

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
April 4, 2006  
9:00 AM**

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

**Staff Present:** Van Johnson - Solid Waste Department, Hubert Chipman - Road Department, Bill Mahan - County Extension Director, Alan Pierce - Director of Administrative Services, Michael Schuler - County Attorney, Michael Moron - Board Secretary

**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 Lockley, seconded by Crofton to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2006 Regular Meeting. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Payment of County Bills**

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Putnal to approve payment of the County Bills as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Department Supervisor Report**

**Hubert Chipman**

Reviewed his report with the Board including the recent auction of used equipment; discussed a request for rocks at Gulf Shore Boulevard in Alligator Point.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Crofton to authorize the replacement of rocks at Gulf Shore Boulevard in Alligator Point. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Alan Pierce**

Presented this item from his report to the Board

**Item 6c**

Update on Alligator Point:

Board action to waive its bid policies and find a contractor to make FEMA approved repairs on other sections of Alligator Point road that had damage, these being near the intersection of Chip Morrison, and the other near the end of Alligator Drive near the S curve. The Board action would also include directing Preble-Rish to assist developing the scope of work consistent with the FEMA Project Worksheet. The reason for the action is to make as many repairs as possible before the beginning of next hurricane season. Board action.

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Lockley to authorize the waiving of bid policies as requested by Mr. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Van Johnson**

Did not have any items to report.

**Dewitt Polus**

Recommended changing Mark Henry's employment status to permanent; discussed purchase of a 100 gallon gasoline tank from the pesticide account and the cleaning of ditches between Eastpoint and Carrabelle.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton to permanently hire Mark Henry. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Bill Mahan**

Reviewed his report with the Board discussing Medicare Plan D Training, gave an update on Vibrio vulnificus Illness Rate for the Core States and FI Post Harvest Processing

**Keith Hardy – Deer Park Seawall**

Attorney Clinton McHale, of St. Joe, representing the Hardys discussed the Deer Partner seawall issue with the Board;

Keith Hardy asked the County to get involved with a proposed meeting;

Attorney Sanders representing Deer Partners discussed her clients concerns including the County involvement in this matter and proposed settlement options with the Hardys with the Board;

Board suggested Attorney Shuler to attend meeting with the Hardys and Deer Partners to assist with finding a solution to this issue

**Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Putnal directing Attorney Shuler and Mr. Pierce to conduct a meeting at 1:15 pm with the Hardys and Deer Partners to seek a solution to this issue. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Department Supervisor Report Continued**

**Alan Pierce**

Continued to present his report to the Board

**Item 1A**

Board approval of Resolution recognizing National Library Week.

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Putnal to approve the Resolution . Motion carried 5-0.**

**Item 1B**

Board approval of Resolution for Sexual Violence Month; Board asked Attorney Shuler to research laws that restrict where sexual predators can live

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Mosconis to approve the Resolution. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Item 2**

Inform Board that Mr. Teddar says he will be starting the Bluff Road Boat Ramp on April 10.

**Item 3**

Board action to allow Mr. Jeff Lockley to store Port-a-Lets at the State Yard on Bluff Road with the same conditions that the county currently has in effect with Wilson Port-a-Lets.

**Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Putnal to allow Mr. Jeff Lockley to store Port-a-Lets at the State Yard with the same conditions as the current agreement with Wilson Port-a-Lets. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Item 4**

Board action to turn over to County Attorney for enforcement three remaining turtle lighting violations. Of the 7 disorientations reported last year all have been resolved except these three. Board action. Board and Mrs Bruce Hall discussed the effects of Red Wolves on the local turtle population

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Mosconis to authorize Attorney Shuler to enforce three remaining turtle lighting violations. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Item 5**

Board action to turn over to County Attorney for enforcement of alleged zoning violation at 18 North Franklin St., Eastpoint.

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Mosconis to authorize Attorney Shuler to enforce the alleged zoning violation at 18 North Franklin St. in Eastpoint. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Item 7**

Inform Board that Ms. Rose Drye has announced that she does not want to serve another term on the county Planning and Zoning Commission when her term ends in May. She fills a seat from the Real Estate Industry. Board direction on getting a replacement.

**Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Putnal to advertise for Planning and Zoning members. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Item 8**

Board action to direct the County Attorney to release the existing Letter of Credit dated March 16, 2005, for Resort Village and replace it with a new smaller Letter of Credit because a substantial part of the infrastructure has been completed and approved.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal to replace the existing Letter of Credit with a new smaller Letter of Credit for Resort Village. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Item 9**

Inform Board that Mr. Bill Hobson, of Carrabelle Beach, has contacted me, and perhaps some of the commissioners regarding trespassing by the public upon his property near, but not adjacent to the Carrabelle Wayside Park. Mr. Hobson owns property on the south side of US 98 some several hundred feet from the end of the county property. Because there is no indication on the beach itself of what is public and what is private, beach goers wander up and down the beach. Mr. Hobson believes it is the county's responsibility to direct the public to the appropriate areas. I told Mr. Hobson that at this time he was the only private property owner in a row of about five that was complaining. He would like the Board to erect signs around his property saying "Private Property." Board direction.

Board discussed this matter stated that property owner should post his own signs and discussed changing the beachfront land to public property

**Item 10**

Board action to submit the following projects to the Tourist Development Council for funding:

- A) \$25,000 for engineering fees associated with designing the St. George Island boat ramp
- B) \$25,000 for dune walkovers on alligator point at the following sites- Bald Point, Carnival Lane, Pelican St., Gulf Shore Blvd., and also build a path at the S curve to guide visitors away from sea oats.
- C) \$100,000 for Kendrick park improvements.
- D) \$150,000, if necessary, for the rebuilding of the main St. George Island parking area.

**Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Putnal to submit the stated projects to the Tourist Development Council for funding and ask the City of Apalachicola to submit a request for funding for the "skateboard park" behind Apalachicola High School to the Tourist Development Council. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Item 11**

Board action to allow Ms. Beth Brinkley and her firm to improve at their expense a public parking area on the south side of the bike path on St. George Island directly across

from Prudential Realty, and to remove the parking area on Gulf Beach Drive. This will be done with the understanding that the property remains as county property and any improvements could be removed by the county.

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Putnal to approve Ms. Beth Brinkley request to improve the parking lot owned by the County. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Item 12**

Board action to request assistance from Senator Bill Nelson with regard to Medicare billing. The letter will be sent to Mr. Frank Detoma, Sen. Nelson's aide.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Crofton to send a letter to Senator Bill Nelson in regard to Medicare billing. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Item 13**

Inform board that GT Com has responded to the board's letter requesting that a local payment office be opened.  
Board discussed letter.

**Item 14**

Mark Curenton is working on the DCA grant to develop a capital improvement element for the comprehensive plan. If the Board has any suggestions or questions please feel free to contact him. If there are any capital improvements that the Board knows it can fund and wants to identify the funds at this time, those projects could be included in the element. Please contact Mark if you have any such ideas.

**Item 15**

Mark Curenton has informed me that over the last year or so the City of Carrabelle has annexed land into its city limits. Mark needs direction from the Board to update the county land use and zoning maps showing the annexations. The Board needs to direct Mark to make the appropriate changes as Mark does not make changes to the maps without board action. Board action.

**Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Crofton to authorize Mr. Curenton to adjust the City of Carrabelle's map to include all property annexed. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Item 16**

Board direction regarding the workshop with Mr. Peter Heckathorne, Sacred Hearts executive. At this time the workshop is set to run from 3 to 5 pm on April 18<sup>th</sup>, which is the time before an evening board meeting. Does the Board want to invite a representative from Gulf County?

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal to confirm the workshop and invite Mr. Don Butler, Gulf County Director, to participate in the workshop. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Item 17**

Dr. Marsh, Health Council Chairman, would like for the board to know that the health council in conjunction with the Franklin County Public Health Department has developed a telephone survey that will be used in Franklin County over the next several weeks to elicit citizen's views on the current county healthcare picture and on adding the sales tax. It is designed to be answered in about 15 minutes. The health council asks that the public not hang up on the surveyors. In order to prevent that from happening, the surveyor is announcing that the survey is being conducted for the Franklin County Commission. The Board, Mr. Pierce, Attorney Shuler and Becky Gibson, secretary for the Health Council, discussed this issue.

**Motion by Mosconis to have Attorney Shuler write a letter to the Health Council stating that before anything can be done on behalf of the Board, authorization is required. Motion failed due to lack of a second.**

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal to table this issue until the next meeting and ask the Health Council to provide more information on the survey. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Item 18**

Informed Board of letter from the City of Carrabelle regarding the jurisdiction and dredging of Poston Bayou.

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed this issue.

The Board took no action on this matter.

### **Item 6a**

Update on Alligator Point:

A) The Board postponed a decision from the last Board meeting regarding how the Board will pay its share of the final engineering and design costs associated with beach re-nourishment. The Board needs to allocate \$158,895. A likely source is the Bald Point Trust Fund. The Board needs to allocate the funds and then direct the Chairman to sign the DEP grant agreement. Board action.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal to transfer \$158,895 from Bald Point Fund for the final engineering and design costs, contingent on the meeting on April 8 with the Engineers. Motion carried 4-1, Mosconis voting Nay.**

### **Item 6b**

The Alligator Point Water District continues to have a critical water shortage because the main 10 inch line has not been replaced. At this time, I have recommended to the District that they use their existing FEMA funds to replace the 10 inch main in the existing Alligator Point Right-of-Way, and to do it under emergency orders so that the Point can have appropriate fire protection as soon as possible. I then recommend to the Board that it allow the District to apply to use the Board's Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds for a mitigation project to relocate the main. The Board has approximately \$400,000 available for mitigation projects. The initial project was going to be an

elevation project for a house on Alligator Point, and then Mr. Dave McClain was hoping some funds would be available for land acquisition associated with the seafood industry project he is working on. I believe supporting the Water District provides a higher level of public health and safety than any other project being proposed. Board action to recommend to Mr. Mike Rundel, Franklin County Emergency Management Office, that he work with the District and FEMA to determine the best use of the county's HMGP funds, and that Mr. Rundel take the appropriate steps to allocate the funds to the District if FEMA recommends it. The action authorizes Mr. Rundel to amend the Local Mitigation Strategy to include the Alligator Point Water District project. Board action. Mr Vanderplaats, of Alligator Point Water and Sewer District, commented on this issue; Pierce discussed other possible funding sources

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley to authorize Mr. Rundel to recommend best solution to the Board to resolve the critical water shortage in Alligator Point. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Michael Shuler**

Informed the Board that the letter referred to by Seth Blich in an earlier meeting, regarding hunting on little St. George Island, could not be located so Mr. Blich will send a copy and then Attorney Shuler will respond. Discussed rezoning request by Bobby Cresap in Carrabelle; disclosed his ownership in adjoining property and that his title company did the closing on the property; recommended public hearing on this land use change request.

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Putnal to authorize public hearing, of at least 30 minutes, for Bobby Cresap 10-acre rezoning request in Carrabelle. Motion carried 5-0.**

Informed the Board that the letters of credit Riverside Phase I and Gramercy Phase II were released as requested and that there is no general provision that regulates the use of fireworks. Board discussed the need for a nuisance ordinance and directed Attorney Shuler to develop a general nuisance ordinance; discussed interlocal sales tax agreement. Updated the Board on the Alexis Marketing litigation, including the court dismissal of the litigation with prejudice. Discussed additional info on the interlocal sales tax agreement; full details will be discussed at the next regular meeting as an agenda line item. Informed Board that he has to attend a hearing on behalf of the County and might be late at the next regular meeting.

Discussed the Weems Hospital lease to Blackhawk; stated that Blackhawk would like to extend the length of the lease, discuss a financial issue and include an option to purchase the hospital from the County.

Ron Wolfe updated the Board on the Hospital including the positive employee moral, new lab, patient services, Medicare, the importance of Critical Access Designation, and the inability to bill Medicare due to Dasse and GE past history.

Mr. Pierce commented on Hospital Board meeting and discussion of billing problems. Board discussed delayed billing for Medicare.

John Russell, Blackhawk's CFO, gave history and information on the Medicare billing issue.

Ruth Williams, County's Finance Officer, informed the Board of the current financial status of the Hospital account.

Board discussed option of Blackhawk starting on May 1, 2006 or the County going to RFP for a new company to lease the hospital; also discussed billing issues;

Blackhawk discussed need for County to borrow money for the hospital until the County is able bill Medicare;

Board agreed to schedule an emergency meeting after the Hospital Board has met and is able to forward a recommendation

**Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Sanders discussed the ARPC's opinion on the County's revolving loan program; Attorney Shuler will address. Informed the Board that there will be EOC workshops on April 12 & 25; discussed the Taunton Trust open house ceremony for their new facility on April 11. Discussed the NACO prescription drug program.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal to authorize the Chairman's signature on the NACO prescription drug agreement. Motion carried 5-0.**

Board and Attorney Shuler discussed the Hospital lease items including a longer lease, option to build and purchase a new hospital, and financing that will provide cash flow until Medicaid can be billed.

**Adjourn**

Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Sanders, Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marcia Johnson, Clerk of Court