Bill, 250, Rural Renaissance. It passed the Senate, but its future in the House remains uncertain, with reports indicating it may die due to lack of movement almost through itself. I am trying to keep up with all these bills and the property tax things and everything, and all these HBS. There is a lot. It is very overwhelming. But I did remember looking that up yesterday, and I remember seeing that is why I was saying, I do not think it is going to go I hate it, but that's heartbreaking.

The Board moved to Attorney Shuler's add on item at this time.

1. Discussion/Action Item: Apalachicola Bay Letter of Support
  - At the last Partnership for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay meeting, it was brought to Commissioner Amison's attention that the Florida House's proposed amount for oyster restoration funding in the upcoming fiscal year is significantly less than the Governor's suggested \$30 million.
  - Commissioner Amison would like to discuss this matter with the Board.
  - After the discussion, Commissioner Amison would like the Board to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of support (sample attached) addressed to the County's State Legislative Delegation, Senator Jason Brodeur (Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government), and Representative John Snyder (Chairman of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee).
  - **Board discussion and action to approve the Chairman's signature on a letter of support.**
2. Informational Item: Duke Staging @ Apalachicola Airport & Will Kendrick Park
  - As done every year prior to the commencement of hurricane season, Duke Energy submitted the staging site maps for the Apalachicola Airport and Will Kendrick Park for your review.
  - Let me know if you have any comments or questions for Duke Energy.
3. Informational Item: FWC Report on Apalachicola Bay Limited Reopening
  - At your last meeting, the Board requested a summary report from FWC on the limited reopening of the Apalachicola Bay for oyster harvesting that lasted from January 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - At the recent Partnership meeting, Commissioner Amison had the opportunity to speak to Ms. Erika Burgess (Analysis and Rulemaking Section Leader) and on another occasion Commissioner Sanders spoke to Mr. Jon Cream (Regional Director) about the Board's request.
  - Their response was similar in that it will take some time to receive and process and then convert the data for a presentation.
  - It is more than likely that the data will be presented at one of your April meetings.
4. Informational Item: AOED Coordinator
  - Due to other commitments and responsibilities, Mr. Tom Mescher can no longer serve as the AOED Coordinator.
  - Until a replacement is appointed, I will serve in this role.
  - I will ask the AOED to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Mescher for volunteering to serve in this role.
5. Informational Item: ARPC Meeting Notes
  - Attached is the ARPC Board notes from their February 2026 meeting.
  - Chairman Jones can answer questions regarding the ARPC meeting.
6. Informational Item: Franklin-98 Living Shoreline Project
  - Attached are an application and Boundary Line Agreement for Phase II of the Franklin-98 Living Shoreline Project.

- Let me know if you have questions or comments regarding this project.

7. Informational Item: March 2026 Meeting Dates

- Your next regular meeting is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- The Planning and Zoning meeting is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.
- The Airport Operations Economic Development Board workshop is scheduled on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and the regular meeting is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.
- Weems Board of Directors regular meeting will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>.

## 17. Michael Shuler – County Attorney

Attorney Shuler speaking, commissioners, I am requesting that you authorize an executive session regarding the pending lawsuit filed by the Landing at SGI LLC against Franklin County. Case Number 2025-CA-56 pending in Franklin County, Florida and pursuant to 280 6.011 (8) is the section that authorizes the Executive Session. A couple of things I just need to run down through the statute for you. First and most importantly, the entity's attorney shall advise the entity at a public meeting that he or she desires advice concerning the litigation. So that is the reason I am asking you to authorize the executive session because I desire to have advice concerning this litigation that I just mentioned. The subject matter of the meeting shall be confined to settlement negotiations or strategy sessions related to litigation expenses and higher sessions shall be recorded by a certified court reporter. The reporter shall record the times of commencement and termination of the set session, all discussion and proceedings, the names of all persons present at any time and the names of all persons speaking. No portion of the session shall be off the record. The court reporter's notes shall be fully transcribed and filed with the clerk of the court within a reasonable time after the meeting, the entity shall give reasonable notice of the time and date of the attorney client session and the name the persons who will be attending session shall commence at an open meeting, at which person carrying the meeting shall announce the commencement and estimated length of the attorney client session, in the names of the persons attending. At the conclusion of the attorney client session, the meeting shall be reopened, and the person sharing the meeting shall announce the termination of the session. Finally, the transcript from the court reporter shall be made part of the public record. Upon conclusion of the litigation, I would request two things, one, that the board authorized me to conduct this executive session. And then secondly, if you do authorize it, to let me know when you want to hold this meeting. Chairman Jones speaking, so what commissioners, if we are considering doing this, what date do you think would work better for you? Mr. Moron speaking, April 1st at 2:00 pm is what I would recommend, after talking to all the board members about their schedules. Commissioner Ward speaking, okay, that is on our normal schedule meeting. Mr. Moron speaking, yeah, a regular meeting day, so you do not have to, you know, come back on a separate day. Chairman Jones speaking, so, yeah, if you are good with that, I do think we need to have the discussion. I am good with all that, but it is, you know, whatever y'all want to do. Commissioner Ward speaking, I am fine with that, as long as everybody else is okay with that. I will make a motion to; can we make it in just one motion Attorney Shuler or do we need to make it in two? Attorney Shuler speaking, I think it can be in one motion. Commissioner Ward speaking, **I will make a motion to authorize an executive session on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm in this boardroom. Chairman Jones speaking, all right, motion to approve this action by Commissioner Ward with the time and place specific and we have a second by Commissioner Amison.** Any discussion? Seeing none. All in favor. Any opposed? That is a five zero vote. Anything else Attorney Shuler? Attorney Shuler speaking, no sir. Chairman Jones speaking, I guess you heard we made a pretty good mess for you earlier with Barnacle, but we will have time to discuss that. Mr. Moron speaking, yes, I will get with you later on that one.

### Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Amison speaking, just let y'all know I am going to Albany on April 28th to speak at ACF. They have asked me to come up there and speak on the behalf of water flows from a partnership standpoint.

Chairman Jones speaking, yesterday I got an email from Mr. Clayton, which is up in Alabama, to go along with the update they are doing on the opportunity zone 2.0. They are actually talking about doing opportunity zones for waterways. And they are actually talking about the ACF basin being one of those opportunity zones. To try to help get industry on the river some way, somehow, there is already some up in Bainbridge in Georgia and all, but they are having to go upstream and somewhere else because there's not enough water flow to bring it down here. They are having to go around their head to get to their fist to deliver stuff that they are producing, some places there they are on the waterway, but that's also part of the discussion, and another part of discussion that I will send an email to Mr.

Moron which concerns, RCSC, I want him to send it all to you guys. They are in the process of trying to get their own EIN number so they can actually be working as a as a legal entity. Currently not. I will send that information to Mr. Moron. Let him send it to all you guys. Mr. Moron speaking, I am sorry, to become a legal entity, is what you said. Chairman Jones speaking, so, what they had been doing, and I come about this information from the ARPC, what they had been doing. And I did not even know this from years back, there was an agreement that they, the ARPC was doing some of their office work type stuff, including filing of paperwork, some of their accounting. So, the EIN number that was being used with a ARPCs EIN number, but the new legal counsel for the ARPC said that we need to find a way to differentiate that relationship. That does not need to be going that way. So, I will send it to you that email, and you can send to the rest of the board. It is not nothing negative. I just want to make sure the board's aware of it. Commissioner Croom speaking, have we heard anything on our appropriations. Chairman Jones speaking, so far, they are still not down to the final stuff, but so far between either the House or the Senate, everything that was asked for from the county is in consideration. Mr. Moron speaking, yeah, some of it half the amount, but yes, I will see. If I got a current list. Let me ask Tracy. Commissioner Croom speaking, I have seen where, I am sure you have seen on the news, where Gulf County got \$5 million. Commissioner Amison speaking, you are talking about with the governor, they got more than that, the city got some too. They got a bunch of money. But Mr. Chairman, I have got one thing before we get out of here, and I just need a history lesson while I got everybody right here, close by, it will probably come from Commissioner Sanders, to be honest. Whenever we were a critical state of concern, why did the county, at that time request the state to take us off of that? Chairman Jones speaking, we did not request it. Commissioner Amison speaking, okay, I am just trying to figure out why they removed us. Commissioner Sanders speaking, it started out as area of state critical concern. And then what they did is they took us off of that and put it on an area of state, economic concern. It is the same thing, but it is just a different name for it. That is how it happened. Chairman Jones speaking, they left the city as critical. Commissioner Sanders speaking, yeah, they left the City of Apalachicola underneath the critical concern. That is how it got with the water. Commissioner Amison speaking, well, there is no difference in the in the two? Commissioner Sanders speaking, yeah, the economic part of it, because the bay was shutting down, and all like that. That is where the economic part came in. Mr. Moron speaking, yeah, that I have to look at it again, to see the difference. I will see if I can find out for you. Commissioner Sanders speaking, there is a difference. That is where the enterprise zones come out, the opportunity zones come into it. That is the reason why they changed it as an area of state critical concern to state economic concern. Chairman Jones speaking, if they did not own so much more property. Commissioner Amison speaking, we believe that ship has sailed. Chairman Jones speaking, we do not have the ability to do anything different, you know. Commissioner Amison speaking, I had somebody the other day ask me about state giving back property. I said, you do not want that to happen, because that is going to come out to a bid. Chairman Jones speaking, any other Commissioner comments.

### **Adjournment**

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

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**Ricky Jones – Chairman**

**Attest:**

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**Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts**

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