

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
JULY 3, 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**

There was a Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**Approval of Minutes**

**Regular Meetings: June 5, 2007, June 19, 2007, November 15, 2005**

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2007 and the June 19, 2007 regular meetings; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2005 regular meeting; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Payment of County Bills**

**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 (9:06 AM)**

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

Item 1 – Board action to renew the contract with VMS that allows the County to bill for maintaining particular sections on Highway 98 in Eastpoint and Lanark Village.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve the renewal of the contract with VMS to allow Road Department to continue to maintain certain areas of Highway 98 in Eastpoint and Lanark Village; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 2 – Per Commissioner Putnal's request, the cost of limerock is \$150 per load and the cheapest milled asphalt is \$300 per load.

Board discussed the cost of maintaining roads with limerock versus milled asphalt.

Mr. Pierce stated that he did contact FDOT about getting limerock, but they would not commit to giving the County any limerock. Mr. Pierce suggested that we wait until FDOT has a project in the County before we ask for limerock.

Item 3 – I am assisting the City of Apalachicola with the new City parking lot with hauling materials.

Item 4 - Update on the Timber Island parking lot

Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Chipman to add limerock at the parking area at the boat ramp on St. George Island.

Commissioner Sanders discussed the 9% budget reduction.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, directing Mr. Pierce to remind all County department heads that each department is required to reduce their budget by 9% and that the hiring freeze is still in effect; Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:17 AM)**

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

Item 1 – Informed the Board that Mrs. Margaret Barber has resigned her position as an Animal Control Officer.

Item 2 – Maintenance Shop update and Board action on electrical update which will cost approximately \$15,000 to \$29,000 dollars. This item was not previously budgeted for.

The Board stated that all costs for this project should come out of the recycling budget and discussed including other departments, like the Sheriff department, who will utilize the building to help fund this project.

Commissioner Putnal suggested that county use inmates to assist mechanics at maintenance shop and use any savings from this action to help fund the electrical upgrade. Board discussed this suggestion.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to direct Mr. Pierce to get with the Clerk's finance office and Van Johnson to seek funding options for the electrical upgrade costs from any vacant County personnel positions, to get with Larry Watson of Progress Energy and get a firm amount on this electrical upgrade, and to contact the Sheriff and discuss his use of the maintenance shop; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Item 3 – County Burn Ban and Fireworks**

Board stated that burn ban is still in effect but municipalities are allowed to use fireworks if sanctioned by a fire department; Mayor Kelly stated that the City of Carrabelle will have a 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks show with precautions in place.

Commissioner Sanders confirmed with Mr. Davis that the animal control department will be reduced to 2 employees; Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Davis to post the new animal control schedule in newspaper.

**Dan Rothwell – County Engineer (9:28 AM)**

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

**Item 1 - Improve the West Side of Long Rd Drainage:**

Most of the D/W pipes along the south side of Long Road have been installed at new grades to help area drainage. Future surveying will be done to investigate drainage of other portions of Long Road & Squire Road.

**Item 2 - Timber Island Parking:**

Road department has started purchasing materials to build the parking area. The construction boundaries will be staked this week and the Road Department hopes to start work next week.

**Item 3 - Limerock Road Dust Control:**

Several vendors were contacted to get cost quotes for Calcium Chloride dust control treatments for limerock roads. The reason Calcium Chloride was selected was its rating a food quality chemical with little possible environment impact. Local paving contractors and FDOT have been contacted as well to inquire about their use of Calcium Chloride.

**Item 4 - Airport Access Road Observations:**

Perform construction observations on the new Airport Access Road.

**Item 5 - Road Department Maintenance Shop:**

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

**Item 6 – FDOT Grant Funds**

Requested Board action authorizing the spending of \$8538.00 of FDOT Grant Funds to purchase survey equipment.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve the expenditure of FDOT grant funds to purchase some survey equipment; Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Parrish commented on the dust control on limerock roads and the airport road construction.

**Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (9:33 AM)**

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

Item 1 - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Update: During their June 13-14, 2007 meeting in Melbourne, the FWC approved the following proposed rule changes;

Item 2 - Traps and trap debris: – The draft rules would help spiny lobster, stone crab and blue crab fishers recover their traps following major storms by letting licensed trappers designate people to recover and possess their traps when the governor and the FWC declare an emergency. The new rules would also exempt local, state or federal officials from having to get FWC approval before removing traps, derelict traps and trap debris from areas where trapping is prohibited. A final public hearing will be held during FWC's Sept. 12-14, 2007 meeting in St. Petersburg.

Item 3 - Alligator management: – The FWC decided not to allow homeowners to dispose of small nuisance alligators on their own, they must still contact FWC. They also turned down proposals on statewide permits for recreational alligator hunters and allowing daytime recreational alligator hunting or the use of small-caliber handguns to dispatch alligators. They did approve the concept of using artificial lures to reel in alligators during statewide harvests and removing the 6-9-foot closed slot limit on gators taken in the Private Lands Alligator Management Program. FWC staff will prepare appropriate rule proposals for future Commission consideration.

Item 4 - Blue crab emergency rule: – Effective July 1, 2007 and until July 1, 2008, no blue crab endorsements, except for those endorsements that were active during the 2006-2007 fiscal year; shall be renewed or replaced. Persons or corporations holding an active 06-07 endorsement or an immediate family member of that person must request renewal of the endorsement before September 30, 2007.

Item 5 - Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) Update: The GMFMC announced that it will convene its Ad Hoc Review Panel for Red Drum in New Orleans on July 23, 2007 beginning at 1:00 p.m. The panel will assess the availability of information needed to conduct a SEDAR stock assessment for red drum and propose data collection activities that should be carried out in 2008. The next GMFMC meeting is July 30 – Aug 2, 2007 in San Antonio, TX.

Item 6 - Derelict Vessel Update: Attached for your information is a flow-diagram, 'Local Government Approaches to Derelict Vessel Removal' prepared by the Conservation Clinic Center for Governmental Responsibility at the University of Florida's College of Law. There is also a 21-page report titled 'Local Government Authority to Remove Abandoned and Derelict Vessels' that is available. The flow diagram and report are the result of a request several Sea Grant Agents made (including me) to the FL Sea Grant Program for help on dealing with abandoned/derelict vessels. If you would like a copy of the full report please let me know and I'll get it to you.

Item 7 - County 4-H Camp at Camp Timpooshee: This year's annual 4-H Camp (June 18-21) at Camp Timpooshee was a big success and a lot of fun. We had 17-youth from Franklin County and a total of 112 youth. In addition we had two local youth attend 4-H Camp Cherry Lake last week.

Item 8 - Low Impact Development and the Benefit to Water Quality Workshop: Attached for your information is a flier/agenda for a Regional UF/IFAS Workshop on Low Impact Development and the Benefit to Water Quality scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup> at the Wakulla County Extension Office in Crawfordville. The workshop is for local elected officials, Planning & Zoning Department staff, P&Z Board Members and Building Department staff. I'd like to invite each of you to attend.

Item 8 - Oyster School Tentative Date: As mentioned in the past UF/IFAS Extension and the Franklin Oyster and Seafood industry Task Force has been studying the idea of holding an 'Oyster School' for major seafood buyers

in the U.S. The school will be held locally and modeled after the highly successful annual 'Shrimp School' which is held in Gainesville. The tentative date for the school has been set for October 16-17, 2007.

Commissioner Parrish stated that the appointment of Representative Kendrick to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will be very beneficial for the County.

**Opening of Statement of Qualifications (9:45 AM)**  
**Construction Manager for Courthouse Renovations**

Mr. Pierce opened and announced the name of the companies that responded to the request.

Dooley Mac Constructors  
Albritton Williams Inc  
Allstate Construction Inc  
Arc Masterbuilders Inc  
Peter Brown Construction  
Ram Construction & Development  
GAC Contractors  
Bass Construction  
Poloronis Construction

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to forward all of the responses to the review committee for a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Chuck Colvert – Hospital Update (9:50 AM)**

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

Item 1 – Board approval on settlement agreement with AHCA of \$194,000 which will be paid over 4 years in equal quarterly payments.

Attorney Shuler stated that an additional cost of \$125,000 of improvements to hospital that the County is responsible for is part of the agreement and recommended Board approval.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the settlement agreement with AHCA; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 2 - \$150,000 needed to fund hospital until the end of fiscal year, Sept 30, 2007. This amount is needed to pay for the new emergency room doctors, to subsidize the ambulance service until provider number is issued which would allow billing, and the first quarterly payment to AHCA. An additional \$10,000 is needed to fund an ambulance on St. George Island during the next ten weekends.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to approve \$160,000, from reserve for contingency, for the hospital and ambulance service during the next 10 weekends on St. George Island; Motion carried 5-0.**

Attorney Shuler stated that the AHCA quarter payment will be paid for from current hospital budget, not the \$150,000 which was just approved.

**Discussion –Sales Tax (10:05 AM)**

Commissioner Sanders stated that she was not in favor of a sales tax unless the people of Franklin County had an opportunity to vote on it.

Commissioner Putnal stated that the County cannot continue to spend money on the hospital if the health services are not improving.

Commissioner Lockley stated that the sales tax is needed in order for the hospital to improve its services and the County needs to keep the hospital open to help residents who do not have insurance.

Commissioner Sanders said that the County needs a health facility that is supported by the entire community; Weems Hospital is only supported by half of the County.

Commissioner Putnal stated that the sales tax will take about 30 years to pay for a new hospital.

Attorney Shuler stated that 100 percent of sales tax will generate about 2 million dollars.

Commissioner Crofton expressed his support for a vote of the citizens on the sales tax before it is implemented and stated that the County can float bond with the sales tax if necessary. Commissioner Crofton supported the idea of a private company owning, not just managing, the hospital so that the County would no longer be in the hospital business and encourage the idea of the County looking towards a new hospital with a private company running it.

Commissioner Lockley voiced his support of a large professional company owning the hospital and stated that the sales tax would help with that idea.

Ms. Johnson, Clerk of Courts, read the following statement:

*On March 6, 2007, Mrs. Gayle Dodds, representing the hospital board, advised you the hospital board was interested in purchasing property owned by Mr. Roy Solomon. She also requested you approve the hospital board's recommendation to allow Mr. Chuck Colvert to serve as CFO in addition to serving as CEO with an additional salary negotiated by the hospital board. There was no disclosure provided as to the amount of the salary. She also reported health insurance was being authorized for the hospital employees with the hospital paying 75%. Please keep in mind Ms. Dodds made all her announcements during the month of March. I came before this board on April 17, 2007 to make you aware the hospital had more expenditures for the month of March than revenues. At your next meeting on May 1, 2007, a hospital board representative and Chuck Colvert were present, and they reported on the status of the hospital, assuring you my concerns were unfounded.*

*I find it ironic that a month later, we are in a financial crisis. Either your hospital board didn't know and weren't provided reliable information from hospital staff, or they didn't make you aware of the financial situation. The hospital board and the CEO/CFO were put in place for oversight for the county, not to keep information from us. My office consistently asked for financial reports, even going so far as to email the report in the format I wanted to the staff at the hospital. We received only two reports as requested.*

*I want to inform you also that the county's audit is going to be completed late this year in part due to the hospital not providing information requested by our auditors. I've received communication between the hospital and the auditors that confirms this statement.*

*I thought the workshop on June 28, 2007 was for everyone to put their thoughts out there. I made*

*statements at the workshop for the purpose of making the hospital board and employees aware of some of our citizens' concerns in order for those concerns to be resolved prior to a vote being taken regarding ad valorem taxing or sales tax imposition. I believe my remarks may have been negatively received when my intention was to offer beneficial information.*

*The hospital has been funded in part by the county. We've put 2.7 million dollars into the hospital since the county assumed the operation. There are minutes that show you were told the county would be repaid monies once medicare payments were received, and that has never occurred. The hospital is, in essence, being operated as a department of this county with oversight by the hospital board. I do have concerns when there's not enough money to pay the bills and delinquent notices are being sent in and we owe the State of Florida \$600,000 and we purchased property for the hospital at \$300,000. It's a bad reflection on our county.*

*I want everything that's said and done to be out in the open, and I stand by what I've said. My statements are made to provide you 5 elected commissioners with information you need to make wise decisions for the good of the entire county. They're not made for any other purpose. I speak as your financial officer. I didn't want to see us get to a crisis situation where you felt forced to act without timely consideration of all factors, and that is exactly what has happened.*

*There has to be a line of communication between my office and every department of this county, and I ask for nothing less. If my office is notified in advance, perhaps problems can be dealt with and crises avoided.*

*I request that any action you take today include direction that requires the hospital to file financial reports as directed by you in the format provided by my office on a monthly basis, and direction that my office be timely provided any other information requested.*

*I believe it's much less troubling to prevent problems rather than to have to solve problems, especially when the taxpayer's money and our reputations are at stake.*

Commissioner Sanders expressed her support for Mrs. Johnson's statements.

Commissioner Crofton thanked the Hospital Board for their tireless efforts with Hospital but stated that financial statements are needed on a timelier basis.

Mr. Colvert responded to some of the concerns Mrs. Johnson raised.

Commissioner Putnal asked when is the earliest date the sales tax can get on a ballot because that needs to be done as soon as possible; Attorney Shuler said based on information from the Supervisor of Election, October 17, 2007 is the earliest date.

Attorney Shuler explained that a 4/5 vote is needed to enact the sales tax without a referendum, but referendum is needed if funds raised from the sales tax will be used for a bond. Attorney Shuler also stated that even with a sales tax the County would still have to fund the hospital for at least two fiscal quarters and the Board has to consider what to do if voters do not agree to the sales tax.

Commissioner Crofton stated that if the sales tax fails, the hospital would ultimately close, so backup plan is needed.

Commissioner Parrish stated that without a long range plan for health care it would be too soon for the citizen to vote on this issue, but for the sake of keeping the hospital open the sales tax is needed now.

Mrs. Johnson stated that the County needs to consider budgeting for the hospital and the ambulance for a year; even if the hospital closes, the County still has to provide ambulance service.

Commissioner Lockley supported the Board agreeing to the sales tax with 4/5 vote with a sunset option and get the citizens to vote at a later date.

Ken Osborne, of the Alligator Point Taxing Association, stated that before the sales tax is approved the County would first need to secure 100 percent of the tax, which would require getting the City of Apalachicola and the City of Carrabelle to agree, decide if a new building would be built versus maintaining an old building, and the County and the citizens should know financial status of the hospital on a monthly basis.

There was Board discussion regarding fully staffed ambulances and emergency room service on the eastern end of the County. The St Joe Company development was discussed as an ally in the health care service for the county.

Richard Harper, resident of St. George Island, stated that taxpayers need more financial information regarding Weems before the sales tax is implemented and the County should not fund or generate new funding for the health care system as it is now. Mr. Harper also expressed concerns of the hospital board providing health insurance to the employees without prior BCC approval.

Commissioner Putnal agreed that gathering information before the sales tax is good idea but the County does not have the money to fund the hospital while this information is being gathered.

Mr. Pierce explained that the Hospital Board was created to run the day to day administrative responsibilities of the hospital and it was their decision to provide the health insurance for the hospital employees.

Curt Blair, of the Hospital Board, stated that this discussion on sales tax is very important for the County. Mr. Blair stated that the Hospital Board is following the rules that were approved by the Board of County Commissioners and explained why health insurance was implemented for the hospital employees, why the Hospital Board recommended purchase of the Solomon property, and discussed some options on providing health care throughout the County especially the eastern. Mr. Blair assured the Board that the Hospital Board is not trying to hide any information and will get the requested information to the Clerk as required. Mr. Blair also spoke of communication and unity as the actions needed to move forward with health care in the County and suggested a more generic question if a referendum is put to voters in the near future.

Commissioner Putnal stated that the health care in the County needs improvement because it has been the same for too long, but the sales tax is needed to improve health care.

Commissioner Lockley was of the opinion that the isolated location of the County in itself added to our problems with health care so the sales tax is definitely needed.

Commissioner Crofton asked exactly what options the County had for using the sales tax for health care. Attorney Shuler said the Board has the discretion to split revenue generated by the sales in any manner for operations and improvement of the facility.

Based on inquires from the Board Attorney Shuler stated that public workshops could be scheduled before the actual voting takes place and there could be more than question with options on the ballot.

Paul Riegelmayr supported Commissioner Parrish comments on developing a clear vision on health care, and was also in favor in workshops to inform the public, clear options and choices on the ballot, and town hall meetings in each district.

Attorney Shuler reminded the Board that a decision must be made by Nov 18, 2007 to have the sales tax implemented by Jan, 2008.

Commissioner Lockley reminded the Board that the information they were seeking was already researched by the Health Committee last year. Attorney Shuler said that there were other issues to consider.

Mayor Kelly, of the City of Carrabelle, inquired about a previous sales tax discussion and motion and discussed the City of Carrabelle's option not to agree to the interlocal agreement with regarding the sales tax. Attorney Shuler stated that the City of Carrabelle would have the option to keep their percent of the sales tax depending on what options the Board agrees to.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, directing Attorney Shuler and the Supervisor of Elections to proceed with scheduling a special nonbinding election in October for a sales surtax and direct the Hospital Board to approach but the City of Apalachicola and the City of Carrabelle about an interlocal agreement regarding the sales surtax; Motion carried 5-0.**

There was Board discussion regarding setting up workshops and public hearings on both ends of the County. Attorney Shuler stated that he would make scheduling recommendations for the workshops and hearings after he confers with the Supervisor of Elections.

**Department Supervisor Report (Continued)**

**Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts (11:40 AM)**

Mrs. Johnson did not present any items for discussion and/or approval.

**Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services (11:40 AM)**

Item 1- Board action on Resolution of Appreciation for Elder Care Services for their work in Franklin County.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve the Resolution; Motion carried 5-0**

Item 2- Provide Board copy of form signed by Chairman that was submitted to Dept. of Revenue in compliance with the actions of the Legislature. The Clerk and I have been notifying the county departments and Constitutional offices of the need to reduce their budgets, and those are being worked on. Therefore, the Budget books that are being passed out today contain the budgets originally submitted. By the time the Board holds its first budget workshop we will have revised budgets, and we will be making recommendations on the funding of the non-governmental organizations. Any further budget direction by the Board would be appreciated.

Item 3- Inform Board the Parking area for the Bald Point end of the Beach Renourishment has been staked out, and we are waiting for DEP Park personnel to inspect the site to make sure there are no threatened or endangered species in the area.

Item 4- Inform the Board that Ms. Sharon Jenkins, 27 year employee as courthouse janitor, has developed significant health problems and has applied for disability.

Item 5- Inform the Board that Escambia County Housing Finance Authority has sent the county a sample "Resolution and Interlocal Agreement" for the low interest loan program for first time

homebuyers. I have spoken Ms. C.J. Pipkins, Asst. Exec. Director, who Commissioner Lockley meet at the FAC conference. She said the Authority already serves 20 counties in the state, with Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, and Jackson being the closest. If the Board has the Authority work in Franklin County, the Authority would issue mortgage revenue bonds. According to the documents Jackson County signed, "The County shall never be required to levy ad valorem taxes on any property to pay the principal and interest on the Bonds, or to make any other payments.... The County is not obligated for any expenditure to pay the costs of the issuance of such bonds. The Bonds are limited, special obligations and will not constitute a debt to the state of Florida or the Authority, but will be payable solely from payments made from the revenues generated from the Program (Page 4-5)."

Some time in the last year, the Authority sold \$31 Million dollars worth of bonds. They have used most of those funds, and will have to seek another bond issue before they would have money available for Franklin County. If the Board is interested, it needs to direct staff to coordinate with the Authority and schedule a public hearing to consider the issue. The earliest the hearing could be held is September. Board direction.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to direct staff to coordinate with the Escambia Housing County Finance Authority on a Resolution and an Interlocal Agreement and schedule a public hearing on this program; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 6- Inform the Board that the Small County Technical Assistance Service has provided the county with an additional \$4000 to help pay for consultants on the Alligator Point project. The SCTAS is a part of the Florida Counties Foundation.

Item 7- Does the Board want to continue in the Small County Coalition? Membership dues are based upon population. Next year dues are \$3,041.60.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to discuss this item during a budget workshop and ask the Coalition to send someone to make a presentation to the Board; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 8-The City of Carrabelle has a grant to run sewer into the McKissack Beach area at no cost to the homeowners. Since this is out in the county, the City is asking for assistance. The City wants the county to make it mandatory that every existing residence in McKissack Beach area hook up to sewer if the City makes it available. The City also wants the County to collect the necessary easements on the other side, as those are private streets. Board action.

Attorney Shuler stated that this process must be done by ordinance.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to start the process of adopting an ordinance on this matter; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 9- Inform Board that DEP has found that there has been some petroleum contamination at the Express Lane on St. George. There will be remediation. DEP has written a letter to the Board explaining the situation.

Item 10- Does the Board want to continue to provide funds for the Seafood Task Force? The Task Force has submitted a budget request of \$20,000. While today's action is not budget approval, it does provide

the Finance Office with the direction whether to include the request for your consideration during the budget workshops.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to continue to fund the Seafood Task Force with a 9% reduction of last year's budget; Motion carried 5-0.**

11- Last year the county commission and the School Board entered into an agreement for the use of school buses and school bus drivers in the event of evacuation of the county. Butch Baker, EM Director, recommends the county commission renew the agreement. It has already been signed by the School Board. Board action.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the agreement with the School Board; Motion carried 5-0.**

12- Reconsideration of code enforcement. This item was tabled from last meeting.  
Pierce: Turtle issue needs to be resolved and code enforcement can help.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 1:30 PM, after a lunch break and the public workshop to discuss code enforcement; Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **County Attorney Report (12:03 PM)**

##### **T. Michael Shuler**

Attorney Shuler submitted a written report that addressed the following items:

Item 1 – Hospital Surtax (Sales Tax)

Item 2 – Florida Association of Counties Summary of the Property Tax Reform

Item 3 – Pending Immigration Bill and Gulf County's Resolution opposing the immigration bill

Item 4 – Animal Shelter agreement to use the facility at Wilma

Item 5 – Lease with the State of Florida for the Cape St. George Lighthouse reconstruction

Item 6 – Appraisal of the Lombardi Property

Item 7 – Litigation Stauts

- a. Henry Rochelle
- b. Ashley vs Franklin County
- c. Ashley vs Administration Commission
- d. Franklin County vs Jason White Construction and Stuart White
- e. Claim regarding a trip and fall in Eastpoint

Item 8 – Update on TDC Contract with Geiger and Associates

Item 9 – Board action on AHCA settlement agreement

**Commissioners' & Public Comments (12:04 PM)**

Paul Riegelmayr asked if the dates and location of Budget Workshops were set. Mrs. Johnson stated that the dates and location will be announced at the next Regular Meeting.

**Recessed (12:07 PM)**

Chairman Crofton recessed until the Public Workshop at 1pm.

**Reconvene (1:44 PM)**

Chairman Crofton reconvened the regular meeting at 1:44 PM.

Commissioner Sanders was absent due to an illness.  
Mr. Pierce was absent due to an appointment.

Chairman Crofton resumed the discussion on code enforcement.

Attorney Shuler presented some information on code enforcement.

Jim Cummings, of Alligator Point, discussed the turtle safe lighting issue and stated that new houses have not been held to the turtle safe lighting rules and many houses have lights on the beach that distract the turtles.

Bruce Hall stated that the Fish and Wildlife Commission will assist the County with enforcement of turtle lighting by training staff and May 1 would be the next season for the turtle nesting.

Commissioner Parrish suggested that during this slow time for the building department, staff should use this time to enforce the turtle lighting ordinance.

There was discussion regarding volunteers on Alligator Point to gather information like it is being done on St. George Island.

Ken Osborne and Jim Cummings discussed what resources would be needed on Alligator Point to help accomplish this.

Mark Curenton, County Planner, stated that a lot of the violations can be detected during the day and suggested some possible options as to how the County would handle this, with the available staff.

Mr. Pierce, who returned to the meeting, suggested that the Board authorize Alan to designate staff to assist with enforcing the turtle lighting ordinance.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Parrish, to use available staff from the Planning and Building department as code enforcement officers to assist with the enforcement of the turtle lighting ordinance; Motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Crofton stated that the staff members used for code enforcement should be trained.

Mr. Pierce stated that Fish and Wildlife will assist with training for enforcing the turtle lighting ordinance.

Board discussed code enforcement for zoning issues.

Commissioner Crofton stated that code enforcement is needed for zoning issues.

Commissioner Parrish stated that staff should simply enforce the current zoning rules and regulations.

Commissioner Lockley did not agree with being too stringent with the setback rules and regulations. Commissioner Putnal stated his displeasure with actions or uses that were being conducted in areas where it was not allowed or zoned for. The Board discussed this further.

Mirabelle Farmer stated that as the County grows it is important to enforce the County's rules and thanked Ms Bruce Hall for her efforts.

Commissioner Crofton stated that code enforcement only punishes the offenders, and each violator has at least 4 neighbors that are affected.

Commissioner Putnal asked Attorney Shuler to inform Crooms Transportation of the 9% budget cut he will have to abide by.

Mr. Pierce and the Board discussed this matter further.

Commissioner Lockley reminded the Commissioner that the information they were looking for regarding the voters and the sales tax was already compiled through a survey last year.

Mr. Pierce stated that he would look for that information and distribute it to the Commissioners.

**Adjourn (2:30 PM)**

There being no further business Chairman Crofton adjourned the meeting.

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G. Russell Crofton, Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts