

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
APRIL 3, 2007
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Russell Crofton – Chairman, Noah Lockley – 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 Morón – Board Secretary

Call to Order (9:00 AM)

Chairman Crofton called the 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 (9:05 AM)

Regular Meetings: March 7, 2006, April 18, 2006, August 15, 2006, November 21, 2006
Special Meeting: August 28, 2006

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve the minutes for March 7, 2006, April 18, 2006, August 15, 2006, and November 21, 2006 Regular Meetings and the August 28, 2006 Special Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills (9:06 AM)

Commissioner Sanders inquired about the Shadetree payment on the County Bill list. Mrs. Johnson was asked to get more information on this matter before the meeting is over.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to approve payment of the County Bills as presented except for the payment for Shadetree Towing; Motion carried 5-0.

(Shadetree Towing was addressed later in the meeting)

Department Supervisor Report

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works (9:08 AM)

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

Item 1 – Update on removal of rocks and sand at Gulf Shore Blvd, Alligator Point Road and Bald Point Road.

Item 2 – Update on removal of demolished building located on the airport property

Commissioner Sanders and Mr. Chipman discussed the new “No Parking” and “Keep off Rocks” signs on Alligator Point Road.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:09 AM)

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

Item 1 – Annual Full cost of Solid Waste Management Report

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman’s signature on the Annual Full Cost of Solid Waste Management Report and Public Notice detailing the full cost incurred by Franklin County for the Solid Waste Management; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 2 – Waste Pro Solid Waste Collection Permit Application

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Parrish authorizing the issuance of a permit to Waste Pro, to collect commercial and residential solid waste and trash from the unincorporated areas of Franklin County; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 3 – Fort Coombs Armory Facility Use Agreement

Item 13

Renters/Users of the Facility and their guests, whether invited or not are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages on the public sidewalks adjacent to the Facility.

Item 14

All events must be concluded and the Facility closed, secured and trash taken out by 12:00 AM on weeknights (Sunday through Thursday) and by 1:00 AM on the weekends (Friday and Saturday)

Item 15

There will be no smoking or use of tobacco products inside of the Facility.

Item 16

Violations of any portion of this Facility use Agreement will be cause to deny any future use or rental of this Facility.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to approve the preceding additions/revisions to the Armory Facility Use Agreement, contingent on the County Attorney’s approval; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to name one of the ball fields at Kendrick Recreation Center after Sam Westbrook; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sanders and Mr. Johnson discussed a possible date during the spring when games would be played at Kendrick Recreation Center.

Dan Rothwell – County Engineer (9:16 AM)

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

Item 1 - Small County Outreach Program (SCOP):

Staff requests Board permission to apply for the Florida Department of Transportation SCOP grant to resurface SR300 - Gulf Beach Drive on St. George Island (6.6 miles) and SR376 - Thompson Airport Road (1.0 miles) in Carrabelle. The Department shall fund 75% of the cost of projects on county roads funded under the program, subject to availability of funds.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to allow Mr. Rothwell to apply to Florida Department of Transportation SCOP grant to resurface SR300 – Gulf Beach Drive on St. George Island and SR376 – Thompson Airport Road; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 2 - Road Department Maintenance Shop:

Work on the stormwater report and site construction plans is still in progress.

Item 3 - Saint George Island (SGI) Dune Walkovers:

County staff and the Corrections Department have completed construction of the West 11th Street. West 10th Street, and West 9th Street walkover are still in construction and West 8th Street has not been started. The Saint George Island Civic Club has completed the West 5th Street, Public Beach, and East 5th Street walkovers and the materials are on site for the start of East 11th Street walkover.

Item 4 - Sawyer Street Paving and Stormwater Plan:

Staff met last week with the Northwest Florida Water Management District and the Engineering firm to discuss 60% plans and revisions for the plans.

Mayor Kelly, of Carrabelle, stated that Timber Island parking facility needs to be completed as soon as possible due to opening of a new restaurant and expressed her concerns about the Timber Island boat ramp not being on County maintained listing of boat ramps in the EAR.

Mr. Rothwell gave an updated on the Timber Island parking facilities project.

Mr. Pierce and Board discussed purchasing available property around the Timber Island boat ramp for additional parking.

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Rothwell discussed an access road to new school site.

Butch Baker – Emergency Management Director (9:27 AM)

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

Item 1 – EOC Grant approval

Item 2 – Subcontract Agreement with Goosby Enterprises which is paid by a grant

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to approve the EOC grant and approve the agreement with Goosby Enterprises; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 3 – Update on ICS training

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (9:30 AM)

Item 1 – Gulf of Mexico

Item 2 – Department of Commerce/NOAA Update

Commissioner Parrish stated that this project could cause conflicts with commercial fishing if specific areas are not defined and suggested that the Commission act in a proactive manner not reactive. Board asked Mr. Mahan for regular updates on this issue.

Item 3 – Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Committee Update

Public Hearing – Evaluation Appraisal Report (EAR) (9:40 AM)

Mr. Pierce discussed the EAR process, the reason for the Public Hearing and read Resolution. Commissioner Lockley asked that Mayor Kelly's concern of boat ramp is addressed. Commissioner Putnal asked that the affordable housing numbers are addressed. Chairman Crofton opened the floor for public comments. Ken Osbourne requested a copy of the EAR.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to approve the Evaluation Appraisal Report; Motion carried 5-0.

Bill Snyder – Lanark Village (9:46 AM)

Present Petitions to Dissolve Water & Sewer District

Bill Snyder, Lanark Village resident, discussed dissolving the Water & Sewer district. Mr. Snyder stated that he has enough signatures for petition but other details need to be discussed and resolved before the petition is presented to start the process. Mr. Snyder stated some of the issues that have to be addressed by the City of Carrabelle, and also listed some of the properties that should go to the Lanark Village Association for parks and other public use.

Commissioner Rohrs, of the Lanark District, stated that the City of Carrabelle should address certain questions regarding the merger but suggested that only the Commissioners of the Lanark District should be involved with the negotiations not the any of the Lanark property owners.

Jerry Judge, of Lanark Village, discussed a report he received from an engineering company regarding the condition of the Lanark Water and Sewer district.

Doris Gibbs, Supervisor of Elections, discussed the process to dissolve the district and listed some issues that should be addressed before the process begins.

Attorney Shuler explained that this is not a popular vote situation, so property owners get to vote even if they are not residents of the County.

Ms. Gibbs discussed a 1993 Attorney General opinion on this matter, suggested a "mail out" ballot election and asked the Board to consider who will pay for elections which should cost about \$2000.

Commissioner Sanders expressed her concerns of the Lanark Village Association benefiting from the property Mr. Snyder referred to earlier.

Ms. Rohrs recommended the mail-out ballot option.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to direct the County Attorney to assist the Supervisor of Election and Property Appraiser with the Lanark Water and Sewer special election process; Motion carried 5-0.

George Allen – Eastpoint Water & Sewer Board (10:06 AM)

Eastpoint Water & Sewer District Expansion

George Allen and Hank Garrett distributed a letter that discussed the proposed district expansion and options for raising an additional \$200,000 per year to support a \$3.3 million dollar loan. Mr. Allen asked if the Commission would support a request to extend taxing authority and boundary.

Commissioner Sanders discussed similar situation that happened in Alligator Point.

Commissioner Lockley stated that servicing the new school should assist with this request. Mr. Allen discussed other options to raise funds for this project, the need to expedite this project because of poor condition of the water and sewer system, because of growth, and the difficulty to obtain grants. Mr. Allen stated that time is of the essence, and gave examples of water and sewer rates that included proposed changes.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, requesting the County Attorney to meet with Eastpoint Water and Sewer District regarding this request to extend the taxing authority and boundaries; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, asking Mr. Pierce to send letters to our Legislative Delegation regarding the problems Eastpoint Water and Sewer district is experiencing; Motion carried 5-0.

Representative Lorraine Ausley (10:40 AM)

Whole Child Initiative

Commissioner Sanders introduced Representative Ausley.

Representative Ausley distributed a handout and discussed the Whole Child project stating that the cost for technology would be about \$1000.

Board asked Representative Ausley additional questions about the program and suggested working with Franklin County Health Department

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to authorize a letter of support for the Whole Child Initiative; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Report (Continued)

Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts (10:56 AM)

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

Item 1

Update on Shadetree Towing bill

Payment of County Bills (Continued)

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to authorize the bill payment for Shadetree towing; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Report (Continued)

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services (10:57 AM)

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

Item 1 - Board action on a Resolution of Support for another Florida Boating Improvement Grant for improvements to the Lombardi Property in the Two Mile area. The Lombardi Property will be recommended as a landing site in the Seafood Feasibility Study. The Board has previously voted support for two grant applications for recreational boat ramp improvements at the Ocklockonee Bridge and at the Abercrombie Boat Ramp. The Lombardi proposal would be for a commercial boat ramp. The application must move forward because of the grant deadline even though the county does not have the Lombardi property under control. If the county and Lombardi do not reach an agreement before the grant application deadline of April 25th, then the grant will not be submitted.

Dave McLain commented on this request.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve the Resolution of Support for another Florida Improvement Grant for improvements to the Lombardi Property in the Two Mile area; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 2 - Board action to have the County Attorney review a draft a Development Agreement between the owners of the Lombardi Property and the county.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to direct the County Attorney to review the draft Development Agreement between the County and Lombardi property owners; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 3 – The developers of Heron Walk, a 9 lot subdivision on Alligator Point, are constructing two new roads intersecting with Alligator Point Road. A neighbor across the street from the proposed road continues to park a semi-trailer and a catamaran in the way of the new road. It is my opinion that the Board create a No Parking area so that traffic from the new road will clear line of sight turning onto Alligator Point Road. I recommend that the Board turn the issue over to the County Engineer for his recommendation.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to forward this issue to the County engineer for his recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 4 – Inform Board that Progress Energy has responded to the Board's request for a local pay station in the county. Read letter from Mr. Watson, Progress Energy.

Item 5 – Several years ago a previous Sheriff placed a substation on St. George Island with the approval of the Board. The agreement then was that the Board would own the land but lease it to the Sheriff, and the Sheriff would own the building. Sheriff Mock has written the Board a letter offering to turn the substation over to the Board, if the Board will in turn lease the building and land back to the St. George Island Lighthouse Association for use as a museum and visitor center. Read letter from Sheriff. Board action.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, authorizing a lease to allow the St. George Island Lighthouse Association to use the Sheriff substation on St. George Island as a museum and visitor center contingent on the County Attorney's approval; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 6 – Board action on Evaluation and Appraisal Report. Board needs to adopt a Resolution. DCA has reviewed the draft EAR and believes it to be sufficient.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Item 7 - Inform Board that the Committee for Ranking Proposals for the \$200,000 OTTED funded Countywide Utilities Feasibility Study has met and ranks Meridian Planning first. Board action to enter negotiations with Meridian.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to authorize staff to enter into negotiations with Meridian Planning regarding the \$200,000 Countywide Utilities Feasibility Study; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 8 – Mr. Dave McClain and Lampl/Herbert Consultants have briefed Ms. Diane Scholtz, Governor's Office, on the draft results of the Seafood Feasibility Study. Ms. Scholtz was impressed and advised the consultants that if the county wanted to seek additional funding to please let her know and she would attempt to make REDI money available. REDI stands for Rural Economic Development Initiative. Board action to request REDI money.

Dave McLain commented on this item.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to authorize staff to request additional funding from the Rural Economic Development Initiative; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 9 – Discuss the continued use of the Bruno Kolb site as a boat ramp.

Commissioner Parrish offered some suggestions on this matter

Commissioner Lockley suggested that St. Joe Company participate with the County's need for additional boat ramps.

County Attorney Report (11:12 AM)

T. Michael Shuler

Item 1 – Request for expenses to travel to Tallahassee for a pre-hearing conference on April 25th – 27th for the challenge to the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to authorize payment for travel expenses for Attorney Shuler and Pierce to attend the pre-hearing conference in Tallahassee regarding the Comprehensive Plan challenge; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioners' Comments (11:13 AM)

Commissioner Crofton suggested a policy change to which speakers with comments are added to the agenda. The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed the benefits of changing the current policy in which speakers are added to the agenda.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to designate Mr. Alan Pierce, the Director of Administrative Services, as the sole individual authorized to manage the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners agenda and determining that speakers during the "Public Comments" portion of the agenda shall be limited to a maximum of three minutes per person; speakers concerning other items specifically stated on the agenda may be allowed additional time at the discretion of the Board; Motion carried 5-0.

Sherman Thomas – Apalachicola (11:17 AM)

Recommendations – New Jobs & Jail Overcrowding

Mr. Thomas made suggestions including releasing misdemeanor offenders to help alleviate jail overcrowding, the creation of social outlets for the County's children, the elimination of the DARE program and then redirecting those funds for other programs. Mr. Thomas also suggested that the County stop using inmates for manual labor jobs and create new County positions to address these manual labor jobs. Mr. Thomas comments also included requiring the sheriff deputies to stop using county cars when off duty to drive home, stop using so much money in ballparks and spend it directly on children, and start catering to the locals in the same manner we cater to tourists.

Commissioners' & Public Comments (11:24 AM)

Commissioner Sanders reminded the Board of the workshop in Alligator Point at 5 PM. Commissioner Parrish stated that he will not be able to attend the workshop due to conflict.

Mr. Pierce commented on the phone calls he has received thus far on this matter.

Dan Tonsmeire gave an update on Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, Flint Rivers (ACF) water allocation issues.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to send Governor Crist a letter regarding his position and his support for Franklin County water issues, contingent on the outcome of the ACF meeting and any information received from Mr. Tonsmeire; Motion carried 5-0

Sherman Thomas complained about cable company increased rates and racial problems at the Landfill.

Adjourn (11:38 AM)

Chairman Crofton adjourned the meeting at 11:38 AM.

G. Russell Crofton, Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts