

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
JUNE 19, 2007
5:00 PM**

MINUTES

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

Staff Present: Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney

Call to Order (5:00 PM)

Chairman Crofton called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Prayer and Pledge (5:01 PM)

There was a Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Pierce informed the Board that Commissioner Parrish would not be in attendance at this meeting as he was representing the County at another venue.

Payment of County Bills (5:05 PM)

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to approve payment of the County Bills as presented; Motion carried 4-0.

Department Supervisor Report

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works (5:06 PM)

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

Item 1 – Repaired shoulders of road Highway 67 and Gray Street in Carrabelle

Item 2 – Continued the stock piling lime rock on Alligator Point Road for the parking lots

The Board, Mr. Pierce, and Mr. Chipman discussed using milled asphalt instead of limerock; Mr. Chipman will investigate this matter further.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to name the new maintenance building the Prentice Crum Maintenance Facility; Motion carried 4-0.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (5:09 PM)

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

Item 1 – Board approval to use the Wilma Work Center on Highway 12 in Wilma, Florida to house the animals from the Animal Shelter during any emergency evacuation; this plan has to be in place to be eligible for FEMA funds.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve the agreement with the Wilma Work Center, contingent on the County Attorney's approval, that would allow the Franklin County Animal Shelter to house the animals during an emergency evacuation; Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Davis gave an update on the status of the sewer at the bathrooms at Carrabelle Beach.

Dan Rothwell – County Engineer (5:12 PM)

Dan 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 permit preparation is still in progress.

Item 3 - Improve the West Side of Long Rd Drainage:

Plans are completed and permissions are being sought from property owners to lower and/or replace drive way pipes to improve drainage and reduce standing water. One resident has not responded yet.

Item 4 - Timber Island Parking:

Quantities estimates have been sent to Road Department for ordering materials for the project.

Mr. Pierce gave an update on the Alligator Point new parking area.

Mr. Rothwell stated that he inquired, from C. W. Roberts, as to the cost of asphalt millings and it was about three times the cost of limerock.

Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Pierce to send the Department of Transportation a letter requesting any milled asphalt they would be willing to donate to the County.

Public Hearing – Motel/Hotel Ordinance (5:18 PM)

Mr. Pierce asked the Board to table the Public Hearing until the second meeting in July.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to table the Public Hearing until the July 17, 2007 regular meeting; Motion carried 4-0.

Tommy Speights – Update – DOT Revetment Project on US 98 (5:21 PM)

Mr. Speights introduced the project manager Mr. Harry Wood and the design and drainage engineer for the project Mr. Jim Kapinos. Mr. Wood distributed a handout and gave an update of the FDOT's revetment project on US Highway 98, stating that the project should start sometime at the end of July or the middle of August and there would be one lane closing during the project. Mr. Kapinos distributed copies of the engineered plans and described the project in detail.

Paul Parker – Update – Tourist Development Council (5:35 PM)

Mr. Parker stated that the TDC is still working on the proposed revisions. Mr. Parker also stated that the Chamber of Commerce is no longer providing administrative services for the TDC so RFPs were sent out for

these services. Mr. Parker also stated that only one response was received, which was from Mr. Curt Blair, who resigned from the TDC prior to submitting the RFP.

Attorney Shuler requested Board authorization to allow the TDC to enter into a contract, which expires on September 30, 2007, with Mr. Blair for administrative services.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to authorize the TDC to enter into a contract for administrative services until September 30, 2007 with Mr. Curt Blair; Motion carried 4-0.

Attorney Shuler – Request (5:39 PM)

Attorney Shuler asked for authorization to advertise for RFPs for additional contractors to provide clean up services after a disaster.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to advertise RFPs for additional contractors to provide clean up services after disasters; Motion carried 4-0.

Planning & Zoning Report (Attached to Agenda)(5:42 PM)

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

CRITICAL SHORELINE APPLICATIONS:

Item 1 – **Approved by P&Z** (unanimous) Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock at 423 Mill Road, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. This application meets all state and local requirements. Request submitted by Better Built Docks, agent for Ronald Kelley, applicant.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to approve Item 1; Motion carried 4-0.

SKETCH PLAT APPROVAL:

Item 2 – **Approved by P&Z** (unanimous) Consideration of a request for Sketch Plat approval of a 9 lots subdivision named “Cypress Point” a 10 acre parcel lying in Section 27, Township 8 South, Range 8 West, Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Thurman Roddenberry, agent.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to table Item 2 until the next meeting; Motion carried 4-0.

Advisory Board of Adjustment Report (No Items to Report)

There were no items for discussion and/or approval.

Department Supervisor Report (Continued)

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services (5:46 PM)

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

Item 1- Inform the Board and public that Commissioners Sanders and Lockley were recognized at the Florida Association of Counties conference in Orlando for becoming certified as Advanced County Commissioners. Only 24 county commissioners in the state received this distinction.

Item 2- Board action to set up a budget committee of the Clerk, Ms. Marcia Johnson, the Finance Officer Ms. Ruth Williams, and myself to present a suggested budget to the Board. This is proposed because none of the budgets submitted contemplated a 9% reduction of revenues that has been dictated by the Legislature. One of the tasks of the budget committee will be to make sure the county properly responds to the deadlines created by the Legislature last week. On June 25, the Dept. of Revenue will submit to the Property Appraiser and the Chairman a statement on the amount of tax levies that will be used to calculate the annual growth rate in tax revenues from 2001 to 2006. The county must verify the information by July 2. It is very important that the county report the revenues accurately because they form the basis for the rollback and the cap.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to authorize a budget committee consisting of Mrs. Marcia Johnson, Mrs. Ruth Williams, and Mr. Alan Pierce; Motion carried 4-0.

3- Board action to direct County Attorney to review lease for St. George Lighthouse. And, Board action to allow St. George Island Lighthouse Assoc. to start subsoil investigation to determine what needs to be done to hold up the lighthouse once erected.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, directing the County Attorney to review the St. George Lighthouse lease and authorize the St. George Island Lighthouse Association to start subsoil investigation; Motion carried 4-0.

4- Board action to direct Clerk's Office to go out for bid for property insurance. Based upon some submitted estimates it is believed the county can save substantially, perhaps \$100,000, by receiving public bids on county property insurance.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to authorize the Clerk's Office to start the bid process for property insurance for the County; Motion carried 4-0.

5- Board action to for Chairman to sign DEP stormwater permit for the St. George Island bike path. DOT will be sending the construction contracts for approval in July.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the DEP stormwater permit for the St. George Island bike path; Motion carried 4-0.

6- Board direction on whether to adopt a Resolution opposing the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007. Gulf County has adopted a Resolution and has asked Franklin County to adopt one.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to table this item until more information is received on this item; Motion carried 4-0.

7- Board action to approve Change Order No. 1 to increase contract for widening CR 67 by \$108,265. This change order is for replacement of culverts and headwalls that were originally thought to be in good shape but are not. There is money in the project to cover the change order.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve Change Order #1 to increase the contract by \$108,265.00 to widen CR 67; Motion carried 4-0.

8- Board action to approve a contract with Preble-Rish for \$10,000 to pay for the construction/engineering on the Bluff Road Bike Path. Even though DOT increased the amount of money for construction, Preble-Rish is staying with their original proposal of \$10,000 for the design and construction supervision of the project. The

Preble-Rish fee was included in the DOT funds. C.W. Roberts is already under contract, and work should start in August.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to approve a contract with Preble-Rish for \$10,000 to pay for the construction/engineering on the Bluff Road Bike Path; Motion carried 4-0.

9- Board action to approve a contract with Preble-Rish for the design and engineering and construction supervision of the St. George Island Boat Ramp. Their fees are included in the Florida Boating Improvement award. The design is mostly completed and will be going to DEP by end of June for permitting.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to approve the contract with Preble-Rish for the design, and engineering and construction supervision of the St. George Island Boat Ramp; Motion carried 4-0.

Board discussed parking at this boat ramp.

10- Inform Board on status of various land acquisition efforts.

A) Sportsman Lodge Acquisition- The TPL is in the final stages of negotiating with Mr. Allen. The county, with the Seafood Task Force assistance, is writing the proposed management plan for the site. Once TPL finishes their acquisition, then the county, using FCT funds, will negotiate to buy the Sportsman Lodge from TPL.

B) 11Mile- TPL is interested in assisting in the acquisition of the Schoelles property at 11 Mile, and they will begin negotiating with the property owners.

C) Lombardi site- The TPL is not interested in working on the acquisition of the Lombardi site. While the site has environmental value, TPL is more interested in working on the Schoelles site at 11 Mile. So, we have informed the Seafood Task Force that it needs to find another funding source for Lombardi.

11- Clarification on who is going to the ISSC meeting. The Board travel funds are not adequate to send 4 people to the ISSC meeting. I have spoken to Mr. Bill Mahan and told him that if he can pay for his travel out of his budget then he can go, but otherwise the Board does not have enough travel funds to send him. Commissioner Lockley has volunteered not to go, so that leaves Commissioner Parrish and Kevin Begos, Seafood Taskforce Coordinator, as the two going on county funds. The Finance Office does think there is enough money to send those two. Board action to clarify Commissioner Parrish and Kevin Begos will be traveling to the ISSC meeting on behalf of the county.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to authorize travel and expenses for only Commissioner Parrish and Mr. Kevin Begos to the ISSC meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Motion carried 4-0.

12- Inform Board that FEMA has notified the county that the CRS rating of the county is being retained, which means that every flood insurance premium will be receiving a 10% discount.

13- Inform Board that DCA has written the Board that the transmittal package for all the land uses changes submitted in April, except the DSW change, is under review. DCA has sent the DSW proposal back, and DSW is now reviewing its options. The DCA report on all the other changes will be received by July 20.

14- Inform Board that Commissioner Lockley and I met with Ms. C.J. Pipkins, Escambia County Housing Finance Authority at the FAC Conference in Orlando last week. She will be sending over a Resolution for the Board to consider, and if approved, it will allow her Authority to provide low interest loans to first time homebuyers in Franklin County. We should receive the information by the next Board meeting.

15- Inform Board that ground breaking for GreenSteel Homes manufacturing facility on Carrabelle Airport Road will take place at Thursday, June 21, at 10:30 am at the site. There will be a reception to follow at the newly re-opened Pirates Landing.

16- Regarding the Board's direction to set up a Lanark Village Oversight Committee- The DEP has expressed a willingness to provide funds to hire a professional water systems analyst to provide the county with a finance and system audit. I am waiting for confirmation of the funds being available. The recommended professional will be Mr. Hal Falloy, a retired auditor from the Auditor General's Office who will be under contract to the Florida Rural Water Association for the work. I have spoken to Mr. Brian Armstrong, attorney for the District, and he indicated that the District would assist.

I have also spoken extensively to the Governor's Office. They contend that the issue of oversight is in the hands of the county commission by virtue of Lanark Village being a special district with county commission oversight specifically cited in Chapter 189.428, Florida Statutes. The Governor's Office is not going to get involved at this time.

17- Remind Board that it will be holding a workshop with the Hospital Board regarding the Hospital on June 28, at 5:00 pm here in the Annex.

18- The Seafood Task Force recommends the Board enter into a contract with Kevin Begos, Seafood Task Force Coordinator, for Mr. Begos to perform the work associated with the \$25,000 DCA grant. Mr. Begos will perform the work under the supervision of the Task Force. Part of the work involves obtaining appraisals of the Lombardi Property in Two Mile and the other site in Eastpoint. The grant will reimburse the county for the appraisal. Mr. Begos will receive the remainder of the funds for the work the grant requires. Board action to seek appraisals for the selected property and to enter into a contract with Mr. Begos to perform the work associated with the grant.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to authorize appraisals for the selected property and to enter into a contract with Mr. Kevin Begos to perform the work associated with the \$25,000 DCA grant; Motion carried 4-0.

19-Jay Abbott, Fire Chief St. George Island, would like to request the Board provide an ambulance on the weekends on St. George Island because of the overflow of summer crowds.

This request will be discussed at the public workshop on Thursday June 28, 2007.

20- Ted Mosteller, Airport Advisory Chairman, reports that the Airport Advisory Committee would like to add Dan Rothwell, County Engineer, as a member to the Committee. Board action.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to add Mr. Dan Rothwell, the County Engineer, to the Airport Advisory Committee; Motion carried 4-0.

Bruce Hall, of Apalachicola, suggested that since the need for the extra ambulance is tourist related, maybe the TDC could provide some financial assistance.

Attorney Shuler stated that he would research the laws that govern the actions of the TDC.

Bill Cook – Update – American Cancer Society Relay For Life (6:24 PM)

Judy Cook, of the American Cancer Society, stated that the Relay For Life would be held at the Eastpoint Ballpark on August 10th and 11th, next Tuesday would be the "Paint the town purple campaign", volunteers were needed for the Jail and Bail and "Dunk Tank" fundraisers, and community support was needed in general

for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Mrs. Cook also asked that the Eastpoint Ballpark is mowed before the Relay For Life event; the Board stated that they would have the park mowed and sprayed for mosquitos.

County Attorney Report (6:28 PM)

T. Michael Shuler

Attorney Shuler submitted his report in writing that addressed the following items:

Item 1 – Attached is a settlement offer from ACHA that the hospital board is considering. The agreement speaks for itself.

Item 2 – Attached is a letter from Ron Mowrey, who represents the Alligator Point Water district, concerning South Shoals and the districts view that So. Shoals is obligation to install a ten inch water line at Alligator Point. Mr. Mowrey also indicates that the county has "condoned" South Shoals paving over properly owned by the water district.

(a) My reply letter to Mr. Mowrey is also attached, stating the County has not passed an ordinance requiring South Shoals to install the water line and that the county needs more information before responding to his allegation that the county road, as paved by South Shoal, has encroached upon land owned by the water district.

Item 3 – Attached is a copy of the final version of the joint resolution adopted by the legislature proposing a constitutional amendment adjusting property values.

Item 4 - Attached is a copy of the June 7, 2007 letter from attorney Randy Denker outlining her final offer to resolve the R4 zoning issue raised by her client, Toni and Anthony Taranto.

Item 5 – Ashley vs. Franklin County (Remedial Amendment Challenge): I am waiting on the Ashley's attorney to respond to my questions to him concerning certain amendments he proposes to the settlement. I cannot respond to him before I receive his answers.

Item 6 – Attached are copies of two letters from attorney Charles Barfield concerning the Henry Rochelle claims. I have forwarded them to our insurance carrier, who is defending this matter, and Lucy Turner.

Item 7 - One year ago the board approved the contract for the hurricane debris clean up, subject to my review and final approval. Since that time, I have negotiated language for the contract, but it has not been finally agreed upon or signed by the chairman, though we are close to finalizing the language. Given the passage of so much time, does the board desire to re-advertise this matter?

The Board stated that they would review this report and ask any questions they may have at the next meeting.

Commissioners' & Public Comments (6:30 PM)

Commissioner Lockley reminded Mr. Pierce to have the Eastpoint park ready for the Relay For Life Event.

Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Pierce to have Mr. Chipman to add limerock to a specific area that was being used by seafood workers and oystermen to launch their boats.

Gail Riegelmayr, representing the Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, asked about the scheduling of the budget workshops; Mr. Pierce stated that the workshops would be in August but the specific dates were not yet set.

Mrs. Riegelmayr, asked the Board to consider moving the budget workshops to a larger venue in light of the amount of people that might attend.

Mr. Pierce suggested that we use the 3rd floor courtroom and rent a audio system to compensate for the poor acoustics

Dana Holton, of Bayline Medical Association, stated that despite rumors Bayline Medical is not or was not closing.

Commissioner Sanders stated that pink flowers should be sent to Mrs. Amelia Varnes funeral on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, that pink flowers are sent to Amelia Varnes funeral on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners; Motion carried 4-0.

Adjourn (6:40 PM)

There being no further business Chairman Crofton adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.

G. Russell Crofton, Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts