

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
APRIL 1, 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, David Theriaque for 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, Mr. Moron, does anything need to be added to the agenda, or does it need to be amended in any way before we approve it? Mr. Moron speaking, yes, not added, but amended. Mr. Chairman, so first I would like to move up my discussion Item 14 about code enforcement. I would like to move that up before you do any of your department directors reports after public comments. The reason being, the sheriff has, as you can see, quite a few of his staff here today and I would like to expand that discussion to now include RVs/campers and the possibility of the sheriff working closer, or with Mrs. Smith under code enforcement, he would like to bring that under his fold, because we have resolved some of the issues, we had the last time. A lot of those are now resolved, and he thinks together they can accomplish more with the support of his staff. So, I would like to have that discussion, make it early so that these fine gentlemen that are sitting in the back room do not have to sit all day, and they could leave and do all the things the sheriff wants them to do. Also, Jennifer Daniels does not have a report, but she is online. She would like to address you about something that came up late yesterday, about a burn ban. So, she is online to discuss that with the board, so know that she is there. And I think that is it for now. I just love we have a very cool deal here with the Supervisor of Elections and her sticker contest. That is very cool. I know some of you thought when you saw Lauren walk in the door, she was coming back, wrong answer. That is not what she is here for. Chairman Jones speaking, you do not have to dash hope that quickly. All right. Anything else? Michael, is that it? Mr. Moron speaking, I hope that is it for now, sir. Chairman Jones speaking, so we need a motion to amend the agenda as it has been published and then use it to the rest of this meeting. **On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda as amended by Mr. Moron. Motion carried 5-0.**

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

1. Approval of Minutes
2. County Bill List for Payment

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Payment of County Bills and the FCBC Regular Meeting Minutes from 3/4/2026 and Special Meeting 3/25/2026. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Awards and Recognitions**

3. **Honorable Heather C. Riley -- Supervisor of Elections -- Sticker Contest Winner**

Mrs. Heather Riler, Supervisor of Elections speaking, good morning. At the beginning of the year, we issued an invitation to our middle and high school students across the county to participate in an 'I Voted' sticker contest. We issued a challenge for them to create something that was civic minded, that was county minded, that was colorful and fun, and we had great participation from ABC Middle School. I want to present our winners here this morning. If I could ask Miss Ella Donahoe and Miss Thea Croom to please come forward.

They did a fantastic job in representing our county with their artwork. First, I want to present Miss Ella Donahoe with her first-place certificate and a check for \$50 and Miss Thea Croom with her second-place certificate and a check for \$25. We are just so thankful that they participated in this. All the artwork is just beautiful. Anybody that would like to come take a look at the artwork, it is hanging in our early voting room, so it is there, and they have little plaques underneath that tells why they chose the artwork that they did. I also want to give Miss Ella a copy of what her sticker is going to look like. Every voter in the primary and general election will have the opportunity to either get this 'I Voted' sticker or the 250-anniversary sticker this year. We want to thank them for their participation, and we are so proud, and we hope next year we have even more participation. So, thank you both so much. Each of the Board members offered their congratulations to the young ladies.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. James Grater speaking, hey, there. I am James Grater at 108 22nd Avenue in Apalachicola, and I am speaking on behalf of the Moving Education Institute, which Frenchy Haynes here is a director of. I am speaking from my personal experience as a volunteer there. I think Frenchy is trying to get some continued support for the program, but last summer was my first experience with the program, and I was volunteered. We did one project, which some of you may have seen, called Letters to our Fathers. We created a video. It is about six minutes long, but this project incorporates many of the arts that the participants, the students, had to be very creative. It involved writing, reading, painting, choreography, and dancing. My part, the project was, Frenchy had asked several of the students to write letters about fatherhood. It could be about their fathers. It could be about their feelings of fatherhood. So that was a writing exercise, and then I recorded individually with my wife's help, we went into a private room, and each one read their letters. So that involved speaking, kind of. I used to work at NBC. I sometimes recorded the announcers there, and it was like a producer, the talent, and an engineer. So that was kind of a professional experience for these students. Then my wife and I went through all these letters and edited sections out that we thought would be pertinent to a larger piece, and then I wrote some music that was going to be part of a kind of a dance performance piece. So, I incorporated their fragments of what they were speaking with music that I wrote, created a soundtrack, and gave that to Frenchy. The other part of the project was the students had to write, create paintings, like five by seven paintings about fathers, and some of them are really abstract. They are really cool paintings. They were at the HCA this summer exhibition. So, it involved painting and another creative aspect of it. Then these paintings were put on rollers, and it was that they were incorporated into the choreography. So, Frenchy and the students created a choreography for this performance piece, which we later recorded and I edited. So anyhow, it involved many aspects of the arts. I was really impressed with the students. I think they all learned a lot. They were very polite. It was a pleasure to work with them. So, I hope the county can come up with some funds. I think it is a really valuable program.

Ms. Kathleen Binder speaking, I am at 108 22nd Avenue, and that is my husband, and he is actually very modest. He is an Emmy Award winning editor. So, these kids got to work with somebody that has had a lot of experience. We need Thea and Ella in this program next summer. My husband, and I moved here, and we are hoping actually to do a music camp for kids. He is a composer. I am sort of a would-be musician, but then we heard about Frenchy's program, and two years ago, we went to a performance, and these two old people sat there with tears running down the face. The kids were just so beautiful to watch. So, this last summer, we did get involved. I knew Jim was going to help them write music, but I contacted Frenchy at one point and said, with the kids, I just thought it would, I have been trying to get kids to come to my house and paint a mural. I thought it would be really fun to have kids do this project, because we do not have kids, and I like to, we like working with kids. Anyway, Frenchy said, no, they cannot come to your house to do that, but would you be interested in helping them make paintings? So here, I am not an artist, Ella and Thea would have been a better art facilitator than I was, so I went to Donna Ingalls shop to get some advice. She donated some fabric. Then I contacted other artists in the community, and now, because of that, we have a potter this summer that is going to help the kids do pottery. So, I do want to encourage you all friends, they are going to ask you for money. I think it is definitely worthwhile. No cost, it is free for the children. Some of the older children get paid to work with the kids. Frenchy does not get paid. Jim and I spent a bazillion hours on this project, and we are so glad we did. We are going to send you a video of Letters to our Fathers. It will make you cry. It is so beautiful. It is very poignant. Some of these children do not have relationships with their fathers. They have complicated relationships with their parents, or that parent. But it is beautiful

and it is heartfelt and very creative. Anyway, I hope you support the project. I have watched Frenchy work with these kids. It looks like chaos when you go in. He has a fabulous rapport with them. He gets them to express themselves in ways I would not expect let me just ask, have you all ever been to one of the Mei finales here? Okay, you have Commissioner Croom. It is like watching joy. It is so joyful. And even if I just if you have not been before, I encourage you to come to one of these, the final performance, because it is joyful, and to see little ones this, like this tall drumming is pretty amazing. So anyway, that is all. I have to just cheerlead about this program. Thank you.

Mr. Frenchy Haynes speaking, good morning, Franklin County Commissioners. My name is Frenchy Haynes. I live at 210 17th Street in Apalachicola. I have been a citizen of Apalachicola for 36 years now, with my partner, Dr Willie Tolliver. In 2021 at the end of the pandemic, I was offered the opportunity by Valentina Webb to start a Summer Arts intensive. And then back in 2021 it was a Summer Arts sports intensive, and it has grown over the last five years. I would say last year was our biggest and best year. We partner with FSU, Panama City, FAMU extension program, a number of different nonprofit organizations that all provide in kind services, as Kathleen mentioned, I am not on salary, but I do get paid in many other ways. I am a former New York City public school teacher and administrator in arts. I am still a professional dancer, dance with Alvin Ailey Dance Theater of Harlem Nikolai dance theater. I work with Merce Cunningham, so I have an intense professional background in dance. When I met my partner 36 years ago, I said to him, when I retired, I am going to start a Summer Arts program, and also, at some point, I am going to bring dance and theater to Apalachicola. It happened in 2021 with the help of Valentina Webb and Gulf Coast Career Source. Since 2021 we have expanded. We have visual arts, theater play writing, food growth, food justice, where the kids grow food, and that is in partnership with another nonprofit organization. We have West African dance, contemporary dance, hip hop jazz. We have had tennis this year. We are going to have pottery free of charge. The only people that are on salary are the kids, because Career Source provides up to 15 kids with summer youth employment. They make \$4,500 over eight weeks, we expanded the program and 2023 to include six- to nine-year-old, because I think the younger, we start them, the better chance they have at becoming productive citizens in our county and in the world. This year, we are at a \$20,000 deficit. I have raised \$30,000; it costs us \$50,000 to do the camp and that is providing a space rental. FSU provides technology resources. The kids have become certified in Google Docs, Google Suite, and Google Slides. This year, we want to expand that to creating websites and also an introduction to programming. This is all free of charge, and in 2023 we raised the funding to go from \$547 per participant to \$1,000 per participant over the six to eight weeks this year, we are back to \$547. I am trying to make up that deficit in 2024. The county awarded us with \$5,000. I would like to have you guys come back to support us again. We did not get funding for last summer, and as Kathleen mentioned, we are not just an arts program. We are about supporting academics and having kids' mentor and support each other to make it through life and provide life skills and learn how to work together and work side by side with professionals. They get to choose which professionals they want to work hand in hand with as an internship. Kids pick the arts, they pick dance, they pick music, they pick visual arts. Some of them want to do the food growth, food justice component. What is really special about it is that they get to choose. We do not make them do everything. I could not see saying to oh, Anthony, you are going to dance this summer, because it is part of the program. If you are not interested in dance, you do not have to dance. It is a chance for a child to explore their creativity in a group setting where everybody is equal. I know I am over my time, but I would love to have the county come back and be a community partner with moving education and our community moving education summer program. Thank you, and I will send for each one of you, the videotape. Chairman Jones speaking, if you would just send it to Mr. Moron, he can get it to all of us.

The Board moved to Code Enforcement discussion item 4 on Mr. Moron's report at this time.

Mr. Moron speaking, item four, our March 25th special meeting, the commission board asked that the process, you know, to bring a code enforcement ordinance to the board for approval is considered a priority as we move forward. After the meeting, Commissioner Amison contacted me, and he asked if there were no objections from the other board members, he would like to take the lead on this project. His intention is to meet with staff, create a draft ordinance, perhaps using the draft ordinance that was discussed at a previous meeting and the section of the work color code enforcement ordinance that applies to dangerous structures. I attached both documents as a starting point, the draft that is created from that meeting will be

circulated to each Commissioner for your comments. Then your comments, of course, will be incorporated into the draft ordinance. Then we will send that to the attorney for their review, and after the attorney's review, the board can then schedule a workshop and or public hearing before final approval. The reason I asked the board to move this up today is because yesterday, Dwayne and James, some sheriff's offices came in, and they are having a problem with RVs again. It is getting bad again, and they kind of wanted to know how we can work together to get the stronger, first, a stronger RV ordinance and to help with enforcement. We talked about that a bit. I talked about it over with Steve and Angela. I said, you know what? I will probably ask the board in the morning. My intention was to ask you guys to discuss that. Then at lunchtime, going to Izzy's, the sheriff was there, actually the sheriff and Shep, the assistant state attorney. They were outside. I met them, and we talked about it, about that, for a while. And the sheriff even said, look, you know, he would really like you guys to consider as we get closer to budget, code enforcement. He likes Mrs. Smith, but he believes if she is working as part of the sheriff's department, then enforcement could even be, he thinks it will be a better situation. Let me just summarize it to that level, he likes her, he likes the work she does, but he thinks she needs more enforcement back up, you know, to be more effective, commissioners. I would tell you; I know we have discussed this before, but I think a lot of the problems we had in the past that has been solved. We say certified. Actually, she is going for more classes here in a couple of months to enhance her certification. There was a point brought up last time we discussed this, that maybe in the future, if Sheriff Smith were not the sheriff anymore, what we could do. I thought about that last night. The best thing to do would be, instead of putting money in his budget to fund an individual position, what we could do is create a contract with the sheriff's department that is renewed every year. And that contract would be similar to what we have right now with the DOH to provide that, but that's related discussion. What I kind of wanted some of, maybe James would come up, would explain to you some of what they are going through dealing with right now with RVs, you know, and how we have people setting up RVs in the right of way right now. And please, I am going to say this. I know how people react. I am not saying all, I am not even saying most, but there are some cases where campers are being used for drug issues, sale, creation, and I am sure these gentleman, could maybe discuss that better than I can, but they would really like a closer relationship with the board and with code enforcement and the board and for us to work for now, you know, working moving forward and on a possible discussion of the sheriff, just assuming code enforcement here in the future, we could do it as a trial basis for a year. The software, hopefully that will be ready within the next 60 to 75 days. They are doing the front end of the software right now. Basically, they too, had to prepare for ADA because, again, that ADA requirement coming up here in the 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Chairman, it is nationwide. That is not a Florida rule, that is a nation rule. So, they have customers throughout it is a federal rule, so they have customers throughout the state. So, they are working on the front end to do that. And as they were doing that, Angela kind of told them some of the commission awards comments about making it as easy as possible for the public to find information. Remember now they will now citizen serve. Will now be doing our they now do our billing department in the permitting, zoning, and permitting, and now they will be doing code enforcement. So, they are redoing the front end first, and then they will finish up code enforcement after that front end is completed. So, we are still waiting on them. Yes, they are still working. They are working now, Commissioner, they are actually working with Angela now, but more on the front end afterwards, they do the back end. They have already been working on that for a couple of two or three months. No, they just what we had this discussion before, yeah, but it took a while, was delayed, before we actually got the agreement signed commission, so it has not been that long not even going to do even going to, I am not going to touch. I am going to kind of comment on the other software right now. That is but I would like to invite someone from the sheriff's department up so maybe they do it kind of reinforce what I was saying, and you guys could ask them questions again. We are not talking about the sheriff taking over code enforcement today. That is not for today. That is a future discussion. But I want them to, you guys to know some of the problems. What I would like, in effect, is, if you guys agree to allow Commissioner Amison to take the lead with this, not only is he looking to do the or dangerous houses, the one that needs to be torn down, let him go ahead and do a new RV camper ordinance at the same time. Remember, we had an ordinance. It did not pass. We already had software designed to issue the permits that would tell us that they would put on the side of the side of a camper, and the sheriff's department could drive by and look from the road and see whether or not that permit was still valid. It expired. How long they have been there? Do they fit within the seven and 14 days? All those rules, we had an ordinance already for that. We had a software system. The chairman was key with that. So, you know, we were almost there to that mark. I cannot remember why that ordinance did not pass. I am sorry,

my memory fails me in that one, but yes, kind of would be you allowing Commissioner Amison to pick up that ball and run with that one too. Commissioner, I know I am tagging you with more than we talked about a couple days ago, but I am hoping that you do not mind picking up with both and doing both at the same time. Okay, Mr. Chairman, I am done. I will let you do you.

Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I will say that the thing with the RV ordinance and I directed you guys' way back when we got Bree on board. I think that the big and I met with Bree and I met with Angela, and I met with all the people before that were before them. We have got to get a handle on it. And the issue with the RV ordinance is we all know we do not want to make anybody homeless. We also have the ordinance with the seven to fourteen days. That is, to me, stupid. Okay, I am just throwing that word out there. Know, a lot of people do not like that word, but if you, if you have got that, you know, it is like I was explaining to Attorney Shuler one day, if you have an RV on a piece of property, you can move it just an inch, and that is technically moving it. Does that give you another seven to fourteen days? So, there was some ambiguity in that. I have been pushing for code enforcement since I have been on this board. I am going to continue to do it. I feel like we have come a long way. I feel like that we are where, way further along than what we were. I told somebody other day; I feel like we are getting on the ball with it. Then I feel like we keep getting, like, hits with certain things that have happened recently, but the RV ordinance is going to be very difficult, and that is one of the reasons why it did not pass, and why we had so much issue, so many issues with it, is there is just we have got a lot of people in our community, especially in my district. My district is the world's worst about the RV situation, and it is something we got to look at too. I see both sides, but again, I feel like the blighted structure ordinance and the RV ordinance very important issues, and we definitely need to get them done sooner than later. I know you and I talked about the software. So, you and just so the rest of the board's aware, I would rather them work on this software and get it basically applicable to our county, not, you know, Gulf County, Wakulla, and we are all different. I asked Sissy and Angela to be involved with it too, because she is the one that is going to be utilizing the software. I wanted it as user friendly for not only her, because she is the one going to be doing the software, and Angela, but also for us to be able to go in there, and our citizens to be able to go on there too. Just to make it as transparent as possible. So, I told Michael, I said, what is another month or two to get it perfect? Because I would rather get it perfect then. I know there is going to be tweaks that need to be made along the along the way, but I would rather have something very good and very, very easy to do, versus it not being what we want and then having to go back two months later and reinvent the wheel a whole other program, or a whole other little intricacy in that program. So that is what I feel about that now. I will help any which way. I know Commissioner Amison, and I cannot talk about it, but if he wants to help me help with the RV or whatever, I will be more than happy to help out any which way I can. Commissioner Sanders speaking, so, I personally do not have no problem with Commissioner Amison doing what has been requested. Yeah, I think he is a good one. Commissioner Ward speaking, he agreed to the other but he has been voluntold here on the spot. Commissioner Amison speaking, just let y'all know after the last meeting, and we have had this even with the RV ordinance and with code enforcement. You know, we have had enough dialog right here, and we are all familiar with the county as a whole. So, I see where we are having, you know, roadblocks amongst each other, with our separate districts. My train of thought would when Michael was is, hey, why don't I just get with staff? Because their boots on the ground, they are the ones that that sees more than what we do on a day-to-day basis. Let us just get a good collective group in there and sit down. Let us take what we have and tweak it, because I think I could find a good balance. Because at the end of the day, we got to count to three to get something done and I think we can get there and get it done, rather than trying to each one of us pieces together, call an attorney. It just does not seem to be I do not know how it is gone for years and years, and do not really care. I just look forward. But I think it would be a better transition to getting something passed. You know, if we can do that collectively, get something together, get it out to the commissioners, all of us take a look at it and y'all know me, I got thick skin. If you do not like something, tweak it, and then we can get it to the attorney versus individuals. This is no reflection on the attorneys, but they are sitting there, he is sitting there listening to five different people trying to put something together. It just, I think it is a lot smoother process if we do at this point. And I do not mind doing it, but in the RVs, I have got some again, in my district, not as bad as your district, but I have that same issue. I do not want to create a homeless situation, and I have got some ideas with that, with and I have had discussion with staff on it in the past, of ways of doing that ordinance with the RVs, concerning the RVs to where it would, over time, kind of clean itself up. You know, I have got some ideas.

I will get with staff. We will get it on paper. We will get it out. Everybody takes a look at it, we will play around with it, and maybe we can find something we can all digest. That is what I am trying to do. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, if I could just echo that I feel like too. It gets frustrating for me as a commissioner, because a lot of the complaints I get are code enforcement related. It does seem like a long process. I mean, here we are. We first started. My RV has been a problem before I was on the board, but I on the board, I have been on the board six years, and it is kicking that can down the road. I am tired of kicking cans down the road. I want something that we can like Commissioner Amison said, it does seem like there is a lot of process, and every time we come for a public hearing, we always table it because of something, some reason or not, which is why we decided to go with the public workshop. But still, that is again, a delay, because we have to advertise. It just delays things, I feel like, the way Commissioner Amison has talked about, we may not need a public workshop. I know I would like the public to be involved. But if we, I mean if we tweak it enough, yeah, I mean, of course, public workshop is important too, so that the public can put their, you know, speak their piece, instead of having at a public hearing, thus changing things on the fly from what the public says as well. So, I just want to get this, all this stuff, hashed out. I know right now I was talking about the blighted ordinance is a priority, but now the RVs is a priority, which they've always kind of been a priority. We just kind of been kicking that can that we do not need some cases that go hand in hand. Mr. Moron speaking, yeah, Mr. Chairman, to follow up on Commissioner Ward. So, I think this process that Commissioner Amison and is talking about is going to how he is going to help is, I do not think we are going to need a special meeting just for a workshop. I think a workshop could be incorporated into a regular meeting. The public hearing will be I think that is where you need to have something, you know, separate. But, yeah, I love this approach. I think it actually work. I really do. Chairman Jones speaking, the only thing I will say is there are some outstanding issues right now. I know that there are some issues that, in talking with Sissy, letters to be written that will probably have to be assisted by Attorney Theriaque. There are actual issues we are working on that I do not want to delay a month or two about the however long facilitator that we need to have some conversation with Attorney Theriaque and or the Sheriff's Department. We need to get whatever we need to get to help Miss Sissy, do what she is doing. Mr. Moron speaking, actually, Chairman, that would be those could be examples that we use along the way to as they work through it. How we deal with those? Chairman Jones speaking, I just want to make sure the board intended to have those at the same time. Commissioner Sanders speaking, what kind of timeline are we looking at? Michael? Do you know what kind of timeline? Mr. Moron speaking, I was thinking weeks, maybe not so many months, because I do not think it will take that long. I mean, the conference, may take a little bit longer because we really need the sheriff's department involved in those discussions. So that may take a little bit longer commission, but I see the commissioner sitting out with staff rather sooner rather than later, and I am circulating whatever they come up with to you guys. We incorporate your changes and we discuss it. You know, at a meeting coming up on the RV ordinance, we have been dealing with that for many, many years. I know I have got several in the area over there, east of land art that has come in there, and they are living out of them. But then when they go to check it out, nobody is there. So, I mean, we need to, yeah, if we are going to do the on the ordinance, just like the commissioners want to be done, we need to go in and do it. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, obviously the sheriff's office needs to work with them, because the complaints they see we may obviously do not see, and Sissy may not even see, yes, so I think you are right. It goes hand in hand. And I do not know if any of them want to come up with the speak they can do rock paper scissors or whatever. Mr. Moron speaking, kind of dropped the name already. He is sitting there looking pretty but he is good. Captain Hamm speaking, good morning commissioners. Chief just said, go up. So, we met with Michael yesterday. We get a lot of the complaints throughout the county. They are really not coming to the building department; they are not really coming to the commissioners. They are coming to the sheriff. They are coming to the sheriff's office. We hear it when we are in the streets, as we are patrolling. Our guys are patrolling. We are seeing it. It is not just the RVs that we are having issues with. It is the sheds. I mean, we have got people living in sheds that you know, do not have running water, do not have power, do not have sewer attached to these sheds. The campers do not have water, power, sewer, so they are just letting the fecal matter go on the ground. You know, they are running by candlelight. They are running by whatever means of light they have. They have got generators running, disturbing the neighborhoods. They are keeping the yards full of debris, trash, just whatever you can think they are pulling into the yards. They are pulling them in. And sometimes you may have one camper in the yard, or you may have four. Some of them may be decent campers. Some are halfway falling apart, and they have got tarps over them with people still living in them.

And drug use is a big issue with that, because they are taking campers from one property to the next. You know, we go in there and the owners finally kick them off this property. Well, they take that camper, move it four blocks over, and they are living on another piece of property. And then we are doing the same thing we were doing there. They are moving all their junk down to the other property. They are selling drugs out of that house. They have people coming and going all hours of the night. I mean, that is, that is the reports we are getting. That is, I mean, we have got deputies working all these areas. I think I gave seven properties to the building department yesterday, took photos, labeled everything, who was the property owner, what addresses, and took the visual time to, like, put it out to work, showing what is wrong with the properties? I mean, they are a nuisance. They are a nuisance in our county, especially when you start getting the people in there selling drugs and all. I mean, I have no issue with somebody living in a camper, that that is what they can afford, you know. I mean, not everybody can go in and afford a \$300,000- \$400,000 home. You know, not everybody can go in and afford a mobile home. I mean, used to you could buy a mobile home decent price. Now they are outrageous, you know, some people that are what they can afford and I am fine with that. I believe the sheriff would possibly be fine with that. But keep it nice. Keep it you know, to where, if we have children running in the neighborhood. They are not running through your property, possibly getting hurt, having refrigerators out in the yard with the doors on them, which is, you know, by law, illegal. I mean, it becomes a nuisance in that aspect. The RVs are a big issue. You know, you take an RV and you put it behind somebody's house, and then you got four families living in one RV. I mean, it is a big issue for our county, so that's kind of really all I have. Spur of the moment. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I did not think about sheds, and that is why we, you know, again, the communication because, yeah, I did not think people would be living in those. Captain Ham speaking, no, I mean, I actually sent Michael some yesterday of people living in sheds over here on 26th Street. We have got some over on 25th Street. I actually spoke to Sissy this morning. She calls me quite a bit. She calls the sheriff's office if she needs assistance or a deputy to go out just to be, you know, kind of do a standby with her if she does not feel real comfortable going to that house. So, we do communicate with Sissy very well. If she has an issue, whatever, we are very responsive to her. And we appreciate that, you know, her trying to work however she can. But, I mean, we do. We have a lot of people that just have old, abandoned cars in their yards. I am sure if you have rode around, they're just sitting there. They are unlocked. I mean, if a child got into that car playing hide and go seek, somehow that car locked up, and it gets hot during the summer, you know, that is not a good scenario, you know. But that is the biggest thing, is they are using a lot of the RVs to bounce here to there, to here to there. But, I mean, we, we went to a house other day. There is a shed in the back, a lady's living in the back. There is no water, there is no power. We go in looking for a subject. There's meth pipes and every other thing you can think of sitting around in the shed. You know, we have had that issue down with Commissioner Amison, you know, there is actually an RV on Oyster Road that is encroaching on county right away, and not by an inch or two, but by feet. You know, if you are not familiar with the county right away, some of the right of ways are up to 100 feet in our county. You know, I think the smallest we have is probably 60, maybe 50, you know. But that is one thing me and Colonel Coulter did several years ago. We got in there and we went to Mark Currington, and we got the right of ways for our county. We were able to go in there and clear a lot of the right of ways, you know, go in there and say, hey, you got to clear the right of way. You are on county property, you know. Or they got, you know, NTAS or went to jail for illegal dumping, you know, but that is one of the biggest issues right there. I mean, is the RVs people living in the sheds, you know, the drug use that these people are doing because they do not, how can I rephrase this? They do not want to get out and get a regular job. They would rather sell their drugs and live however they can continue, not just selling the drugs, but using the drugs as for themselves. So that is kind of the issue we are having. So, any assistance we can have, you know, would be greatly appreciated. Anything we can do. You know, we are always here to help. Commissioner Croom speaking, Mr. Chair, I got questions. Captain Hamm, you mentioned 25<sup>th</sup> and 26th Avenue. Are y'all working with the city of Apalachicola code enforcement too? Captain Hamm speaking, I actually spoke to Sissy yesterday, our thoughts, and I ran it by Major Segree, our thought. And I am sure your thought was probably the east side was always the city, the west side was always the county. We always figured that's kind of how it broke up. That is even how we take calls. We figured the county city line was always dead middle in that road. I found out this morning that the city has actually, I guess, been working the west side of 25<sup>th</sup> but some of the photos that I took and information I sent was off 25<sup>th</sup>. so, I mean, I can run down the list right now. what all I saw. Commissioner Croom speaking, fortunate for me, you know, my district is in the city of Apalachicola. I do not deal with a bunch of those complaints. However, I know it is a county

wide issue as well, you know? So, I am very in support of fixing this code enforcement issue that we have and Commissioner Amison wanting to step up and take the lead in helping us. I am very supportive of that. Mr. Moron speaking, Chairman, I think the most heartbreaking case was when he, James said to me yesterday, there's a, will not call any names, that there is a situation where the kids are in the back in a shed, but they are selling drugs on the camper, the RV up front. Chairman Jones speaking, do we need the action for this? Mr. Moron speaking, we do not. I just wanted to make sure there with no objections to or any specific comments you wanted to direct to Commissioner Amison.

Commissioner Sanders speaking, Mr. Chairman, can we take item five while Major Segree is here?

Mr. Moron speaking, so item number five, in similar fashion, Commissioner Amison is willing to meet with Barnacle representatives to discuss a draft contract for your review, which, after we meet and we hammer out, they have, they sent something received from Brad, go to forward it to the commission. We will sit with them, schedule a meeting, and we will have something afterwards, let the attorney look at it, and then from there, it will be presented to the board for your review. Any, again, same way, same fashion, any comments about the Barnacle you would like Commissioner Amison to? Chairman Jones speaking, I think that they need to, if we are going to have Barnacle we are going to have, they need to get ready to put whatever they have on Alligator Point on St. George Island. Because I know last weekend that is not a blade on anybody. I was trying to help someone that was stranded in a vehicle that someone else had started helping it out, kind of helped finish the job, but it wound up having to get towed. We had to wait all day long for the tow truck because they were on the island towing so we waited until eight o'clock for the tow truck to get to us. Mr. Moron speaking, so yeah. Because one of the things we needed on the island, correct me, if I am wrong, commissioners. One of the things that they said could be a negotiating point is a free drop off on St George Island as part of that negotiation. Could keep that as part of negotiations to get that done? Commissioner Ward speaking, yes, Mr. Moron. I do not know if we want to talk about this now or later, but I did do a ride along on Alligator Point. So, if y'all want to me to discuss that real quick. Saturday, as promised, the Barnacle situation, I said I was going to be active, and ride along with a deputy out there, I did Saturday, I rode around between 11 and 12. There were some, as far as the barnacle goes, the deputy explained everything to me how it worked. The only issue that we found was, well, for one, we did not have to deploy one, which is a good thing. You know, the issue that we found was, when he showed me the box, there was something where one was not charging, but I think it would not be in, maybe the plug, not the barnacle device itself, but when we pulled it out of the box, it would not go to the app on the phone. It was not recognizing the device. So, he logged out and logged back in, and then it worked. So that was the only issue. And then I found out after the fact, that once I got done my ride along, I guess he deployed one. I did not hang out long enough. So, I guess the next time I go out, I will have to go out a little later in the afternoon. But there were some things that that the deputy expressed, some, I will not say concerns, but just some issues that he thinks that we as a board might need to bring up and address. One was that and I know we have discussed this before, and refresh my memory, the county property that is there. I know we talked about in the past, making that into a parking lot. Is that still something that we are looking at doing, or we do not have to answer it now? Commissioner Sanders speaking, I'll answer later on in the board meeting, because I have got a letter to do with that parking area. Commissioner Ward speaking, and then another one was, there is a at the old, if you ever been out there, their old firehouse, there is a stop bar. So, when he when he approached the intersection, it is really not an intersection. There is a stop bar, like a stop painted and a stop bar painted on the road, but there is no stop sign, so you have got people stopping, but there is no stop sign, which I don't see or need, that there needs to be a stop there, because it's no it's just a curve. It is right there by the but I think it was a stop when it was all one road, before the storm took it out. But so, I did not know if maybe we needed to put a stop sign there, or if there needs to be a stop there. If not, we need to maybe get the road department to scrape up that or pave over that stop bar. That was another thing I was going to bring up. Then in that same general area, and it is on the count in the county, right of way, um, kind of off that there is a sidewalk there, but people were parking along there. The question was, can they get barnacle for parking there? But there are no parking signs. So, if that is an area, we are going to allow people to park, then we need to communicate that with the sheriff's office so they do not barnacle those vehicles. Otherwise, if we do not want people parking there, then we need to make sure there is no parking signs there so there is no confusion. Does that make sense? Chairman Jones speaking, it does but I thought we had designated parking areas. Commissioner Ward speaking, we do. But people where they are parking, and I got pictures. I should have sent them to you to share, but anyway, they are parking basically

on the side and accessing the beach from the county property. There are no parking signs. The first parking sign starts right when you turn on the Chip Morrison down not far from the old firehouse. Chairman Jones speaking, yeah, but if you are not careful, you are going to wind up, so if you say you cannot enforce parking because there is not a sign, I mean, I got 15 miles, we need to put signs on. It is going to look like coming on Apalachicola bridge. Do not make no sense. So, we do the opposite, say, parking a lot in designated that is what I thought. That is what, that is what I was trying to make, yeah, because if we start having to put a have a sign for where they cannot park, we are just going to have a lot of signs. Commissioner Ward speaking, well, I just, I did not know, in a court of law if they ever decided to say, for example, a vehicle was barnacled, and they take it to court saying they barnacled my vehicle because I parked in this spot. But there are no parking signs telling me I cannot park there. I did not know if that was something that we needed to address. Chairman Jones speaking, the places we do have signs that say you can park here, are the parking areas. Commissioner Sanders speaking, well, one thing you got to remember, too, there is not going to be, weeks from now that we are going to be realigning all those roads down there. And so all of that is not even going to be like it is now. So, I mean, as soon as we get the permits from DEP, I can take, you know, to take the firehouse down and realign that road. There is going to be another traffic pattern. Commissioner Ward speaking, well, I will send Michael some pictures too, so he could look at it and see maybe what the next step we need to take. Then I think there was another, nope I think that is it. Commissioner Amison speaking, so I have a question. Since we have Mr. Segree and this board together. I had a constituent approach me a couple weeks ago in the hardware store. This was in concern with St George Island about parking, which would go hand in hand, and what we are discussing with Alligator Point. But if it is a county right away, is it legal to park on the county right away? Commissioner Ward speaking, technically, it is not. Commissioner Amison speaking, I mean, is there any law against it? Major Segree speaking, is that not something wrote into one of our county ordinances that prohibits parking on those right of ways on Alligator Point? Specifically, I believe. I do not know if it addresses that currently for Saint George Island, but I do believe it, it prohibits that on Alligator Point itself. Commissioner Amison speaking, because, I mean, having this discussion, if there is not anything in writing, I mean, realistically, we cannot run and scatter. Well, I mean, Florida DOT did it, but I do not know if we can afford that many signs to properly post all county right away. There is no parking so it may be something if this, you know, if it continues to be an issue, we may have to look into that. Now, you know, I do not know how we would handle that, but, and like I said, that is why I am asking you, since you were law enforcement, you may know if we have something in place, but we will research and look at it absolutely. Major Segree speaking, just really quick to speak to the to the barnacle. Since we started using it again this year, throughout the month of March, you have seen the report I have sent to each one of you guys, I am sure. It literally has worked flawlessly. I know that there was a brief incident over the weekend where it may have took a minute or two for it to do its thing, but I've, I've deployed it multiple times since our last conversation, and it has worked again as designed, flawlessly attached to the vehicle, the individuals, the owners or drivers, whichever you want to call it, they have removed the barnacle without issue, without problems, and deposited the device back into the drop box. We have not had really any issues at this point. And I think moving forward, as we have talked several times for Saint George Island, we are going to experience a lot of a lot of problems over there. And it is something, of course, that the board wishes to move forward with. I think it is going to be again, our best deterrent, our best way to battle the parking problems. It is already proven itself. I feel like, just on Alligator Point, we went from one weekend I deployed roughly six barnacles or seven, to just this past weekend, there were only two deployed. So, I believe that the people are seeing it. They are they know that they are going to get barnacled, and of course, they are hoping to avoid that, which is, again, at the end of the day, I think that the best result is that we have zero parking problems. The device is working. It is working great. Commissioner Sanders speaking that is why I wanted Major Segree up here to see what his opinion at the barnacle was. So going forward, having to do the contract with Barnacle, then we are aware of all the circumstances. But I know in the past, I got multiple complaints every week about the problem. I think doing the rocks on Chip Morrison there, at that parking spot there that did excellent. And I thank APTA for bringing that to our attention and down there and the folks down there. But you know, anything we can do on that parking issue, whether it be Alligator Point or the island, because we do. I mean, you look at your numbers that you sent in back in March, in that two-day speed study that you did, over 4,400 people in two days went to Alligator Point. That is a lot of people going to Alligator Point. Major Segree speaking, although we have got spring break right now, we're still not in the busy season. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I know you got Alligator Point. I mean, you got Saint George

Island on top of Alligator Point. And you can imagine, because the roads are good over on Alligator Point, I mean, St George Island, you know, the roads are good on Alligator Point. Now I can remember a time when it was not so. But anyway, I just, I like seeing those numbers, where we know how many people we are accommodating down here in this county and the services that they require to have. Chairman Jones speaking, do we need the action on this commission? Commissioner Sanders speaking, Commissioner Amison if you do not mind, just kind of keep Brad in the loop on the contract. And if he needs anything or anything, as far as barnacle goes. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman speaking, I will say that I do feel like the barnacles would benefit St George Island as well. And talking to the deputy I wrote around with, he seemed to think the same thing. So, it is just a matter of that negotiation, getting us a box with six free barnacles. Commissioner Amison speaking, I mean, that's music in my ears. I am glad it is working. I am glad we got a need for it, but we still got to have a discussion on a year of, which is fine. I mean, we can get past that. We just got to find a good common ground with them. Just on personal note, my little niece came into town last night after she drove around the whole nation to get to Florida. She is a young driver. Her little friend come down for a couple days because spring break and everything. And I told her, when I was reading this, I said, do not go to the island and park anywhere. Last thing I want to see is the commissioner's niece getting towed over there because I noticed our discussion. But and get ready because Atlanta is coming. They will be here Friday through next weekend. I know there is some island residents out there that's probably got a tear in their eye right now, but some of us businesspeople were smiling ear to ear. But anyway, appreciate the sheriff's department, and I will be in touch with Mr. Segree in the future here, Mike, soon. And that one other note, Commissioner Amison wants to know when he is going to get a raise. Since I am doing all this, right, yeah, just bring candy. Get that sugar free stuff, I am trying to make some changes. No, I appreciate it. Appreciate the confidence y'all got in me. I think, I think I can work with staff on all this stuff, work with the sheriff's department, Mike, when I think we can find something that we can all agree on, and it will be a quicker path to getting something done. And to answer your question, Commissioner Sanders about a timeframe on this. I did not catch that in time earlier, but I have already text staff and told them to get ready, because we are fixing to go ahead and start getting in this. Thank you, Commissioner. I appreciate y'all.

The Board recessed at 10:06 am and reconvened at 10:15 am.

#### **Department Directors Reports**

Chairman Jones speaking, Franklin County Board of County Commission now back in session, we are moving to our department directors, reports. Commissioners, as you can tell, Mr. Neighbors and Mr. Davis, do not have any action items on their reports. So, if you have anything you would like to discuss with them, they did have some informational items included.

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

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

a. Action Item(s)

None

b. Informational Item(s)

1. Employees attended the Customer Service/First Amendment Learning Session held at the Apalachicola Courthouse Annex.
2. Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District (see attached documents) (February 26, 2026 – March 26, 2026)
3. Calendar of Inmates Received February 26, 2026 – March 26, 2026 (see attached documents)

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

a. Action Item(s)

None

b. Informational Item(s)

VACANT POSITION:

FOR BOARD INFORMATION: Due to employee separation in the Solid Waste Department, we now have a vacant Equipment Operator position that will be advertised soon.

## 6. Jennifer Daniels – Emergency Management Director

Chairman Jones speaking, Mrs. Daniels, does not have an information item, but we do want to have a discussion about burn ban. Mrs. Daniels speaking, yes, sir, Commissioner, good morning. How are y'all doing? I have had a few people call here asking about a burn ban, and so I reached out to our fire departments and to Division of Forestry. As of right now, Division of Forestry, they are still issuing some burn permits, and those are for certified piles and certified FAS on acreage with approval. I have been talking to, or I have spoken to several of the fire departments. I have not been able to speak to all of them yet. At this time, the three that have responded, which was Lanark, St. George Island, and Carrabelle, are all three saying that they do not really see the need for a burn ban at this time. However, Carrabelle just said, let them know, they will go with whatever the rest of the fire departments would like to do. I pulled up the drought index, and as of this morning, we are at 377 and the minimum is 253 and the maximum is 488 so we are kind of right in the middle there. I do not want to make any recommendations at this time until I have spoken to all the fire departments, I would say. But I just wanted to make sure and give you all the information I have. Because I know some of you have reached out, and that you have been getting calls and questions also.

Chairman Jones speaking, yes, ma'am, and that is a good thing. It is really, it is really difficult to do. I mean, it is not saying we cannot, but it is difficult to do a burn ban. If the state forestry of doing one, they own 90% of our county, yes. So, it is kind of mean, it is kind of difficult. Admittedly, they do not have as many people living in their part of it, but still so. But it is something we need to continue to monitor. So, thank you for the update report, commissioners. You have any questions for Mrs. Daniels? Commissioner Croom speaking, Mr. Chair, I have one thing Jenny and I spoke of this yesterday because I wanted to information of how, you know how a burn ban is implemented. And she gave me the whole process. I got a call from a fellow Commissioner over in Gulf asking me, were we under burn ban? And I told him no, and think they are going under one. And as Jenny explained to me, right at the line, or we were right at the line, so the drought line.

Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I actually was going to, I am going to EOC today to get our back my badge for and I was going to ask about it, because I have also been getting messages and phone calls. But I do know, because Jen and I have discussed about it before, what the process is in terms of the Department of Forestry. So that, that was my response the individuals I got info from. But I was going to ask her about it again, since I did see Gulf County did go under one. But anyway, I entrust that obviously we are going to do what we need to do. And Jen, if something comes up in an emergent manner and you need to do one, we can always hold a special meeting if we have to. Mr. Moron speaking, if I may. Hey, Jen, will you take this opportunity to inform the board and the public about the badges, because that is actually an information item on my report to encourage, you know staff, and you know staff and any other county official that they need to get those badges as soon as possible. Mrs. Daniels speaking, yes, sir, we have updated one of our software programs this past year. It is called Salamander, and what it allows us to do is how, normally, when you come to the EOC during an activation, you have to do a sign in sheet every day, and you have to, you know, fill out all of your information every time you come in and out of the building. So, the software salamander actually will track the time that you are here for us for FEMA reimbursement process. And so, we are creating IDs for everyone who is who is active here at the EOC, which would definitely be all of you with the Commission. What you will do is you will get your ID. I just need a quick headshot picture of you and my girls will fix your ID, and it will have a barcode on it. So, when you come to the front door, there is a scanner at the front door, you will just scan your barcode. It logs you in, no more sign in sheets, no more sign out sheets. You are not having to fill out all that extra paperwork. We are just trying to streamline it a bit. Anyone who is active here at the EOC during an activation, we are trying to get those IDs made up in advance. That way, when you come to the door, if you do not have an ID, we do have the ability to do a quick ID, but we would really like to again, streamline so that that we are not holding you up to get into the EOC, to get into the meeting or where you need to make decisions right then at that time. Chairman Jones speaking that is a good thing. It probably helped to little bit less paperwork. Mrs. Daniels speaking, yes, that is going to make life a lot better for us. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, just so Jennifer's aware, I did speak to Jessica yesterday, so I will be coming today, after the meeting to get mine, but I do want to say I will for you any email I get. Apparently, there's email gets people get confused between Jessica Gay, myself, and Jessica Lockhart at EOC, and I get her

emails something like we were I said, we are going to start charging people \$1 for every time they confuse. I am up to about \$50 now, the rest of the girls. But anyway, anything, anything I get, I will forward to you guys, because I know I have already gotten some that I guess they just reply to me, or they could anyway. I will forward you whatever I get if anybody responds to that email. Yes, ma'am, thank you. Chairman Jones speaking, any more questions Mrs. Daniels or concerns? Mrs. Daniels speaking, Commissioner, Chairman, can I? I was just going to say I pulled up this morning, the current county enacted burn bans. It is listed on the Florida Forest Service website. Gulf has not gone under one as yet, or at least it has not been reported to the Forest Service. They have Calhoun, Liberty and Leon have burn bans enacted, while color Franklin and Gulf and even Bay are still showing we, you know, no burn bans inactive for our surrounding county. So just a, just an update for as of this morning. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I am glad that Mr. Chairman, I am glad that we had an update from Jen, because, you know, as you all know, Calhoun County suffered bad wildfires and destroys many homes and stuff, and it looks like the rainfall is not coming anytime soon. You know, as we all know, living in Florida like we do, probably going to start the rainfall about the end of May, 1 part of June. Then it is going to rain. We are going to have more than what we need. Thank you, Jen for doing that. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you, Director Daniels, we appreciate you.

Chairman Jones speaking, alright, commissioners. Mr. Polous for Mosquito Control had no action items. Michael, I do not see anybody else attending. Miss Whitney Roundtree from the Library also had no action items. There were no action items for the Airport. They are all informational items, but you could contact those individuals directly.

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

### **a. Action Item(s)**

None

### **b. Informational Item(s)**

#### 1 - Mosquito Control Operations Update

Mosquito Control operations have remained focused on proactive and targeted treatment throughout the County. Larviciding efforts are ongoing to address mosquito populations at the source, including roadside ditches, storm drains, and other identified breeding sites. Surveillance activities, including trapping, are being utilized to monitor activity levels, and collected specimens are identified to determine mosquito species. This allows for more informed and targeted treatment decisions based on species behavior and potential risk factors. Mosquito Control staff continue to identify and document breeding sites to support efficient and targeted treatment efforts.

#### 2 - Mosquito Control Ditch Maintenance / Source Reduction

Mosquito Control staff have completed seasonal ditch maintenance and source reduction efforts throughout designated areas of the County. These activities are an important component of long-term mosquito control, as they improve drainage, reduce standing water, and eliminate potential breeding habitats. Maintenance was conducted between February 26, 2026, and March 26, 2026, in the following areas:

#### Eastpoint

Between David Street and Moore Street (approximately 200 ft) Wilderness Road (near Hatfield area) (approximately 200 ft)

#### Apalachicola

25th Street to 24th Street (approximately 657 ft)

Morris Cannon Road to Bluff Road (approximately 450 ft)

8 Mile at CR 30 (approximately 483 ft)

9 Mile East at CR 30 (approximately 249 ft)

9 Mile West at CR 30 (approximately 348 ft)

Adjacent to Earl King Street and 25th Avenue (approximately 500 ft) 12 Mile at CR 30 (approximately 408 ft)

Pine Log Road North (approximately 878 ft)

Between 2nd Street and 4th Street (approximately 140 ft)

### 3 - Inmate Labor Utilization

Mosquito Control utilized inmate labor support during this reporting period to assist with operational activities. (see attached document)

## 8. Whitney Roundtree – Library Director

### a. Action Item(s)

None

### b. Informational Item(s)

Infinite Sums Grant Programming – Pi Day Event: The Franklin County Public Library hosted its first program as part of the Simons Foundation Infinite Sums grant initiative, which promotes math engagement in communities. A Pi Day celebration was held on March 14 at the Eastpoint Branch, where participants engaged with math through interactive games, crafts, pizza, and prize activities. The event provided a fun, hands-on approach to STEM learning for all ages. The next program in this series, Infinity Day, is scheduled for August 8 at the Carrabelle Branch.

Library Newsletter: The Spring Library Newsletter is now available to the public. Printed copies can be picked up at both library branches, and a digital version is accessible on the library’s website and Facebook page. The newsletter highlights upcoming programs, services, and community updates.

Summer Reading Program 2026: The 2026 Summer Reading Program will take place June 14 through July 25. This year’s theme, “Unearth a Story,” will focus on dinosaurs, archaeology, and paleontology. Staff are currently developing programs and activities for all age groups, with additional details to be announced in the coming weeks.

Holiday Closure – Easter: The Franklin County Public Library will be closed April 3 through April 5 in observance of the Easter holiday

### c. Eastpoint Branch Programs

- Mahjong – April 7 at 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Open play session for adults interested in Mahjong, offering social engagement and recreational play.
- Creation Station – April 8 at 4:00 PM Hands-on maker activities for children and families, encouraging creativity and interactive learning.
- Adult Crafts – April 9 at 2:30 PM A social crafting program for adults; supplies provided.
- Book Club – April 14 at 12:00 PM Monthly discussion group for adult readers.
- Writer’s Forum – April 15 at 1:00 PM Open discussion and peer feedback for writers of all levels.
- Book Flower Vases – April 20 at 2:30 PM Creative upcycling craft where participants transform books into decorative flower vases.
- Bottle Wind Chimes – April 22 at 2:30 PM Adult craft program where participants create decorative bottle wind chimes.

### d. Carrabelle Branch Programs

- Tech Help – April 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 11:00 AM One-on-one assistance with devices, software, and general technology questions.
- Video Game Hour – April 10, 17, and 24 at 4:30 PM After-school gaming program for teens and tweens.
- Adult Crafts – April 16 at 2:30 PM A social crafting program for adults; supplies provided.
- Creation Station – April 22 at 4:00 PM Hands-on maker activities for children and families.
- Book Flower Vases – April 23 at 2:30 PM Creative upcycling craft where participants transform books into decorative flower vases.

## 9. Steve Kirschenbaum – Interim Airport Manager

### a. Action Item(s)

None

### b. Informational Item(s)

- Teams meeting with John Collins and Florida Commerce Scope of Planning Grant submitted for review. Spoke to FL Commerce yesterday they will have a draft for review by our meeting.
- My office is up and running I am now in Hangar 13 the rear of Phil Shellys rental
- The pavement clean and remark project is underway. (Going to get Drone photos before and after)
- Job Growth Grant, I am still plugging away. Only 11 million left. We missed the first round. I have sent in multiple letters of support for our project from Opportunity Florida, Florida's Great Northwest, Haney Technical College. In progress the ARPC, Space Florida and others.
- House and Senate Appropriation is still live hoping to hear something back soon.
- The Road Dept did an incredible job clearing the runway 18 fence & fence area on Bluff Rd. (looks great!)
- Haney Project: Sewage issue resolved, All HVAC system replaced as well as all new programmable thermostats and new mini split unit in engine room. Saved about 15k on the project. The hangar door is repaired, and sidewalks and parking areas should be completed along with final cleanup by the end of next week. Final budget to follow.
- Great news footage from CFASPP meeting with the state. The meeting was great and we were part of the program.
- Air Show, a new not for profit, will be handling the Air Show funds. I will not be on the not-for-profit board or be raising money for the event. (No potential conflict of interest) I will be overseeing the event as airport manager.
- Airport progress year to date attached.

## Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator Report

## 10. Erin Griffith – Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator

### a. Action Item(s)

#### 1- BOARD ACTION: FORT COOMBS ARMORY CONVENTION CENTER CHANGE ORDER #5

The armory project is nearing completion – the contractors are finishing up the last of their work and awaiting the final touches after the foundation repairs are complete. The attached \$30,438.42 change order will cover the additional stabilization work to be completed by sub-contractor Alpha-Foundations that was needed in the vault area. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign change order #5 for the Fort Coombs Armory Convention Center Project.

#### 2 - BOARD ACTION: DISTRICT 1 - ROAD ACCESS QUOTE

Road Department Superintendent Howard Nabors had viewed the right-of-way access request at 578 East Bayshore Drive for a property owner who had purchased a lot without roadway access on St. George Island. This area of East Bayshore is beyond the existing county road. The unopened roadway area did have some wetlands, and the owner of the parcel paid for the attached engineering and wetland mitigation credits needed to obtain the permit to extend the roadway to access the lot. Unfortunately, as the road department is usually able to take care of the type of road work to extend existing county roads when needed, the permit for the work in this area of right-of-way requires the use of heavy equipment mats around marsh areas (equipment the road department does not have). In the attached quote from Jason White Construction, the contractor will provide the labor and necessary equipment for \$13,562 and the road department will provide the necessary road base and fill to extend the county's East Bayshore Drive by 50-60' in accordance with the attached permit. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached quote from Jason White Construction to be paid by District 1's road paving funds.

10:23

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved items 1 and 2 from Mrs. Griffith's report. Motion carried 5-0.**

**b. Informational/Project Update(s)**

**3 - BOARD INFORMATION / MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES:**

- DW Wilson Sports Arena Pickleball Courts Project is out to bid (solicitation attached), a mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th, onsite at 10:00 a.m.
- Eastpoint Nature Center Project's mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on Wednesday, March 25th, approximately 11 contractors were in attendance. Bids will be opened at the April 15th meeting.
- RESTORE County Wide Dune construction project elements will begin within 1-2 weeks, interesting development: when the preconstruction survey was completed at the SGI Park Location, the dunes had already naturally grown in volume by more than what was stipulated in the FDEP permit. Carrabelle Beach had not done the same and was still deficient in sand, so the original permitted sand for SGI will now be added to the Carrabelle Beach Park Project location. SGI's Lighthouse Park project includes the post and rope barricade, coastal hammock planting efforts, and access improvements as originally planned, just no placement of additional sand on the beach.
- Completed site visit of new Highway 65 communication tower (south side of 55-acre parcel north of the school board acreage) with communications consultant Dave Snow with assistance from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department – the Franklin County Road Department will work to bush hog a 60'x60' pad for the surveyors to get good soil samples for the tower site. The North 65 Tower site appraisal (Armistead Parcel) should be available by the end of the month, and interim county attorney David Theriaque has been in contact with Duke Energy regarding the land swap for the Apalachicola tower site location on the Kevin Road parcel.
- RFP for Ambulance Billing Company to be advertised this week and EMS Director Cristgen Graham will be at your next meeting to make introductions and to provide an EMS Update along with EMS consultant Richard Lewis.
- Apalachicola Library Paving Project bid specifications and advertisement to be advertised this week
- EOC Building project updated meeting on Friday, March 27th, plan set is being finalized, permits are in hand, bid specifications are being developed for review and approved by FDEM. Once approval is granted, county could go out for construction bids as early as June. I also have a call out to Dan Duarte with the Gulf Consortium regarding obtaining access to the funds that were set aside in the SEP plan for the construction of the EOC.
- Spooled financial reports for the auditors on Monday, 2024/2025 grant files and programs are being reviewed by county auditors this month and supporting documentation has been provided to the actuary for the annual update of the county's OPEB liability.

Mr. Moron speaking, hey, Erin, can we ask Attorney Theriaque? I thought he told me yesterday that actually to do last off, they are ready to sign, we are good to go. Is that? Did I hear you correctly? Attorney Theriaque speaking, yes, that is correct. Earlier this week, the attorneys for Duke Energy informed me that they are good to go. Duke Energy has agreed to do the letter of no objection for the road under the transmission line. I think the next step is Erin was contacting somebody to serve as a closing agent, so we can proceed to closing. So, yes, got a deal. Finally, got a deal. Good to go. Thank you, sir.

Commissioner Ward speaking, yes, sir, Mr. Chairman really quick, Erin, I got a question on the 65 stuff. So, there is two towers, if I am reading that right, because I know, Lord knows, I have been pushing, pushing, pushing for towers. Mrs. Griffith speaking, yes. So, this tower on the south side of Highway 65 or the south end of Highway 65 is actually going to be replacing the tower that is currently located at the Sheriff's Department. We have also requested a quote to actually dismantle the existing tower, because it is in poor condition. It really needs to come down as soon as possible. And with this latest patch that we did with William's Communications. Once everything is up and going without issue, we would be cleared to be able to actually remove that tower. So, this one will actually take the place of the tower that sits at FCSO, and then the other tower is actually located on the north end of County Highway 65. Commissioner Ward speaking and that is one we have been working on for a while, but I know there was some issues, but now it looks like we are going to be able to use it. Mrs. Griffith speaking, well, right now we are that one. We are trying to work through property acquisition, you know, with Mr. Armstead, so the first step was to actually have an appraisal done on the parcel location. So, we will have to see how that works out, and then if that tower does not materialize, you know, we do have some other options as far as other parcels that we can go to next. So, we will just have to see on that one. Commissioner Ward speaking, well, let me know

if you would keep me posted. I have got contact from that gentleman. I cannot, it might have been Mr. Snow, but anyway, I will definitely give him a call back. Because, you know, again, anytime I would love to get towers up there, and some is better than none. So, if, even if we get the one at the north, that would be great and increase, I feel like, increase the service up that way. So, thank you. Mrs. Griffith speaking, definitely needed. Thanks. Chairman Jones speaking, Mrs. Erin, did we ever, we were having a staff discussion, staff level discussion about some county property on the west side of Franklin County. Did we ever come up with a parcel or an area? Mrs. Griffith speaking, actually, we did not. When I started looking for, looking for any right of way sections, you know, I was hoping that the county perhaps had some, you know, little, short segments of roadways that perhaps, you know, went straight to the bay, kind of like unused right away road endings, those type of locations. And I was not able to locate any county on parcels that direction. Now, the one thing that we do have is C30 to the west of Apalachicola is a really large roadway right away. So, we, we are talking with one, with one property owner, and they were going to get back with me sometime this week to see if they would be interested in just selling the county a very small, a small, probably 60 by 60-foot pad on one side of their property, and then the county could actually fill in with some of the large roadway segment. But that would actually have to be something that we would have to discuss to allow for intrusion into the roadway area or right away area. Chairman Jones speaking, would it be in an area that would facilitate what we are trying to do with the system. Mrs. Griffith speaking, it would be yes. Chairman Jones speaking, I just had not talked to you about a couple of days, and I thought about it while we are talking about these other towers, Mrs. Griffith speaking, yes. We actually located a parcel that was actually closer to the county line on that side. So, you know, we have located one privately owned parcel that we will see if the owner is willing to talk to us. Chairman Jones speaking, I had to step out for a minute, and you might have already talked about it, but I see that we are finally going to be maybe going out for bids as early as June on the EOC, correct? Mrs. Griffith speaking, yes. Excited. Chairman Jones speaking, go ahead, tell Howard to fire up them land clears and get that thing going. Commissioner Ward speaking, shovels. Get us some shovels ready. Chairman Jones speaking, Thank you. Any other questions?

Commissioner Ward speaking, I do? Erin, I know at our last meeting, I spoke of the light, the batting cage light switch at Vrooman Park. I did speak to Fonda this morning. I went out there with the baseball parent that told me about it, and the GFCI outlets are working fine. It was discussion of maybe the pitching machine when it is being plugged in, might be throwing a breaker, but the switch is broken, the timer switch. So I asked Fonda if there was a way, and they suggested we could just do like a regular light switch and then further up in the conduit, if we could actually put like a timer up top, where nobody could mess with a timer, but set the timer for like between, say, five and 10 or 11, and it can still switch it off if they leave, but it will be on at that time and nobody. Because I think what happened is they turned it and turned it and it is probably because it was broken, because we turned it and the lights were on for like five seconds, and they went off, and we turned it on again, the lights would not come on. So, I could see where someone was trying to figure it out and just maybe it was not working? I do not think it is a short it is broken. Something is broken on the switch itself; I think on the inside. So, I did tell Fonda and he is going to work on that. I just wanted to let, or the public know, because that was a conversation Fonda and I had off the record, for you to know too, that we are, he is going to work on it. Mrs. Griffith speaking, okay. We will get something figured out with Cates. Chairman Jones speaking, we might need to have them weigh in too. Mrs. Erin, about when they are using the pitching machine that it is flipping a break or whatever. Commissioner Ward speaking, yeah, I do not know if there is any truth to that, but yes that is definitely something they can look into. Mr. Moron speaking, Chairman, you know, Erin will be back for the 11 AM public hearing that we have, just want to let you guys know.

Commissioner Croom speaking, Chairman, Erin I have one thing there I did see because I had it as a question, but it is in your report that EMS director did accept the position we offered. My question is our current EMS positions, like the for the medics and EMTs. Is that application closed or open? Mrs. Griffith speaking, that application period is going to remain open until filled. So, we will make that change, you know, and by having the new EMS director on board, then you now have a staff person that can actually conduct all of the interviews and such. So will be happening in the next, you know, likely in the next two months, for sure. Commissioner Croom speaking, okay, is it there? Is it going to be on our website? Because I was advised it was closed. I guess, because they maybe have not seen it or something, I do not know. Mrs.

Griffith speaking, okay, we will make the correction on the county website and say, open until filled.

Commissioner Amison speaking, Erin, when me, you and Mr. Davis went out to Donnie Wilson Sports Arena and looked at that sidewalk. We had some discussion monument and making some changes. When I was out there the other day, I noticed that when they were erecting the poles for the Musco light, some of that equipment got on that older sidewalk in this laps in a lot of places. I was just giving you a heads up that we had to address that sooner rather than later. While we are doing that, we need to get together and put in a paved handicap access because we do not have any stable handicap access to the park.

Mrs. Griffith speaking, actually, Commissioner, that would probably be a good time for us to actually do that is we can look at those items when we are having the mandatory pre bid meeting out there, because likely any contractor that is doing the pickleball courts that should be right up their alley as far as being able to do ADA parking pad and also the concrete repairs. Commissioner Amison speaking, that is why I brought it up to you.

Chairman Jones speaking, anyone else? Also have a discussion with you later about, so since we are doing everything else, we're doing on the storm water and the paving from third to third, I need to talk to you, and we can discuss it offline, about the possibility of doing a change order, because I forgot about a very important area, we probably need to try to repave while we have them there, the parking area by Lighthouse Park, and restripe that area as well. If that is something we can do. I think we gave you enough tasks for today.

The Board moved to Bill Williams item at this time.

Mr. Bill Williams speaking, EDC coordinator, good morning. Mr. Chairman commissioners, Madam Clerk, Michael, I appreciate the opportunity to come in. We are doing some great work under the leadership of Chairman Jones and our 12 newly appointed members that you all see; we have gone back and forth a little bit on the structure when I first came to you regarding putting this potentially under team Franklin, which is a Florida Statute 163 intergovernmental group. But because of the cumbersomeness of the board and how that would work, we really needed to have a separate board with a separate mission, separate bylaws, separate everything. So, we are coming back to formalize that agreement. Kristy Banks is the attorney now and she is doing it pro bono, so we are very appreciative of that to get us started and get rolling through our articles of incorporation, our bylaws, our members, etc. I have listed the members for you. So, the action item was to answer any question you have, and then to formalize that agreement with you know, obviously legal review, but this document was brought to you before we just changed. The only thing that we changed was it is a not-for-profit organization versus the Team Franklin organization would be the company or the organization that you would designate, and we have to compile and file reports with the state and those type things. The second company, I will stop there, Mr. Chairman, because there is one other element to it, but to see if you would carry the motion as an action item to approve that so that we could have a formal designation by the BOCC. Chairman Jones speaking, all right, do you need both of those to be done separately? Mr. Williams speaking, you can do them together. I just did not know if you want me to pause the second. The second item is basically, I need to notify the state, both the Department of Commerce Florida's Great Northwest and Opportunity Florida, of this agreement, I need to send them agreement and then have myself designated for communication for any business leads and different things that come from those organization as we get up in front. So, it is to recognize the agreement but the scenario to get the board to approve those two items. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, any questions, or what is the pleasure of the board? Commissioner Croom speaking, yes, Mr. Chair, I spoke with Bill the other day. Mr. Williams, would you please just for the public knowledge, explain the difference between the EDC and Team Franklin? Mr. Williams speaking, yes sir. That is a great point of reference. When we first came to the board, we have been working on a little bit over probably a year now, year and a half, on our housing initiative, which was that chapter 163 formation of the six governmental entities. So, we have the sheriff's office, the school board, the municipalities, etc., and the major focal, which Commissioner Ward represents as your representative, that initiative is solely based in housing. And housing initiatives for critical personnel, economic personnel, and then for our general population. This is a component of specific economic development. This will be bringing attracting new business to Franklin County. It will be working

with our current businesses. As you can see, Roger Mathis, for example, is our representative of blue water industry. We want to make sure that we represent yesterday and tomorrow with keeping your heritage and your culture and that working waterfront scenario, as well as looking at different areas. The main focal point commissioner is one is looking at housing, and it is a separate body, and one is looking at economic development. Now they do overlap with each other, but we want to be able, if you I will come to this board in the future and say this is our recommendation for targeted industries. For example, you guys will tell us what you want for target industries and what we are after, but we need to be able to tell those folks we have got the land, we have got the infrastructure and we have got housing to be able to afford. That is why these two are running kind of parallel with each other. But that is a great question, and if there are any constituents that you all have that you know, want to sit down with us, and we are notifying, and Michael has been wonderful to publicly notice all these things. Both of these boards will fall under Sunshine because we are making recommendations to you for final approval and for recommendations. Commissioner Sanders speaking, Bill as the coordinator for the Economic Development Council who is paying you? Are you working up underneath the sheriff side? Mrs. Williams speaking, well, no, and it is a great point, because the sheriff has put me somewhat out on loan, but he made a comment, and I notified some of you over the bass bit that this really is a county perspective. At this point, the sheriff has paid me both under the team Franklin side and on the coordinating of the EDC side. He does want the county to step up to the plate and say, Okay, this is a county responsibility, but at this point, I'm not being paid for either one, but it is coming through the sheriff's budget, and actually we need to justify because my as you all are aware, my salary is paid through Northwest Florida Health Network and does not come out of the county budget, and we need to make sure that I'm justifying that grant and my duty. So, we will come back to you, once we get a little bit stable, and ask for the county to assist us, because there is going to be some operational cost the Economic Development Council. I will give you an example in Wakulla County. Wakulla County runs about 60-40 about 60% of their funding comes from the private enterprise, and about 40% of their budget comes through county support. But we would go to the because this is a county wide deal, we would reach out. We will look for businesses to be partners with us. We will look for the municipalities to be partners with us. There is a lot of things we can do with the Regional Planning Council, but I appreciate you bringing that up, because I do not want the sheriff mad at me. Commissioner Sanders speaking, well, you know me as long as you have known me. You know that is a question I am going to ask, come into Franklin County and you want to do something, I want to know how much we are going to have to pay. Mr. Williams speaking at this point, we will come back, and I will go through the Economic Development Council and through to the chairman, and then we will come back with some recommendations as a budget. But right now, we are just getting structured. I am glad you did, because the sheriff, he has a tendency, if he wants to yank me back, he will yank me back. Commissioner Sander speaking, tell the sheriff, and he will be seeing this meeting I imagine, that we appreciate him loaning you out. Mr. Williams speaking, I appreciate that as well, and I do. And I say this very sincerely you and I talked a little bit about it in the beginning, even though and I say this with all due respect to Gulf County, but the scenario I am from Gulf County, but this has been a pleasure and an honor to be doing what I'm doing over here, from the folks that I help in the jail, from the people that we work with in the community. This is a great community, and I will probably come to you not only to get paid, but to be adopted at some point, because it is a great community, and I appreciate the opportunity to serve. Commissioner Amison speaking, Mr. Chair, since Commissioner Sanders brought that up, and we have Bill here. Is it John McKnight, Mr. McKnight, over in Gulf County, he is their economic development director? Commissioner Amison speaking, this board may want to consider in the future. And maybe it could be, we could probably gradually move that in with what we are discussing here, if we, if it comes to us having to help the sheriff on the funding, as far as justifying your, your mean, so to speak, but, uh, that may be something we might want to entertain here in the near future. Chairman Jones speaking, they do not have an actual council, right? Mr. Williams speaking, they do. They actually have a board. I actually met with Mr. McKnight. He is coming. We have a meeting, and obviously we will advertise and y'all can come, but our next meeting is scheduled for the 16th, and Chairman Jones obviously will chair that meeting as well. We have from Career Source, Kim Bodine coming and Mr. McKnight coming from Gulf County to talk about how they started, what they did, because it is a very similar situation. They were not big enough at that time to have a bunch of staff to be able to do things and how they set up a contract. And he is going to talk about how you engage, how you do not engage, but it's really critical, and Commissioner, I appreciate you bringing it up with you know, right now, House Bill 4105 is enrolled. It's waiting for the governor's signature to be engrossed there with the four-county movement, with the with

the port operation expansion in Gulf County, and what you're trying to do here, with the airport and with liberty and Gadsden, it will be pivotal that we are recognized, designated and at the table in these negotiations so that we can advance the economics. So, with your permission, I will work with the sheriff, will come up with some kind of funding, and we will come back where he is comfortable, and you are comfortable. We are a little bit ahead of the governor and the state. We have already got somebody from Gulf Carolina airport board that is awesome. We did not have to wait to be told that is awesome. And I am telling you, that is a sleeping giant there, and I know that they are moving. I have mentioned opportunity zones to you before, and the opportunity to readdress some of your designations. There are some really good things that are happening. I just want your businesses that have been here to truly understand that they're not being forgotten in this process. They are going to be integrated into this business. You have a great, you can see the members. You have 12 board members right now that represent a cross section from banking to, you know, the blue waters, to finance to construction. We will have subcommittees that are coming up, and obviously we are at your bequest, because you are the one that has the authority to form a statute. So, this board will be able to work with our board to say, this is where we need you to go. So, it is an exciting time. I hope it leads to a lot of leadership, a lot of CEOs coming in here and saying, I want to build in Franklin County. Commissioner Sanders speaking, we've been trying to get economic development in Franklin County for a long time, and that's why we did the when we first heard about Enterprise Florida and all that back, way back then, way back with you'll remember that reason why the board at that time designated East Point as the economic hub of Franklin County, because it's the it's the only part that could have been there, economic, but we like to see the jobs coming in here and stuff. We cannot do it anyway because we have got the bay out there. We got to think about but your housing, all that, that that is economic, Mr. Williams speaking, well, it is going to be exciting. And I have made the comment to several of your constituents that with the vision that this board is implementing and putting these people on the board, we will be able to create, create an economic blueprint by design versus default, you will have literally, a control pattern and a strategic plan. Our first objective with our members is to create a strategic plan so we can come to you, get it approved where we want to go. So, over the next 30-60, days, we will be sitting down with each of you and say, where do you want to take this as we go? And then we will meet with other municipal leaders, etc., but we will step in link with you, and you approve each step that we make. Chairman Jones speaking, sounds good. I like the fact that it is proactive. So, in the nine years of being on this board, any, and everything that somebody is wanting to do or thinks to do or has plans to do, just kind of comes at us straight on, no forethought, no other than and that is fine. People have rights for the property, but with this process, as we get further into it, I think it is going to set the county up to be more not in control, but involved in the process, that is a good thing. Commissioner Ward speaking, the data that was its retail strategies that came to meeting a couple meetings back. You know, their data is going to be important. With this EDC board as well, because that is going to determine, you know, where we are where things are needed, and where things may not be needed, and all that kind of stuff. I do not know if you are aware of that, but if. Mr. Williams speaking, we do have the metric data that collaborative partners like Opportunity Florida, Commerce, etc. There is an amazing amount of data that is out there that can be incorporated from not just your population. Because if someone came in and they were looking at total rooftops where you have a little over 12,000 you would not have, you know, a large corporation coming in, Amazon would not come and park at the airport. But if you had niche markets that could come in, let's say, for example, you looked at a pharmaceutical operation that had short shelf life, that needed to move product out of the airport, where you could combine that, that becomes a target with you, and you got to be able to show the metric data that you have a workforce that can be trained and available, and where would they be housed, et cetera. Because when you got site selectors that are looking all over the nation to put their businesses in, they are very sophisticated. It is like trying to deal with an insurance company. They know the formularies. They know the actuaries. We have to present our package and tell Franklin County's story. So, your data point is absolutely critical. Without that data, nothing moves. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, with this agreement, I am sure, since it has been brought back to the board, has the attorney been able to review it? Chairman Jones speaking, we can do it contingent upon attorney review. **Commissioner Ward speaking, I will make a motion to approve this, contingent upon attorney approval. Commissioner Croom second.** Chairman Jones speaking, alright, so we do have a motion by Commissioner Ward, has been seconded by Commissioner Croom. Commissioner Ward, you do, in your motion, it is about both subject matters that Mr. Williams brought up, correct? Commissioner Ward speaking, yes. Chairman Jones speaking, just wanted to make sure and with the attorney review. Any other discussion before we vote? All

in favor, any opposed? That is unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.** Chairman Jones speaking, Bill, I want to formally say thank you. I do believe it is going to help and benefit us in ways that we cannot even imagine. By the things that you have done in your lifetime, being a commissioner, being in places you have been in, you kind of get both sides of what is going on, and our residents are going to be the beneficiaries of that. Mr. Williams speaking, well, I am humbled to hear that. I appreciate that very much. Chairman Jones speaking, I can tell you, and I will tell the rest of the board. There have been several times already Bill to come and say, hey, I need to make sure you are going to be good. We got to talk about this. And he will say someone. And I said, that is not a problem, okay, I just want to make sure, but, but again, he is sitting the seat. So, it is not about, you know, trying to please everybody. It is about making sure that you are moving things along smoothly, and everybody is involved, everybody is engaged. And I want to thank you. Mr. Williams speaking, I appreciate those words. I will tell you this. This is like a little league building, a little league field. I use that example all the time. If we get our community, and particularly a bunch of mamas behind this project, that little league field will get built. You know, the scenario here is if our community sees what it means to their job, opportunities for their children, their grandchildren, the educational components to stay in it, it will be transformational. It is exciting to be a part of. I appreciate your words. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Commissioner Amison speaking, Mr. Chair, I will say this. I do not care if you are from Timbuktu, you have been a major asset to this community. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman. I concur. Mr. Williams speaking, it really is an honor, and I see, and I am not trying to say this because you are commissioners. It is exciting to be a part when you have got a political body that is moving with you and has the heart and the leadership skills that you all you know. I see Mr. Croom, I see you and Cheryl and I served 100 years ago in the leadership of FACC where we see moving that needle takes a lot of work, and it takes a lot of effort, and if y'all were not doing it and loving your community, so passion with passion, man, you can do a lot of things. You mentioned a servant heart, and go through, this board's got it. It is again, I love serving with you. I love serving with the sheriff. You know, it has been an honor. I appreciate it.

Mr. Moron speaking, Mr. Chairman, yes. Could I know we have four minutes before we get to the public hearing? Could I put her on the spot? I got an email from Destiny yesterday that they are ready to move forward in next phase of the Franklin 98 Living Shoreline Project. Can I ask you just to step up quickly, in case you guys have any questions, you know, Destiny, I am sorry, but yeah, then by time that is over, we could go straight to the public hearing. Ms. Destiny Bates with ARPC speaking good morning. Chairman Jones speaking, so, what does the second phase look like? Ms. Bates speaking, the second phase is just an extension of phase one. We will start, I believe, at the school site, and move east and we are starting Monday. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, is there any, I think there was a discussion, is there some area in front of the county property that is going to be done in this? Ms. Bates speaking, I do not believe so. Mr. Moron speaking, I think the TDC building Destiny, like it looks, it looks like an old Highway Patrol, because that is what it was. Ms. Bates speaking, I believe the visitor center county property has been phase two, which should be late summer. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I am real concerned with the Yent Bayou area. Y'all are not going to do anything with those rocks, it is going to stop at that flow in the creek and out of the creek, because we have a lot of people that mullet fish around that area. Ms. Bates speaking, no, they are very low profile. They only go up to the mean high-water line where the oysters like to grow to. Commissioner Sanders speaking, so it should not affect anything with the flow out of the Yent Bayou or the flow in and people will be able to mullet fish and not get on those rocks and stuff. Because they go all that whole area right in there. And that was my concern because Yent Bayou has got to flow. Commissioner Amison speaking, Mr. Chairman, just clarification, this is phase two? Ms. Bates speaking, this is phase two. It is, we label it weird. It is phase two of construction. So, we have done phase one with the public the lands, and then we will do phase two with a few private property owners, and then phase three will be a little bit more private property owners. Commissioner Amison speaking, again, the reason I am asking is you was talking about from the school east, and then the chairman brought up in front of TDC, which is back west. Ms. Bates speaking, so that will be our phase three. So, we are still working on permitting for phase three, but we should get that wrapped up pretty soon. Mr. Moron speaking, so that is why you asked for the letter. Okay, I got it. Chairman Jones speaking, there is a lot that goes into it. It is, no, we still everything is still the same way. It was not phase one to remove with the same contractors, everything is the same. Ms. Bates speaking, yeah, we are all good to go. Mr. Chairman, I feel that would you please explain to the board and the public, this is ARPC? I did not say this is ARPC working again, for

the county. Chairman Jones speaking, yes this is staff of the regional plan Council, she has taken over where before, you had Josh Adams and Evan Blythe. So, she has taken that on. They were instrumental, helping get it started. She is going to be instrumental help us see it to the finish line. It has been a good project, and it is a been a lot to Franklin County, and it is actually working like they said it was going to work. There are areas that we are starting to see, something between edge of the road and that area. It is filling in. It is growing in like it is supposed to. Hopefully one day, FDOT will start paving the road between Eastpoint and Carrabelle like they said they are going to do. So, we are still looking for that. None of us have anything to do. But thank you for being here today.

The Board moved to the public hearing at this time.

**PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG PROJECT APPLICATION, 11:00 A.M.**

Franklin County is considering applying to the Florida Department of Commerce for a FFY 2025 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The County is eligible to apply for up to \$750,000 in the neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization, and housing rehabilitation categories and up to \$1.5 million in the economic development category. Construction activities funded through the CDBG Program must meet one of the following National Objectives:

1. Provide benefit to low- and moderate-income persons.
2. Prevent or eliminate slum or blight conditions; or
3. Meet a need of recent origin having a particular urgency.

The types of activities that CDBG funds may be used for including constructing stormwater ponds, paving roads, and sidewalks, installing sewer and water lines, building a community center or park, making improvements to a sewage treatment plant, and rehabilitating low-income homes. At this time, I would like to introduce Heather Pullen with Langton Consulting who can provide some additional program details regarding the range of activities that could be funded. After we hear from Ms. Pullen regarding the available activities, the county will call for public comment and input regarding the county's economic and community development needs.

**ADVERTISING NOTICE IS PASTED BELOW AND INCLUDED AS AN ATTACHMENT TO THIS REPORT:**

Fiscal Year 2025 Florida Small Cities CDBG Program Application Cycle Franklin County, Florida  
First Public Hearing Notice

Franklin County is considering applying to the Florida Department of Commerce for a FFY 2025 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The County is eligible to apply for up to \$750,000 in the neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization, and housing rehabilitation categories and up to \$1.5 million in the economic development category. Construction activities funded through the CDBG Program must meet one of the following National Objectives:

1. Provide benefit to low- and moderate-income persons.
2. Prevent or eliminate slum or blight conditions; or
3. Meet a need of recent origin having a particular urgency.

The types of activities that CDBG funds may be used for including constructing stormwater ponds, paving roads, and sidewalks, installing sewer and water lines, building a community center or park, making improvements to a sewage treatment plant, and rehabilitating low-income homes. Additional information regarding the range of activities that could be funded will be provided at the public hearing. In developing a CDBG application, Franklin County must plan to minimize displacement of persons as a result of the activities. In addition, Franklin County is required to develop a plan to assist displaced persons. A public hearing to obtain citizen comment concerning the County's economic and community development needs will be held at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex, 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, Florida 32320 on Wednesday, April 1st at 11:00 a.m. during the regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners Meeting. For information concerning the public hearing, contact Erin Griffith, Fiscal Manager / Grants Coordinator, at (850) 653-5143 or by e-mail at erin@franklincountyflorida.com. The public hearing is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in the hearing is asked to advise the County at least five days before the hearing by contacting Jessica Gay at 850-653-8861. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the County using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800) 955-8771

(TDD) or 1(800) 955-8770 (Voice). Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should contact Jessica Gay at 850-653-8861 at least five days prior to the hearing and an interpreter will be provided.

Mrs. Griffith speaking, alright, commissioners, as it is now 11, we will now begin the public hearing regarding a possible CDBG project application. At this time, I would like to introduce Miss Heather Pullen with LinkedIn Consulting, who can provide some additional program details regarding the range of activities that could be funded. After we hear from Miss Pullen regarding the available activities, the chairman will then call for public input regarding the county's economic and community development needs. Upon conclusion of this public hearing and receiving the public comments, the board will then decide as to what type of application will be pursued at the next public hearing, which will be held at 11am on April 15. Heather, if you want to take it away. Ms. Pullen speaking, thank you, Erin. Good morning, Mr. Chair, and members of the board. My name is Heather Pullen, and I am the grant writer from Langton Consulting who is assigned to develop and submit a grant application to the Florida Department of Commerce for federal fiscal year 2025, Florida, small cities, a community development block grant, CDBG program application cycle. The county is eligible to apply for up to 750,000 in the neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization, and housing rehabilitation categories, and up to 1.5 million in the economic development category. Construction activities funded through the CDBG program, must meet one of the following national objectives, that is, provide benefit to low- and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate slum or blight conditions, or meet a recent origin. Excuse me, meet a need of recent origin having a particular urgency. The application cycle will open on April 6, 2026, and close on May 5, 2026. The purpose of today's first public hearing is to collect public comment from board members and Franklin County citizens on types of CDBG eligible community and economic development activities that you would like for us to consider. If you have a specific project in mind, we welcome you to provide comments on that as well eligible types of CDBG activities include, but are not limited to stormwater drainage projects, paving roads, and sidewalks, installing water sewer lines, building a community center or park, improvements to a sewage treatment plant, or rehabilitating low-income homes. I will now pass things back to Chairman Jones to call for public comment, and any commissioner comments, the county will review these comments, and at the next public hearing, will inform the public of the project that has been selected as the focus of this grant application. I thank you for your time today.

Chairman Jones speaking, thank you, Miss Heather. Commissioners, before we move from public comment, do you have any questions about any of this? All right, seeing no questions this time, we will open up for public comment. This is a public hearing. You do not have to have fill out a speaker card to speak. Anyone wishing to speak, this is time for public comment. Mr. Moron, what about online? Mr. Moron speaking, online, if you would like to speak, please indicate by raising your hand. Mr. Fuentes has raised his hand and his mic is unmuted, sir. Chairman Jones speaking, good morning, Billy. Mr. Fuentes speaking, good morning commissioners. Hope everyone is having a great day. The CDBG grant projects have always been a very strong part of East Point water and sewers development. The community has always assisted us in these projects. We serve the most marginalized community, and so every little bit of help we can get, it is always appreciated. Now we have several projects down the pipeline, one that we are focusing on, and with Mr. Williams being here earlier, Team Franklin housing project up Highway 65. We are committed to putting in land and tap connections in kind for this project, but we need assistance with the horizontal infrastructure. We are seeking several different avenues of financing. We have applied to the fund. We are working with the state Link Fund, but essentially what the 65 project is, is it will assist us with upgrades and expanding horizontal infrastructure that is already existing up Highway 65. We already have a force main sewer there. We already have water lines, but we currently only utilize a portion of our 12-inch main down CC Land Road, so we need additional upgrades to be able to use that to full capacity. We are looking at potentially an additional ground storage tank, which will help increase fire suppression for the area, and a potential lift station and a chlorine boost station. Those all part of the 40 acres that the district already has. But as those areas grow, we are going to have to have additional infrastructure, and certainly to upgrade the existing that is there the full which is capable and we have capacity at the plant, but I know that at some point, if that project goes to fruition, particularly the rest of the area to develop, we are going to need assistance in that. We also have neighborhoods that need additional assistance. Tucker Road and School Road. School Road vacuum line is a three-inch vacuum sewer line that is undersized.

Originally, it was only built for the school, and as that neighborhood has grown, we have tied into it, but Tucker is completely without sewer. Given a mandate by DEP to try to get rid of coastal septic tanks, and right now, we have no infrastructure there, and vacuum sewer is difficult because it requires engineering and it is a large-scale project, so we need assistance with that. We also have the Twin Lakes Road, North Bay Shore water enforcement areas there. Twin Lakes Road is where our primary water plant is, but there is no sewer along those neighborhoods. And as we are seeing growth, more and more and more people, they are being forced to put in septic tanks. They can get water from us. But when we run into the septic tank issue, which anything along the coastline with a septic tank, is a problem, we also need assistance there with engineering fees, and we are hoping that we already have property there for lift station. So, it would be an easy thing to put in a lift station and tie it into our force main that runs into Magnolia Ridge. The last project that we are looking at is West Highway 98 and South Bay Shore Drive. The main issue there is this we have a sewer line along Highway 98 headed towards Apalachicola, and as it progresses from 10th Street down to the bridge, it gets smaller and smaller and smaller, as that is the way engineers design it. Again, we are seeing the South Bay Shore area is already developed. So, it is not growing any more than what it already is, but every one of those residents are on septic tanks, and they are right there by the bay. Representative Shoaf made the statement that, you know, he really feels that is one of the greatest things that affects our bay, and to mitigate the loss there, especially any kind of flooding or sewer discharge into that area we need to be able to install additional infrastructure there. So, grants that we got a few years back, that the Commission helped us get was for the project here in East Point where we built the two new back stations our new water plant. So, we have worked with you all, and feel that this is appropriate, especially for economic development. Highway 98, that corridor right now is becoming the most active commercial center in Franklin County. Seeing, you know, every kind of building being put there, there's potential growth for additional businesses. And being that East Point in particular, our system is in great shape. It is great to receive, and we are only using about a third of our capacity that we are permitted for any kind of infrastructure building and additional customers allows us to add on and still be able to provide, you know, a good service at a reasonable price.

Chairman Jones speaking, any other public comment? Mr. Moron speaking no additional hands raised. Chairman Jones speaking, all right. Mrs. Erin. What kind of action are we looking at today? Is this all we really needed to do for today? Or is there an intended action? Mrs. Griffith speaking, no Commissioner. This is, this is actually just the public comment period. So, we were actually, you know, soliciting public input on the project ideas. I do want to remind the board, you know, in the last funding cycle, we did a housing program. We did have an issue where we were having a hard time actually getting enough qualified applicants for the program because the income and asset limitations were so restrictive with the CDBG program for the residential program. So, I will just put that out there. I know you all, remember that probably from, you know, last year or so. But this was just to gather public input at this time.

Chairman Jones speaking, I have one question, in what is written here it talks about the county's eligibility. This is for the neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization, or housing rehabilitation or the economic development category? Correct? It is not both? Mrs. Griffith speaking, correct. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, I wanted to make sure. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, that was my question too. So, we could either get \$750 for the neighborhood revitalization or the \$1.5 for the economic development category. I will echo Erin's sentiment there. I do remember, I personally had with CDBG last year a person that was having trouble when they applied. It was just so restrictive. I think out of last year, how many homes did we actually get out of the CDBG funding? It was more SHIP related funding that we got. Mr. Moron speaking, we got a few. Mrs. Griffith speaking, I believe there were four commissioners, four total. Commissioner Ward speaking, it seems like me, personally, I feel like the 1.5 million would be a better ask. Now, I guess we could talk about that further on the April 15, but I am okay with that. I guess we will just talk about it today.

Mr. Moron speaking, Mr. Chairman, can I ask a question? So, what Mr. Fuentes just talked about? would that help the Team Franklin goal to put housing higher up 65? Commissioner Ward speaking, it would because the infrastructure does not exist up there yet, I think, and Billy can come in. But to my knowledge, the infrastructure is not quite there yet. So, it would help, probably in that aspect as well. Chairman Jones speaking, even if you had a builder today, they wanted to start building, they cannot build without this

infrastructure in place because it is horizontal. It has got to go in first.

Commissioner Sanders speaking I know we have been through a lot of CDBG stuff through the years. Instead, you are saying installing sewer water lines is one we, I know myself have a bad problem. I think Commissioner Jones said he had about the fire hydrant. And you have too Commissioner Ward. Does this help that any it out with this? Help that issue any at all? Erin, or could it? Mrs. Griffith speaking, let us see the insulation of fire hydrants, Heather, what is your take on that? Ms. Heather speaking it is eligible, but, but probably needs to be more specific than just, you know, if we were to add that as a layer into a project, but it needs to be a standalone project. So is there enough to do a standalone project for \$750,000. Chairman Jones speaking, well, it has also still got to fall into the same income. Commissioner Sanders speaking, our issue out there in the eastern part is the city of Carrabelle is your water provider. But I feel an obligation as a county commissioner to help them with their fire hydrants too, because they do not have any past Delaware Street out there to the west, and then they do not have any fire hydrants to the east of Lanark area for a certain amount of time, or area. But I am just concerned because we have got to do something about these fire hydrants. I was just wondering if there is a possibility that you could do that with this funding. Ms. Heather speaking, the answer is yes, you could. But as a grant writer who you know, I am used to a lot of federal and state programs, I would be happy, commissioner, to look into other potential funding sources that may fit better. Commissioner Amison speaking, Mr. Chairman, and I am not sure who to direct this question to, but talking about infrastructure for sewer and water, that strip along two mile right there from the old IGA back to the county line. I mean, you have got all that property right along there, if, you know, in the foreseeable future, if anything happens in that area, that would be great to get that off of septic as well. I don't know if that could be something we could throw in there to possibly, you know, bring it up a little, make it a little more attractive, or whatever. But I am not sure how that would work with that would be the city. Chairman speaking, I would think it would, because if you tried to do it, stand alone in whatever is. Commissioner Amison speaking it may be the special water district, but I mean that would be again, just like Billy was saying earlier, with those areas right there, around along South Bay Shore. I mean, you are right on the water there too, and that's commercial property. Chairman Jones speaking, we have a lot of septic tanks on the water and around the water. Commissioner Amison speaking, just as we were discussing this, I was just thinking about that area right there, because, like I said, that's all-commercial property. At some point, I am sure, you know, I do not have a crystal ball, but one day, it will be utilized. I would rather have that in place, that infrastructure there, that way we are not putting it into the water or into our bay. Commissioner Sanders speaking we have a lot of projects. Chairman Jones speaking, alright, anything else we need to do, Mrs. Erin, for this here? Mrs. Griffith speaking, no sir. We will just evaluate the public feedback and kind of look at the projects, and we will make a decision at the next public hearing. Chairman Jones speaking, all right. Thank you, Mrs. Erin, and thank you Miss Heather. The Board took a brief recess at this time.

The Board moved to the Planning and Zoning report at this time.

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

#### **11. Bill Williams -- EDC Coordinator -- Request**

##### **a. Request(s)**

Attached is the Economic Development Council designation agreement letter with the Franklin County BOCC. I would like to request this information to be added as an action item for approval on the April 1st BOCC Board Meeting.

Under Florida Statue 125.045 we are formally requesting the BOCC to designate the “Franklin County Economic Development Council” (not-for profit Florida based corporation) as your county designee and Mr. Bill Williams as the official contact. We have submitted our articles of incorporation, bylaws, and membership to the Secretary of State and will notify the Florida Department of Commerce, Florida’s Great Northwest, and Opportunity Florida of our official status. The following is a list of our executive board members:

Chairman- BOCC Commissioner-Ricky Jones

Vice-Chairman-Tami-Ray-Hutchinson-Law Enforcement/Real Estate (Appointed by the City of Apalachicola)

Treasurer-Paige Joseph-Real Estate Development (Appointed by the Carrabelle)  
Secretary-Kim Council-Foodservice/Hospitality (Appointed BOCC Eastpoint)  
Roger Mathis-Bluewater Industries  
David Duncan-Construction/Builder  
Heath Galloway-Construction/Builder  
Diane Bowen-Banking/Finance  
Jamie Martina-Tourism/Hospitality  
Courtney Alford-Healthcare  
Mike Clark-Academia  
Mark Willis-Retail

*\*\*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

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

With the exception of Variance Requests, the Board could consider action on all Planning and Zoning applications with one motion. A Commissioner or staff may request to have any application considered with a separate motion.

Chairman Jones speaking, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners now back in session. Next, we are doing the planning zone adjustment board is that correct? All right. Miss Robinson, go ahead.

## **12. Variance Requests - Tabled from 3/18 Meeting**

### **a. 1371 Chip Morrison Drive (Seawall)**

A consideration of a request to construct a seawall within the Coastal Construction Control Line - applicant is requesting to place a 90" x 14' seawall above the MHWL but within the Critical Shoreline District (150' from MHWL). Property is located in Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Josh Hall, Backroads Consulting LLC, applicant representative, for Jennifer Blanke, applicant.

Ms. Robinson speaking, good morning. So, we have two variance requests. These were tabled from the last board meeting so the county attorney could have a chance to review them. We will start with the first item. It is a variance request for 1371 Chip Morrison Drive. This is a consideration of a request to construct a sea wall within the coastal construction control line. Applicant is requesting to place a 90x14 sea wall above the mean high-water line, but still within the critical shoreline district. Property is located in Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida. Requests submitted by Josh Hall Back Roads Consulting LLC applicant, representative for Jennifer Blanke, applicant and this did have a contingent motion from the P and Z board. The minutes reflect that a motion to recommend approval was made by Jeremy Putnam and seconded by Corey Cates. The recommendation is contingent upon all required permits being obtained as the project is within the cccl and should the permitting process require modification to the proposed design, then the revised design must be returned to the board for review and approval. All were in favor and none opposed. There is a visual up on the screen in the boardroom for you. I do believe the applicant made a few revisions, so I would like to ask them to explain those when they have a chance to speak.

Chairman Jones speaking, okay, commissioners, do you have any questions before the applicant explains the things that Ms. Bre was talking about? Commissioner Ward speaking, I do not have any questions, Mr. Chairman. I do have some comments, but I can wait. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, you have the floor.

Jessica Williams speaking, good morning. We did make some changes, we eliminated. Chairman Jones speaking, what is your name? Jessica Williams speaking, I am sorry. I am Jessica Williams. This is Scott Davis. We understood the concerns about the sea turtles, and we removed the rocks in front of the sea wall, so that should eliminate that entire issue. Mr. Davis speaking, since the last meeting, we had multiple correspondences with FDEP. We went ahead and discussed the wall, and what we arrived at was that we should remove the rip rap, which would be a chief concern for sea turtles to get stuck. There was concurrence on that, so we went ahead and had the engineer redesign the wall and submit it. FDEP is in receipt of it right now. We had a meeting with them last week. You know it is FDEP, usually takes a few weeks for them to get back with us, but they have that, and there is still no compliance issue with the site

whatsoever. Everything is just par for the course, and all we need in order for them to complete their RAI review is for the county to say that we will approve this wall so that they can approve the wall once they are done with their review. But every environmental component, from mean high-water line to sea oats to turtles, everything is being comprehensively reviewed by FDEP right now, and they are certainly not going to issue a permit if there were any environmental issue that would arise from that development. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, any questions, Commissioners? Commissioner Sanders speaking, just one, Mr. Chairman. Are you still requesting for the 90 foot. I mean, the 90, yeah, the 90x90, inches by 14-foot seat. That has got to be 90 foot. That makes, made an error, right there. Y'all still asking for the 90 foot, and the 90 times 14-foot-high sea wall. Are y'all still asking for that, or you said, the engineer redesigned some of that. What did they redesign? Because I thought if it was a redesign, it was supposed to go back to plan and zoning or something on that one that I read at the last meeting. Remembered that when I read that. Chairman Jones speaking, so is this still 10 foot tall? Chairman Jones speaking, well, the 14, some of it was in the in the ground. Commissioner Ward speaking I guess what Commissioner Sanders is asking, it does say that, should the permitting process require modifications the proposed design, the revised design must be returned to the board for review and approval. I guess the question is if this is considered a design change that would indicate, and I do not know who can answer this, maybe Bree can if this needs to go back to P&Z, or if this is something that we can proceed with today on voting. Ms. Robinson speaking, so based on their comments, it seemed like the request has been lessened, if anything, and the motion made by the P and Z board was specific to revised designs required by DEP as part of the permitting process. Maybe Scott or Jessica could answer if these modifications were voluntary, just based on board comments at the last meeting, or if these were required by DEP to move forward. Ms. Williams speaking, they were voluntary. DEP had no formal request at all. They just simply told them to stop the work, and we heard the comments from the last meeting, so we decided to make the changes necessary. Commissioner Ward speaking, so in other words, Mr. Chairman Bre saying it is basically less than what they were asking for. So, would that, again obviously I am getting from Bre that maybe not, it does not need to go back to the P&Z because it was less it was not more. I am just trying to clarify that. Chairman Jones speaking any more questions for them, I do have a public comment card.

Attorney Theriaque speaking, Mr. Chairman, this is David Theriaque. Y'all had tasked me with looking into this. Would you like me to weigh in now or after public comment? I reached out to Doug Aarons. He is a professional engineer. He is a coastal construction control line program administrator for DEP. We had calls on Monday and Tuesday. He informed me that they received revised plans on March 9th. He emailed the plans to me yesterday. I emailed them to Michael Moron yesterday as well. He informed me that one property owner still has not paid a permit application fee. The initial plans that were submitted he did not believe were permittable. He believes that the revised plans are potentially permittable, but there are still some issues with the proposed design. FWC will need to review the plans, and he did indicate that DEP will revise, will review the revised plans, and evaluate potential for erosion on adjacent properties. He informed me that he thought there may be an issue with the sea wall proposed on the Blanke property regarding impacts to the adjacent property. So, my recommendation is, if you all are inclined to grant a variance for a sea wall, that you grant the variance, but you make it contingent upon FDEP approving the revised plans. I would suggest that we add a sentence that this approval of the variance in no way supports or rejects the design because that is solely within the purview of FDEP, and I do not want, I would not like the applicant to be able to point to their variance as support for the design.

Chairman Jones speaking, all right, any questions for Attorney Theriaque commissioners?

Ms. Williams speaking, sir. The plans that he has are not the latest revised plans. We have only finished those in the last several days two weeks. They were submitted last Monday to FDEP. Ms. Robinson speaking, I would like to chime in, Jessica, what you sent me this morning is what is on the screen for everyone. There is four pages in it, so if there is anything you would like for me to show the room, just let me know, and I can flip to that page. Thank you.

Chairman Jones speaking, so, we do have public comment on this, Mr. John Berry. Mr. John Berry speaking, good morning. Thank you, commissioners. taking a look at this picture up on the wall shows three properties, 1380 I want to say 1369, 71 and 73. My understanding is one that cannot be a continuous,

contiguous sea wall on two properties owned by different people. I may be wrong, but it is my understanding of what I read. The second thing is, when you look at the sea wall and the removal of the rip rap, whatever it was, I do not understand if it is going to be, was it intended to be on the interior of the sea wall or the exterior of the sea wall. I have heard interior which has an illegal, currently illegally dump rip rap in there, which the sea wall is to keep and contained. So bottom line is, if you want the Great Wall, or the wall that is in the Game of Thrones, that is 10 feet high to protect it, I think you need to think long term about the erosion of Alligator Point and downstream, because we have seen it occur in the past, over the last 50 years. I think that is all I want to add. I understand they need to protect their property, but I think they came a little bit too late to the show, because I think the property has been damaged quite bit. In fact, the picture that you saw or given to you of a sea wall that was there got tore up by Helene, and it got thrown way up on their property. So, those are the two points. Thank you.

Chairman Jones speaking, all right, commissioners, you have any questions? Commissioner Croom speaking, so, my question is, historically, have we approved sea walls of this nature? Can you answer that? Commissioner Sanders speaking, not in this area, not built like this. I mean, it has been a sea wall, but it had not been way up. So, you know, there had been a sea wall. They had, had been sea wall approval. Where it was east of this property was repetitive damage every time. Now this is the area of the repetitive damage. And so that is, I mean, it is like fighting a losing battle. But, I mean, I am like, Mr. John Berry said people have a right to try to protect the property. Commissioner Croom speaking, and that was where I was. My other question is, if is, there's repetitive damage here, you know, is there as I mean, would you know, I guess, as the homeowner, will we try to protect that property? You know, there's repetitive damage? Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I have got, first of all, I got some statements, but I do actually have a question for Attorney Theriaque, but I did call DEP. I spoke with Ms. Celora Jackson, there, she is the CCCL sea wall permit, one of the specialists. I did ask about, there are definitely many, many rules with DEP. They do, do, I know the last time we tabled this because it was a lot of questions, one was about a hydrology study. They do not do hydrology studies. They do what is called, they do a vulnerability study about the erosion control on the other properties they do, what is called a s beach model, and the difference between its equivalent to the hydrology report, the difference is based on the years of flood storm. So, they do like a 1530, year flood versus 100 a year flood storm. And so, DEP does these this study, and they feel like it is better than a hydrology study. So that is my question about that, which is one of the reasons why the last time we had concerns. There are all kinds of rules with the vulnerability study. It is on their website, I was able to pull it up, and I know Mr. Barry brought up the contiguous building a sea wall. But I know there is three properties, and it cannot be contiguous. It can be contiguous, but DEP has to rule whether or not, and they termed it. It is called closing of the gap provision, and it can be contagious, but there's certain criteria that have to be met in order for that provision to be allowed. So, my question for Attorney Theriaque is, and maybe this can simplify our thought processes today, because I thought about this long and hard. If we hypothetically vote in favor of this variance, it is still up to DEP. They could come back and say they do not comply. Their sketch does not comply. We have done our S beach study, and it is going to cause too much erosion on the adjacent properties. It does not basically go by their criteria. Our vote today is null and void, even if, hypothetically, we say yes, the DEP can come back and say no, and then, you know, they just need a letter from us saying that we approve it for them to move forward, right? Am I right there? So really, all they are asking is a letter for us to say we approve it. It does not mean it is going to happen. They could come back and say no, and it sounds like the DEP has already got questions and concerns. So really truly I think we are over complicating this by saying we are by us saying yes to this, then they are going to get this sea wall, whatever they are asking for. I think by us saying, if we hypothetically vote in favor, is sending a letter to the DEP saying that we approved it, they can move forward with their review of this request, but still, at the end of the day, can say, no, that is what we need to really focus on. And in my opinion, not what DEP is going to do or not do what they require, what we require. Our county does not require any of this. And the reason why is because anything like this is going to have to go through DEP anyway. So why would we have to require it when they are going to require it? That is my thought and opinion. I do not know if that helps or hurts or makes it more complicated, but that's kind of all I have had to say about that.

Chairman Jones speaking, and I think what Attorney Theriaque said also addresses that. Attorney Theriaque speaking, your vote to approve a variance would allow them to have a sea wall within that critical zone. You are not approving a particular sea wall. I mean, that's DEP, who is going to bless or deny the sea wall.

You are allowing for the location of a sea wall within a certain location. Commissioner Sanders speaking, in other words, Mr. Theriaque, we are approving the variance and not approving the sea wall. Attorney Theriaque speaking that is correct. Commissioner Ward, I spoke with Celora as well. She indicated that her boss had more information, which is why I ended up calling her boss, which was Doug Aarons. They were both very helpful. Commissioner Ward speaking, yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, I agree. Attorney Theriaque, she did the same thing with me. She gave me that contact, which I did forward to Bre, so she could have a contact for any time this comes up in the future. Commissioner Sanders speaking, okay, well now let me ask a question. Mr. Chairman, Bre, let me ask the question, what is the variance? How much of a variance are they requesting? Ms. Robinson speaking, I do not think there is a specific amount to that. The code just references that you need a variance in order to place a sea wall, which then trigger state permits and on and so forth. So, I think the blanket statement is just variance for a sea wall on this property. Chairman Jones speaking, any other questions? Commissioner Amison speaking, I got a question, and I understand it is a variance, but I think a lot of it is the is, the height is where a lot of people, I think, are having heartburn with it, but my question is maybe more of an engineering question, but if it were four foot versus ten, would it still create the same issue with the erosion potentially? I mean, I do not know if we you know if it was a three foot. I mean, I am not sure. I am just curious if anybody has got any answers to that. I do not know if that is in your window, or what Ms. Williams speaking, it would be more effective if it were the higher. Commissioner Amison speaking, higher, of course, effective as far as the property erode or the erosion that comes around it. I mean, that is, what I am assuming correct is just looking at it, because it looks like just over time to me. And again, I am not an expert, but it just looks like that erosion keeps walking back to the west every time we get a storm. I am just curious if the height had anything to do with that, or whatnot. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I think, and then talking with the DEP, these are studies that they cannot do until we give them the vote. They so none of these are all answers we answer. They are basically dead in the water if we say no, or hypothetically say no, or table it again, and it is a moot point at that point, but me, personally, I feel like we give them the variance, then that can give them the permission to proceed. Again, because DEP at in a day, is going to have the final say, and then they are going to do all these vulnerable vulnerability studies that the S beach model study to determine all these things, I guess, if that helps. Chairman Jones speaking, other questions or concerns, what is the pleasure of the board? Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I personally do not see a problem with approving this, because again, at the end of the day, DEP still going to can come back and say no, and then it is a moot point. But if we say no, then they are dead in the water, so to speak. And I feel like, you know, people should be able to protect the property from erosion. So, I am going to throw this out there and make a motion to approve. I will see where it goes from there a motion to approve, contingent on FDEP approval.

All right, and the comments from Attorney Theriaque, correct? All right. So, we do have a motion to approve from Commissioner Ward. We have a second from Commissioner Croom. Any discussion commissioners before we vote? **On a motion by Commissioner Ward to approve contingent upon DEP permitting, seconded by Commissioner Croom.** Commissioner Sanders speaking, I got some discussion. All right, I am going to let you know that my vote is going to be no it is the principle of it. And I have been a commissioner down there a long time, and I have saw the damage that continual erosion does. And as I said before, I understand that they need to protect their property, but what cost is it going to be enough to cause damage more to the west of it than what has already caused? I do not know, but I am not going to sit here and say yes to something that I know it could potentially cause damage down the line, and I am not going to do that. **Motion carried 3-2, Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Amison opposed.**

Ms. Williams speaking, I just wanted to remind you guys gently, that this was two different property owners, and the reason to continue the wall is because the wall is most effective when it is a continuous wall. However, we are dealing with Blanke currently, but Bueno, you guys actually already approved that variance a few months ago. We did this, and so the other end, you guys actually approved. So, to your question of, has this, have you guys approved these before. You approved the other end, just a few months ago. So, I just wanted to remind you guys that you had, in fact. Thank you.

The Board moved to 1373 Chip Morrison Drive item at this time.

b. **1373 Chip Morrison Drive (Seawall)**

A consideration of a request to construct a seawall within the Coastal Construction Control Line - applicant is requesting to place a 90' x 14' seawall on the coastal front and 60' tapered to grade seawall on the west side of the property to all be placed above the MHWL but within the Critical Shoreline District (150' from MHWL). Property is located in Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Josh Hall, Backroads Consulting LLC, applicant representative, for Jennifer Blanke, applicant.

Ms. Robinson speaking, so, we just finished discussion on 1371 Chip Morrison Drive. So, we do have a second item, because they are separate parcels, we now enter into 1373 Chip Morrison Drive. This is a consideration of a request to construct a sea wall within the coastal construction control line. Applicant is requesting to place a 90 by 14-foot seawall on the coastal front and 60 feet tapered to grade sea wall on the west side of the property to all be placed above the mean how water line, but within the critical shoreline district. Property is located in Alligator point, Franklin County, Florida. Requests submitted by Josh Hall back roads consulting LLC. Applicant, representative for Jennifer Blanke. Applicant.

Chairman Jones speaking, all right, since you guys just presented or discussed it with us, one that was very similar. Do you have anything additional to add to this variance request? Are you good? Anything additional to add? Are you good with what we have already discussed? Ms. Williams speaking, I am good with what we have already discussed. This is just the continuation of the wall into that second property, their second property that attaches to the other first. Chairman Jones speaking, any questions Commissioners. Mr. Barry, do you want to speak. Mr. Barry speaking, no again, my concern is the future erosion that goes down the coast, and the historical pattern of it again, going back to 1369, they we did get an approval on that portion. And at that time, the drawing, this drawing here, showed it was a continuous wall, and the pictures, I think I have furnished some pictures, if you will look at it, you can see the whole hold scope of the of the wall itself. The main thing is that 1369, is almost in the water currently, where your mean high tide line is very, very close to where the property line is. Yet it should not be, because the mean high tide line should be way out in the water from the way this property has been eroded over time. The main thing, though, is, again, you are going to affect downstream housing to the west, property owners to the west over time. You may be here; you may not be here. I know I will not, but speak up now. Thank you. Chairman Jones speaking, all right, commissioners, do you have anything to ask Attorney Theriaque? Attorney Theriaque speaking, Mr. Chairman, instead of repeating everything that we just went over on the first variance, I would recommend incorporating by reference, the comments that Ms. Robinson and I made during the first variance. Chairman Jones speaking, yes, sir, sounds great. What is the pleasure? **Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I will make a motion to approve contingent on FDEP approval and Attorney Theriaque's and Ms. Robinson's response, seconded by Commissioner Croom.** Commissioner Ward speaking, I personally do not think that DEP is going to approve anything that they feel like they are not going, that is going to affect someone negatively. Again, this is just a letter for them going, I do not, I honestly, when DEP comes down, if this passes, hypothetically, it did on the one, they are going to come down and they are going to look at all this, and there is a good chance they are going to say, no. That is my thing is, I do not think DEP, that is why they have all these rules. That is why they have this 62, b3, 3.1002, and their rules is, they are going to look at all this and decide themselves. If this is going to affect vacant, other property owners, it is going to this study is going to determine the erosion. I just that is why, that is why that is what I based my decision on, is I do not think FDEP, is not going to allow anything that they think is going to harm anybody. But that is my thought. That is my thought process. I am one of five. That is why I voted in favor, in favor of these and in speaking with DEP. Chairman Jones speaking, all right, any additional discussion before we vote? **Motion carried 3-2, Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Amison opposed.**

The Board moved to Mr. Moron's report at this time.

**(11:00 AM) Public Hearings -- Time Certain Agenda Item**

**13. Fiscal Year 2025 Florida Small Cities CDBG Program Application Cycle**

a. **Information**

Franklin County is considering applying to the Florida Department of Commerce for an FFY 2025 Small

Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The County is eligible to apply for up to \$750,000 in the neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization, and housing rehabilitation categories and up to \$1.5 million in the economic development category. Construction activities funded through the CDBG Program must meet one of the following National Objectives:

1. Provide benefit to low- and moderate-income persons.
2. Prevent or eliminate slum or blight conditions; or
3. Meet a need of recent origin having a particular urgency.

The types of activities that CDBG funds may be used for including constructing stormwater ponds, paving roads, and sidewalks, installing sewer and water lines, building a community center or park, making improvements to a sewage treatment plant, and rehabilitating low-income homes. Additional information regarding the range of activities that could be funded will be provided at the public hearing. In developing a CDBG application, Franklin County must plan to minimize displacement of persons as a result of the activities. In addition, Franklin County is required to develop a plan to assist displaced persons.

## **County Coordinator & Attorney Reports**

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

#### **a. Action Item(s)**

##### **1. Action Item: Men’s Health Week Proclamation**

Attached to my report is a Proclamation for Men’s Health Week from June 15th to June 21st, 2026. Board action to authorize the Chairman’s signature on the Men’s Health Week Proclamation.

##### **2. Action Item: SHIP Overage Approval**

As our SHIP files are being reviewed, small overages on two owner occupied rehabilitation projects were realized. Overages on the projects are for final inspection and recording fees. The first is a \$400 overage for Kathy Williams’ project and the other is a \$290 overage for Annie Wilson’s project. Board action to approve these overages which will allow the close out of these project files.

**On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom, to approve items 1 and 2 from Mr. Moron’s report. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Discussion/Possible Action Item(s)**

##### **3. Discussion/Action Item: Riverkeeper’s Letter**

Attached to my report is a copy of a letter from the Riverkeeper to the US Army Corp of Engineers’ objecting to the Apalachicola Maintenance Dredging Project. The Board has discussed the importance of this project in prior meetings, so the Board could discuss and consider authorizing a letter supporting the Corp’s Apalachicola Maintenance Dredging Project this morning. Board discussion and possible action.

Mr. Moron speaking, I was forwarded a letter that the Riverkeeper sent to the Corps by the dredging project. I know this board has been talking about that for many meetings. I figured you would want me to present that for discussion and see if you want to send a letter of support for the project. Again, we have talked about that many times. I will bring to your attention, because they came in late this morning, there was a letter someone in the community asking you to table this until the Riverkeepers could be here. That is your choice. That is all I have.

Commissioner Amison speaking, Mr. Chairman, I mean, I am all if this if this board wants to table, that is fine. But we engage with RCSC. We went in and twisted put our in our own language. Help me out here with the resolution, with the memorandum, and I mean they, we have already publicly talked about how we are in favor with dredging, as long as it is done, you know, in a proper manner. So, I do not really see me personally, why we when we need to kick it down, but that up to us, I mean, I think our intentions are pretty clear with it, but that is just like I said, it is just me, but

Chairman Jones speaking, we are not passing any legislation today that we asked to do. So, I do not think it is nothing necessary that we need to. We are not going to hold a public hearing on writing a letter. I will say this, I have been out on the river with some people, and some people take me out there. There are

issues. I do not deny that. But where my problem is if we say we are opposed to any dredging activity, none of those issues ever get resolved, because there is not going to be anybody out there working. So, I say, if they are willing to dredge the river, do things to help what is eventually going to help us, because, like it or not, we are down at the bottom. That has been the whole problem with the river the whole time, with the discussions on the water wars, all this stuff. You know, we went to a thing in Tallahassee, a symposium about the Apalachicola River, and it was a great big deal. They had us, you know, the touchdown club there at FSU, there was a bunch of people there, but, you know, my problem was they wanted to have the discussion like, you know, well, Georgia is having the old water problem. Said they were but I said, let us forget Florida let us put out Apalachicola where neighbors are at. Now, how do you discuss it? Because it all ends up here. Yeah, so if they are going to do any dredging, that is great. We have a way to try to address maybe some modifications that can help so we do not repeat what has turned out to be past failures. But if we say no, we are opposed to it altogether, then what are we doing? Talk about anything. We do not need to talk about protecting shorelines. We need to talk about dredging the river. You know, if you lose your house, forget it. Do not worry about insurance. What are we trying to do protections and move forward for if we are not going to fight for things that we know are going to help us? I do not see any reason not to support dredging on the river. It will never be what it used to be. Okay? I am not looking for that, but some of the complaints that I have heard, and I could be wrong, were with the way it is now. Fish are getting pushed out to the edges, because water goes to the point of least resistance, but that is because the middle is spilling up so it's pushing it further out. I mean, they are very simple causes to what is going on. Historically, it has been in dredge river. I do not see the problem with it being dredged again. That is how it was used historically the commerce that did go there, you know, like, I will tell you this, and then I will shut up. Mr. Richard Williams was here at our last EDC meeting from Opportunity Florida. He said, guys, I get it. This is exactly where you are at. Everybody talks about chicken or the egg. He said, here is what I will tell you. Here is my advice. Go one way or the other, but pick a direction and go. Do not worry about trying to get the chicken first or the egg first. Pick a direction and go. That is all I am saying. As a board, I want us to pick a direction I want us to support what they are wanting to do. And maybe we can try to get conversation about taking care of some of those places where the sand did get back into the river, and can we set it up working with these counties in Florida, because that is what I am worried about Florida, to where the sand can be put in areas going forward, then it can be gotten to it removed by the counties or the municipalities. Or can we work together and work something out? Not you are not doing what I want you to do. So, let us just shut it down. Because we, we just, in the last couple of years, supported the Riverkeepers in getting a dredge permit on the Apalachicola River, for east river, for the canals. So, if we are not going to dredge the main part of the river, why we worry about the sloughs? They are going to fill in too, just like the rest of it does. I mean, that is where I am personally at.

Commissioner Sanders speaking, some time ago, when we got to talking about water wars and stuff like that, they were talking about, the Army Corps of Engineers was talking about, well, we are not worried about we said, why don't you come if you want to know and help Apalachicola River and the bay? Why don't you come down the river and have your monitoring station outside that river for the river where the water pours down the river? No, we do not do that. So, they will not never find the real, they do not want to find what the real answer is, and the real answer is, everything is being used up there and not flowed down like it needs to be. But anyway, yeah, it does not matter. I am like Ottice; it does not matter to me. You know, if y'all want to table this or not, but we do need to move on this. We have been.

Commissioner Amison speaking, Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Sanders whether the Riverkeepers are here or not, I am not going to change my opinion. Because, you know, I have read through everything, and theirs is zero tolerance. Basically, there is no compromise there. But and I will tell you this, and I have said it publicly before, I will repeat myself again, I am no expert in anything, but I do have a little bit of common sense, and I know in order to float a boat, to float any boat, float about barge, they are going to have to turn some water loose to get that that commercial traffic moving. And whenever they turn that water loose, it has got to go one way and that stuff. So, you know, especially like right now. Take, for instance, this drought period we are in right now, the likelihood right now of Lanier and them releasing any water is none, zero. But now if there was a more pressure, we need water down to keep these boats going. You know, I am just using the example commercial wise, what are they going to do? They are going to have to let some water loose. Water is going to have to come down that river, and we are going to be the beneficiary of that. Again,

if you want to go down a rabbit hole and just spend a bunch of time on doing some unnecessary research, go and look at the worldwide shortage of sand, that is crazy. I do not know how in the world I wound up on YouTube. But there is a way to take this material and do something productive with it. Now I understand that the Corps is going to put an area that is going to come to DEP. DEP is going to issue his permits to the counties, but there is a way to use that material and get it out of there to where we do not have what we had years ago. And that is called being good stewards of what we are doing. I want to have that discussion. I do not want to have a zero tolerance. We are not doing nothing, but we just, you know, we are dead against it. That is not the attitude that I want to take with this. I want to see production. I want to see things moving in the right direction, and we can, I think that it can be accomplished if everybody works together, and we don't have everybody on one side table or the other, and that's just it, and that's where I feel, is what's happening is that you just got this one here saying we're going to do it this way, and this one's saying it's this way, and there's nowhere in the middle. There has got to be some room in there, and that is where I want to get out and have a talk. Commissioner Sanders speaking, my thing is, I will not, I want Franklin County and Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay to be a forethought, not an afterthought. That is what it has been here lately, is an afterthought. Oh, we did not realize that was bothering y'all. We did not realize, do whatever you got to do, to take care of the job, do whatever you got to do. Commissioner Amison speaking, well in the past, and I know there has been some judgments based on this, and I think I'm not quoting a judge, but I can kind of get close to where, you know, they when it was the water wars, you know that I'd heard some discussion, and it was said that, you know, I'm not going to pick shellfish over a human. You know, as far as water needs go. And you know, that is fine. That is where you go, if that is your stance. But what you could do here is, is use that against them. Well, you got to float that boat. So, you got to turn some water that loose. Guess who is going to get we are going to get on the boat on the south end. It has got to come to the sea. But anyway, that is just where I feel I mean. But if this board wishes we will be more than glad to have that discussion with the Riverkeeper setting up there. Chairman Jones speaking, well I am sitting in the middle calling balls and strikes so it is up to y'all. Mr. Moron speaking, if you guys do approve it, what I will do, the Chairman and I will sit down, get the letter out. I will make sure I circulate that letter, take your comments, if we have to, we will revise it, and then we will send it up. **Commissioner Amison made a motion that we send the letter in support.** Chairman Jones speaking, so, we do have a motion from Commissioner Amison to send this letter about supporting the dredging from the river to the Corps. **Commissioner Croom seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### 4. Discussion/Action Item: Dangerous Structure/Code Enforcement Ordinance

- At our March 25th Special Meeting, Commission Ward asked that the process to bring a code enforcement ordinance to the Board for approval is considered a priority.
  - After the meeting, Commissioner Amison contacted me, and if there are no objections from the other Board members, he would like to take the lead on this project.
  - His intention is to meet with staff, create a draft ordinance, perhaps using the draft ordinance that was discussed at a previous meeting and the section of Wakulla's code enforcement that applies to dangerous structures (attached) as a starting point.
  - The draft that is created from that meeting will be circulated to the other Commissioners for their comments. Those comments will be incorporated to the draft ordinance and then sent to the attorney for review.
  - After the attorney's review, the Board can schedule a workshop or public hearing before final approval.
- Board discussion and direction. *\*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

#### 5. Discussion/Action Item: Barnacle Agreement

- In a similar fashion with the code enforcement ordinance, Commissioner Amison and I will meet with Barnacle representatives to discuss a draft contract for your review.
- Board discussion and direction. *\*Item addressed earlier in the meeting.*

#### 6. Discussion Item: Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Policy

- Chairman Jones would like to discuss a possible unintentional consequence, affecting a current employee that is planning to retire. Board discussion.

Mr. Moron speaking, Chairman Jones would like to discuss a possible unintentional consequence affecting the current employee that is planning to retire. It is based on your retiree health insurance subsidy policy. I believe Mrs. Erin Griffith sent you that maybe a week and a half ago, if not longer, so the Chairman is going to jump in. I did not ask for action item, because my intention is, once you guys talk about it, I will take your comments, forward that to our labor attorney and have him send back an option that this board is the board wants an option to get this done.

Chairman Jones speaking, what I am talking about will not involve the labor attorney. I have already had several, I have been talking with the labor attorney about this since last November. We have talked about it three or four times. So, in the policy, if you will remember, commissioners, the very last sentence was, this will affect, would be effective for any employee hired by the county from 2017 and onward. The unintended consequence is we had a county employee that lost county employment for a period, but they have been counted employees for almost 20 something years way before 2017. So, what I would like to ask the board to do is consider that Mrs. Connie Polous did not have a break in service because she did not quit. That was a dispute between her and elected official in an at-will office. So that would be my suggestion to the board, if you want to talk about discussing, I am good with that. But you know, we have had other employees in the past that we had to let go during the housing crisis, and we hired them back. We hired them back so well, there is no break in service. We can see your time to be full to you had two years there, but you are not starting fresh here. You are starting at the two-year mark. so that is all I am saying. Commissioner Sanders speaking, all we need to do is recognize and just say that we did not see a break in her service. Mr. Moron speaking, so, no change of the policy at all. Chairman Jones speaking, meant to address the unintended consequences caused Commissioner Ward speaking, yeah, and I am all for that. But my question is, maybe, do we need to change the policy to reflect something like that, so that nobody else in the future is not affected by the same issue. The board's not having to come back and readdress that individual that could happen a lot, because especially if it is a wrong determination, and it has been decided. Chairman Jones speaking, so, I do not know the specifics of that, but what I do know is this benefit to our county employees only last to a certain time frame. And I think with this particular employee, it is probably less two year. You know what I mean? It is not it is not extended for forever, is what I am saying.

Commissioner Ward speaking, can we, Mr. Chairman, hypothetically make a motion saying this particular employee, Mrs. Polous, employment is continuous, but direct staff to redo the policy. Chairman Jones speaking, yes with two separate motions. Mr. Moron speaking, okay. One to recognize a continuous service. The other to instruct us to send it to the labor attorney for, you know, for possible changes to it, options that you guys could review and discuss. Commissioner Amison speaking, okay, Mr. Chairman, I will make a motion that we recognize the continuance of service of Mrs. Polous. **Chairman Jones speaking, all right, so we have a motion to approve by Commissioner Amison, second by Commissioner Sanders.** Any additional discussion? Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, when we vote on this, well, let us vote on then I will ask the question. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, any more discussion before we vote? All in favor, any opposed. That is unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.** Commissioner Ward speaking, so now that we passed this, what do we need to do? Do we need a motion? Mr. Moron speaking, just direction, to reach out to Trevor our labor attorney and ask him to provide some options for you guys to review. When you pick one of the options, then I'll ask the chairman for a motion to pick that option and move on and change the policy. Commissioner Ward speaking, talking about Mrs. Connie, is she going to be able to get retroactive? Chairman Jones speaking, there's nothing to retroact. Okay, so the benefits we're talking about would be provided to county employees after they retire up to a certain age. So, it is not a continuous benefit, that is not a right now benefit, because presently, I do not think she is retired. Commissioner Sanders speaking, gives her the ability. Mr. Moron speaking so once she retires, then that is when this will kick in. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I just want to make sure that what we did today is going to help. Commissioner Croom speaking, what is the new year on the policy? Chairman Jones speaking, it was just after a certain date. All new hires are what it was designed for. But it is not worded that way. Commissioner Sanders speaking, yeah, she got messed up bad on that. But anyway, this addresses it. **Commissioner Ward speaking, I will go ahead if it is okay to make a motion that we review the policy, have our labor attorney review the policy and make changes so this does not affect any other employee.** Commissioner Amison speaking, we do not need a motion on that though. You just need direction. Chairman Jones

speaking, okay with that Michael? Mr. Moron speaking, yes, sir, I am good.

**b. Informational Item(s)**

**7. Informational Item: Access Badges at EOC**

- Your Emergency Operations Center is offering to create official access badges to County Officials and staff.
- “This badge will include your photo and will allow for smoother entry into the EOC should you need to visit while we are activated. We strongly encourage all County Leadership to take a few minutes to complete this process ahead of time.”
- “If there are members of your staff who may also need to access the EOC during an activation, we ask that they come in as well to have their badge created.”
- “Please feel free to coordinate a time with our office that works best for your schedule, you can give me a call at 850-653-7977 or email me jessical@franklincountyflorida.com. We are happy to accommodate as needed.”

**8. Informational Item: FACT Customer Service/First Amendment Masterclass**

- The FACT Customer Service/First Amendment held on March 25th here in your meeting room went well.
- County and Constitutional staff attended and interacted with the presenters.
  - Attendees asked that the Board consider “cyber security” as the next Masterclass topic to cover.

**1 - Informational Item: April 2026 Meeting Dates**

- Your next regular meeting is on Wednesday, April 15th at 9:00 a.m.
- The next Planning and Zoning meeting is on Tuesday April 14th at 5:30 p.m.
  - The Airport Operations Economic Development Board regular meeting is on Tuesday, April 28th at 9:30 a.m.
- Weems Board of Directors regular meeting will be on Thursday, April 30th at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Moron speaking, while we were meeting, I did get a text from Eagle Tree. They are still working on the migration from .com to .gov so they should be calling you, they said, the end of the week. I do not think you realize we are closed on Friday. They might call you. I do not know what their schedule is between the end of this week and next week to merge the .com and .gov. where you will be checking one email and be getting all your email at one location. So that is coming really soon. So just want you guys to be aware. Look out for that call.

**15. David A. Theriaque – Interim County Attorney**

Mr. Moron speaking, Attorney Theriaque is next. He has basically just been working with us, and we have just been sending him stuff, and he is working on those. I do not know if he has, he may have some comments, or might want to just give you guys a summary of what he has been doing, but he does not have a printed report. I told him that was not necessary. He is here to answer your questions and let us know all the things he has been you know, as the meeting progressed, he spoke up when on the items he has been working on. But trust me, he is working a lot more than that. Attorney Theriaque speaking, commissioners, good afternoon. I think it is afternoon. I am not sure. Thank you for allowing me to serve as the interim county attorney. I have worked with your folks for many, many years. I have never worked day to day with Michael Moron, Bree, and Erin. You got a great team. We are interacting on multiple issues every single day, and we are moving forward. The two big ones that we already covered was the Duke Energy land swap, we are ready for closing. And then y'all had directed me to reach out to DEP on the sea wall, and we have already covered that. We have got other issues that we have been touching upon. The 8th Street dune walk over, the Landing may be coming in with a residential subdivision we are still looking at processing the landing C3 commercial site plan. I have a phone call with Denise Rowan tomorrow on the Serenity Resort. So, you have got a lot of issues that are bubbling up. Thank you for allowing me to help.

Mr. Billy Fuentes speaking, Mr. Chairman, I am sorry I would be remiss and I did not get a chance at the hearing to say this about the fire suppression. I have to agree with Commissioner Sanders and

Commissioner Amison, and for me, fire suppression is a public health issue, and it is tied to economic development. It is tied to business and residential safety. It is a massive issue that does not get enough attention. So, these grant projects, when I state horizontal infrastructure that includes fire hydrants, fire hydrants should be every 500 feet, according to the Florida Administrative Code, and we experienced a massive fire years ago in East Point that took out 36 homes. Our system fed 100 fire trucks for eight hours straight, and even with houses burning down, water coming out of meters, we had enough infrastructure in place to supplement all of that, while we still have leaks, and I can tell you that these grant projects for infrastructure, the fire hydrants, are vital. Our design includes that. And in Carrabelle and the city of Apalachicola, it is drastically important to have that included in any kind of economic talk, because if you have anything where it is a hospitality issue, residential development, anything like that, you can't have that without fire suppression. It is vital. So, I would be remiss in not agreeing with that and have it put on record as being such important to it. Thank you.

Commissioner Sanders speaking, I received this letter this morning from the fire department down in Alligator Point, and they need a better way of getting to the fire hydrant down there to do their training exercises and stuff. And they see a better way is the cul-de-sac that is out there, Tom Roberts Road, right in there, across from the fire department. There is a fire hydrant there. That is part of the main line coming in there. So, they said it is easier to do this. I want to turn this letter over to Michael, because he is going to have my computer anyway, and have him get with Mr. Theriaque and y'all look at what we need to do to see if we can accommodate the Alligator Point Fire Department on this request that they have made.

Commissioner Amison speaking, one other thing for Michael from me, but I need to get with you, and let us get some names and some people together. Chairman Jones speaking, I want to give you a letter received, I am sure, because of the chair from the Department of Revenue, about local option, fuel tax, give it to Mrs. Erin.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Croom confirmed county and constitutional offices will be closed on Friday. Mr. Moron speaking, I have a meeting with the custom home representative on Wednesday next week, 11 o'clock to go over the orders for those two, for Smith and Turner. Commissioner Amison speaking, you all have a blessed Easter, and that goes for everybody here and everybody out there. Chairman Jones speaking, I would like to make sure everybody is aware we are having a public event at the Ralph Kendrick dwarf Cypress Forest up in Tates Hill. We are doing that Friday morning, Good Friday at 7:05, or 7:06, 7:03. We are going to do communion up there, and it is anybody who wants to be a part of it. We are going to stay there all day. We are going to be from 7:00 to about 8:10. I think it would be a wonderful thing, and its celebration in remembrance, because the scriptures say as often as you do this, do it in remembrance of me. So that is what we are doing. Any other Commissioner comments today? All right, meeting adjourned.

### **Adjournment**

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

---

**Ricky Jones – Chairman**

**Attest:**

---

**Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts**

The audio is available upon request. Please e-mail [jgay@franklinclerk.com](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.