

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
MAY 1, 2007
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

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

Staff Present: 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 (9:00 AM)

There was a Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes (9:01 AM)

Regular Meeting: April 17, 2007

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2007 Regular Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills (9:02 AM)

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

Department Supervisor Report

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works (9:03 AM)

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

Item 1 – Road Maintenance Discussion

Mr. Chipman stated that the lack of rain and heavy equipment used during maintenance is actually making the roads worse

Item 2 – Problems with New Radios

Mr. Chipman stated that he is having a lot of communication problems with the new radios he bought. Sheriff Mock stated that he is aware of the communication problems but the company is currently working on repairing the problem.

Board and Mr. Chipman discussed using his old radios until communication problem with new radios is resolved.

Mr. Butch Baker, the County's Emergency Management Director, offered Mr. Chipman the use of some of the radios from the old system he had until new radio system is working correctly.

Commissioner Parrish stated that the communication problem with new radio must be resolved because it is important that all agencies could communicate during a disaster in the County.

Sheriff Mock expressed his support for the new radio system.

Commissioner Crofton recommended that all County agencies meet and agree on communication procedures.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to reactivate the old radio system, make payments out of road department budget, until the problems with the new radio system is resolved; Motion carried 5-0.

Steve Fling, of the Alligator Point firefighters, stated that they are also having problem with their radios and would like to be part of communication meeting that Commissioner Crofton discussed earlier.

George Pruitt, of the Eastpoint firefighters, stated that he thinks the communication problem is with antenna not with the radios.

Commissioner Crofton asked Mr. Chipman to investigate a section on Pine Street that GT Com might have cut and not repaired while installing new wires.

Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Chipman to try and do some maintenance on the Eastpoint boat ramp.

Mr. Pierce stated that the County has done maintenance there before but the constant "gunning" of boat engines causes the problem.

Mr. Chipman said he would try to seek a solution to this problem.

Ken Osborne asked if Mr. Chipman could do some maintenance at the boat ramp at S curve on Alligator Point; Mr. Chipman agreed to work on that matter.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:24 AM)

Fonda Davis presented the following items for discussion and/or approval:

Item 1 – Mr. Van Johnson is out sick and in the hospital at Gulf Coast Medical in Panama City

Item 2 – B&L Cremation arrived Monday, April 30, and completed the finishing touches on the incinerator and administered an Operations Training Session for the operation of the Animal Crematory

Item 3 – Also, some County Parks and Recreation employees will be helping the Sheriff's Department this Friday with the Kid's for Cops Day Event.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services (9:26 AM)

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

Item 1 – Board action to extend Waste Management's non-exclusive contract for an additional five year period. Waste Management needs the contract approved in order to continue solid waste and trash collection for their customer's in the county. Board action contingent upon Solid Waste Director verifying the contract is in order. Rory Cassidy, of Waste Management, stated that he was available to answer questions.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve the extension to the Waste Management non-exclusive contract for an additional five year period; Motion carried 5-0.

Sheriff Mike Mock (9:28 AM)

Jail Expansion

Sheriff Mock presented a letter and discussed funding for possibly expanding the jail to house state inmates. Commissioner Crofton said the Board would consider this during the budget discussions.

Warden Duane Spears (9:30 AM)

Franklin County Correctional Institution

Warden Spears introduced himself as the new Warden, discussed amount of work squads used by county, complimented his current staff, stated that he wants to be part of the community and that there are employment opportunities for local residents.

Commissioners Putnal and Sanders expressed their support for the Correctional Institute in Franklin County. Commissioner Lockley and Warden Spears discussed the maximum amount of squads that can be out at time. Commissioner Putnal and Warden Spears discussed emergency plan that would be implemented after a disaster. Barbara Rohrs asked about options, besides online, for employment applications. Mayor Kelly thanked Warden Spears for his efforts in the City of Carrabelle

Department Supervisor Report (Continued) (9:39 AM)

Dan Rothwell – County Engineer

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

Item 1 - Airport Access Road Observations: Perform construction observations on the new Airport Access Road.

Item 2 - Road Department Maintenance Shop: Work on the stormwater report and site construction plans is still in progress.

Item 3 - Prepare a partial road repair list for District #2: Have prepared a partial road repair list for Commission District 2 and will update the list and priorities as the list evolves.

Commissioner Putnal and Mr. Rothwell discussed parking at the boat ramp in Carrabelle.

Mayor Kelly, of Carrabelle, stated that the City of Carrabelle has a water and sewer project that will be in that area so any proposed road paving should be done after the project is completed.

Curt Blair – Tourist Development Council (9:45 AM)

Grant Awards Update, Public Relations Proposal, Non-Profit Discussion

Curt Blair presented the following items for discussion and/or approval:

Item 1 - Your first attachment reflects the infrastructure items which were reviewed at our last meeting. You will see we had a total of \$450,000 to disperse in this cycle. The County had requested a total of \$230,000 in projects including \$100,000 for land acquisition. The TDC approved all of the county requested items. We have requested that your staff let us review the specific acquisition project in order to insure conformance with statutory guidelines.

Commissioner Putnal and Mr. Blair discussed possible funds for re-dredging of boat ramps.

The remaining \$220,000 was divided equally between the City of Apalachicola and Carrabelle. We have asked each city to come back and provide us with how they would allocate their award within the items they requested.

Item 2 – Sustainable Funding for Non - Profits. The second attachment is wording we have prepared to amend our plan in order to fund some non-profit organizations on an annual basis as you requested. We would ask that you approve this wording. We would expect that Alan Pierce would provide us periodically with names of some non-profits that you would request we consider. We would review such requests in August or September and have a decision by the beginning of your fiscal year in October.

Item 3 - TDC Plan Revision: Based on our experience over the last two years, the TDC has drafted changes to the TDC Plan. With the changes that have occurred in tourist, Seafood and Real Estate Industry, the TDC has attempted to find the most appropriate means of promoting the County in a manner that would target the most appropriate visitor market while focusing on the County's historical relationship with the seafood industry, our environmental resources and cultural and historical resources. This plan envisions directing funds to such promotion while maintaining a 60% allocation of funds for infrastructure purposes.

The County Attorney has told us that amendments to the plan must be done by Ordinance. So we are requesting that you authorize the writing of an ordinance and advertising for the public hearing.

Item 4 - During last year's small grant cycle two projects were approved to develop promotional materials which would be superseded by the promotional program outlined above. As a result the grantees volunteered their funds totaling \$49,643.

At our last meeting representatives of the St. George Island Visitor Center requested an additional \$18,000 for startup costs for the visitor center that was not included in your infrastructure request. The TDC agreed to allocate the \$18,000 from the returned funds. We would ask for your approval.

Turn in From Chamber Grants:	\$49,643
Geiger:	\$31,250
Balance:	\$18,393
Pay to lighthouse:	\$18,000

Franklin County Tourist Development County
2007 Infrastructure Projects Approved
Total Available: \$450,000

County Requests:	
- DW Wilson Park – Lights	\$ 50,000
- Kendrick Park	\$ 50,000
- St. George Island Welcome Center	\$ 30,000
- Land Acquisition	\$100,000

Total Award \$230,000

City of Carrabelle Requests:	
- Crooked River Lighthouse	\$ 31,000
- Harbor Master Building	\$ 34,000
- Buck O'Neil Baseball Park	\$ 29,000
- Camp Gordon Johnston	\$ 3,900
- Re-dredging for Boat Ramps	\$112,000

Total Award \$110,000

City of Apalachicola Request:

- Tennis Courts \$ 40,000
- Skateboard Equipment \$ 15,000
- Roof Repairs Heritage Museum \$100,000

Total Award \$110,000

The City of Carrabelle and Apalachicola were requested to return and identify how they would re-allocate the available funds to projects presented.

Nonprofit Support
Draft

April 27, 2007

Sustainable support for Non-profits: Each year the FCTDC shall allocate within its Infrastructure monies an amount which will be made available to support the operation of non-for-profit organizations that are organized and operated primarily as tourist-related entities as a means of supplementing the operations budget of such organizations.

Eligible organizations will be identified by the FCTDC in conjunction with the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners and will meet the following organizational and budgetary criteria:

- The candidate organization must be a non-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization
- Services provided by the eligible organization must appeal to tourists as well as local audiences
- Such services shall be of a cultural, historic, or artistic nature
- Entities providing said services will be operational 12 months a year

Requests for support may be made to the County Commission during the normal county budgetary process. Non-profits identified by the County for said support will be referred to the TDC during the budgetary process. Funds identified for such use will come from the funds available to the County for infrastructure projects in the following year. Remaining funds to be allocated for infrastructure will be decided upon the manner identified in these procedures.

TDC Plan 2007
Approved by TDC 4/24/07

I. Tourist Development Plan

The Tourist Development Plan is a two-year strategy for meeting the infrastructure and promotional needs of the County. Every two years the TDC will review the plan, reassess the rental history of transient facilities revise the projections and goals of the program. Plan revisions will be subject to public hearings and adoption process required by the initial plan in Florida Statutes.

a. Budget

The budget for the Tourist Development Plan will be the guiding policy for expenditure of tourist development funds. Allocations will be made in broad program categories consistent with the policies identified in the Plan. Specific programmatic expenditures will be determined by the TDC and subject either to a public process for bidding or the grants allocation process described in these procedures.

b. Amendments

Amendments may be made to the Plan and budgetary allocations twice each year after due consideration by the TDC. The TDC will finalize their proposals for plan and budget changes in a proposal to the County Commission. Such changes will be adopted by the County Commission in the form of an ordinance following suitable public hearings.

Plan changes will focus on evolving needs that have been identified during the course of the operation of the TDC during its current year.

Budgetary changes will be limited to ten percent of categories approved in the current plan or to the amount of excesses or reduction in collections anticipated in the current year's income projections.

c. Expenditures

Expenditures made from TDC funds will be authorized through contact or administrative decisions by the TDC. Subcontractors and vendors will submit invoices detailing the expenditure. After review by the TDC, to determine consistency with TDC policies and authorizations, approval will be submitted at the next meeting of the County Commission. Commissioners will approve the expenditures for disbursement by the County Clerk's office.

II. Revenue Projections

Revenue projections for the Tourist Development Council are based upon anticipated rentals for transient accommodations throughout the county for the year preceding the budget year. Such anticipated revenues from rentals for the 2007-2008 budget years are projected by the Florida Department of Revenue. Before budgeting for the coming year, the TDC establishes a reserve of 5% of anticipated revenues to protect against unanticipated reductions in collections.

The initial plan approved by the TDC anticipated revenues of \$550,000. During the first year of collections revenues actually resulted in about \$650,000. The second year revenues were slightly less than \$700,000. During the last two months of 2006 and the first two months of 2007, revenues dipped slightly over previous years. For the purpose of the 2007-2008 fiscal year, this plan anticipates collections of \$650,000. Allocations will be adjusted accordingly when new Department of Revenue projections are received.

III. Allocations

Using a projection of anticipated revenues of \$650,000, the TDC proposes the following in general category allocations.

5% Reserve	\$32,000	
Total Available for Expenditure		\$617,500
a. Administration	9%	(\$55,575)
b. Out of Area Promotions	16%	(\$100,000)

The TDC shall make funds available for the purpose of promoting Franklin County in such a way as to enhance its image as an environmentally diverse community, with a rich cultural heritage and a long history of seafood related activities.

d. Small Grant Program 16% (\$100,000)

Small grants will be made available to eligible non profit organizations for the purpose of supporting efforts to bring visitors to the area through the holding of events. Organizations will be eligible for amounts of up to \$5,000 to supplement operating funds and may be used to assist in conducting events. All recipients of small grants must recognize the FCTDC in any promotional material produced for the event. Grants will be provided on a reimbursement basis for accepted expenditures. Organizations receiving funds must make attraction information and visitor numbers available to the FCTDC.

e. Infrastructure Support (\$405,000)

TDC funds will be made available to entities of local government or a variety of tourist related infrastructure purposes. Each year the TDC will notify the three levels of local government in Franklin County as to the availability of infrastructure funds.

Infrastructure projects may include one or more of the following:

1) Funding for Capital improvements projects that are designed to enhance services to visitors and residents of the county to include such items as boat ramps, visitor center construction costs, piers, working waterfront projects and recreational facilities.

16% (\$100,000)

2) Sustainable Support for Non-profit Organizations: Each year the FCTDC shall allocate within its infrastructure monies an amount which will be made available to support the operation of not-for-profit organizations that are organized and operated as tourist related entities as a means of supplementing the operations and capital budget of such organizations. Eligible organizations will be identified by the FCTDC in conjunction with the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners and will meet the following organizational and budgetary criteria:

- a. The candidate organization must be a not-for-profit 501 c(3) organization
- b. Services provided by the eligible organization must appeal to tourist as well as local audiences
- c. Such services shall be of a cultural, historic, or artistic nature
- d. Entities providing said services will be operational twelve (12) months a year
- e. Candidate organizations must, in part serve as tourist destination facilities

16% (\$100,000)

3) Visitor Centers: The TDC shall make available to visitor centers annual funding for the purpose of capital and sustainable support to a limited number of visitor centers in the county. A limit of one visitor center per location that houses transient accommodations will be authorized and funded by the TDC. Centers must be operated 6 days a week for a minimum number of 6 hours per day. Centers must be operated by non-profit organizations. Any Center under contract with the TDC must record and make visitor center contacts available to the TDC in a form that is acceptable to the TDC.

17% (\$105,000)

4) Land Acquisition: The TDC will allocate funds for possible land acquisition of parcels that will provide public access to the county's waterfront and for other purposes. \$50,000 will be reserved each year that may be used to match Federal, State or local government funds for such purposes. Projects will be identified by the Franklin County Commission and TDC staff will work with State or Federal or non-profit intermediaries to facilitate purchases.

8% (\$50,000)

5) Beach Clean Up: Through out the use of personnel from the Franklin County Solid Waste Department the TDC will provide funds for an ongoing program of beach clean up throughout the County.

8% (\$50,000)

**St George Island Visitor Center & Museum
 Budget for July 1, 2007 to October 1, 2007**

Start-Up Costs

Liability Insurance	\$600
Display Racks, Business card holders	\$450
Computer and printer/copier/scanner/fax	\$1,500
Website design, hosting, registration	\$1,350
Signage	\$2,840
Computer desk, computer chair, 2 inside chair	\$1,000
Museum exhibit displays	\$2,000
Multi-media display	\$1,850
Internet cable installation & router for wireless	\$150
2 phones with answering machines & service hookup	\$160
Visit Florida membership charge	<u>\$250</u>
	\$12,150

Operating Costs

	<u>(Per Month)</u>	<u>(X's 3)</u>
Office Supplies	\$60	\$180
Internet	\$80	\$240
Electricity	\$200	\$600
Telephone (Local & Long Distance)	\$100	\$300
Postage	\$50	\$150
Part-Time Director	\$1,320	\$3,960
Misc.	<u>\$140</u>	<u>\$420</u>
	\$1,950	\$5,850

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to adopt and approve the TDC report as presented by Mr. Curt Blair; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Report (Continued) (9:56 AM)

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director

Item 1 - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Update: On April 12th, the FWC announced that when the red snapper season opens in state waters (waters ≤ 9-nautical miles (April 15th – November 1st) that the daily recreational bag limit will be 4-fish/person for the entire season. In addition the Captain and crew of for-hire vessels can still keep the recreational bag limit during the entire season. (The federal red snapper season in the Gulf opened on April 21st with a 4-fish/day bag limit for anglers, captain and crew. However, beginning on May 2nd, the daily recreational limit in federal waters will be reduced to 2-fish/day/person and the captain and crew of for-hire vessels will no longer be allowed to retain the recreational bag limit.) The minimum

recreational red snapper size limit of 16-inches total-length will remain unchanged in both state and federal waters.

Item 2 - Other Reef Fish Changes Effective 01 July 2007: In the Gulf of Mexico waters decrease the commercial and recreational minimum size limit for vermilion snapper from 11 to 10-inches total-length, eliminate the April 22nd – May 31st closed season for commercial harvest of vermilion snapper, establish a zero bag limit for gag, red and black grouper for captains and crew on for-hire vessels and remove the requirement for Class I and Class II commercial red snapper licenses. Golden tilefish will be designated as a “restricted species” in Florida. These changes will make Florida’s rules consistent with recent federal regulatory changes, and as a result, will minimize public confusion and aid rule enforcement.

Item 3 - Sponge Diving Extended to Northern Gulf: On April 12th the FWC voted to extend the area where the harvest of commercial sponges is allowed by diving from west of 84 degrees west longitude, near Cabell point on the eastern border of Jefferson County, to Cape San Blas. Persons wishing to land commercial quantities of sponges must possess a valid Saltwater Products License and a valid sponge endorsement. All sponges must be cut rather than pulled from the sea bottom, at least 5-inches in diameter, and there are areas specified where sponges may not be taken by diving. A daily recreational bag limit of 10-commercial sponges/day also applies. Changes are effective July 1st, 2007. The fact that these sponges must be cut when they are harvested is a very significant requirement to insure the sustainability of the North FL Sponge Fishery. John Stevely, who is a colleague of mine in the FL Sea Grant Program pushed to have this requirement

Item 4 - Trap Recover Workshops Scheduled: On April 26th the FWC scheduled a series of public workshops to get feedback on a proposed plan to help spiny lobster, stone crab and blue crab fishermen recover their traps following a major storm. The nearest workshop to us is on May 23rd at the St. Marks Volunteer Fire Department from 6 – 8 P.M.

Item 5 - Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Update: The NOAA Fisheries Service closed the commercial tilefish fishery in the Gulf of Mexico at 12:01 a.m. local time on April 18th, when the tilefish quota of 440,000 pounds, gutted weight, is projected to be reached. The fishery will reopen until 12:01 a.m., local time, January 1, 2008.

Item 6 - Offshore Aquaculture Bill Update: As requested, I contacted Bobby Pickels with Congressman Boyd’s Office about the National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007 and informed him of the Board’s interest in keeping track of the bill. Mr. Pickels sent me some additional information on the bill and stated that it is scheduled to be introduced to Congress last week.

Item 7 - Seafood Marketing Councils Created: NOAA Fisheries Service published a new rule April 11th to allow the formation of Seafood Marketing Councils designed to help market and promote seafood to the American consumer. Councils can be established as of May 11th. The councils established under the Fish and Seafood Promotion Act will provide the public with accurate information on the health benefits of eating seafood as well as the environmental and biological sustainability of fish species.

Item 8 - 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program: Students in 4th, 5th, & 6th grades are competing in this year’s 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program. We hope to have all the classroom and school competitions done by the end of this week. We are planning to hold the countywide speech competition in by mid-May.

Item 9 - UF/IFAS – Franklin County MOU: Attached, please find a copy of a new updated MOU between the Franklin County BCC and the UF – Institute of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences for your approval. The new MOU is very similar to the current one, however, the MOU needed to be updated to take into account administrative changes that have occurred at the State & University levels i.e. the Board of Trustee’s that were appointed for each University a few years ago, new accounting software being used at UF and administering the

County funds through the Office of Sponsored Research, instead of the Office of the District Directors. I gave a copy of the MOU to Michael Schuler for his review/approval and if there are no questions about the MOU I ask the Board to please approve the updated MOU so that the Chairman of the Board can sign it along with Mr. Schuler and Clerk of the Courts Marcia Johnson.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Florida and the County; Motion carried 5-0.

Camile Tharpe – GSG (10:06 AM)

Alligator Point Beach Renourishment Project

Mr. Pierce stated that because of a change that Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has implemented, Ms. Tharpe could not produce the numbers needed for the beach renourishment project and therefore did not attend the meeting. Mr. Pierce further explained that DEP has changed their position on erosion on Alligator Point which negatively affects that amount of state funding that will be provided on this project.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to send a letter to the DEP Secretary Michael Sole, the Governor, and the Legislative Delegation expressing County's concern and dismay regarding DEP's sudden change that will greatly affect this renourishment project; Motion carried 5-0.

Ken Osborne and Dick Waters of Alligator Point both commented on the DEP's rule change and the likeliness of higher payments that will be passed on to the property owners of Alligator Point.

Steve Fling (10:18 AM)

South Shoal Update

Attorney Steve Watkins, representing the developers, stated that in order for the project to be continued, including building the road, the revised plat has to be approved and recorded.

Mr. Pierce stated his concerns with the revised plat including the dedication of the road to the County and the increase of waterfront lots from 11 to 13.

Attorney Shuler also stated his concerns with the revised plat and did not recommend its approval until all details are resolved especially the dedication of the road to the County and the contingent regarding the abandonment that was never fulfilled from the developer.

Attorney Steve Watkins and Steve Fling, also representing the developers, said that too many requirements were asked of the developers and a guarantee is needed that once the new road is built the County would abandon the old road.

Attorney Shuler stated that the developer, not the County, must maintain the rock revetment once the County abandons the old road.

Attorney Watkins stated that during the abandonment the developer only gets ½ of the property.

Attorney Shuler said because the beach side was eroded that would be a legal issue, but the Board's instruction always was to abandon the road with no further responsibility.

Mr. Fling said he would discuss this issue with his partners.

Ken Osborne, of the Alligator Point Taxing Association (APTA), gave some history on this project including APTA continued commitment to this project. Mr. Osborne expressed his reluctance of supporting the approval of this revised plat because it would not provide better or safer route for the road, the lack of information on the proposed new water line, and other issues.

Commissioner Crofton stated that it is necessary for all parties to be informed of the current status of the project before any substantial progress can be made.

Commissioner Sanders expressed the need for immediate closure on this project.

Dick Waters, of Alligator Point, supported Commissioner Crofton's comments.

Betty Cummings, of Alligator Point, expressed her support of this project but also expressed her frustrations with the delays.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to authorize Commissioner Crofton, County staff, and Ken Osborne to meet with South Shoal representatives to work out an agreement that will allow the project to continue; Motion carried 5-0.

Chuck Colvert – Weem’s Memorial CEO/CFO (11:00 AM)

Hospital Budget

Chuck Colvert, Weem’s CEO and CFO, gave an update on the status of the hospital.

Attorney Shuler discussed ACHA fines and penalties.

Mr. Colvert gave an ambulance services update including the proposed Lanark/St. James ambulance staging area.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to authorize the Chairman’s signature on the EMS grant; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to amend By-Laws of Hospital Board to state that five of the Board members shall represent, instead of reside in, each of the five districts; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to appoint Rose McCoy to the vacant position, as Ms Shirley White resigned, on the Hospital Board; Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Colvert discussed Weems repayment of the OTTED \$600,000 loan.

Mr. Colvert, based on inquiry from Commissioner Lockley stated that there was insurance to protect the Board members from lawsuits or litigation; Attorney Shuler also commented on this matter.

Jay Abbott, of the St. George Island Fire Department, discussed the difference in radios, and asked if the County was providing two ALS staffed ambulances.

Mr. Colvert stated that currently most days are one ALS and one BLS staffed ambulance, but the goal is to have both ambulances with ALS staff.

Alan Fifer, Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, asked about type of accounting, cash flows reports, and annual audits used at the hospital; Mr Colvert responded.

George Pruitt, of the Eastpoint Fire Department, stated that the Sheriff’s department had the ability to “patch” all of the County’s agencies radio systems together.

Steve Fling and Jay Abbott stressed importance of having two ALS staffed ambulances and asked the Board to assist with this goal.

Commissioner Lockley suggested that the hospital increase its recruiting options.

Ken Osborne suggested that the School Board should take the initiative to get involved and create scholarships for EMT and other related careers.

Department Supervisor Report (Continued)

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services

Item 12 – In case this has not been dealt with earlier, Hosp. Board does recommend acquisition of Mr. Solomon’s property. The Hosp. can not pay for acquisition at this time. The Hosp. is developing a payment

plan for the \$600,000 OTTED loan and it can not manage that loan payment and land acquisition so Hosp. Board hopes the county will acquire the property for future uses.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to schedule a public hearing to discuss the purchase of Mr. Roy Solomon's property for Weems Memorial Hospital; Motion 5-0.

Roy Solomon stated that he would like the County to purchase his property for health care use.

Recess (11:41 AM)

Chairman Crofton recessed the meeting for 10 minutes.

Steve Fling & Jay Abbott (11:51 AM)

Fire MSBU update

Jay Abbott, of the St. George Island Fire Department, stated that at a regular meeting held on January 20, 2004 the Board of County Commissioners passed a motion to hold a public hearing to increase the MSBU tax, and discussed the need for this tax increase which was to purchase additional fire equipment to deal with all of the additional housing and commercial development in the County.

Commissioner Putnal stated that developers should contribute to additional infrastructure and fire department cost caused by their projects.

Commissioner Parrish suggested that a public workshop is scheduled to gather information before a public hearing is scheduled.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, authorizing the Chairman, on behalf of the Board, to attend Franklin County firefighters meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to schedule a workshop regarding a proposed MSBU tax increase and authorize the Franklin County fire departments to provide advice and recommendations at P&Z meetings when new development projects are reviewed for approval; Motion carried 5-0.

Jay Abbott stated that he will schedule a communication meeting with all of the County's agencies with Butch Baker and inform Board.

Public Hearing (Continued) (12:12 PM)

Affordable Housing Comp Plan Element

Mr. Pierce presented the following item from his report for discussion and/or approval:

Item 14 - The Board continued the transmittal hearing until 11:00 am, for the purpose of discussing the changes to the Housing element that the Citizen's Advisory Committee recommends. The Housing Board themselves do not want to be the management arm of the Housing Element; they want to be an advisory board for affordable housing. The proposed policies do not reflect that desire by the Housing Board and need to be written to reflect that. The County Attorney and I have reviewed the policies in view of consistency with other policies in the comp plan and we have suggestions that streamline the changes but I have not had time to print these changes out. We can discuss the proposed changes now and seek some guidance from the Board and continue the public hearing one more time, or we can try to finalize things this morning.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders to continue this Public Hearing until the May 15 Regular Meeting at 6PM; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Report (Continued) (12:14 PM)

Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts

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

Item 1 - I need some clarification from the board regarding your travel policy. Is it your intent that travel expenses be reimbursed after the cost is incurred, that is, after the trip, or in advance of the trip? In the past, I have paid travel expenses as a reimbursement because it's not practical to estimate travel costs in advance. Such payments in advance are difficult to document for the auditors and aren't as accurate as reimbursements based on receipts.

If it is the Board's desire to authorize the payment of travel expenses in advance, I recommend the following policy:

A. First, the board must authorize a specific travel amount consisting of meals, accommodations, and mileage. Receipts must be provided to document these expenses within ten days after such trips.

B. Second, the check would be drafted at the next board meeting following such authorization. This means that the advance payment must be authorized at least two meetings in advance of the travel. It should also be understood that it is the responsibility of the traveler to make their own travel arrangements and submit the required documentation to the Clerk's Finance Office.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to accept Mrs. Johnson's recommendations regarding the Board's travel policy on expenses; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 2 - For information, Ms. Pauline Sullivan has presented her public official bond as a Commissioner of the Lanark Village Water and Sewer District, to be filed with the Board records.

Item 3 – I need approval to remove 13 items from my property records that are considered to be obsolete or junked. I've provided you a list of them – most which are old computers that are taking up storage space.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve Mrs. Johnson's request to remove the 13 items that are considered obsolete from her property records; Motion carried 5-0.

Concerned Citizens of Lanark Village (12:20 PM)

Presentation of Petitions

Bill Snyder, of the Concerned Citizens of Lanark Village, presented 448 petitions requesting the Board of County Commissioner to dissolve the Lanark Water and Sewer Board by referendum, and discussed the need for more information from the City of Carrabelle regarding the merger.

Attorney Shuler stated the procedure that should be followed which included forwarding of the petitions to the County's Property Appraiser for certification and the scheduling of a public hearing.

Pauline Sullivan, a Lanark Water and Sewer District Commissioner commented on this matter.

Mayor Kelly, of the City of Carrabelle, stated that the time line has moved up since previously discussed.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to send the petitions received from the Concerned Citizens of Lanark Village to the County's Property Appraiser for certification, to schedule a public hearing on May 22 @ 1PM, and ask the City of Carrabelle to contact DEP about possibly extending their deadline regarding the grant application; Motion carried 5-0.

Ms Sullivan asked Carrabelle to provide as much information as possible regarding the proposed merger before the scheduled public hearing.

Commissioner Sanders stated that Attorney Shuler and Attorney Cox, from the City of Carrabelle, can get that information.

Barbara Rohrs distributed a draft agreement from the Lanark Water and Sewer Attorney regarding the proposed merger and was in favor of the two communities accomplishing this merger.

Commissioner Sanders stated that in her opinion the Lanark Village community has lost confidence in the Lanark Water and Sewer Board and this merger should not cost the Franklin County residents any money.

Department Supervisor Report (Continued) (12:46 PM)

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services

Item 1 - Board action to extend Waste Management's non-exclusive contract for an additional five year period. Waste Management needs the contract approved in order to continue solid waste and trash collection for their customer's in the county. Board action contingent upon Solid Waste Director verifying the contract is in order.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Item 2 - Board action to approve emergency ordinance authorizing additional homestead exemption on property tax as discussed by the Ms. Doris Pendleton, Property Appraiser at a recent meeting.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to declare the need for this ordinance as an emergency and to approve the emergency ordinance authorizing additional homestead exemption on property tax for senior citizens as stated by the Property Appraiser, Doris Pendleton; Motion by 5-0.

Item 3 - Board action to sign Florida Communities Trust (FCT) grant contract for the acquisition of Phase 1 of the Sportsman Lodge. While the acquisition of the land is paid for through the FCT grant funds, the land is being purchased with an understanding that the county is buying the land for its environmental and potential archeological value. This means that before acquisition the county must develop a management plan for the site which meets the state's expectations. The management plan has not yet been developed so it is not known what the costs will be to manage the land but it will not be free. It is my expectation the site will be managed through the county's Parks and Recreation Dept. but it might be possible to enter into a management agreement with the Apalachicola Estuarine Research Reserve.

Mr. Doug Haddaway, Trust for Public Land, is here to encourage the county to sign the contract for acquisition. Board action.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to sign the Florida Communities Trust grant contract for the acquisition of Phase 1 of the Sportsman Lodge and direct the Parks and Recreation Department to administer the grant; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 4 - Board action to direct the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to submit a grant application for the acquisition of the remainder of the Sportsman's Lodge property. In order to rank higher in the acquisition scoring, it will be beneficial if the county provides a local match. The only known source of funds the county has available is the TDC funds. The county had requested the TDC fund \$100,000 for land acquisition of waterfront park land. While the county had intended for the first purchase to be the Lombardi property, the county does not have a contract to purchase the Lombardi property, nor do we have an appraisal. I recommend the Board pledge the TDC funds as a local match. I have spoken to Mr. Lee Lineberger, an owner in the Lombardi property, and he is willing to allow the county to get an appraisal so we can begin negotiating for that property but it will take more than TDC funds for that acquisition, so I recommend we utilize the TDC funds as a match for this grant.

Board discussion on local match, and then action to direct TPL to submit a grant application to FCT. The one question that must be answered in the grant application is the Board's interest in the numerous wooden motel buildings on site. I have surveyed the buildings and spoken to the County Engineer who has stayed in the

motel, and he and I both recommend the Board purchase the land without the buildings as they represent a great liability and expense to the county.

Doug Haddaway, of TPL, stated that the owner of the Sportsman's Lodge apparently had a change of heart regarding the sale of the remainder of the Sportsman Lodge property.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to ask the Trust for Public Land to proceed with the grant application for the acquisition of the remainder of the Sportsman Lodge property and ask Mr. Pierce and Chairman Crofton to discuss the proposed purchase with the owner; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 5 - Provide Board with copies of the three FWC boating improvement grants for

A. Ochlockonee Bay Boat Ramp improvements- \$487,430.

B. Bluff Road Regional Boat Ramp Phase II- \$482,793

C. Eastpoint Landing Park (Patton Drive)- \$579,000.

While the Board knew that three grants were being submitted, the Board minutes reflect that the initial request for a Seafood Landing Park was going to be the Lombardi property. Since the county was unable to get that property under 20 year site control before the grant deadline, the consultants recommended, and I agreed, to switch the Landing Park to the Eastpoint location rather than not submit a grant. The Eastpoint grant will involve approximately \$350,000 for dredging the boat ramp and part of the channel to get adequate depth of water. Board action to verify for the record that it supports the grant request for the Eastpoint site.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to support grant request, by resolution, for the Eastpoint site for a boat ramp; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 6 - Board action to sign Local Agency Program Supplemental Agreement No. 1 for the Bluff Road Bike Path for \$434,277. DOT came up with the additional funds.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Local Agency Supplemental Agreement No. 1 for the Bluff Road Bike Path; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sanders directed staff to send letters of thanks to the Florida Department of Transportation and the Legislative Delegation.

Item 7 - On March 20, 2007, the Board approved a land use change and a zoning change for property owned by Mr. George Mahr in Blount's Bay. The advertised and approved change was from agriculture to residential at one unit per five acres, but the ordinance has a scrivener's error indicating the land was changed to one unit per 10 acres. Board action to correct the scrivener's error on the ordinances.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Parrish, to correct the scrivener's error on the ordinances referred to by Mr. Pierce; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 8 - Ms. Lori Switzer, SHIP Administrator, has submitted the Local Housing Assistance Plan for the Board to approve. This has been reviewed by Florida Housing. The Plan has been reviewed by the Board's Housing Advisory Board. The LHAP makes the following changes the Board should be aware of:

A. Because the Board specifically asked that \$60,000 of SHIP funds be made available to disaster victims the Plan had to be amended to reduce funds from other areas.

B. The amount of money available for rehabilitation was increased to \$25,000 from \$15,000 per case so fewer cases will be helped each year. It was necessary to increase the amount because \$15,000 was not enough money for the necessary repairs to be made.

C. With increase in other areas, the down payment assistance area will shrink to only help four people this year.

Board action to approve LHAP. The Plan can be modified later in the year but it must be submitted to Florida Housing Agency by May 2.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish to approve the LHAP as submitted by Mr. Pierce; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Lockley expressed some concerns regarding the emergency strategy.
Commissioner Crofton asked Mr. Pierce to have Ms. Lori Switzer appear at the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Putnal left the regular meeting at 1:13 PM to attend a doctor's appointment.

Item 9- Retroactive the Board needs to approve two Resolutions for SHIP activities in previous year.

A. Resolution incorporating the \$350,000 of SHIP funds the county received after Hurricane Dennis and disbursed through payments to disaster victims. This money was never recognized by the Board in its Housing Plan. Board action.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to approve the Resolution incorporating the \$350,000 of the SHIP funds received after Hurricane Dennis; Motion carried 4-0.

B. A Resolution recognizing the validity of the local disaster grants the Board approved for the Tornado victims.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, to recognize the validity of the local disaster grants approved for the Tornado victims; Motion carried 4-0.

Item 10 - Remind Board that the County Attorney and I have not had time to verify the Progress Energy Hold Harmless but we will do so before the next meeting.

Item 11 - Inform Board that Mr. Kevin Begos, Seafood Task Force Coordinator, is submitting a proposed contract that will utilize unspent county funds, and the pledge of \$10,000 from the Univ. of Florida. Mr. Kevin Begos commented on this matter.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the proposed contract contingent on the County Attorney's approval; Motion carried 4-0.

Item 12 - In case this has not been dealt with earlier, Hosp. Board does recommend acquisition of Mr. Solomon's property. The Hosp. can not pay for acquisition at this time. The Hosp. is developing a payment plan for the \$600,000 OTTED loan and it can not manage that loan payment and land acquisition so Hosp. Board hopes the county will acquire the property for future uses.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Item 13 - Invite Board to a boardwalk dedication on Thursday, May 17th at 6:00 pm at the west end of the St. George Island County Park. County crews and St. George Island volunteers built 8 dune walkovers this spring, built sand fencing, and planted dune vegetation. This dedication will be to recognize the accomplishments. After the dedication the commissioners are invited to a pot luck dinner at the St. George Island Fire Station at 6:30.

Item 14 - The Board continued the transmittal hearing until 11:00 am, for the purpose of discussing the changes to the Housing element that the Citizen's Advisory Committee recommends. The Housing Board themselves do not want to be the management arm of the Housing Element; they want to be an advisory board for affordable

housing. The proposed policies do not reflect that desire by the Housing Board and need to be written to reflect that. The County Attorney and I have reviewed the policies in view of consistency with other policies in the comp plan and we have suggestions that streamline the changes but I have not had time to print these changes out. We can discuss the proposed changes now and seek some guidance from the Board and continue the public hearing one more time, or we can try to finalize things this morning.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Item 15 - One of the decisions the Board made at the transmittal hearing on April 17th was to change the density of dwelling units in PUDs in the Eastpoint Urban Service Area from 4.3 units per acre to 10.0 units per acre. The discussion by the Board was not so specific and it is my understanding that the Board's intent was to set the maximum density any where in the Eastpoint Urban Service Area at 10 units per acre, which is a reduction from the current 15 units per acre. If, in fact, the Board's policy is to reduce the maximum density in the Eastpoint USA to 10 units per acre then at least one other policy in the Land Use Element must be changed, and that is Policy 2.2, which creates the various land use categories. There was no advertising of that proposed change. Board discussion.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to authorize staff to schedule public hearings for amendments to Policies 2.2 and 8.8; Motion carried 3-0, Commissioner Parrish was temporarily absent.

County Attorney Report (1:28 PM)

T. Michael Shuler

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

Item 1 – Construction Manager at Risk update

Item 2 – Board action to schedule a public hearing regarding the settlement agreement.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to schedule a public hearing to discuss entering into a settlement agreement; Motion carried 3-0, Commissioner Parrish was temporarily absent.

Department Supervisor Report (Continued) (1:30 PM)

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services (Continued)

Item 16 – Board action to approve advertisement of bids for the construction of the St. George Island Visitor Center and Museum.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to advertise for bid for the construction of the St. George Island Visitor Center and Museum; Motion carried 4-0.

Item 17- Board action on the following items from the Airport Advisory Committee:

Item A - Resolution declaring Apalachicola Municipal Airport a Regional Facility

Item B - Resolution for Chairman to sign TRIP agreement with FDOT for Rehabilitation of Runway 06/24 – 100% FDOT funding with waiver (\$750,000)

Item C - Resolution for Chairman to sign TRIP agreement with FDOT for Maintenance Hanger – 100% FDOT funding with waiver (\$350,000)

Request permission to advertise for a potential tenant. Already have several inquiries.

Item D - Chairman sign Ben Withers Contract for entrance road project. (4-books)

Item E - Chairman sign CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION of Runway 13/31 renovation Project.

Item F - Chairman sign CERTIFICATE OF FINAL COMPLETION of Runway 13/31 renovation Project.

Item G - Permission to advertise for fence project. \$24,000 FDOT funded - 100%

Item H - Permission to advertise for Airport Drainage System Evaluation/Repair (FIN PROJ#: 42071719401) - FDOT funded -100% (\$143,000)

Item I - Permission to pursue Approach Safety Zone land purchase.

Ted Mosteller, airport manager, discussed the grants.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to approve all items contingent on the County Attorney's approval of Items A & I; Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Pierce stated that he was in the process of reviewing the information he received from Attorney Shuler regarding a Code Enforcement Officer.

Commissioners' & Public Comments (1:40 PM)

Commissioner Lockley asked about the status of workshop on road paving project.

Commissioner Crofton recommended that the Board holds off on the workshop until funds are available for the road paving project.

Mr. Pierce stated that if the Board desired the Engineer could present proposed plan at next regular meeting.

Motion by Lockley to schedule a workshop for a road paving project; Motion died for lack of a second.

Sherman Thomas, representing Students With Voices, asked for update on concerns he raised at the previous meeting and asked the Board to be more active with these issues.

Don Ashley commented on the settlement agreement that the Board agreed to hold a public hearing on. Attorney Shuler also commented on this issue.

Adjourn (1:53 PM)

Chairman Crofton adjourned the meeting at 1:53 PM.

G. Russell Crofton, Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts