

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
JUNE 3, 2026
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

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

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

2. Moment of Silence -- Charles "Scott" Tucker

A message from Mrs. Virginia Messer:

It is with great sadness that I share the passing of Charles "Scott" Tucker.

Scott began his employment with Franklin County Mosquito Control on September 25, 2008, and faithfully served the County for many years as Mosquito Control Operations Supervisor. Throughout his time with the department, he was a dedicated employee who cared deeply about his work, his coworkers, and the citizens of Franklin County. Scott's sudden passing is a tremendous loss to our department, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Please keep his family, friends, and coworkers in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Thank you, Virginia Messer, Franklin County Mosquito Control

Chairman Jones speaking, as we are rising today to do the prayer and the pledge, we are going to observe a moment of silence for Scott Tucker, that passed away a couple of days ago. A longtime county employee, and just a matter of personal privilege. I was telling somebody they were; we were talking about it. I cannot ever remember not knowing Scott Tucker, but where the church is in East Point by the East Point Community Church. I grew up right behind there, and years ago, Mister Charles and Miss Sharon had an oyster house there. There is a lot of people have oyster houses, and I remember Scott and Steven, his younger brother. Steven's my age, we were in the same class. And then after the oyster stuff went away, then they turned it into a bar, and they did that for a while. Charlie's Lounge, that was different on Friday and Saturday night, but never no problems, it was just loud when we were right there, and you know, you did not have to have a radio on, or, or worry about the TV. You are going to hear music from next door, but just a great guy, great family. He will be missed, and we are observing a moment of silence for him as we stand this morning.

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Jones speaking, Mr. Moron. Is there anything that we need to add to this agenda? Anything that came in late? Mr. Moron speaking, yes, just Attorney Shuler's report. I think he has three action items on his report, but I think I said Erin did not have any changes, she did not send me any, so she was good today. I think that is it. I will say, as a matter of business, when Erin gets here, so we have approval of the same item on two separate reports. I will ask that Mr. Kirschenbaum's not delay his, let us go through Erin's item for her report item action item for the same thing. She has more detail than Mr. Kirschenbaum does, but there will be information that of how the AOD voted on that. So, I will ask him to, you know, Chairman Jones speaking, so we can just handle that while we are doing. Mr. Moron speaking, yes, so either which way, how you want to do it, have Erin bring it up, or have Mr. Kirschenbaum hold off until Erin does her report, that is about all the changes I have. Chairman Jones speaking, well, we can do like we have done for some of our other departments as we are going to do it, then we can just have her go over that item, and then we can finish Mr. Kirschenbaum's report, and go forward. Anything else that need to be discussed before we approve the agenda?

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda as amended to include Attorney Shuler's report. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Approval of Minutes and Payment of County Bills

On a motion by Commissioner Croom, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the minutes from the FCBCC Regular Meeting 4/15/2026 and the Payment of County Bills. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

7. Department Directors

a. Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Roads and Bridges

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District (see attached documents) (April 30, 2026 – May 28, 2026)
2. Calendar of Inmates Received May 4, 2026 -May 28, 2026

b. Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

FOR BOARD INFORMATION

Employee New Hire Announcement:

The Franklin County Solid Waste department is pleased to announce successful filling of the open entry level position of Equipment Operator by Ronald Hunter Lee. Hunter started Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

REQUESTED ACTION: None

2026 Dixie Teams Travel to Port St. Joe and The Girls Team Host District at Home: We have four age groups playing in the boys' division and we have three groups in the girls. The boys will play this weekend on June 6-8th and the girls June 12th.

The girls will host the district tournament this year at home at Kendrick Park in Carrabelle.

REQUESTED ACTION: None

Retirement of Assistant Director and Internal Announcement for Assistant Director Position: We are pleased to announce the retirement of our Assistant Director, Albert Floyd. Mr.

Floyd has served Franklin County for 37 years, and Tuesday, June 30, will be his last day of employment.

We have also posted an internal advertisement for the Assistant Director position. The final date to submit applications is June 3rd.

REQUESTED ACTION: None

Rolloff Truck Needed at Transfer Station:

We are in need for a roll-off truck at the Transfer Station, the truck currently being used is a used truck that we purchased approximately six years ago. I have attached two quotes for your review.

REQUESTED ACTION: Discussion from the Board

Proposal Dump Body for Franklin County:

We have two older model dump trucks with damaged dump bodies that need to be replaced. I would like to include these replacements in the upcoming budget.

REQUESTED ACTION: None

Mr. Davis speaking, good morning, so commission, as you know, see, I have nothing that require action, but I did want to add to item two about the Dixie travel. Since the girls' tournament is going to be held here in Franklin County, I was asked from Dixie to help support umpires and I just feel like I need to let you

know that it will cut down some of the problems that we have been having through regular season to have some certified umpires come in and we just want to help support that.

Chairman Jones speaking, Mr. Davis, is there any, is there anything else that we are doing that is supporting what they are doing, or was they getting money for travel since the games are on here locally, or how is that working out? Mr. Davis speaking, not at this time, but if they advance, then we will help. And it is going to come out line item, or youth support. They, in the past, we have helped do this, and also with other stuff, a bigger the tournament, maybe like support with ice, our ice machine will not carry that capacity. Chairman Jones speaking, well, I am supportive, especially with being regionals. I do think when you get to playoff time, it requires, you know, maybe another level, not that the people that volunteer and do it throughout the season are not adequate, but you know, I know when anytime we ever did stumble at basketball, we did not have the same refs for regionals and districts and everything else that we did throughout the year it just seemed to be different. So, I am good with it. Mr. Davis speaking, so just to make it clear, you know, I mean, we do have certified umpires here in the Franklin County, but not enough to carry out something of this size. And that is all I have for you. Commissioner Amison speaking, I got a quick question on that. We are hosting at Kendrick Park, girls, is that district championship? Is that going to be a state? Mr. Davis speaking, district, yes, sir. Chairman Jones speaking, and do they have that set up? It has been a couple years since I have been at Kendrick for this kind of thing. Do they have that set up where they are going to be utilizing five fields during the tournament or just four? Mr. Davis speaking, my understanding would be five, all fields. Yeah, another thing we did add more porty, because again something of this nature, you know, our restrooms can get overcrowded over weeks. Chairman Jones speaking, well, good. So, is this something we need to vote on, or is this just information you are providing? Mr. Davis speaking, there is a number where we get y'all. Mrs. Erin, maybe can force capping the umpire support the umpires coming in, just contribute to Dixie Youth. Mrs. Griffith speaking, we would need authorization to issue a manual check, because I believe the event is happening prior to your next board meeting. Then also, are we paying Dixie Youth, or are we actually going to pay them directly from the youth rep program support? Mr. Davis speaking, we, yes, youth rep, and we will pay Dixie, and let them bring the umpires in. Chairman Jones speaking, okay. So, we do need a motion to be able to cut a manual check for that. **On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Croom to approve issuing a manual check to Dixie Youth for the umpires needed for District Tournament at Kendrick Park.** Chairman Jones speaking, since this was not on the agenda, I would call now for public comment before we get ready to take any action. Is there anyone in the room that would like to comment on this publicly? We are considering cutting a manual check to help pay for umpires that are going to be needed for a district tournament's going to be held at Kendrick Park in Carrabelle this coming week for girls' softball district tournament. What about online, Mr. Moron? Mr. Moron speaking, anyone attending via Zoom that would like to address the commissioners on this item? Please indicate by raising your hand. Chairman Jones speaking, alright, so there were no public comments. Any discussion, commissioners, before we vote? Commissioner Amison speaking, I do because I am just curious. It just, just for my mind, because I have been there in the past, does the district get the gate, or does that go to the Dixie Youth of Franklin County? Do you know that answer to that? Mr. Davis speaking, I am sure that would go to the district. Chairman Jones speaking, I think that is the benefit of holding tournaments in your county as you are. Commissioner Amison speaking, well, that is what I am asking, is the gate going to go to the district or going to go to the county? Like I said, I can reach out I just did not know if you knew or not. And the reason I am saying is that is if the district is holding that gate, it is a district tournament. But I have no problem with it. I am just curious. Chairman Jones speaking, any other discussion? All in favor? Any opposed? **Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Jones speaking, anything else sir? Mr. Davis speaking, no, unless you all have something about what is on the report. Chairman Jones speaking any questions for Mr. Davis while he is here? Commissioner Croom speaking, on your roll off truck here? So, will you be bringing this back before us? Mr. Davis speaking, yes, I will. I mean, I give you two options here, but yes, I will. We have a choice to do a brand, a brand new one, or get a new truck. But listen, for your information, I would like to include it in the budget. Mr. Davis speaking, Commissioner Ward, you did mention to me about the price on the used truck, and the purchase price was \$89,000 got that cleared up, and then you see the on. Chairman Jones speaking, which truck? Mr. Davis speaking, the used truck that was also. Chairman Jones speaking, for your used options, \$89,000? Mr. Davis speaking, to purchase outright, or either you can finance or lease, and it will be almost

double that. So, if we did go to a used truck, it will be better to buy it outright. Again, that purchase price, \$89 which you could get a brand new one for \$195. Chairman Jones speaking is that the roll off truck you are talking about? Mr. Davis speaking, yes. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, so let me ask you a question. How many miles annually do we normally put on a roll off truck or something like that? Mr. Davis speaking, it is more of a yard dog, what we call it. They just stay on site. Chairman Jones speaking, okay. Mr. Davis speaking, it will go no further than the landfill to the maintenance shop. Chairman Jones speaking, right. So, yeah, if it is not going to be over the road, it might make more sense to buy it used and be, especially if it is cheaper than be done with. I mean, now that puts it on us to do repairs and stuff versus leasing, but sounds like we leased it, if we actually going to get it worked on, we would have to drive it more to get it worked on than we would actually use it. Just a thought. Mr. Davis speaking, right. And I also, I mean, you look at \$89,000 versus \$195k resale, or once you know we send it to the auction. We need what, about two years. I do not know what this secondhand truck would be like within two years versus a new one. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I did call Mr. Davis when I got the report, because I saw the quote for the new one, but I did not see the quote for the used one. And then, when you compare prices, obviously new versus used price is different, but you also have facts about a warranty. I think the used trucks is a Volvo, so I look at maintenance. Volvo to me, an engine on a Volvo is probably going to need more upkeep, because trucks are going to be more expensive, because it is Volvo. No offense to Volvo owners in here, but I do cars, I know, kind of. And then the new truck is an international, what is it, the Kenworth brand? So, I kind of look at that aspect too. Are we going to spend more money on a truck that is used versus one that is new, that has got a warranty on it? I know it is a significant amount of money, but I look at all those aspects when I, and of course, the use of it, are we going to be, are we going to get \$195,000 worth of it, if we sell it, you know, are we going to get our money back from it? And then, of course, with the whole transfer station thing, is it something that we do need to fork out money for a brand new one, if we are going to turn around and sell it, if we are not going to be using it? That was something in my mind too, which I know we still going to have the work at the landfill when it technically closes, but I look at all those aspects as well, and that was kind of what I was talking to Mr. Davis about, but I know where the discussion is still yet to be had, so that's just thoughts that I had to think about it too. Chairman Jones speaking, Mr. Davis, do you know what kind of motor is in the international? Commissioner Ward Speaking, it is a PX Cummins, PX nine 360. Mr. Davis speaking, yeah, I did talk with John our mechanic, and he thought it would be something simple for working on, and getting parts for. Chairman Jones speaking, yeah, I agree with that. Commissioner Croom speaking, where would a used one come from? Mr. Davis speaking, RDK out of Tampa. Where we have purchased some old knucklebone trucks from. Chairman Jones speaking, any other questions? Commissioner Amison speaking, you said you got a couple of quotes on the new. Mr. Davis speaking, no, just one. Commissioner Amison speaking, that is a Kenworth or an International? It is saying Kenworth here. Mr. Davis speaking no, it is Kenworth. Commissioner Amison speaking, okay, but you have gotten an international part. Mr. Davis speaking, has a Cummins engine, and Allison transmission. Commissioner Amison speaking, I see. I own a few of those, and I can get with you later, and give you a list of what to avoid, because do not want to do it publicly. Mr. Davis speaking, think we have Miss Lashley here as a rep for them. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you, Mr. Davis. We appreciate all you do.

C. Jennifer Daniels – Emergency Management Director

Action Items:

1. Requests the Board of County Commissioners to retroactively approve the signing of the Burn Ban LSE dated for 5/20/26.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present the Board retroactively approved the signing of the Burn Ban LSE dated 5/20/26. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Request the Board of County Commissioners' approval and signing of the Burn Ban LSE dated 6/3/26.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders to approve Burn Ban LSE dated 6/3/26. Chairman Jones speaking, any discussion, Commissioners? Commissioner Croom, I spoke with Jenny about this, and you know, discussion was had about, you know, if we continue to burn ban, like,

can we modify the burn ban, and she said yes, you know, but there are certain things that we can do to modify that, the whole burn ban, if we wanted to do that as well. Commissioner Ward speaking, we will vote, and then I will talk to him in the afterwards. Chairman Jones speaking, any other discussion before we vote? Commissioner Amison speaking, yeah, I will just wait. Chairman Jones speaking, well, I do have something I want to discuss, so I understand from talking to Director Daniels that they are actually going to be an update tomorrow with this map. Ms. Anthony speaking, yes, the drought index should update tomorrow, I believe at 7 am and she is going to have me look at that, and we will send an update out to all of you, and if we are out of the exceptional zone, that we probably will be repealing this burn ban is what she and I talked about. So, right now they have different layers, and they use the phrase they use for the worst area is exceptional, and that is there we are still in it, regardless of, you know, I had somebody asked me about this last night about the burn ban. I said, well that is all the other counties. I said, well, the other county did not have six fires going on last weekend. We did, you know what I mean. So, six wildfires. So anyway, so there might be an update tomorrow, and if there is a positive update, we might be repealing the burn ban as early as tomorrow. Anyway, I just want to make sure the public is aware of that. We have been trying to keep the public updated on what, because I know it is a little misconception of how much rain we have had, but compared to what we have had in previous years, we were still at a deficit, which is why we're in the worst of the drought, but when I talked to National Weather Service Monday, we are getting close, closer to normal levels, at least for this month. We are still in a deficit as far as the 90-day window, but we are improving significantly. So, I am hoping Thursday that we make it out of the worst of the drought. Chairman Jones speaking, so, before we started having any rain recently to even affect this, it seems like from memory it was close to 20 inches of a deficit that we were at. So, we needed to get what we need to get, plus we need to try to make up a difference for those 20 inches to get us back to a normal kind of place. So, yes, we are getting closer to normal levels of rain, so hopefully we continue this trend, and we can hopefully get out of this version. Any other discussion before we vote? Commissioner Croom speaking, Amanda, if we do not get out the drought, I like to see our options of modification. If y'all can forward that to us commissioners. Ms. Anthony speaking, anything that y'all would like to consider adding, please just discuss it with us, and we will get with Attorney Shuler and make sure it is a viable option that we can put in there. Chairman Jones speaking, any other discussion before we vote? **Motion carried 5-0.** Ms. Anthony speaking, that was all I had for y'all. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you all, and thank you all for everything you do. Commissioner Ward speaking, thank you, Chairman. What I had for Amanda, you addressed. Commissioner Amison speaking, that was exactly where I was going too, but I will say this, because I know all of us have kind of had a lot of discussion with people, and I will tell you where I have been. Social media is blowing up, but, uh, but the thing about it is, is you hit a nail on the head, either it was you or Amanda, you know, the people are complaining because they cannot burn some cardboard or something, do not realize we got a fire sitting over there that is 50% contained. I would much rather the public be mad at me because you cannot burn your yard debris or your cardboard than be mad at me because you do not have somewhere to sleep because it's something got out of control, we've been there before, and I would just ask the public to consider all that before bashing us fine poor souls up here. Chairman Jones speaking, well, to reiterate, though, how the burn ban is, if I am wrong, please tell me I am wrong, but you can still burn, you just have to have somebody from the fire department present. You are not completely unable to burn. There are options if you really have something you have to burn. Give your local fire department see if they can work something out with you. Is not that correct Attorney Shuler? Attorney Shuler speaking, yes, y'all made that amendment at the last meeting. Chairman Jones speaking, so it's not an absolutely no burn nothing ban. There are options. Commissioner Sanders speaking, Mister Chairman. I know. In the 340 fire, which is the wild color fire, I could see it from my house across the river. It was only four miles as the crow flies from my house, and that is a real thing. I have been through it before with wildfires, and it is a real thing, and it can get that deadly fast. So, I mean, we want to, we want everybody to be able to. I got a whole yard full of stuff I need to burn, but I am scared to burn it, because I am scared to get woods on fire. Commissioner Amison speaking, yes, the big thing with that is, and people need to realize this is that you got a tremendous amount of resources over here trying to contain that, and then if something else breaks loose over here, now you, you got even more of a strain on the resources, and just I just err on the side of caution with it, and patience, if it keeps raining, we'll be back to burning, and I started

to, honestly, I started taking pictures of that big pile my wife's made me, because it's been sitting there for a while, and I waited too long, didn't burn it, but and say, hey, look, I'm like the rest of you, I like to burn some stuff too, but. Commissioner Sanders speaking, me, I mean, but we want to, we want the people to be saved too, do not want to, it was, it was fine when we did not have a lot of people living down here, and there was a lot of territory in there, in between houses and stuff like that. It was not so bad, but now you have got everybody bunched up next to each other, and they call that what they call that the urban interface. We have an urban interface now, and it is dangerous. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you. We appreciate it, man.

Information Items:

1. Franklin County Emergency Management remains in contact with Forestry, NWS, FDEM, and the surrounding county EM Directors regarding information and guidance regarding the drought.
2. 5/29/26 – EOC hosted a First Responder PTSD Prevention Training.
3. 5/28/26 – EOC Director received the Trailblazer Award.
4. 5/27/26 – EOC staff taught CPR awareness at the Franklin County School for 9th and 11th Graders.
5. 5/26/26 – EOC staff attended the ESF 8 Pre-Hurricane Season Meeting.
6. 5/22/26 – EOC staff meet with Al Stone regarding upcoming PTSD Prevention Training.
7. 5/21/26 – EOC staff attended the NWS Tropical Training Webinar.
8. 5/19/26 – EOC hosted the annual Contractor Day.
9. 5/19/26 – EOC staff attended the Southeast Drought Webinar.
10. 5/18/26 – EOC hosted the follow-up Realtor's Meeting.
11. 5/18//26-5/22/26 – EM specialist attended the L-967 NIMS ICS All-Hazards Logistics Section Chief class in Manatee County.

Chairman Jones noted there were no action items on Mr. Polous' report.

d. Dewitt Polous – Mosquito Control Director

Action Items:

None

Information Items:

1. Mosquito Control Operations Update

Mosquito Control operations this month focused on trapping, surveillance, and mosquito control activities throughout the County. Staff continued routine mosquito trapping in multiple areas to track population levels and identify species. Mosquitoes collected from traps are counted and identified to help determine where treatment efforts are needed. Recent rainfall and warmer temperatures resulted in increased mosquito activity throughout portions of the County. During May, Mosquito Control staff conducted surveillance activities at six trap locations and collected approximately 1,206 mosquitoes. Based on the May trap data we reviewed, the most abundant species collected was *Aedes taeniorhynchus*, commonly known as the Black Salt Marsh Mosquito. It accounted for approximately 684 of the 1,206 mosquitoes collected, or about 57% of all mosquitoes trapped during May. The highest activity was observed on St. George Island, with elevated counts also recorded in Alligator Point and Apalachicola. Following several rainfall events during the month, mosquito activity increased noticeably in multiple trap locations compared to early May. Increasing trap counts, field observations, and citizen complaints led to the start of seasonal spraying operations on May 11. Treatment activities were conducted throughout the County. Throughout the month, approximately 28,541 acres were treated and 264 gallons of adulticide were applied during countywide operations. We received a small number of mosquito-related complaints during this reporting period. Staff responded to and investigated each complaint and found mosquito activity to be consistent with what was

being observed through our trapping efforts. No arbovirus activity has been identified in Franklin County to date, and staff continue to monitor state surveillance reports as part of ongoing mosquito surveillance efforts. Mosquito Control staff will continue surveillance and treatment activities throughout the summer and will adjust operations as needed based on mosquito activity, weather conditions, and citizen concerns.

2. Statewide / Arbovirus Update

Florida continues to monitor mosquito-borne illnesses such as West Nile virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), dengue, chikungunya, and Zika virus. At this time, no arbovirus activity has been identified in Franklin County. Mosquito Control staff will continue monitoring state reports and local surveillance data throughout the season. Recent EEE activity has been detected in sentinel chickens in other areas of the state; however, no concerns have been identified locally.

3. Staff Recognition

During the month of May, the Mosquito Control program suffered the loss of longtime employee and Mosquito Control Operations Supervisor, Charles "Scott" Tucker. Scott dedicated many years of service to Franklin County and played an important role in the County's mosquito control operations. His knowledge, commitment, and contributions to the program will be greatly missed. We extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and coworkers during this difficult time.

Chairman Jones noted there are no action items on Ms. Roundtree's report.

e. Whitney Roundtree – Library Director

Informational Items

Summer Reading Program 2026 The Franklin County Public Library continues final preparations for the 2026 Summer Reading Program, "Unearth a Story," which will run from June 14 through July 25. This year's theme focuses on dinosaurs, archaeology, paleontology, and earth science, with programs and activities planned for all ages at both library branches. Promotional efforts and program setup are ongoing. **Libraries Transforming Communities Grant** The library continues work related to the Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant. Planning is underway for upcoming community conversations focused on accessibility needs within Franklin County. These discussions will help guide future accessibility improvements and ensure community input remains part of the implementation process. **Freedom 250 Mobile Museum Visit** the Franklin County Public Library is partnering with the Freedom 250 Mobile Museum initiative during its visit to Eastpoint branch in June. The mobile exhibit will provide interactive educational experiences centered on American history and civic engagement for children and families. **Library Newsletter** the Summer Library Newsletter is available at both branches, online, and through the library's social media channels. The newsletter includes Summer Reading information, upcoming events, and community updates. **Holiday Closure – Juneteenth** the Franklin County Public Library will be closed on June 19th.

Eastpoint Branch Programs

Mahjong Club June 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Open play sessions for adults interested in Mahjong, providing opportunities for social engagement and recreational play. **Freedom 250 Mobile Museum** June 5-7 | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Interactive traveling museum experience commemorating America's 250th anniversary. Features hands-on exhibits focused on American history, civics, and the nation's founding. **Summer Reading Program Kickoff Party** June 10 | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Official launch of the 2026 Summer Reading Program, Unearth a Story, featuring activities, games, and registration opportunities for participants of

all ages. Free children's book courtesy of Bring Me A Book Forgotten Coast. FPAN Turpentine Talk June 15 | 11:00 AM Presented in partnership with the Florida Public Archaeology Network, this educational program explores the history and cultural significance of Florida's turpentine industry.

Book Club June 16 | 12:00 PM Monthly discussion group for adult readers.

Writer's Forum June 17 | 1:00 PM Collaborative gathering for writers to share work, exchange ideas, and receive feedback.

Dino Discovery June 18 | 2:00 PM Children's educational program focused on dinosaurs, fossils, and paleontology through hands-on learning activities.

Animal Tales June 20 | 1:30 PM Live animal presentation introducing children and families to a variety of animals while promoting science and environmental education.

Egyptian Jewelry June 22 | 2:00 PM Hands-on craft program inspired by ancient Egyptian art and culture.

Amber Fossil Soap June 24 | 1:00 PM Participants create fossil-inspired soaps while learning about amber and prehistoric preservation.

Carrabelle Branch Programs

Summer Reading Program Kickoff Party June 12 | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Official launch of the 2026 Summer Reading Program, Unearth a Story, featuring activities and registration opportunities for families.

FPAN Turpentine Talk June 15 | 2:00 PM Educational presentation exploring Florida's turpentine heritage and its impact on the region.

Excavation Trays June 17 | 1:00 PM Hands-on archaeology activity where participants excavate and identify artifacts and fossils.

Animal Tales June 20 | 11:00 AM Interactive live animal program promoting wildlife education and conservation awareness.

Pet Rocks June 23 | 1:00 PM Creative craft activity where participants design and decorate their own pet rocks.

Dino Trinket Trays June 25 | 2:00 PM Participants create dinosaur-themed trinket trays inspired by the Summer Reading theme.

Egyptian Jewelry June 29 | 2:00 PM Hands-on craft program inspired by ancient Egyptian designs and symbolism.

Commissioner Sanders speaking, Mister Chairman. Back on Jennifer Daniels' report, I want to go to the, if you do not mind, because I think it is very important that she gets recognized on the 28th of May. She was designated at the Trailblazer Award in the state of Florida, and at that Trailblazer award, there's only five people that were chosen for that, and Jennifer was, she was a trailblazer in the, you know, the emergency management, that field, but I did want people to understand that, that's why she does all this education and all that, is she the trailblazer when it comes to, and that makes me proud to be a commissioner, and her a department head, and, and her, you know, her department. Chairman Jones speaking, so, Mr. Moron, please make a note. The next meeting, when Miss Jenny is here, we need to publicly ask her to elaborate for us in the community, what that award actually entails, because that is a good thing. Yeah, five people in the whole state of Florida got it, so thought that was good.

f. Sharon Cilano -- IFAS Director

April and May 2026 Extension Services Updates

The new UF/IFAS County Extension Director, Dr. Sharon Cilano, started April 10, 2026. In her brief time in this role, she has made community connections with various organizations, including ANERR and DEP, GulfCorps, Franklin County School, Florida Shellfish Aquaculture Association, Tropical Aquaculture Lab, FDACS, FAMU, and agents in surrounding counties. Sharon also aided Louisiana Sea Grant agents on a federal shrimp by-catch reduction device (BRD) outreach project in Franklin County. She has several

upcoming meetings and connections on the docket as she continues to develop extension programming and creates her advisory committee.

Action Items:

· None

Informational Items:

· Contests:

o Florida Power and Light County Public Speaking District Contest was held April 25, 2026, in Tallahassee. Franklin County was represented by 2 students: Caitlin Allen won 1st place for District 3 4th/5th grade and Kami Poloronis won 3rd place for District 6th grade.

o Franklin County 4H Art contest was held from May 1 to May 15, 2026. Seven submissions were received. Special thank you to those who judged the artwork: Commissioners Croom and Ward, Sheriff Smith, Carrie Jones of FDACS, and Cheyenne Martin of FAMU.

§ Conferences/Workshops:

o Florida Cooperative Extension Summit 5/3/26-5/6/26

- Purpose: analyze data trends, prepare for the next steps of extension services, and network with future partners for programming

o Scaling Up Nature-based Solutions (SUNS) 5/12/26

- Purpose: increase the number of nature-based solutions projects implemented along the Gulf Coast, chemically Franklin County

§ Events:

o Estuaries Day at ANERR 5/1/26 (volunteer)

o FSU Coastal Marine Lab Open House 4/25/26 (attendee and networking)

§ Upcoming travel:

o Jefferson 4H Camp 6/5/26

- Purpose: provide marine science education to preteen summer camp groups and gain experience with summer camps for future Franklin County opportunities

o Liberty County Coastal Day 6/11/26

- Purpose: explore opportunities in the area to bring youth in the future and shadow another county's operations

o Books and Cooks Summit 6/16/26-6/17/26

- Purpose: trained in Books and Cooks reading literacy and healthy eating habits programming to be offered to eligible Franklin County 3rd-5th grade families

No action items.

g. Steve Kirschenbaum – Interim Airport Manager

I. Action Items

● Tom P. Haney Technical College Aviation Academy: The Airport Manager is requesting an additional \$70,000 from Triumph Gulf Coast funding to cover upcoming roof replacement of the college building. (The AOED Board is recommending the county move forward with this project.)

II. Discussion Items

● Aerospace & Tech Economic Development: I conducted an introductory meeting facilitated a meeting with a microchip manufacturer and a robotics company. FGNW is gathering additional data, after which we will begin the vetting process for the county with the help of the EDC and Coordinator Bill Williams

● State-Level Funding Coordination: FGNW has requested a meeting with the Airport, EDC Coordinator and Various Stake Holders to discuss initiatives and

how they can help us. The Airport Manager forwarded the info to EDC Coordinator to help put this together.

Opportunity Zone Submissions: I held productive discussions regarding our project submissions. FloridaCommerce Secretary Alex Kelly helped initiate these strategic talks. I submitted one for the Airport, Bill submitted one as well.

Working with the EDC Coordinator to get more in. We need as many more as we can submit by the 1st. Not much time left, contact the EDC Coordinator for info.

III. Informational Items

Old Business & General Operations

- Legislative Strategy: Contacted Commissioner Ricky Jones to coordinate a strategic meeting alongside the AOED Chair and our county lobbyist about our sponsored appropriation.
- Air Ambulance: Now in the County's hands hopefully this will come to fruition. I will be available any assistance necessary.
- Military Fuel Coordination: Centric is taking the lead to secure more military fueling operations at KAAF.
- Opportunity Zone Submissions: I held productive discussions regarding our project submissions. FloridaCommerce Secretary Alex Kelly helped initiate these strategic talks. I submitted one for the Airport. Working with Bill Williams to get more in.

Environmental Management & Compliance

- Runway Cleaning: Environmental protocols regarding runoff and cleaning have been addressed.
 - Stormwater Management: Currently enrolling in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan 2 day class (SWPPP) course to obtain official certification.
- #### **Budget & Fiscal Management**
- End-of-Year Projections: Completed all year-end budget projections for the AOED Chair and the County's Fiscal Manager.

Tom P. Haney Aviation Academy Updates

- Privacy Fence: Installed on the west side of the property (Pic attached)
- Facility Signage: Street-side and airside signage has been successfully installed. (attached)
- Budgeting: Brought the Haney project budget completely current (attached) following discussions with the Fiscal Manager, AOED Chair, and Triumph officials.
- Roof Replacement: Working on three new competitive estimates for roof work.
- Lease Reimbursement: Successfully resolved Haney lease reimbursement issues. The county is cutting a check to the Education Foundation, and the Education Foundation is issuing a \$24,000 check to the airport as an advance payment for a one-year hangar rental.
- FDOT Coordination: I contacted FDOT and connected Haney Director Angela Reese with my primary contact for Highway 98 airport signage. Our goal is to secure new directional signs for the College on both the eastbound and westbound lanes of Highway 98, as well as at the roundabout on Pal Rivers Road.

Infrastructure & Maintenance

- Identifying Failed Pavement: Will be renting a concrete grinder and FAA approved sealant for any small paved areas at the airport that could pose a safety hazard and discussing the issue with Avcon.

- Wastewater Infrastructure: Resolved a sewage backup on the west end of the airport. The Row E T-hangar lift station was repaired and the electrical components were replaced, restoring service to Row E and the final two hangars.
- Airport Planning Grant: Was awarded FL Commerce
- Wetlands & Airspace Permitting: Met with AVCON and our environmental consultant to initiate a comprehensive wetlands delineation across airport property (part of the planning grant). This also kicks off permitting preparation for clear zones, Runway Protection Zones (RPZ), and approach surface clearing for Runway 24. Hopefully this will be on the July or August Commission meeting.
- Airport Signage: Solar lighting for the new airport sign has been officially ordered.
- FDOT: We are meeting with County and FDOT officials on June 26th to brief them on current airport operations and discuss new initiatives.
- Virtower: Working with Jenniffer EOC to get a separate starlink acct for Virtower rather than move it to the FBO Bldg at a savings of about \$60.00 per month
- Runway Maintenance: The runway clean and remark project is 50% complete, with final completion expected by the end of June.
- Land Clearing: Coordinated with Collins Land Clearing to finish brush-hogging and grinding the dry parcel approach surface of Runway 32 (off Pal Rivers Rd). This will be completed at no cost to the county as part of their closeout scope of work from last year's contract.

IV. Forgotten Coast Freedom Festival Air Show

- Logistics & Assets: Sourced a vendor capable of providing 2,000 feet of freestanding pedestrian fencing and 1,000 highway cones.
- Traffic Management: The Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) has approved our new traffic and flow concept in principle; they are awaiting the finalized written plan for formal sign-off.
- Contracts & Marketing: All performer and support service contracts are now in hand. Initial marketing and promotional materials have been ordered.
- Military Aerial Support: The U.S. Navy has officially approved KAAF for aerial support. We are actively courting the U.S. Army for further commitments.
- Non Profit: Friends of the Apalachicola Regional Airport has exempt status and will begin the fundraising for their not for profit. There is an incredible team in place for this year's show.

Steve Kirschenbaum speaking, Commissioners, Steve Kirschenbaum, airport manager. I will make this real quick. We have something on the agenda that me and Erin had. I submitted my report first, so I was not able to pull it, but we are in the home stretch with Haney. All the signs were on the building. Erin had an incredible idea about a fence along the EOC for privacy, and it looks gorgeous. While we were up on the roof, look, doing a sign, we went up on the roof, and what we thought was going to be a minor repair is a lot of rust on the roof, so I gave a holler over to Cory, and she said if Erin can prepare something instantly, she could get it on the June 22nd meeting, and Erin is a saint, she prepared everything, and she'll tell you about it when she comes on. Also, I spoke with the director of Haney, and I spoke to FDOT about signage on Highway 98 at the college, is that way, and that is in the works right now. So, we will leave the action item for Erin's report. Chairman Jones speaking, did the AOED board address this issue, or take up this issue, and vote on it? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, yes, they did. Chairman Jones speaking, sorry, I did not see your hand, Mrs. Erin. We will just go ahead and let Mrs. Erin handle it while you are here, Steve.

Mrs. Griffith presented item 1 from her report at this time.

1) BOARD ACTION: TRIUMPH HANEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDS

Attached is a grant award amendment request for the Triumph Haney Technical College in Franklin County Project. The Hangar renovations are nearly 100% complete, however, there were not enough funds available in the current budget to replace the roof on the hangar which is in poor condition. The attached request for an additional \$70,000 will provide enough funds to replace the roof, landscape the grounds, and improve the parking area for the facility. The original Triumph grant award was \$250,000 and required 25 certifications by December 31, 2030, Triumph will require an additional (7) certifications for the additional \$70,000 grant award. The amendment also requests one additional year be added to the completion timeline (December 31, 2031) as this will allow for a full (5) years for students to earn the required number of certifications. The AOED Board has recommended approval of the attached request and Haney Technical College has also approved the additional terms for this amendment. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached budget amendment request for the Triumph Haney Project at the Airport. This request will then appear on the agenda for approval by Triumph at their meeting in Panama City on June 22nd.

Mrs. Griffith speaking, attached is a grant award amendment request for Triumph Haney Technical College in Franklin County project. The hangar renovations are nearly 100% complete. However, there were not enough funds available in the current budget to replace the roof and the hangar, which is in poor condition. The attached request for an additional \$70,000 will provide enough funds to replace the roof, landscape the grounds, and improve the parking area for the facility. The original Triumph grant award was \$250,000 and required 25 certifications by December 31, 2030. Triumph will require an additional seven certifications for the additional \$70,000 grant award. This amendment also requests one additional year be added to the completion timeline, so through December 31, 2031, as this will allow for a full five years for students to earn the required number of certifications. The AOED board has recommended approval of the attached request, and Haney Technical College has also approved the additional terms for this amendment. Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached budget amendment request for the Triumph Haney project at the airport. This request will then appear on the agenda for approval by Triumph at their meeting in Panama City on June 22nd and I believe Steve will plan to be there for that. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, yes, I will be there. **On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom and Commissioner Ward, to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached budget amendment request for the Triumph Haney Project at the airport. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, and just two quick discussion items. I could never have done a job like that, which you presented. Also, the opportunities zone, the AOED, in conjunction with the county coordinator, got the okay to submit an Opportunity Zone request for the airport, and then no way interferes with the Opportunity Zone in East Point. Bill Williams submitted one from the EDC. I submitted one myself, which I think a few others may have gone in. I just sent a quick email to Secretary Kelly, and I got a phone call back, and he received all the requests, and we did not get our job growth grant. So, I am keeping my fingers crossed that we are going to get an opportunity zone with it, and I have got a good feeling about it. Also, other than that, I do not think this needed to be on as an action item. Attorney Shuler and I worked with the FDOT on ironing out the agreement for the staging area, and the last vote was Attorney Shuler needs to agree on the language with FDOT, it is all agreed and signed. So, I was going to hand this off after the meeting. Can I hand it off to Attorney Shuler? Attorney Shuler speaking, I asked Mr. Kirschenbaum to bring this up, because when I read my notes, they say review lease, but it did not say lease approved, subject to review. So, my memory, it may or may not be correct. Has the board already approved this lease for the FDOT, or did you just because my notes just simply say review? Chairman Jones speaking, I do not honestly remember. I thought we did, but I am not looking at verbatim. I think contingent upon your review. But that is just my memory. Attorney Shuler speaking, well, that the policy maker's memory is more important. Chairman Jones speaking, no, what actually happened is most important. Attorney Shuler speaking, okay. Well, that is why we have minutes for belts and suspenders, and we just have a motion quickly to approve the EOS or the FDOT staging agreement, as was discussed at the last meeting presented by Mister Curtis. This morning's site belts and suspenders. My notes may very well be. Chairman Jones speaking that is fine.

That is not a problem. So, you just want to do a motion to the same kind of motion. Attorney Shuler speaking, well, at this point, it would be, I have already reviewed it, made amendments, they have incorporated the amendments, FDOT has signed. So, just a motion to approve the FDOT staging agreement and all across the chairman's signature. **On a motion to approve by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom.** Chairman Jones speaking, at this time, I will call for public comments. This was not published on our agenda, so I will call for public comment. If anyone wants to speak about this, this is your chance to do so. You do not have to have filled out a speaker card for it. Mr. Moron, will you check virtually? Mr. Moron speaking, anyone attending virtually, if you would like to speak on this, indicate by raising your hands. No hands raised. Chairman Jones speaking, all right, that was all for public comment. I am sorry, if you want to talk, you have to come forward, just for this singular item. Yes, ma'am. Sorry, I should have said that and made it clearer. No, just for this singular item was what I was calling for public comment for. So, there is no public comment. Any discussion before we vote? Commissioner Amison speaking, I actually have a question. I should have asked this. I apologize. I should have got what you and ask you this, but is this in this agreement in this contract, is this specific for that one area? or could we like potentially to say we had to move it somewhere? And I'm just, it is just a hypothetical. Attorney Shuler speaking, the only location that's provided for in the agreement is at the north end of Runway 180 and some of the area north of that, the unpaved area, and then the access is exclusively from Bluff Road, and it does not, by the way, Commissioner Ward, you would want to make sure that this leasing area, or the staging area, does not conflict with the Duke Energy staging area, it does not, but I suspect if we, during an emergency, needed to expand or relocate, we could probably do that on the fly as necessary during an emergency. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, you know what my mind was exactly on that, Commissioner Amison, and I do not want to upset this. I think we should have an addendum that as the site develops future, that the location may be moved instead of in that exact map location, because that map location is specific. Commissioner Amison speaking, well, my kind of thought is Murphy's Law. Something is going to happen, and if we are tied, but we have got access on the Powell River side, we are not accessed, but it's not in the fence. We can do some clearing, like right there, across from the ball field, and have enough space there. And then, potentially, if we need to bring them over there, God forbid something happened, we need full access, and it's a state of emergency of 1836 which that is the runway it's going to be off of, correct? we could move them over there, could it be like flexible to move them around over there, is what I was getting at, and again, the reason why I bring that up is, you know, just as soon as you plan on something not happening, that's when it's going to happen, so just a thought. Attorney Shuler speaking, so, of course, and during a declared state of emergency, we have a lot more flexibility to make decisions on the fly as necessary to accommodate the emergency. So, if something should happen before this addendum that Mr. Kirschenbaum is represented to the board this morning, we will find a way to make it work. Chairman Jones speaking, so, once you are under a state of emergency, it is all completed. It is trust me; it is different. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, also, do the commissioners have any problem with him? The agreement states... Chairman Jones speaking, hold on. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, I am sorry. Chairman Jones speaking, is this about this motion? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, yeah. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, go ahead. So, actually, we are under board discussion, but go ahead. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, the agreement states their equipment, which is their housing, but they asked if I think it makes a whole lot of sense that if their men are based there and their equipment is based somewhere else in the event of a storm event, they could maybe not get to their equipment. So, do you have an issue with them not only having their housing there, what their equipment there, and the agreement states equipment. Attorney Shuler speaking about that question, but we will do it live right now. My recollection is it includes the equipment and housing, but give me a moment. Commissioner Amison speaking, originally when we discussed it. The equipment was not in there, because I remember asking the question. I will go back and look at it, you know. Why is it the equipment part of it because it was just housing? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, I voiced that to him after the meeting, and a week later he came back and said they may want to bring their equipment in. Commissioner Amison speaking, makes sense. Chairman Jones speaking, yes, we should have answered before now. Go ahead. Attorney Shuler speaking, yes, it does provide for the temporary storage of equipment, materials, and tools you utilize by leases, employees, and contractors, there is a laundry list of items, but it also says including, but without limitations, and then you have the laundry list, but it does specifically say temporary storage of equipment, so we are covered. Chairman Jones speaking, okay. All right. Any other board discussion before we vote. All in favor? Any opposed? That is unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.** Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, gentlemen, I apologize about that, because I had no idea it was going to need a motion. I just thought I was bringing here for a simple signature. Chairman Jones speaking,

I understand, happens like that. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, one thing that is going to be fabulous next major storm event. Everybody is going to be based in Franklin County, and we will be the first ones to be cleared and blown. Chairman Jones speaking, I hope we have no major storm events, but I get what you are saying. We do not want any of them. Being prepared is good. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, I will speak to FDOT about that site being flexible. Also, any questions about anything else on my report? Chairman Jones speaking, do you have any questions, Commissioners? Commissioner Amison speaking, I do, Mr. Chairman, but just going back to Haney, are we, is everything in order? I mean, have they got their equipment in there? Are they set up, or I know they are not completely set up, but I mean, is everything, are we rolling along? Are we going to hit the numbers that are the timeframe that they are looking for? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, yes, and even if we do the whole place is 100% set. The septic system is working, electrical is done, all the rooms are done. You got to see, I sent you all pictures of stuff. It is absolutely gorgeous. They've got their IT guy in there doing all their networking now, and setting up for phones, and I think over the next month all their equipment is going to start coming over, and I spoke to the director of the college, and she said right now there's so much overflow at the Bay County campus that she's directing them down this way, and I told her, if there's any issues with housing, you let these people know that within an hour's ride of Franklin County, if they can't find the housing, is Wakulla County, is Gulf County, and Bay County, and she's been telling them that, so it, you know, God forbid they'd have an hour ride to the college. Commissioner Amison speaking, we have been riding for an hour to colleges all our lives. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, but it is looking really good. They are really excited, and I think you are going to find other projects coming in from them, and I appreciate the opportunity to work on that one. That is when you feel good about doing things for the county, and after two years of working on that, it is going to be in the world of Judaism. I am a Jew, it is a mitzvah, a great thing. So, thank you. Chairman Jones speaking, I want to mention Steve. So, commissioners, we do not have to make any decisions today that I want to ask you for, and I do want to at least put a thought out there for you to consider. I know when we reinstituted this airport board, it was airport and economic development. We have since, as a county, started doing an EDC economic development board. The issues we run into is there needs to be a conversation with one person at the most, two, not three, four, or five. So, at some point I think we, if we're really going to have an EDC and get it where it needs to go, I think everything economic development needs to funnel to that board, and if its airport related, it'll funnel back to the AOED for their approval. Yes, it does make it a longer process, but I think it'll also free up the airport board to do some of these infrastructure things, as little things they're doing to try to improve the airport and improve the usability of the airport and create jobs, but it would, it would give us, so these are things we really didn't know, because we didn't have an EDA before now, or EDC, but as people have been waiting to want to help Franklin County, and there's now a mechanism to try to do that, they don't want to talk to a bunch of different people, they want to be able to talk to one person or two people and be able to handle it, because a lot of times with EDCs there are NDAs, there are other things that are going on, and they want to know and have reliance that we're handling things the way we need to handle. So just a thought for us to discuss later, but that is something I think we might need to consider. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, in regard to that. Mr. Chairman, I actually had that discussion with Bill Williams this week, and I said I could kick the doors open in this industry, but it's going to get handed off to you and your board to follow through, and in that respect, I think it would be incredible winner, because hopefully there'll be a great team on that board that's going to work economic development, and I know I can't do it all, and that airport board is volunteers, but I can't be chief cook and bottle washer. Chairman Jones speaking, EDC members are also volunteers, but it is a board of about 13 members. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, no, I am on board with that, but I do not want to get it shut out of the process. If I see an aerospace company that is interested, I will open the door, I will hand it to Bill. Goes back to the airport board. Are you guys okay with that? Chairman Jones speaking, well, we have not made decisions about that. I just mentioned it for discussion. We have not made a decision, Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, that's how Bay County does it, that is how everybody else does it, and to do some real serious due diligence, so we're not dealing with the guys with cowboy hats and spurs and wasting a month of our life. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, no, I do not want to do that anymore. Commissioner Croom speaking, thank you. I got something, Steve. One last thing on your item. I see you working on logistics for your air show. What is the tentative date that you have? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, it is going to be a media show the night. Commissioner Croom speaking, what is that tentative date? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, Friday afternoon, the 20th will be a media show, and I think we are going to have it open to the public for free to come in, and the sponsors will be there, and they will do a tiny show that night, and then Saturday, the 21st will be the air show. Commissioner Croom speaking, what is the month? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, November,

so it will be the weekend before Thanksgiving. Commissioner Amison speaking, weekend after Veterans. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, yeah, week after, so it's still the third weekend of November, but the third weekend in November this year falls on the 21st. Commissioner Croom speaking, gotcha, okay, thank you. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, and we're in good shape, actually, the person who's raising the money is doing a great job, and Phil Shelly got tax exempt status for the Friends of Apalachicola Regional Airport, so it's solid, it's going to be good, and we're all approved with the military, and what I got this year that I think will be really interesting, we've got the, we've got a jump team coming in, so there's going to be parachuting, so. So, Commissioner Amison can take up his old, his old military gear. Chairman Jones speaking, yeah, I think he wants to keep his knees just like they are now. Commissioner Amison speaking, they have already got. Chairman Jones speaking, they have been through enough. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, well, if they come down and the shows of success, I am going to jump. Thank you, everybody. Are we good? Chairman Jones speaking, yep. All right. Thank you.

The Board recessed at 9:50 am. and reconvened at 10:02 am.

The Board moved to Bid openings at this time for the Island View Park FRDAP Improvements.

8. RFP/RFQ/Bid Opening

a. FRANKLIN COUNTY ISLAND VIEW PARK FRDAP IMPROVEMENTS

Today the Board is opening construction bids for the Island View Park FRDAP Improvements. This project consists of construction of a 743 sq ft covered concrete pad for a modular restroom, a 16'x30' pre-engineered picnic pavilion, and installation of a modular restroom facility with all appurtenant utility connections at Island View Park approximately 1.8 miles east of Carrabelle. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on May 14th and approximately (8) contractors were in attendance.

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

Chairman Jones speaking, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners now back in session. The next thing on our agenda is opening bids for Franklin County Island View Park FRDAP improvements. I'll turn over to you.

Mrs. Griffith speaking, okay, this project consists of construction of a 743 square foot covered concrete pad for a modular restroom, a 16 foot by 30-foot pre-engineered picnic pavilion, and installation of a modular restroom facility with all the pertinent utility connections at Island View Park, located approximately 1.8 miles east of Carrabelle. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on May 14th, and approximately eight contractors were in attendance. This is the second time we have bid this project. The first time bidding the two lowest bidders did not have the appropriate documentation. So, board action, once we open these bids, will be to release the bids to the project engineers, Dewberry and Associates, for their review and recommendation for award. The first bid we are opening today will be Galloway Construction Incorporated, located at 122 Oyster City Drive, Suite A, East Point. Again, Galloway Construction Incorporated, total base bid price \$101,178.78. Again, total base bid price \$101,178.78 and the bid bond is included. The second is going to be from Michael L. Anderson Incorporated, located at 4033 Oak Forest Drive, Panama City, Florida. Michael L. Anderson Incorporated, located at 4033 Oak Forest Drive. Their total base bid price is \$245,043.48. Again, total base bid price \$245,043.48 base bid, and the bid bond is included. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I will make a motion to send these to Dewberry. Commissioner Amison speaking, second. Chairman Jones speaking, so we have **a motion to approve sending this to the review committee that Mrs. Erin has enumerated here by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison.** Any discussion before we vote? All in favor, any opposed? That is unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.**

All right, Mrs. Erin, that was the only one to open we had today, correct? Mrs. Griffith speaking, that is correct. And I only have two remaining action items on my report, and then some informational items for you all. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, so let us go ahead and do number two, since there is just two of them, we are just doing individuals here. Mrs. Griffith speaking, okay, you want me to go ahead and read them? Chairman Jones speaking, yep, that is fine.

9. Erin Griffith – Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator

1) BOARD ACTION: TRIUMPH HANEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDS

Attached is a grant award amendment request for the Triumph Haney Technical College in Franklin County Project. The Hangar renovations are nearly 100% complete, however, there were not enough funds available in the current budget to replace the roof on the hangar which is in poor condition. The attached request for an additional \$70,000 will provide enough funds to replace the roof, landscape the grounds, and improve the parking area for the facility. The original Triumph grant award was \$250,000 and required 25 certifications by December 31, 2030, Triumph will require an additional (7) certifications for the additional \$70,000 grant award. The amendment also requests one additional year be added to the completion timeline (December 31, 2031) as this will allow for a full (5) years for students to earn the required number of certifications. The AOED Board has recommended approval of the attached request and Haney Technical College has also approved the additional terms for this amendment.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the attached budget amendment request for the Triumph Haney Project at the Airport. This request will then appear on the agenda for approval by Triumph at their meeting in Panama City on June 22nd.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

2) BOARD ACTION: ROLLING LEASE PURCHASE PROGRAM ROAD DEPT DUMP TRUCKS

It is time again to renew the rolling dump truck lease-purchase agreement for the Franklin County Road Department. The Florida Sheriff's Association contract cost for a new 2026 heavy-duty Mack dump truck is \$202,295. The county will own two trucks for up to twenty-four months, making the first- and second-year lease payment of \$20,000 per truck. Before the third payment, the trucks will be traded again with Nextran at market pricing and replaced with two new model year dump trucks. This program allows the road department to have reliable dump trucks, covered by an added extended warranty with little maintenance expense year after year. This is the eighth renewal of the rolling lease program with vendors Leasing2 and Nextran which was previously Capital City Truck. Board action to approve the attached resolution and authorization for the Chairman to sign the five-year lease purchase agreement with Leasing 2 to finance the purchase of two new dump 2026 Mack Model 64BR dump trucks in the amount of \$281,121.27 from Nextran of Tallahassee and the trade-in (and removal from inventory) of the 2025 trucks, last four of the VIN Numbers 9300 and 9301 subject to review and approval of the financing agreement by County Attorney Michael Shuler.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached resolution and authorization for the Chairman to sign the five-year lease purchase agreement with Leasing 2 to finance the purchase of two new dump 2026 Mack Model 64BR dump trucks in the amount of \$281,121.27 from Nextran of Tallahassee and the trade-in (and removal from inventory) of the 2025 trucks, last four of the VIN Numbers 9300 and 9301 subject to review and approval of the financing agreement by County Attorney Michael Shuler. Motion carried 5-0.

3) BOARD ACTION: NOTICE OF AWARD MARGARET KEY LIBRARY PROJECT

At the last meeting, the Board opened construction bids for the Margaret Key Library Parking Area Improvements in Apalachicola. The project consists of demolishing and constructing/improving the parking area, adding concrete ADA parking spaces, reconstruction of curbing/sidewalk and the addition of striping improvements. The project engineers have reviewed the construction bids and recommend issuing the notice of award to the lowest base bidder GeoFlora at \$118,004.19. This project will be completed with District 3's paving funds. The bid alternates include a total of \$22,860.75. Board action to issue the notice of intent to award to GeoFlora and to sign the contract

documents in the amount of the base bid \$118,004.19 plus the alternates \$22,860.75 for a total award of \$140,864.94.

On a motion by Commissioner Croom, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved issuing the notice of intent to award to GeoFlora and to sign the contract documents in the amount of the base bid \$118,004.19 plus the alternates \$22,860.75 for a total award of \$140,864.94. Commissioner Croom speaking, Erin this is an item that we discussed last meeting, and what was in question was now the bid bond. Mrs. Griffith speaking, yes, at the last meeting it was mentioned that there was something in the bid packet where it did not really look like the normal bid bond form, so we were not sure if it was actually included. Unfortunately, there was a new insurance agent at Essentia, who had sent GeoFlora the supporting documentation for the bid bond, instead of the single page bid bond form. The bid bond was actually in effect at the time that the bid was opened, and we have since received the one-page form, but they just provided the wrong part. So, Dewberry did review and accepted that and said it was valid. Commissioner Croom speaking, Mr. Chair, I just wanted the board to be aware of that, since we discussed it last meeting. Chairman Jones speaking, okay? Any other discussion before we vote? All in favor? Any opposed? That is unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.**

4) BOARD INFORMATION / MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES:

- Final walk-through inspection for the County Wide Dune Restoration Project was completed on Friday at the two park locations.
- SGI Stormwater Project –project has been slowed due to several inlets needing to be reworked with the tops reordered and paving is contingent upon clear days without forecasted rain, the contractor anticipates window of paving within the next few weeks to complete the project. Summer rains will not allow for the development of a firm paving schedule; however, the contractor plans to pave the areas in the following order, business owners will be informed the day before if paving will be in front of their location– work will be completed weekdays during daylight hours and wrapped up by early afternoon:
 - 1) West Pine area, completed yesterday
 - 2) 2nd Street East, 1st Street West Pine to Bayshore (possibly as early as tomorrow)
 - 3) Chili Boulevard West
 - 4) East Pine Street
 - 5) East Gorrie and 3rd East
 - 6) 1st Street East
- On Friday, commissioners had a positive meeting one on one with representatives from Capital Health Plan regarding some outstanding network issues and discussed concerns regarding access to primary care.
- The County received the attached good faith estimate of taxable value for the 26/27 budget year of \$3,900,000,000 from the property appraiser's office. This value would be an increase of approximately 3% over the current year value used during the budget process of \$3,785,787,741. The county's property values do appear to be slowing as indicated by historical trend: 14.64% (22 to 23), 13.91% (23 to 24), 9.34% (24 to 25), 2.92% (25 to 26). At the current millage rate of 5.0459, this 2.92% increase in value would result in a \$576,304 increase in ad valorem property tax proceeds at the same rate.
- Considering the recent developments with property tax reform heading to the ballot, I do want to mention the snapshot in time that the legislature requested from county governments. The legislature used a measurement period of the past ten years. This snapshot in time was unfortunate as if this timeline had been extended it would have shown a period of decline and then recovery

instead of rapid growth. Franklin County's taxable value before the market crash (fiscal year 2006/2007) was over \$4.112 billion, the county had a position count of 191 positions and budgeted \$15.8 million dollars in ad valorem proceeds. The market bottom for the county's taxable value did not occur until 2013/2014 and that year; the taxable value had declined to \$1.65 billion; the budgeted ad valorem proceeds were reduced to \$10.56 million and the position count cut to 165 (through implementation of hiring freezes and no salary increases spanning multiple budget cycles). Franklin county is still in the recovery phase from the market crash. County departments have been able to add back many positions that had been lost during the downturn and the county in just the past few years has been able to make strides to catch up on a lot of the deferred maintenance at parks/public buildings and purchase necessary pieces of large equipment that had been long overdue for replacement. Franklin County's total budget has grown greatly but most of that growth has been in other fund categories, the county's financial foothold and service capacity is just now back to where the county was almost twenty years ago. In the span of twenty years, the county's budgeted ad valorem proceeds have grown from \$15.8 million, with 191 employees to \$19.1 million at a millage rate of 5.0459 mills with 198 employees.

Mrs. Griffith speaking, I just wanted to provide that snapshot.

Chairman Jones speaking, it is, this a valid snapshot. So, Mrs. Erin, thank you for that, for all of that. Yeah, so I would ask, on the discussion we had about the paving on the island, where they finished up the stormwater project, we need to try to get that out, so people know it. I mean, I, not that it's going to matter, I've talked to business owners that I found out later that they talked directly to the contractor the day before, and they're still calling me and wanting to chew me out, because there's work going on in front of their building, even though they were personally notified, so it's probably not going to change that, but to help all the others out, we need to make sure we publish, and they know as there are days that they can work, and they're not rain days. Then this is, they are going to be coming from here to this area. So, if you are next, they are coming your direction. And I would remind everyone, part of the reason we are in this area is last year when we are ready to actually start the project, several the business owners of business district called and tried to get the county to respond to delay starting the project because they did not want to miss business, so we have done our best work around this, and is what it is. We cannot work around every season and every schedule, the work's got to happen, so. Mrs. Griffith speaking, and we are close to having a nice pothole-free area, so it will be something positive out after this period of inconvenience. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, on that, Erin, did you get a hold to the FDOT about the signage? Mrs. Griffith speaking, Ashley with FDOT? I have not heard anything more from them. Commissioner Ward speaking, okay, I got that contact. I do not know if you want to reach out to her that I sent you, because while on the subject, FDOT, I did call them after I knew last meeting, we had a discussion about some areas of concern in our county. I contacted FDOT, sent them emails, not her back, and then miraculously they called during the meetings last time I called her back, and we spent about an hour and a half on the phone. I did mention St. George Island issues that we had brought up at that meeting, and then other issues, and of course she is going to put that through to their traffic ops department and give us an answer. There is going to be some changes on Avenue E, not changes that we would probably want or like, but that is coming down the pike. I did ask about a crosswalk on Leslie Lighted, especially at night, and that is in the works too. But that is all she could tell me. All the rest was forwarded to the traffic ops folks, so and if you need that contact information, I will send it back to you. But she seemed really responsive, and I told her that you might be reaching out to her specifically for the questions that was raised at the last meeting. Commissioner Croom speaking, Commissioner Ward on that. I also spoke with a guy from Air DLT about the lights and everything for the city of Apalachicola down here, and what I have been doing. Also, I know we get these emails occasionally with candidate resurfacing project and ask about other areas, so I always go to that comment section and copy and paste what we, our issues, and put in there each time, you know. Commissioner Ward speaking never hurts to ask, right? I mean, I've asked, I've been on the board six years, almost six years, and I've asked every year, this can we have this sometimes twice, and they sometimes I'll say no, and they send a whole bunch of stuff, I think I forwarded it to you to send out, but they have all these rules and all these regulations that they go by as to how they determine a speed limit change or. A double line or all that kind of stuff, so I do not know, I think I forwarded that. Chairman Jones speaking, does not always, the problem is, Commissioner, that I would not try to cut you off, I am sorry, that does not

always boil down to what we think makes sense, so before we got the traffic light needs points, I had someone help me understand their warrants, or their things that they say call for a light. They have about eight of them. A couple of years ago, before we ever thought about getting the light, we actually, as this board, we drafted a letter. I wrote out the warrants that it meets the criteria that it met for needing a light. They still denied it. We got that light, because Representative Shoaf helped us get that light, because we knew the paving was going to happen. If you are going to do it, now's the time to do it. You do not want to tear up new paving for a light, so but that, that come directly from him. So, it even if you answer the questions, they want you to answer, then that always mean to go get what you think you get. Commissioner Sanders speaking, has anybody heard from DOT on the repaving of 98 between Eastpoint and Carrabelle, I know they said the culvert, they said they were trying to, you know, wait until after the spring break, and now we are rolling on to almost Fourth of July. I am just, are they just leaving us alone now? Commissioner Amison speaking, they are going to wait after hurricane season. Chairman Jones speaking, wish they would wait after. Commissioner Sanders speaking, it is just dealing with state agencies and federal agencies. Commissioner Ward speaking, and we get the brunt of it, not complaining by any means, but you know, I will say that I did look on the FDOT website, and they still have, they have 600 days in the contract, and they are like 36% through those days, so they got so many days left, I think 200 days, anyway. They got days left, but they better get on it, because those days are going to wrap up really quick. Commissioner Amison speaking, this is more of a concern for me and Commissioner Croom, because I have looked at 98/319 all the way through, but we have got, I mean, it is not lights, it is not sidewalks, it is not pavement, but we have got some major issues with trees. I mean, I have sat there and watched box trucks, I watched boats, especially right there, there's big oak trees. There is no clearance up there at all. I mean, I have got - I have had some people complaining because their box truck lights are hitting those hardwood limbs, and it is snatching the lights off on the, you know, that is a violation with FDOT on the enforcement side, but that is something. If you have a discussion, I intend on talking with Benny or someone you may want to elaborate on that, because I honestly, we share that district on one side and the other, and I had not seen it anywhere else. It is just that old historic area, they are beautiful trees, but you know something has got to be done. I am not saying cut the whole oak tree down, but they are going to have to trim those up some, because it is becoming a major traffic issue with commercial traffic, and that is the only commercial corridor through. Commissioner Croom speaking, I do know this, I do know from talking with Duke Energy, if I have a big tree cutting year district or districts over in Apalachicola, and I was told there is probably that will be some city, though. We need to make sure we have a discussion with FDOT as well. Commissioner Ward speaking, and just so the board is aware, Mr. Chairman, you can call Benny, but Benny has no control for you to somebody at FDUT. I do have the contact that I feel like y'all can reach out to about the trees, because she is there in traffic ops, and they are the ones that do all that stuff. Chairman Jones speaking, you just never know how it is going to go, so we have had, and I'll say this, and then I'll leave it alone, we've had at least two or three times that we've approached them in the last couple of years about removing the three trees that the property owner said they wanted to have removed, they were fine with it, but DOT wouldn't let them. They were just to the east of Jefferson Street and Eastpoint by Centennial Bank. When you are looking out, you are looking at three trees, but now that they are doing the paving project through 98, they had to redo the sidewalk. They took all three trees down. They were just as alive when they took them down as they were two years ago, when they told us I could not take them down. Commissioner Ward speaking, and I almost missed my turn to the bank, because I looked for them trees. Chairman Jones speaking, they did it, but it just, I cannot make it make sense. Mr. Moron speaking, yeah, a couple of things. Well, one concern is Commissioner Ward told me, based on her discussion, this is a city matter, I get that, Commissioners, but she told me, if I am wrong, Commissioner, correct me, that at the blinking light that has been there in Apalachicola forever, they are considering turning that into a four-way stop. I am sorry, FDOT. Commissioner Amison speaking, it was under my impression in some discussion that the bridge is not set up to have a light. Mr. Moron speaking, that is what I thought, that it would back up the traffic on the bridge, and they would never do that, but that is what they informed Commissioner Ward. I just haven't had the time to get with Chuck for the city yet to say, hey, you guys need to contact them and see if this is actually what they're going to do, because I think the county and the city together needs to talk to DSA, hey, look, that's it's been a, that's a cultural change, people have been look, I want everybody else better stop, because I'm making that turn going, so I'm just saying. Chairman Jones speaking, proceed with caution. Commissioner Amison speaking, okay, three days ago I was making the turn, and somebody was going to go straight across and laid on the horn, and I am sitting there going. Mr. Moron speaking, look at the light. When I approached it, I said, 'Look, I am the color blind one here this four way turn we are

making. So, I know that light gives me authority. Everybody else got to see that red. So, but we really seriously, we really need to get that and Commissioner Sanders point, so I had a doctor's appointment in Tallahassee on Friday. Once again, I passed by that that temporary traffic light, no work going on. So, yes, I know Commissioner Ward, you said he cannot help me, but I said, Benny, what? There is, I have not seen any activity here? This light was there for the holiday. We have July 4 coming up. This is a busy season, and Betty said, 'I will text you the number to call. That is what he did. Commissioner Ward speaking, which is the number that I have called. number all the rest of us called. And now we get the same answer every day. I am not following. We are working on it. We have got so many days. There are things being done. I have talked, I have called about the dips, I was hauling some jet skis, and they, the dip, I mean, it is hard, it is a hard dip, and oh, we will have somebody come out and take a look at it and make sure it is done right. Well, I do not. Mr. Moron speaking, it is not Benny's fault, he is really trying to help in any way he can, but he just has just so much that he can do, but yes, so guess I will do like you, Commissioner. I will make that call again, see what we get. Commissioner Ward speaking, and then it is like, you know, you want to make a call, but then you do not want to make too many calls, they are going to be like, they are aggravating us, we are just going to stop, because we are not going to keep. Mr. Moron speaking, oh, caller ID, Franklin, yeah. I just kind of, want to bring that to you guys' attention. Attorney Shuler speaking, when you talk, let us make the flashing light intersection even better with a roundabout, that will really make it fun. Commissioner Amison speaking, that would be confusing for those semis. Mr. Moron speaking, in a strange city have you ever listened to Google Maps or Apple maps do the roundabout thing? Oh, my goodness, I get lost. I run around, so yeah. But anyway, I just kind of want to let you know, bring that to attention. I will get with Chuck when I get a chance, and I will call Traffic Ops again, Commissioner Ward, and talk to him about that light, that temporary light that it seems is just sitting there, nobody is doing any work. Commissioner Ward speaking, yeah, you know. So, anyway, I will give you the guy to call. Mr. Moron speaking, okay, you got a guy, I got a guy. Commissioner Ward speaking, I got a guy, I got a girl, got everybody.

Chairman Jones speaking, so, before we transition to Williams and Mister Walker, Miss Ashley from Truck Works, Trent Works, okay, was here to speak about, or to be able to weigh in earlier when Mr. Fonda was here; she just did not know the correct time to speak. So, since she is drove all the way here from Dothan, I am going to allow her to address the board.

Miss Ashley speaking, thank you so much. So, I did not know whether to interrupt Fonda from earlier. Board meetings are kind of intimidating a little bit, but if I could just add something to the roll off to take into consideration for the vote. I do not know if you are going to be voting for October for the budget or if you are going to purchase now, but so the cost, I think you have the quotes in front of you for 195. So that is for the unit that we have on the ground now, that stock, it is racking up days on hand, floor hand, but once it is sold, it could go back to regular pricing for Q, so, but we will get as close to that as possible, but so. With the cost at 195 and a two-year guarantee of 125 that puts your yearly operating cost at \$35,000. You could pay it outright if you choose to do so, or finance for the two years and make annual, either monthly payments or annual payments, and you will not have the operating costs, such as labor or parts, or you know, and we have a road tech at our shop that can come down here as well, see. And, of course, we put the buyback number up front, so when you purchase a truck, you know what your rate's going to be, and you know, no less and no more. Chairman Jones speaking, we need to make sure, Mrs. Erin, with all that information is included when we are having that discussion. I would ask you, Miss Ashley, just since you are up here, we can ask you, so the if we are leasing the trucks, you say you have a mechanic that can have a rotation. So, what does that look like, though, does it depend on what the repair is? Whether it is something we pay for or whether it is covered under warranty? Miss Ashley speaking, right. So, the truck will stay under warranty the entire time that you would have it. We will put a two-year warranty on it. The only thing that would not be is, you know, like a something driver error or operator error that would not be covered, but such as sensors, your engine, your transmission, anything more to collect that will be covered. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, so the, the during that whole time, as well, do would they have to coordinate with us to know when it is time to change the oil, or we are changing oil. How does that work? Miss Ashley speaking, so either or it works, you do not have your first oil change till 30,000 miles. I do not know exactly how many miles you would be putting it on at the landfill, but I mean I am sure you would have to replace your filters, like your air filter, lot of dirt and particles up in the air. Chairman Jones speaking, well, the reason I am asking that, but my background in auto parts is so if we are going to change

the oil and filters, and we are doing it, are y'all supplying the oil and the filters as part of the warranty? Miss Ashley speaking, the county would have to purchase the oil and the filters to play, because the warranty will not cover a service, it just covers labor, not on the service, okay? But for warrantable it would. Chairman Jones speaking, but I guess what I am getting at is we would have to use your oil and filters, they could not go buy them somewhere else. Miss Ashley speaking, you can buy them from anywhere. Chairman Jones speaking, well sometimes they have said that will void the warranty. Miss Ashley speaking, not with us, I have heard that. Chairman Jones speaking, so, but I was, and I am glad you said that, because the Supreme Court actually weighed in on that in 70s, so anytime somebody is going to tell somebody they have to use their oil and filters, they are supposed to be supplying free of charge, so that is why you are not doing that, the Magnuson–Moss Warranty Act. Now you go to local auto parts, because everybody that does what we call aftermarket auto parts, they're paying for the patent to be able to even produce that part, so you then can't tell them it's an inferior part when they've had to pay that dealer, or whoever does that did that design for that oil filter, that somehow the oil filter is not supplied by the original equipment, is somehow, you know, inferior, so that's how they address that, so that's why that's why I was asking, just to know. Did not want to get us in any hang-ups. Miss Ashley speaking, of course. Does anyone have any questions? Commissioner Sanders speaking, no, I am just glad to see you here. We see Truck Works all the time at our conferences but they never come to Franklin County. Miss Ashley speaking, thank you. I appreciate that. I think it is important to show your face. Commissioner Ward speaking, and please do not be intimidated. We are easy-going folks up here. Miss Ashley speaking, yeah, y'all are. I can already tell that. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you, Miss Ashley.

The Board moved to David Walker at this time.

10. Other Reports/Presentations/Updates/Requests

a. David Walker (Weems CEO) & Mike Kozar (Alliant CEO) -- Discussion

Attached is the draft Northwest Florida Rural Hospital Collaborative MOU for discussion at the June 3 Commission Meeting regarding AHCA's Rural Health Transformation Grant. The grant requires partnerships and collaborative agreements, including signed MOUs, to demonstrate regional collaboration. I have also attached the following documents to share with the Commissioners:

- *A one-page summary of the MOU

- *Grant language related to regional partnerships and collaboratives

- *AHCA's Rural Transformation Program Information Webinar, which references partnerships and collaboratives on pages 27, 37, 40, 43, 48, 49, and 50

Mr. David Walker speaking, I am David Walker, CEO, George Weems Memorial Hospital. I have with me Mr. Michael Kozar and Miss Julie Dennis to talk about the rural transformation grant. There is a Northwest Florida Rural Hospital Collaborative. This is the grant that we mentioned few months ago, back in December. We hosted the leadership of ACCA at our hospital to talk about this particular grant, I think State of Florida was getting 200 million of that money, and they wanted to roll that money into the rural communities. So, I have Julie Dennis here to talk more about the grant, but we have about seven hospitals, including George Weems Memorial Hospital, that is part of this particular collaborative, which is Calhoun Liberty Hospital, Jackson Hospital, Madison County Memorial Hospital, Doctors' Memorial Hospital, and Perry Doctors' Memorial Hospital in Bonifay, Northwest Florida Community Hospital in Chipley, that's Michael Kozar's hospital. There for the three of the hospitals, the hospital district governmental hospitals, we are the only county hospitals, and the other ones are probably one c3 hospitals, there. You know, this particular grant is a grant, is a service grant, you know, coming into our local communities, different services, you know, the grant would offer us as well. I have listed on what I call the MOU snapshot, but I will bring Julie Dennis up to talk more about, you know, the grant process in a working of a particular grant. This is a very competitive grant. You have a lot of individuals in the state of Florida, as well as outside the state of Florida, applying for these particular grants as well. So, like I said, very, very competitive. But I will bring Julie Dennis up now to talk more about the grant. I think we can talk about the MOUs. Miss Julie Dennis speaking, good morning. Good to see all of you. I am Julie Dennis. I am the CEO of Ovid Solutions. It is a full-service grant firm based out of Wakulla County. So, we are your neighbors. I know many of you from my past experience prior to 2019. When I started Ovid, I was the director of community development

for the state of Florida, and worked with you guys in that capacity. So, fast forward to now, with Ovid Solutions, we have grown, and we are a full-service firm with about 13 part-time people, our 13 full-time people, and about 15 part-time. And today I am here because we have the pleasure and the honor of supporting seven hospitals across Northwest Florida in the rural health transformation grant process, so I appreciate the opportunity to work with Mr. Walker and work with Weems Memorial Hospital. So, our role in this process is to make you guys as competitive as possible, right? So, as grant developers, that is what my team does. We are here to make you as competitive as possible. And Mr. Walker went over the specific grant, and at a high-level detail, but I will reiterate on a couple of things here. So, this is a federal grant that came down to the state, and we are applying to ACHA, the Agency for Healthcare Administration for these funds, there has to be a lead applicant. Calhoun Liberty Hospital is going to be the lead applicant, but Weems is going to participate as a rural service site while you know preserving all of your local governance. So, the MOU that you guys are looking at today, this is not a binding agreement on the grant, this is just a commitment to partner with your other six hospitals across Northwest Florida, and the partnership is pretty important. It is required, and it is also something that is re-emphasized several times through the grant application, and in my experience, and grant writing, when they say they want a consortium, they want you to partner, and the reason is, is because from a regional perspective, you are going to provide more impact. Plus, in this particular grant program, they have some requirements that not one rural hospital could actually meet on its own, and so, so it really makes a big difference there, and if I am being frank and honest, you know this is the first time that ACHA has really had a grant program like this. This is a big grant, they're getting a lot of recipients, and they're going to be grant managing, which is something that their agency is not used to doing. So, when you see these calls for consortiums like this, it is usually because it's limiting the number of grants that they'll actually award, so that they have to, you know, the staffing capacity to do that. So, something that Mr. Walker pointed out earlier, that I think is worth underscoring, is that this is a services-based grant, and at Ovid, we support several hospitals across Northwest Florida, and we know what you need: you need operational funding, you need facilities funding, you need money to build things, and unfortunately that's not what this grant provides. It's a services-based grant, but what I can tell you is that the way it's been written, and you know this is something that this consortium of hospitals been working on for about six months now, collaboratively well in advance of the cycle starting, and so the people that are going to benefit are the people in your community through the services, so through telemedicine, you know, this grant would allow for services to be provided at Weems Memorial, specifically services in oncology. So instead of driving to TMH or to Tallahassee to go get for an oncology, I'm sorry, for a cardiology appointment. You could have that service here in Weems Memorial Hospital. You can consult with those same doctors, you can get that retreatment here, and it saves you that trip and just provides that access to your community from an oncology perspective, that's exciting too. Moffitt is the partner on this particular grant, so instead of driving to Tampa to get world-class advisory support for oncology, you'll be able to do that if awarded here at Weems Memorial Hospital. So, this is game changing in a big way. There's also, you know, stroke and neurology support and behavioral support that will be part of this, and so I think I think it's a very, very good opportunity, and while it's not giving us the dollars for operations and the dollars for facilities, the services and the access to health care is really going to change in this community if the grant is awarded, so that is, that's what I've got. I wanted to kind of, you know, tell you, you know, that the grant is on a short timeline now. We've been working for a while, but it is due next week, and so, you know, today, right, what's in front of you is the MOU for signature, and that is a partnership with those other seven hospitals, so that you guys can put your most competitive foot forward for this opportunity, and I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have. Chairman Jones speaking, okay. Thank you. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I've got a couple. So obviously the governor has not signed his budget yet, and you probably don't know how much money this grant is going to be for, because again, do we know how much is out there to be had? Miss Dennis speaking, yes, we do. So, there is a little over 200 million available in the state of Florida for this, and it's a five-year grant, and I want to say the total is upwards of 30 million collaborative wide across those seven hospitals that would be coming that we're, we'd be applying for. Mr. Kozar speaking, the state well, AHCA divided into super regions, and we're all located in what the Northwest region is, and what was been totally allocated for that, from my understanding, is \$41 million for the 15 initiatives that AHCA had laid out, so each initiative has a different value to it, but the total for the Northwest region, which all seven hospitals fall into, and why we came together as a group, is to try to tap into that \$41 million. Mr. Walker speaking, and then AHCA, the Agency of Healthcare Administration, it's a \$200 million grant, and they get 10% off the top, you know, then the other money rolls down, the category that we, we're probably applying for, maybe around \$10

million 10.5 all of the seven hospitals in those, in that particular region, there, but AHCA wrote the grant as a service grant, meaning that there are no dollars coming to Weems to pay for a cardiologist, you know, that's what I thought initially, you know, I was going to go about that, but they will provide services to the cardiology group, to you know, provide different telehealth services, you know, I had a cardiology appointment since March, you know, nothing too serious, but I'm still waiting on my referral, I mean, waiting on somebody to call me back, you know, so we know that, you know, there's a shortage of that, you know, here in our, in our particular area here, and so, but when you look at, you know, we, when we mentioned 200 million, we were like, oh yeah, you know, I was going to go, you know, thinking that money going to come in, but it's not operational money, too much, you know, they'll give some money for staff training, you know, those particular things, you know, money for your staff to like monitor the grant, but to actually pay a provider, you know, we can't do that, that money is not coming to the hospitals for that. Commissioner Ward speaking, okay, another question, Mr. Chairman. And I remember sitting with Mr. Kozar and you many years back, and that was my biggest thing, was why can't we get some specialists to our area, so that people in our community that may have trouble with transportation or aren't physically able to drive the distances that are required to see a doctor, so I'm very, very happy to see this, but my question, I guess, would be with this, this money said it's not operational, I get that, so it's all going to be via telehealth, telemedicine, via internet and computers, do we have is there is this money going to also help pay for, I guess, the infrastructure, if you will, for the software and for the equipment needed, so that patients can go do these telehealth visits. Mr. Walker speaking, yes, it will. Yeah, so part of that is to pay for the subscriptions and equipment, you know, for the telehealth services, so money can be used for that, per se, and so usually what will happen is that you know we have, you know, telehealth carts that we have at the hospital and some in the clinics, and if Suzette, for example, the provider I go to, refer me to a cardiology visit, you know, that I can make that referral and I can set up appointment right at the clinics, there in the hospital. Commissioner Ward speaking, okay, and I guess another question, Mr. Chairman, if you will. The money, however, you said 10 million, 2 million, however much money we get from this, how is it going to be divided between the seven entities? Mr. Walker speaking, okay, so the money that we get all of the different specialty groups, you know, majority of that money on both of them, because they're providing the service, and then the seven hospitals will get money left, will get a pot of money for staff training, staff development, staff, you know, hiring a staff to really coordinate, you know, those meetings, those trainings, or that program, so it'd be divided. You got seven hospitals, so whatever that part of money would be divided. Now, if a hospital just say AHCA approved the grant, and one of the hospitals, for example, Northwest Florida, say, "Hey, you know, I really don't think I want to do that, and then now, as more money will be divided by the other six hospitals, so you know there's a portion of that money will be divided evenly among the seven hospitals, per se, but the majority of the money will go to the specialties here, because ACHA designed a grant that way. Commissioner Ward speaking. okay. Thank you. I think that's all the questions I have right now. Commissioner Amison speaking, I got a question. Okay, so if they, if we set up, let's just say we get this, and we have to hire, increase our staff, is there going to be some type of profit share as far as the hospital with these visits at telemed? I mean, that way we can pay for that. What I'm saying is, I don't think this is going to be a reoccurring fund, so if we start, you know, beefing up our personnel out there, how are we going to pay, you know, how are we going to justify increasing that salary? Mr. Walker speaking, yeah, so they want to speak to that, but yeah, you have, you know, we'll be able to bill also, you know, for the telehealth visits, you know, maybe Charlie, you know, you know, for that, because that's one of the questions that we kind of presented out there, saying, okay, we partner with these telehealth vendors here, you know, of course, we may have had staff for that. How can we sustain it? And so, you know, the point of the point is that, well, you all will pay the bill, you know, you know, from your revenue, you know, facility fees and different things like that to help us kind of like sustain, you know, the particular program. And then let me just add one other thing to the, you know, we're looking to start a an oncology program, also in a fusion program, cancer treatment program here at the hospital, fairly, you know, within the next few months, and that program then would definitely partner with Moffitt, you know, so that's a game changer with that one of the reasons why Cattle Mo Liberty was the lead applicant, because you know the lead applicant got to put out some money towards that, you know, our money needs to go to the retail pharmacy for part, so you know that's why they're the ones that really putting out the early money, you know, like hiring all the, you know, these different costs, you know, for this particular program. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I'm just making an observation right here, I've been listening to, and I got called about it, and I appreciate that, but do y'all have a plan already in place of how you're going to use this money? Because it says specialty and acute care. Do you already have a plan of how you're going to

use this money? Mr. Walker speaking, yes, we have a plan. How we're going to use the services, so you know. So, these are the, you know, on the snapshot sheet, here, you know, these are the areas that we're targeting here, because we don't have specialty care here in the county right now. We don't have an abundance of that, so we do have a plan. Commissioner Sanders speaking, the reason why I'm asking you, you know, I'm always the devil's advocate at some time, is it took us a long time to get that swinging bed program started. Oh, we're going to see something once we get into this regionalization project that y'all talking about with the seven hospitals? Are we going to see something pretty quick, or is it going to be years and years and years down the line? Yeah, and also in meantime, who is paying Miss Julie's salary for doing this grant writing. Is it going to be Alliant? Mr. Kozar speaking, oh no, actually it's going to be the hospitals as a group. The collaborative is going to be doing that, and there's also been some legal fees that Northwest picked up in the start of this, also, so it will be the collaborative, and the other point that I wanted to make, too, that you know, as Julie outlined, is the MOU is really for us to be able to apply for the grant, so any specific contracts and stuff that are needed to be engaged will still have to come back through the hospital's normal approval processes, whether it needs to be brought to the county commissioners and things of that nature, because David said, and I'll just use Northwest in Chipley as an example, the cardiology group that the rest of the six hospitals may be talking with is a different group than Northwest is using now, so Northwest may not participate with that portion of it because it's using a different group of cardiologists, so all those will still be individually determined. Commissioner Sanders speaking, that was the other question I was going to ask, Miss Julie, are you going to be writing the grants for the whole consortium, the consortium? Miss Dennis speaking, yes, ma'am. My team is working on that right now. They're writing one big grant application to support all seven. Commissioner Sanders speaking, yeah, I wanted to make sure we, you know, and the realization is this, that everything from the state here lately, three years now has been regionalization, bringing everybody together in a collaborative way to get more things done. So I mean, the one thing that I, you know, that I told David when he called me was I would, I was proud of the plus sign at the end of the year on the audit, and so if you all feel like this is a good thing to do, because this little hospital like Weems, it's so hard to get that type of funds in here that you had to go on to somebody, you had to hook on to somebody to be able to get that. And thank y'all for coming and informing us of this. Mr. Walker speaking, I just want to say one more thing. What you were saying is true, you know. I've talked to the cardiology groups, you know, about providing service here at the hospital, you know, but it wasn't, couldn't get any bites for that, you know, but this particular program, you know, we were banging together, and one thing I can say about the seven hospitals, you know, we put in turf issues aside, you know, everybody trying to come together, you know, for this particular grant here, you mentioned, you know, how long would it take, you know, I think the first year, you know, there'll be some assessments, you know, we will, some things you probably can get off the ground running, some things may take a little time, per se, but I want to be at the table, you know, when they're dealing with Agency of Health Care Administration, always like Franklin County to be at the table here and have a sense at the table, and now I believe we have that, you know, that's why we hosted a leadership from Arkham back in December at our hospital. Commissioner Sanders speaking, Mr. Chairman, one of the things was, you know, we lost Dr. Sanaullah a couple of years back, a year or two back, and he was a heart doctor. If we could get some services like that in here, we, it can, it can be underneath that, if it's specially, and, and do that, just like we don't have very many bonuses, you know, over there in the eastern part of the county. Don't you need a cardiologist in here, or some other type of, you know, doctors? This would be good to do that. So, I want to go forward with this hospital and not digress back. I want to go forward with it. Commissioner Croom speaking, I agree with you too, Commissioner Sanders moving forward, and I'm all about, you know, I think we all are about getting all the financial assistance we can, applying for grants as much as we can, as long as we don't get bamboozled by anything. But is this just up for discussion today? **Commissioner Croom made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Amison.** Attorney Shuler speaking, if you would please make the motion contingent upon my review and approval. **Commissioner Croom amended the motion to approve contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review.** So, the original motion by Commissioner Croom has been amended, Commissioner Amison made the second. It is also amended to the approval this MOU contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review. I do have a couple of questions, not that it matters, but just something to make sure that we're not being caught here. So, I noticed that one of the entities that is listed as Tallahassee Memorial, is that still valid, or does that fall under FSU? How's that all work out? Mr. Kozar speaking, no, that still falls under Tallahassee Memorial, and you know the other thing. I was going to mention, you know, we are also partnering with Apalachee Center on behavioral health services to do that, and I've had numerous conversations with Jay Reeves, the CEO at Apalachee Center, and he's going to be

supporting a lot of our rural health clinics with telemedicine and the behavioral health aspect of it, which is desperately needed in our communities too. Chairman Jones speaking, oh, those are probably good things, because what we're looking at with budgetary things are things that we're currently fund, we probably won't be able to fund anymore if it all passes, and that's just reality. So, there are things we do, there's even things we partner with the state to fund that we're probably not going to be able to do so anyway. Those are good things to know. The only other thing I will say in discussion is I just want to know that I'm not looking for us to make money in this, but I definitely don't want us to have to be expending our operational funds to do anything involved with this operation, that's all, is all I'm saying. Mr. Kozar speaking, and I think you know, speaking for the other six hospitals that are, you know, come together, we all have that same concern. I mean, we don't, we none of our organizations, and one of the reasons we all came together is, you know, rural hospitals are fighting a challenge every day, and being able to come together for this, but none of us have the cash reserves that we could to be able to absorb any additional cost associated with this, so that's the, that's always been our big concern with this group when we came together, is we want to get the grant money, we want to improve our community standing, our the healthcare in our communities, but we can be, we can't afford to take a big loss on this, and what was mentioned earlier, you know, with telemedicine, how we're going to support it is, you know, we're going to have to bill for those telehealth visits, and that's the revenue that we're going to get to help offset our costs too. Chairman Jones speaking, as long as there is I'm obviously good with it, especially if there's no associated cost with being able to do it, so that we are having to absorb from our operational folks, so that's a good thing. Any other discussion before we vote? All in favor? Any opposed? That is unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.** Thank you all very much.

1. ALLIANT CONTRACT EXTENSION

On May 19, 2026, the Board approved a one-year extension of the contract between Alliant and the Board. This is a Third Addendum. I have attached the Second Addendum for your convenient review. Board Action Requested: Board discussion and decision approving the Third Addendum and authorizing the Chairman to sign it.

Attorney Shuler speaking, Commissioners do you all want to address the item number, action item number one on my report, such that deals with the approval of the third addendum for the Alliance contract to extend it for the one year period commencing today, June 3, 2026 and ending on June 2, 2027 with the same right of refusal of either parties to terminate for convenience upon the provision of 45 calendar days' notice of termination to the other party as was the case for the termination provision in the second.

Chairman Jones speaking, so that's good as all legal wording so it's a one-year extension, what is the termination provision?

Attorney Shuler speaking, it will terminate on June 2, 2027, unless it is terminated by convenience of either of the parties upon giving 45 days' notice of termination to the other. It is the same period of time for the convenience termination that was in the second addendum,

Chairman Jones speaking, and it is not, and it is not automatically renewing?

Attorney Shuler speaking, it does not automatically.

Chairman Jones speaking, okay, I just want to make sure. I mean, I know you were reading the legal language, and I am good with that. But

Attorney Shuler speaking, yes, sir, it is just a one-year period expiring on June 2, 2027. There is no automatic right of renewal. The board did not want that in there, so I did not put it in there.

Chairman Jones speaking, so, before we make a motion or vote on this potentially, I would call for public comment. These are this is part of Attorney Shuler's report. It was added as a late add because it was not, anyway, it was just late. So, if there is anyone in the room that wants to comment on that publicly, you do not have to have filled out a speaker card to be able to speak on this item. It was a late add. Mr. Moron, can you check virtually? Mr. Moron speaking, the chairman has called for anyone attending via Zoom. If they would like to address the board in this matter, please indicate by raising their hands. No hands raised, Mr.

Chairman. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, what is the pleasure of the board? **Motion by Commissioner Amison, second by Commissioner Croom to approve.** Any discussion before we vote? All in favor. Any opposed? **Motion carried 5-0.** Anything else to turn to? Attorney Shuler speaking, not regarding the hospital.

b. Chris Rietow -- ARPC Executive Director -- Revolving Loan Update

Chairman Jones speaking, all right, Mr. Chris Rietow, you are up next. Mr. Moron speaking, so, Commissioner, what we want to do here, we are going to hit three things with ARPC. One, Chris is going to talk, give you that update, going to hand them the clicker in a second. After that, Caroline is going to give you a SHIP update, and in the way back in the room is Destiny. She is going to item one in my report. We are going to take care of that too. So, get, we will take it all for ARPC.

Chris Rietow speaking, good morning, Commissioners. Yeah, we've got our whole team here today, brought everybody. I'm Chris Rietow. I'm the executive director of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. I'm giving you a little context of our organization if you're not familiar with it, but first I wanted to recognize your chair is also our chair and has been our chair for the past four years, and under his leadership, we've accomplished a lot, including a lot of the work that we do for Franklin County, but ARPC - essentially the way I try to explain it is you can kind of view us as a not-for-profit governmental organization that was formed in 1977 by interlocal agreement for the nine county region to provide technical assistance services, so we do a lot of grant writing. We're trying to bring in funding. We view ourselves as an extension of our local government staff, so we're out there doing economic development work, environmental planning, growth management planning, housing, transportation, GIS, a lot of the services that we're doing are not profitable by the private sector, so we do take on a lot of this work at not for profit, but the main difference is we have the oversight of a governance board, so we have nine counties in our region, and we have a county elected, a city elected, and when the governor appoints a gubernatorial appointee, we'll have a gubernatorial appointee, so it's a 27 member board. We meet five times a year, and it's we're trying to look at things through the regional lens and provide technical assistance to our local governments. The reason we're here today is to talk a little bit about the revolving loan fund program, which several years back Franklin County, through an MOU, gave ARPC a \$308,000 RLF pot of money, one that ARPC managed several years ago, and then the county took it back over, and then realized it's a, it's a big headache to run one of these, and then executed the MOU to give it back to us, but we wanted to give you a little overview of this revolving loan fund program. We have some ideas about it, and I'm going to introduce Matthew Vossler, he's our revolving loan fund manager, he is going to give you kind of a RLF 101 to give you a better idea of what this program is, and how it can be of value to Franklin County.

Mr. Matthew Vossler speaking, good morning. You know they cleared the bench when Matt comes in to present. One of the few people at ARPC that is not a planner, coming with a more business background, but what this revolving loan fund can do is pretty amazing, and we're just going to go through it very high level, but please don't hesitate to interrupt, ask any questions, anything like that. It can get a little technical, but I'm happy to, happy to help you through this. Basically, revolving loan fund, what does it do as you make loans? As the principal gets paid back, we lend it out again. That's the whole idea of revolving. As we've made loans, it comes back, we relend the money. Ideally, we make a little interest on that money, not so ideally, some of that money doesn't come back when loans don't pan out, but that's why we do our due diligence on the front end to make sure that everything is right and correct, and we also do 100 100% collateralize all of our loans, so there is also the opportunity to recoup those funds. The federal RLF is set up as what we would call gap lending, basically making up the difference between what an entrepreneur needs and what a bank is willing to lend. That's a big ask, right there. But basically, commercial property is one of the best examples of that commercial property, we're going to say somebody wants to build a new factory or some such, and they've got all of their money to purchase the property, they've got the money to build the building, but then they still need six months of capital to hire people to get their people on the ground, things of that nature, that's where ARPC and the revolving loan fund can come in to make sure that they have that capital access, and they can hire folks, basically, you know, for lack of a better term, kind of a cherry on top of the other lending opportunities to make sure that things aren't as tight and that they can

reach their goals. What is it going to do for your local businesses, it can activate more money, increase available capital, stimulate your local economy, risk reduction. So the bankers really like this, because if you can think about a commercial property, you're going to put 20% down, the bank's going to cover 80%. We can come in and help with a little bit of that money, we can come put another 10% on it, so that way the bank is still covered for their full 100% of their input in it, and we take on the additional risk as a second lien on the property, so that's going to incentivize the original lender, the commercial banker, the mortgage broker to make more loans because they have less risk. We take on that risk with the revolving loan fund. We take the additional risk so that they don't have to, so the, you know, when we activate a revolving loan fund, we generally do it regionally, but this one's going to be specifically targeted to Franklin County. Job creation is one of the biggest things that we're going to push for. You can see the, as Mr. Reitow noted, this would be our Appalachian region, our nine county region. I know you all are very familiar with it, and I'm very familiar with Franklin County, and just ran into a couple family members here. My family is originally from Franklin County, out Bluff Road. So this is probably one of the greatest examples of what we've done recently with some of our other RLF. Some of you may know it, some of you may not, but we recently were able to get a mine off the ground just north of Franklin on 67 in Liberty County. This is Green Reef Mining. They put a lot of money into purchasing the property, getting all the licenses and leases and environmental hoops and things of that nature, you know. Now it's time to get the trucks. It's trying, it's time to actually get digging, and we were able to come in and help a little extra money, \$250,000 to help them get started. Basically, it was three months worth of capital to make sure that they could make payroll, expenses, health care, insurance, all of those particular things, so that you know, for lack of a better term, the rocks could get moving. The business has been incredibly successful so far and has really started to get rolling, so without the RLF, this wouldn't happen, and I think that's a big deal. I think that's a very big deal, because this, as you go through these processes, sometimes there's just not enough money there, but there's already a lot of money invested. I was very, particularly very proud of this one, because not only that, but it's going to lead to 15 local jobs, but this kind of project can also spin off additional projects, because you're looking at, I know that there's talk right now of starting a trucking company, you know, to be able to move some of these rocks around, so they're going to be supporting businesses that can come around this, and the RLF can help support that also. But right off the top, this is going to lead to 15 jobs in the first year, you know. And these are all going to be local-owned business, whether it be, you know, Franklin County or Liberty County. It's going to affect the entire region, you know. When some of us win, we can actually all win together if we work together, just like you saw with the regional hospital aspect there. So, what we're really asking, as Mister Reito mentioned earlier, we do have some of those funds from Franklin County. We'd like to activate 150,000 of those funds. We will use that to leverage another \$350,000 from the federal government to bring a total of \$500,000 worth of investing into the Franklin RLF. Pretty simple, there, that we can triple the money through the RLF. Now, it would be really nice if we could triple the money, and then they said do what you want with it, but we will activate some rules and regulations, that's where they come in with the gap lending, and so forth. I know business lending is not the most exciting thing that you've heard, but it really is something that can promote and take what you're doing well and push it over the edge to. Doing great, and that's really what this is designed to do. The other nice thing, they're not direct business loans, you know, they're ones that other lenders are involved, other people involved, other money is involved. So generally, when you get those kind of partnerships together, the risk goes down because you got a lot of people paying attention to it sometimes, when you do direct lending, like micro lending, a 10,000 or \$50,000 loan directly to it, those can be very risky, and they are been in the business now for about five or six years, and those under \$50,000 no matter what collateral you have, you got about a 50/50 shot of getting paid back, that's about how that works. So this lending model is much safer, but still provides the value to the local community, and really that, really wraps it up. Again, my name is Matthew Bossler, but if any questions that you all have, I'd be happy to answer those.

Chairman Jones speaking, commissioners, you have any questions? Are you needing us to vote to allow ARPC to do this?

Mr. Vossler speaking, so the way the MOU is structured right now, it's the 308,000 is dedicated to Franklin County means we're going to make loans to Franklin County. Now, we haven't made a single loan to Franklin County since we've had that money. There hasn't been a lot of asks. Matthew's been working with the banks. We do work with the small businesses, but there are a lot of obstacles. Sometimes, you know, these loans have to be collateralized, and that's the major challenge. What we're asking, and really more for the board's awareness, is we'd like to turn that money into more money by taking 150,000 of it and applying

for an EDA grant that would turn it into a half million. That does put some more rules and regulations on the funding, but we'd still have that other 150 because we're, we'd be taking about half of it to turn that, we'd have that other 150 to have that flexibility to kind of work with the smaller businesses, so we'd still be within the framework of operating within the MOU, but just we wanted to make sure that you all were okay with us applying for the CDA grant, and there's no guarantees right now. There's Matt's kind of reached out to our contact at EDA. There haven't been any recent grants lately. It doesn't mean that we can't apply, and that doesn't turn it around for us. We are an economic development district for the state of Florida. The Appalachian region is so there is a chance that this funding does come through, but we wanted to pursue it. We wanted to turn it into more money, and we wanted to make you aware of it and make sure that you were okay with that decision.

Chairman Jones speaking, okay. Commissioner Amison speaking, yeah, I got a question, a dumb question. So, basically, we got 300,000 there. You want to take stagnant money, half of it, put it somewhere, and see if you can't bring in more money through a grant. But now, with that grant, let's just say you do 150 your match. It doesn't sound like we got a lot of action going on. So now that's that million dollar stagnant. Is that grant going to go away? Mr. Vossler speaking, the way it works is they don't give you the money until you have a loan, so you draw it down as you need it, and you've got about a two to three year window to fully deploy those assets, so what we would do is a lot more marketing, you know, working with, you know, our partners, economic development partners, so there's more awareness, especially in Franklin County. The other option is to potentially expand. Right now, it's that money's designated to Franklin County. Maybe you all consider looking at expanding it, open it up to Liberty County, since they're adjacent to you as well. So, but yeah, to answer your question, yeah, we don't actually get the money until we make a loan. Commissioner Amison speaking, do they get the 150? Mr. Vossler speaking, that they do not, that's that doesn't go away, we don't, it's not a gamble, it's not a risk, that's just the match that you can use in order to access that other money. Commissioner Amison speaking, understand. Chairman Jones speaking, do we actually vote on this, Chris? Or what is your.. Mr. Vossler speaking, I would like the board's blessing to move forward in applying for the EDA grants. Chairman Jones speaking, alright. So, commissioners, how do you feel about that? Do you want to do it by motion and vote, how do you want to do it? Commissioner Amison speaking, what's the attorney's opinion? Attorney Shuler speaking, since we're changing the MOU to a certain extent, based on what I've heard, we should have an addendum that reflects that change. Chairman Jones speaking, okay. Attorney Shuler speaking, do you guys want to have your attorney take a stab at it, which is what we usually do, or would you like for me? What's more convenient for you guys? Mr. Vossler speaking, I, you know, personally, I don't think it would be - we would need the change, because it's still the way it's structured right now, that 308,000 is still fully dedicated to Franklin County. So the intent would still be to follow the framework of MOU and commit that, but now you'd actually have more money to work with beyond the 308 if the EDA grant was successful. Chairman Jones speaking, so you're not actually surrendering the 150,000 you just have to use it as, as a marked match. Attorney Shuler speaking, well, I was, I'm saying, but the MOU, or excuse me, well, the MOU doesn't address the EDA additional grant funds being used only in Franklin County, but I mean. Mr. Vossler speaking, it does, actually. That's a good point. I, in the, in the MOU, it does reference, because when we initially agreed to take that money on, we had this discussion of, hey, let's maybe turn this into more money, so the MOU does reference, years ago. Yes, it does, I forgot about that. Attorney Shuler speaking, who knew, are there any lottery numbers in there? I'll read the MOU if I think it needs to come back to the Board. Chairman Jones speaking, sounds good. Does anyone, if y'all don't want to do a motion to vote, does anybody object to it? Commissioner Ward speaking, I guess it's worth it. Chairman Jones speaking, well, there's no guarantee we're going to get it. Commissioner Sanders speaking, and the one thing I want to do, Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind, is let these businesses, or let these people, we know about who they are, where they are, let them know that this funding is out here for them to help them bring in the small businesses and work it from within the county, because a lot of people don't know that we've had this, that's what our discussion was last time, and I understand I don't have no problem, because the money is just sitting there, and always, if you can take some money and take it out there and invest it and bring in more money, that's always a good thing. I don't have no problem with it, Chris, at all, because I mean, you're man of your word, I know I've known you a long time. Mr. Vossler speaking, thank you, Cheryl.

Mr. Vossler speaking, just may add, business lending for businesses can be very daunting, very loud, can be very daunting. It's quite a task, all the paperwork, everything like that. Kind of pride myself on not saying yes or no, but trying to get people to yes, no matter where they are on that spectrum, I try and take them,

even if they're at zero. I try and get them to where they're lendable. Now, they still have to walk the walk, you know. I'm not, I'm not doing the walking for them, but I will clear the path to make sure that it's a little easier and a little more accessible to the average business owner. Chairman Jones speaking, well, we have a lot of people in the county now going out and doing their own little thing on their businesses, and so I know you know 25,000 or something like that would be a good little startup for a little company, you know, just starting up, but I think it's a good thing, and if we can help our people in this county and it can help the economic factor in this county, and make it greater than what it is. That'll be a good thing. Mr. Vossler speaking, this program initially was designed, it's been with the council since 1984 for their higher risk loans. These are folks that normally don't qualify for a loan through a traditional lender, so, and a lot of our best loans over the years have come from our board members and commissioners, because they know that there's someone in their community who is reliable and works really hard and is going to be successful. Commissioner Sanders speaking, well, the revolving loan came by when 1985 and the storms came. We needed some help for our oysterman, that's how it started here in Franklin County. That's been a long time. Chairman Jones speaking, I'm not hearing anyone object. I'm not hearing the commissioners objection of your proposal. So I guess we'll just go at it that way. Thank you.

Caroline Smith speaking, I'll keep mine short. I know I feel like I've been here a lot lately. Four of us today, I keep coming in like larger numbers of staff, so I'll keep it short this morning, since I was going to be here anyways. Mr. Moron asked me if I'd give a quick update on SHIP. I know we talked about it, I think it was last month's meeting, so since then we have still been working on closing out fiscal year 21-22 not done yet, still in progress, but I also wanted to update you that we're working on the approval of your local housing assistance plan, or LHAP, for 2026 to 2028 and that is required in order to secure your allocation for that fiscal year for fiscal year 26-27 from the state, so we're working on that right now as well. In the background, hope to have more of an update on the 21-22 fiscal year for you sometime next month, but I did want to also let you know that moving forward we're going to look at providing updates to you at the first BOC meeting each month, and that will probably be at least a written update to Mr. Moron to share. Sometimes I may be here in person, but not always. But we will work on providing you with a monthly update. Thank you.

Mr. Moron speaking, commissioners, as Destiny approaches. If you go to my report item number one. It is the only action item I have on my report. It is a ARPC letter of support that Destiny will explain. The Board addressed item 1 from Mr. Moron's report at this time.

1) Action Item: ARPC Letter of Support • Ms. Destiny Bates of ARPC is requesting the following: • The Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) is seeking the County's support for an important coastal resilience initiative in Franklin County. ARPC is preparing a proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) for the County Road 30A Living Shoreline Final Design and Permitting Project. • The project will advance the design and permitting of an approximately 16-acre living shoreline along Apalachicola Bay using oyster reef restoration and intertidal salt marsh creation. This effort will reduce shoreline erosion and wave energy, improve water quality, restore estuarine habitat, and help protect County Road 30A, a critical transportation corridor and hurricane evacuation route. • ASK: If Franklin County aligns with these goals, we would greatly appreciate a brief letter of support. Your support will strengthen the proposal and demonstrate broad regional interest in advancing nature-based solutions for coastal resilience. • Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the requested letter of support to accompany the proposal for NCRF.

Destiny Bates speaking, good morning. So, we are working on a living shoreline project on County Road 30A, right after just after where 98 cuts off to CR30A. There are two really big humps, kind of cut out from the shoreline. So, what we are doing is very similar to 98 the current living shoreline project. So, the past couple months we have been working on the 50% design, permitting, and design for the 30A living shoreline. We are wrapping that up right now, and we are starting to work on a proposal for the National Fish and Wildlife National Coastal Resilience Fund, NCRF funds to get that rest of the 50% design and permitting done. So, what we are asking today is just a letter of support from the county that we can include in our proposal, and I did send a draft letter of support that you guys can tweak. Commissioner Sanders speaking, can I ask a question? Okay, we got two County Road 30As. Is it the Carrabelle side of it? Ms. Bates speaking, it is west of where we are right now. Commissioner Sanders speaking, west of where we

are at, it would be out there. Commissioner Amison speaking, going back to the miles. Ms. Bates speaking, it's around, I want to say nine- or eleven-mile area. I tried to look it up. There is two really big washed-out parts. Chairman Jones speaking, there is two 30As. One on the outside of Carrabelle. Ms. Bates speaking, it is the one on the outside of Apalachicola. Commissioner Sanders speaking, sorry, I was worried something out there, ain't nothing but a mud flat. Do not need no restoration. Mrs. Griffith speaking, it is the FEMA project. We duplicated GPS coordinates. Commissioner Sanders speaking, we had them coordinates messed up all the time, got me. So just trying to clarify where it was. Ms. Bates speaking, I did not know I was presenting today, so I did not. Commissioner Ward speaking, well, your intern failed you today, Megan. Ms. Bates speaking, but yeah, as the project progresses, I can have a formal presentation for you guys. Chairman Jones speaking that is fine. What is the pleasure of the board? **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the requested letter of support to accompany the proposal for NCRF.** Commissioner Sanders speaking, so this is going to be a sixteen-acre parcel. **Motion carried 5-0.** Chairman Jones speaking, thank you. And thank you all for being here. We appreciate it.

c. Kyle Dost, AICP -- University of Florida -- UF Grant Proposal - Partnership Request

Mr. Moron speaking, okay, let us go to Kyle, and then we could take a break after that, before we get to and admittedly, I know Kyle from emails. I do not know exactly what he is asking for, but I know UF is a very important partner with the county so I added it to the agenda. So, Kyle, you're going to have to do as they say, some explaining, Lucy.

Kyle Dost speaking, no problem. Um, can y'all hear me all right? I know the hybrid situation can be a bit tricky. Everything sound, okay? Chairman Jones speaking, yes, sir. Mr. Dost speaking, great, thank you for the time today. I know, and for letting us join on Zoom, let me run through introductions really, really briefly. Then we will tell you a little bit about the scope of work and proposal, and what we are asking about. First, let me introduce myself, and then my colleague, Dr. Pang. My name is Kyle Doss. I am a certified planner, and I am faculty at the University of Florida in the Department of Urban and regional planning. My colleague, Dr. John Ren Peng, is also on. He is not pile dose number two. Luckily, there is only one of me today. He is much more renowned. He has been in academia for many decades and is a key researcher in the field of urban planning throughout the state, the country, and internationally. So, what we are asking for today is just a non-binding support endorsement for a research proposal that we would like to partner with the county on, and let me tell you a little bit about that, and then I will reiterate multiple times throughout my little spiel, it is not what we are asking for, is non-binding. There is no money out. There is, is really no risk to the county for this, no money out. And we are, I will go through kind of the requests in more detail, but let me tell you about the proposal. It is a proposal, a research proposal that will be a team of faculty from the University of Florida, from Urban and Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture, and the College of Education, we are putting forward it is a three-year proposal, a three-year grant with the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to do engagement and education for resilience planning, specifically with youth. So, this is a really underrepresented segment of the population when it comes to planning, and so the one of the aims of this work is to further engage youth in the planning process and resilience education, and what that means, and their role in that process. We are simply at the proposal stage. We would submit this to the National Academies quite soon it would go for their review. Later this year, we would hear if it were accepted or not for work, and from there we have three years to essentially build out this project. So, this is a very slow moving, you know, not very rapid project, which I think is great, so that we do not feel rushed. Essentially, what we would look to do is, in year one, we would build out an automated AI tool. Now, this is not Chat GPT or Claude or Gemini. This is going to be something that is much more tailored. Oops, lost one of my AirPods. This is going to be something that is much more tailored to this project, and utilizing preexisting data from FEMA, USEPA, NOAA, Army Corps of Engineers, and any local planning documentation. So, year one would kind of be building that out and fostering partnerships. Year two would be programming with youth. So, right now we kind of have planned for a two-week intensive learning on campus at the University of Florida in Gainesville for a set group of youth, and then two weeks back in their home city or their home place for kind of additional learning in place. Year three would be evaluating, you know, the efficacy of that pool and providing documentation back to stakeholders, so that is a little bit about the timeline and the scope of work. I should mention also, you know, we are specifically looking to partner with Apalachicola slash

Franklin County, and then St. Petersburg, Florida, for our second case in the state of Florida. I am assuming you all might ask about benefit and risk, so I came prepared with a little bit of that. Really, this is very low stakes across the board. There would be no money coming to the county, but no expenditures expected for this work, and you know anything is non-binding. If you all decide you want to hop out later, totally agreeable. The benefit would be providing youth with an opportunity to do some intensive learning in a field that is probably maybe not covered so much in standard curriculum. It would provide them with engagement beyond, you know, their current place of education, coming to the University of Florida, and it would provide, we hope, more preparedness and resilience for Franklin County, having youth understanding what, say, a storm might mean, or the economic impacts of losing oystering, and how can we prevent these kind of losses and mitigate these losses in the future. So, strength through educating and empowering youth. Let me tell you a little bit about the request, and then I will have Dr. Pang fill in anything that I missed. I am kind of going quick here. Our request, and I can see it on the agenda, but I will just kind of briefly go through, is just a simple letter of endorsement that you would be willing, again, non-binding, willing to explore opportunities to partner if we are even accepted for this proposal with the National Academies. The low bar here, or the low-risk bar, is that really, we would look to the county for connecting, and this is in the letter I am reading off of the letter, connecting researchers to youth, connecting the project to youth and networks in Apalachicola and Franklin County. So, connections potentially helping to recruit and orient youth participants in the program, assisting. We are looking at neighborhood scale resilience reports, so making sure that those are on track and grounded in realities that you all see in Franklin County, with your policies and your plans, and again providing ongoing perspective and communication back to any local partners. So, again, we are really looking for connections and endorsement and support from the county level, non-binding. We have not even been, you know, accepted for this proposal yet, so we are just looking to say, hey, you are interested in willing to explore the opportunity to partner, so that's the end of my kind of opening intro, middle, and end. Dr. Peng, did I miss anything before maybe they open for discussion? Dr. Peng speaking, okay. Well, thank you, you did a wonderful job, Mr. Chairman, and all the commissioners, thank you for your time, and give us an opportunity to explain the grant. So, basically, this is a three-year grant. Total is 750,000 for three years, so 250,000 per year. The money mainly used to train students, so when we say students, middle school to high school students, and we envision that we will provide housing transportation, so that we recruit students from new company, county, and come to UF for like two weeks of training. How do you use the tools to understand the risk that the county face into the future, and also explore, you know, what is what we can do right now to reduce the risk? So basically, to impose students to understand what is happening in the county and also engage with them with discussion about what we can do for the county, so it is very place-based, and hopefully by doing that we educate our next generation, so they are more engaged with the public affairs and with the county, you know, planning activities, resilience planning activities, and so on, so forth. So, what we specifically ask is a letter of endorsement, says we, you, you think this is a good idea to, and you want to support this application, as Kyle said, the money is mainly used to support students, so we build tools, and then we use that tool to train the student, so that students can have a better understanding what's going on and what they can do to enhance the resilience to the future. Any comments and questions? Chairman Jones speaking, no, it sounds like a great program. The only question I really have, I think it is a great idea. What, uh, how many potential students could be involved in this program? Dr. Peng speaking, okay, so that will be dependent on the budget, so right now we are envisioning about like 20 students from your county and another 20 from Saint Pete's in Saint Petersburg. So, this will be like two years, one year is and one year is 20 and the second is probably another 20, that is currently in the plan. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, so total of 40 before that, across the second and third year. Mr. Moron speaking, Mister Chairman, I'm reaching out to my contact at the school board, the school district, because I think this is something they should also pitch to superintendent and to the school district, also, because we have, you may explain to them better, sir, that we only have really truly one high school, we have two elementary schools, but one high school here in County. Chairman Jones speaking, what Mr. Moron's saying is that it is probably a good idea to talk also with the high school superintendent, because we have a consolidated school in the county, so there's truly only one to talk to, you know, I mean, so that might help, and that might also give you another letter of support, because it sounds like a really good program. Mr. Dost speaking, we've, I appreciate that steering. We have been in touch with Superintendent Lanier, I believe is his name, so it is just one of those does not know me from Adam, so I am sure he's taken, you know, trying to figure out who I am and what we're doing. So, we are just approaching a variety of partners, so the school board is certainly one we, or the superintendent, rather, is one we have already been in touch with. And so, so you read our minds there.

Chairman Jones speaking, any questions, commissioners, so what is the pleasure of the board? **On a motion to approve by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom.** Any discussion? Commissioners seeing none. All in favor? Any opposed? That is unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.** Chairman Jones speaking, now you have something to talk to the Superintendent Lanier about. Mr. Dost speaking, there we go, yeah. I appreciate y'all's time, and we look forward to truly working with you and partnering with you on this. I think it will be really, really fantastic for youth in the area. So much appreciated. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you, thank you for being here today.

11. Bree Robinson -- County Planner

Commissioner Ward and Ms. Bree Robinson would like the Board to discuss a potential path forward regarding the regulation of data centers within Franklin County in response to Senate Bill 484, which takes effect July 1, 2026. Staff is seeking direction from the Board regarding the preparation of any proposed ordinances, including potential restrictions, moratoriums, bans, or other regulatory measures related to data center development. Staff to provide a basic report on pros/cons and examples of other Florida County responses.

Chairman Jones speaking, next up on the agenda is Bree Robinson, County Planner. Miss Bree, I will remind you before we get take off, we do have some public comment on this item, we can do that now, if you think that would be appropriate. Ms. Robinson speaking, I am okay with that. Also, I want to give Commissioner Ward a chance to speak as well before I go into mine. Thank you. Chairman Jones speaking, Mrs. Gail. Gail Riegelmayr speaking, hello, Commissioners. Thank you for acknowledging me, Gail Riegelmayr, St. George Island. I want to thank you for your proactive approach to this very important matter of AI's and data centers. They are like taking over the United States, it seems, but particularly in Northwest Florida, I've been following this, and I think Miss Robinson did a fantastic job in her narrative online that I read, and also in her handout, and I just saw this morning in my newsfeed, Holmes County has just yesterday moved forward. This is on WJHG TV Channel Seven, Holmes County moved forward with a moratorium on AI data centers, and then the request by the commissioners yesterday was for their people to put together an ordinance to ban AI data centers. So, my request here, bottom line, is to ask you to do the same. Let's not waste any time. Let's develop as quickly as we can a ban on AI centers in Franklin County. We don't have the land for it. We have natural resources that need to be protected, and all the reasons Ms. Robinson stated in her narrative, I totally agree with that. Water usage, electricity costs, all of that is outlined in her narrative. Please, please, please put a ban on AI's and let's cut this one out at the knees. Thank you. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you. Alright, Miss Bree, that was the only public comment I had. Commissioner Ward speaking, alright, Mr. Chairman, I did reach out to Michael, and then he told me that Miss Robinson was already working on this. I feel like that we need to be proactive. We've got all these neighboring counties that are coming forth. I've done research on these in AI. I know AI is here, it's among us every day. I mean, right now on our iPads, we're using AI in some form. I know people have used AI, but these data centers are data that data familiar with tomato, but I think they're going to be personally feel like there'll be a detriment site area. And doing some of my research, one data center can use the equivalent of electricity for 20 million homes. Do we even have 20 million homes in Franklin County? It's the.. and I know a lot of people say, well, the water consumption.. like, where does that come from? And I didn't know. I'm like, well, why are data centers using water? Well, to cool. They have have all these servers that require a lot of water to be really cool, and instead of using HVAC systems, they use water, water cooling systems, and it's just really wreaking havoc on the aquifers, and the water consumption is just astronomical. I've seen all the other surrounding counties either talk about them, they some of Holmes and other areas that put up moratoriums or ban them outright altogether. I just feel like that we as a board need to think about this and potentially move forward with either banning them, putting moratorium on them. Me personally, I would rather just ban them outright because all these other counties are banning and putting a moratorium, then they're going to definitely come to Franklin County, and want to be like, you know, well, everybody else around you don't want them, so we're going to come to you, and with that, I'm gonna let Miss Bree discuss some of our, the research that she's done, and especially when it comes to our zoning code, because I don't want, I know a couple weeks back we talked about how some of our zoning, some of our comp plan, and things, there's some ambiguity in some of the language. I just want to make sure that these guys can't skirt around our zoning code and come in and say they're doing something and then put one of these things in here. So, with that, breathe. Ms. Robinson speaking, thank you, Commissioner. Yes, I'm here today in response to Senate Bill 484 which takes effect July 1, 2026. Essentially, I'm seeking direction from you regarding the preparation of any proposed ordinances, including potential restrictions, moratoriums, bans,

or other regulatory measures related to data center development. I will step through my report, and I'll try to keep it short, because I know everybody probably has had a chance to look at this by now. My report basically touches on what is a data center, and just for the room, a data center is a facility used to house computer systems and associated components, such as telecommunications and storage systems. Data centers are critical infrastructure for the storage and processing of information, and they support the global financial system, cloud services, machine learning, and artificial intelligence, or AI, as we all know it. My report does walk through some pros and cons of data centers. Some pros, I'll start with those: are economic growth, job creation, infrastructure improvements, and overall supporting of digital services, which everybody knows we've been moving that way. Some cons are high energy consumption, high water usage, and community concerns. Property rights, property taxes, water quality, rising utility costs, noise, and pollution are all topics of concern that have come up. I do want to make some corrections to my report. I apologize, I threw this together very quickly on Monday. I had stated in my report that every zoning district classified has the language that uses determined by the Planning and Zoning Commission to be similar to the above or an allowed principal use. That language only appears in our commercial zones and the industrial zone, specifically in the industrial zone. That language comes with, I say, there is limited industrial zone land available in the county, but there are large amounts of agriculture and preservation zone land in the county. A motivated developer could attempt to rezone and fall into that allowed principal classification in the industrial district, and with no safeguards on this type of development within the code, there's a lot of room for interpretation. Something that I want to add is our C2 zone specifically allows for warehouses and storage facilities, and then our code does not define what that means. So, a data center could call themselves a storage facility and fall in line with our C2 and our C4 zoning. I go into a little detail about Senate Bill 484 which is effective July 1, 2026. In summary, it leaves it up to the county. We need to decide what this looks like for us. It gives the county authority to set local regulations on this type of development. I'll list some examples. These have been rolling out over the last two weeks. Things like regulations, restrictions, bans, and moratoriums are becoming more common. Specifically, in Florida, we've got Walton County, they are writing up a ban; Citrus County, they are doing a one year moratorium; Pinellas County, they are exploring a ban; Jackson County has voted for a one year moratorium; Brevard County has voted to prohibit property tax breaks for AI data centers; Nassau County has voted for a moratorium; and then just recently, in the last 24 hours, we've seen news come out about Bay County and also Holmes County. Bay County is investigating a moratorium. They haven't fully decided. Holmes County has said they would like to move forward with a moratorium and halt this development and keep applications from rolling in. Sorry, I'm being a little long-winded. Now we've moved on to my recommendation, and it is two parts. I am proposing that you consider amending the Franklin County zoning code to specifically establish a definition for data center, so it doesn't fall into storage or warehouse, because we don't have a definition for either of those. I'm also recommending that you consider either adopting an ordinance to prohibit data center development countywide, or adopt a five year moratorium on new data center development applications throughout Franklin County to allow for additional study and evaluation of the potential environmental, infrastructure, land use, and community impacts associated with such facilities as other Florida counties are banning or placing moratoriums on this type of development. Failure to act could leave Franklin County in a position to be targeted for large-scale development without ample time to thoughtfully develop and implement appropriate regulations. I did add another bit to my recommendation this morning, that yes, this is very precautionary, but we don't know the full extent of the long-term effects of this type of development, and we don't have specific regulations for this kind of development in place. The idea of a ban or a moratorium would be to allow some time to pass, so that other communities with more resources than we have can conduct research and create their own policy, allowing us to watch and learn. We live in an environmentally sensitive area, and we do not need to be leading the pack on this type of development, in my opinion. Chairman Jones speaking, commissioners, anyone have any questions? Commissioner Croom speaking, yes, Mister Chair, I got a question after reading through the information in Senate Bill 484 which you know does not force the county to approve any data centers. My biggest concern question is Attorney Shuler, with all this state and federal land that we got around here, if we, you know, tentatively, you know, deny or make an ordinance or anything, can the state override us with their property? May have to look into that, but that's my concern. Ms. Robinson speaking, I was just going to say, my understanding of this is, even if the state is going to develop property, they still have to meet our local code. An example of this next week on the planning and zoning agenda, Bald Point State Park, which is state-owned land. They're going to be applying for some RV spots and a new toll booth. They're coming to P&Z, and they're going through our local checks as necessary. Yes, that's what they

called it. Just to get ahead of that, so we don't get too far. They call it a toll booth, but I think it's more of like, you enter the park, you get a ticket. Commissioner Croom speaking, my concern is not that you know they can override. Attorney Shuler speaking, Commissioner Croom, the answer is yes and no. I mean, if they decide to pass a law that says thou shalt, there's not a whole lot we know about it, but we're not there yet. So that's wait and see how that develops. Ms. Robinson speaking, as of now this bill that takes effect in July does give us local control, so I think we should take advantage of that and get ahead of this if we can. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman I did read Senate Bill 44 and it does specifically state about the state land that we do have basically foresight. I know the state can still override that. If we say no, and they don't want the answer to be no, then they can, but the Senate bill does state that. Attorney Shuler speaking, I have not read the Senate bill, but if the board is inclined to take the recommendation procedurally, what I would recommend is that the board first adopt by motion a planning pause or a zoning in progress pause, and this motion would direct county staff to neither receive nor process any applications for data centers that you also with another motion authorized me to schedule a public hearing on a moratorium, so those do have to be adopted by ordinance, but you would, through the planning pause, you would basically halt any applications from coming through and being processed until you can get to the moratorium, and then the board makes the decision to adopt the moratorium ordinance or to not adopt it. This is the procedure that we have followed a few times in the past, not often. Doesn't come up that often. I think Commissioner Sanders and Commissioner Jones are the only ones that have been on the board, and we've gone through this before. That would be my recommendation, that way staff has immediate direction from the board that if they should receive an application for a data center before you get to the moratorium, that they're under direction from the board not to either receive it or process it, the moratorium ordinance, I mean, they're that they like any other ordinance, you advertise it in the paper, you have a public hearing in 10 days. If the board thinks it's important enough, we can schedule it for a special meeting in between meeting, that's at the discretion of the board. And then during the moratorium period, that was when the board would develop an ordinance on this particular subject matter, whether some outright ban or a development regulation. Who knows how that will ultimately end up? That will be up to the board. I'm not comfortable with a five year moratorium, but also there, there's limitations on our ability to have moratorium. I would, let's start with a year, and if we're processing it and haven't finished in a year, there's nothing that keeps the board from extending that, if necessary. That would be my record. Two actions: one by motion, director, staff under a planning calls or zoning in progress, not to accept or process data center applications, and then authorize me to schedule a public hearing to for the board to consider adopting the moratorium ordinance. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, let me ask you a question. Should there be a third thing there? Because one of her recommendations was making sure that we went through whatever process it takes to actually put a definition of data center. Attorney Shuler speaking, that would be part of it. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mister Chairman. Why can't we just ban them all together? Why, I mean, can't you just do it today? **Commissioner Sanders speaking, Mister Chairman, I'm ready to make some motions here. I'm going to take on the directing staff and make a motion to direct staff to not accept any applications there for after today on any AI centers or anything connected to that. That's my first motion. Yeah, my first motion. Chairman Jones speaking, so we have a motion as stated by Commissioner Sanders, and we have a second from Commissioner Amison, Attorney Shuler speaking, and this is for the planning pause and zoning progress as I described it to the board record the boards nodding their heads in the affirmative.** Chairman Jones speaking, okay, do we have any discussion? Not sure everybody understands what we're doing, any discussion before we vote? All in favor? Any opposed? That's unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Sanders speaking, okay. In my other motion, I want to do it by motion. I want to have a public hearing. Make a motion that we do a public hearing on Banning AI Center. Do we have to? Can we do it like that? Attorney Shuler speaking, Commissioner, my recommendation is for the moratorium to precede the ordinance, because we don't. This is going to take us some time to develop the ordinance, so the moratorium would give us time, myself and your staff, you know, with our resources, and also reaching out to other resources to develop an appropriate ordinance for the board's consideration, but my recommendation would be to schedule a public hearing to adopt a one year moratorium to ban them.

Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman. My question, I'm confused. Moratorium ban, if we.. if we're making up an ordinance for a moratorium, why can't we just make an ordinance to ban them if that's where we feel? Commissioner Amison speaking, but I think what Attorney Shuler is trying to say is that you put

the moratorium in place, then work on the ordinance, and make sure that it's bulletproof, that'll give staff and legal time to make sure that we got something that can't be manipulated in litigation, so to speak. Am I correct with that? Attorney Shuler speaking, correct, the planning pause is intended to get us to a public hearing for a, my recommendation is a one year moratorium. During that one year moratorium, we would develop the ordinance, but nonetheless, there would not be any applications received or processed before the moratorium ordinance, and if the board adopts the one year moratorium, you're still not going to receive and process data center development applications in that one year period. I mean, we may come back in three months and say we're ready to present an ordinance for you to adopt, and then it would shorten that one year period, but it may take longer, as has been pointed out, perhaps leaning on other counties with more resources than we are to see what they develop, and then we piggyback, as opposed to as nothing else, but. Ms. Robinson speaking, I was just going to say and I think you might have covered it. We're not alone in the idea of banning them outright, so we do have other counties with more resources that we can reach out to and kind of mirror what they're doing. Attorney Shuler speaking, well, as I sit here today, I wouldn't know how to define a data center. I'm sure I could find out in a couple of hours, research like you can with most things, but this is the process that we have followed in the past. I'm simply trying to follow the process that we've used in the past on certain issues, which is a planning pause, zoning in progress pause, so staff has immediate direction not to receive or process applications, then a moratorium ordinance, which, if it is adopted by the board, for whatever we've adopted them for four month periods, but we didn't think it would take very long. This one may be a little more complicated, so I'm thinking a one year period maximum for moratorium, and during that time period there would be no data center applications received or processed, either, but we do need to do the moratorium. It's the planning pause. This is a temporary stop gap measure to get us to a public hearing on the moratorium ordinance. Commissioner Amison speaking, question, Mr. Shuler, would the planning pause coincide with the moratorium on the time? Attorney Shuler speaking, it would end with the moratorium adoption. If the board should adopt the moratorium ordinance, moratorium would take its place. Commissioner Ward speaking, but we have, you're saying we have to technically do a moratorium before we can ban them out, right altogether? Attorney Shuler speaking, the moratorium gives us time to develop. I mean we may come back and say, you know, a month from now, two months from now, that we're ready to have an ordinance banning AI data centers that you should look at, and then what we've been doing on these, these more complicated ordinances, if we bring the drafts back to the board publicly, and have y'all look at it at least once, maybe twice, before we schedule the public hearing. So I'm allowing for that process as well. Chairman Jones speaking, which should all be part of it. I mean, this is something. This is the first time we've talked about this as a board. We're definitely not in the hopper to vote on it today, right? I mean, we're not nowhere close to that, and everything we're doing with public hearings gives the public input time to discuss it. I'm not for data centers, but I mean, I am for us doing a legitimate process now, while, while we're talking about data centers, I know that Miss Bree referenced in there from somebody else's writing, just I want to give the board maybe some, some of my research, if you will. So yes, they, the sub data centers, they said can use up to four and a half million gallons a day. The St. Joe paper mill used 35 million gallons a day, but it also provided economy for their community. I'm not for data centers, but I want to make sure we know what we're talking about. That seems like a big number that's out there, but I don't think people are taking to effect what's actually around them. So, the mill is gone now, but it built the community, and the reason they have a canal was so they could get water from the Chipola River to meet the need from the aquifer. That's how the canal got there. It didn't get there for a port or any other reason, you know what I mean. It got there so they could meet the water resource mean for that. Again I am not for data centers, but sometimes when you take facts as just a one-sided thing, you can really blow that portion to all I'm saying. Ms. Robinson speaking, I just kind of wanted to comment on top of that. In terms of job creation, I did do a little digging, just on how many jobs it could create. It's unfortunately it's not a lot, but it could be up to 20 and 40, depending on the size of the center. Just with security people walking the floor if something is wrong. On the topic of water usage, a lot of the water usage that comes from these data centers does evaporate, so yes, it enters the water cycle, but the problem with that is it goes somewhere else, it leaves. Chairman Jones speaking, it does, and some of the other stuff. Now we're just talking about development and actually doing stuff in your community, because I don't know how many of y'all had time to do it, but I was able to with my job to actually listen to some of the discussions with the House and the Senate talking about property tax reform, and I heard many, many times that they want us to operate counties like a business. I don't know many businesses that aren't trying to expand, that aren't trying to add one more account, that aren't trying to, you know, make sure that they're doing the best with what they have and not trying to put the best foot forward, so if that's really what they're

wanting us to do, they need to be prepared for it, because you can't go backwards and not tell people you don't want any business in your community and be running like a business, that those, those are incongruent. So the other thing is just as a matter of throwing out facts from research, a data center again, I'm not formal. Let me be very clear, but a data center would triple our tax base, point blank. Period. The water they're using, they'd have to pay for electricity, they're using, they'd have to pay for it, would triple the tax base of Franklin County, just by itself. Commissioner Amison speaking, the only problem is, though, the demand will go up on those resources. Chairman Jones speaking, yeah, I'm not saying I'm for it, but I'm just saying, as far as the economy of it, when you're looking at what things provide, and again, like when the mill was going, I think there were times they hired as many as 5000 people over the year, employed as many as 5000 people over the years over there, and it built an economy in Gulf County and in the region because of what was there. So I just want to make sure we're aware of what we're talking about, because it might not be data centers, but they're going to be other things that are going to come up as we try, as we do develop some economy in the county. Again, I'm not for data centers. I just wanted to share some of the research while we're talking about it, because you have to also think of those things. Commissioner Croom speaking, thank you, Mister Chair. I didn't know about the whole, you know, a lot of my family worked at the paper mill, but I didn't know the history of all that, so that's good. Commissioner Amison speaking, may be why the paper mill was in Saint Joe and not Apalachicola. We're just not there. Well, they can do certain points. I'm not saying that any reflection on what that was. It's just it goes back to what was previously stated. Our area, in my opinion, is not environmentally capable of handling something like that. I mean, we already have enough challenges that we face without flow restriction. I mean, we can get, we can sit here for an hour, which we got plenty of time, but, but now I'm just saying, but, but getting back to what the potential motion, I don't know if we had a motion or not, but I understand the moratorium part of it, and I'd like to stress that I would, I'm, I would like to go ahead, and he'll allow Commissioner Sanders, or I myself can make the motion to move forward with a public hearing on established in one year moratorium, that way we can get some time to get it, and the thing about it is, is, is that you know the way I'm interpreting this from the attorney is that if we get to that one year we can extend it if we haven't got something hashed out, but we need to make sure that this is all new, it's new to the whole area. I think the more eyes that being the other counties we can all look at it and we can get a better approach to this that way down the road we're not in executive session talking to a bunch of attorneys because we didn't have all our eyes dotted, so to speak, like that. You know, that's all I'm saying. I just think that we need to move forward with this public hearing on the moratorium, and then establish whether or not we can get something really good, hard, and definitive on a ban, and I'll make that motion. **Commissioner Amison made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Croom to move forward, allowing Attorney Shuler to schedule a public hearing, considering the one year moratorium on AI data centers being able to be built in Franklin County.** Chairman Jones speaking, is there any discussion before we vote? Commissioner Sanders speaking, I can tell you, Mister Chairman, I am for banning. I'm going to vote on the moratorium, but I am absolutely 100% for banning AI centers, and I'm gonna go ahead and go follow the process, but at the end of the day, that's where my vote's going to be advancing them. Commissioner Ward speaking, yeah, Mister Chairman, I agree, but, but we got a motion on the board, so yes, I do support you. Chairman Jones speaking, I don't think you're alone with those situations. I think it's just the process. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I know it's a process because the attorney says it is. Chairman Jones speaking, any more discussion? All in favor? Any opposed? **Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to take it, the third step, I believe Bree was requesting that we amend our Franklin County zoning code to establish a definition of the data center. Chairman Jones speaking, that's what I was asking. Attorney Shuler speaking, during the moratorium, that issue would be part of developing the final permanent ordinance for you to consider. Commissioner Amison speaking, I will say one day now that we've already voted and all that, and we'll have our public hearing, but if a cow can't take a crap here on a property that cow company owns that can potentially be developed. I don't see where data company is going to be very environmentally friendly if a cow can't stand on it and do its thing, you know. So it's just I'm with y'all, I don't, I don't like it, but we have to go through the process. Commissioner Sanders speaking, Mister Chairman. If I can, I want to do a little analogy here, and it may not mean nothing to nobody, but I look at, I look at the ways things behind come and go, I look at the storms, and I look and see that what we call Hurricane Alley now, from Taylor County to Hamilton County, and up above toward Valdosta. There are so many farms that are not being utilized for farming anymore because of the pressures with the federal government, or whatever, and there's solar farms now. You listen

when I'm fixing to say, and everywhere there's one of them big great 200 300 400 acre farm. You see them solar panels. Yeah, I've never saw, and I've lived here in Florida all my life, I've never saw hurricanes take that track before. There was three of them back to back that took that track, and I think it's from the solar farm and the heat that it put now, and all that. I just, maybe I'm crazy, maybe people don't feel like it, but I think that has something to do with, so anything that you're going to put in here that's going to take away from the environmental side of it, I'm going to be predicated, but that's just my analogy of it, because I've ridden up there and I've seen it, the damage that it's caused, and never before have you stopped, I mean, if it's Taylor County, Hamilton County, all that way, and you look along there, a lot of them farms have been turned into solar farms now, you don't ever know, and I know if, if we had an AI center, data center, what if you want to call it, and it pulls millions of gallons of water out of the out of us in the northern part of the county? We won't have no rivers left, that's the way it is. Commissioner Amison speaking, I just know on my end, and that's what I was saying earlier, and I noticed there's some discussions I've had with other organizations, like with it, with the cattle, BP, right now is having some issues, not here locally, because we don't have the cattle on the cattle property, because of wetland setbacks. Now they're having to go back and, and rethink this, relook at it, because they're having some problems in Bay and Gulf, I believe, and... Commissioner Sanders speaking and Liberty. Commissioner Amison speaking, so that, that was my what I was getting at, that's on my, my head, you know, I'm just saying it's just I'm not, but I do like that rabbit hole. Commissioner Ward speaking Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Bree, though, for preparing all this, and the discussion today about it, because again, it's better to be, in my opinion, proactive than reactive, especially with all the surrounding counties kind of following the same or going in the same way, and they'll be looking at Franklin County and being a little point on the map, be like, well, there you go, yeah, so thanks, Brie. Ms. Robinson speaking, thank you, Commissioner.

12. Michael Morón – County Coordinator

1) Action Item: ARPC Letter of Support

- Ms. Destiny Bates of ARPC is requesting the following:
- The Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) is seeking the County's support for an important coastal resilience initiative in Franklin County. ARPC is preparing a proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) for the County Road 30A Living Shoreline Final Design and Permitting Project.
- The project will advance the design and permitting of an approximately 16-acre living shoreline along Apalachicola Bay using oyster reef restoration and intertidal salt marsh creation. This effort will reduce shoreline erosion and wave energy, improve water quality, restore estuarine habitat, and help protect County Road 30A, a critical transportation corridor and hurricane evacuation route.
- ASK: If Franklin County aligns with these goals, we would greatly appreciate a brief letter of support. Your support will strengthen the proposal and demonstrate broad regional interest in advancing nature-based solutions for coastal resilience.
- Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the requested letter of support to accompany the proposal for NCRF.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

2) Discussion Item: Governor's Property Tax Proposal

- As the Board is aware, last Thursday Governor DeSantis unveiled a proposed constitutional amendment to reduce and eventually eliminate homestead property taxes.
- The Governor's proposal includes five major components to provide immediate and permanent relief.

i. Exempt Homestead Properties From Taxation.

Exempts the first \$250,000 of a homestead's value from taxation and requiring, through law, a schedule for full elimination.

ii. Ensure Funding For Core Services.

Requires local governments to use remaining property taxes solely for core public needs including public safety, education and schools, infrastructure, and natural resources.

iii. Protect Small Businesses.

Limits future property tax assessments on businesses and creates a more stable tax environment for local businesses.

iv. Ensure Fairness For Florida Residents.

Requires any person who establishes Florida residency after January 1, 2027, to maintain Florida residency for up to five years prior to receiving the increased homestead exemption.

v. Create A State Trust Fund To Assist With Core Local Services.

Establishes a trust fund to provide grants to local governments to assist with the continuation of core local services.

- The Governor called for a special session of the Florida Legislature (Proclamation attached) to consider legislation for his proposal, including adding it to the November election ballot.
- This special session started on Monday, June 1st.
- If the Board agrees, with the anticipation of the completion of the special session, I will add an agenda item for the June 17th meeting.
- During the June 17th meeting, the Board should have adequate information to have preliminary discussions and schedule a workshop, to discuss the implications of this proposal, with your department directors and Constitutional Officers.
- Board discussion.

Mr. Moron speaking, page 10. We already took care of our action item two, to discussion item. All the information there is pretty much no longer. Chairman Jones speaking, no, it is no longer valid, valid, but it all changed. Mr. Moron speaking, it all changed, but I will say this. Let's, my recommendation still holds. Give staff a chance to come up with the valid information. Hopefully we get something by Friday or Monday. I'll send it out to you, and I will have an agenda item about this discussion. Erin has some she wants to add to this to some degree. We need to have a discussion, see how we're going to move forward. Erin is thinking, and if I go too far ahead of you, Erin, let me know. Basically, we're to the point now of just having a very, probably longer, budget workshop, maybe sooner than it would have been. That's up to the board, but it's, we need to have a very long budget workshop. Chairman Jones speaking, yeah, we just need to be prepared, because here's the thing, if something goes on the ballot, it's going to pass. So we just need to be prepared to handle it. Period. I mean, it is what it is. Commissioner Sanders speaking, Mr. Chairman. I know right here it says that he's going to put it on the, Michael you're going to put it on the agenda for next meeting. Is there any chance that we can have one of the lobbyists down here? Chairman Jones speaking, I'm sure. Ask him, I don't know what the lobbyist is going to tell us about taxes, but.. Commissioner Sanders speaking, but I mean to talk to him and see if he put any information to come and share it with us at the meeting. Chairman Jones speaking, I will, and I don't want to put her on blast, but I did ask Mrs. Erin, she's going to have some data available for us too. Similarly, what Wakulla County put out? Mr. Moron speaking, Wakulla did a good job. Commissioner Sanders speaking, yeah, that's the reason why I told y'all six to seven months ago, we got to start thinking, I mean, this was the train, I mean, the train was driving on, I saw it. Commissioner Croom speaking, I do know with Wakulla Chris Doolin came down into their board and presented some things, so yeah, may want to do that, reach out to Chris as well, Chris and the lobbyist. Commissioner Sanders speaking, well, the thing about it is, is if you look, and I'm not going to go into it too much, but if you, if you look, it says that the counties would be able to go through grant or funding. Okay. Well, we we've already had it set aside for smaller counties with the fiscal restrained and so we need to make sure, because we can't pin our stuff up against Palm Beach or Miami-Dade or Broward, or any of that. Well, you know, we're going to be left in the, in the bottom of the pot. Mrs. Griffith speaking, they did remove the trust fund language from the property tax reform initiative, so they removed that. They also exempted the school board taxes from the reform as well. Mr. Moron speaking, and they brought all your constitutionals under the.. they did. Mrs. Griffith speaking, one item I do want to bring to attention is that still is in there, it says local governments would be required to use the portion of property tax revenue that remains after the expanded homestead exemption solely for core services, and what core services includes the legislation explicitly list public safety, education, admin costs, and infrastructure as examples of core services that would mean that any property tax revenue not used to cover the exemption would have to be directed towards these categories, and that's something you know, like non-core functions, such as parks, libraries, transit, human resources, health and human services, and certain administrative services would be at risk if to ad valorem property taxes were reduced, and there's a lot of things that the board does, and that we offer, authorize, as far as, like, giving, providing funding assistance to

nonprofit agencies, senior citizen centers, veteran services programs. There are a lot of things that, in statute, you know, are human services, but they're not necessarily, you know, a statutory guaranteed required funding assistance, and another example of that would be the funding assistance that we provide the county health department, even though that is a Florida Department of Health function. We fund them \$49,000 a year to support their primary care efforts. So, there's a lot of things like that going forward that the county may not be able to do, so even the funding to your nonprofits and food pantries and such, you know, will likely see one of those things that are not going to be considered core service. Mr. Moron speaking, what Fonda did this morning, you probably won't be able to do anymore, Chairman Jones speaking no travel for any ball team. Commissioner Ward speaking, and that's what I was going to say. The food pantries was his biggest thing for me, is like, because I see cars lined up and it's a good service, but service, we're not going to be libraries, you know, got a lot of things going on with the library, but it's, I mean, the list goes on, and all we sit here and talk about it all day, but the fact of the matter remains, I do agree with the chairman, people are going to go to that ballot and they say, do you want property taxes eliminated, of course, they're going to say yes, you know, they just don't realize what it, what it goes for, what it provides for, you know, I was talking to somebody yesterday about, I said, you know, we have volunteer firefighters, and yes, I know that with property taxes, what it goes to, we're going to talk about MSBU coming up here in a minute, but how does that all relate, you know? Yeah, I'm probably say \$50 a month on my mortgage for my property insurance, but at the end of the day, if my home catches on fire and first responders not there because we can't fund them, and then I got a house to live in. So, what, what at what cost is it? It just blows my mind. And again, a lot of people don't realize what their property tax goes for, but I'm just, I'm concerned about it. I know we all are. I'm looking forward to what you're going to present at the next meeting, in terms of what, where we are, and I know everything's still up in the air too, because the governor's still yet to sign his budget. So, all these grants, grant monies that we get and depend on every year after year, what's that going to look like? But anyway. Commissioner Sanders speaking, what I always consider it, and I've always told y'all, is it's essential services, non-essential services, and quality of life. Now, a good example is the public library. Okay, we may not be able to fund that. We don't know how bad this is going to get, but the public library does more than just the library. It is the a lot of bases for a lot of people in this county that does not have internet, that goes there and does all their stuff, social security, all that stuff, do that. So, how do you classify that? You know, how do you actually.. so I mean, people really need to understand, have an understanding of this board, right here. We're very, very soft-hearted when it comes to our people, and we want them to have the best services that we can, but something's gonna go lack in this if that happened, and it comes to a majority of 50% required to do that. It just worries me. Mrs. Griffith speaking, and it's also going to be a loss of actually your governance authority, you know, as far as being able to, you know, local home rule, it's a big loss of your responsiveness as a government, as well. Chairman Jones speaking, well, some other stuff, just to think about it again. It's going to happen, so there's no.. it's not a scare tactic to mention what we're going to have to address, because we're going to have to do it live and in person. We're going to have to address and redirect and do what needs doing, but you know, how is it going to look after a storm? The state, they are great partners. There's no way they're going to be to respond to a storm as fast as a local government can, and as efficiently as a local government can, at the cost that local governments do it's going to cost more. It just is what it is. So, you know, those are all things that it's - we can do any number of things as a county commission. Let me put it in our yard for our people and for where we live, but we have to do our best, and we still do it from time to time to make sure that we're not creating unintended consequences, and none of us are yet to find out what some of those unintended consequences are going to be with property tax reform, or we're going to find out together. Because we're going to have to address it, is all I'm saying. Commissioner Amison speaking, Mister Chairman. The thing about it is, this is going to come down to what the people of Florida, the state of Florida. All we can do is try to educate our people in Franklin County on what the potential cost would be of it, and that's the best we can do, and we'll deal with whatever we have to deal with down the road, that's just that's the bottom line of this. Chairman Jones speaking, Mr. Moron, do you need anything from us? You just want to have a discussion. Mr. Moron speaking, think we had that. Move on to item number three. Commissioner Amison speaking, can we stay right there just a second, because with that being said on educating our population here, would it be better to have that? Are we going to bring the constitutionals in to the next county commission meeting? Mr. Moron speaking, let me have, let's get all the facts. Uh, Erin's information, and then let's decide how we're going to handle the budget workshops and bringing the constitutionals. Okay, your department, Commissioner Amison speaking, I'm just, yeah, we need to advertise, get as many people with some eyes and ears on this, that way everybody understands what, what the ramification, ramification would be either way. Attorney Shuler speaking, just for the record, the Florida Association of County Attorneys yesterday sent me a basically

a white paper that says what local governments can do in terms of educating the public and what you cannot do in terms of educating the public about a ballot issue, so. If everyone, everyone has that in your email, I know it came in like really, really late. Doubt you've even had a chance to look at it yet, but just since Commissioner Amison has stressed that, I wanted to let you know there is some guidance there statewide from the Florida Association of County Attorneys there for your benefit, and if you have any questions, please call me. Mr. Moron speaking the County associated county managers had the same thing in the city. They're going to depend on the firm.

3) Discussion Item: Eastpoint Channel No Wake Zone

- Chairman Jones and Commissioner Ward have been approached about creating a “No Wake Zone” in the Eastpoint Channel.
- Apparently, boats that are moored are slamming against the dock because some boaters travel at excessive speeds in the channel.
- Commissioner Ward contacted Mr. Jon Creamer of FWC about this request and may have additional information.
- Board discussion and possible action.

Mr. Moron speaking, so yeah, within that we have another one at 4 o'clock I think, on Friday. But okay, so to move on to the item number three, I'm going to let the Chairman and Commissioner Ward head this discussion up because you both were back and forth with FWC on this matter about the no wake and the East Point channel, so separately, of course. Commissioner Ward speaking, so I don't know who, I guess more than one commissioner got contacted about the no wake, potentially making a no wake zone in the East Point Channel. So I reached out to Mr. John Creamer, and he got back immediately with me. Well, I had to call him, but anyway, so he sent an email. Apparently, there's again, like it's like changing speed limits, you can't just, hey, do this and it get done, right? There's all kinds of checks and balances, and all kinds of rules and regulations, and it's frustrating for me as a commissioner. I'm sure the rest still to just have to go through all these hoops to get stuff that we feel like it's benefit to our community. However, he did say that obviously the rules that require for potential no wake zone and the East Point Channel, or any waterway for that matter, is for examples. It has to be near. You can't do a no wait zone just because we want it. It has to be near a public boat ramp, which there's one there. I'll let the chairman elaborate on that one in a minute. Lock structures, narrow waterways, canals, or certain bridge crossings, blind corners, bends, obstructions, hazardous water conditions, and other circumstances where substantial evidence demonstrates that a boating restriction is necessary for public safety. Another one would be fuel tanks, which, in responding to these folks, those are, and this is per Florida statute, section 327 dot 46 they call them boating restricted areas. So he copied a couple individuals, and one of the things I brought up was there was a fuel tank there, but apparently the fuel tank has to be for public, the public, not for private, and I think it is for private, but in a nutshell, they did respond and to say that what they were going to have somebody do a review, apparently they did a review of the East Point Channel and found no current or historical permit or ordinance approval for voting restricted area. We did find correspondence between their predecessor and you, Michael Moron, referencing a Franklin County ordinance establishing a BRA, which is a boating restricted area. However, the ordinance does not identify the statutory authority under which the BRA was established, and FDB, FDBC has no record of a permit for the associated markers. So, in a nutshell, she's basically saying that we would need to be, we, that a boating restricted area would need to be established through a county ordinance that meets the criteria put forth in the section 320.7.46 Florida Statutes, so she did review it. She said near the west of the of the channel may support establishment of the zone up to 500 feet from the boat ramp, but beyond that she did not identify any other readily apparent statutory basis for the boating restricted area, so, of course, the fuel tank that they say is not for public use. She did say that they would be happy to come down and take a look at the area, and I said I would love for you to do that. I haven't heard anything back, so that was my correspondence with them. Chairman Jones, if you want to elaborate, I think Commissioner Croom also had some. Chairman Jones speaking, so I sent some stuff to them via email. Now the issue is, I think that they're that, where they're kind of off on the wrong foot, is that that we're trying to establish one. In the entirety of my life, they've always been no wake signs in the channel until they're either taken out by a storm or something else took them out. They have been there far as it being a narrow area. Yes, it is a narrow area. It's a, it's actually an inlet, you know, it's got an inlet, so the channel area is a restricted area. That rock and those rocks on that island form a narrower body of water, that's the reason why there needs to be a no wake zone, because those owners that do have docks and such, everything's getting abused and beat up by people that just don't want to slow down, and as far as the boat ramps go, also sent them a picture from the property appraiser's website showing them where our print of boat ramp is down by Lynn's adjacent where my parents used to have Eastpoint seafood, so there's another publicly used, although it's primitive, public available, publicly used boat ramp, and if it'll help to have public diesel for sale. We'll talk to that property owners if you don't mind selling some fuel to people that need it, that could be accomplished. But I think the word for me, where there, where it's kind of the conversations off kilter is them acting like this is something brand new. This is not something brand new, this is historical. Commissioner Ward

speaking, Mr. Chairman, didn't they mention something about that, that they couldn't find any? Chairman Jones speaking, it doesn't matter what they found, they were there. This is not the Mandela effect. Where they can think about something and say something, but yeah, I guess the team already come down? Commissioner Ward speaking, no, not yet. Commissioner Croom speaking, so I was getting emails, and it looked like a team came down and further down and says they'd be having to come down. I was like. Commissioner Ward speaking, yeah, no, they haven't come down. I think they were looking at everything online or whatever. Commissioner Sanders speaking, Mr. Chairman, I can remember when they made the breakwater. There was no way to find when they made the breakwater back in 84. Chairman Jones speaking, the difference was Commissioner Sanders. When we had more people working in seafood, and there were actually boats and stuff in that channel, they wouldn't have been talking to FWC about a no wake sign. They would have taken care of it themselves. That's the difference. So now that there's less people there, you know what I mean, that's so we're asking, and they're asking, they believe on enforcement, that's there's nothing new, because it's always been, that's always been there. Commissioner Amison speaking Mister Chairman I got a question that you said that in her list of what I guess justifies having it a navigable channel. What's the width? What's the dimension zone? Chairman Jones speaking, they don't give dimensions, they just say they say narrow. Commissioner Amison speaking, they didn't, they just said narrow? We just had it dredged. What was the width of that? It wasn't very close. No, because so what do they, what do they define? We need some a definition of what they consider narrow. Chairman Jones speaking, 100 foot, is pretty narrow. Commissioner Amison speaking, I think it is. When you have traffic coming back to come down. Commissioner Ward speaking, we can bring them down, we can show them a pole that probably a no wake sign was on at one point, and they can see the curve, they can see the outlay, because me, I'm a visual person, I can sit there all day and talk to somebody about something I can see on a computer until I see it with my own eyes and visualize it, then I can understand it better. It's like FDOT, they use Google Earth. Okay, well, Google Earth is not bird's eye view of what the actual area is like, so I have not heard back. I'm hoping that they'll, I'm sure if they offer to come down, they will. They have not come down yet. I've not heard anything saying, well, okay, these are our days that are available. What are your days? But I do plan on having, I would like for them to come down, so we can discuss it. Commissioner Croom speaking, how many launching facilities are in that area? Chairman Jones speaking, there's two that I know of. Commissioner Croom speaking, private? Chairman Jones speaking, three, there's two public, one private. Commissioner Croom speaking so they didn't specify on the criteria here about four launching facilities, private, that was the criteria. Commissioner Croom speaking along with, you know, I think one of the big other big thing is protecting public safety, which that was a concern that I heard. Commissioner Ward speaking, so I guess the next question, Mr. Chairman, is, do we need to wait for them to come down, and or do we want to proceed with maybe tasking Attorney Shuler with an ordinance, or how do we want to proceed as a board? Chairman Jones speaking, right, I don't think writing an ordinance is going to matter unless they're going to approve it, right? I mean, they need to kind of, they're going to enforce it. If they're not going to enforce it. Chairman Jones speaking but if they're not going to enforce it, we're just going to do sign design back. Commissioner Amison speaking, that's what I was about to recommend, is just get the road department go out there and put some no wake signs up, and most people will see it, they'll abide by it. Commissioner Croom speaking, yes, it's not enforceable. Mr. Moron speaking, so we'll wait for them, right? So, Commissioner Ward, you're going to encourage them to come down? Commissioner Ward speaking, I already did. I'm waiting for them to respond to me.

4) Informational Item: Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Your next regular meeting is on Wednesday, June 17th at 9:00 a.m.
- The next Planning and Zoning meeting is on Tuesday June 9th at 5:30 p.m.
- The Airport Operations Economic Development Board regular meeting is on Tuesday, June 23rd at 9:30 a.m.
- Weems Board of Directors regular meeting will be on Thursday, June 25th at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Moron speaking, okay, Commissioners, couple of things quickly. You know, I talked about new applications coming up, so this is the one that Sterling 2k Web- Tidemark Marketing did. The ordinance I told you guys last meeting. I believe you know, wonderful Microsoft changed the rules. We couldn't use the ordinance apps we had on the website anymore. So I got them to design a new one. Here is a new.. this is.. I'm going to say a word that may irritate a couple or few commissioners. This is not Municode. This is the county's websites, like the county's ordinance in their original format. All is, Jessica had a lot to do with that. Jess, how far back did that we get? Do you remember how far did Kim get? Well I could sort the order to be out. Commissioner Ward speaking, she's like too long, too far away. Mr. Moron speaking, 1971. Commissioner Ward speaking, okay, I see it now. Mr. Moron speaking, so as it is right now, the app is the same as it was before. You're going to be searching the heading or the number for the ordinance. Here we go again, Tidemark Marketing - 2KWeb. What they're going to do over a period of time, I'm going to get them to do as we move forward in time is turn each ordinance into a readable, searchable ordinance, so that

you'll be able to search. When you search, it won't be certain, not just a heading. I'm sound like I'm doing a karate class, not just a heading, but it'll also search the entire ordinance in the future. But right now, you're just searching the heading like it was before. It just looks different. I think it actually looks better, to be very honest with you. I like it. I really like it again. Yeah, so you can see it, that's the key, Commissioner Sanders. You really can. So that's that. The other app that's running, I should have an example for you at the next meeting, is Broadcast. Broadcast was the app we talked about months ago, not longer, that allows us to send out to the public when we're having a county commission meeting, when we're having a special meeting, any event that you want the public to know about. It also will cover, Mister Chairman, the new that app will be the replacement for when we have projects going on. This app can now do both email and text, so contractors now they're going to have to resign up again with a new app, but they will be able to get notifications both ways, or either one, whichever way is more convenient. That was back when we're talking about Facebook, but you guys prefer a notification system for all your meetings, special events, and for the contractors, and anything else that comes up. I should have a demo ready for you guys by the next meeting. It's actually finished. The app is ready to up and run. Okay, that's the extras. That's the only extra thing I had for you guys today. And Attorney Shuler will take over, and I guess he'll remind you guys about less than an hour from now about the special meeting we have coming up, 15 minutes. Chairman Jones speaking, so, before we do that, does anyone have any questions or discussion matters to take up with Mr. Moron before we move to County Attorney Michael Shuler's report? Commissioner Amison speaking, actually, I do. I was going to wait to comments. We might knock it out, right? But the Gulf County Commission - I'd had a meeting some months back with Airport Manager Bill Williams and the chair, their AOED board, airport board, and we've met over there with Mr. Hammond in discussion about airport board, this and that, and in that discussion it was asked that would you know potentially their county commission and our county commission have an open session where we can all have some dialog back and forth. I told them I think that would be a great idea, but obviously we wouldn't at that point that time. I think they have reached back out to Mr. Williams, and they're ready to have that dialog with us, board to board. So just wanted to throw that out there and. Like I said, I was going to wait to comments, figured I'd do it now under Michael's, in case anybody had some direction, or whatever, or had some ideas on that, and so that's what it is. Chairman Jones speaking, I don't think that'd be a problem. The more communication you have, the better. We're most similar to Gulf County than any other county around us. Commissioner Amison speaking, yeah, and the thing about it is, and what come up in that discussion is, is that I believe, especially given I think Mr. Moron had touched on it earlier, it's a lot more appealing whenever the state can fund something and it affects multiple counties versus one county coming in there and making an ask, I think that's kind of where a lot of our minds are at, as far as goal, Franklin, because we can either get together and try to find some common ground, move forward on some stuff, or we can all just be separate and dwindle. I hate to say it that way. Chairman Jones speaking but that's the truth. Commissioner Sanders speaking, Mister Chairman. Can I bring up something while y'all bringing up the airport? I'm out to some of the Carrabelle folks, and they'd like to maybe talk to the airport board about maybe, maybe some effort there between the two airports, you know, because Carrabelle was trying to do something too at the same time, at least you wouldn't be, you know, going one way there, and not knowing what's going on. Chairman Jones speaking, I don't think there's another, there's two boards for me. Commissioner Amison speaking to be honest, as far as that, that airports go, all those pilots, and all those board members are all a pretty close-knit group. I'm quite sure they're having discussion, you know, amongst each other, but I don't have any scene or see any problem with any of that dialog, but, but I just know that, you know, we like I said, we was in a meeting over there, and, and it was mentioned, I kind of waited to see, and then I spoke with Mister Williams, and he had mentioned that they're kind of ready to move it forward from their side, so maybe we bring it up. Mr. Moron speaking, if this is a conversation I can get with Bill Williams, and let him coordinate between the two counties, work with myself and Mike over in in Gulf, and see what we can work out, you know, about this joint meeting. Chairman Jones speaking, I thought it was a good idea. Yeah, I've no problem. Chairman Jones speaking, so the only thing I will share, since we're talking about this kind of stuff, and I don't have access to my phone to be able to read it off late this afternoon, Jim McKnight from Gulf County sent me an updated report. I'll forward it to Michael to give to the commission. Michael, please add it to the agenda packet when you're updating the packet from today. It's a report, an annual report on the what's going on with at Fresenius with the dialysis clinic that we help support, it's got to the point now because CHP actually, since it was the closest available, even though it's in Gulf County, CHP still covers Franklin County residents that need to go to dialysis because it's closer for them, so currently in the current year, about half of the people seeing in that percentage were Franklin County residents. So it is being

utilized by our residents. It is making a difference in their life and their health care and their well-being. But again, I will get that full report to you, coming in late last night, about 9 o'clock but I'll get that to you, so you can forward to the commissioners and add it to the agenda packet. Think there's maybe a couple more years left in that agreement. The original agreement wasn't that, like, four years long or five years long. Mr. Moron speaking, maybe. Chairman Jones speaking, anyway, I think there's a couple of more years left in the agreement. Alright, Attorney Shuler, we're up to you.

13. Michael Shuler – County Attorney

1. ALLIANT CONTRACT EXTENSION

On May 19, 2026, the Board approved a one-year extension of the contract between Alliant and the Board. This is a Third Addendum. I have attached the Second Addendum for your convenient review. Board Action Requested: Board discussion and decision approving the Third Addendum and authorizing the Chairman to sign it.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. SPEED LIMIT SIGNS FOR FIVE COUNTY ROADS IN EASTPOINT, FLORIDA

Commissioner Ward would like to place speed limit signs on the following five streets in Eastpoint, Florida; to wit: 6th Street, 7th Street, 8th Street, 10th Street, (there is no 9th Street) and Gulf View Street.

Gulf View Street runs down the middle of the RV Campground and is a safety priority given the density of visitors. Fla. Stat 316.189(2)(a) provides for a 30 MPH speed limit in any business or residence district without a study. Fla. Stat. 316.189(2) authorizes altering the 30 MPH speed limit but requires the county to conduct a study. A copy of the statute is attached for your convenient review. Commissioner Ward would like to commission the statutorily required investigation/study to determine if reducing the speed on Gulf View Street, Eastpoint, Florida, is reasonable and in conformity with criteria promulgated by the Department of Transportation. Board Action Requested: Board discussion and approval to install the five 30 MPH speed signs as outlined above and to authorize Mr. Moron to contact Dewberry Engineering for a cost estimate for investigating all five streets for possible speed limit alteration and, if cost prohibitive as to all five streets, to proceed with such an investigation only as to Gulf View Street and install such lower speed limit signs that may be determined by the engineer's investigation.

Attorney Shuler speaking, Commissioners, we've already done action item number one. Action item number two has been amended. I have spoken with Commissioner Ward before the meeting started. The amendment would be as follows. The request to put temporary stop signs at 678. Commissioner Ward speaking, I'm sorry, speed limit signs, not stop signs. Attorney Shuler speaking, I'll say stop signs. I've got one more strike, so speed limit. Signs temporary would not be placed under the this presentation items for six, seventh, eighth and 10th street. The commissioner only wants a temporary speed limit sign at Gulf View Street, which is it bisects the campground. She would also like board permission for the engineer to conduct a speed study if it is affordable for all five streets, and to authorize Mr. Moron to get that estimate from the engineering firm, and if the cost estimate for a speed study on all five streets is prohibited, just to proceed with the speed study on Gulf View Street, is that correct, Commissioner? Commissioner Ward speaking, yes. Attorney Shuler speaking, okay, so my request is that the board would authorize the temporary speed limit sign for 30 miles an hour at Gulf View Street, and also authorize Mr. Moron to get a cost estimate for a speed study on all five of the streets that I mentioned, if it is affordable, if it's cost prohibited, just the one speed study on Gulfview Street, and if that speed study comes back showing a lower speed limit than 30, he's authorized to go ahead and post the speed limit sign as recommended by the speed study. Commissioner Croom speaking, Commissioner Ward, I'm assuming there's an influx of traffic since the light? Commissioner Ward speaking, and yes, flying down. Mr. Chairman, I've gotten complaints. The sheriff's office, has gotten complaints about vehicles because they're trying to avoid the light that we talked about earlier. Um, but, and it's mainly just on Gulfview, but I think they're taking any street they can. Gulfview, just happens to bisect, come out where that light is, and so there's a lot of dump trucks, a lot of, lot of vehicles traveling that road, and I've gotten complaints of people just flying through there, and with the campground being there, you got, you know, people, kids running across the street, you got people walking dogs and things, so I actually instructed Howard to put signs up for 15 miles an hour, because we thought that would be a good idea, because I didn't know, I didn't realize that there weren't any speed limit

signs there, but then Miss Virginia, and she may want to chime in, just text me saying that there were signs, but I haven't. I didn't know that there weren't any signs there about the speed, and so I'm like, well, we can't obviously enforce the speed limit when there's no sign. So I instructed the road department to put up. I didn't know that we had to go through a process per Florida statute saying we have to have a speed study on said roads to determine, because the Florida statute says it has to be 30, but the county or municipality can make it lower, but they have to have the study. I mean, it's frustrating, it's so frustrating. So, now, have to tell the road department, well, we gotta pull those signs, because, but in a nutshell, yes. When, and then I realized that we didn't have speed limit signs on the other streets, because I feel like if they're going to go on Gulf View, then they're going to go on six or six. I feel like, let's, let's just do it all, cover all our basis, but apparently we have to have a study. I only wanted to study on Gulfview, but Attorney Shuler said it might not be that much of a price difference to do all of them, because I do. I did get a text from Miss Virginia saying that, you know, she, they've got complaints about it and she's available to talk. The speed limit lower than 30 on all the other streets as well. So, I don't, Miss Virginia, if you have anything to respond to that, just. Ms. Virginia speaking, well, like, even me traveling 10th Street, just a while ago, I had to run into town, and it has a 25 mile an hour on it, but I think throughout the whole county you're going to find different speed limits on different, different roads, but back to the roads in East Point, Howard, want me to tell you, you know, even with a 25 mile an hour, he has complaints from people saying, "Hey, that's way too fast. There's, you know, too many people or too much traffic coming through this road for a 25 mile an hour, you know, speed limit. Commissioner Ward speaking, so, Virginia, I know in your text, because I'll be honest, I didn't, I haven't really noticed any speed limit signs, but you said there are signs. Is that accurate? Ms. Virginia speaking, like, not on every road, but on some, like I think it was what, 10th Street, that I went down that has the 25 mile an hour ones, and I want to say, if I look back, I know he had went through, and he, he got different speed limits, anywhere between 20, 25, 30, and 15 just throughout surrounding roads in East Point that do have to be limit signs. Commissioner Croom speaking how long does traffic study going to take y'all figure? Is its going to take as long as it's going to be to fix the road? Attorney Shuler speaking, it will be faster than getting RESTORE money. I can assure you of that for sure. The last one, Commissioner Croom at Alligator point, as I recall it, it took a good little while, but I mean, engineering firm will do it just as soon as it can be done, because the engineering, the speed study has to meet FDOT standards, so the engineers required to follow those standards. They, they, they don't just go out there today, and how long it's going to take, I really, I don't know the answer, but that will be part of the information that comes back for them with the estimate would be a timing cost estimate, that would be the board would be informed. Commissioner Ward speaking, and Mr. Chairman I didn't see a reason. If it takes a long time, then we'll just slap some speed limit signs up, but the thing about it also is, as I don't want to put speed limit signs up and said the speed limits 30, and then let's get a study that says, "Oh, we can lower it to 15, and then them have to go back out and put it down to 15, and then people that travel that road, you know, I was been 30 for however long, and now it's 15. I just didn't want to, I didn't want to waste the road department's time, or anybody's time, or money, to have to replace signs that we may replace again in the near future, and to answer your question, I mean, obviously they're not working on 98 it could be another year for that red light to still be there, so I don't know, but I just felt like that we needed to look into this again. I'm actually, I get the Florida statute, I get that FDOT, we have rules, but it's like it's a county road, we should be able to establish by again bird's eye view how we feel that speed limit on that road should be, and slap a speed limit sign up, but again, I digress, because we have Florida statute and we have FDOT regulating things, so someone said. Commissioner Amison speaking why do not they start paving, Commissioner Ward speaking that's what I'm saying, but that's not going to happen. You have something to say, Virginia? Ms. Virginia speaking, yeah, just a question. With the study, and I know they do like the little strips on the road to do the traffic study, the speed study, but does it also take in consideration like Gulfview Road, where you got both RV parks on the side, you know, each side, and you got the kids crossing the road, them kids ain't stepping on them traffic study line, you know. So that was a question I had, like, how does that work for them to also consider that kind of area and situation? Chairman Jones speaking, that's why they have a DOT set of regulations they have to go by. Ms. Virginia speaking, because I remember he was looking at it, it was talking about putting a strip across the road and having an engineering or whatever, but we just wanted to make sure that you know them things are also put into consideration. Chairman Jones speaking, yeah, it will be. That's whoever the engineer winds up being that does the work, they have to follow DOT's guidance, and it addresses all that with density and where it's at, and so it should address all that, Miss Virginia. Commissioner Amison speaking, I know it's not going to change anything, but I think it's ridiculous that we, we paid for it, we maintain it, but... Commissioner Ward

speaking, they dictate what we do. Because I can guarantee you, I'm just going to shut up, probably be best. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you. Call for public comment on this before we vote or do anything, take any action, because we, because it was an add on item, so let's do that now. Is there any public comment on this item? What about anybody attending virtually on Zoom? Mr. Moron speaking, if you'd like to speak on this matter before the board, please indicate by raising your hand. Thank you. Chairman Jones speaking, alright, there are none. Attorney Shuler, you had a chance to do like they used to on Hee Haw, Grandpa Jones, you could have come up with the backs of mountain. So, what's the pleasure of the board? Do we already have a motion on this at all? I don't remember. **Commissioner made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Croom.** Chairman Jones speaking, any additional discussion on this item? We have called for public comment, and we are seeing none. All in favor? Any opposed? That is unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.**

3. MSBU SCHEDULE AND COST ESTIMATE FOR SEPARATE

MAILING TO PROPERTY OWNERS

Attached is an email dated May 19, 2026, setting forth the anticipated schedule for completion of the MSBU Fire and Rescue and adoption of the final assessment resolution. Sandra Nuebarth, the consultant has asked if this schedule works for the county so that she can prepare a more detailed schedule. I suggest a response that so long as her proposed schedule gets any MSBU increase on the tax roll/or collection/or 2026 ad valorem taxes, then the schedule works for the county.

Also attached is a cost for the separate mailing cost in the amount of between \$13,250.00 and \$14,000.00. Board Action Requested: Board discussion and action to approve the separate mailing cost in the amount of between \$13,250.00 and \$14,000.00 and approval of Ms. Nuebarth's attached proposed schedule so long as it places any MSBU increase on the tax roll for collection for 2026 ad valorem taxes.

Attorney Shuler speaking, commissioners next public action item is regarding the MSBU rate study, which involves specifically a schedule of performance and also a cost estimate for mailing out notices that are required in the event that the rate study returns back a recommendation for a rate increase, but the chairman recently asked me for an update on where we were with the rate study. The last I heard, the Miss Sandra Nuebarth and her company were gathering information, working on the study. So I communicated with her, asked her, are we still on schedule to get this rate assessment increase if there is going to be an increase on the 2026 ad valorem tax rolls for collection, so she sent me a proposed schedule. She has asked you to give her approval for that schedule. My recommendation for the year response is, dear consultant, we're perfectly good with your schedule, as long as you meet our target date of getting the increase, if any, on the ad valorem tax rolls for 2026 collection. The other matter is, also requires your approval, which is the estimated postage mailing cost is between \$13,250 and \$14,000 to mail out the statutorily required notices that have to go to the property owners and both those actions can be consolidated into a single motion of the board. Chairman Jones speaking, all right. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I have a question, actually two questions. One is the money - is that coming out of the MSBU funds or is that a county cost? Attorney Shuler speaking, that is up to the board where you take money from, Erin can probably, you know, I don't know if she's back online at the East Point office or not, but I don't know what the board's policy is on where you want to take that money. I was trying to remember, but I don't know if you have made a prior decision on, for example, the cost of the consultant. Again see, those are the reason we keep public records, but I don't think that was the.. I don't think the board decided to take that out of the MSBU. Commissioner Sanders speaking, we didn't. Commissioner Amison speaking, I believe the discussion was, is that we wouldn't take the consultant cost out of the MSBU, because we're trying to get them, we're trying to give them financial relief, but I believe that the mailing costs and stuff like that, it, I think Attorney Shuler had said historically that that had been paid for by the MSBU, whenever y'all had to do rate increases in the past or ballot initiative stuff like that, it was either you or Erin, I can't remember specifically, but I believe that that that was what was sold to me from somebody, might have been Mr. Moron, I don't know, I'll throw everybody out of that bus, but.. Attorney Shuler speaking, it was 2013 yeah, it's been a minute. Commissioner Amison speaking, yeah, it's been a minute. Attorney Shuler speaking, honestly I don't recall. Commissioner Ward speaking, well either way, I guess we need to, we're going to have to do this anyway, because but my next question is, and again it's hypothetical, How's this going to work? I guess it's a mute point, because we still need to try to get on the ballot, but with the property, I mean, sorry, we're going to make a decision. Well, I guess we, but we don't know how it's going to work out with the property tax

reform initiative. Attorney Shuler speaking, I can respond to that. I'd rather not do it on the record. We're, we're rocking on after 1 o'clock at this point. Look, I think that's after one live after one, but I will chat with you between now and the 130 meeting about that on some reading that I've done. Commissioner Ward speaking, okay, I'll make a motion to approve this. Attorney Shuler speaking, items one and item two in the same motion, correct? Commissioner Ward speaking yes. Chairman Jones speaking, so we have a motion approved by Commissioner Ward. Do we have a second? Second by Commissioner Croom. Sorry, I'm forgetting myself. Since this was also a late-hand item, I'll call for public comment at this time, seeing no public comment in the room, virtually? Mr. Moron speaking, anyone attending by Zoom that would like to comment on this, please indicate by raising your hand. Chairman Jones speaking, seeing no public comment. Any more discussion before we vote? All in favor? Any opposed? That's unanimous. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Shuler speaking, then two information items. One is to inform the board, at your next board meeting, you will have a public hearing to consider changing the zoning on some commercial property at two mile from c1 commercial fishing to c3 commercial recreational at 11am and then just to let the board know that the public hearing for rezoning in Lanark Village, that was supposed to be held today and was published to be held today, that application for rezoning was withdrawn by the property owner, and that concludes my report.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. Public Hearing Rezoning 614 Highway 98, Apalachicola, Florida from C1 to C3

Attached are the Notice of Zoning Change and the draft ordinance for the Board's consideration on June 17, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. ET.

5. The public hearing to rezone 2323 Enabob Street, Lanark Village, Florida, was withdrawn by the applicant.

14. Commission Comments

Chairman Jones speaking, all right, any questions for Attorney Shuler for your Commissioner comments? All right, Commissioner comments. Commissioner Croom speaking, just have one. When I was talking to John Kramer with FWC, he advised me that our local people on the bed for the restoration post line, yeah, oyster restoration was just cement concrete. So glad to hear they are using some locals. Commissioner Ward speaking, I saw the mountain this morning. Commissioner Amison speaking, I have comment. Sharon, it was nice seeing you, we have probably scared you to death. So, everything is virtual from now on, I am assuming. Chairman Jones speaking, alright. Any other commission comments? Thank you, all commissioners. Good work. We are adjourned.

15. Adjournment

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

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts

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