

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
AUGUST 2, 2005
9:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Cheryl Saunders - Chairman, Bevin Putnal – Vice-chairman, Russell Crofton – Commissioner, Noah Lockley – Commissioner, Jimmy Mosconis - Commissioner

Others Present: Marcia Johnson – County Clerk, Van Johnson – Director of Solid Waste, Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Roads, Bill Mahan – Extension Director, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Moron – Board Secretary

Chairman Sanders called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Commissioner Crofton motioned to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting on July 19, 2005. Commissioner Putnal seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills

Motion

Commissioner Lockley motioned to approve the payment of the County Bills. Commissioner Crofton seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Representative Will Kendrick

Representative Kendrick presented the FRDAP checks to the County for the Carrabelle Recreation Park. A FRDAP check was also presented to City of Carrabelle for Tillie Miller Park. City of Carrabelle Commissioner Raymond Williams commented. Board thanked Representative Kendrick, and asked him to relay the same to Representative Allan Bense, and Senator Al Lawson for their assistance with the Hurricane Dennis recovery campaign in the County. Representative Kendrick commented on the DOT Wayside Park near Carrabelle Beach and the water access it provided to the County residents. The Board discussed this matter.

Approval of Consent Agenda – (Attached)

Mr. Pierce asked the Board to table Items 5, 6, 10, 11, 13 on the Consent Agenda because they involved land use changes and Item #29 because of pending litigation. County Attorney Michael Shuler and Mr. Dan Garlick commented on Item #29. The Board discussed this matter further and agreed to leave it on the Consent Agenda.

Attorney Steve Watkins commented on Item #16, and asked for Board approval even though it was not recommended by Planning & Zoning (P & Z). The Board expressed concerns regarding Item #16. Attorney Watkins responded to the Board concerns. Ms. Mary Lou Short, Chairman of P& Z, addressed the Board and explained Planning & Zoning's position on this issue. Attorney Watkins pointed out the location, using a drawing, to the Board. Raymond Nolton expressed his concerns of an agreement involving the loss of easement, and discussed the communication problems between all parties concerned. Attorney Shuler commented on this issue. The Board, Mr. Nolton, and Attorney Shuler discussed this matter further. Mark Nolton also commented.

Dan Tonsmeire commented on the consent agenda. The Board asked that Mr. Tonsmeire reserve his comments for a later time in the meeting.

Motion

Commissioner Mosconis motioned to have all concerned parties to try and resolve issues on item #16 on the consent agenda and ask the County Staff forward any resolution on this issue to the Board at the next meeting.

Commissioner Crofton seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Pierce recommended removing Item 21 from the consent agenda based on actions needed from the Board of Adjustment.

The Board and Mr. Pierce also discussed the new Condo/Hotel resort concept that has been presented to the County.

Mr. Tommy Luster explained to the Board that the concerns dealing with Item 21 were resolved so any action from the Board of Adjustment (BOA) was not necessary.

Ms. Mary Lou Short discussed the P & Z's position on the Condo/Hotel resort concept.

Dan Tonsmeire, of the River Keepers, requested that the Board table any development until a feasibility study, regarding the impact of these requests, is done. The Board commented on his request.

Jennie Griner commented on Item 21 of the Consent Agenda.

The Board asked Mr. Pierce to comment on the issues previously discussed.

Ms. Gail Dodd, a P & Z member, commented on the Condo/Hotel resort concept including density issues in Eastpoint and evacuation problems during storms.

John Carroll, a property owner, discussed Items 17, 18 & 23 including the subjects of green space and parking.

Motion

Commissioner Mosconis motioned to remove items 5, 6, 10, 11, & 13 from the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Crofton seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Motion

Commissioner Mosconis motioned to approve the Consent Agenda excluding removed items and ask P & Z, at their August meeting, to discuss and forward a recommendation to the Board regarding the Hotel/Condo concept. Commissioner Lockley seconded and the motion carried 3-2 Commissioners Putnal and Crofton voting Nay.

Larry Witt asked as to the status of item #4 and the Board informed him that the denial recommendation of Planning & Zoning was confirmed.

Department Supervisor Report

Hubert Chipman discussed the Alligator Point Road, and problems with water on the roads on St. George Island. The Board asked about FEMA reimbursement for the County's cost for cleanup. Mr. Pierce responded to the Board inquiry. The Board discussed the overtime issues for the County cleanup project.

Van Johnson commented on this issue.

The Board discussed the cleanup of Highway 98.

Annette Phillips, of VMS, commented on the Board concerns and asked if the County was encouraging the citizens, who lived on Highway 98, to move their debris on to Highway 98 for cleanup by FDOT. The Board members expressed their concerns of the danger caused by the debris in certain locations on Highway 98 to drivers.

Larry Phillips, permitting agent for VMS, offered some information regarding the cleanup of Highway 98 to the Board.

The Board discussed additional cleanup and safety concerns, including boulders, on Highway 98.

Ms. Phipps informed the Board that there was a problem contacting local contractors for work and, at the request of the Board, left contact numbers for FDOT.

Mr. Chipman expressed a concern of poor drainage on Highway 98.

Board discussed using local displaced residents for cleanup employment.

Mr. Bud Rich, of Jimmy Crowder Contractors, offered some comments to the Board regarding debris cleanup of Highway 98 including FEMA restrictions on reimbursement of debris removal.

The Board discussed some concerns, including standing water and mosquitoes on St. George Island with Mr. Chipman.

Ms. Phipps congratulated the Board on the team efforts with VMS (FDOT) during the cleanup process.

The Board discussed the disposal location of the debris removal and Mr. Rich updated the Board on this matter.

Ken Osburne thanked Mr. Chipman and Mr. Johnson for their efforts on Alligator Point during the cleanup efforts.

Van Johnson asked for direction from the Board about overtime for the County employees, regarding to debris removal. The Board recommended a maximum of 12-hour days.

Carrabelle Beach Park rest area including the action of deeding property to the County and a proposed budget increase for upkeep was discussed with the Board.

Motion

Commissioner Putnal motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign a Resolution accepting the property owned by the State for the Carrabelle Beach Park. Commissioner Lockley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Paul Osterbee, owner of Carrabelle Palms RV Park, offered to help with remodeling of bathroom and match money for a public pier. The Board expressed their approval and thanked Mr. Osterbee for his kind donation and congratulated him on the look of his RV Park .

Mr. V. Johnson informed the Board that the residents of Bayou Harbour requested assistance with storm debris removal, but because it is a private subdivision, Board approval is necessary. The Board discussed this matter.

Motion

Commissioner Putnal motioned to authorize the County to assist the residents of Bayou Harbor with storm debris removal. Commissioner Crofton seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. V. Johnson discussed his need to hire temporary help to process disposal tickets required by FEMA, to document storm debris coming into the landfill for reimbursement. The Board discussed this matter.

Motion

Commissioner Lockley motioned to approve payment for the temporary help as explained by Mr. V. Johnson. Commissioner Crofton seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. V. Johnson informed the Board that 12,000 cubic yards of eligible storm debris brought to the Landfill for disposal, and 3,000 additional cubic yards was brought to the Landfill but was ineligible for FEMA reimbursement. The Board discussed setting an end date for the amnesty of Hurricane Dennis storm debris at the Landfill.

Motion

Commissioner Mosconis motioned to set the ending date of September 1, 2005 for amnesty of Hurricane Dennis storm debris at the Landfill. Commissioner Crofton seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. V. Johnson requested authorization to advertise for a contractor to assist the County with Debris Removal. The Board discussed this matter.

Motion

Commissioner Lockley motioned to authorized Mr. V. Johnson to advertise for a contractor to assist with debris removal. Commissioner Putnal seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Board discussed replacing the garbage cans on St. George Island at the beach access.

Mr. V. Johnson discussed the difference between the past practice and actual policy of the Board as it relates to overtime. Ms. Johnson, Mr. Chipman, and Attorney Shuler offered some information on this issue. The Board discussed this matter.

Motion

Commissioner Lockley motioned to pay overtime for Hurricane Dennis cleanup based on past practice of the County as stated by Mr. V Johnson not by the Board's personnel policy. Commissioner Putnal seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Mosconis opposing.

The Board did not pass any action on changing the Board Personnel Policy.

Mr. Bill Mahan gave the Board an update on recreational Red Grouper fishing and the 4-H mock deployment weekend. Mr. Mahan also requested a budget amendment request for \$6,200.

Motion

Commissioner Lockley motioned to approve Mr. Mahan's budget amendment request for \$6200.00. Commissioner Crofton seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Annette Phillips informed the Board that VMS will send out bid request for the cleanup of Highway 98.

Marcia M. Johnson distributed the County Attorney's report and reminded the Board of the Budget Workshop on August 3, 2005.

Dorothy Inman-Johnson – Community Action Agency

Ms Inman-Johnson distributed a handout and updated the Board on CAP Office of Community Action Agency. Ms. Inman-Johnson also thanked Board for their support by allowing CAP to use the office space at the Old Health Department, discussed agency programs such as On-The-Job training, Homeownership, Headstart and informed the Board of open position with the local CAP office.

The Board inquired as to amount of residents assisted with food vouchers. Ms Johnson replied.

Chris Floyd – American Red Cross

Mr. Floyd updated Board on Hurricane Dennis recovery, distributed a handout and discussed the “gearing down” of the emergency “phase” and move to combining faith and community based organization for long term recovery phase of unmet needs of County residents. Mr. Floyd recommended that the County provide a link the “Hurricane Survival Guide” on its website.

Board asked for any type of group or committee to notify residents of danger from storms. Mr. Pierce responded to Board concerns.

Dick Middlekauff – Transportation Safety Products

Mr. Middlekauff distributed a handout and discussed his Company's services and pavement alternatives to the Board. The Board recommended that Mr. Middlekauff talk to the County's engineer firm.

“Smokey” Parrish – Waterfront Committee

Mr. Parrish discussed accomplishments, recommendations, and goals of the Waterfront Committee, distributed a handout and requested the support of the County.

Ms. Anita Grove, also of the Waterfront Committee, commented on this matter.

The Board commended the committee on their efforts.

Steve Rash, Water Street Seafood owner, commented on the seafood industry and the positive effects of the Waterfront Committee efforts for the seafood industry.

Motion

Commissioner Mosconis motioned to have the Board endorse the efforts of the Waterfront Committee. Commissioner Putnal seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Dave McClain, of the River Keepers, commented and endorsed the Waterfront Committee efforts.

Anthony Taranto, a waterfront property owner, commented and endorsed the Waterfront Committee efforts.

Board discussed locating property for an industrial park for the seafood industry.

Mr. Pierce informed the Board that the staff is already working toward this park and discussed this issue.

Curt Blair also offered some information on this matter and asked for a County representative to be part of this discussion and meetings. Commissioner Mosconis volunteered.

Motion

Commissioner Lockley motioned to appoint Commissioner Mosconis as the County representative. Commissioner Crofton seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Hampton May – Franklin County Senior Citizen Center

Mr. May was not in attendance.

Department Supervisor Report Continued

Alan Pierce reviewed his report with the Board.

Recommend Board table items 5, 6, 10, 11, and 13 on the consent agenda because those items refer to land use changes that the Board is not scheduling yet. Ask Mr. Shuler about item #29.**

Item #1 Inform Board that I have re-hired Roxie Allen to fill the clerical position. Ms. Allen previously worked in the Planning and Building Dept. for seven years before resigning to work with her husband in the seafood industry.

Item #2 Inform Board that Rich Reeves, Grant Administrator, gave me his two week notice last week. I will be advertising to fill that position but I might try to change the duties to bring the position into greater support for the other duties in the Planning Office.

Item #3 Inform Board that Butch Baker, Emergency Management Director, is providing an update to Governor Bush and Senator Mel Martinez in Wakulla County this morning.

Item #4 Inform Board that Gary Shiver would like for the Board to aggressively find a solution to affordable housing problem in the county. Mr. Shiver's step-brother, a victim of Hurricane Dennis, has been evicted from his trailer in Marion Millender's trailer park in Eastpoint and has no place to go. Mr. Shiver might be here to say a few words.

Item #5 Las Brisas update. Provide Board with copy of letter from Preble-Rish Engineers stating David Kennedy "recommends the County allow C.W. Roberts to go ahead with raising the road as planned to prevent damage to base material. The impact will only be three feet from the edge of pavement and will not affect property owners adjacent to Las Brisas." Provide Board with a memo from Doug Barr, Northwest Florida

Water Management District, describing the effort the District is expending on finding a solution to the impounded water around Las Brisas. Morris Palmer is here to request the

Board allow him to move forward with contracting with C.W. Roberts to pave the entire length of Las Brisas at his expense. Board action.

Motion

Commissioner Putnal motioned to approve Mr. Morris Palmer's request to allow him to move forward with contracting with C.W. Roberts to pave the entire length of Las Brisas at his expense. Commissioner Crofton seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #6 Inform Board that I received two letters from Planning and Zoning Members, and was stopped on the street by a third, who are concerned that the number of hotel/motel units being approved. Chairman Short asks that the Board "consider a moratorium on the hotel/motel designation until the Commission can properly evaluate the designation and locations where this type of development should apply." Board discussion.

- Board expressed concerns of impact of proposed projects on County infrastructure. Board suggested 60-day moratorium on Condo/Hotel projects. Attorney Shuler commented.
- Ms Dodd, of the Planning and Zoning Board, commented on Condo/Hotel definition.
- The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed this issue including the density issue, zoning codes, impact fees. Mr. Pierce was directed to get more information on this matter and get with P&Z and report back to the Board.

Item #7 The Planning and Zoning Commission Member also ask about getting a beach re-nourishment grant for Jimmy Nichols Island and Drake Wilson Island, two islands that separate the Two Mile Channel from the open bay. Board discussion.

Motion

Commissioner Mosconis motioned to direct the County Engineer to assist with the gathering of information needed to apply for re-nourishment grant for Jimmy Nichols and Drake Wilson Island. Commissioner Lockley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Skip Chormicle - Emergystat

Mr. Chormicle asked the Board to consider a direct contract with Emergystat.

The Board expressed concerns of Emergystat's actions, of removing the ambulances and staff, during Hurricane Dennis.

Ms. Gail Dodds, of the Health Committee, reviewed the Committees meeting minutes with the Board.

The Board discussed the cost of managing our own ambulance services.

Mr. Shuler commented on this issue discussing Emergystat's current contract with Dasee, payments from Dasee to Emergystat, and options for the Board. The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed this issue further including staffing a third ambulance permanently.

Board discussed writing a letter to the State Department of Health about the actions of Emergystat during Hurricane Dennis and future plans of the County for ambulance service.

Ms Gail Dodds offered some information and options for the Board. The Board continued this discussion including the rate of pay.

Department Supervisor Report Continued

Attorney Thomas M. Shuler discussed the following:

- Informed the Board of the status of the County's responsibility of hospital and ambulance service.
- Discussed the Bluff Road Boat Ramp including the County's responsibility for mosquito control, Phase I and II environmental study expense because the county must accept any pollution occurring on this site.

Motion

Commissioner Mosconis motioned to approve the Phase I study of the Bluff Road Boat Ramp. Commissioner Crofton seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Board Comments

Board discussed County forwarding tax money to the School Board.

There being no further business Chairman Sanders adjourned the meeting at 1:04 P.M.

Cheryl Sanders – Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M Johnson – Clerk