

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2005**

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: Cheryl Sanders, Chairman; Bevin Putnal, Jimmy Mosconis, Russell Crofton, and Noah Lockley, Jr., Commissioners; Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk; Amelia Varnes, Deputy Clerk; Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services, and Thomas M. Shuler, County Attorney.

9:00 A.M.: Chairman Sanders called the meeting to order.

(Tape 1-34) Commissioner Crofton made a **motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 18, 2005.** Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-53) Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion to pay the county bills, with the exception of G&N Painting.** Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-61) Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion to pay G&N Painting in the amount of \$5,533.34.** Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion. Motion passed with Commissioner Lockley abstaining.

(Tape 1-72) Grady Leavins appeared before the Board to give them an update on the seafood lab located at the Apalachicola Airport. He said that he has obtained a commitment of approximately \$300,000 in federal funds to build a new building in Franklin County. At this time, the proposal is for the county to supervise the construction of the building through its engineering firm. The County would receive the federal funds and then authorize the expenditures. The building would be owned by the county, and if the lab were ever closed the county would keep the building. He spoke at length about what he would like to see this lab be able to do. Commissioner Mosconis volunteered to serve as "point man" to meet with Mr. Leavins, Alan Pierce, and Bill Mahan concerning a location for the new building. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to appoint Commissioner Mosconis to work with the Mr. Leavins, Alan Pierce and Bill Mahan concerning the new seafood lab located at the airport.** Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** It was agreed that they would meet tomorrow and have some definite plans to present to the Board at the next meeting.

HUBERT CHIPMAN – SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

(Tape 1-327) Mr. Chipman told the Board that the sinkhole area on Alligator Point, Highway 370 needs to be paved. He has repaired it with lime rock, however, every time it rains, a big pothole develops. Mr. Pierce said there is \$1,700 in FEMA funds set aside for this. The Board instructed Mr. Chipman to contact CW Roberts to go ahead and pave this area.

(Tape 1-402) Commissioner Putnal said that when the county gave the concrete plant permission to start their business on Otter Slide Road, they agreed to financially help the

county with any road repair if this road started to deteriorate, and it is evident that there is deterioration. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to add Otter Slide road to the county road-paving project and ask the concrete company to assist in paying for this paving.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded this motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-472) Mr. Chipman also reported that the culvert pipes on Otter Slide are in bad shape. Chairman Sanders reported that last week St. James Bay took out part of Crooked River and she understands that they plan to replace that part of the road. She wants it understood that this is a county road and it cannot be blocked off. Also, the St. James Bay contractors were hauling lime rock on Duval Road and damaged this road. The Board agreed any contractor who damages a county road needs to be made to reimburse the county for any road repair that is done.

(Tape 1-554) Mr. Pierce reported, concerning road paving, that the Board needs to be aware that the speed at which C.W. Robert is paving, and the rate at which the county is adding roads to be paved, are leading up to the county not having the necessary cash to pay off the road paving when the program is finished in May/June. He spoke to Mr. Chuck Roberts and generally they have agreed to receive the county's gas tax money as it comes in through October, and then have the balance paid in November using ad valorem taxes. The change orders are not up to date, so He could not tell the full cost of the road-paving program, but suspects the Board will need around \$500,000 or more of ad valorem taxes to pay off the program. The Board put in approximately \$600,000 of taxes this year to get the paving program started. Mr. Pierce stated that since the Board is going to be committed to using some tax revenues next year, does it have additional roads to be done. He added that Commissioner Crofton wants to add a short street in Eastpoint named Bay Street. He went on to say that the Board needs to correct the record regarding the source of funds used in paving Twin Lakes Road. The Board used \$138,806.54 of gas tax money to pave Twin Lakes Road. The money has been paid but there was never a change order to the paving program indicating that this amount of gas tax fund was used to pave the Road. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion to approve the change order in the amount of \$138,806.54.** Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion to add Bay Street in Eastpoint to the paving project.** Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-720) Commissioner Putnal told the Board that where the county dug out the boat ramp at Fred Millenders in Eastpoint, the sediment would eventually fill up the culvert again and he would like to see some low water crossing rocks placed so that it can divert the sediment. There was some discussion as to whether rocks should be placed here or simply dig a ditch. Commissioner Mosconis recommended someone ask the county engineer for advice. Commissioner Lockley made a **motion to have Mr. Pierce meet with the county engineer to come up with a solution to this problem.** Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Lockley said that all of the roads in District 3 need to be paved. Commissioner Crofton also said he has roads in his district that need to be paved.

(Tape 1-834) Denise Butler appeared before the Board as an insurance agent representing Cook Insurance in Apalachicola. She informed the Board that a new rate increase is coming to Franklin County, which will mean an 84.9% increase in homeowners insurance, which is the second highest rate increase in the state. She detailed how different counties are affected by these increases. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion to send a letter to Rep Bense, Sen. Lawson and Rep. Kendrick to voice our concern over this increase.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

VAN JOHNSON – SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR:

(Tape 1-993) Mr. Johnson had no report for the Board. Ted Mosteller thanked Mr. Johnson for keeping the airport property clean.

(Tape 1-1041) Commissioner Putnal asked about the status of the Carrabelle Recreation Park. Mr. Pierce said that they have scheduled a meeting for today to discuss the park. He said he thought a “Topo” survey is what might be holding things up. He assured the Board he would push this project through as soon as he could.

BILL MAHAN-COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR

(Tape 1-1123) Mr. Mahan provided the Board with some information on hunting and fishing license sales in Franklin County during July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003.

(Tape 1-1223) He presented a copy of an Associated Press news release on some preliminary research finding that “Quahog” clams can somehow neutralize Botulism toxin.

(Tape 1-1251) He said equipment continues to arrive at the new Oyster Lab and the lab is really taking shape. He stated Charlene Burke has been writing up the lab’s safety procedures that the lab will operate under.

(Tape 1-1260) He said he is still waiting to receive the draft Memorandum of Understanding and the Memorandum of Agreement from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for the Bluff Road Regional Boat Ramp.

(Tape 1-1314) Commissioner Putnal asked about the status to the Eastpoint Channel Dredging Project. Mr. Mahan said he and Mr. Pierce had talked to several people representing all of the agencies involved in this project. He said the “Bob Sikes” Cut is going to be dredged soon. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion directing Mr. Pierce to send a letter to Congressman Alan Boyd and Senator Bill Nelson asking them where the funds they allocated for the dredging of the Eastpoint Channel had gone to.** Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ACE HADDOCK-OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATOR

(Tape 1-1443) Ace Haddock, Operations Administrator Tate’s Hell State Forest Project Manager appeared before the Board to give them a brief update of the project. He said

the Florida Division of Forestry, Tate's Hell State Forest has completed the following items of management procedure: Timber Management, Reforestation, Prescribed Burning, Hydrology Restoration, Recreation, New Land Acquisition. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Haddock for his presentation this morning.

ALAN PIERCE-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

(Tape 1-2150) Mr. Pierce asked the Board to approve a Resolution designating February as Library Appreciation Month, which follows the Governor's announcement at the state level. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion designating February as Library Appreciation Month.** Commissioner Crofton seconded. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-2170) He informed the Board the Eastpoint sidewalk project would begin this week. It will create a sidewalk 5-feet wide and approximately 1 mile long between North Bayshore and Washington Street.

(Tape 1-2177) He requested Board action to write the Secretary of the DCA asking him to direct his staff to submit the proper documentation to FEMA for the Lanark Village Drainage Project. Senator Bill Nelson received a letter from FEMA indicating that FEMA had not received the design and specifications from DCA and thus FEMA has not released the \$155,000.00 in funds. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on a letter to the Secretary of the DCA requesting the proper documentation be submitted to FEMA so the \$155,000.00 in funding can be released for the Lanark Village Drainage Project.** Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-2200) He informed the Board the County has submitted a grant application for landscaping the east end of Franklin Blvd. on SGI, and he also included a request for landscaping on Gulf Beach Drive.

(Tape 1-2210) He discussed the abandonment of the remaining part of the alley in Block 6 East, SGI, which is the block entirely owned by Mr. Monod and Mr. Cheek. The usual process is to allow the applicant to begin the advertisement and pay all associated costs. Ms. Christy Branch, representing Mr. Monod, appeared before the Board to request approval to schedule an abandonment hearing for this property. After discussion Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the scheduling of a public hearing to abandon the remaining part of the alley in Block 6 East, SGI.** Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-2307) Mr. Pierce said he had misinformed the Board regarding the County Safety Program Committee. He asked the Board to enable him to begin the process of re-establishing the County Safety Program Committee to save money on the County's insurance premiums. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing Mr. Pierce to begin the process of re-establishing the County Safety Program Committee.** Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-2350) He discussed affordable housing with the Board and the impact the SHIP program could have on this problem of affordable housing in Franklin County.

(Tape 1-2591) He said he believes the Board needs to develop some form of Code Enforcement. At this time, Amy Hamm, an employee in the Planning and Zoning Office, is interested in expanding her skills and wants to try Code Enforcement. He discussed several options with the Board. The Board instructed Mr. Pierce to think about this matter some more and asked him to also come up with some type of job description for a part time Code Enforcement Officer, etc. They also asked the County Attorney to work with Mr. Pierce to create some type of ordinance and penalties that would be used on someone who violates the ordinance.

CHRIS FLOYD-DIRECTOR-CAPITAL AREA RED CROSS

(Tape 2-127) Chris Floyd, Capital Area Red Cross Emergency Services Director appeared before the Board to request the adoption of a proclamation “Hazardous Weather Awareness Week for February 20-26, 2005”. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the Chairman’s signature on the annual proclamation “Hazardous Weather Awareness Week for February 20-26, 2005”**. Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

RICK MARCUM-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-OPPORTUNITY FLORIDA

(Tape 2-280) Rick Marcum, Executive Director Opportunity Florida, appeared before the Board to update them on the recent statewide “Rural Initiatives Report” and the executive order signed by Governor Bush redesignating our region as a “Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern”.

ALAN PIERCE-CONTINUED

(Tape 2-797) Mr. Pierce continued his report at this time. He informed the Board that Ted Mosteller, Chairman of the Airport Committee, has told him enough progress has been made at the airport so the FDOT inspector is willing to let Mr. Mosteller request a 60-day extension on the Airport Operating Permit.

(Tape 2-809) He asked the Board to authorize the payment to Johnny Millender in the amount of \$5,000.00 for cleaning out the Old Ferry Dock Boat Basin. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the payment of \$5,000.00 to Johnny Millender for cleaning out the Old Ferry Dock Boat Basin.** Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-832) Mr. Pierce discussed the resurfacing of Las Brisas Way and the controversy associated with it. No action or decision was made by the Board regarding this matter. There were several options presented to the Board, but the Commissioners decided to wait to make a decision until further information was furnished to them.

(Tape 2-1013) He said the Planning Department has received several complaints about overnight camping and the dropping of trailers full of construction material in the SGI parking lot. The parking area is designed for day traffic, not overnight camping or a

storage area for boats, trailers, and other commercial vehicles. The Commissioners requested the County Attorney search the County Ordinances to see if there was an ordinance prohibiting parking on County right-of-ways, etc. already in place and if not to prepare a draft of one for the Board to consider.

(Tape 2-1132) He said the Fish and Wildlife Commission is developing a Public Input Forum to address hunting and fishing regulations. He stated he had a copy of the form for anyone to use if they have a concern about freshwater fish and wildlife resources and their use.

(Tape 2-1147) Mr. Pierce said he is still working on the development of C-5 standards for the Zoning Code.

(Tape 2-1490) The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed the Hurst variance request and how the problems are being resolved so Mr. Hurst's lot can be considered a buildable lot. There were several residents of the Alligator Point neighborhood who are adamantly opposed to any variance being granted for Mr. Hurst. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to defer this discussion until it can be presented to the Board of Adjustment at their February 15, 2005 meeting.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

GINGER COULTER-FCSO FINANCE OFFICER

(Tape 2-2570) Ms. Coulter said she was here this morning to get approval for the Sheriff's Department Budget to be amended by \$21,994.14, which represents the FEMA reimbursement of the overtime due to the recent hurricanes. Commissioner Lockley made a **motion authorizing the amendment of the Sheriff's Department Budget in the amount of \$21, 994.14 representing the FEMA reimbursement for overtime worked by the Sheriff's Department employees due to the recent hurricanes.** Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

THOMAS M. SHULER-COUNTY ATTORNEY

(Tape 2-2615) Mr. Shuler stated he had originally scheduled Mike Lake, CEO DasSee Community Health Systems, for the agenda this morning at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Shuler reported Mr. Lake had rescheduled his appearance before the Board until the meeting scheduled for February 15, 2005.

ALAN PIERCE-CONTINUED

(Tape 3-3) Mr. Pierce presented his "8 Key Issues" document to the Board regarding the Comprehensive Plan. He discussed this with the Board and the audience and said the document was just for review and suggestions.

(Tape 3-10) He reminded the Board and the audience the next Board Meeting, February 15th would be start at 5:00 p.m.

MARCIA M. JOHNSON-CLERK

(Tape 3-2347) Ms. Johnson said she had some information the Board had requested her to compile for them. She stated, as requested by the Board, the following information is

provided: At this time, the surrounding counties of Gulf, Wakulla and Liberty do not have any county employees who supervise inmate labor at a special or high risk retirement rate. She said the Board also asked her to check into the holidays the surrounding counties allow off for their employees. She presented each Commissioner with a list of holidays and the dates they are observed for Gulf, Wakulla, and Liberty County as well as the ones Franklin County allows for their employees. The Board thanked Ms. Johnson for her information.

THOMAS M. SHULER-CONTINUED

(Tape 3-135) Mr. Shuler updated the Board on the Alexis Marketing Lawsuit against the County. He said there were some proposed changes in the settlement language regarding beach access, etc., which would have to be worked out. He informed the Board he thought progress was being made on reaching a settlement in this lawsuit.

(Tape 3-2390) He said he and his family have talked about giving the property at the end of Shuler Street in Eastpoint to the County. He said they are ready to do this and asked if the Assistant Planner, Mark Curenton, would assist by completing a legal description so a deed can be properly prepared. Commissioner Crofton made a **motion directing the Assistant Planner, Mark Curenton, to assist Mr. Shuler with completing a legal description of the property in Eastpoint the Shuler Family wishes to donate to Franklin County.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 3-2460) There was some brief discussion about a SHIP Mortgage and the person who has the mortgage, Mr. Roscoe Dally. Mr. Shuler said Mr. Dally is in a nursing home now and the County has to decide how to proceed with either selling the house and property, etc. He said his best advice, right now, would be to wait until something further happens with Mr. Dally and then the Board, more than likely, would have to bid the house for sale at a public auction.

(Tape 3-2510) Mr. Shuler said he had scheduled a public hearing to consider the abolishment of the SGI Water District on March 1, 2005 at 9:45 a.m.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD
THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.**

CHERYL SANDERS, CHAIRMAN

MARCIA M. JOHNSON, CLERK

