

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
JANUARY 2, 2007
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Russell Crofton – Chairman, Noah Lockley Jr. – Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, Joseph Parrish, Bevin Putnal

Staff Present: Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Road Department, Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director, Dan Rothwell – County Engineer, Bill Mahan – County Extension Director, Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Moron – Board Secretary

Call to Order (9:00 AM)

Chairman Crofton called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Prayer and Pledge (9:01 AM)

There was a Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes (9:02 AM)

Regular Meeting(s): December 19, 2006

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2006 Regular Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills (9:03 AM)

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to authorize the payment of the County Bills as presented; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Report

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Road Department(9:04 AM)

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, authorizing Mr. Chipman to fill a vacancy in his department; after Board discussion Lockley withdrew his motion.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services(9:08 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented the following item for discussion and/or approval

Item 4 – Board discussion with Mr. Hubert Chipman, Road Superintendent, regarding the request by DOT for the county to maintain new traffic signal on US 98 for the new consolidated school.

Mr. Chipman stated that he would rather the Franklin County School Board maintains the traffic signal. Commissioner Lockley suggested that the County transfer maintenance of the other school traffic signals.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to contact FDOT and request to have Franklin County School Board maintain the new school traffic signal light at the consolidated school and assume the responsibility of maintaining the current school traffic signal lights in Apalachicola; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Putnal, Mr. Pierce, and Mr. Chipman discussed construction of new road from Highway 65 to the new consolidated school.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:13 AM)

Mr. Johnson did not present any items for discussion and/or approval.

Dan Rothwell – County Engineer (9:15 AM)

Item 1 - Apalachicola Airport Runway 13-31 Slab Replacement:

Runway 13-31 is being prepared for the concrete slab replacement starting this week. The quarterly report and a compact disc (CD) with project photos were sent to the design firm URS.

Item 2 - Carrabelle Sports Complex:

The Franklin UF-IFAS Extension Program Director, and Assistant Director of Solid Waste have been working with various state and federal agencies to determine application rates of compost and sludge enhanced compost for soil enrichment of the site.

Item 3 – Road Paving Project:

List of roads for paving project is partially completed

Open Bids (9:16 AM)

Fuel Management System (Road Department)

Mr. Pierce opened the bids:

Bryco Enterprises bid was \$18,175.00

Wire-Grass Petroleum \$21,998.79

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to forward the bids to Mr. Chipman, Superintendent of the Road Department, for a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Report (Continued)

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (9:18 AM)

Mr. Mahan presented the following items for discussion and/or approval:

Item 1 – Coastal Training Elected Officials Needs Assessment: I have been asked by Dr. Bob Swett (UF-Sea Grant Boating & Waterways Specialist) to do a follow-up to the “Elected Officials Coastal Training Needs Assessment” that was funded by the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program and conducted locally by the ANERR. Attached for your review is a 3-page summary of the findings from the needs assessment. I would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to review the summary and provide me with your feedback at the results. I will then pass your comments on to Dr. Swett who is assisting the FL Coastal Zone Management Program with the study. I will also be contacting several City Commissioners/Mayors to get their feedback.

Commissioners will review and address at the next regular meeting

Item 2 – Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Update: The GMFMC’s Ad Hoc Shrimp Effort Working Group’s – Final Report has been released. The full 85-page report is available at: http://www.gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/FINAL_AdHocEffortReport_1.pdf

According to the report, on September 26, 2006, NMFS published the final rule implementing Amendment 13 to the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. The most important action under the new rule is the establishment of a 10-year moratorium on federal shrimp permits. The moratorium is expected to cap participation in the EEZ component of the fishery at approximately 2,700 vessels. Thus, at present, the EEZ component of the shrimp fishery is no longer truly an “open-access” fishery. Of the vessels expected to qualify for moratorium permits, only about 1,800 were actually active in the shrimp fishery during 2005. Thus, it is the economic conditions currently faced by the GOM shrimp industry (low shrimp prices & high fuel costs) that will limit participation and effort in the foreseeable future.

Item 3 – Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Committee Update: The ISSC (Ken Moore) & U.S. Food & Drug Administration (Don Kraemer) will be holding a meeting hosted by the Franklin Seafood Industry Taskforce to discuss *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and control issues with the oyster industry on January 16, 2007 - from 3:00 – 6:00 PM in the 3rd floor Courtroom. Robin Downey, Executive Director of the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association is also expected to attend.

Commissioner Putnal directed Mr. Mahan send a notice, of the ISSC meeting, to all of the seafood dealers via the seafood taskforce.

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Road Department (9:25 AM)

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to accept Mr. Chipman’s recommendation to award the Fuel Management System project to Bryco Enterprises; Motion carried 5-0.

Rick Marcum – Opportunity Florida (9:26 AM)

Mr. Marcum discussed Housing Initiative of Opportunity Florida including qualifications, type of houses, grants; Commissioner needed to sit on the Community Development Corporation and the Community Land Trust Boards. Mr. Marcum also discussed NW Management Catalyst Project for Economic Development – Florida’s Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC’s) and the Mega-site portion of this program discussed; Mr. Marcum stated that the Commissioners need to submit possible sites for the Mega-site program and review the Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) and discussed economic needs of rural counties, job growth, and the review process used to pick the site from the submissions of the 8 county region; The Commission expressed its concerns regarding the voting process for the Mega-site; Mr. Marcum stated that Bridgette Merrill and Mary Helen Blaksley would have more information regarding the voting.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to approve the MOA contingent on Attorney Shuler’s approval; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sanders expressed her desire to have Opportunity Florida to better market Franklin County as a place for businesses to locate; Mr. Marcum discussed efforts of Opportunity Florida to market Franklin County and stated that the role of Opportunity Florida is to prepare a county to receive business not necessarily to seek

new businesses to locate to a particular county; Mr. Marcum expressed the need for the Commissioners and the School Board to participate which would give Franklin County more representation in Opportunity Florida meetings and programs; Mr. Pierce discussed the advantages of other Counties such as their proximity to the Interstate, but also stated that the Apalachicola airport was a big advantage, because of its size, to Franklin County; the property around the airport in Carrabelle was also discussed as a location for the Mega-site. Mr. Marcum also discussed different efforts of Opportunity Florida to raise the income level of the 8 rural county region.

Jeff Lawson – North Florida Medical (10:06 AM)

Congressional Support Letter

Mr. Lawson no longer needed support for the Congressional Letter but instead gave an update of the Eastpoint Medical Center including an expansion project of more rooms, hiring of a new nurse practitioner, and an increase in non-insurance patients; Commissioner Lockley asked if the Medical Center was admitting patients to Weems Hospital and using services provided at Weems Hospital; Mr. Lawson stated that he would investigate this matter further; Mr. Pierce and Mr. Lawson discussed a projected increase in patients; Commissioner Putnal inquired if the Clinic was not accepting new patients; Mr. Lawson stated that the clinic did not deny patients at anytime, even those without insurance; Commissioner Lockley asked about the possibility of the Clinic treating inmates at the County Jail; Mr. Lawson stated that he met with a representative from the Franklin County Jail but it was determined that the Clinic option was a more expensive than the other options discussed.

Department Supervisor Report (Continued)

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services (10:16 AM)

Mr. Pierce distributed and discussed the Weems Hospital disbursement and fund balance report; The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed the low balance in this account and the necessity to call a special meeting if funds are not received in time to make payroll for the hospital employees. Chuck Colvert, Weems interim CEO, discussed current billing procedure, billing for swing beds, Medicare billing, and repayment of outstanding funds owed to Medicare. Mr. Colvert and Attorney Shuler discussed the settlement agreement for funds owed to AHCA. Mr. Colvert gave an update on the status of the ambulance service, including the paramedic's displeasure of their pay and benefits.

Mr. Pierce presented the following items for discussion and/or approval:

Item 1 - Board action to complete CBIRs list for state legislators. List due in by Jan. 5. Items suggested at this time are:

- A) Buck O'Neal commemorative statue and signage. Request- \$100,000
- B) Weems Memorial Hospital Improvements. Requests- \$500,000
- C) Support for the current FRDAP grant for \$200,000 for children's handicap park at Kendrick Park.
- D) \$300,000 for courthouse security equipment.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to approve the CBIRs list as presented by Mr. Pierce; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 2 - Board action to authorize a Certificate of Need to Weems Memorial Hospital for an ambulance service. Mr. RC Pippin, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services has informed Mr. Colvert, Hospital CEO, that the

Board must grant a CON to Weems. Action to be contingent upon language and direction supplied by Mr. Pippin.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to authorize the Certificate of Need as requested by Mr. Pierce contingent on Attorney Shuler’s approval; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 3 - Board action to sign DEP permit for after-the-fact permit for road re-construction Alligator Point Road.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to authorize the Chairman’s signature on the DEP permit as requested by Mr. Pierce; Motion carried 5-0.

Jim Cummings, of Alligator Point, expressed his concerns of the height of the road creating “standing water” on his property.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to direct Prebble-Rish, the designers of the road, to investigate this matter and report back to the Board; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 4 – This item was addressed earlier during the meeting.

Item 5 – In 2003, the county applied for, and was awarded, a DOT grant to build a bike path in the Bluff Road right-of-way from the Apalachicola city limits to D.W. Wilson recreational complex. The grant was for approximately \$150,000. The project went to bid and the lowest bid was approximately \$425,000. The project was reviewed, and re-designed, but it could never be brought to within budget. At this time DOT is asking that the Board either provide the additional funds, or ask DOT to drop the project. I recommend that we drop the current request, and submit a new request when we have worked out issues with Mr. George Mahr, owner of the property the bike path would have run in front of. The problem with the current location is that the right-of-way is not clear or wide enough for the DOT approved bike path, so there was a lot of construction costs in fitting a bike path in the Bluff Road right-of-way. Mr. George Mahr supports a bike path, and may be willing to provide land but does not have his own development plan completed yet. Board action to drop current request and work with property owner to create a better application.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Parrish, to direct staff to contact DOT and ask if this project can be done in phases and seek additional funds for the project; if these options are not available, drop the current request and work with property owner to create a better application; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Parrish stated that this project is important because it resolves a safety issue, especially for young people traveling to the park.

Item 6 - Airport Board recommendations from the bids to purchase equipment:

United Rentals, Panama City Beach	JLG 600A	\$77,950.00
Green South, Tallahassee	John Deere TL 110	\$31,850.00
Green South, Tallahassee	John Deere 997-72”	\$11,475.00
Mid American Engine, Tampa	SDMO J60CM	\$24,827.00

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to accept the bid recommendations of the Airport Board for the purchase of the equipment; Motion carried 5-0.

Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts (10:47 AM)

Mrs. Johnson presented the following items for discussion and/or approval:

Item 1 – Tim Edwards landfill fees waiver

Board decided to discuss this issue at the next regular meeting.

Item 2 – Mrs. Winton’s request for clarification regarding the County Community Band

Mrs. Johnson circulated a written explanation to address Mrs. Winton’s request; Board stated that they agreed with Mrs. Johnson’s statement on this issue.

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney (10:49 AM)

Attorney Shuler presented the following items for discussion and/or approval:

Item 1 – Lanark Water and Sewer District

Attorney Shuler stated that he was seeking an opinion from Attorney General regarding the Lanark Water and Sewer Board matter including disbanding of the Board; Commissioner Sanders directed Attorney Shuler to address this issue, including the Ex-Officio role of the County Commission, at the next meeting.

Mrs. Johnson raised the issue of the auditor’s comments regarding the outstanding balances on the Revolving Loan program to inquire if Attorney Shuler had a report pursuant to the Board’s instructions at the last meeting; after some discussion on this matter the Board suggested sending letters to anyone with an outstanding balance, asking for their accounts to be brought current.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to send letters to accounts with outstanding balances on the Revolving Loan program; Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Johnson also suggested having all payments on this account made to the County instead of ARPC; Attorney Shuler agreed and stated that the Contract with ARPC to collect the funds for the Revolving Program was already terminated.

Commissioner Sanders reminded Attorney Shuler to have some sort of opinion or statement on the Lanark Water and Sewer District at the January 16 regular meeting; Board and Attorney Shuler discussed the cost of running a small water and sewer district, and other options of resolving the issues.

Billy Snyder, of Lanark Village, discussed the process, based on his research, of expanding the Lanark Water and Sewer Board which included disbanding and reconstituting the Board, Florida Statute (Chapter 189) that allows the Water and Sewer district to be dissolved in the same manner it was created; Attorney Shuler stated that Florida Statute (Chapter 153) applied to the creation of the Lanark Board; Mr. Snyder stated that time is of the essence, the independent auditor was not paid from last year so will not be returning to do the audit this year, and discussed other issues relating to the current conditions of Lanark Water and Sewer Board; Attorney Shuler recommended deferring all actions on this matter until the next regular meeting.

Sharon Thoman, Chairman of the Lanark Water and Sewer Board, stated that she is not against a merger with Carrabelle Water and Sewer and a letter has been sent to the Mayor of Carrabelle, Mel Kelly about the merger and is waiting for a response from this letter.

Commissioners' & Public Comments (11:05 AM)

There were no comments from the Commission or from the floor.

Adjourn (11:07 AM)

Chairman Crofton adjourned the meeting at 11:07 am.

G. Russell Crofton, Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Court