

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
AUGUST 21, 2007
5:00 PM**

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Court, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Morón – Board Secretary

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

Approval of Minutes (5:03 PM)

Regular Meeting: August 7, 2007

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to approve the Minutes for the August 7, 2007 Regular Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills (5:03 PM)

Commissioner Sanders inquired about the status of the C W Roberts contract for Highway 67. Mr. Rothwell, the County Engineer, stated that this was not the last invoice for this project.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to include a reimbursement for Commissioner Parrish regarding a registration fee paid at the ISSC Conference in Albuquerque, in the County Bill list; Motion carried 5-0.

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

Cora Russ & Phil Calandra – Citizens Advisory Committee – Update (5:05 PM)

Ms. Russ stated that the CAC is now focusing on the North West Florida Transportation Corridor. Mr. Calandra asked the Board to send a letter to Department of Community Affairs requesting assistance, that will be of no cost to the County, to help facilitate the CAC meetings regarding the Transportation Corridor; Mr. Calandra presented a draft copy for the Board's review.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to send a letter to DCA requesting assistance with the CAC meetings regarding the North West Florida Transportation Corridor contingent on Attorney Shuler contacting DCA and verifying this information and reporting back to the Board; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Reports

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works (5:12 PM)

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

Item 1 – Informed Board that Timber Island Boat Ramp project was completed

Item 2 – Did repairs at Florida Avenue in Lanark Village where water line broke

Item 3 – Cheapest price found for milled asphalt was \$300 per load. Mr. Pierce stated that DOT has not yet responded to the letter the County sent requesting milled asphalt.

Commissioner Sanders stated the truckers hauling logs are damaging Highway 67 and suggested using lime rock to repair the road. Mr. Chipman stated that the Division of Forestry will repair any damages to the Highway. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Chipman to monitor the work being done at the mill pond area and Duval Road.

Mr. Chipman gave an update on the grass cutting project throughout the County and work at Kendrick Park. Commissioner Sanders stated that the Senior Center in Carrabelle has requested 4 - 5 loads of dirt.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, to direct Mr. Chipman to off load 4 – 5 loads of dirt at the Senior Citizen Center in Carrabelle; Motion carried 5-0.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (5:22 PM)

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

Item 1 – Board direction regarding Mr. and Mrs. Durham’s request to be refunded her deposit of \$212.00 for rental of the armory, as current policy does not allow refunding of deposits.

Mrs. Durham appeared before the Board to explain her situation. Board discussed this matter.

Motion by Sanders to deny this request; Motion failed, there was no second.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to grant this request and approve a policy change to grant refunds for the rental of the armory if requests are made within a year of reservation; Motion carried 3-2, Crofton and Sanders voting nay.

Dan Rothwell – County Engineer (5:38 PM)

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

Item 1 - Timber Island Parking:

Project is almost complete, except work at boat ramp turn around.

Item 2 - Airport Access Road Observations:

Access road is 95% complete and is within the contract time limit.

Item 3 - Road Department Maintenance Shop:

Preliminary punch list is being corrected by Sperry & Associates and site is awaiting three phase power.

Item 4 - CR-67 Widening & Resurfacing:

The widening, leveling course, and sod has been applied to CR-67 from Pine Log Bridge to Liberty County line.

Item 5 - Lake Morality Road:

Awaiting lab report and repair proposal from consultant, written report from the lab is expected soon.

Item 6 - County Engineer Design & Survey Projects:

County accomplished survey projects consisting of approximately 102.5 hrs saving approximately \$19,475.00.

Design projects consisting of approximately 12 projects saving approximately \$36,000.

- Kendrick Sports Complex Field surveys and drawing modifications 5k.
- St. George Island dune walkover field surveys, design, detailed bill of materials by location & detail drawings for 8 walkovers 5k.
- Road Department Vehicle Maintenance Shop site plans, site design & storm water calculations 10k.
- Kendrick Sports Complex power easement drawing 1k.
- Sportsmen Lodge preliminary management plan drawing.
- CR30A field survey, design and drawing 5k.
- Long Road south side survey and drawing 3k.
- CR300 enhancement project 2k.
- Timber Island survey, design, and drawing 5k.

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (5:44 PM)

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

Item 1 – Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Update

Item 2 – FSU Marine Lab Seminar

Item 3 – UF IFAS Right-of-Way & Aquatic Pesticide Applicator Training

Item 4 – Oyster School Update

Budget Discussion - Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, Sheriff – Vehicle Maintenance & Courthouse Security, County Engineer, and County Employee Raises (5:52 PM)

Chairman Crofton stated some guidelines that he wanted adhered to during the discussions regarding budgets.

Commissioner Sanders stated that she requested the County's Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections to return to this meeting and discuss cutting their budgets to meet the 9% cutbacks. Board discussed this matter.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parish, to ask the Supervisor of Elections and the Tax Collector to reduce their 07-08 operation Budget by 8.82%, from their original budget request, of ad-valorem taxes and if they can't, return to the Board with an explanation; Motion carried 3-2, Lockley and Putnal opposed.

Mr. Pierce discussed the vehicle maintenance line item in the Sheriff's budget. Mr. Pierce stated that since the vehicle maintenance shop is not completed both he and the Clerk are recommending that the Board set aside \$40,000 in Reserve for Contingency until the vehicle maintenance shop is in operation and a determination could be made if all of the Sheriff's vehicles can be serviced at the maintenance shop or will have to be outsourced.

Mrs. Ruth Williams suggested that we create a separate line item for these funds.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to set aside \$40,000 as a line item in maintenance in the Board's budget, in case it is needed to service and maintain the Sheriff's vehicles if the new maintenance shop is unable to; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce stated that the Board needed to identify funds that will pay for personnel to operate new security equipment that will be in place within the near future.

Commissioner Parrish asked that the person used be an enforcement officer of the Sheriff's department.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, to set aside \$50,000 in Reserve of Contingency for personnel to operate new security equipment that will be in place within the near future; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce discussed the County Engineer position and the cost and savings to the County. The Board discussed this matter.

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Pierce discussed the advantages of having an engineer on staff.

Commissioner Crofton agreed that the County needed an engineer on staff.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to direct staff to research the cost difference between having an engineer on staff or contracting for engineer services and discuss at the September 4 regular meeting; Motion carried 3-2, Crofton and Lockley opposed.

Commissioner Lockley stated that he checked with surrounding Counties and even though they were mandated to cut their budgets by 9% they were still giving pay raises to their employees. The Board discussed this matter further.

Motion by Lockley to give all County employees a onetime \$1,000 bonus; Motion failed, there was not a second.

Emergency Management Discussion – Proposed Contract with Crowder/Gulf for Debris Removal (7:07 PM)

Mike Rundel, of the Emergency Management Department, stated that the lowest response for his RFP for debris removal was Crowder/Gulf, which was on an as needed basis.

Commissioner Putnal did not support an exclusive a contract and asked why local contractors are not used. Mr. Rundel stated that if any of the local contractors qualified under FEMA guidelines they would be utilized. Mr. Pierce stated that in order for the County to receive reimbursement from FEMA the contractors used must meet certain requirements.

Mr. Butch Baker recommended approving this contract and doing additional RFPs for other contractors that will be used as backups to Crowder/Gulf.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to accept Crowder/Gulf's response for debris removal on an as needed basis; Motion carried 5-0.

Sales Tax Discussion with Hospital Board – Determine type of election and set election date (7:19 PM)

Mark Friedman, of the Hospital Board, and Chuck Colvert, the Hospital CEO/CFO, recommended November 6, 2007 as the date for the Surtax election and also recommended a walk in style election.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to approve the November 6, 2007 as the date for the Sales Tax referendum, and also approve a “walk in” style election; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Lockley requested approval to appoint Mrs. Marjorie Solomon to the Hospital Board to fill a vacant position.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to appoint Mrs. Marjorie Solomon to the Hospital Board; Motion carried 5-0.

Bruce Drye – Turtle Nesting Update (7:26 PM)

Bruce Drye gave an update of the turtle nesting, stating that 6 of the 25 hatched were disoriented by lights. Bruce Hall talked about code enforcement on illegal lighting.

Planning & Zoning Report (7:34 PM)

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

Final Plat Approval:

Item 1 - Approved by Planning and Zoning (unanimous) - Consideration of a request for Final Plat Approval of a 6 lot subdivision for “St. George’s Bluff Phase 2” this property is lying in Section 18, Township 8 South, Range 5 West, East of Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Coastal View Development, LLC, agent.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve Item 1 contingent on the Attorney Shuler's approval; Motion carried 5-0.

Commercial Site Plan Review:

Item 2 - Approved by Planning and Zoning (unanimous) - Consideration of a request to construct a commercial building at 159 US Highway 98, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. The building will be a 2400 square foot warehouse. Request submitted by Webb's Seafood, Inc, agent.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Putnal, to approve Item 2; Motion carried 5-0.

Tower Co-Location:

Item 3 – Approved by Planning and Zoning (unanimous) - Consideration of a request and Special Exception to co-locate antennas on an existing tower and construct a telecommunication shelter located at 116 West Pine Avenue, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Clay Foster, applicant for Alltel Communications.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to approve Item 3, Motion carried 5-0.

Advisory Board of Adjustment Report (7:40 PM)

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

Item 1 – Approved by Advisory Board of Adjustment - Request for a variance to construct a vacuum station 20 feet into the front setback line on property described as 120 Otterslide Road, Eastpoint. Request submitted by Eastpoint Water & Sewer District. (Approval contingent upon proof of lease from property owner)

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to approve Item 1 contingent on Attorney Shuler's approval; Motion carried 5-0.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (7:42 PM)

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

Item 1 - I received a letter from Ms. Faye Johnson regarding your budget and the funding request from the Boys and Girls Club. A copy was provided to each of you, Alan Pierce, and Attorney Shuler. Please let me know if you decide any action should be taken on her request.

Item 2 -I need a motion to approve a budget amendment on Tourist Development Council infrastructure funding. The TDC awarded certain grants to the Board during the 05/06 fiscal year which were not expended in that year and carried forward in the 06/07 fiscal year. Two of these have now been expended and need a line item budget amendment to move the expenditures to the appropriate line item. The two projects which have been accomplished are: the engineering design for the St. George Island Boat Ramp at \$21,268.75 and the Kendrick Park Lighting at \$100,000.00. To adjust, the following budget amendment is needed:

Increase 001.20.572.6302 Kendrick Park Lighting Exp. \$100,000.00
Increase 001.20.511.6302 St. George Island Boat Ramp \$ 21,268.75
Decrease 001.20.511.6301 Infrastructure/TDC Funding \$121,268.75

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to approve the budget amendment on Tourist Development Council infrastructure funding; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 3 - I have several resolutions for adoption on unanticipated revenues. These resolutions must be approved by you in order to comply with F.S. 129.06(2)(d) which says receipts not anticipated in the budget and received for a particular purpose, may, by resolution of the board, be appropriated and expended for that purpose and the budget may be amended. The first resolution deals with \$4,000 received from the FL Counties Foundation. This money was put into the Bald Point Fund into 139.69.541.3400, Other contract services for the Alligator Point Beach Re-nourishment Funding Analysis. The second resolution deals with \$396,500 received as loan proceeds from Gulf State Community Bank which was put into the General Fund and into 001.20.572.6302, Kendrick Park Lighting Expenditures. The third resolution deals with \$50,000 received from the Tourist Development Council which was put into the General Fund and into 001.20.572.6301, Carrabelle Recreational Park Improvement expenditures. The fourth resolution deals with \$10,000 received from the University of Florida and put into the General fund into 001.20.511.3400, Other Contract Services for the Seafood Industry Task Force.

**RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS, Franklin County has received unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$4,000.00 from the FLORIDA COUNTIES FOUNDATION, SMALL COUNTY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES for ALLIGATOR POINT BEACH RENOURISHMENT FUNDING ANALYSIS, and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2006-2007, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS, this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

139.69.541.3400	OTHER CONTRACT SERVICES	\$4,000.00
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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$4,000.00 in the BALD POINT FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 21ST day of AUGUST 2007.

**RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY**

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS, Franklin County has received unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$396,500.00 from the GULF STATE COMMUNITY BANK - LOAN PROCEEDS for KENDRICK PARK LIGHTS, and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2006-2007, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS, this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.20.572.6302	KENDRICK PARK LIGHTING EXP	\$396,500.00
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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$396,500.00 in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 21ST day of AUGUST 2007.

RESOLUTION FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS, Franklin County has received unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$50,000.00 from the TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL for infrastructure improvements at KENDRICK PARK (Carrabelle Recreational park), and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2006-2007, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS, this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.20.572.6301 Carrabelle Recreational Park Exp \$50,000.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$50,000.00 in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 21ST day of AUGUST 2007.

**RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and subject to Florida Statutes Chapter 129 regarding preparation of budgets, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06 provides for budget amendments for unanticipated revenues, and

WHEREAS, Franklin County has received unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA for THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY TASK FORCE, and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2006-2007, and

WHEREAS, FS 129.06(2)(d) provides for budget amendments in relation to receipts and expenditures of the nature that is received, and

WHEREAS, this section requires the Board of County Commission to spread on its minutes the expenditures for the purpose of:

001.20.511.3400 OTHER CONTRACT SERVICES \$10,000.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$10,000.00 in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 21ST day of AUGUST 2007.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to adopt the four resolutions on unanticipated revenues; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 4 - I was approached by a retiree from the County, regarding dental insurance benefits. The County's current dental contract does not have a provision for dental insurance to be offered to retirees. The County's cost of insurance is a part of your budget process. Because of the closeness of the anniversary date of the contract, it would be extremely difficult to get a change in place prior to the open enrollment period which begins September 1st. Does the Board desire to take any action?

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, directing Attorney Shuler to look into this matter and report back to the Board with some recommendations; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 5 - The latest financial report received from the Hospital for the month ended July 30th indicates a balance in the amount of \$408,185.89.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (7:53 PM)

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

Item 1 - Clarification on Board action at last meeting regarding the Lease with DEP for 40 x 40 foot area for rebuilding St. George Island Lighthouse. At the request of St. George Island Lighthouse Association, the Board approved a lease with DEP for a small site to rebuild the lighthouse. The Association has now notified me that they prefer for DEP to sign the Lease first, in the event DEP makes changes to the Lease. I have the original Lease signed by the Board in my possession. County Attorney recommendation on what to do. Should the Board rescind the action of the lease, and then when the DEP signed version come in, take action at that time? Board agreed to have Attorney Shuler review and approve both copies of the lease.

Item 2-Board action to allow SHIP Red Tide administrative funds to be utilized retroactive to January 2007 to pay for clerical help. Upon review of the situation with the Finance Office, we recommend the funds to be applied retroactive. This will allow the recoument of regular SHIP administrative funds for future purposes. The Finance Office, the SHIP Administrator, and I, all recommend Board action to apply the Red Tide retroactive to January 2007.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to approve the use of SHIP Red Tide administrative funds to be utilized retroactive to January 2007 to pay for clerical help; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 3- Board action to sign Agreement for Purchase between the Trust for Public Land and Franklin County for the Sportsman Lodge property using Florida Communities Trust funds. The purchase price is \$4.4 Million.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Agreement for Purchase between the County and Trust for Public Land for the property on the south side; Motion carried 5-0.

4- The Emergency Management Office recommends the Board renew its Agreement with Crooms Transportation. The Agreement is exactly like the previous one approved by the Board. It is activated only if it becomes necessary to move people with Special Needs during an evacuation. Board action.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to renew the County's Agreement with Crooms Transportation; Motion carried 5-0.

5- The Board has been asked to confirm a request made by the FWC staff reviewing boat ramp grant applications. The good news is that all three boat ramp grant applications submitted by the county did receive at least some level of funding. The bad news is that the Governor's Office has made a request of FWC to award money so that ramps can be built, and state funds spent, in a shorter time frame. In order to accomplish this, FWC is considering awarding grant funds to pay for engineering and permitting on ramps they believe will take more than a year to build.

Even though Franklin County ranked the Ochlockonee Bay Ramp as its highest priority, the FWC has its own point system and the following is a breakdown of how FWC ranked the projects: Eastpoint ramp received 75 points because of its association with a Working Waterfronts concept but it also has a dredging issue; Bluff Road ramp received 74.83 points because of its high use and because no dredging will be involved in building a second ramp so it can get done in one year; Ochlockonee Bay ramp received 73 points because FWC staff believes dredging is required to make that a year round ramp, and the permitting associated with dredging will take more than a year to complete.

FWC is asking that the county accept engineering funds for Eastpoint and Ochlockonee because they believe both ramps will take more than a year to get permits, and Bluff Road would receive engineering and construction funds because that ramp will not require dredging. If the county accepts engineering funds, that will move Eastpoint and Ochlockonee to construction funds next year because the engineering and permitting will be completed. FWC is recommending \$68,750 for Eastpoint and \$76,250 for Ochlockonee, and then full funding for Bluff Road. Board action.

Commissioner Sanders expressed her concerns that Ochlockonee Bay wasn't rated as a working waterfront and she thinks that St. George Island needs to move forward with boat ramps.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to accept the engineering funds for boat ramps at Eastpoint, Ochlockonee Bay and Bluff Road, and before any other boat ramps applications are submitted all boat ramps that are currently funded is completed; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Pierce to see if the County owns any property around 12th Street in Carrabelle.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to have all boat ramp applications approved by the Board before it is submitted to the State; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 6 - A representative of PHI- Air Medic should be here to ask the Board to revoke its existing Certificate of Public Conveyance and Necessity (COPCN) for a life flight ambulance service and re-issue it. Evidently, there has been a service change in Franklin County's life flight business. *The representative called and asked that this be postponed until next meeting when they could attend.*

Item 7 - Board action to move \$836.83 of funds from the Bay Aid Project to General Fund. This is a reimbursement of prior year's expenses. Action recommended by Finance Office. Board action.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to transfer \$836.83 from the Bay Aid project to the General Fund; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 8 - Board action to approve \$185,000 contract with Meridian Planning (MPI) for the Rural Infrastructure grant. The grant has been signed by county and Governor's Office so we are ready to proceed. I will be meeting with Meridian and Rep. Kendrick on August 28 to discuss this project.

Representative Kendrick commented on the project, asked the Board to pay attention to any administration cost in this grant as there shouldn't be much.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve the \$185,000 contract with Meridian Planning for the Rural Infrastructure grant; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 9 - Update on Alligator Point. There is a public workshop on Alligator Point this Friday, at 5:00 PM to listen to Point property owners provide input on the beach renourishment project. The Board would take action on that input at a special Board meeting on Tuesday Sept. 11 at 9:00 am.

In order to keep the Beach Renourishment project in the DEP funding cycle, the Board needs to adopt a Resolution asking DEP to establish an Erosion Control Line within the project area. This is one of the required steps to continue DEP funding. Board action.

Mr. Pierce stated that he did not need action on this matter at this time.

The Board has received notification from DEP that the Gap area of the beach renourishment project will be eligible for state matching funds. This will bring down the cost of the project some, but it does make it more defensible that the county put sand in the Gap even though some homeowners do not want sand. Provide Board copy of letter.

Finally, Board action to direct staff and GSG consultants to amend the proposed MSBU boundaries to include Hidden Harbor Phase I. This will bring in another some 30 lots to help pay for the beach renourishment project. Board action.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to amend the proposed MSBU boundaries to include Hidden Harbor Phase I and TIFF financing; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 10 - Board action to schedule two Public Hearings to consider a CDBG Economic Development grant for approximately \$200,000 to extend sewer, water, and paved road to the proposed nursing home in St. James Bay. If the nursing home goes in it will create a \$3.2 Million annual payroll, creating 115 jobs. The public hearings will be during regular Board meetings on Sept. 4, and Sept. 18, and a time coordinated with Clerk's Office. Ms. Debbie Roumelis is offering to prepare the CDBG grant application for no fee. If the county is awarded the grant, she would like to be considered for the grant administration fee of (8%) which is covered by the grant. Ms. Roumellis has done all the CDBG grants in the past for the county as it is a specialized area of grant administration. Board action to allow Ms. Roumellis to prepare grant application, and two schedule public hearings. Grant administration can be dealt with later if the county receives the grant.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to allow Ms. Roumellis to prepare the grant application, and schedule two public hearings; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 11 - The Apalachicola Airport Committee met and recommends the following:

A) Open the RFP for repairs to the airport fence and turn over proposal to Airport Committee for recommendation.

Mr. Pierce opened and read the responses to the RFP.

- Behety-Hayes Construction, Inc. - \$25 or \$15 per linear feet on chain link fence, \$7 or \$5 per linear feet for barb-wire
- Murray's Fencing - \$10 per linear feet on all

- RFE Construction - \$33,800

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to forward the proposals to the Airport Committee for a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.

B) Open the RFP for proposed Maintenance Hangar at airport and turn proposal over to Airport Committee for recommendation.

Mr. Pierce opened and read the sole response to the RFP.

- Global Jet - \$734,383.25

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to forward the proposal to the Airport Committee for a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.

C) The airport utility tractor blew an engine last week. Mr. Mosteller is trying to work with DOT to determine the best way to get a \$30,000 tractor replaced.

D) The Airport did pass the latest licensing inspection but there are some deficiencies Mr. Mosteller is working on.

E) The Airport Committee does recommend the Board rename the Airport as the "Apalachicola Regional Airport", which means the Board drop the word "Municipal" as the airport is currently called. It was discussed calling the airport, the "Franklin County Airport" since the airport is and always has been owned by the county, but airports are traditionally known by the city they are next to so it was decided to recommend it still be called "Apalachicola." Board action to rename the airport by Resolution.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to approve the Resolution to allow the name change of the airport to the Apalachicola Regional Airport; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 12 - Inform Board that DOT has responded to the second request for lowering the speed limit west of Apalachicola the same way they responded to the first request. They have written a letter defending the current speed limit.

Item 13 – Board action to sign the Construction Manager At Risk contract for the Courthouse renovation project. Attorney Shuler has approved the contract.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Construction Manager At Risk contract; Motion carried 5-0.

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report (8:32 PM)

Attorney Shuler submitted the following report.

Item 1 - **Lanark Village Water and Sewer District**

A - I have contacted the City of Carrabelle's Attorney concerning the mutual aid agreement between Carrabelle and Lanark. I am waiting for their reply. Once I have it I will ask the City of Apalachicola if they want to join in the inter-local mutual aid agreement.

B - I have contacted the Governor's Office in writing and phone several times since the last board meeting. I have not succeeded in speaking with anyone yet. The question I am trying to have answered in writing from the Governor's Office is their position relative to Franklin County's authority over Lanark Village Water and Sewer District.

BOARD ACTION: NONE

Item 2 - **TDC/Geiger Contract**

The TDC is continuing to examine this contract. The issue continues to be whether Ms. Geiger will sign a contract indemnifying the County from any liability which may result from its contract with her.

BOARD ACTION: None recommended. This is for your information

Item 3 - Litigation Status:

A - **Henry Rochelle's Claim Alleging Racial Discrimination:**

Our insurance carrier is continuing its investigation. Thus far, our insurance company has not notified me of any final

B - **Henry Rochelle's Appeal of Suspension Without Pay for leaving Work**

On August 13, 2007, Mr. Pierce and I met with Mr. Rochelle and his attorney to formally hear Mr. Rochelle's side. Mr. Rochelle indicated three witnesses that he wants the county to interview. It is my plan to finish those interviews this week. Mr. Pierce will then make a decision whether Mr. Rochelle's grievance will be upheld or denied.

C - **Ashley vs. Franklin County.**

The Ashleys and DCA have signed the settlement. I am waiting on St. Joe's signature. Once I receive everyone else's signed settlement, I will schedule the statutorily required public hearing for the county's consideration of the settlement.

Please note that you have previously authorized me to schedule the required public hearing on this matter before you can act to approve or disapprove the settlement.

D - **Ashley vs. Administration Commission, DCA, Franklin County and St. Joe:**

We continue to wait on the district court to rule. There is no stated deadline for the ruling.

E - **Franklin County vs. Jason White Construction and Stuart White**

A status conference has been scheduled for August 27, 2007, with the new circuit judge, The Honorable Judge Hankinson. A new trial date should be set at that time.

Attorney Sanders called after the last board meeting and proposed a settlement. She is supposed to draft a proposal and send it to me.

F - Banks vs. Franklin County and Eastpoint Water and Sewer:

The County was notified of a claim for a trip and fall in Eastpoint involving a sewer pit someone fell into. This claim by the Banks' has been forwarded to the County's insurance carrier. There has been no further action on this matter since the last meeting.

G - Jack Osborne vs. Franklin County:

This is a worker's compensation claim filed for an alleged on the job injury. The claim has been turned over to the County's insurance carrier.

H - John Clark vs. Franklin County :

Mr. Clark has filed a Notice of Appeal of the Board of Adjustment decision to deny his request for a after the fact height variance.

Commissioners' & Public Comments (8:37 PM)

Commissioner Putnal asked staff to inquire of DOT if the double lines on Highway 98 between Eastpoint and Carrabelle can be changed back to a passing lane. Mr. Pierce stated that he would look into this matter but it probably wouldn't be done until the revetment project is completed.

Commissioner Parrish expressed his concerns of how the Highway 98 revetment project would affect the school buses traveling to and from Carrabelle from Apalachicola and Eastpoint. Mr. Pierce stated that he would discuss this matter with the Contractor so that special consideration would be given during the revetment project.

Commissioner Sanders stated that some of the local contractors are complaining that they are not being considered for this project and asked Mr. Pierce to look into this matter.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Pierce, based on a request from the Senior Center, to send a letter to the work-camp requesting inmate help for the Senior Center in Carrabelle so that a circular drive with a canopy could be built to shade the seniors as they arrive and leave from the center.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Pierce to formulate a list of projects that might qualify for a Florida Association of Counties grant program.

Commissioner Lockley asked the Board to consider revisiting the hiring freeze so that it doesn't interfere with department heads having the ability to fill essential vacant positions.

Mr. Roy Solomon expressed his distaste for the letter that was published in the Apalachicola Times written by Mr. Allan Feifer of the Concerned Citizens of Franklin County. Mr. Solomon stated that most of the statements in that letter was inaccurate and did not reflect the employees of Franklin County. Mr. Solomon also stated that if this organization was a 501C3 non-profit organization then they were not following the requirements set forth for such an organization. Mr. Solomon expressed his support the hospital and asked the Board to assist the State Attorney office in prosecuting anyone that violated the homestead exemption laws.

Ms. Pauline Sullivan, a Lanark Village Water and Sewer Commissioner, expressed some of the concerns she had regarding the actions of the other Water and Sewer Commissioners and the Attorney for the Water and Sewer district, and stated once certain criteria has been met she will resign from the Board. Ms. Sullivan also informed this Board that some of the residents of Lanark Village, including herself, have been recently threatened or assaulted.

Attorney Shuler stated that the Governor's Office said, in a response, that they have not given any opinions on the County Commission's authority regarding the Lanark Village Water and Sewer District.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, directing Attorney Shuler to contact both the State Attorney Office and the Governor's Inspector General Office and request an investigation into the allegations made previously and allegations made today by Ms. Sullivan. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Bill Rose stated that he attended the meeting in question and based on the incidents that occurred at the meeting he applauds the County Commission for their actions today.

Mayor Kelly, of Carrabelle, stated that in the past she was told by the work-camp that because the Senior Citizen Center in Carrabelle was privately owned, inmates were not allowed to work there. Commissioner Sanders stated that if the inmates are not allowed to work at the Senior Center the work camp would inform the County.

Adjourn (8:56 PM)

There being no further business, Chairman Crofton adjourned the meeting.

G. Russell Crofton, Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts