

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
JULY 1, 2026
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, 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. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Jones speaking, Mr. Moron, are there any things that needs to be amended on the agenda that was published? Mr. Moron speaking, good morning, commissioners. No, there was an item I added about 3 o'clock yesterday to my report. It is in reference to clearing a road. It is you could consider that late. It was past 12 o'clock yesterday, but either way, sir, I will leave that to your discretion. But otherwise, to that, no items, agendas. Chairman Jones speaking, some we are going to take action on? Mr. Moron speaking, yes, it is. Chairman Jones speaking, then we probably need to have a motion to amend the agenda. It was after 12. **On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the amended agenda with the addition as discussed. Motion carried 5-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes and Payment of County Bills

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the minutes from FCBC Regular Meeting 5/20/2026 and the Payment of County Bills. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Public Comments

Lonnie Collins speaking, good morning, Chairman and Commissioners. My name is Lonnie Collins. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I have several questions regarding development transparency and the future of Franklin County. Okay, number one, can the board provide an update on the current status of the proposed landing at Saint George Island project? Specifically, what approvals have been granted and what approvals are still outstanding? Number two, has the county received any new applications, permits, or development requests for the Serenity Seaside Resort at 186 South Bay Shore Drive in East Point? If so, where can the public review these documents? Number three will all future applications, engineering reports, environmental studies, and staff recommendations for these projects be made readily available to the public before public hearings. And number four, how is the county ensuring that the comprehensive plan and land development codes are being followed as these large-scale developments are reviewed? Number five, what opportunities will citizens have to provide meaningful input before final decisions are made? And number six, how will the county evaluate the impacts of these projects on evacuation routes, emergency services, infrastructure, water quality, wetlands, and the character of our community?

Mason Bean speaking, good morning. I know you have an action-packed agenda, and I see where all the department heads have put in a great report of all they want to do. And I am sure because they are so active, they are going to want some more money. My only thing is that you got the school board here wanting more money, sheriff wanting more money. You are getting ready to raise the bed tax. I see. Just challenge them and try to maintain the budget. That is all. Thank you.

6. Constitutional Officers

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**a. Steve Lanier (Shannon Venable) -- Superintendent of Schools -- 1.0 mil
Operating Referendum Resolution 2026-01**

Shannon Venable speaking, morning, Chairman and Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I am Shannon Venable, Chief Financial Officer for the Franklin County School District. I am here on behalf of Superintendent Steve Lanier and the School Board. I am here to respectfully ask for your approval to place the school board's district's 1.0 operating referendum on the November ballot, so the people of Franklin County can decide what. To continue supporting this important funding, Franklin County voters have supported this referendum since 2008. It provides about \$4 million each year to our schools, with almost 30 percent proportional funds going to the Apache Cola Bay Charter School. These dollars help us keep great teachers and staff, and provide the opportunities our students need to succeed. This is not a new tax; it is simply a renewal of funding that voters have approved for many years. The timing is different because state law now requires these renewals to be on a general election ballot. Approving it this year keeps the funding in place without interruption. It is also important to note that the school board lowers the capital outlay tax by the same amount, so this does not increase the overall property tax burden. Your approval today simply allows the voters of Franklin County to decide whether to continue investing in our students, our schools, and the future of our community. Thank you for your time, your partnership, and your continued support.

Chairman Jones speaking, Commissioners, do you have any questions? Commissioner Ward speaking, Chairman, just really quick. Mrs. Venable, if you could answer this again, as you said, it is a tax we are already paying. It is just to re-up it. There was no sunshine, sunset on this, but the statute changed. Is that correct?

Mrs. Venable speaking, that is correct. In the past, the school board could hold a special election outside of the general election, and we are no longer allowed to do that. We are required to put on general election, which changes the changes the timing. Commissioner Ward speaking, so this will be good if it is tentatively voted by the voters, it will be good till 2028. Is that correct? Mrs. Venable speaking, 2032. Commissioner Ward speaking, thank you. That is all questions I have. As long as no other commissioners have questions, I will make a motion to approve. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Amison.** Chairman Jones speaking, so we do have a motion to approve by Commissioner Ward, second by Commissioner Amison. Any discussion? Commissioner Croom speaking, yes. I spoke with Attorney Shuler, had some questions about it, so I am going to abstain from voting on this. Attorney Shuler speaking, yes, in consulting with Commissioner Croom, he is an employee of school district, and in my opinion, staff will prepare an affidavit for abstention and have him signed. I think it is a 15 day. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you for that. Also, I think unless I am reading it wrong, that the governor just signed into law. This would be the last time that the school board ever has to ask the county to put something on a referendum. I think that they can do that through the school board now, going forward into next year. Anytime they need anything put on a ballot referendum, it does not have to come in from the county anymore. Believe that is the way it reads. That is something that will take actually come and become law today, I think. But it is not for today; it is for the future. Any other discussion before we vote? All in favor? Any opposed? That is unanimous. **Motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Croom abstaining.**

b. A. J. Smith (Renee Brannan) -- Sheriff -- 911 Mapping

This is the proposal for this year's mapping services. This is being paid for with Fiscally Restrained Appropriations from the State E911.

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Mr. Moron speaking, this is Mrs. Renee Brannan here. She just texted me. She is having to cover dispatch. So, Erin, I am going to ask you to jump in on this because she has done this before. She is paying attention to me. If she is paying attention. Maybe she is not. I will tell you what. Let us come back to this when doing her report. It is standard. I would just like Renee available to available to you, commissioners, to ask any questions you may have. But Erin said it is pretty standard. Chairman Jones speaking, okay. So going forward, you see there are directors' reports. Mr. Nabors did not have anything for action, did he, Mr. Moron? Mr. Moron speaking, he did not, but I have something on my report that that late item actually come in that I would like to bring up during. Chairman Jones speaking, well, let us go and do that. Before you do that, I will remind the public that before we take a vote, we will call for public comment because it is a late add. Go ahead, sir.

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

2) Discussion/Action Item: 109 Delaine Circle

- A request from Mrs. Virginia Messer (Road Department – Administrative Assistant):
- Mr. Jody Martina has requested permission to open Delaine Circle from 109 Delaine Circle to the platted cul-de-sac shown on the recorded subdivision plat.
- Mr. Martina has offered to clear the right-of-way at his expense and is requesting that the Road Department construct the roadway using County equipment and materials. The distance from 109 Delaine Circle to the end of the proposed cul-de-sac is approximately 663.27 feet.
- Howard has already met with Mr. Martina on-site and explained that there is a process for requests of this nature and that it would need to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.
- For your reference, I have attached the subdivision plat, a location map outlining the requested section of roadway, and a wetlands map of the area.
- Please let me know if you have any questions.
- Board discussion and possible action to authorize the opening of Delaine Circle from 109 Delaine Circle to the platted cul-de-sac.

Mr. Moron speaking, okay, and Commissioner Ward, you feel free to, actually, Commissioner, how about I just let you take this because they did contact you yesterday, and you can explain. I will jump in whenever you need. Commissioner Ward speaking, so I was contacted yesterday by a resident who is trying to clear some of his own property to build some homes for some people in our community, and there is a county right of way there. It is a cul-de-sac. It is a county platted subdivision. Attorney Shuler chime in if you feel like you need to, but basically, we will have to, the county will have to cut a road in so that those individuals would have a way to get into their homes. But this individual offered to do it at his expense, which I think is great for the county. It saves the county money. The only thing that he needs and requires, according to our attorney, is permission from the board to do so, the only request he has is once the roads cut through, to put some road base on it so that the residents can drive to get to their home. So again, it is something that the county's not having to do. It is a lumber company that is doing. There is it is 663 feet of distance is all they are doing, so the county would again have to do this at their expense, at our expense. But this gentleman's offering to do it at his expense with the only request that the county put the road base on it. Again, it is a county platted subdivision, right, and a county platted road. So, it is a county road. And Attorney Shuler if you want to chime in. Commissioner Croom speaking, so will we maintain that once it has done? Commissioner Ward speaking, yes. Attorney Shuler speaking, in 1979, Sandy Acres Unit Two was recorded in the public records of Franklin County and in the dedication, I will not read the entire dedication, but it says that the owners of the property, and in this case, the

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company that the bank that held the mortgage on it, the dedication of the streets and easements to the perpetual use of the public for proper purposes. In my opinion, that means that it is a county dedicated road and not private property, and the board can, you know, build the road, or not build the road. That is at the discretion of the board. The ask this morning is to allow the property owner to clear the right of way, so that the county does not have to clear it. I did speak with Mr. Howard about this yesterday. He is indicated that they told him they are going to pull up the stumps from the trees that are going to be removed. Not, I did not get, have the understanding there is a lot of stumpage, but he said even if they do not remove the stumps, he has the ability to pull the stumps out with the excavator. The one thing that Mr. Howard wanted to make sure of is that once the right of way is cleared, that property owner has a surveyor go in and flag the right of way to make sure that the county road department stays on public dedicated property as opposed to private property. And my suggestion, just knowing how timber companies operate, I think another condition should be that potentially operate that if there are any oil spills or oil changes by the timber company on county property, that the property owner be required to remediate and clean up in the event there's any oil spill, but with those conditions, I see no objection to allowing the property owner to clear the property if that's the board's discretion. And then, as Commissioner Ward said, the county would then come in thereafter and build a road. It would actually be a dirt road because under subdivision ordinance, I believe that this subdivision only has 18 lots according to the plat, and therefore the road does not have to be paved under the subdivision ordinance. So, it would be a county dirt road. Commissioner Amison speaking, Mr. Chair, I have a question. What about ditches? Are they going digging ditches only? Commissioner Ward speaking, there is not any ditches. I mean, it is 600 feet of just the right of way, so they are not going to do it. It is a timber company that is going and clearing out the trees on our right of way. Okay, so the ditches would be made. Commissioner Amison speaking, put an ingress though. I just did not know if we needed if that was discussed about possibly ditching that because when people start, you know, I do not know where the area is. I do not know if it is low. If they are going to have to have a little bit of fuel and start displacing water stuff like that as well as bringing it up. Attorney Shuler speaking, well, Commissioner, under the subdivision ordinance, there is requirement for I am not sure that it is ditches. I think it would be swales, but that is something that the county would be responsible for. I am no biologist, but it was represented to me that there are no wetlands on this particular right of way. Chairman Jones speaking, so I agree with Commissioner Amison, though. So, there is a difference, and we have dealt with areas of the county that were this way. There's a difference between clearing and making a road, or making an area for a road, and actually building a road, and I mean I'm good if this timber company wants to help clear the area, but I think in the finality of things we do need to add swales, ditches, something we need to actually build a road, not just you know what I mean create something that's going to be a problem for down the future for residents and people that are in the area. Commissioner Ward speaking, well, in the subdivision, correct me if I am wrong, Mr. Chairman, Attorney Shuler, that there in the subdivision ordinance that is required that he would have to come back and make sure, or the property owner that is purchasing the property have to do the culvert and they would have to do their own swales and flood mitigation, right? Attorney Shuler speaking, well, if the county is going to build the road according to our substandard ordinance, and there's a, and I don't have it with me, but there's a certain width of the road and a certain amount of road base, and then there have to be swells on the side of the driving surface. That would be something that the county would do, and it would be a county-maintained road into the future because it is a dedicated county road. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I believe Mr. Howard's on the line. If this is a question that may be posed to him, maybe answered, and shed some light. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I got some comments. Commissioner Ward speaking, he told me he was going to be on, so we had any questions. Mr. Nabors speaking, good morning, Commissioner. Y'all hear me? Good morning. Yes, ma'am. I am here. Yeah, that road is Wolanda is Delanie Circle, which there

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is already a road there, probably 400-450 feet. There has already been a house also built on that road. There are no ditches on that road now. As they go in, we got to go like 660 feet as far as they are going to go in a cul-de-sac, that is where the county right away dead ends. But he is just trying to open it up to get his property, and they are going to do some logging on his property. So far as ditches, I do not think there would have to be some ditches. But if it is, we would have to put ditches on it. Commissioner Ward speaking, and when you say you, we, you are talking the county would be responsible for that. Is that correct? Mr. Nabors speaking, yeah, we put the ditches. They dig the ditch. We will put it in. But you would have to dig ditches where they are not no ditches. If that makes any sense. The part, the 400 something foot where the roads already built, there is no ditches it is all high ridge kind of. So, but once they open the road up, you know, they get through logging whenever we get a day and see what we need to do. So, I cannot answer that question. It is just how far off the ditch goes. Commissioner Sanders speaking, Mr. Chairman, it is a county road and a county right of way. We have got county rules. We have got county subdivision rules. We got all kinds of rules. I would rather just see the county go in there and open it up. It is a street. It is a road owned by the county, and rather go see them go open it up, put everything that needs to be in, and then we will be done. Because, like I said, if it is not done right, then you are going to have to have the county back in there anyway. So, I look at it is doing it right the first time, then you have not got to go back. You know what I mean? But I mean, if he is willing to get an engineer out there to flag it, that is fine. If not, we got an engineer. It is a county road. Commissioner Ward speaking, well, I think he was just trying to help the county out. Commissioner Sanders speaking, no, I know, but I mean, it is a lumber company, so it is hard to get people back to. Commissioner Ward speaking, yeah, and I think the county would probably have to, I do not know, Mr. Howard if the county goes out there and does it, is that something y'all could do like immediately? Because I think this is a time sensitive issue as well. Mr. Nabors speaking, yeah, that would be something, once they got through, we're going to look and you know open the road up and we need ditches or whatever you know we have to create because like people got land on both sides and I think the Martinas' have like four acres in there so which would be four acres on the west side of that road so but it's like 660 feet I think all it's got to be open but that's what the county right away dead ends. Chairman Jones speaking, so the county right away does not go all the way to the end of the cul-de-sac, is what you are saying? Mr. Nabors speaking, yeah, it does. It goes all the way to the culvert side. But there is already a road there and a house built, and then a road dead end. But it is 660 feet that needs to be open to where the other people could get to their property. Which is a 60-foot right away is what we got. Commissioner Ward speaking, so Mr. Chairman, Howard, even if he does say hypothetically this we would vote and he is able to do this, you still have to go in and do your thing, right? Mr. Nabors speaking, yes, ma'am. Yeah, we do our thing. We, if we have to, we have it surveyed to make sure we are on the right track, and we need ditches or whatever. Which there is no wetland in there. We pulled it up. There are no wetlands on our right of way. Commissioner Ward speaking, and even in, but by doing it this way, it is saving the county money. Mr. Nabors speaking, yes, ma'am. If we had to go in and do it, we would have to dig all of them trees up, haul all that stuff off. Commissioner Ward speaking, and the timber too. So that is why I thought it was a good idea. I understand that there are some things that we are going to have to do from the county's perspective, but I am going to go ahead and you know y'all vote however you want not going to affect me one way or another. But I am going to make a motion to approve this. Commissioner Croom speaking, second. **Motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom to approve.** Chairman Jones speaking, so we have a motion to approve by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom. See if I can make sure we all know what we are voting for. So, this timber company is offered to go and do the clearing of the area, and Mr. Nabors and the road department is going to come back and build the appropriate road, so they can get to the area. Is that what we have understood? Commissioner Ward speaking, yes. Chairman Jones speaking, so any more discussion

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before we vote? All in favor? Any opposed? That is unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.** Commissioner Ward speaking, thank you, Mr. Howard, and Virginia. Mr. Nabors speaking, you are welcome commissioner. Chairman Jones speaking, the rest is informational.

7. Department Directors

a. Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Roads and Bridges

Executive Summary

Road Department crews continued routine maintenance, roadway improvements, and support operations throughout all five commission districts during this reporting period. Activities included road grading, shoulder maintenance, pothole repairs, roadside mowing, ditch maintenance, culvert installations, sign maintenance, tree and brush removal, litter collection, drainage maintenance, and material hauling. The department also supported Mosquito Control drainage ditch maintenance, forestry road maintenance, and other county operations while responding to routine maintenance requests.

(see attached documents for additional information)

Monthly Highlights

- Continued maintenance activities in all five commission districts.
- Completed culvert installations in Districts 1 and 2.
- Performed countywide roadside mowing, ditch maintenance, and vegetation management.
- Completed multiple road grading, road repair, and shoulder maintenance projects.
- Maintained county signs and rights-of-way.
- Removed hazardous trees, limbs, brush, debris, and litter from county roadways.
- Supported Mosquito Control drainage ditch maintenance in Eastpoint.
- Continued maintenance on forestry and county facilities.

b. Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Action Item

VACANT POSITIONS:

As of June 2026, we have an available position in the Animal Control Department for a new Officer and Solid Waste. I am requesting the Board approve advertising for the Animal Control Officer and Equipment Operator position.

BOARD REQUESTED ACTION: Motion to advertise for an Animal Control Officer and Equipment Operator.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom and Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized advertisement for an Animal Control Officer and Equipment Operator. Motion carried 5-0.

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Informational Items

The Franklin County Dixie Girls' Teams Advance to the World Series. Advancing Girls Teams

10U Angels - Qualified for the World Series in Bellview, Florida, July 31–August 5th 12U

Ponytails- Qualified for the World Series in South Brunswick NC, July 24–July 28th FOR BOARD

INFORMATION

Chairman Jones speaking, all right, Mr. Davis, why you are here let us have a discussion. I have been getting several phone calls, and I think it is just something that goes with the territory, so I want to talk to you before the meeting. There is a lot of a lot of people, a lot of parents that have been upset this year with the way that the baseball and softball league continue to be run. There is not any transparency. We just hosted a state tournament. Nobody knows how much money they took in at the gate. The county did not receive any money from that. But beyond and above that, I am learning that during the year, I guess they did not talk about it because nobody wanted to make waves. But they used the East Point Park that we spent over a million dollars on rehabbing, fixing the drainage, fixing the fence, putting the Musco lighting. They are still not utilizing that property for one event or another, for one excuse or another. It is available anytime any of those parks are used. Your staff is the one that is getting them prepared and doing everything needs to be done. I have not received any calls saying that y'all have not done what you are supposed to do. So, there is going to be an ongoing discussion about this Dixie Youth, and if it requires making it a county department under the Parks and Recs, then so be it, but I am not going to continue to take calls where like these of this nature, where that league is not like it was when I was there years ago. There were people for each area that were over it. I understand right now there is only two people that is running the whole thing countywide, and they do not have meetings or they do not notice meetings, and I just think it is horrible the way it is being run. I know the outputs are good; their kids are doing good. That is good. That is what it is there for. But there also has to be a level of transparency. All of these parks are being provided for either with TDC dollars, which the visitors pay, or it is coming out of the county's ad valorem that our residents are paying, and we, I believe, we have a reasonable expectation to know what kind of money is being taken in, where it is being spent, how much is left over, how much is being fundraised. All those things should be transparent, and right now they completely are not. I am not looking for you to give me an answer. I just think you need to know that as our current parks and recs director, because that is a conversation we need to have. If we need to actually go a step further with what we did here two to three weeks ago with the way we are trying to realign the departments and actually put recreation under the guy that is the assistant, whatever that takes, we need to do something better. Is my only comment, and I wanted to make sure you are aware of that this morning? So, I just, we cannot continue to not utilize space to provide it for the public, that does not work for me. I do not, you know, I know not every field we have is as nice as the other one, but those kids do not notice that stuff. Those kids know where they are playing. They know what is available to them, so that is anyway. That is all I got to say before I say things, I do not want to say something I should not say, so let me stop. Commissioner Croom speaking, Mr. Chair, I think all of us probably got those things, calls and emails and texts constantly this year. I recall us talking about this propaganda of this year about that we need to probably look into it. And I know, you know, Director Davis, you are not really involved in that aspect, so we do not expect an answer for you. But just FYI, maybe coming down the pipe, we got to figure something out on this. Because my question was just yesterday, you know, I had this conversation, and I was told about just two people, and my question was, "What do you answer to them for? Is there a board of volunteers? Like, no, I am like, okay. So, there has got to be some accountability and transparency on this right here. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I will add to I did reach out to some individuals as to why

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they were not using Vrooman Park because I thought the same thing. There were some issues brought up that Mr. Davis has already addressed and has been addressed. One was the sewage, which has been addressed, and the concession stand, which is I went in there the other day and asked I have asked them to clean it up, and it looks great in there. So, there is really no reason now. I did hear that the one of the fences was not regulation for a type of ball that they use or play, and I did talk to Mr. I think I talked to you about. I know I talked to Michael Moron about a consultant. I know you and I, Erin, and I went out there and met to try to think of ways to improve it even more, and we had discussed several different things, like you know refurbishing the bathrooms. We are going to try to get a grant to do some of that stuff. But the biggest thing was trying to get someone out there that could show us and tell us what we needed to do to make it regulation per whatever standards they have. But that is when this property tax discussion also came out, so we kind of put things on the back burner. But I do want to, I do want to say that Mr. Davis and his team do a phenomenal job in keeping these parks clean and marking the lines and cutting the grass and doing what they are supposed to do. And I appreciate that. So, it is not by any fault of you guys at all. It is just, I do not know. Chairman Jones speaking, so, if there is not a regulation fence, I do not think that would matter for our local rec league. It would only matter with a state or regional tournament. Yeah, it is not going to. I mean, I am not saying it does not need to be fixed, but it is not going to keep our kids from playing each other in games. It is only going to matter. I mean, if it were, they would tell them they could not have the league until they fix a fence. The league has not said that. Commissioner Croom speaking, another thing, Mr. Chair, I asked Mr. Davis conveyed his message to the association with the league about Sylvester Williams, and they actually, they I think they practiced on there this year because DW was closed for a good little bit. Mr. Davis, how many parks do we maintain? Your crew maintains in this county? Do you know that number? Mr. Davis speaking, like, oh, everything. So, 13 or 14? It is quite a few more than what people think. You say parks, at least 15 that we know. Commissioner Ward speaking, and we are talking from Lanark, Alligator Point all the way to Apalachicola. That is a pretty good distance. Mr. Moron speaking, questions I have always asked. I have said, how many employees do you have to maintain those 15 parks? Commissioner Ward speaking, count on one hand, probably. Mr. Davis speaking, eight. Mr. Moron speaking, so we do not even have an employee per park. Keep that in mind. Commissioner Sanders speaking, and that's seven days a week. Even on holidays, especially in the summer. You are so right, Commissioner Sanders. Especially in the summer. But commissioners, I like. I will ask this. I text each of you the results of where we are going with Darlene. So, would one of you be kind to read that out? I would like Darlene, since she is so passionate about it, to come up to the mic. But she might tase me. So, if you guys, one of you would read that out. Commissioner Ward speaking, I was actually going to do that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you so much. So, Darlene, do you want to do it? No. Okay. No. Didn't want to take away your limelight. But Franklin County Dixie girls' teams advanced to the World Series. Advancing girls teams, 10U Angels qualified for the World Series in Bellevue, Florida, July 31 to August 5, and the 12U Ponytails qualified for the World Series in South Brunswick, North Carolina, July 24 to July 28. So, and then our boys also did they win the World Series? Chairman Jones speaking, no one went to the World Series. I think they played a couple weeks. And then there is another one that advanced to HU and UX. Commissioner Ward speaking, so I mean, we got a lot of talent, and that is why we keep these parks up for these teams. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I think we have got another team this weekend that goes and plays. If they win, they go to World Series, also in Laurel, Mississippi. I think that was. Chairman Jones speaking, yeah, that's a couple weeks. I think it was a week away still. Commissioner Sanders speaking, so, I mean, all I can say is for the girls. I got my bags packed. I am ready. I always go. I love them, love them, love them. I think old bag. I like that. Yeah, I love it. But I do not have to go nowhere but Bellevue. Commissioner Ward speaking, congratulations to all the teams because it is not an easy task at all. It is a big, big accomplishment, and you know, proud of them. Commissioner Sanders speaking,

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we always have complaints about something is not right, something is not right. You know, a little bit's wrong, and I like that. But these kids, all they love is to play ball. That is all they do. That does not matter to them at all. They figure mom and daddy and all the rest of people's going to take care of all the problems. They just want to play ball, and that is the most important thing. As long as I sit here as a commissioner, I am going to be supportive of that. I do not care what the state brings down to it. One way or the other, we may not have to have as many teams or whatever. But one way or the other, I am going to always support these in this county as long as I live. I would do that, but I am so proud because we have had continuous winters throughout all these years. Even back in 1999, we had them going to national. I went to Tennessee that year, but I mean, we've this board has always supported that, so it is a good thing. Commissioner Croom speaking, Mr. Chair, I got a question with Mr. Davis there. In discussion we just had about the little league and stuff, we did not give you a chance to comment. Do you have any comments on that? Did you receive calls about this? I want to hear from you. Mr. Davis speaking, yes, sir. I have been receiving calls. The thing about it, the two that is running the league, you know, your hats off to them. Again, like the commissioner was saying, you have people sit back and complain, but nobody really wants to step up. And any time I ask the two individuals, could they prove or could they show? They say, of course. So, I say, if the board wants to come see your records of how you run the league, could you show that to them? They say sure. So that may be something. Chairman Jones speaking, I guess I should have led out with that. Sorry, but yeah, I would be interested in seeing it. I think the public wants to know that it is all on the up and up. Mr. Davis speaking, yeah, no matter what you do, you are not going to please everybody. Again, hats off to them for stepping up and running the lead. I do get a lot of calls. I get in stuff that I should not be getting into, trying to make it better. But hey, that's part of it. Chairman Jones speaking, well, it is hard for us not to be involved in it because we are the ones that are preparing the fields. So, you got to know when the fields need to be prepared. Mr. Davis speaking, that is correct. Chairman Jones speaking, where they are playing at. You got it. I mean, it is hard to not be involved in it because we are not involved in. Mr. Davis speaking, I was just saying that beyond that. You know, who picked what team and how much the registration and that type thing is what it was. Chairman Jones speaking, got to cover cost. Commissioner Croom speaking, okay, I just wanted to hear from you. You know since you probably facing the same complaints. Chairman Jones speaking, anything else from Director Davis while he is here? Fonda, thank you. Thank y'all for everything you do. Mr. Davis speaking, thank you all for your support.

C. Jennifer Daniels – Emergency Management Director

Action Items:

1. Request to Board of County Commissioners to retroactively approve the Chairmans signature of the IPAWS MOU with FEMA.

Ms. Anthony speaking, good morning, commissioners. I got one action item for y'all this morning. I request the board's approval to retroactively approve the signature of our IPAWS MOU, it is with FEMA. It is the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. It is what allows us to do the emergency alert broadcasts and the wireless emergency alerts if needed during an emergency. **On a motion by Commissioner Croom, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board retroactively approved the Chairman's signature of the IPAWS MOU with FEMA. Motion carried 5-0.**

Information Items:

1. 6/26/26 – EOC staff met with the SGI Plantation Communications Director at the EOC.

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2. 6/25/26 – EOC staff attended the monthly FEPA EM Directors Meeting via zoom.
3. 6/24/26 – EOC staff attended the Wildfire and Warning Communications webinar.
4. 6/24/26 – Completed monthly IPAWS test.
5. 6/23/26 – EOC staff meet with Red Cross representatives at the EOC.
6. 6/18/26 – EOC staff attended the HURREVAC training webinar.
7. 6/15/26 – EOC staff attended the Quarterly Region 2 Regional Domestic Security Task Force meeting in Tallahassee.

d. Dewitt Polous – Mosquito Control Director

Action Items

None

June at a Glance

- 966 mosquitoes collected through routine surveillance
- 7 trap locations monitored throughout the County
- Approximately 47,802 acres treated
- Approximately 453 gallons of adulticide product applied
- A handful of mosquito-related complaints investigated
- No local arbovirus activity detected

Information Items

1) Mosquito Control Operations Update

Mosquito Control operations during June continued to focus on trapping, surveillance, and treatment efforts throughout the County. Staff conducted routine mosquito trapping at seven monitoring locations to track mosquito activity and identify areas requiring treatment. Trap counts continue to provide valuable information for directing control efforts throughout the County.

During June, approximately 966 mosquitoes were collected through routine surveillance. While mosquito activity remained highest in the St. George Island area, overall trap counts were lower than those observed during May. Elevated activity was also noted in the Lanark Village and Alligator Point areas. Routine surveillance continues to identify localized areas of increased mosquito activity and helps guide treatment decisions throughout the County. Although overall trap counts were lower than the previous month, Mosquito Control staff continued proactive treatment efforts to help prevent mosquito populations from increasing as summer conditions developed. Treatment activities were guided by trap counts, field observations, weather conditions, and citizen complaints to ensure resources were used effectively, and applications were made where they were most needed.

During the month, approximately 47,802 acres were treated while approximately 453 gallons of adulticide product were applied throughout the County.

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Staff received a handful of mosquito-related complaints during the month. Each complaint was investigated, and treatment was provided when warranted. Routine surveillance and monitoring will continue as weather conditions change throughout the summer.

2) Statewide / Arbovirus Update

Florida continues statewide surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), dengue, chikungunya, and Zika virus.

During the most recent reporting period, Florida confirmed its first human case of West Nile virus for 2026 in Alachua County. The state also continues monitoring arbovirus activity through its sentinel chicken surveillance program. At this time, no arbovirus activity has been identified in Franklin County, and no positive mosquito pools have been reported locally.

Mosquito Control staff will continue monitoring state surveillance reports while maintaining local trapping and surveillance efforts throughout the season.

3) Program Outlook

As the summer season continues, Mosquito Control staff will remain focused on surveillance, targeted treatment, and responding to citizen concerns. Operations will continue to be guided by trap counts, field observations, weather conditions, and state mosquito control guidelines to ensure treatments remain effective, efficient, and appropriate for conditions throughout Franklin County.

e. Whitney Roundtree – Library Director

Action Items

None

Informational Items

Summer Reading Program 2026

The 2026 Summer Reading Program, Unearth a Story, is underway and continues through July 25. July programming continues at both library branches with activities focused on archaeology, dinosaurs, earth science, history, STEM learning, arts, and family engagement. Staff are continuing registration support, ReaderZone promotion, and outreach throughout the month.

ReaderZoneThe Franklin County Public Library has launched ReaderZone as a new digital platform for reading challenge registration and participation. This service allows patrons to track reading progress online and provides the library with a more flexible way to manage reading challenges throughout the year. Staff are continuing to promote the service and assist patrons with registration as we work to increase participation.

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Ongoing Facility Maintenance Evaluations

The library continues to evaluate facility maintenance needs at both branches in coordination with County staff and contractors. Current review includes exterior building conditions, weather sealing, windows and doors, flashing, drainage and gutter routing, and any areas where deterioration or water intrusion may require repair. Updates, recommendations, and cost estimates will be provided as evaluations progress.

Libraries Transforming Communities Grant

Work continues related to the Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant. The library will host a community conversation at the Eastpoint Branch on July 27 at 5:30 PM to gather public input on accessibility needs and help guide future improvements.

Commercial Oyster Harvesting License Assistance

Library staff provided public assistance to residents applying for commercial oyster harvesting licenses prior to the June 30 deadline. Assistance was available at both library branches, with additional Saturday hours offered at the Eastpoint Branch to help meet community need. This service supported local workers by providing access to computers, internet, online forms, and staff assistance with the application process.

Holiday Closure - Independence Day

Both library branches will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. The Carrabelle Branch will also be closed Saturday, July 4.

Eastpoint Branch Programs

DIY American Flag

July 1 | 2:00 PM

Hands-on craft program where participants create patriotic American flag art.

American Flag Key Chains

July 6 | 2:00 PM

Creative craft activity where participants make American flag-inspired key chains.

Mahjong Club

July 7, 14, 21, and 28 | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Open play sessions for adults interested in Mahjong, providing opportunities for social engagement and recreational play.

Unusual American Roadside Attractions

July 8 | 2:00 PM

Educational presentation highlighting unique and unusual roadside attractions across the United States.

FPAN Primitive

Tools July 13 | 11:00

AM

Presented in partnership with the Florida Public Archaeology Network, this program

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explores primitive tools, early technology, and archaeology through educational discussion and demonstration.

Didgeridoo Down Under

July 14 | 11:00 AM

Interactive family program featuring Australian music, storytelling, audience participation, and cultural education.

Writer's Forum

July 15 | 1:00 PM

Collaborative gathering for writers to share work, exchange ideas, and receive feedback.

Jurassic Trail

July 17 | 1:00 PM

Dinosaur-themed activity supporting the Summer Reading theme through interactive exploration and play.

Minecraft Archaeology

July 20 | 1:00 PM

Hands-on program blending archaeology concepts with Minecraft-inspired activities.

Book Club

July 21 | 12:00 PM

Monthly discussion group for adult readers.

Genealogy Basics

July 23 | 2:00 PM

Introductory program focused on family history research and genealogy resources.

Community Conversations

July 27 | 5:30 PM

Public conversation focused on accessibility needs and community input as part of the library's accessibility grant work.

Carrabelle Branch Programs

Ribbon Wands

July 2 | 2:00 PM

Creative craft activity where participants make colorful ribbon wands.

American Flag Key Chains

July 7 | 2:00 PM

Hands-on craft program where participants make American flag-inspired key chains.

OneBlood Blood Bus

July 9 | 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Community blood drive hosted at the Carrabelle Branch through OneBlood.

Unusual American Roadside Attractions

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July 14 | 2:00 PM

Interactive family program featuring Australian music, storytelling, audience participation, and cultural education.

Build a Volcano

July 16 | 1:00 PM

Hands-on STEAM activity where participants build and learn about volcanoes.

Fossil Making

July 22 | 1:00 PM

Hands-on activity where participants create fossil-inspired projects while learning about prehistoric preservation.

Local Trivia

July 24 | 5:00 PM

Community trivia program encouraging local knowledge, friendly competition, and social engagement.

Chairman Jones speaking, there was nothing, commissioners, but informational items on Director Polous and Director Roundtree report. It is all informational. But now I will say that is a lot of information for the library. There is a lot going on there, but and one thing I want to make sure we mention before we go on, the library was able to help this last week in an area that is not a typical library function. So FWC, we are having some issues with residents trying to do the Apalachicola Bay Harvester's license and get everything done because it has to be done electronically. So, we were able to, with the library, Miss Roundtree agreed to help and staff it to do so. They we published put out on social media that anybody still needed help trying to get their license. Go get to the library, and they would help them with a computer or whatever it took to sign on. Try to get their license straightened out and make sure they are going to get their license. And they were able to do that for I guess two or three days. So, for all of those they helped, that had to be a big difference. And that was your local public library. So, I want to give them thanks for that. Mr. Moron speaking, yes, a lot of props, Commissioner Amison will jump in. Also, FWC met him at the end of a meeting. He called me. I called Whitney, and she said, "Michael, I got this, and she took it and she ran with it. And I appreciate that. Even to the poster you guys have seen around town on social, that that was all her. And again, as we get Commissioner Ward towards this property tax discussion, I know in bigger urban cities, you know, areas, the library has a role in Franklin County. That role totally different. I will Commission Amison, and I will let you jump in on that. It is it really is. It means a library means a lot. It is more of a community assistance location because they do a whole lot for the

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public. That is way beyond the call of any other library you would see. Again, in a city myself, big city area. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I think I have been saying that for a pretty good while. That you know, when you go to essential services, not essential quality of life, how you going to do that when the budget stuff comes talking up here? Because the library does so much for our community, and this is an example of it. Mr. Moron speaking, I guess I am trying to figure out how many people they thought should have already been signed up that were not when they talked to you last week? Commissioner Amison speaking, no, sir. They were just to recap. Wednesday, I was at the partnership meeting last Wednesday. When I left the meeting, Captain Nims and Miss Morgan Eason with FWC approached me and said they had some issues that me potentially helped them with. You know they had so many not beating up on our folks, but I am one of them. Everybody waits to the last minute to renew their CLS, solar products license, and everything, and was getting a real. They were getting bottled up basically. They could not. You know, have enough one-on-one. So, I said, "Yeah, let me talk with Michael. He got with Miss Roundtree, and we do not need to leave out Miss Boone. By the way, Tiffany Boone went over from the building department and was instrumental in helping people get signed up. They just-they were in panic mode, really, because they were wanting to make sure that everybody had the opportunity to sign up. Tuesday was the deadline, June 30. That is really all of it in a nutshell. To be honest with you, and I do not know how many people that they did not have renew at that time, and it is not just oyster. I mean, it is saltwater product license. You know, it is everything. But you know, heck, y'all see me in here? It took me 20 minutes to get all my technology turned on. I am one of those, you know, computer challenged. So, I understand. I understand what we are what we are dealing with there. So, but I think I think it was a good thing. I see it on social media. I see Whitney and them. They all did a great job. I will get a follow up on that with FWC and let y'all know.

Chairman Jones speaking, Ms. Cilano from IFAS the IFAS director also did not have any action items. So again, all these boards, commissioners, if you have any questions for any of these individuals, you can contact them one on one. All their stuff is informational, so we're not going to go through all that. The next person in the room is Mr. Steve Kirshenbaum, Interim Airport Manager. Sir, please come forward.

f. Sharon Cilano -- IFAS Director

June 2026 Extension Services Updates

County Extension Director (CED) continued making community connections and completing a needs assessment to develop extension programming. CED assisted several homeowners and Franklin County with horticultural needs. CED provided a letter of support for RiseReady: Empowering Coastal Youth to LEAD for grant proposal lead by University of Florida and previously approved by Franklin County BOCC. CED began surveying for citrus greening and other citrus diseases throughout Franklin County as part of a larger research project through University of Florida. CED is partnering with other Sea Grant agents throughout the Gulf on an oyster monitoring grant, more information to come. CED is partnering with OysterCorps for workforce development grant opportunity.

Action Items:

- None

Informational Items:

- ♣ Conferences/Workshops:

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

- Purpose: trained in Books and Cooks reading literacy and healthy eating habits

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- programming to be offered to eligible Franklin County 4th-5th grade families
 - o Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE) 6/22/26-6/25/26
 - Purpose: trained in Apalachicola Bay Estuary and educational programming
 - o EmpowerU! Florida 6/10/26
 - Purpose: pre-training for civic engagement programming available through University of Florida on the county level
 - ♣ Events:
 - o Storm Ready Eastpoint 6/12/26 (outreach booth)
 - o Jefferson and Leon Counties 4H Day Camp 6/5/26 (educator)
 - o Liberty and Calhoun Counties 4H Coastal Day Camp at St. Joe Buffer Reserve 6/11/26 (educator)
 - ♣ Upcoming Travel:
 - o Santa Rosa 4H Camp 7/22/26 (educator)
 - Purpose: provide oyster and marine science education to teen summer camp groups and gain experience with summer camps for future Franklin County opportunities

g. Steve Kirschenbaum – Interim Airport Manager

Action Items

- Rural Infrastructure Grant Submission:

The application deadline is July 13, 2026. The AOED recommends to the County to resubmit the Job Growth Grant previously submitted in RIF format before the deadline. Traci Buzbee is working on it now along with the Airport manager's input.
- The AOED recommends that all economic development projects for the airport be submitted to and qualified by the EDC and then back to the AOED for recommendation.

Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, we had an incredible month this month. Here is a little addition to our airport. If we could show this to the commissioners. Now we are going to look like we belong at the airport, myself, and staff. We have airport uniforms that came out. I am wearing one today. I feel like a human. But anyway, was going to say terrific month. I got a phone call on one of my action items. I got a not phone call, an email this past Sunday, and it was actually from Secretary Kelly, and he said, "Where are you guys? And I am like, "What are you talking about? He goes, "The job growth grant didn't go through. Get this rural infrastructure grant through, and before I could do anything, he ported it over to the rural infrastructure grant. I called Michael up. I called Bill Williams up, and it turns out it is airport infrastructure. So, Michael said, "Get on it. Get it done. Tracy Busby is now working on it, and I have a real good feeling something good might come of this. The other thing, so basically, what the AOED, we put it before the AOED, and the AOED recommends the county to resubmit this grant to the RAF format and allow Tracy Busby to do it. It is on her desk, and I realized with economic development, anything that I sat down and I talked to the airport manager at ECP Panama City, and I said, "How do you work at Rebecca with your economic development? And he would have said to me, "Anything that's economic development goes to her, and she pursues it, and they qualify it, and it comes back to the airport manager, and then it goes to the airport board. Anything that's airport infrastructure is going to be

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me and Avcon and the airport board. So that is where I am at right now. I am trying to get Michael to sit down with me and Bill and just identify our lanes so we could work good together because I do not want to have any issues and I had an issue last week. But what I am looking for right now is this is the answer to this rural infrastructure grant and I am going to touch on our FDOT meeting after this. But we are going to be bringing income into this airport, additional income. So, what I am asking is, if we could get this rural infrastructure grant done, potentially there is 3.5 million that will come into that airport towards the hangar complex and towards potentially a terminal building. Chairman Jones speaking, so what is the actual? I know what you said, Steve, but what is the actual from reading what is here? And I am sorry, I went to trying to cut you off. From reading what's here, what is the actual ask from us? Because it looks like it is still going to have to go back to the airport board. Is that correct? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, no, the airport board is good with it. They are recommending to you to have Tracy resubmit. Chairman Jones speaking, to apply for the rural infrastructure? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, yeah, to apply for the rural infrastructure. Chairman Jones speaking, and that will be done by motion and vote of this board? Mr. Moron speaking, yeah, to move from one type of application to another. Chairman Jones speaking that is what I was trying to ask. Okay, thank you. All right. So, what is the pleasure of the board with doing that? **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom to approve. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, oh, and letting you guys know, as soon as that email went back, his staff just he advised his staff to move forward on this. So, I am keeping my fingers crossed. Okay, next thing we talked about economic development at the airport board, and the airport board is making a recommendation that all economic development projects go to Bill Williams and the EDC. And it does not mean that I will not knock in a door and say, hey, would you like to come to the airport? If I find somebody like that, I am going to say, 'Hey, Bill, take your group. Here is this person. But I think it will be fabulous. It is going to take a real load off the airport board and off me to perform my job a lot more effectively. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, so we have a recommendation from the airport board to really let economic development be done by the Economic Development Council? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, yes. Chairman Jones speaking, and then if there is something that is going to be economic development that affects the airport, it will then come back to the airport when it's time for them to look at it. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, yeah, because we just have to make sure. In fact, only thing I would ask the Economic Development Board and you is that before they pursue forward on a project if they could ask if this fits that this will fit the airport. So, if we have that econ that industrial area that we're going to be proposing, there could be a use on there that could interfere with the airport if somebody wants to build a sky needle or whatever. So, or if somebody wants to have a plant that is going to generate tons of smoke. Chairman Jones speaking, please do not get in front of us to talk about stuff. We just have to know; I just want to make sure what we are actually voting on. That is what I was trying to call. So, all economic development goes to them. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, yes. Chairman Jones speaking, so we would be separating economic development from the airport advisory board. What is the pleasure of the board? **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom and Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present the Board approved. Motion carried 5-0.** Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, what I would suggest, it is up to you guys, but I would change the name of the thing instead of AOED to Airport Board or whatever you guys decide you want to do with it. Chairman Jones speaking, we can address that at a future meeting. That is not a problem. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, okay, great. Big thing happened this week. I arranged a meeting with all the FDOT hierarchy to come down to the airport and discuss our airport commissioner. Commission well, Commissioner Amison was there. We had Afcon was there, and we had Ted, our former airport manager, and we had Scott Kelly there. And there was all the hierarchy from FDOT. Bill Williams was there. Bill performed incredibly. The presentation on where we are at went over great. Our new

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FDOT licensing thing that we did about the staging area was very well received. At the meeting, they advised us that our 2.5-million-dollar appropriation that we applied for. Thank you, Commissioner Jones. We got 1.25 million of it. What it does is it affects and asks for this year if we do anything that is an appropriation, they look at what we had on the calendar for this year, and we had a runway rehab on the calendar for this year. They replaced it with the hangar complex, which I am totally thrilled to death with. Now we have coming into July not 800,000 we have \$2 million to proceed forward on the hangar complex. The hangar complex will go up. Avcon is going to prepare an RFP for this, and hopefully we are going to break ground in the next 60 days, and we will start having revenue come in from that. And the more important part is we had another 1.5 million on the agenda for next year, and now we have another 1.5 million towards the hangar complex on next year. So, we have 3.5 million dollars right now for this hangar complex. It is going to go. It is going to happen. The other thing was at that meeting, I discussed with FDOT, the county is basically a little bit above break even with that airport, maybe 100-130,000 in the black annually, and I said we have AC units that need to be upgraded, not repaired. I said we have fencing that is destroyed. I said we have equipment that has gone down, and I hit them with a list of a tractor, of a brush hog with a mulching bit, fixing the fence on Powell Rivers Road, and replacing all the HVAC units in the other hangars, and they agreed that on next year's ask, and I got to run this by the airport board, but that they will take 350,000 of that money and earmark it towards those things, so it doesn't have to come out of the general fund with the airport, which I think will be fabulous. Chairman Jones speaking, yeah, please, anything you are going to do like that, please make sure you bring to them before you bring it to us. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, what? Oh, okay. I am sorry. Chairman Jones speaking, no, you are good. I am just saying, make sure, like you are saying, anything that's going to be maybe something that needs to be voted on. Please make sure they are voting on it first, presented to them first. Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, all right, I will bring it back to them. Also, at that meeting, another big thing that we were going to make a big mistake. This master plan that we are working on Avcon will have a contract back to you next week, week after. But the master plans the AOED is working on is looking at industrial property and potentially closing runway 1836 to give us a lot of dry property at the airport. That was discussed at the meeting, and what the airport manager of ECP suggested to me, and what the director of District Three Aviation with the FDOT said: Do not remove that property from the airport. Designate it industrial use. If you designate it industrial use, you will be able to attract a ton of clients because you can lease the right to build those industrial projects on the site. That revenue from the lease revenue will go back into the airport to help support operations, and the capital improvements that they build at the end of their lease term will revert to the county. So, it could be an incredible, and we will present it to you when we finish this whole master plan, but they were very supportive of it, and they said, "If you pull forward with this, we're never going to fund that runway. They said, "And if you move forward with this, we will be 100% supportive, and that the FDOT will realize Franklin County is being proactive at their airport. Chairman Jones speaking, all right, but that is something we will come back at a later time. Is anything else we need to discuss today? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking no, I had Jennifer from Florida's Great Northwest contact me a couple of weeks ago about a stakeholders meeting. I said our new economic development director is Bill Williams. I forwarded over to her. He ran an incredible stakeholders meeting, and I think I will work very well with Bill. We just have to get it together. That is all. And any other questions for me? Chairman Jones speaking, any questions, commissioners? Mr. Kirschenbaum speaking, I appreciate everything, commissioners. And finally, we are going to see additional revenue come into the airport. And one thing, just keep in the back of your mind: the airport is not ad valorem. The airport is supporting itself. All right. Thank you. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you, sir.

Recap of FDOT Meeting & Strategic Airport Initiatives

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I want to provide a recap of our recent meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). I am extremely proud of our team's performance and collaboration. In attendance representing the county were Commissioner Amison, EDC Coordinator Bill Williams, John Collins from our engineering firm AVCON, Airport Maintenance Specialist Scott Kelly, and Ted Mosteller representing the AOED. The FDOT attendees are on the attached agenda.

Key Takeaways & Funding Updates

Incidental Wish List: FDOT has committed to funding our incidental wish list next July, with the exception of the terminal building. Master Plan Revision: Our proposed master plan revision received overwhelming support from FDOT.

The Industrial Park Vision

A major highlight of the meeting was our vision to designate the eastern property of the airport for non-aviation industrial use. This represents an incredible economic opportunity for local businesses, the county, and the airport. By implementing long-term land leases—rather than removing or selling the property—both the tenant and the county benefit significantly:

Zero Upfront Land Costs: Incoming businesses face no upfront land purchase costs to establish themselves in the industrial park.

Logistical Advantage: Tenants will be adjacent to an active airport facility, allowing for rapid turnaround of personnel and product.

Economic Growth: The county gains direct benefits through job creation and regional economic development.

Immediate Revenue: Both the airport and the county benefit from steady lease revenue to help offset current airport operating expenses.

Long-Term Capital Assets: At the expiration of the lease terms, all capital improvements revert to county ownership, allowing the county to re-lease the facilities at substantially higher market rates.

Retained Ownership: The property remains an airport asset indefinitely, ensuring a growing revenue stream to offset operational expenses as the facility expands.

Next Steps

Please note that all of these initiatives are subject to the official AOED recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners and subsequent county approval of the final plan.

Our immediate next steps are to complete the master plan revision and finalize the wetlands delineation. This will ensure all airport property is clearly designated for future use. Once this comprehensive plan is finalized, we will hand it off to the Economic Development Council (EDC) to spearhead the implementation, marketing, and recruitment of aerospace and industrial prospects.

The full details and content of the FDOT meeting are attached for your review.

Discussion Items

- FDOT Lease Addendum: The primary lease agreement has been fully executed by the County and the FDOT and the accompanying addendum has been approved. I will meet with FDOT representatives soon to review the site

- Starlink Installation & Virtower Relocation: The hardware has arrived and installation is scheduled to wrap up by the end of the week. Once active, I will coordinate with Virtower to relocate their

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equipment to the new network.

- Regional Stakeholders Meeting: I attended an EDC meeting on June 25th, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the School District Board Room (85 School St., Eastpoint). A major portion of this session served as a stakeholders meeting focusing on Franklin County and KAAF initiatives. The agenda includes reviewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) involving SelectFlorida and FloridaCommerce (details attached).

Informational Items

- Airport Staff Uniforms: New airport uniforms are en route. This update will establish a cohesive, professional appearance for all on-site KAAF staff (visual attached).

Tom P. Haney Aviation Academy Updates:

- Highway 98 Signage: Haney Technical College has successfully moved forward with requesting FDOT signage on US Highway 98.

- CFASP Fall Meeting Hosting: I spoke with the Chair of the Continuing Florida Aviation System Planning (CFASP) committee, and Avcon has formally requested us to host the fall quarterly meeting at KAAF's new Haney campus. Haney leadership is fully supportive and will actively help with the logistics. *Note: Hosting this meeting represents an incredible advocacy opportunity, bringing top-tier FDOT leadership directly to our site to view KAAF's infrastructure progress firsthand.*

Infrastructure & Maintenance

- FBO Building HVAC Remediation: Multiple A/C units recently failed in the FBO building, drawing initial replacement estimates near \$24,000. Upon inspection by the HVAC vendor currently servicing the Haney building, it was discovered that the units had neglected maintenance for decades, clogged solid with dirt and the drain lines were improperly routed uphill.

- Resolution: One unit was successfully rehabilitated and its drainage corrected. The second unit was abandoned and is being replaced by a brand-new mini-split system left behind by the Air Force following the Balloon Project. Total project cost was reduced to under \$3,000.

- Preventative Action: To prevent future emergency expenditures, I am establishing routine service contracts on all airport HVAC equipment as systems are replaced or rehabilitated.

- Airfield Pavement Maintenance: KAAF has secured professional-grade runway and taxiway sealant materials to address immediate safety and joint-sealing needs in-house.

- Haney Building Roof Replacement: I attended the Triumph Gulf Coast board meeting and spoke on behalf of the county. We were awarded the \$70,000 required for the Haney site roof replacement. The project will move to an open bid process shortly.

- Wetland Delineation & Permitting: Our environmental consultant is currently drafting cost estimates for the wetland delineation and permitting required for the Runway 24 Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) and approach surface. I anticipate receiving these figures by mid-July and also doing the delineation for the masterplan revision.

- Airfield Remarketing Project: The project to clean and remark nearly 3 million square feet of airport pavement is nearing completion. Progress was briefly delayed due to recent inclement weather and

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minor equipment breakdowns, but operations are back on track.

● FDOT Leadership meeting: Fri the 26th 10am multiple FDOT representatives from the region are visiting the airport. They have asked me to prepare a program to bring them up to speed and to focus on our immediate needs. In attendance will be county staff, the EDC Coordinator, the AOED Chair and Commissioner Amison followed by lunch at the Half shell dockside.

Marketing

- TDC Collateral Coordination: I am scheduling a meeting with the Tourist Development Council (TDC) to possibly design and distribute two sets of dedicated marketing rack cards:
 - Standard promotional rack cards for KAAF airport services.
 - Event-specific rack cards highlighting the upcoming Air Show for placement at high-traffic regional tourist destinations.
- Air Show
 - * All performer and support service contracts have been officially issued.
 - Logistics are locking into place: a partnership with a regional barrier company has secured 1,000 highway cones and 2,000 feet of freestanding pedestrian fencing.
 - Inviting the industry as well as the public
 - The Volunteer Chair is actively finalizing the day-of-event operations plan.

8. Erin Griffith – Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator

Action Items:

None

Mrs. Griffith presented the item from Franklin County Sheriff's Office at this time.

Chairman Jones speaking, Mr. Moron, is Miss Griffith on? She don't have any action items. Does she need to do any updates or something? Mr. Moron speaking, yeah, updates on the project she does. Let's see here, Erin. Yep, there she goes. Mrs. Griffith speaking, good morning, commissioners. Mr. Moron speaking, so Erin, before that you start talking, they're here whispering. They can't believe you don't have action items. That's what they are here talking about. Mrs. Griffith speaking, oh, yeah. My apologies on that. I had a huge report last time, and have actually been deeply immersed in the budget process for the last two weeks. Chairman Jones speaking, it's all good. Mrs. Griffith speaking, but I do have some informational items for you all, and actually, I do have the late add addition for the item that Renee was originally going to present for the sheriff's department, and I can proceed with that one late add action item if you all actually want to do the call for public comment to get that, or actually, since it was scheduled, Michael, do we still need to do that, even though it's being, it's a late ad on my report, but I believe it was previously scheduled. Mr. Moron speaking, I think it was. I think it was in the packet when you put it out at noon. It was so that's truly not a late add, right? Mrs. Griffith speaking, okay, all right, commissioners. Well, the first action item then will be in June of 2021. The board approved the grant award agreement for a five-year grant to interface mapping data within the region and leverage technology to

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enhance response time, provide additional mapping detail, and services to process incoming 911 calls. The county also approved DataMark sole source vendor contract for the regional project at that time. Attached is the 2026-2027 renewal for the grant-funded GIS mapping services with vendor DataMark for \$49,209.97. Board action to approve the contract renewal with existing GIS mapping vendor DataMark. Chairman Jones speaking, and Mrs. Erin, is that paid for in 911 funds? Mrs. Griffith speaking, it is. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, alright. What's the pleasure of the board? Do you have any questions? **Motion to approve by Commissioner Croom, seconded by Commissioner Amison.** Any discussion, commissioners? All in favor? Opposed? That's unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Informational Items/Project Updates

All right, Mrs. Erin, go ahead. Mrs. Griffith speaking, alright, commissioners, I do have some board informational items for you. And first, Franklin County would like to extend appreciation to state legislators and the county's lobbyists for pushing forward the legislative appropriation request in this year's session. The governor signed the budget yesterday, and the following requests were included in the state's budget: the SGI Volunteer Fire Department fire truck. The state approved \$1 million in down payment assistance towards the \$2.1 million cost to replace the department's 25 year old aerial fire truck. The proposed replacement will be a 2029 E1 100 foot aerial platform fire truck. The Alligator Point Saint Teresa Volunteer Fire Department fire truck \$624,791. This will provide the department with a 2,500 gallon tanker pumper built on a Freightliner M2-106 two-door cab and chassis, equipped with a 1,250 gallons per minute hail pump system. This truck will also have wildland firefighting capabilities for the rural and forested areas. Sylvester Williams Park Energy Efficient Ballfield Lighting, \$295,000 in assistance to install energy-efficient storm-rated lighting at Sylvester Williams Park, similar to the county's other ball fields, to improve safety, accessibility, and year-round usability at a neighborhood park location within the city limits of Apalachicola. The comprehensive plan update: \$104,900 in support to fully update the county's comprehensive plan to ensure alignment with current statutory guidance, planning standards, and community priorities. Recent changes in state requirements necessitate a comprehensive revision. Bob Sykes cuts planning assistant to states program cost share Army Corps study, \$150,000 to provide the 50% phase one non-federal cost share for a shoreline modeling and sediment transport study focused on Bob Sykes cut and the surrounding areas of Saint George Island. This project would be completed through a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through its Planning Assistance Estates Program. The Apalachicola Tea Hangar Project, or say 1.25 million, towards the construction of 26 new T hangars and five new box hangars that will increase the quantity of based aircraft to increase the airport's revenue from aircraft storage fees, hangar rents, and increase fuel sales. The county's RIF job growth fund grant application that is currently in process will also go towards the construction costs of the same project, and the reappropriation of the East Point Volunteer Fire Department truck for \$577,440. The delivery of this truck will not occur until April of 2027 which was past the original funding allocation due date for the 2025 funds. But the legislature did reappropriate funds for that project, and then we also have some other board information. Just your miscellaneous project updates for the SGI stormwater project. The roadway resurfacing is mostly complete. There are two areas remaining to be completed. That's East Pine Street and East Gorrie. Both will be resurfaced sometime after this holiday weekend. The Margaret Key Library resurfacing project. The pre-construction meeting will be held on site with the contractor, engineer, and county and city library staff on Tuesday, July 7. The Island View Park FRDAP Project. The notice to proceed was issued on June 25, and we should begin to see construction activity there soon. The East Point Nature Center project phase one park improvements are nearing completion, and the park setting will be available for public use during the fireworks this evening in East Point. In the Eighth Street East Dune walkover, the project inspection for final completion

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was conducted at the end of last week, and I have also attached the budget workshop schedule below, and I'll be emailing you all my informational report actually in just a few minutes. Chairman Jones speaking, sounds good. Tired yet? Mrs. Griffith speaking, very tired. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you, Mrs. Erin. A lot of this honestly wouldn't be happening without you. So thank you for your help making sure that things are taken care of and presented. I know sometimes you probably get tired of us hounding you about when are we doing this, and you know trying to move it all at one time. But for not only handling, helping handle the business of Franklin County and its residents, but doing so in a gracious manner, we do appreciate that. Does anyone have any questions for Erin while she's still here? Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I don't have a question, Erin, but we were at our conference last week, and the representative is it Mike from Musco Lighting said to tell you hello. I told him I'd let you know. That's all. Thank you, Mrs. Erin. We appreciate you. Mrs. Griffith speaking, thank you all. Chairman Jones speaking, so, Mr. Moron, before we go to the other reports and presentations, I'll take a short recess.

The Board recessed at 10:04 am and reconvened at 10:15 am.

9. Other Reports/Presentations/Updates/Requests

a. Attorney David A. Theriaque -- Code Enforcement Draft Ordinance Review

Franklin County Board of County Commissioners now back in session. Up next in our agenda, we are going to have Attorney David Theriaque, and we are talking about the code enforcement draft ordinance review. Attorney Theriaque speaking, good morning, commissioners. What I would like to do this morning is walk through the code enforcement ordinance draft dated June 15, 2016. There were a series of questions that I had embedded in the draft that I provided to y'all. So, if I could just walk through those and get the commissioner's direction on how they want to proceed. On page three, there is reference to the special magistrate and how the special magistrate is appointed. After I circulated this draft, Mr. Shuler provided me with Ordinance 22-10 which provides the process that you currently use to appoint special magistrate. It is by both the board, and sometimes you can designate that to the county attorney. Would you like to continue with that process for the designation of special magistrates? Chairman Jones speaking, for me, I think that is worked so far in the way we designate. I do not think we have had any issues, have we? With the magistrate part of it, yeah, I think it is worked out fine. That I okay. I have never heard anything different. Attorney Theriaque speaking, I will make that tweak on page four. I am going to skip this and come back to it because I think this is going to be a longer discussion than most of my other items it involves condemnation, so I would rather get through the easy ones and then circle back to condemnation, if that's okay, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Jones speaking, yes, please. Attorney Theriaque speaking, on page six, it is subsection 10. You will see that all of my sections have an X because I do not know what number this would be included in your code of ordinances. So right now, I have just got it as X, and then the appropriate section number, subsection, and subsection B under adoption of property maintenance regulations. It currently states that this article shall not apply to owner-occupied dwelling units, but rather shall only apply to commercial property and non-owner-occupied dwelling units, and that was from the Wakulla County Code Enforcement Ordinance. Do you want, as a board, to not capture owner-occupied dwelling units for the property maintenance regulations, or do you want to include them? Chairman Jones speaking, yeah, I do not know how the board feels about that. Commissioner Ward speaking, so, Mr. Chairman, obviously owner-occupied dwelling. I know that does this pertain to the Florida statute about homesteaded properties, or. Attorney Theriaque speaking, no. I actually do not believe it does. I do not think it is a homestead question. It looks like there was a policy decision made by the Wakulla County

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Board to not require owner-occupied dwelling units to meet the requirements of the property maintenance regulations, and those are set forth on the following five or six paragraphs. I do not know what the basis for the exclusion was, and that is a policy call for y'all. You can capture owner occupied. It is not a homestead issue. Chairman Jones speaking, do you have any weighing in with that, or maybe that is something we need to look at a little bit further, Mr. David? Attorney Theriaque speaking, yes, sir. I will move on. On page seven, there was, Commissioner Amison had been working on the draft before I got involved, and their efforts they ended up striking 8.028 bottom of seven, but there was a note that said we do need to include language regarding accessible, unsafe exterior electrical. I do not know what that means. Commissioner Amison speaking, yes, you know, like there's exposed electrical outlets and whatnot. Steve is the one that actually had brought that up. Is he zooming by chance? I did not even. Attorney Theriaque speaking, if not, commissioner, I can call him tomorrow and get clarity on that and insert some new language. Commissioner Amison speaking, okay, that was that was what the meat of that was. Though was just more from an exposed, you know, if you got a breaker box, something out there that is in an unsafe manner. What you know? Chairman Jones speaking, I think that come about mostly turning through it from my memory. I think that came out mostly from we were looking at not necessarily just everybody, but I think structures that maybe had been damaged in a storm or some kind of event, and now there is exposed electrical. We wanted to have some way to address that. I think was what it was about. So, it was not just about electrical in general, like going and looking for boxes per se, but for something that has been damaged, it's got exposed electrical. That gives us another, you know, another point of reference to try to use code enforcement. Attorney Theriaque speaking, got it. I know what to do with it now. So, thank you. On page eight, under subsection 15, inoperable vehicles, there was a question during one of my discussions with Commissioner Amison and others that we wanted to capture abandoned vehicles. The definition of an inoperable vehicle captures abandoned vehicles, so this section would address and would preclude abandoned vehicles, no more than one on the property. And subsection 16 we will loop back to this one. This is the condemnation issue about whether the county wants to have condemnation authority. On page nine, there was a question about folks hooking up to water lines. I believe subsection E on page nine captures somebody hooking up to a water line without a permit. Jumping ahead to page 12. At the top of page 12, section 18, I highlighted. when or where there has been cessation of normal construction of any structure for a period of more than two years, the code official shall order the owner to demolish and remove. At a discussion with Mr. Shuler and Mr. Moron, they recommend reducing that time frame to one year rather than two years, and we wanted to get the board's direction. Chairman Jones speaking, do y'all have any input on that? Commissioner Ward speaking, no, I am okay with the one year if everybody else is. Chairman Jones speaking, no, I think one year is sufficient. Attorney Theriaque speaking, okay, I can make that tweak. Section 20 below was the question regarding who appoints the special magistrate, and I got my direction earlier, so I can make that tweak. Yeah. I have got direction there. All right, the last big issue. Let us go back to page eight, if you do not mind, and it's a heading for dangerous buildings, the bottom of page eight, and embedded in this are this portion of the code enforcement ordinance. Is a condemnation process, and it's my understanding that that's a sensitive issue for the board, and there may be differing opinions on how or even if the county commission wants to have condemnation authority? So, I wanted to get that bigger picture direction from y'all. Chairman speaking, commissioners do y'all have any suggestions? Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I do know that this was kind of an issue. I think with some of the current structures we have in the county, particularly there was one in my district, and there was a question of, you know, whose responsibility is the deem it unsafe? Do we need an engineer and all that? So, what this language would provide? Correct me if I am wrong. That is that the code official looking at Florida Code, Florida Building Code, that they can deem the structure unsafe and to ask that it be demolish. Is that correct? Attorney Theriaque speaking, yes. Commissioner Ward speaking,

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okay, I am okay with that. Chairman Jones speaking, I think that is consistent with state law as well. Commissioner Ward speaking, correct, and Florida statute. Attorney Theriaque speaking, well, if you are good with condemnation, there's a couple tweaks that I'll make on the on the next version, so you can all take a look at the final, and we I need to draft an ordinance to adopt the code enforcement ordinance, the language to adopt it. The other issue that is out there is Gulf County has an ordinance which they refer to as the nuisance abatement ordinance. I believe Commissioner Chairman Jones may have provided this to either me or Mr. Moron, and Gulf County has done something that provides for a notice of assessment for lot maintenance and cleanup, and what they have done, I haven't seen done before, and I am not an expert on special districts. I don't know if Mr. Shuler has more knowledge than I do on special districts, but essentially, what Gulf County has done is stated that the entire county is a special district, and therefore, if the county incurs costs regarding correcting a nuisance such as a damaged structure that's no longer safe, they have a process of imposing the costs that they've incurred to correct that nuisance or remove that nuisance, and then assess it on the next county tax bill. I would need to do a little more research on special districts if the county's interested in following the approach that is set forth in Gulf County Ordinance 2020-08, unless Attorney Shuler has some thoughts on that approach. Chairman Jones speaking, before you do, Attorney Shuler, I want to clarify something, Attorney Theriaque. The reason I forwarded that to Mr. Moron to forward to you wasn't necessarily about the special district idea, but it was about what this board was struggling with at our last meeting, about if we have a property that's been before the magistrate and they've been ordered to clean it up and they refuse to do so, how the county might address it, in particular, the idea of being able to use a non-ad valorem assessment as opposed to doing a lien on the property. We have several that are in in the hopper right now, so to speak, and this \$18,000 is a drop in the bucket to what we are looking at. So, I get what you are saying, but I want to clarify from my standpoint, it is up to this board. But I was never trying to push for the special district idea if that is what it takes to do non-ad valorem assessment. Let us have that discussion. But it was for that singular idea of non-ad valorem assessment. So, I just want to make sure that is clarified. Attorney Theriaque speaking, certainly, and I was not suggesting that you were advocating one way or the other. I was just identifying how I got this, and the approach that they are using by putting as an assessment can only work if you designate the county as a whole as a special district. So, it is a chicken and egg. Mr. Shuler, do you have any thoughts on designating an entire county a special district? Attorney Shuler speaking, I would have to do the same research that David's going to have to do. We have not done the only special district that we have are the MSBU for Fire and Rescue, and we have a consultant right now. In fact, we have a phone conference with her and the consultant and the attorney for neighbors Giblin, who is drafting the ordinance to update the MSBU ordinance tomorrow at 10 a.m. I can ask that question of Ms. Heather Insanosa to see if she has something off the top of her head, maybe it can save us a little time. But one way or the other, if either Mr. Theriaque or myself would have to do research on that special district collection methodology, I would also let the board know that the special magistrate's order in the case that you just referenced the special magistrate's order specifically refers to if the county has to clean the property, then it would file a lien pursuant to Chapter 162 and right now we don't have any ordinance in place to do anything other than that. Attorney Theriaque speaking, and what we could do, Mr. Chairman, is if you are comfortable with the code enforcement ordinance that I have drafted, and I will make the tweaks pursuant to our discussion, circulate a final, and then draft the ordinance adopting this code enforcement ordinance. And we could if you want to proceed that way. We could get this code enforcement ordinance in place and effective while we are researching this special district assessment approach. And if it works, we can always amend the code enforcement ordinance to incorporate what Gulf County is doing. But if you use that approach, you will actually get something on the books for code enforcement while we are looking at this special district assessment approach. Commissioner Amison speaking, I did. This is you mentioned Section 162. If there is a lien

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foreclosure clause in there, if I am not mistaken. Attorney Theriaque speaking, I believe so. Commissioner Amison speaking, yes, then to go that we could foreclose within three months or after three months. Attorney Shuler speaking, we have to go to the special magistrate at the conclusion of three months and request permission to foreclose the lien. That would be as to non-homestead properties. Homestead properties are treated a little bit differently, in my opinion. But yes, after three months, we can ask the special magistrate to foreclose. Commissioner Amison speaking, and that is already on our books. Attorney Shuler speaking that is correct. Yes. Okay. Chairman Jones speaking, alright. Anything else Attorney Theriaque? Attorney Theriaque speaking, no, I'll happy to answer any questions that you might have. Chairman Jones speaking, commissioners, do you have any additional questions? Commissioner Croom speaking, yeah, I got a question on the condemnation determining. So with what we currently have, the code official is, no one can issue that.

Attorney Theriaque speaking, yes, there's a couple steps that are not in the code enforcement ordinance that you have available to you pursuant to Florida statutes, there is an ability to get a warrant to inspect the property, and there is a process. I forget the statutory provision. I can dig it up again. I don't have it in front of me. And one of the things that your building official informed me is he would like to have an engineer or whatever other specialty is necessary to inspect the structure, rather than the building official making that call. He would like to have somebody, a structural engineer, inspect the property, make a recommendation, and then he has an expert who has provided basically competent, substantial evidence that the structure is not safe. That it's hard to do that from the outside looking in, and there is a process that is available to us. I didn't need to lay it out in the code enforcement ordinance because it's statutory already. Commissioner Croom speaking, and that was my second question about you know should we have an engineer's report? Would you just kind of just answer that? That's what a building official kind of. Attorney Theriaque speaking, yes sir. Commissioner Croom speaking, yeah, that was a second. So right now, the code official has the authority to condemn. My question is: Should the special magistrate be involved to make the final determination instead of having one single person having that authority? That's my question. Attorney Theriaque speaking, that's your call. Mr. Moron speaking, yeah. So what you're saying, Commissioner? Let me make sure I understand. You're saying, okay, so your building official, your engineer, your code enforcement officer, all have an opinion bring that back to the magistrate. Let him have the final say. Commissioner Croom speaking, that's what I'm asking. Mr. Moron speaking, I actually like that. Commissioner Amison speaking, we did discuss that, but I don't, I think we hit a roadblock with that, though, didn't we, Mr. Theriaque? As far as making it where it's the judge magistrate's call or decision on the condemnation? Attorney Theriaque speaking, I think you can set up a process where the code you take it to the special magistrate with the code official's recommendation to condemn with a engineering report that confirms the structure is unsafe, and I believe that the special magistrate would have the authority to basically state either you repair or remove. Chairman Jones speaking, so, does state law require an engineer's report because that comes at a cost? Attorney Theriaque speaking, yes, it does. And no, it does not, sir. It was, that was something as part of our discussion with your building official. Chairman Jones speaking, right. But if the state law allows him to make the determination, I don't know why we've agreed to spend several \$1,000 more just to back up his determination. Attorney Theriaque speaking, I think you and I don't want to put words in his mouth, but what I recall him saying is that without going inside the structure, he felt uncomfortable making that call without having somebody like. If we're going to say the building is structurally unsound, that a structural engineer would provide, I think a comfort level before the building official would enter an order to condemn. That was what I took away from our discussion. Commissioner Amison speaking, Mr. Chairman. It's more of a liability cushion. Commissioner Croom speaking, that's what I was thinking too. Chairman Jones speaking, we can't, we are looking at tax reduction. It is going to pass, and we need to find ways to not find ways to spend more money, but actually save money. That's my only determination. I mean, I'm one of five.

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I'm good with it. Commissioner Ward speaking, I do agree with you. Chairman Jones speaking, I think it's unnecessary and overreaching. Mr. Moron speaking, let me ask a question and just be say the devil's advocate. So, if the building official stands because he he's not allowed on the property, so if he stands off the property on the road and says, "What I can't tell if this is structure is good or not, the board is good with it? Commissioner Ward speaking, well, Mr. Chairman, correct me if I am wrong. Isn't in the ordinance we just discussed to get some kind of special permission if the code official says that it's deemed unsafe that allows them some certain warranty to I think? Attorney Shuler speaking the statutes allows for an inspection warrant that there's an application process to the court to request that, and it's as I recall, it's a pretty tight time deadline once you begin the process to receive the warrant. But yes, I'm generally familiar with that inspection warrant process, and it's something that I've looked at before. But I think we either need permission or we need the inspection warrant. We can't just go in. Commissioner Amison speaking, so the way this process would tentatively work would be the code enforcement official would get a warrant and then would get a, I guess I'm assuming our building official to go with them. Attorney Shuler speaking, I would need to reread that statute. I mean, it's a fairly fact-specific process as to who applies and how you apply, and the information to be provided. I would need to re-familiarize myself with the specifics. But as long as we follow the statutory process, regardless of which official it is, we'll be okay. Mr. Moron speaking, so we're trying to get a search warrant. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, look up Florida Building Code, and there is law that states that either the code, the building official does have the power to deem a home or structure unsafe. Yes, could demolish it. Attorney Theriaque speaking, yes. Commissioner Ward speaking, then a code enforcement officer can also do the same, not per Florida building code, but per ordinance or what have you, as long as they have permission to enter the property. Because I do agree with the chairman. I mean, we're trying to. I mean, this is a fairly new department. Is this? We worked so hard to get to this point, and I hate to know that we might have to change it. But we're trying to save money here, not spend more money. So I feel like the easiest, and I don't know how our building official feels about. I know I've spoke to him about it before, but I mean I don't want to spend. I think our building official has just as much knowledge as an engineer to say, okay, well, and I know it might be different with pilings because I know a lot of our homes have pilings. Matter of fact, the one in my district right now is on pilings. Well, are the pilings structurally safe where all they have to do is tear the house portion off but leave the pilings? Well, they're exposed. The bottom's exposed from erosion, so I'm not an expert, but I would think that they're compromised if they're exposed. But again, I'm not a building official either. But I don't think you need an engineer to say, "Well, they're structurally unsound. I mean, I don't know what test did they do that our building official is not going to do. Do they have some sort of special test that they perform to determine if, say, for example, the pilings are structurally unsafe. Mr. Moron speaking, so let me ask. So now we're getting to, and I want to make sure I'm just following along here. So we are at the code enforcement officer saying, "Okay, I think this might be this building might be dangerous, you know, and then they get an opinion from the building official. Well, we get the warrant, whatever it is, to get access. He gives an opinion. We take that back to the magistrate for final determination. Is that where we somewhere are heading? Chairman Jones speaking, yeah. Commissioner Croom speaking, yeah that's the way. Commissioner Ward speaking, that way, you got three eyes looking on it. Mr. Moron speaking, yeah, I get that. I like that. Attorney Theriaque speaking, the section of Florida statutes, it's 933.20 and there's a process of going to court, and you have to meet certain criteria, and then a warrant. If the judge agrees that you've, the county has presented sufficient evidence to justify a warrant, that warrant is valid for 14 days to go inside the property. Chairman Jones speaking, well and too, if y'all remember. So, hopefully, we don't have another one of these. But after Hurricane Michael, we had several homes in the county that were past the 50% rule. That determination was not made by an engineer; was made by our building official. So they were saying they couldn't rebuild. So if you can't, we're having to follow

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that. It's passed down from the federal government to state thus, but we didn't have to hire engineers to make that determination. We did, but if we can tell them they can't rebuild, we certainly can tell them if it's unsafe. I mean, I just I don't see where that's a stretch. That's where I'm coming. I just, you know, I don't see where that's a problem. Commissioner Croom speaking, Mr. Chair, while you are talking about that. That's my other thing I highlighted about. You brought up the hurricanes is demolition. I guess right now, as it states, if construction stops more than two years, ordinance authorized demolition or boarding, correct? Chairman Jones speaking, just when we talked about moving that to one year earlier. Commissioner Croom speaking, okay, my question is on that is, what if the projects are being delayed by our hurricanes and everything? Commissioner Ward speaking, you're not thinking about that either. Commissioner Croom speaking, insurance disputes, litigation. Do we want to do hardship exemptions for that? Commissioner Amison speaking, we can take that, Mr. Chairman I am sorry, I had to interrupt you, but we could do that on a case-by-case basis. Could we not, Attorney Theriaque?

Attorney Theriaque speaking, right now, under Section 18 on page 12, there's a one-year window to complete. If they fail to, there is another sentence in that section that allows for an extension of another year, and it also allows that extension to be beyond a year, if approved by the code official, that's the last sentence of Section 18. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, so that's already addressed. Is that what you're saying? Attorney Theriaque speaking, yes sir. Chairman Jones speaking, does that answer your question, Commissioner Croom? Did I answer your question? Commissioner Croom speaking, trying to find the section. Attorney Theriaque speaking, 12, section 18, last sentence, last two sentences. Commissioner Amison speaking, that puts the authority on the code officials. So this is state code official can make the approval to extend or not to extend. Am I correct? Attorney Theriaque speaking, yes. Commissioner Ward speaking, I will say, Mr. Chairman. All in all, that I do feel like this is a really good ordinance, minus a couple things that we're addressing today, very thorough, and I appreciate Commissioner Amison and Steve, our building official. I think Angela's involved. You, Attorney Theriaque, and you, Attorney Shuler, for working on this. I know it wasn't an easy task by any means. Attorney Theriaque speaking, you're correct, Commissioner Ward. I didn't have gray hair until I started revising it. Commissioner Amison speaking, my beard was brown too. Chairman Jones speaking, are there any other things we need to address, Attorney Theriaque? Attorney Theriaque speaking, no, sir. Chairman Jones speaking, Commissioners, y'all have any additional questions? Anything that you would like to address? Mr. Moron speaking, can I ask if they don't mind, sir? Just take, let's talk about the future. So we get back the draft. I'm trying to get the timeline. We get back the final draft. You look at it one more time. Are we going to do a workshop first or go straight to public hearing. Has the board and I'm sorry let me rephrase that. Has the board considered whether or not you think you want to do a public workshop first, or we're going to go just straight to the public hearing? Any thoughts? Chairman Jones speaking, I am good either way. Attorney Shuler is this going to require one or two public hearings? One? So it's up to the board, but it might be better to have a workshop first and then one public hearing. We're going to have two public hearings, and I'll be fine without a workshop. I mean that's however the rest of the board feels. There might be things since we bring up that we haven't thought about in the workshop setting that might be very valid. Mr. Moron speaking, rather than having to table your public hearing, yeah, I hear you, sir. Okay, thanks. Just curious to know. Commissioner Ward speaking, yeah, I know we, Mr. Chairman. I know we need to get this done, but then I also want to make sure it's done right. I know there's going to be tweaks that we're going to need to make along the way, but I'd rather try to have it as perfect as possible as we can to start out. So, do we need to make a motion to vote on that, or Mr. Moron speaking, no, I think he's going to tweak what based on the conversation today. You have anything else? You reach out to him, and then hope. I'm not adding to the gray here, sir, but hopefully at the next meeting

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or the first meeting of next month, you'll have the draft ready for their review and scheduling of a workshop, then a public hearing. Attorney Theriaque speaking, yes, sir. Mr. Moron speaking, we can do both at the same time. Schedule a workshop and a public hearing at the same time. Yep. Thanks again, Attorney Theriaque.

b. Destiny Bates & Rick Harter -- ARPC -- Franklin 98 Project Update

Destiny Bates speaking, I'm Destiny from the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. I have Rick Carter with me from Harder Restoration and Consulting. Thank you. And we just want to give some project updates on the F 98 Living Shoreline project. I believe I was here any January or February to give some project updates. We've made a lot of progress since then, and we just want to share that with the board. Before I throw it over, I also want to mention that we'll be at the Freedom Fest tonight, giving out snacks and drinks. So I hope to see some of y'all there, and then I'll pass it over to Rick.

Rick Carter speaking, thank you. It's really good to be here. I was looking at my notes, and so it's been a very long time since I've been here in front of you formally like this. I was looking at my notes. The last time I know that I was here was July 2, 2019, so almost seven years ago today or tomorrow, I guess. And I was talking to you about a project that the Apalachee Regional Planning Council did with our support, where we assessed all of the shorelines within Apalachicola Bay, 274 miles, and we looked at coastal resilience issues. Which areas of shoreline would benefit the most from shoreline restoration work, to both for ecological productivity, but also public benefit community resilience. And the Franklin 98 area, just east of the East Point Breakwater, over to about Yent Bayou was some of the highest priority segments. There were others around the county too, and I'll touch on a couple of those at the end of this presentation. But I just you know we've made a lot of progress. Appalachia Regional Planning Council is crushing it. All of this zero local dollars of match required. No money. The county has had to spend no money on that, and brought in you know millions of dollars of project to the to the county. So just want to update you real quick on kind of where we are. The project has been broken into three separate construction phases for various reasons. One, we wanted to do a pilot area along public shorelines so that people could get a sense of what we were talking about, what it might look like in reality once it's constructed, so we focused on phase one on those public areas. We've also had to break it up a little bit, just because in order for us to construct, we need the property owner on the land to agree to it. So even though all of the project is on public lands, it's on sovereign, submerged public lands owned by the state of Florida, and the whole purpose of doing this is to improve ecological productivity of the bay and to enhance community resilience. And the way we're doing that is with oyster reefs and salt marsh. The project, as I mentioned, it was funded with multiple grants. Florida Department of Environmental Protection provided initial grant to do the a funding or a feasibility planning project. Commissioner Jones was heavily involved in that. Multiple meetings that we had. Phase two, we are about to start planting. We've already completed the reefs on phase three. We're on the cusp of having the permits to move forward with that. Kind of hard to see on the map here, but the areas in red are phase one. The areas in green are phase two, and then the areas in orange are phase three. Total, it's about two and a half miles. One mile for phase one, half a mile for phase two, and another mile for phase three. It's not continuous the whole mile, but segments within that area. And again, it's kind of dependent on property owner interest. We've never wanted to force this on anybody. You'll see a little bit later on our phase three maps. We haven't started construction yet. You'll see those maps are a little bit off. There's a property in there that's actually not part of phase three, so the map is a little bit outdated. So phase one, we got about two and a half acres of reef, three acres of marsh, and we've got more marsh coming. 99 reefs involved in that. The team with WSP has been out collecting data on these projects since before it was constructed, so they can see before

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and after. They're also assessing areas that are not part of the project, so they can compare. Okay, well, how is the project area doing in terms of other areas close by? And so one of the things they're looking at is oyster numbers. Now, this is I'm not going to go into this graph. It's a little complicated and everything. It shows the size of the oysters and how many oysters within a quarter square meter. But basically, what this says is on the reefs that were constructed. For phase one, we've got about 200 individual oysters per square meter. That comes out to about a million oysters per acre. Two and a half acres figure just about two and a half million new oysters in the bay because of the project. Similarly, they're monitoring the marsh, the marsh grasses. So the number of shoots, each individual marsh grass shoot, there's about 400 per square meter, and that comes out to about a 2 million marsh grass shoots per acre times you know three acres there. So it's a lot of grasses, a lot of oysters. What does all that mean? Basically, it means the shoreline is able to capture and hold sediment better. It's able to absorb more wave energy, and ultimately, that means more stable shorelines. Next steps: essentially, the folks with Franklin's Promise Coalition Gulf Corps, they're going to be out there doing some additional planting, and we'll continue monitoring progress of the of Phase One as well. Phase Two, as I mentioned, it's about a half a mile of shoreline. We expect about a half an acre of reefs and roughly half an acre of marsh that the reefs have been installed. The marsh will be coming soon. Those areas generally just east of the phase one site at the Franklin County School and at Tate's Hell, there's two different areas at Tate's Hell: Tate's Hell East, Tate's Hell West. We just call them Tate's East and Tate's West for short. Phase three, as I mentioned, we're on the cusp of having the last permit that we need, and construction will begin very shortly after we get that permit, you know, honestly, we're hoping to have that, we think we'll have that permit next week, as soon as people get back from Fourth of July vacation, and there'll be about 60-nine reefs for that Phase Three project, and so they're again they're kind of interspersed along the shoreline. It's very hard to see on here, but I don't know maybe 30% of the shoreline or so will have reefs. Maybe not quite that even. Maybe a quarter of it. So phase three is basically going to be from areas around the East Point breakwater, like the east side of it, over to about the intersection of 60-five and 90-eight. I want to take just a quick moment and give you a sneak peek of another project. So Franklin 90-eight was along Highway 90-eight. This project is along Highway 30 A, and in in. in the in the analysis of all of the shoreline segments that we looked at, there were two key areas here. I can't really see it, but where you see the water is very close to the road, and there's no vegetation between the shoreline and the road; those areas were damaged pretty heavily in Hurricane Michael. A lot of money had to be spent to repair that with riprap. We're at a 50% design on this project, essentially, which would involve creating more oyster reefs, adding some clean sand, and then that area that has clean sand will all be vegetated with native coastal vegetation in the area that shows as white. That will help protect the roadway significantly, so that County Road 38 will need. Well, it'll have a lot more protection during hurricanes, right? These reefs absorb wave energy, so whatever waves are going to be pounding on the shore, they'll dissipate some. You know, we're not going to be able to stop the ocean and stop storm surge and things like that. But it certainly helped, and again, it's going to help significantly with the productivity. So where we are with that basically is we're about halfway through the engineering and permitting part. We've got a grant proposal out right now. Thank you very much to the county for a letter of support on that, and we hope to get that funded. And then for once that is funded, we'll be moving forward with seeking funding for construction and monitoring. I do want to say special thanks to definitely to you all for helping us along the way, especially you, Commissioner Jones, for being involved in the earliest stages and coming to our public meetings and our interagency meetings, our steering committee meetings. All of those help really get us going and participating. The project, the visitor centers, county property, you're going to have living shoreline there. The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve has been extremely helpful. They've been champions for us every step of the way, supporting us and permitting stakeholder engagement. They are such a treasure to the community. I hope you recognize that as much as we do. Franklin's

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Promise Coalition and Gulf Corps-they've been really helpful with-they helped build one of the reefs, and they're supporting us with the planting efforts. The construction team, all local firms, primed by North Florida Construction, Coastline Clearing. Tim Butler and his crew have done the majority of the construction work. They're doing a fantastic job, also with support from Jason White Construction. And then you know the property owners that are participating. There are hoops that they have to jump through, and I know it's been a hassle for them. We really appreciate all their efforts to be part of this, and we couldn't do it without all of you. So thank you so much. With that, if you have any questions, happy to answer those. Commissioner Croom speaking, I have one question. Just mentioned again about the property owners. Have you had any issues, or well, I guess are the property owners having any issues or concerns, or our waterfront property owners about this project, and were they addressed? Rick Carter speaking, yeah. So essentially, again, this is voluntary. We're not forcing it on anybody. Anybody who's not comfortable with it because they're not quite sure what it's going to look like or things like that, they're just you know not participating. The people who have stepped up to participate, they've had lots of questions. We've helped answer all their questions. So no, I would say the main things they say was, can I leave an area for a dock? I'm gonna want to build a dock. We say sure. You just tell us where you think you might want to put that, and we'll avoid putting reefs there. Even if somebody does want to put a dock, and we've already put reefs in, they can go over it. And we've also worked with them if they're like, "Yeah, I want more of a beachy area, you know, here, and yeah, like we like to fish here. Like we're just totally working within whatever their desires are, the only real considerations that we have to work around is we're staying at least 15 feet from any seagrass bed, the submerged seagrasses. State policy generally is three feet, but we're kind of going a little bit beyond that just to be extra safe. So 15 feet from any seagrass beds, and then we want to stay within the zone to where it makes sense to put the reefs. We can't, we don't want to go above the mean high water level. If you put rocks up out of the water, you're not going to get oysters on it. They don't grow out of the water. They only in the water. So we're you know we have had people like can you put the rocks higher? Well, no, we can't. And we've also had people say, "Well, can I just not have marsh? Can I just have rocks? And we've pretty much said, "Well, no, it's kind of a package deal. You know, the marsh serves a really important purpose. We can leave some areas, but we need some marsh in there too, so that's basically it. I've had people ask questions like, "Well, won't a hurricane throw the rocks up on the road? Okay, well, the whole shoreline's already, for the most part, already covered with riprap, right? There's rocks there. Will some of those end up in the road with a big storm, maybe because they're up close to the road. But have you ever walked out into a mud with a boot on? You try and pull your foot out, it's stuck. Your foot might come out, the boot's going to be stuck, and you're going to have to tug on it pretty hard. Well, that's the way this project is being built. These rocks aren't just being set there; they're actually being pressed down into the mud. So those rocks aren't going anywhere. The other thing is the rocks. We essentially designed it for a minimum rock size of 12 inch diameter rocks, on average. Okay, so you know think like basketball size maybe. Well, the rocks that we're going in are much bigger. They're heavier. They're way more stable. And we told contractor, hey, if you can do the bigger rocks, go for it. We like it. So we've got way bigger, heavier rocks than you know the minimum. Any other questions? Chairman Jones speaking, any other questions, commissioners? Commissioner Sanders speaking, I forgot one thing. Last time y'all were here, I asked it. I'm gonna keep on asking until I find out exactly. Yent's Bayou over there, y'all are not gonna put no rocks out there around it, are you? Mr. Carter speaking, correct. We're not going to Yent's Bayou. The farthest. So when... Commissioner Sanders speaking, that's the other part that worries me, because it's a natural creek, and it ebbs and flows and all that. And I just, the mullet fishermen will have a fit if you do that. They'll run you out of Franklin County. The mullet fisherman will. Mr. Carter speaking, understood. Yeah, we don't want to touch that. We love it. It needs to stay the way it is. We're not touching that at all. Commissioner Sanders speaking, well, now let me ask you another question.

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Sure. Because y'all were down there all the time, I see. Oh yeah. And I have to say that that Spartina that y'all were growing. It, I mean, it is growing by leaps and bounds. Are y'all noticing a lot of the sargassum grass here this year? Mr. Carter speaking, oh, the sargassum, the brown. So the sargassum, which is mostly what you find on the Gulf beaches, and then there's the wrack, the seagrasses, the submerged seagrasses that slough off just like, you know, oak trees drop their leaves and pine trees drop their leaves. The seagrass beds also lose their leaves, and a lot of that washes up on the shoreline, and you do always see that. And sometimes, you know, certain times of the year, and you'll see, like at Tate's East, you'll see a pretty thick layer of that bury the marsh in some places. But you know what? The marsh grasses love it. They, It's like the best fertilizer to put on. Commissioner Sanders speaking, because I noticed this year that out there where it's usually white sandy, it's now brown looking. And when you go out there to mullet fish, you shuffle your feet, try to keep the stingrays from stinging you, but you can't tell them because you know it's brown out there. Yeah, you know, it's normal. Mr. Carter speaking, and it's seasonal. So you will see more and more. I will tell you when you say the sargassum. I think you're also probably talking about some of the macro algae, the larger algae's that that I have seen a lot of over at Yent's Bayou, and it's kind of stuck to the seagrass blades, so that's probably what you're talking about. And I noticed a lot of your rocks that you put into the east of there, like on just that on the bluff. What I call on the bluff right there, it's more the orange, white-looking rocks, and it seems like they're more flatter than rounded, like they are, it looks like that that may stabilize and be real good there. Those other rocks, there's some of them rocks that's already covered with mud. Yeah. So when the and if you go back and look at the photos of phase one was first installed, it's the same rocks. It's kind of white. It's got some orange patches in. It's all coming from a mine in Marianna, and it over time it will turn dark with algae and every stuff that's growing on it. So those phase two reefs give it another year, and they're going to look like the phase one reefs. Chairman Jones speaking, one more question for you, go. What's the total? I know you're not going to build it out, but what's the total project area that's included in what you have permitted in terms of the boundaries? Mr. Carter speaking, so the farthest west that we would go is well, we're not going as far west as the East Point Breakwater. Okay, the farthest east that we would go is well, essentially where it is now. Phase two, the end of phase two. So close to Yent Bayou. There are some additional private properties on the east end of Phase two, but west of Yent Bayou. So west of where the road veers away from the water, where everybody pulls off to go fishing. There are properties on this side of it that, if we were to get additional funding to do a phase four, those could theoretically be part of that. But our we have no intention to go east of those private properties, and one of the reasons for that is, well, there's multiple reasons. It doesn't make sense scientifically and from an engineering standpoint. Property owners don't want it. We did not include that in our Corps of Engineers permit, which took forever to get. We're not going to go through that again, just for those. So there's all sorts of reasons that that would be the easternmost extent of it. And as far as phase four, it is possible if there are other properties that want to participate that we could pursue funding to do a phase four, whether it's through another grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, or some other grant, or if the county were to choose to spend, you know, I don't know if something opens up on the project list for Restore funding or Triumph funding or something like that. There's definitely an opportunity to expand that. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, I just want to make sure the rest of Commission was aware. I knew the boundaries. I want to make sure everybody else was aware of it. So the thing that I really like a couple of things. I will remind the commission that before this actually got awarded the first time, there was nothing on DOT's list about repaving Highway 98 from Carrabelle to East Point, nothing at all. Within six months of getting this award, the project hadn't even started yet. They put it on their five-year plan. Now they're finally starting to do some of that paving. So yes, it has ecological benefits, and I don't downplay those. That is great. But two other things that are happening that are absolutely fabulous for the residents of Franklin County, the state has now sought that it's proper to do

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investment in that road, and to make it better for the residents and visitors alike, because now that road is actually going to be protected by this living shoreline. The other thing is that until we can do more dredging, the East Point breakwater and channel is going to be clearer longer because we're not going to continue to have the matriculation every time we have a storm. When the roads wash out, all that material was going toward the channel; it was flowing from east to west. So with these living shoreline places, it's not so much. It's going to keep the water from tearing up the road, but it's also going to keep what's coming from the road from flowing down and stopping up that. That's why in front of David Barbers, over the years, it built up a peninsula. Was from stuff continuing to come down. It was just filling it in, so it's going to help that as well, and that that that's something I'm excited about. Mr. Carter speaking, it will indeed. Yeah, those marsh grasses do a good job of capturing sediments that are suspended in the water, and DOT engineers are very impressed with the project. Commissioner Amison speaking, so, Mr. Chairman, you had mentioned Corps of Engineers earlier. I was at the meeting with the Chattahoochee Thursday last week, and your project was brought up multiple times. Question for you, and this was what the question was kind of floated during that meeting was, would y'all have any use for any sand? Mr. Carter speaking, yes. So on that 30A project, in fact, we have mentioned it to them, and we're hoping that whatever sand comes out of the river that might be available could be that sand that helps protect County Road 30A there. Commissioner Amison speaking, well, I will tell you this, we have material from that East River project sitting over there at Timmy's place. If y'all, you know, I'm just saying because the timeline with the corps with their dredging permit, you guys are outrunning. You know, obviously, the time frame might not match up. But like I said, your name or the project's name was floated multiple times in that discussion. My other question is: Is there any future plan to possibly, or would there be a possible extension out later on? Like, let's just say that we see that this is doing a great job of diverting the energy of the waves and this and that. If we went a little further off the shoreline from what you've already got, you know, just my mind is like this is not a seawall. This is an energy decreaser, basically. And the further out you get, the further it's covered. The longer span you're going to have with that less amount of energy in a protect shoreline. Mr. Carter speaking, right. So you're correct. If you put if we put the reefs further out, that gives us more room to plant marsh, and more marsh means better sediment capture and more wave absorption. The seagrass beds are our primary limit. We can we don't want to go too far out because then we're on seagrass beds. The other thing is we don't want to go too far out. You'll notice at Tate's Hell we put some reefs pretty far out on those open sandbars that were not vegetated with seagrasses, and there are some additional challenges from a construction standpoint. We also want to like minimize any navigation hazards. We've got those marked with markers, but in some sense, it's kind of like the juice isn't worth the squeeze, so they are providing some excellent benefits. It costs a little bit more to get those put out there, but you can't do a big continuous reef farther out because of the seagrass beds, and we don't want to impact those because they're extremely valuable, important for the bay's health. Commissioner Amison speaking, I agree. I was just curious and for the record, what you created is what we call coon bars. Mr. Carter speaking, yeah. Commissioner Amison speaking, which is great, but I'm going to tell you that we're having discussion obviously with FWC now that we got some bigger fun, and hopefully we'll have further discussion. They're wanting to put bigger material in places and due to the past relays from the coon bars when they took the oysters off, put them out, all of our coon bars are basically decimated. So if they can get bigger, and my idea was, is if they can get bigger, if you want to put bigger material, that's where you put bigger material because it's not. I mean, and the public need to know this. Don't run out there and eat these oysters. We don't need anybody sick, right? But this is a great example of you can put that bigger material out there. All that right there is just a spat producer for the bay. Yep. Same thing with the coon bars. We get bigger material on the coon bars, the traditional coon bars. So you you've got a great example of what you're doing. That hopefully we can make that connection with the other powers and potentially do some mirror image of

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what you got there just from a different approach. Mr. Carter speaking, thanks for making that point. I did want to emphasize. Yeah, the Franklin 98 reefs are not intended for consumption. It's for ecological, you know, improvement, ecological health, and it is a larvae source that's going to help colonize those harvestable beds. And I will say on your question about putting the reefs out farther, the reefs for the County Road 38 project, there are no seagrasses there, so we can put them out farther, and we do plan to put them out farther than what you see on the Franklin 98 area. Mr. Moron speaking, I'll have to say that's a special calling. Yeah, that's impressive.

c. Divina Lade -- ARPC -- Franklin County Adaptation Plan Proposal

Divina Lade speaking, good morning. For the record, my name is Divina Lade, and I'm the director for the Geospatial, Environmental, and Resilience Planning Department with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. So I'm here today to talk about two things: a quick update on the vulnerability assessment project that we are doing for the county that is funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida Program, and the next step to that would be the proposal we prepared, which is the adaptation plan. So, quick update on the vulnerability assessment. It answers the question, you know, which parts of Franklin County, including the critical assets like infrastructure, public facilities, roads, and natural resources, are most vulnerable to flooding today and under two future conditions in this study report that we did. The future conditions are year 2040 and 2070. There's actually a sample map that I can share on the screen. That's one of the output in that project that we're doing. We submitted the report last week to DEP, and this week we've received four items comments from them that we just need to provide more maps to finally wrap up the vulnerability assessment report. And so this report is just not your you know it's just not another report. This becomes a planning tool for the county to help make better decisions in infrastructure improvement for the years to come. So that this exposure maps or depth maps this shows us what the extent of the projected flooding, sea level rise induced flooding. I know it's not that big, but in a computer when it's zoomed in, it shows you what are the identified 81 critical assets. So these are it ranges from categories like your transportation, your critical facilities, critical infrastructure, or natural resources category type of assets. There, in this example, it shows this is the range of depth of the projected flood, ranging from three feet to 15 or 20 feet, and it shows which of those assets would fall under a certain you know projected depth in this particular map. So this is one of the again the output that was produced in this report, and so this is the vulnerability assessment. So what's the next step based on the Florida statute 380.093. The vulnerability assessment is the first step. We know what our assets that are vulnerable, but the vulnerability assessment report does not tell us what actions we should be doing. To mitigate this, that's where the adaptation plan comes in, and that's what ARPC prepared a proposal that we can submit on behalf of the county, or the county can submit it. That plan would really be building upon the vulnerability assessment results, looked zoomed into those identified critical assets, and then then develop a more sound plan to ensure that the county is better prepared for you know the coming years. It also you know more components are included in that adaptation resilience adaptation action plan would be identifying what are this specific list, what are the list, what are these assets that we need to prioritize that would be translated into projects, and identify future funding that we can go after to implement these projects that we identify in the plan. So that's what's in the plan proposal that we shared. I believe we sent a copy of the proposal to the board, to the commissioners, and a narrative about the proposal. So, do you have any questions? I'm here to answer them. Chairman Jones speaking, any questions, commissioners? So, Ms. Divina, the Regional Planning Council will be acting as the contractor in what we have supplied? Ms. Lade speaking, that would be. Chairman Jones speaking, saying the work is performed by contractor only? That is why I am asking. Ms. Lade speaking, that would be us who will provide the technical support and project management. Chairman Jones speaking, just making sure the board was aware. That is what we're looking at. Mr. Moron speaking, no county match,

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correct? Ms. Lade speaking, there is no local match, so yeah. Thank you for asking that. There is zero local match for this proposal, and the funding that we are applying it for it would be under the Resilient Florida Planning Grant. Chairman Jones speaking, well, I think you have highlighted a very important point. We have done the vulnerability assessment, but unless we go to the next steps and find what implement, we have just wasted that time and effort. So, I'm good with it. Commissioner Ward speaking, do we need to make a vote, a motion to vote? Chairman Jones speaking, we do. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Sanders.** Chairman Jones speaking, any discussion, Commissioners? Or questions for Ms. Divina? When with approval, is this something that is already going to be submitted, like now, or? Ms. Lade speaking, the portal actually opens today. So we could start submitting it. So we can submit it on behalf of the county. Franklin County is still the main applicant. We're just doing the data entry on your behalf. Chairman Jones speaking, alright. Any other discussion before we vote? All in favor? Any opposed? **Motion carried 5-0.** Ms. Lade speaking, thank you so much, and happy Fourth of July, everyone. Chairman Jones speaking, thank you. And while you are here, Mr. Divina, I want to highlight something to the board. So, it has been my distinct pleasure as serving on this commission to be able to be a part of the Regional Planning Council, I am now hoping to step off in November, but I have been their chairman for the last four years. They have functioned as an extension of county staff, and that has really worked out for Franklin County and the counties in the region, because, as we highlighted earlier, we have 15 parks and seven employees. You know what I mean. We are running administration building that has got 10 different offices running out of, and we got 12 employees. And we are doing our best to make good use of taxpayer money, and entities like the Regional Planning Council helps us to be able to do that. So, thank y'all for looking out for us, for helping direct us and guide us and giving us that technical assistance that we do need to be able to take the next step. Because, my goodness, if Commissioner Noah was here, he would say, "Look, I don't, forget the plans. I want to see what we are doing, right? I don't want to do another study. I want to know what we are doing. So, this moves us toward doing. And thank y'all for presenting that today. Ms. Lade speaking, thank you so much. And it is our mission to provide planning and technical support to the nine counties in the region. So, it's been an honor to exactly do that. Chairman Jones speaking, alright, thank you. The Board recessed at 11:24 am and reconvened at 11:35 am.

Chairman Jones speaking, Franklin County Board of County Commission now back in session. Before we go to Mr. Moron's report, I do want to mention. I meant, I failed to do this early. Mrs. Erin was online, so I was talking with Nationwide when I was down in conference. I didn't know that the county already has Nationwide deferred compensation for its employees as part of our package, but we do. I think the deal is the Nationwide represent. I when they call me because they're going to be calling me, I will make sure that they need to start sending somebody to Franklin to make sure our employees know. So deferred compensation is a pre-tax employee funded program that you can do investment with. It works like a 401k but it's whatever the employee wants to give. It's before the taxes, and it does investment like a 401k would. But it doesn't belong to the county per se. It belongs to the individual employee. So because we do have some people that are already doing it, but I think we haven't had a representative in several years. So we work on getting that representative back to talk to the different county departments, make sure that people know it's available if they want to try to do it. That's fine, you know. Yeah, kind of like Aflac. So, just to make sure y'all are aware of that, Clerk, do you have a question? Clerk Maxwell speaking, no. Chairman Jones speaking, okay. I thought you might have a question, but anyway, it is something that we currently have some of our employees are doing and have been doing for years, and I think some of the new ones just don't know about it. Commissioner Sanders speaking, so, Mr. Chairman, can I say something? I know someone that has invested in that Nationwide program that you're talking about. Yes, and they have done quite well. Now, if you're young, you need to start doing it now. Don't wait until you get 70 years old. Do it. You need to make your money before you. You need to make your money

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really and truly before your 50s, and you need to have it there sitting working for you. Commissioner Croom speaking, or if you do, wait when you're old, you just put more, you invest more into it, \$500 and be aggressive financially. Commissioner Amison speaking, yeah, just be aggressive. Chairman Jones speaking, the only reason that it's come up for me is the person showed me wasn't even a county employee. They were just showing me about default compensation. They didn't start until COVID year. They've been putting \$50 a week out, \$50 every pay period in there, and they have almost \$30,000 in it right now. In five years' time, that's not too bad. Attorney Shuler speaking, as EF Hutton said, past performance is no guarantee of future performance. Chairman Jones speaking, that is true, but anyway, I just wanted to, meant to mention that when Mrs. Erin was on there before, and I forgot. Mr. Moron, we are up to you.

10. Michael Morón – County Coordinator

1) Discussion/Action Item: Code Enforcement Clean-Up Project

- At your June 17th the Board discussed a \$18,600 estimate to clean up 682 Wilderness Road property.
- The Magistrate found this property in violation of County's codes and allowed the heirs of the property owner 60 days to clean the property. Afterwards the County would be granted access to the property to clean and clear it.
- The family members failed to clean the property in the allotted time, so Mrs. Wyndolyn "Sissy" Smith (Code Enforcement Officer) requested and received quotes to clean the property. Mrs. Smith determined that the lowest responsive quote was from Bayside Land Service, LLC for \$18,600.
- The Board's concern is having a method in place to recoup the \$18,600 spent on the cleaning and clearing the property as soon as possible.
- Board discussion and possible action on proceeding with the clean-up of 682 Wilderness Road.

Mr. Moron speaking, okay, sir. On page 10, item one, we're going to defer till the next meeting because by then, Attorney Shuler and Attorney Theriaque will have a chance to do that research on the assessment, and then we'll have a discussion. Chairman Jones speaking, before we do, I want to ask a question. When is the, that quote was for how long? Is that quote still going to be good? Mr. Moron speaking, I think you mentioned to me 30 days. I'm going to ask Miss Sissy if she would reach back out to them and ask them if they would extend it by 60 more days for us. I don't see a problem with that personally. Chairman Jones speaking, I just thought I'd ask. Mr. Moron speaking, yeah, that's a good note to make. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, can I bring up something on that before we proceed? I guess procedurally, we probably should answer a question that was raised at our last meeting, if it's okay with the clerk and the attorney, I did ask, and from the beginning asked about funds. I know we're not in code enforcement to make money, but I also thought with the money we do make, what little it is, could go into a fund to help offset some of these costs. Apparently, per Florida statute, that can't happen. It has to go. It's actually going into the clerk's fine and forfeiture fund. We cannot expend any monies from that fund to help with code enforcement mitigation of any abatement or anything like that. So, if you want to chime in, Clerk Maxwell, please feel free as long as it is okay with the chairman. Chairman Jones speaking, yes. Clerk Maxwell speaking, I actually have a list of the fine and forfeiture. It's criminal justice related matters is what the money can be spent on, but there's a long list of monies where it can be spent and which examples are basically facility expenses, maintenance, all dealing with criminal justice issues, records management, court preparation, and attendance, processing of appeals, etc. So anything that is related to

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criminal justice related matters is what the fine and forfeiture fund is related to. So we can only spend the money on those actual expenses. So yeah, all the money by statute is going to the clerk. Chairman Jones speaking, okay, so let me ask a question just on this discussion. If it can't go toward actually claiming property, doing those kind of things, can any of the money be used toward the actual expense we have for having code enforcement, actually staffing code enforcement? Clerk Maxwell speaking, no. Chairman Jones speaking, okay. So what do you know? And I don't. If you don't know, that's fine. Off the top of your head, what is the breakdown like? Is it 95% of the funds goes to this area and 5% goes here, or 50-40-20? You know, how does that work? Clerk Maxwell speaking, I do not have a breakdown, but I could get the breakdown of all of our distributions are broken down to a gazillion different entities. So, and I don't want to tell you something without looking at my distribution schedule to make sure of which one gets a little piece of the pie. Chairman Jones speaking, well, it would be good to know. I don't think it's going to change anything. I mean, but yeah, just be good to know. Clerk Maxwell speaking, I could definitely get that information to you. Commissioner Ward speaking, thanks, Clerk. I wanted to, I know that. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, the last meeting, I brought that question up, and now we finally know the answer. Commissioner Croom speaking, since we talked about it, I want to say something, Attorney Shuler and you can relate this to Attorney Theriaque before it's in reference to it said allowed the heirs of the property 60 days to clean the property. I guess what I want to say, I guess on our behalf or my behalf, is you know I guess before we entertain spending the county's funds for this, I want to make sure exhaust every legal option under this. You know to if they allow you know can the magistrate require the heirs to clean up the problem, you don't have to comment, but I just want you to know that's where I'm at with that. Chairman Jones speaking, so I want I want to clarify something that you bring up, Commissioner Croom. If we're exhausting every legal option, that's going to cost money. Commissioner Croom speaking, well, I'm just about what we what we doing. What we doing when I said legal, like cover our bases. Chairman Jones speaking, Okay. I just wanted to clarify that. Commissioner Croom speaking, you know, at the end of the day, we discussed about property taxes, and everything. But I think at the same time, we got to watch, which I think we do a good job. You know, watch our taxpayer dollars and our spending on that. Chairman Jones speaking, I just I just wanted to clarify that we were talking about so talking about not spending money on actually cleaning up the property until we spend money on the legal side. Mr. Moron speaking, well, Chairman, if I could ask Commissioner Croom, so you meant like when the magistrate does his order instead of saying allow, can he just say require at that time? Commissioner Croom speaking, yeah, during the regular hearing. Mr. Moron speaking, okay, cool, I got it. It's a good point to ask, Mrs. Smith. Very good point. Commissioner Croom speaking, I guess my other question, do we know if they even started cleaning commissioners? Like, has any work been done? Chairman Jones speaking, no none.

2) Discussion/Action Item: 109 Delaine Circle

- A request from Mrs. Virginia Messer (Road Department – Administrative Assistant):
- *Mr. Jody Martina has requested permission to open Delaine Circle from 109 Delaine Circle to the platted cul-de-sac shown on the recorded subdivision plat.*
- *Mr. Martina has offered to clear the right-of-way at his expense and is requesting that the Road Department construct the roadway using County equipment and materials. The distance from 109 Delaine Circle to the end of the proposed cul-de-sac is approximately 663.27 feet.*
- *Howard has already met with Mr. Martina on-site and explained that there is a process for requests of this nature and that it would need to be presented to the Board of County*

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Commissioners for consideration.

- *For your reference, I have attached the subdivision plat, a location map outlining the requested section of roadway, and a wetlands map of the area.*
- *Please let me know if you have any questions.*
- Board discussion and possible action to authorize the opening of Delaine Circle from 109 Delaine Circle to the platted cul-de-sac.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

3) Discussion/Action Item: Eastpoint Channel No Wake Zone

- Chairman Jones recently met with FWC representatives to discuss the possibility of No Wake Zones in the Eastpoint Channel.
- Attached to my report are two maps and draft ordinances the Chairman would like to discuss with the Board this morning.
- The Chairman would like today's discussion to include direction that would allow staff to proceed with process of creating the No Wake Zones.
- Board discussion and direction.

Mr. Moron speaking, item three this is on you, Mr. Chairman. So we met. The chairman met recently with FWC reps to discuss the possibility of the no wake zone in the East Point Channel. My report are the two maps that they provided, and the chairman can explain difference between the three zones and you know how that could work. And then here last week, then I got two draft ordinances from staff from FWC in which the board could take it, you know, to start the creating those zones, and but it all depends on which way we go with the two docks that we have versus the business doc. Okay, I'll stop talking. Let you go. Chairman Jones speaking, put that map up there, Michael, and show the two circles. So we can all see what we're talking about. We got it on iPads, but I want to make sure that everybody else is seeing what we're talking about. So I will tell you what he's going to show you. The first picture has two circles. So basically, this is something we just have to work around. I will say this though, when we're able to meet with FWC, they were very gracious. They come to us with, "Hey, this is how we can get it done, versus, "No, we can't do it. It can't be done. You know, it was completely good conversation. I want to make sure you are aware of that. They did have some, just like everything else. There was nothing really recorded that there ever was a no wake zone. Even though I can distinctly remember the signs, because I grew up in that channel with many, like a lot of other people. But that was probably before FWC even existed in their modern iteration. So, but working through this, if we take our county owned ramp, which is the one to the left in the picture, they can use any anywhere they're putting no egg zones now. In the way the current law reads, from I think the last time it changed was 2021, it's a 500 yard radius. So they can take that center, put that in the center, and go out, and they can have a no-weight zone for that area. Now, there's also something in there that you see a second circle. That's we also have a county-owned parcel just to the west of where Miss Lynn's place is, and it is primitive ramp, but nonetheless, it's a ramp and it's available to the public. So what they had suggested was we can do an ordinance working with staff and go ahead and get the no eggs on for the first boat ramp. We can do some minor modifications to the other public ramp to make sure that it's cleared, that it's got a sign there at least designated. We don't have to add anything untoward like a bunch of parking spaces or restrooms or anything like that. It just has to be noticed that it's publicly available, and we do that. Then we can amend it and add that one because of the proximity. It would

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then cover from the west boundary of the first one all the way to the east boundary of the second one. So the other picture that's available, Michael, if you'll scroll down just a second, with all three, also includes a ramp area that a current owner has that it's privately owned. So that's a discussion we can have with them. If there's a couple options here that I haven't talked with the property owner about, so I won't go into detail today. But it could be if we can add that third zone, then it would go all the way from the west to the east, covering all three areas. The hope is we can get one in place all the way to the west end, and then when we do the amendment. We can add both the other two, and that whole area would then be a no-wake zone or a low-speed zone. So that's what we're looking at, and that's the way they brought to us to be able to make it work. Now it doesn't go any further, but there's not anybody further down that has a boat ramp or anything that's public, or could be publicly available in that way. I did not ask them about an area to dock in if that could be considered, but we can have that discussion with them going forward. But I think our first thing is to try to do what they suggest, and that's work with continue to work with staff, get something in place that allows for the no wake zone down there by our county-owned boat ramp, and then we can do the amendments and add the other two. So I just need to make sure you guys are good with that by motion and voting. We can actually get to working on it. You have any questions? I'll try to answer. Commissioner Ward speaking, so basically, we're going to vote to potentially vote to at first the beginning the easiest would be the two. Chairman Jones speaking, no, just the first. Commissioner Ward speaking, one, just the first the first picture, and then do the other. Chairman Jones speaking, first circle, yeah, not necessarily yeah, do the ordinance that would cover pretty good distance, yes, and then the second would be an ordinance to amend. Chairman Jones speaking, yeah to add the third circle. Chairman Jones speaking, both to second and second circle. Commissioner Ward speaking, second circle, and then that's going to make the whole pretty much most of the channel where all boat ramps, primitive or public and privately owned no weight zone, which I feel like is very important. So I just want to make sure what I understood that correctly. Commissioner Sanders speaking, yeah, and if that's the way you can get it done, get it done because that is not on Rio Vista. We don't have nothing that. Chairman Jones speaking, I think it's our only. I think it's our only option. And like I said, I don't want to. I haven't been able to talk yet with that private property owner, so I don't want to give you what they said or the requirements to be able to do it. But there is a way forward. And I will have that conversation with that private property owner. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to proceed, seconded by Commissioner Croom.** Chairman Jones speaking, any discussion or questions before we vote? All in favor? Any opposed? That's unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.**

4) Discussion/Action Item: City of Apalachicola Water and Sewer District Appointee

- HB 4103 creates the Apalachicola Water and Sewer District. The AWSD removes utility control from the City of Apalachicola.
- The AWSD will be managed by a 5-member board made up of three governor appointees, one County Commission appointee, and a City of Apalachicola appointee. This board will have full power to set water and sewer rates, issue bonds for system upgrades, and manage all existing city utility assets and contracts.
- Chairman Jones was asked if the County decided on an appointee as HB 4103 is on the Governor's desk for signature. The Chairman is suggesting Mr. Billy Fuentes for your consideration. Mr. Fuentes lives in the greater Apalachicola area and is experienced with water and sewer districts as he is the Eastpoint Water and Sewer District's Administrator.
- Board discussion and action to appoint Mr. Billy Fuentes, or another candidate, as the

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County's appointee on the Apalachicola Water and Sewer District Board.

Mr. Moron speaking, the governor signed both of these bills last night, yesterday afternoon. So it's a little outdated as to you know pending. It's no longer pending. So now we need to appoint someone to the Apalachicola Water and Sewer District board. Do you want to take that one, sir? Chairman Jones speaking, yeah. So yes. So that's as far as I know. The way it's written up, there's going to be appointments from, three from the governor, one from the city of Apalachicola and one from the county. Is that correct? Mr. Moron speaking, that's correct. Chairman Jones speaking, so it's the pleasure of the board. I know that Mr. Billy Fuentes had talked to several of us about serving and doing that. I do know he's the administrator for the East Point Water and Sewer District. So, I personally think he's a good addition. But that's however this board feels. There's going to need to be a lot of structure. There's going to need to be people at that table that understand what it takes to properly function and make the business side of this venture work. I think he's a good candidate. Plus, the other requirement is that everybody that serves on this board has to be attached to the district. He lives in Greater Apalachicola. Mr. Moron speaking, and Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Croom had a concern to make sure there would be no conflict because he is the admin of East Point Water and Sewer. But you yourself have explained to me that you've been appointed and you are a county commissioner. You have been appointed to several boards by the governor, and then you serve in other boards representing counties. Chairman Jones speaking, yes. So when I first was running for election, I got appointed to the East Point Water Board by the governor, and my question with the appointments person at that time, I told him that I intended to run for county commission, and I wanted to make sure if I accepted that appointment that I wasn't somehow going to foul myself up, so they said, "Well, let me call you back, and they called me back in a couple minutes. They said, "No, if the governor appoints you to anything and you get duly elected to something else, there is no conflict because you're appointed to one and you're elected to the other." So I've been serving on both ever since. Commissioner Ward speaking, yeah, Mr. Chairman, that was my only question or concern. Commissioner Croom speaking, I think Billy, like you said, going to need some structure, and I think he's proven himself that structures. I don't mind Billy serving. Commissioner Amison speaking, I will just, so the board knows, Mr. Jimmy Gander also has interest in serving on that. Hopefully, the governor will make that appointment if we choose to go this route. But I again, Mr. Fuentes has got a lot of experience being on that East Point department. But again, like I said, I don't know how we could possibly talk to the governor about local appointments, but I think he should listen to some of our concerns with some of the people that we would like to see him consider for you know for the appointment. Is there anything ethically wrong with that, Attorney Shuler? Attorney Shuler speaking, can we maybe have a conversation at a different setting? Commissioner Amison speaking, sure. Mr. Moron speaking, and talk to a lobbyist too. Depending on that conversation. Commissioner Sanders speaking, you can contact the governor's appointments office. That's all you got to do. Commissioner Amison speaking, contacted everybody from Congressman right on down. I hadn't got a phone call back, but I'll go that route. Chairman Jones speaking, so, what's the pleasure of the board for this? **Commissioner Croom made a motion to approve appointing Mr. Billy Fuentes as the County's appointee on the Apalachicola Water and Sewer District Board, seconded by Commissioner Ward.** Chairman Jones speaking, any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? That is unanimous. **Motion carried 5-0.** Commissioner Sanders speaking, Mr. Chairman, I want to make a statement after this. This is a serious situation here, and I want the people to know that I take it to heart on this, and that is the governor's right to do that, and we're only doing what we're supposed to do, designated by the governor, and doing this anyway. We know what we've been told to do. Chairman Jones speaking, it's what we're being told to do. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I don't want the politics of the city of Apalachicola being interfered in this vote, you know what I mean, and I just feel for it, but I feel for the people. Anyway, that's just a statement from me. We have to do a job sometimes that we don't like to do sometimes, but you just

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got to do it. Commissioner Amison speaking, well, to elaborate on that, Commissioner Sanders, the thing we can do though is to make sure that from our what little bit we can do that we make the right decision, putting people in the right places that's going to represent the people that use that water.

5) Discussion/Action Item: Port St. Joe Port Authority Candidate

- HB 4105 reorganizes the Port St. Joe Port Authority into a multi-county regional body.
- The goal of the expanded board is to drive broader economic development, attract regional cargo, and create non-tourism-based jobs across the wider Apalachicola/Big Ben region.
- This reorganized board will be a six-member board with representatives from Gulf, Franklin, Gadsden, and Liberty counties.
- Chairman Jones was asked to provide a candidate for the Governor's consideration on this new Board. The Chairman is recommended Mr. Michael Cates for your consideration. Mr. Cates is the owner of Cates Electric which is a well-known business in the area that employs many residents.
- Board discussion and action to nominate Mr. Michael Cates or another candidate as Franklin County's representative on the Port St. Joe Authority.

Mr. Moron speaking, Mr. Chairman, you are on a roll. I'll let you take item five. Chairman Jones speaking, so the other thing that passed was the Saint Joe Port Authority. Now we cannot, as a commission, we don't have any say so on appointing any members, but we can make recommendations, and I think that's what the legislators and the powers that be wanted from us was to know if we had any recommendations, and I do know I spoke with Mr. Mike Cates about the possibility, and he actually shocked me how quickly he said yes. His first thing he says, "Well, you know me and boards. I said, yeah, Mike, I do. He said, yes, I'll be willing to do it." So it was just that quick. So this is another. It's going to be a more regional thing. But again, this does not mean that Mr. Cate serves on that board. It just means that we recommend to the governor to approve him as a resident from Franklin County. Because that's the thing that does have, it does need to be a member from Franklin. Is the board okay with making that recommendation? **On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom and Commissioner Ward to nominate Mr. Michael Cates or another candidate as Franklin County's representative on the Port St. Joe Authority.** Chairman Jones speaking, any discussion? **Motion carried 5-0.**

6) Discussion/Action Item: EDC Vacant Seat

- Mr. Bill Williams informed me that Mr. Mikel Clark resigned from the County's Economic Development Council.
- Mr. Williams is asking that this vacant EDC seat is filled as soon as possible.
- How would the Board like to proceed?
- Board discussion and direction.

Mr. Moron speaking, alright, commissioners, moving on. Bill, Mr. Bill Williams, informed me that Mr. Mike Clark resigned from the county's EDC, and he and I would like to know the process of how we will move forward with replacing Mr. Clark on that on the EDC. Not replace. I'm

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sorry. Let me rephrase that. How can we fill that vacant seat? Chairman Jones speaking, I will say this to make sure the board is aware, because this EDC board is new, but the way we have it made up is Mr. Clark was there sitting in the seat of education. So we have different people from different parts. There's Blue Water there. Mr. Roger Mathis is there. We have people from the building industry in the county construction. We have education, we have banking, we have several different areas because we want it to be a complete board of the community. So whoever it is needs to be tied in education in some way because we want somebody on that economic development council, just like the other seats, to be able to speak up and say, hey, what y'all talking about doing? It's not going to work for the education sector. It's going to be. It's going to cause this, or it's going to, or it's going to be great for the education sector. We can have somebody that's tied into it, though. Commissioner Sanders speaking, I've got somebody in mind now that you said that. Chairman Jones speaking, yeah, I do too. But that's fine. You know, we can have those discussions. Might be better, Michael, to let some of us reach out to people and see who's actually interested in certain. Mr. Moron speaking, okay, and then let me know. Chairman Jones speaking, but it does need to be tied to education. And I don't mean just you know they've been to the school before and they volunteered. That's not what I'm talking about. Okay. They need to be tied to the educational structure. Commissioner Sanders speaking, this person I'm talking about, the doctor of education. Chairman Jones speaking, okay. But yeah, that's how we're trying to fill that seat. Mr. Moron speaking, so you guys will give me a list of candidates. I will bring it to the board at the next meeting, and you guys appoint somebody. Chairman Jones speaking, I will say this: for the time he was able to give, I'm very thankful to Mr. Michael Clark, for not only the things he done with that, showing again that he don't need to show, but showing again that his devotion, his allegiance, lies with the people of Franklin County, as well as other members on that board. But you know, Mr. Clark has been doing this for a long time. I mean, I can remember, of course, people don't refer to him that way now, but he was Coach Clark when I when I first got to Carrabelle High School. But he wound up being a principal, administrator at the school, wound up serving the district administratively, put in many years for the residents and the and the future of Franklin County because he was around the kids. So I'm very thankful to all the time he was able to give, hope only the best and that things work out for everything him and his family. Commissioner Sanders speaking, he was on the hospital board for us. It was for a lot of years, but the man, the man is a, I'm telling you, he is something else. His heart is just full of Franklin County for the and for Franklin County and the and the kids and the people. It's just something, but yeah, I'll give you a name. Mr. Moron speaking, okay, works me.

7) Discussion Item: Annex Meeting Room Closure

- The contractor is ready to proceed with your meeting room renovation project. This meeting room will be closed from July 27th to October 14th.
- All meetings will be moved to the Armory during this time.
- Board discussion.

Mr. Moron speaking, alright, commissioners, item seven. Mr. Chair, I think I could figure this one out. So your project is starting at the end of the month. So as of July 27th this room will no longer be accessible. I'm glad it's moving. Finally, you know, one of those things that's hang. Okay. So yeah. So we will be moving everything to the armory. More than likely, I will take a visit in the army either Friday or Saturday of this weekend because

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I got to start mapping out audio, video, and all that stuff. And then Eagle Tree is going to help me with the network to you know make sure we have that down. But I'll probably if they also did the rehab with the offices, more than likely, if there's enough space, I will move my office over to the armory too. While the meeting room is over there, it makes it a lot easier in case we need to make copies or whatever. But that'll be done as of the 27th. This room will not be available. Actually, on July 28th is the AOED meeting, so and then on 29 the 30th would be the Weems meeting, so they're going to be the guinea pigs to make sure it works. So by the time you guys get there, everything will be clicking. But I just want to let you guys know we'll run some ad. It'll be on the website, and away we go until they say October 14th. Not that I doubt contractors, but I will tell you we probably won't get back in there until the first meeting in the paper. More than likely, I will have to work with Heather though because she was depending on the room for primaries, so we might have to put a TV on the upside there, and I connect from her office with Zoom out there. So there's an overflow from her office. She was expecting to do everything in here. If the overflow, it'll be out there in the lobby. So just want to let you guys. If you think of anything else I should be thinking of, please let me know. I'm trying to cover as much bases as possible with this move. Yeah, it won't be won't be easy. Well, once we get it up and running, just to let you guys know, in case you're wondering what we'll do, we'll set up the meeting room in the what I refer to as a fireplace room, and we'll keep that. If we have a big meeting that I expect overflow, then I'll move it to the big room if needed. But all the boards, your regular meetings will run in the fireplace room. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I do have a concern. If we do have it in the big armory room, we had an opportunity Florida meeting there a while back, and the acoustics are horrible. So we're going to have just make sure the AC is working.

8) Discussion Item: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Meeting

- Recently, Commissioner Amison attended a USACOE meeting in Chattahoochee and would like to update the Board on what was discussed.

Mr. Moron speaking, item eight, Commissioner Amison, that's your turn. You touched on this meeting earlier in the meeting. Commissioner Amison speaking, yeah, now I'll keep it short and sweet. As I said earlier, I went up to Chattahoochee to the meeting with the Corps of Engineers, and looked at the whole dredging permit plan, all that good stuff. They wanted to engage with the counties ahead of their official engagement with the state. I guess is the best way to put that to get an idea what you know how we're feeling about it now. RCSC, well, formerly known as RCSE, ARPA now they were there. They represented the counties as well in the discussion. I don't even know where to go with this. Basically, what it is you know me, so I just got Mr. James Haythorn. His is I think I'm pronouncing his last name right, but anyway, Mr. James and me had some discussion. He is one of the lead engineers with this, and I just flat out asked him. I said, if y'all start dredging, put commercial traffic on the river, I said, I'm getting too, I'm getting pulled in too many directions. I just want to know a yes or no. I want an answer to a question. Will it bring more water down to our bay? And he said yes. And there's no other answer than yes. He's now obviously on a year like we've had this year with drought conditions. But I mean that's just common sense. But he said you know the only people that would this would affect on a normal season would be the homeowners around Lake Lanier. You know, they would see a slight decrease in levels, and we're talking you know minimal really foot be a foot something like that. But yes, they would have to release water down as long as the conditions are right. We're not in a drought, which is basically what we were trying to figure out a definite answer on, or I was myself. And like I told them up there, whatever comes down or whatever don't come down is what we we're the ones that's going to wind up on the we're the last ones that it affects. So we just need some straightforward answers. That way we can make decisions moving forward.

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That's about it. I mean, I've looked at the project. We weren't allowed to take pictures in there because we had, you know, yeah, it was one of those meetings. It was an executive session, but we weren't allowed to take any pictures of their maps. But anyway, you know, it the Corps. I mean the Corps is already started on the project with the locks. I think 28th is their deadline on that when they'll be completed, so everything will be functional. Trying to think if there's anything else left out there. I don't know if y'all got any questions? Maybe if y'all got a question, it might trigger something. Chairman Jones speaking, any discussion or mention being able to number one take care of past areas where sand was left? Actually, removing that while they're doing dredging as well. Commissioner Amison speaking, that's where the cameras had to go away. They they're looking at instead of having own bank sites, they're looking at moving in bank in certain areas. Now, obviously, there's going to be some discussion with the property owners of that, and that's where you know that's where we the rubber's going to kind of meet the road, so to speak. A lot of that is, I think, there's a couple private. I think most of it's public, the overstate land, but that's that you know. In a nutshell, they're just wanting to move it off the immediate bank, get into an area there, which is going to take some pretty big areas. Now this is a 30-year projection, or it might have been a 50. Yeah, I'm not sure. So obviously, the initial ask on that is going to be some big, big areas. But then I foresee, you know, once they start doing maintenance, won't be as much material going in those areas. There was some discussion about how the state would feel about wetlands, you know, things like that. The Corps has been in discussion with the state, and what was told to us is they've been in enough discussions that if their projected plan was a no go with them, then they would have said, hey, find a different route. So they feel comfortable moving forward. Hopefully, down the road with the state, the state is kind of on board what they want to do. We won't really know that till it happens, but that's about it. And I and I will say this: I sat there and I watched. You know, like I said earlier, Arpa was, they represent us, and I was trying to kind of gage them how they are representing us, and they are representing us well. Their main thing is, and they told the court this: we won't see you get the permits. We're just trying to figure out with our advice how you could potentially miss or run into a roadblock with the state, and that's where the discussion came in with Mr. James. It's like, well, we we're talking to the state, and if they if we're hitting a going down a path that they don't want us to go down, we were enough into discussion. I think they would have told us to back up, reverse. But that's kind of where their main thing is. They're just kind of playing devil's advocate because they, in their own words, want to see the dredging, but they just don't want to see it get shut down. So find a happy world where everybody can coexist, so to speak. But it's hard to do. Chairman Jones speaking, I'm hopeful that they can do two things. I hope two things can be addressed while they're doing that. I hope that they can find a way to address removing old spoils that have been more detrimental to the system, and or if the state would be amenable, if the state would allow in each of these counties that are a part of this areas that the state owns that they could unload that spoil so they can be gotten to and moved, you know what I mean, and taken away so we don't have that problem going forward. Commissioner Amison speaking, I will tell you that was part of. I'm kind of condensing this down because I, you know, I sat there and listened to Liberty County, Gulf County, Bay County. You know what I mean. I listened to everybody, and then you know they were talking about going back to 1950s. What was going on in Bay and Liberty, and finally I just, you know, I said, well, I'm gonna tell you what's going on in Franklin County, and you know I just went on my whole little soapbox kicks about the head of the bays got hard since the dredging stopped, and we had all the dates sitting there. I said that's what the normal people of Franklin County coincide with our ecological changes down here. Is we associate it with the fact that the dredging stopped in 2000 and it got worse quicker. I guess, or it just what we had transpired over a 20-year period of a major change up there, and so we want to see. You know, that's the history of Franklin County. We try to elaborate a little more, you know, up there when I was up there, but I think and I straight up asked Mr. James again after the meeting. I said, just how motivated is the Corps to do this? You know, and he

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told me that the Corps' main mission with the whole Apalachicola River Navigation and Dredging project was a navigational mission. That was the original intent of it. So that it's right within their mission statement. So you know, if they get the dredging approval, then that's going to force them to let water down, but to maintain navigation. Chairman Jones speaking, additional questions or thoughts, Commissioners? Thank you for that update, Mr. Amison.

9) Discussion Item: Florida Association of Counties Conference

- Update on FAC Conference

10) Informational Item: Ethics Classes

- Mrs. Angela Lolley will be contacting you to setup your Ethics Class information.
- Do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Lolley if you have issues with the log in information provided.

11) Informational Item: 4th of July Holiday

- County offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd for the 4th of July holiday.
- State offices will be closed on Thursday, July 2nd, Friday July 3rd, and Monday, July 5th.
- County wide celebrations and fireworks commence this evening and extend into the weekend.

12) Informational Item: Upcoming Meeting Dates

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

11. Michael Shuler – County Attorney

Action Items

1) Tourist Development Tax - Possible Increase of Two Percent from Three Percent to Five Percent Via Two Referendums (Pages 4-20)

Attached are two draft ordinances and two resolutions concerning a possible increase in the tourist development tax authorized by 125.0104(3)(1), which is commonly referred to as the 4th penny, and 125.0104(3)(n), Fla. Stat., which is commonly referred to as the 5th penny. Copies of those subsections are attached for your convenient review, together with copies of ordinance 2004-45 (the original two percent tourist development tax, not including the 2004 TDC Spending Plan) and ordinance 2021-6 (the third percent tourist development tax).

For frame of reference: Gulf County has a five percent tourist development tax. Wakulla County is at four percent. Bay County is at five percent.

Escambia is at five percent. Leon County is at five percent. Santa Rosa County is at five percent.

Walton County is at five percent. Okaloosa County is at six percent.

The one percent tourist development tax authorized by 125.0104(3)(n) provides 9the 5th penny) that

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REGULAR MEETING
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9:00 AM
MINUTES**

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"(n) In addition to any other tax that is imposed under this section, a county that has imposed the tax under paragraph fl) may impose an additional tax that is no greater than 1 percent on the exercise of the privilege described in paragraph (a) by ordinance approved by referendum ...".

(emphasis added)

Since 125.0104(3)(n) contains the following statutory language concerning what would be the 5th penny "that has imposed the tax under paragraph (I)," I have created two different ordinances with two different effective dates, if both are approved

Board Action Requested:

- Board discussion and guidance on the ordinance and the resolution.
- Does the Board want the TDC Board to review and make a recommendation?

2) Draft Moratorium Ordinance for Data Centers and Large Load Customer Facilities and advertisement for Public Hearing on July 1, 2026. (Pages 21-28)

A draft moratorium ordinance for Data Centers and Large Load Customer Facilities is attached for the Board's consideration.

I have scheduled the public hearing for July 15, 2026, at 11:00, so if the Board has any amendments to the draft ordinance, please let me know today, July 1, 2026, as the advertisement publishes on July 2, 2026, and I have to get the final draft to the Clerk's office by close of business today. Board Action Requested:

- Does the Board have any corrections or additions to the draft ordinance before the public hearing on July 15, 2026?

Attorney Shuler speaking, yeah, I do have two off agenda items. If we're talking about a different number of counties, I would just select the number 40-two instead of 20-nine or 60-seven. Just 40-two sounds like a good number. Then as far as an alternative meeting date or location, I would propose the Chapman Auditorium. It's been a long time since I started my day with the prayer pledge and singing "God Bless America" in the Chapman Auditorium. Chairman Jones speaking, is that available? Attorney Shuler speaking, I'm talking about the Chapman Auditorium. Commissioner Ward speaking, talk about acoustics. Chairman Jones speaking, should have mentioned that about 30 minutes ago. Attorney Shuler speaking, well, it was already on the report before I knew about it, but as far as action item, I have two. We'll do the easiest one first, only because it's easier because it's brief. The draft moratorium ordinance that that for data centers and large load centers, as we have discussed at the last meeting, just bringing it back to the board to see if y'all had any additional or further comments to me? If so, I need to know them today because I have to get the final draft version on record with the clerk's office by end of the day today. She presently has in in the notice of intent book the advertisement in the current draft of the ordinance. There are two changes to the draft ordinance in the clerk's possession that are different from the one that's attached to my report. One is on the effective date. The original draft said July 1 because that was the intention. It's now been changed to have the standard language that the ordinance will take effect as provided by law, which is a two-step process. If the board approves it, that's step number one. Step number two is the clerk's office then files the adopted ordinance with the secretary of state, and it's effective upon filing with the state. And then I added in a coalification section after consultation with your planner, your county planner, Miss Bree Robinson, so it will be codified in Chapter 14 under Planning and Land

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Development. So, any further comments or changes from the board on that? If not, I will move to Item Number One. Chairman Jones speaking, I do have one question. So, does this give us the everything we need to have that one-year moratorium while we're working toward what we're looking at? Attorney Shuler speaking, if the board approves the draft ordinance as I've described it to you, then yes, or that will give you a one-year period. There actually is a follow-up on Commissioner Croom's comment about the earlier draft ordinance. There is a hardship provision embedded in the moratorium, just like there is in the draft of the code enforcement. Ready for you to move forward, Mr. Chairman? Chairman Jones speaking, I think so. Commissioner Ward speaking, do we need to vote on that? Attorney Shuler speaking, currently, Franklin County has a three penny tourist development tax. Chairman Jones speaking, let me ask you a question. Attorney Shuler speaking, yes sir. Chairman Jones speaking, do we actually need to vote on item two? Attorney Shuler speaking, no, sir. Not yet. This was, if y'all had any changes and give me direction. Your actual vote will come at the public hearing on July 15. Chairman Jones speaking, that's cool. It just said board action request. That's why I am asking. Attorney Shuler speaking, well, the action could have been if y'all wanted, if I've got to change anything, add or subtract or correct. But the tourist development may we proceed with item number one, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Jones speaking, yes.

Attorney Shuler speaking, item number one is a proposed. proposed increase of the tourist development tax from its present 3% to a total of 5% via two referendums. The tourist development tax appears in Chapter 125 of Florida Statutes and Section Point O104. Paragraph three has a number of provisions for the different tourist development taxes that are available. In 2005 the county adopted a subject to referendum an ordinance approving a 2% or what we refer to as a two penny tourist development tax that was under subparagraph C. That was approved by the board by ordinance. That ordinance was subject to approval by referendum. The referendum was successful. Fast forward to 2021. There was a third percent or a third penny available under subparagraph. D, which the board adopted by ordinance, and that that is how you ended up with a 3% tourist development tax. There are two additional pennies that are available to the board under subparagraph L. There's an additional, you know, up to 1% which is referred to commonly as the fourth penny, and then under subparagraph N, there is a fifth penny that is available to the county. That those fourth and fifth pennies would require the board, if you move forward to do a few procedural matters, one is you would have to place this question on the ballot at a general election as a referendum question. I believe there will have to be two questions asked because the fifth penny has language that says essentially that the fourth penny is avail. What the fifth penny is available once you have imposed the fourth penny. So there, to me, that means it's sequential. There, you can't have a fifth penny until you have the fourth penny based on the statutory language. Fortunately, there's unlike the third penny, which had a three-year waiting period. The legislature did not state a minimum waiting period for the fifth penny. So I think that you can have both referendum questions on the same general election. However, the ordinances, if they are both approved at referendum, the effective date for the fourth penny by statute would be the first day of the second month following the referendum, and then the fifth penny, because at that point you would have imposed the fourth penny, and then the fifth penny ordinance would go into effect on the first day of the following month, which would be February the first, both January the first and February the first, being in the year 2027 The other procedural things that you will need to do is authorize me to schedule a public hearing on the conditional ordinance for those two pennies. Also, I have prepared for you a resolution which has draft ballot language for the fourth and fifth penny, and directions and instructions to your supervisor of elections to conduct the referendum. The other question I had for the board is: Do you want to send these drafts to the TDC board for their review and comment back to you before you make a final decision. Chairman Jones speaking, do we have time to do that? Attorney Shuler speaking, this is July 1. I have not talked to the

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supervisor of elections yet to find out how much time she will need in order to get these questions on the ballot. But I can. I will certainly do so after today's meeting. Chairman Jones speaking, okay. Attorney Shuler speaking, and if you don't have time, then you can always make the direction to the supervisor elections and still ask the TDC if that's the board's wishes. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I'm okay with this. The only, um, I mean I would like for it to go back to the TDC board for review because I know they may have recommendations that we may not be aware of, but I don't want to delay it. The biggest problem, an issue that I see when I'm at the polls is it's confusing. Some of the language is confusing. Can it not be all lawyery? Can we like make it simple? Does it have to go on the ballot? No offense, but it's like you got all these things in one word, and somebody mentioned it, Royce mentioned it before the meeting. He makes a good point. The or any kind of language. Basically, we need to let these people, the our community, know people that are voting on this. That it that just doesn't affect them. It doesn't affect them one bit. It's not a tax that they're paying. It's a tax that if you rent a hotel room or you rent an Airbnb, if you rent a house on the island, that's what this money is being derived from. These funds. That's what this is for. The vote is for that tax, is there specific language per statute that has to be on the ballot? Can we not make it how we want it worded? Attorney Shuler speaking, bringing it back to the board for your review is part of that process, where y'all tell me, add this, delete that, correct this other thing, there are word limitations. For example, let me get to one of my draft ballots. For example, the ballot title. There's a word limitation. I believe it's 15, and I think I counted right, I think it's 15, maybe 20 for the ballot title. There's a limitation of words for the ballot summary. If the board has changes you want me to make to these draft ballots, then then let me know, and I can make the amendments and bring it back, but I tried to make it just as short and sweet as possible, and so that people knew that they would be voting for a fourth penny and then also for a fifth penny. But that's part of the purpose of today's meeting. So, and so if Mike's going to start quoting TV shows, I will too. Look, which one was it Lay it on me? Yeah, there you go. Chairman Jones speaking, so I do have one question about that. Then, in addition to what the commissioner is raising, so when you're talking about being on the ballot, are there going to be independent questions on the ballot? Yes. Like on page 11, it's got it says four against, four against. I really hope that's not on the ballot that way, because that's going to be confusing. Attorney Shuler speaking, well, actually, I don't have a numbered version. I'm going to have to count. Is that for the fourth penny or the fifth penny that you're looking for? Chairman Jones speaking, underneath where it says the, well, it's the ordinance levying the fifth cent. It's for the fifth penny, I guess. Page 11. Commissioner Ward speaking, they all they all say for or against. The fourth penny one says for or against. Chairman Jones speaking, yeah, but this one in particular, it says draft fifth penny at the top of the page. But the ballot question has for twice and against twice. So what I'm saying is, I'm hoping there's going to be a question on the ballot. Are you for the fourth cent, yes or no? Are you for a fifth cent? Yes, you know what I mean. Attorney Shuler speaking, oh, that's just that's a cut and paste error. It will just say for or against, not twice. Yeah, that was like Russell Crofton, vote often for Crofton. Chairman Jones speaking, that was the slogan at that time. But so I will say this too, though, not trying to be different than Commissioner Ward, it doesn't affect our residents in the fact they're not paying the tax, but it absolutely will affect our residents if we're able to institute this tax on top of what we already have, because now that the language has been amended statutorily, we're continuing to be able to do things that add to the quality of life and help our residents, like this stormwater project we're finishing on the island. The last almost three quarters of million dollars worth of paving that was done was paid for with TDC funds to make it a complete project that would not have been done had the statute not been amended and this tourist development dollars were not available. Attorney Shuler speaking, so, the county does have limitations on the information that we can provide on referendum and ballot questions. I believe I sent, and if I have not, I will. There's a white paper that was developed, basically guidelines developed by one of the attorneys from the County Attorney Association about

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what counties can and can't do, and so I can send that to you. But I think the general rule of thumb is accurate, which is we can provide information and facts, but not advocate as a county. Commissioner Croom speaking, kind of tagging on what Commissioner Ward and Commissioner or Mr. Chair was just talking about. It's kind of like educating. It's kind of us who need to educate the voters on you know who paid the tax, what the tax is for, what it can be legally for, you know, so they know actually what you know they're not paying the taxes. Commissioner Amison speaking, in the title can we just in parentheses put tourist tax? Is there enough room in there for that? I mean that would kind of simplify. Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman. I agree, and like you said, Commissioner Croom. I think if they see the word tax, they're just immediately going to tunnel vision and say no, I don't want it. But they don't know, like you said, need to educate them, but they can, you know, educate themselves. Hopefully, make their own informed decision. But yeah, I think the biggest thing is make them real. And you're right, Chairman. I mean, and we were discussing this before the meeting. This is this is money that we're using for our parks, for our infrastructure, paid for by tourists. And I and I have a lot of people complain to me. Well, you are just giving everything to the tourists, or you're doing that for the tourist, and well, and complaining about the tourists, but let's face it, they tourists provide do provide a lot for this county. The part that we're going to be enjoying tonight was paid for by rural development dollars. So, and that's the part that we can enjoy year round. They come and go, we get to stay and enjoy it year round, as in addition to all these other parks. So that that's kind of what I want to emphasize too. But yeah, we can educate the public all day long. It's I don't know, but I just I want the ballot language to me is crazy because it we were talking. I look at it and I read it on my ballot and I'll think it means one way, but then I'll go to a website where it kind of gives it non-lawyer terms and gives you the basically the gist of what it really is. I'll go back and change my opinion on it because I'm like, well, that's, I read it, I go back and reread it, and I read it wrong because I'm like, well, no, no, that's not what I want. So it's just it's confusing. Attorney Shuler speaking, so if I may, Mr. Chairman. For example, I'm looking at the resolution. Just I picked the fifth penny just arbitrarily. I'm looking at the ballot title. Shall Franklin County's tourist development tax be increased by 1% such that the total tourist tax shall be 5%. Is there some language that y'all want to add or detract from that, or correct? Commissioner Ward speaking, see, that's kind of why it would be nice to send it back to TDC because they're the experts on the matter. Attorney Shuler speaking, I'm not doing private stuff while we're talking, I'm actually texting the supervisor of elections to see if she's available for a quick comments. Chairman Jones speaking, so it does have to be whatever's legal to put on there. You know what I mean? It is what it is. It's worked before. We've got we got we already have a TDC tax, and the voters voted for it. So I mean, I just want to make sure that there are going to be two distinct questions. Was my only real concern. Attorney Shuler speaking, Mr. Chairman, I could walk over next door. Chairman Jones speaking, yeah, let's take a recess. Attorney Shuler speaking, I can ask her the question when she needs to have the final ballot language in time for November. The Board recessed at this time.

Chairman Jones speaking, Franklin County Board of County Commission now back in session. Attorney Shuler, were you able to get us an answer with this timeline? Attorney Shuler speaking, yes, sir. I was able to speak with the Supervisor of Elections, Mrs. Heather Riley, and she has told me that the latest date for her to receive the final version of the ballot language is September 1st, preferably earlier. So, my recommendation to the board, based on the board's commentary, is let's send these drafts after I correct some of the typos with the multiple votes to them for their response and a recommendation back to the board at the next meeting. Actually, does the TDC meet before July 15? Chairman Jones speaking, we do not meet in July at all. Not normally. We can call special, but we normally don't meet in July at all. Attorney Shuler speaking, yeah, and I know the supervisor will do everything she can to work with the board, but she did stress the sooner the better, but no

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later. So to honor her request, I would say schedule a special meeting, but that's entirely up to the chairman.

Chairman Jones speaking, we could do that, and that would be actually held before our next meeting. It'd be in between. It wouldn't be tomorrow, or it would be a week from today, is what it would be. So we can most certainly do that. That's not a problem. Attorney Shuler speaking, I will email you and Mr. Solomon the documents. You know, later today or tomorrow. Chairman Jones speaking, after getting corrected. Attorney Shuler speaking, yes, after I get out my red ink pen. That concludes my report unless the Board has any questions for me. Commissioner Sanders speaking, Commissioners, I've got one thing, and when I start, y'all join in now. Happy birthday to you. Attorney Shuler speaking, thank you, thank you. I appreciate that. Thank you very much. Chairman Jones speaking, so, before we leave Attorney Shuler's report, do y'all have anything additional for Attorney Shuler? Any questions or any discussion items? Alright. We're now to Commissioner comments. We made several of those today, but if there are any you have left, now make them.

Information Items/Possible Discussion Items

3) Garbage Collection Services in Competition with Private Companies Statute and Possible Piggy-Backing (Pages 29-32)

A copy of 403.70605, Fla. Stat. is attached for the Board's convenient review.

While the entire statute should be read, please take note of the provisions of subsection (3). A copy of the County Procurement Policy authorizing Piggy-Backing is also attached.

4) Code Enforcement Case 2022101: (Pages 33-35)

The Special Magistrate's order does not state a time limit within which the must clean the property. It just says that following the expiration of the time given to the property owner to abate the nuisance, then the county is authorized to enter the property, abate the nuisance and to assess all reasonable costs of abate as a lien pursuant to Ch. 162, Fla. Stat. A copy of the order is attached for your convenient review.

5) Land Swap with Duke Energy

The closing on the land swap has been delayed. The title company needs to confirm whether or not Duke Energy's Master Indenture (mortgage) attaches to the Duke Energy parcel or not. A rescheduled closing date has not been scheduled.

6) FDOT Pavine: Project Between Carrabelle and Eastpoint

FDOT's attorneys tell me that two eminent domain cases remain pending. FDOT has not indicated that the litigation is holding up the project.

12. Commission Comments

Commissioner Ward speaking, Mr. Chairman, I did forget one. So another one of our classes at FAC was about cybersecurity, and I know we've discussed about cybersecurity before. I mean, I believe I think you, Mr. Chairman, correct me if I could even get to your own iPad at one time. So basically, in a nutshell, there are there is cyber insurance, which I don't know if you're aware we do have with FAC. So in case something

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happens, we have an insurance policy that protects us if we ever get cyber attack. But there's also, and I'm going to reach out to Denise Vogelsang with that because I'd like for us to have a tabletop exercise. She can come into the county and we can do a class on cybersecurity. She prefers we can extend it to the other counties, which we might be consolidated one day anyway. But get a place like either the Armory or Holy Family where we can all gather and do these tabletop exercises because I feel like it would be very important to our staff to be able to have this class. I'm gonna reach out to her. I wanted to bring it up to the board today, but you know, do we have an incident reporting system? If we do get cyber attack, do we have an AI policy? So these are all valid questions that we, you know, with cyber attacks becoming more and more and hacking becoming more and more prevalent, I feel like we need to have this stuff in line and in place in case something does happen. We have stuff to back ourselves up rather sooner than later.

Mr. Moron speaking, couple of things. So first, actually, you guys may not remember when Commissioner Groom first reached out to Denise, that was one of the classes on the list that he wants to accomplish. So that cybersecurity tabletop, we're just pushing some of the others ahead of it. Secondly, that is what, and we're going to have to get a formal contract from Eagle Tree because we're operating under the an emergency contract because you know one constitutional officer got hacked and that that messed up our entire system. So they were fixing that, but their goal is to get us additional insurance, like through Microsoft, not just what we have with FAC too but we have to have these classes and these exercises. We're hitting there. We're getting. It's taking a little bit longer because there were more things in the background that were wrong that they didn't realize when we first started this, but we'll just have a contract and it'd be part of it. So yes, we're working towards that. So it'll be Denise, it'll be Eagle Tree. We're all on the same page, moving there.

Commissioner Ward speaking, yes, thank you. That's it. Chairman Jones speaking, any other commissioner comments? Well. happy Fourth of July, everyone! it's 150 years. Commissioner Ward speaking, be safe, everybody. Commissioner Sanders speaking, stay safe. Remind everybody, though, Mr. Chairman. Remind everybody, East Point tonight, Carrabelle tomorrow night, Apalachicola Friday night and Saint George Island Saturday. Chairman Jones speaking, yes, four days. Mr. Moron speaking, and Sunday is the Lord's day to rest. Chairman Jones speaking, it works out good. Happy Fourth Day. Commissioner Sanders speaking, the boys on Saturday. Chairman Jones speaking, that's right. Thank you.

13. 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.