

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
DECEMBER 6, 2006  
9:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

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

**Staff Present:** Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Roads, Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Department, Dan Rothwell – County Engineer, Bill Mahan – County Extension Director, Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Morón – Board Secretary

**Call to Order**

Chairman Sanders called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

**Prayer and Pledge**

There was a Prayer followed by the Pledge of Alligance

**Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting 11/07/06**

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Crofton, to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2006 Regular Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Payment of County Bills**

**Motion by Crofton, seconded by Lockley, to approve payment of the County bills as presented; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Chairman & Vice-Chairman Elections**

Board discussed the rotation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman positions.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Crofton, to appoint Commissioner Crofton as the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners; Motion carried 3-2 Sanders, Putnal voting Nay.**

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Parrish, to appoint Commissioner Lockley as Vice Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners; Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Sanders turned the gavel over to Commissioner Crofton. Commissioner Crofton and Commissioner Parrish expressed their appreciation to Commissioner Sanders for the excellent service as Chairman of the County Commission. Commissioner Sanders stated that she would forward a list of the 12 committees she currently serves on.

**Presentation: Plaques for Franklin County Youth League Football**

Fonda Davis, of Parks and Recreation, stated that the Franklin County Youth Football Team won the 2006 Big Bend Youth Football Tiny Mite Superbowl. Mr. Davis recognized each of the players, cheerleaders, and coaches; presented the trophy to the Board and stated that plaques would be presented to these individuals at a later date.

**Department Supervisor Report**

**Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director**

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

Item 1 - Board action needed to approve a 3 year extension of the Contract with Governmental Consulting Services for the presentation of the annual solid waste full cost accounting report.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to approve the requested three year extension of the Contract with Governmental Consulting Services; Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Putnal talked about a situation involving Mr. Tim Edwards whose mother's house was condemned, torn down, carried to the landfill and was charged a large tipping fee. Mr. Edwards is asking the Board to waive the tipping fee because he was experiencing a hardship. The Board discussed this matter.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to waive the tipping fee for Mr. Tim Edwards due to a finding of a hardship by the Board; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Roads**

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

Item 1 - A bid request was submitted for our fuel maintenance system.

Item 2 - Sawyer Street has been temporarily repaired on St. George Island.

Item 3 - Inmate crews have been working at the Airport a couple days a week.

Item 4 - Truck route signs have been posted on Lake Morality Road; Mr. Pierce has notified the Sheriff's Department of the new truck route.

Item 5 - Sign from the boat ramp at Bluff Road was stolen, but has been replaced. Commissioner Parrish recommended some type of safeguard to prevent this from happening again.

Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Chipman to reset the signs at the entrance to the consolidated school because they are blocking the view of on coming traffic. Mr. Chipman said he would contact VMS.

Mr. Chipman stated that he also needs to contact VMS so that a sign could be posted on Highway 98 informing motorist of the new truck route.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Chipman to complete the limerock project on County Road 67 as soon as possible.

Mayor Kelly thanked Mr. Chipman and Board for new truck route on Lake Morality Road and commented on the Tim Edward's landfill matter.

Commissioner Putnal asked Mayor Kelly to have Carrabelle crews mark any potholes in the road within the City with paint. Board and Mr. Chipman discussed cooperation between County and City of Carrabelle work crews.

**Open Bids: OTTED Funded Feasibility Study for Regional Utilities (9:37AM)**

Mr. Pierce stated that the Board was actually opening qualifications & proposals not bids; no dollar amounts were involved and that a signed contract with the Governor's Office was not yet in place. Attorney Shuler recommended the Board open the packages and refer them to a review committee.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to extend the opening date from December 5, 2006 to December 6, 2006; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to appoint Commissioner Sanders, Mr. Pierce, and Mark Curenton to the Committee to review the RFPs and to report back to the Board at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in February; Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Pierce opened the RFPs in the following order:

1. DRMP, Jacksonville, Florida
2. Meridan Planning Incorporated, Tallahassee, Florida
3. Baskerville Donovan, Apalachicola, Florida
4. Hartman Consulting and Design, Orlando, Florida

**Department Supervisor Report (Continued)**

**Dan Rothwell – County Engineer**

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

Item 1 - Elevation survey for proposed vehicle maintenance shop

Item 2 - Preparation of bid specifications for CR30 project for advertisement

Item 3 - Sawyer Street Project

Item 4 - St. George Island Beach restoration and dune walkover

Item 5 - Apalachicola Airport Runway 13-31 slab replacement

Item 6 - Right of Way encroachment permit & lot fill ordinance

**Bill Mahan – County Extension Director**

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

Item 1 - Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Committee

Item 2 - Oyster School Planning

Item 3 - Franklin Seafood Industry Taskforce

Commissioner Sanders stated that the membership for the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference is due.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to renew membership for all of the Commissioners in the ISSC; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Bill Snyder – Lanark Water and Sewer District**

Pauline Sullivan and Bill Snyder addressed Board. Ms. Sullivan asked for more assistance from Board by continuing to restrict the Lanark Water and Sewer Board from selling any of it's property and also restricting the Board from entering into any contracts, borrowing money and accepting health insurance until the talks regarding the merger with the City of Carrabelle are completed. Ms Sullivan also asked the County Commissioner to look into the Water and Sewer Board's procedures for recording and approving minutes, salaries for the District Members, and additional fees imposed by the District on the residents such as the "readiness to serve". Mr. Snyder asked the County Commissioners to have one of its members attend all District meetings and workshops. Mr. Snyder raised concerns of the availability of public records, the role of the Water and Sewer's Attorney, and actions of the District members, including interfering with elections.

Brian Armstrong, Attorney for the Water and Sewer District, responded to the comments of Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Snyder. Attorney Armstrong stated many other municipalities use the "readiness to serve" fee, and that there is no substance to some of the other

concerns raised. Attorney Armstrong also stated that he did contact the City of Carrabelle after the vote indicated that the residents were in favor of the merger but the merger is a complicated matter and that the County Commission could exercise their right as ex-officio members, but everything the Lanark Water and Sewer Board is doing is legal and time is needed to resolve a lot of the problems.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mayor Kelly, of Carrabelle, for a possible time frame for a meeting to discuss a merger between Lanark Water and Sewer District and the City of Carrabelle; Mayor Kelly responded and stated that officially there has been no request of the City of Carrabelle Commission on this matter. Chairman Crofton suggested that Attorney Armstrong contact the City of Carrabelle's Commission directly. Attorney Armstrong and the Board discussed this matter further.

Ms. Sullivan commented on the financial reports submitted by the district.

Commissioner Crofton suggested that Attorney Armstrong go through the proper channels and "officially" contact the City of Carrabelle to begin talks of the merger.

Ray Courage, Commissioner on the Lanark District Board, commented on the recent actions regarding the merger with the City of Carrabelle, stating that the Water and Sewer Board had agreed to send a letter to the Mayor of Carrabelle to begin negotiations but the Chairman of the Water and Sewer Board did not sign the letter. Mr. Courage stated that the Water and Sewer District continues to operate in a deficit so he is concerned of the financial status, discussed assistance offered by Florida Rural Water, and commented on the actions of the secretary regarding the availability of public records.

Frank Rush commented on the ready-to-serve issue, and also asked the Board to restrict the actions of the District.

Attorney Shuler suggested that the County Commission allow Lanark Water Sewer and the City of Carrabelle to negotiate before taking any action.

### **Department Supervisor Report (Continued)**

#### **Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services**

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

Item 1 – Board discussion with Emergystat regarding future of ambulance service. The Hospital Board and CEO are interested in running the ambulance service, and Emergystat should be meeting with Hospital representatives today. Mr. Clanton Dubose should be here.

Mr. Clanton Dubose, of Emergystat, thanked Commissioner Sanders for her service as Chairman. Mr. Pierce explained that the County was not in a position to give Emergystat the increase that they requested. Commissioner Sanders asked why this added amount was not budgeted by Emergystat. Mr. Dubose explained why the additional funds were being requested at this time and distributed a financial report for review. Mr. Dubose will meet with Weems CEO to discuss the Hospital running the ambulance service and recommended that the Hospital hire the employees currently working with Emergystat to work with hospital when the ambulance services are transferred.

#### **Bruce Drye – Sea Turtle Nesting Update**

Mr. Drye introduced himself to the new commissioner and reviewed a report he circulated to the Board. Thanked the Board and staff for their support in enforcement of the laws to protect the turtle nest.

**Bruce Hall – Dune Restoration – St. George Island**

Bruce Hall introduced herself to the new commissioner and had additional information in relation to the lighting and the sea turtle and nesting including problems with Progress Energy. Ms Hall stated that the St. George Island civic club received a grant for dune restoration on St. George Island and stated the projects that the civic club would like to address with the Board's approval. Also gave an update on Star and St. George Island civic club future projects for sand fences and vegetation.

**Department Supervisor Report (Continued)**

**Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts**

Ms. Johnson presented the following item for discussion and/or approval:

Item 1 - Distributed hospital balance report

Attorney Shuler and Mr. Pierce discussed Medicaid, Medicare, and DISH payments. Commissioner Lockley inquired about the total amount of the Medicare over payment, but Attorney Shuler did not have that figure.

**T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney**

Attorney Shuler presented the following item for discussion and/or approval

Item 1 - AHCA has requested a meeting with Attorney Shuler

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, authorizing payment of travel expenses for Attorney Shuler to attend meeting with AHCA; Motion carried 5-0.**

Ms Johnson announced open house for the Clerks' Office in the Carrabelle Annex on Friday at 9AM.

**Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services**

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

Item 1 – addressed earlier in the meeting

Item 8 – Inform Board that an advertisement has been placed in the paper for a new Library Director, as Ms. Eileen Annie has given notice that she will be retiring Dec. 31. Board action to have the current Library Board interview and make a recommendation to hire a new Library Director, and to hire an Interim Library Director if necessary.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to authorize the Library Board to interview candidates and make a recommendation to the Board for a new Library Director; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by /Putnal, to authorize the Chairman's signature on a resolution thanking Ms Eileen Annie for her years of service as the Library Director; Motion carried 5-0.**

Ms Denise Butler, Chairman of the Library Board, commended Ms Annie on her years of service and asked the Board to declare a Eileen Annie Day, possibly at the next regular meeting of the County Commission, and would like to name Ms Annie Director Emeritus of the Franklin County Library.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to approve Ms. Butler's request; Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Pierce stated that the Board would present the Resolution on December 19 at the 5:00 PM regular meeting and would include the Director Emeritus in the Resolution.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to authorize the Chairman's signature on a resolution thanking Mr. Oscar Sanders for his years of service in the Road Department at the regular meeting in January; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 2 – Board action to let Mr. Rick Watson, representative of a non-profit group do a fund raiser at the county park on St. George Island on Saturday afternoon, March 24, 2007. Board action contingent upon Mr. Watson providing event insurance, and a commitment to leave the Park clean after the event.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to allow Mr. Rick Watson's non-profit group to use the county park on St. George Island for a fundraising event; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 3 – Board action to submit a funding request to Congressman Boyd for the upcoming Congressional budget. The Congressman suggested no more than 5 projects. After a brief discussion these are the projects I recommend the Board submit:

1. Renewed appropriation for the Eastpoint Breakwater
2. Funding to extend sewer lines in areas currently served by septic tanks.
3. Funding for an improved road to the consolidated school from State Road 65.
4. Funding for a community center at Kendrick Park.
5. Funding for a health and fitness center at Kendrick Park.

The Board discussed this matter and Commissioner Putnal asked if this funding could be used to purchase property for water access; Mr. Pierce discussed some of the options and said he would investigate Commissioner Putnal's request. The Board agreed to table this item until the December 19 regular meeting.

Item 4 – Board action to sign St. George Island Boat Ramp Grant with FWC for \$877,043.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the St. George Island Boat Ramp Grant with FWC; motion carried 5-0.**

Item 5 – Update Board on Sportsman Lodge acquisition. The two appraisals are in, but the actual figures are confidential. FCT has notified the county that it will probably be the spring before any funding becomes available. Mr. Bob Allen and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) no longer have a contract.

Bob Allen, Owner of Sportsman Lodge, updated the Board on the recent actions of the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) for the acquisition of the Sportsman Lodge. Attorney Shuler commented on the length of the process for the County to purchase land for public use and recommended that Mr. Allen complete the deal with TPL. Mr Allen asked if the County Commission would authorize a Resolution expressing their commitment to the purchase of this property. The Board discussed this matter further.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to have Attorney Shuler contact Mr. Allen and, if possible, assist him as he is seeking “carry over” funding until the purchase with TPL is complete; Motion carried 5-0.**

Hal Tobin also spoke in favor of the acquisition of the Sportsman Lodge for public use.

Item 6 - The Planning Office is working on the DCA’s reply to county’s EAR.

Item 7 - Update on Alligator Point. Franklin County received a Warning Letter from DEP concerning re-construction of the Alligator Point Road. Mr. Mike Dombrowski, Mr. Clay Kennedy, and myself met with DEP staff on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> to go over the Letter.

The situation on Alligator Point is extremely complicated because the county is trying to comply with FEMA funding requirements and DEP permitting requirements, which on the issue of protecting the new road are in direct conflict with each other. The county awarded a contract to C.W. Roberts to build the road and to stabilize the shoreline by extending the existing revetment. DEP objects to the revetment extension on several grounds, so we are having to reach a compromise.

The end result is that the county will apply for an after-the-fact permit seaward of the CCCL line for the reconstruction of the road, and the county will apply for a permit for vertical sheetpile to protect the road that we are building. Until the vertical sheetpile permit is approved, the DEP is aware that the county will temporarily place rocks along the shore to protect the new road. The county is not moving any more rocks onto the Point, but we are relocating some of the existing rocks and removing some of the rubble.

The county is continuing to work on the beach renourishment permit, and it is possible that the beach renourishment permit will be issued before the vertical sheetpile permit is issued. So while the county is required to take action to get a permit for vertical sheetpile, it is certainly possible that the vertical sheetpile will never be installed because the beach renourishment will happen first.

Ken Osburne, of Alligator Point, spoke on the condition of the road and the need to protect the road. Commissioner Sanders recommended that the Board offer an ultimatum to South Shoal so that the road can be completed. Mr. Pierce discussed this matter further.



Item 9 – Board action to appoint the Chairman and one alternate to the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. The Transportation Board meets in Apalachicola on a regular schedule. Current appointments are Sanders and Putnal.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to appoint Commissioner Crofton to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council & the Transportation Disadvantage Board as Chairman and Commissioner Lockley as alternate; Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 10 – Board direction on clean-up of Wasmund’s shop at the airport. At this time, Mr. Paul Wasmund has been called out of town to attend to his mother-in-laws critical illness. I had asked Solid Waste to place a dumpster at the shop to assist Mr. Wasmund in cleaning up the area. The shop is on airport property and represents an eyesore to the neighbors and some risk to the county, as it is on county property. I have been in communication with Mr. Wasmund for several months to get the property cleaned up but not enough has been done to satisfy the neighbors. Board direction.

Attorney Shuler and Mr. Pierce will contact Mr. Wasmund and work out the details of removing the building and report back to the Board at the next meeting

Item 11 – Update on Comp Plan. On Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, the Board will hold a public hearing to consider adopting the remedial amendments ordered by the Governor and Cabinet. Upon adoption these remedial amendments will be submitted.

**T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney**

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

Item 2 – Reviewed and approved Fill Ordinance.

Item 3 – Letter sent to Secretary Castille

Item 4 – Wilson vs. Franklin County Litigation

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to authorize payment of travel expenses for Attorney Shuler to attend the hearing regarding the Wilson vs. Franklin County Litigation; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Commissioners’ & Public Comments**

Commissioner Sanders informed the Board that the next advance Commissioner training classes would be on January 18 & 19.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to authorize payment for travel expenses for Commissioners Sanders, Lockley, and Parrish to attend the advance Commissioner training classes in January; Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Lockley requested ID badges for the Commissioners; Mr. Pierce informed him that he can get his ID badge done at the EOC office.

Dan Tonsmire, of ABARK, gave an update on ACF “water wars” and reminded the Board of the scoping meeting at Tallahassee Community College in Tallahassee tonight.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to send Gov Crist a letter asking him to continue the fight for the water for the Apalachicola River; Motion carried 5-0.**

Billy Snyder renewed his request to have the County Commission use their option as an Ex-officio member to have someone to sit on the Lanark Water and Sewer District Board.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, directing Attorney Shuler investigate the Ex-officio option and report back to the Board; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to appoint Commissioner Crofton to the Wilderness Board; Motion carried 5-0.**

Mayor Kelly of Carrabelle commended Commissioner Sanders for her service as Chairman.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to send a letter to APTA asking for clarification on their stand on the County’s Comp Plan; Motion carried 5-0.**

David Kight, of Lanark Village, stated that Mr. Courage’s term as a Member on the Lanark Water and Sewer Board will expire in January.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to have Attorney Shuler investigate the option of setting up a special election and report back to the Board on this matter; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Adjourn**

Chairman Crofton adjourned the meeting at 12:35 PM.

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G. Russell. Crofton Jr., Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

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Marcia M Johnson, Clerk of Court