

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
FEBRUARY 7, 2006
9:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Cheryl Sanders - Chairman, Russell Crofton – Vice-chairman, Noah Lockley, Jimmy Mosconis, Bevin Putnal

Staff Present: Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Roads, Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director, Bill Mahan – County Extension Director, Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Court, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney

Call to Order

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

Pledge and Prayer

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Putnal, to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting on January 17, 2006 and the Special Meeting on December 29, 2005.

Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills

Motion by Putnal , seconded by Crofton, to approve the County Bills as presented except for payment to G & N Contractors. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Putnal, to approve payment for G & N Contractors. Motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Lockley abstained due to a conflict.

Department Supervisor Report

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Roads: Updated Board on new equipment

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services: Presented the following items from his report:

Item #1 – Inform Board that the DOT has responded to Board request for improvements at intersection of US 98 and SR 65. According to Ms. Kathy Gibson, DOT, the following improvements are going to be made: Installation of 2 Oversized Stop Ahead signs, one Oversized Stop Sign, Rumble Strips, and one Dead End sign with reflector panels.

Item #2 – Provide Board with copy of County Incentive Grant submitted to DOT for widening CR 67 from Carrabelle city limits to Liberty County line, and raising the approaches at Pine Log Bridge. Estimated costs of improvements is \$2,287,000.00

Item #3 – Direction from Board on raising speed limit on CR 67 between Franklin County C.I. and Cora Mae Road back to 45 mph. Request submitted by the City of Carrabelle.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Lockley, to raise the speed limit to 45 mph on CR67 between Franklin C.I. And Cora Mae Road, and lower speed limit at Two mile to 45 mph. Motion carried 5-0.

Item #4 – Board action to authorize Carrabelle Ventures, LLC to pay for the last section of River Road to be extended into The Retreat at Three Rivers consistent with county road standards.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Putnal, to authorize Carrabelle Ventures, LLC to pay for the last section of River Road to be extended into The Retreat at Three Rivers consistent with County road standards. Motion carried 5-0.

Board: Discussed removal of abandoned boat owned by Bodiford. Took no action after discussing the situation with Van Johnson, who is also a City Commissioner for the City of Apalachicola.

Mr. Van Johnson: Reported that the boat is in the City limits, at a dock owned by the City, and that the City Attorney was researching the City's options.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director: Discussed bull dogs that were removed from an Apalachicola residence by animal control, the Franklin County School district request to have the tipping fee waived for the debris accumulated at the new consolidated school site, and gave updates on the Will S. Kendrick Sports Complex and the Art Exhibition at the Armory.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to authorize the County Attorney to petition the Court for custody of the ten bull dogs picked up by animal control. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Lockley, to waive the tipping fee for the debris removed from the new consolidated school site as requested by the Franklin County School District. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Lockley, to authorize the Chairman's signature and submittal of documents requesting an extension of St. Joe Community Foundation grant funds. Motion carried 5-0.

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director: ISSC 2006 membership and spring meeting discussion; updates on Gag, Red & Black Grouper, seafood worker's association elections, and the Gulf Coast Oyster Industry Council

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Crofton, to renew the County's membership in ISSC for 2006. Motion carried 5-0.

Sheriff Mike Mock – Inmate Medical: rescheduled to a later meeting

Helen Spohrer – Televised FCBCC Meetings

Alan Pierce: continued his report

Item #12 – Inform Board that Michael Shuler and I met with Ms. Helen Spohrer and her attorney, Barbara Sanders, regarding the possibility of the county enacting a public access channel with Mediacom through Ordinance 95-3, Section XI. Staff will continue to research issue and report back.

Item #5 - Board action to approve a list of \$706,242 worth of improvements requested to be made at Weems Hospital. The request will be submitted to Congressman Boyd's Regional Health Care Committee, on which Commissioner Lockley sits. The list of improvements was provided by the Hospital. The Regional Health Care Committee meeting will take place in Tallahassee on Feb. 13, and the county request will be competing with other requests from other surrounding counties. Board action.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to approve requested list of improvements worth \$706,242.00 at Weems Hospital which will be submitted to Congressman Boyd's Regional Health Care Committee. Motion carried 5-0.

Item #6 - Board action to approve Commissioner Lockley's travel and per diem to attend the meeting, and to request that Interim Hospital CEO Ron Wolff attend if possible.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to approve Commissioner Lockley's travel and per diem to attend the Regional Health Care Committee, and to request Mr. Ron Wolfe, Weems Memorial's Interim CEO. Motion carried 5-0.

Item #7 - Inform Board that AHCA has provided a revised Hospital License to January 1, 2006, which is the date consistent with when the county took over the Hospital. The County has also submitted a request to Florida Medicaid for a change of ownership.

Item #8 - Mr. Wolff is here to report on the status of the Hospital and to present to the Board the proposed by-laws for the Hospital Board.

Mr Wolfe – Weems Memorial Interim CEO: discussed outsourced collections, computer hardware and software updates, emergency room staffing, inventory cleanup, new services, meeting with local health care providers, labor issues, **“needs” list.**

Pat Kelly – Director of Nursing Weems Memorial Hospital: stated that the AHCA issues were resolved

Board: Stated Hospital is County's responsibility,

Bids – Boat Ramp

Pierce opened and announced the following Bids:

- BCL Contractors Bid - \$198582.00
- Tedder Bid - \$130,000.00

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Lockley, to forward bids to the County's Engineering firm for a recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.

Alan Pierce – continued his report

Mr. Wolfe - continued his report: reviewed proposed Hospital By-Laws, suggested Dr. Miniat and Ms Gail Dodds as members for the Hospital Board, stated patient level is currently low, swing bed patients is an option for revenue, supply shortage issue is corrected, recruitment of new doctors is slow, and discussed relationship with Emergystat

Public Hearing – Richard Dowden

Attorney Steve Watkins: updated Board on the issue, Dowden is willing to accept any restrictions the County will impose if variance is granted

Board: Maintain County 1000ft footprint if within 50ft wetland setback policy from wetland, compared to Mullis litigation,

Attorney Shuler: discussed issue

Chairman opened the floor for public comment:

Dan Tonsmire – RiverKeepers: County should continue to protect wetlands and critical shoreline district, discussed report

Mel Kelly – Mayor of Carrabelle: supported County's wetland setback policy

Alan Fifier – Alligator Point: County should be consistent with wetland setback policy

Donna Butterfield – St. George Island: supported protection of wetlands

Harry Dowden – property owner: County is at fault for not notifying Richard Dowden of restrictions

Gale Dodds – Planning and Zoning member: inconsistencies of enforcing County rules

Attorney Shuler: discussed hardship variances

Attorney Watkins: commented on wetland policy

Board: discussed County's restriction on building house, other options regarding request, and compared this issue to Mullis litigation

Richard Dowden: offered options if Board allows request of over 1000ft footprint

Attorney Shuler: suggested approving variance with 1000ft limitation and request stormwater options

Motion by Crofton, to deny application. Motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Putnal, to establish the County wetlands setback policy, restricting the footprint to a 1000ft if within 50ft of wetlands setback, as an Ordinance. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Putnal, to table Mr. Dowden's request until the next Regular Meeting and to have staff meet with Mr. Dowden and present a recommendation to the Board. Motion carried 4-1, Crofton voting nay.

Janice Weiss – North Florida Area Agency on Aging

Ms Weiss: Discussed senior service contract with Board; contract with Wakulla County will end on June 30th, and Wakulla has no interest to renew the contract. Ms. Weiss's contact number is 850-488-0055, and will provide info so that Board can seek non-profit to administer contracts

Sue Reed – Franklin County Senior Citizen Council (FCSCC) President: Stated that there are mostly new Board members, and new services are being offered to the County's seniors

Attorney Watkins – FCSCC Attorney: Discussed current Board members and status of Center

Board – Would like to see audit; possibility of FCSCC administering Senior Services Grant; asked Ms Weiss and FCSCC to meet and discuss possible options to administering Senior Services grants.

Bids -Boat Ramps

Alan Pierce - Tedder Construction is the recommendation of the County's engineer, Clay Kennedy of Preble-Rish.

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Crofton, to accept the engineer's recommendation of Tedder Construction. Motion carried 5-0.

RFQ – Seafood Feasibility Study

Alan Pierce – There was only one response to the RFQ, which was Lampel & Associates.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to forward the RFQ to the Task Force for a recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Report Continued

Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Court: Submitted the Road Department's 2006 holiday schedule and discussed the FCBCC 2006 meeting schedule.

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Crofton, to change the Board's July 4, 2006 Regular Meeting to July 5, 2006. Motion carried 5-0.

Alan Pierce: continued his report

Item 9 - Ms. Gayle Dodds is here to speak on behalf of the Health Council and to request the Board replace some members and expand the Board to include a few additional members. These are the changes: Recommend Dr. Miniati to replace Dr. Sanaullah for the physician seat; recommend Skip Chormicle to replace Maria Crump for the ambulance provider seat (Emergystat); add a representative from Big Bend Hospice; and a representative of the hospital staff, which at this time is Pat Kelly, Director of Nursing.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Crofton, to authorize the replacements and expansion of the Health Council as requested by Ms. Gayle Dodds. Motion carried 5-0.

Board: Authorized the Council members, who needed transportation, to use the Park and Recreation Van for Health Council Meeting in Carrabelle

Item 10 - Provide Board copy of grant request by the City of Apalachicola to the DEP State Revolving Loan Program for funding for a wastewater re-use system. It appears the City is asking for \$16 Million dollars to build system. The county has an opportunity to

comment if it would like. The county has no role in the construction or operation of system so it is strictly the discretion of the Board if it wants to make any comment.

Board: No comments on this item

Item 11 - Board action to approve a Resolution turning over the Battery Park Marina Improvement Grant to the City of Apalachicola. The Grant is entirely in the City and needs to be managed by the City. The City could have been the applicant but for some reason I was under the impression that the county had to apply. The Fish and Wildlife Commission have confirmed that the City can be responsible for the Grant so long as the Board transfers it by Resolution. Board action.

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Crofton, to approve the Resolution turning over the Battery Park Marina Improvement Grant to the City of Apalachicola. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 13 - At a meeting in November, Board authorized Mr. David McClain to assist in collecting oyster meat samples for a separate test of Red Tide. As part of that test, Mr. McClain contacted Dr. Livingston and he assisted in the collection and analysis of the Red Tide. He has requested payment of \$300 for his efforts. Board action to pay Dr. Livingston upon submission of invoice.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, authorizing payment of \$300 for Dr. Livingston for his assistance with collection and analysis during Red Tide. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 14 - Board action to adopt Resolution on Travel and Per Diem Policy consistent with IRS guidelines. This is recommended so that county employees and commissioners who receive travel reimbursement will not have to report it as income. This policy will become effective Feb. 8. It authorizes mileage as set by federal standards and \$7, \$12, and \$20 for food. Board action.

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Lockley, to adopt a Resolution on Travel and per Diem consistent with IRS guidelines for Board employees. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 15 - Board action to allow FRS Environmental Remediation to install a temporary monitoring well on Pine St. R-O-W on St. George Island consistent with DEP guidelines for the purpose of groundwater monitoring at the Express Lane on St. George Island.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Lockley, to allow FRS Environmental Remediation to install a temporary monitoring well on Pine St. R-O-W, consistent with DEP guidelines. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 16 - Inform Board that Mr. Chris Holley, FAC Executive Director, has responded to the county's request for assistance on the Article V funding issue raised at the last Board meeting. According to Mr. Holley, FAC is submitting legislation to correct the issues raised by the Board.

Item 17 - Inform Board that bids will be opened on the Bluff Road Bike Path on March 7 BCC meeting.

Item 18 - Board action to accept Preble-Rish Engineer's recommendations on test results on new road construction and have County Attorney release Letters of Credit. Subdivisions accepted are: Kelly's Landing, New River Run, and St. George's Bluff. All of these are private roads. Board action.

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Crofton, to accept Preble-Rish Engineer's recommendation on tests results on new road construction and have County Attorney release Letters of Credit. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 19 - Update on Alligator Point. I met with a group of state and FEMA representative on Friday. I am trying to develop an expeditious path through state and federal permits to get some protective barrier for that part of Alligator Point road that we are not moving. At this time it looks like FEMA will fund emergency sand berms that will be designed to be "sacrificial." This means that the berms will not be permanent, and therefore will not have the same permitting issues. The idea is to get some more sand down there as soon as possible.

Item 20 - Every year an audit is performed on the county's financial records, and in cases where state and federal funds are involved the audit report is submitted to the appropriate state or federal agencies for their review. The audit report for the period ending Sept. 30, 2004 has been reviewed by the appropriate agencies and a Notice of Management Decision: Response to Findings has been issued to the county. The Board must respond. The Clerk's Office and the Planning Office have responded to most of the items, but one item requires input from the Board. Once again, the county's revolving loan program has been cited by the Dept. of Community Affairs. What additional direction does the Board want to take regarding the collection of delinquent accounts?

Board: ARPC contract to administer revolving loan program should be reviewed and ARPC should be contacted regarding the status of the program.

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Crofton, directing Attorney Shuler to review the ARPC contract and involve ARPC in resolving the revolving loan program issue as to the extend that the Contract allows

Item 21 - Board action to sign two JPAs and Resolutions for the airport. The first is a JPA for \$27,000 to rehab runway 13/31. The second is a JPA to build a Corporate Hanger/Office for \$636,000.

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Crofton, to authorize the Chairman to sign the two JPAs and Resolutions for the Airport. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 22 - Inform Board that the Planning Office has issued two building permits, one several months ago, and one just recently, for residential structures on land that has previously been discussed by the Board. The land in question is some R-4 land on Bluff Road for which there was discussion regarding the suitability of boat storage on the property. No permits for boat storage have been issued. The Board discussed boat

storage on property on March 15, 2005, and at the time I stated I would bring the matter back to the Board “before anything was approved or a permit was issued...” The context of that discussion was about boat storage and not about residential uses, but in order to make sure the Board is aware of what the Planning Dept. has done I am now informing the Board of the two permits for residential structures.

Item 23 - Inform the Board that the United Way has kicked off their fund raising campaign. Last year United Way raised \$10,000 but allocated \$13,000 in Franklin County. Additionally, the United Way worked with the American Red Cross to provide some \$95,000 of assistance to seafood workers. I have brochures and pledge forms for those interested in contributing.

Item 25 – Inform the Board of Dave McClain and Grady Leavins efforts to seek funding in Washington D.C. from federal set-a-side dollars, and Florida’s Fish and Wildlife also passed a resolution in support of seeking funding for the State of Florida.

Item 24 - Board action to approve a Resolution of Appreciation for Ms. Shirley White for her service to the community.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Mosconis, to approve a Resolution for Pastor Shirley White. Motion carried 5-0.

Board: Discussed a need for stripes on the newly paved roads, new paving project; asked Clay, of Preble-Rich, to get with each Commissioner for new paving list; CR30 project start dates discussed; status of sewer project on River Road

Mayor Kelly: Engineer is reviewing the sewer project on River Road grant

Attorney Shuler: Discussed one cent sales tax Ordinance; recommended approaching both the City of Apalachicola and the City of Carrabelle and discuss inter-local agreement to allow all funds from the tax to go to healthcare

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Crofton, to approach both Cities to discuss and agree to an inter-local agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Shuler continued: Surveys for boat ramps donated by St. Joe; Georgetown Village commercial downstairs project will not require fill; Discussed South Shoal project. partial asset purchase, Lanark Water & Sewer district elections, Health Dept lease, arrest of person who stole County property, request by Eastpoint Water and Sewer District to use Road Department property, Emergystat contract; Alexis marketing litigation, rescheduling of Comp plan hearings, and stated that Attorney Nick Yonclas would attend the Regular Meeting on February 21, 2006 as the County Attorney since Attorney Shuler would not be present.

Motion Lockley, seconded by Crofton, to authorize the Chairman’s signature on partial asset purchase. Motion carried 5-0.

Sharon Thoman: Discussed Water and Sewer Board and actions of Board Member Jim Lawlor who refuses to resign his position

Attorney Shuler: Recommended a request for resignation for Mr. Lawlor, and Election certification of new Board members

Alan Fifer of Alligator Point: Asked how much money would be generated from the proposed one cent tax, and if there would be any cap on spending for the hospital?

Board: Responded to Mr. Fifer's inquiry.

Commissioner's Comments

Crofton: Status on C4 zoning, and SGI boat ramp

Sanders: Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor meeting at the Annex in Apalachicola and the importance of having representation from both the City of Carrabelle and the City of Apalachicola.

Mayor Kelly of Carrabelle: already committed on that date but will send recommendations in writing

Adjournment

Chairman Sanders adjourned the meeting at 11:58 pm.

Cheryl Sanders, Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia Johnson, Clerk