

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
FEBRUARY 5, 2008
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

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

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

Call to Order (9:00 AM)

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance (9:01 AM)

There was a Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Payment of County Bills (9:02 AM)

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to approve of the bill list as presented; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sanders thanked Board and the Staff for all of their efforts with Lanark Village Water and Sewer District merging with the City of Carrabelle Water and Sewer District.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to approve the minutes for the January 15, 2008 Regular Meeting, the January 22, 2008 Special Meeting, and the January 22, 2008 Emergency Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Report

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works (9:04 AM)

Mr. Chipman stated that due to other obligations there wasn't any milled asphalt being hauled.

Commissioner Putnal stated that there were some trees on 3rd Street and Ave F that were causing a traffic hazard, as there were at least 2 accidents there recently, suggested making that intersection a 4 way stop.

Attorney Shuler and Mr. Pierce stated that since this intersection is within the City of Carrabelle, approval from the Carrabelle City Commission is needed.

Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Chipman to contact the City on this manner.

Commissioner Sanders thanked both Mr. Chipman's department and Mr. Johnson's department for all of their hard work on the new maintenance shop dedication ceremony.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:07 AM)

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

Item 1 – Solid Waste Transfer Station RFP – Recommended awarding the contract to operate the Solid Waste Transfer Station and transport the County’s waste outside the County to Waste Management.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to take Mr. Johnson’s recommendation and award the Solid Waste Transfer Station and transportation of the County waste to Waste Management; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 2 – St. Joe Company Easement – Board action to have the County Engineer Department to prepare a site plan for the realignment of Ken Cope Road for submittal to the St. Joe Company.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to have the County Engineer prepare the site plan for the realignment of Ken Cope Road; Motion carried 5-0.

Alan Pierce – Report (9:09 AM)

Item 8 - The ARPC needs to verify the 2007 appointments from the County and a municipality in the county. Commissioner Sanders is willing to represent the county. The City of Carrabelle has often provided the municipal representative but I have spoken to Mr. McInnis, Carrabelle City Manager, and he was unsure if any of his commissioners could attend. I have inquired with the City of Apalachicola and I am waiting for confirmation that Mayor Van Johnson will serve. Board action to make county and city appointment.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to appoint Commissioner Sanders and Mayor Van Johnson of the City of Apalachicola, to the ARPC; Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Lockley asked the Board to consider joining the City of Apalachicola lawsuit against the Army Corp of Engineer regarding the restriction of water flow to the Apalachicola River.

Mr. Johnson, Mayor of the City of Apalachicola, welcomed any support from the County and stated some of the Counties that are supporting the City’s efforts.

Commissioner Putnal stated that although he is in favor of the lawsuit, he wanted to wait and see what plan DEP would present at their 2/17/08 meeting.

Kevin Begos, of the Seafood Task Force agreed with Commissioner Putnal, and stated that if agreement is not reached on 2/17 there still would be time for the Board to act on the lawsuit.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Parrish, authorizing the Chairman’s signature on a letter supporting the City of Apalachicola lawsuit; Motion carried 5-0.

Dan Rothwell – County Engineer (9:17 AM)

Item 1 - Lake Morality Road:

Preble-Rish has made the recommendation to apply a 1.5” thick overlay to 3,000’ of the road to affect repairs. Staff has requested that they submit the recommendation under the seal and signature of the Engineer of Record for the project. The consultant believes that this will bring, on average, the structural number up to 3.14 which they believe satisfactory and is 26.6% higher than the 2.48 Preble-Rish claims is currently provided. The 3,000’ of overlay was quoted at \$80,000.00 by C. W. Roberts to do the work. Preble-Rish further proposed that the cost be split three (3) ways with each party paying \$27,000.00 each. Preble-Rish is also willing to apply for a grant to resurface the rest of the road a future date. (Preble-Rish letter attached). Staff recommends that the intermediate repair solution be accepted and grant funds be applied next year from FDOT to overlay the rest of the road.

Commissioner Sanders stated that she was not in agreement with this option because it is a possibility that the entire road is not built to standard.

Commissioner Crofton stated that the 3000 feet has to be addressed now, and cannot wait until there is an option to repair the entire road, and if necessary funds can be used from the gas tax to repair other parts of the road.

Mr. Rothwell reviewed the results from test that included the entire road.

Commissioner Putnal reminded everyone that the road has to be able to be used as a truck route.

Commissioner Sanders there needs to be a solution to repair the entire road not just the discussed the 3000'.

Mr. Rothwell stated that Preble-Rish did not agree with his findings and recommendations which said that the road would have to be redone, not just over-layed, if other parts of the road go bad.

Commissioner Lockley stated that the Contractor worked within the budget and was not at fault.

Commissioner Putnal complained of other roads that are currently in bad condition after being recently repaved.

Mr. Pierce reminded everyone that at the time of these paving projects, the County was working within a budget.

Commissioner Crofton stated that all County roads are in need of repair, the Board needs to be more proactive than reactive in the future, but this option is a starting point for this road and supported it.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Parrish, to approve the recommended intermediate repair solution for 3000' of Lake Morality road, but the County reserves the right, based on the statute of limitation, to address Preble-Rish and/or C. W. Roberts on other parts of the road; Motion carried 4-1, Sanders opposed.

Item 2 - Eastpoint County Landing Park Project:

Bailey, Bishop and Lane have sent a copy of the professional services contract to County Attorney for review.

Item 3 - Ochlockonee Bay Boat Ramp Project:

Bailey, Bishop & Lane have sent a copy of the professional services contract to County Attorney for review.

Attorney Shuler recommended approving both contracts (Items 2 & 3)

Putnal: parking is needed for each of the boat ramps; talked about purchasing property next to the Eastpoint boat ramp

Lockley: County needs to secure as much water front property as possible.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Parrish, to approve Items 2 & 3, contingent on the County Attorney's approval; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 4 - St. George Island Boat Ramp:

Preble-Rish has reviewed the bids and has recommended that the Ben Withers, Inc (\$502,069.06) and J. D. James, Inc. (\$614,159.27) be rejected due to technicalities and recommends award of the contract to BCL Civil Contractors (\$593,062.40) as the lowest responsive bidder. Staff agrees with the recommendation from Preble-Rish.

Commissioner Putnal asked that Staff verifies that the Contractor is qualified to build the boat ramp so that there isn't a problem as the County experienced in the past.

Mr. Rothwell stated that BCL Civil Contractors has been researched by Preble-Rish.

Commissioner Crofton agreeing with Commissioner Putnal added that this is a complicated project, which will require debris removal and construction.

Commissioners Putnal and Crofton discussed parking at the boat ramp.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Putnal, to go with Mr. Rothwell's recommendation and award the St. George Island Boat Ramp project to BCL Civil Contractors; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 5 - East Pine St. Northwest Florida Water Management District Grant:

The grant application was regrettably, not approved. District staff was thanked for their efforts reviewing the application and further guidance was requested for future projects. Below are some of the considerations that should be made on future applications:

- Propose projects less than \$500,000.00 in cost.
- Projects with road work or paving usually do not get funded (Sawyer St is an exception because the wave breaks and road bed eroding directly into the bay).
- Projects MUST have a VERY high priority water quality problem.
- A project with Continuous Deflective Separation device(S) for sediment and trash removal for stormwater flowing directly into the bay or rivers has a good possibility.
- Stormwater ponds or creek crossing with erosion or significant pollution problems.

Item 6 - CR-30 Road Bank Re-Nourishment & Revetment Installation Project:

Bid opening 10:30 am this morning.

Item 7 - Airport Access Road:

Staff is working with the contractor concerning the \$17,709.00 retained on the project for work not completed. Staff will be meeting with FDOT on 2-6-2008 to review the items for which funds have been retained.

Item 8 - Government Accounting Standards Board Statement 34 (GASB34):

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) establishes Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for governmental entities. GASB 34, a statement issued by the GASB on June 30, 1999, changes the way state governments present financial information to the public. The purpose of GASB 34 is to provide better financial reports that give an overview of the government's financial activities. Staff will be working for several weeks this month using FDOT's Infrastructure Task Team's methods to account for infrastructure assets with a 1980 cost basis for roads, right of ways, bridges, culverts, and side walks within the unincorporated area of Franklin County for our Finance department.

Item 9 - Drainage Survey of Linden Road:

Staff will survey Linden Road eastern drainage ditch to attempt to provide positive drainage through the Hathcock Road side ditches and then work with Public Works to accomplish work to diminish or eliminate this problem.

Item 10 - Alligator Point Dune Walkovers:

The dune walkover locations and lengths have been surveyed and staked last week and the drawings and Bills of Materials lists will be emailed to Paul B. Parker this week.

Item 11 - Airport Hangar Environmental Resource Permit Application:

Staff request the Board to authorize the Chairman to sign an authorization for Dan Garlick to apply for an Environmental Resource Permit for Stormwater facilities on Apalachicola Airport property for his airport hangar.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the authorization for Dan Garlick; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 12 - St. George Island (SGI) Multi-use Path Bids:

Preble-Rish will send C.W. Roberts a contract and a once they have signed it will be sent to the Board.

Item 13 - Bluff Road Multiuse Path:

The project has been completed and staff recommends the Board approve final payment of \$330,006.50 to C. W. Roberts.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Crofton, to approve final payment for the Bluff Road Multiuse Path; Motion carried 5-0.

Public Hearing – Consider Lombardi Property Purchase (10:01 AM)

Kevin Begos, of the Seafood Task Force, distributed and reviewed a handout relating to the purchase of the Lombardi property. Mr. Begos also discussed some of the other agencies that support this project, different funding sources for the project. Mr. Begos stated that this project will allow the County to qualify for other grants, discussed cost of property, compared this purchase to other purchases of waterfront property by the County, State, and the City of Apalachicola, and pointed out some of the potential uses of the property and future plans for the property. Mr. Begos then reviewed options for financing the purchase of the property which included a low interest loan from Florida Association of Counties, deposit sources such as a \$100,000 of TDC funds that has already been committed, and recommended that boat owners pay an access fee to use the boat ramp. Mr. Begos then discussed what boat owners pay for access at other locations now and stated how many other seafood workers support paying for access as it is done throughout the State. Mr. Begos stated that the seafood industry will have a yearly benefit event and other events to help support the purchase of the property, suggested transferring his salary to help with the purchase of the property, discussed the amount of liability insurance for the buildings and destroying one of the buildings to reduce the insurance, and gave figures of total overhead cost and options to provide income to offset that cost. Mr. Begos stated that if the County is able to receive a \$200,000 grant from Department of Agriculture, it will go toward renovation of the property.

John Richards, President of the Seafood Worker's Association, stated that the seafood workers of Franklin County need this property to keep the seafood industry alive.

Mr. Begos asked for board action to authorize him to apply to FAC for the loan to finance the purchase of the property and to commit the TDC funds, which is necessary before he can apply for the loan.

Commissioner Putnal asked about the appraisals that were done on this property.

Mr. Begos stated that even though the selling price is 10% over lowest appraisal, it was the same situation when the County purchased the hospital property.

Attorney Shuler explained the difference between this purchase and the purchase of the hospital property and because of the difference between the selling price and the appraisal, the approval of four Commissioners will be necessary for the County to purchase the property.

Based on an inquiry from Attorney Shuler, Mr. Begos stated that the County is suppose to pay all of the closing cost but maybe that is something he can negotiate with the seller.

Attorney Shuler stated that closing cost can be as much as \$20,000 and decision should be made about who will pay for the closing cost before a final decision is made about the purchase of the property.

Commissioner Parrish commented on the need for the County to be proactive for the commercial fisherman and agreed that the purchase of this property is a good idea as the boat ramp on this property will also be used by recreational fisherman not just the seafood workers. Commissioner Parrish also agreed that finance contingencies should be worked out before the County commits to purchasing the property and that the County should have their own management plan for boat ramps and docks and waterfront property.

Commissioner Putnal stated that some action is needed soon because the seller's offer will expire before the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Crofton agreed with Commissioner Parrish and stated that the County needs this property, and it is the best time to purchase the property but as financing is a problem, it should be secured and known before obligating the County and didn't think that any grants received in the future could be used to lower the principle of the loan. Mr. Begos pointed out that an FCT grant is possible, and that the County would receive bonus points if they contributed to the purchase of the property and also suggested the pledging of TDC tax funds to offset any County cost.

Commissioner Crofton discussed the purchase amount, other possible cost, and funding sources for this project. Commissioner Sanders expressed her support for the purchase of this property and suggested a counter offer closer to the lower appraisal price.

Mrs. Johnson, Clerk of Court, expressed her full support of the purchase of the property but was against charging any access fees to the seafood workers. Mrs. Johnson then presented a list of things for the Board to consider prior to a decision being made.

Chairman Lockley stated that the county needs to provide somewhere for the seafood workers to unload.

Commissioner Sanders stated that before the Board is put in a position where it is close to being obligated, there has to be better communication.

William Poloronis, of Apalachicola, suggested that the County make a solid counter offer and wait until there is some response from the seller before meeting about this again.

Mr. Begos suggested that the County offer an amount that is in the middle of the current cost and the lowest appraisal

Commissioner Sanders recommended that Mr. Begos inform the seller of the current financial problems the County is about to face with the reduced property values and the passing of Amendment 1.

Tommy Ward, Chairman of the Seafood Task Force expressed his dissatisfaction with Board not fully supporting the purchase of this property.

Commissioner Crofton stated that the Board fully supports purchasing this property but has to secure the financing before committing the County to the purchase.

Commissioner Sanders discussed some of the upcoming financial shortfalls the County will need to prepare for.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, to continue this public hearing until 9AM on Thu February 7 at the armory and have the Task Force negotiate the selling price and closing cost before that meeting; Motion carried 3-2, Lockley and Putnal opposed and wanted project to pass today.

Bid Opening – CR 30A Road Bank Restoration and Stabilization (11:12 AM)

Mr. Rothwell opened and read the bids.

Jason White \$98,535.00 with proof of a bond

Poloronis Construction \$143,490.00 with a cashier's check but no proof of bond

Attorney Shuler reminded the Board that the grant is only for \$50,000.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to forward the bids to the County Engineer for a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Report - Continued

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (11:15 AM)

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

Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference Updates:

Item 1 - 2008 - 2009 Committee/Subcommittee Assignments: *ISSC* Committee assignments and charges are beginning to be sent out to members by the Executive Director. So far I have been reappointed to the Biotoxin Committee and the *Vibrio* Education Subcommittee.

Item 2 - ISSC Spring Meeting April 1-3, 2008: The ISSC *Vibrio* Education Committee will meet April 1st; the Vibrio Management Committee meets April 2nd and the Executive Board meets on April 3rd in St. Louis, Missouri.

FL Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) Updates:

Item 3 - FWC Bear Meeting: FWC Biologists, Wildlife Officers and staff met with members of the Franklin County Bear Workgroup on January 30th at the Division of Forestry Office in Carrabelle. The group decided that the first step to take in an effort to reduce “bear” problems is to begin an education program for people in the county. Initial educational ideas/efforts include working with the local cable channel; present bear programs at local community organization/agency meetings; work with Franklin County School Administrators on bear issues; and work with area builders, contactors and rental agencies to discuss actions they can take to help minimize bear problems. In addition FWC is currently working with Waste Pro to install bear-resistant commercial dumpsters in key locations.

Item 4 - FWC Meeting February 6-7: The FWC will meet February 6-7 at the Bay Point Marriot, Panama City Beach for their next regular meeting. Marine fisheries issues will be on February 7th, including a final public meeting on the proposed rule amendments for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico state waters. The key changes would reduce the daily recreational bag limit from - 4 to 2 fish/day, with a zero daily bag limit for captains and crews of Gulf for-hire vessels, reduce the size limit and change the season from April 15 – October 31 to June 1- September 30. The Proposed rules also would reduce the minimum size of commercially harvested red snapper in the Gulf and the minimum size of imported red snapper from 15 to 13 inches total length, clarify commercial Gulf reef fish licensing requirements, allow only non-stainless steel circle hooks to be used to harvest any reef fish when natural baits are used in the Gulf and require a venting tool and a de-hooking device to be present onboard vessels harvesting any reef fish in the Gulf.

Item 5 - Commercial Mullet Meetings: The FWC has schedule a series of workshops to consider ways to allow more fishing opportunities for commercial fishermen and possibly modifying the July – January weekend closures for commercial mullet fishermen. The meetings nearest to us are on February 19th in Panama City at Gulf Coast Community College and on February 20th in Crawfordville at the Tallahassee Community College Branch Campus. The meetings will be held from 6:00 – 8:00 pm local time.

Item 6 - Grouper Forum 2008: The FWC’s Fish & Wildlife Research Institute will be holding a Grouper Forum on February 26th, from 6:00 – 10:00 pm in St. Petersburg. The goals of the meeting include – explaining the role of science in the fishery management process; provide and overview of federal management actions related to grouper; discuss how to maximize the public input in fishery management decisions; and enhance communication between fishery management agencies and the public on regulatory issues.

Item 7 - Spotted Seatrout: The recreational fishing season for spotted seatrout in North Florida closed on February 1st. The fishery will reopen on March 1st.

UF – IFAS Extension Updates:

Item 8 - Biennial UF IFAS Extension Stakeholders Forum: This year's Stakeholder's Forum will be held on Thursday, February 14th at the Leon County UF-IFAS Extension Office in Tallahassee from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. The purpose of the forum is to provide a networking opportunity for county partners and UF-IFAS administrators; showcase some of the Extension educational programs in the NW Extension District and to provide an opportunity for Extension to say thank you to our stakeholders. I have attached a copy of the forums agenda for your information. If you are interested in attending, please let me know ASAP!

Item 9 - UF IFAS Master Gardener Distance Education Training: Due to the expansion of the UF IFAS video conferencing capabilities for the first time a training program for people interested in become UF Master Gardener volunteers is being offered via PolyCom. The training begins on Wednesday February 27th from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm and meets weekly for nine-weeks ending April 23rd. The cost for the program is \$150. I am looking into the feasibility of offering the program at our office in the Armory. The program is also being offered in Crawfordville at the Wakulla County UF IFAS Extension Office.

Item 10 - UF IFAS Bee College & Master Beekeeper Program: UF IFAS is offering Florida's most extensive honey bee educational event at their Mid-Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka on March 13-15, 2008. The Master Beekeeper Program is designed to enhance beekeeper education, consists of four levels of advancement from apprentice to master craftsman beekeeper. The training and examination for the apprentice level will be held on March 13th. The Bee College is March 14-15 featuring two educational tracks, one for beginners and another for experienced beekeepers. These programs will be useful to beekeepers, pest control operators, master gardeners, Extension Agents and anyone interested in honey bees.

Other Local Programs/Workshops:

Item 11 - Camellia Show: Saturday February 9th, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Eastpoint Fire Station. For additional information contact Frank Venable at 670-4489

Item 12 - FSU Marine Lab Lecture: "Coastal Ecosystems: Windows into Ecological Consequences of Global Warming." February 14th 7:00 pm?

Item 13 - Two Black Bear Programs: The Apalachicola Estuarine Research Reserve is presenting two Bear Programs on February 20th. A full-day workshop from 8:45 am – 4:30 pm at the FSU Marine Lab. The workshop is for developers, land managers, elected officials, county/city planners and concerned citizens. The second program is an evening bear talk from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at the St. Joe's Summer Camp Events Room. For additional information, contact Alan Knothe at 653-8063.

Commissioner Sanders stated that she is going to attend the FWC meeting in Panama City tomorrow.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (11:25 AM)

Mrs. Johnson did not have any items to report but suggested that the format of the meeting be changed by asking all Department Supervisors to submit their report to Mr. Pierce by the Thursday before the meeting and only discuss important items or items that require Board action at the regular meetings.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to direct department supervisors to submit their written report to Mr. Pierce on the Thursday before the regular meeting, and only important items and items that require Board action will be discussed at the meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (11:26 AM)

Item 1- St. George Island Chili-Cookoff Committee requests Board action to close 1st St. West, and the road to the county parking lot on St. George Island for the Chili Cook-off on March 1. The roads would be closed from 9AM to PAM. Committee members are here.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to approve the road closing for 1st Street West and the road to the County parking lot for the St. George Island Chili Cook off; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 2- Lanark Village Update, with possible comments from Nick Ironclads, attorney. Provide Board with copy of letter of resignation from Sterling Carroll, Florida Rural Water Association Engineer on loan to Lanark Village. He states in his resignation, "The Board's (Lanark Village) inability to inaction to take curative steps and make positive decisions to correct long-term problems limit our capacity to help you."

Item 3- Update from Commissioner Parrish on the Stakeholder meeting held Friday, February 01, in Blountstown with DEP. Direction on Jan. 9 letter to be signed by all counties along the River and sent to Mr. Eichenberg requesting the Riparian Stakeholders group be a qualified Advisory Panel to the Florida delegation to the ACF negotiations. Parrish recommended signing this letter

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Putnal, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the letter discussed by Commissioner Parrish; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 4- As the Board is aware, Amendment 1 passed statewide, and it passed in Franklin County. The estimated loss of revenue because of amendment 1, as calculated by the Demographic Research Office of the Legislature is \$215,904. Since Franklin County is a fiscally constrained county, Amendment 1 had a provision to assist fiscally constrained counties offset the loss of revenue. The Chairman sent a letter to the Governor's Office specifically asking for the offset of \$215,904. I am providing the Board with a copy of the letter. However, the Governor has announced his proposed budget, and in it the offset will not start until July 1, 2009, which means Franklin County will have to develop next year's budget without that offset.

Item 5- The Clerk and I met all the constitutional offices and county departments last week to go over budget expectations. The offices and departments were informed that a 15% reduction in tax revenues is very possible, based upon Amendment 1 passing and a reduction in the tax base. Amendment 1 has now passed, and the Ms. Doris Pendleton, has not changed her initial statement where she believes the county's tax base might shrink by \$500 Million, or approximately 12.5%. The combined impact of Amendment 1 and the shrinkage in the tax base means that if the millage is kept the same, then the county is looking at \$2 Million dollars less in tax revenues.

The Clerk, the county finance office, and myself, are willing to make recommendations on how to reduce county ad valorem expenditures by \$2 Million. The first reductions proposed will be from non-governmental expenditures and other line items from General Fund. This most likely will not bring the budget reductions to \$2 Million so offices and departments need to be prepared to make additional reductions. Because the finance office is in the middle of the annual audit, it might take until the end of February before we can report back on how much cuts could be proposed before the offices and departments are asked to reduce. Board action to direct the Clerk and others to make such recommendations on non-governmental expenses and General Fund line items and report back by the March 4th Board meeting.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to direct the Clerk and other staff to recommend budget reductions for non-governmental expenses and General Fund line items; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 6- Provide Board with copy of letter written to Mr. Juan Guerra, Progress Energy, regarding the proposed Transmission Line. I have spoken to other Progress Energy officials on this issue and am waiting for confirmation when the public meeting will occur.

Item 7- Inform the Board that Courthouse renovations have started. Major demolition in the courtroom and hallways starts today. The project is slated for completion by May 30.

Item 8-The ARPC needs to verify the 2007 appointments from the County and a municipality in the county. Commissioner Sanders is willing to represent the county. The City of Carrabelle has often provided the municipal representative but I have spoken to Mr. McInnis, Carrabelle City Manager, and he was unsure if any of his commissioners could attend. I have inquired with the City of Apalachicola and I am waiting for confirmation that Mayor Van Johnson will serve. Board action to make county and city appointment.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Item 9- Inform Board that Diane Scholz, Governor's Office, is ready to hold the REDI aid meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21, from 10-4, for seafood workers, shrimpers, and others suffering from economic losses because of the drought. The meeting will be in the EOC. Board action.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to schedule the REDI aid meeting on Thursday, February 21 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Emergency Operations Center; Motion carried 5-0.

Item 10- Provide Board with copy of road segments to be evaluated for traffic capacity. The list is attached to the report.

Item 11- Provide Board with copy of letter from Franklin County Asst. Superintendent Mikel Clark relative to the county's interest in keeping the school football field and an inside basketball court open for some sort of organized recreational activities in the fall and winter. Mr. Van Johnson and I met with Mr. Clark, and Mr. Carnley, School Finance Officer, and we are waiting to receive from them estimated costs to run these facilities. Pierce: letter also addressed property for health facilities in Carrabelle.

Item 12- Provide Board with copy of requests made to Congressman Boyd for federal funding. The requests are: \$3.5 Million for dredging Eastpoint channel; \$700,000 for infrastructure improvements if Lanark and Carrabelle merge

utilities; \$500,000 for Land acquisition for Seafood Landing Facility; \$600,000 for air conditioning and electrical improvements at the Armory; and \$600,000 to replace the EOC with a new facility.

Item 13- Hospital Update- Provide Board with the improvements the Hospital is requesting from Congressman Boyd's Regional Healthcare Committee. The Hospital is requesting \$325,000 for a Breast Cancer Care Center than can be expanded into other forms of cancer.

Commissioner Sanders suggested that staff looks into seeking funds for a dialysis machine in Franklin County.

Inform Board that the Clerk, Ms. Linda Phillips the Finance Director, myself, and Michael Shuler, met with Mr. Colvert, and the Hospital Finance Committee to discuss several issues. The outcome of the meeting was:

- A) The Hospital will not ask to establish a line of credit. The Hospital is trying to move forward with developing plans for a clinic in Carrabelle but will work within the time frame of the sales tax revenues. Sales tax proceeds should start to be received by April 15th, but it will come in month by month, so the April proceeds will be for January only.
- B) The Hospital will not be seeking any operational support from ad valorem taxes in next year's budget, but because the sales tax proceeds will not show up until after the 3rd Quarter has begun, the Hospital will receive the third quarter subsidy budgeted in this year.
- C) The Hospital Board is still developing a recommendation for implementing the commitments made when the sales tax was passed, and plans should be presented to the Board in March. Chairman Lockley, and others, are flying to Mississippi tomorrow to look at the way Pioneer runs its clinics.
- D) The Hospital Board is very aware of the great variability in revenue streams from month to month, and is working very hard to maintain adequate cash on hand, but the attacks on the Hospital revenue from Medicare, Medicaid, and now again GE are very hard to absorb. The cash had gotten down as low as \$40,000 and are now back up around \$350,000, so long as the Hospital can keep all the money it recently received.

Attorney Shuler discussed a letter from GE financing regarding pre 2006 claims against Weems Memorial.

Commissioner Sanders stated that she has received complaints from some of the EMTs that if the hospital changes their shift from 12 hours to 24 hours, they will not be able to work as many days as they currently work. Mr. Pierce stated that he would discuss this matter with Mr. Colvert, the Hospital CEO.

Mr. Pierce stated that the Hospital board is in the process of seeking a company to manage the Hospital.

Commissioner Parrish stated that improvement to all the health facilities in the County is needed especially the Hospital in Apalachicola.

Item 14- Board action to sign Use Agreement with DEP to allow county contractor on state property in the event the county moves forward with the beach renourishment. Since a county contractor will be working on state land, the state is requiring the county to sign an agreement with certain conditions on how the dredge operator will perform

within state boundaries. Issues all relate to the time and placement of dredge pipes and certain environmental features that need to be protected. Mike Dombrowski has advised me that we have to sign the Agreement if we are going to put sand in the state park, and we need to put sand in the state park if we are going to get their money.

The Board decided to discuss this matter at the special meeting this afternoon.

Item 15- Seek direction from the Board regarding Carrabelle Beach, LLC. This was a project that received site plan approval for a hotel condominium before the county adopted its motel definition. The Planning Office had granted time extensions on the site plan. While the time extension was in effect the City of Carrabelle decided to run sewer to Carrabelle Beach, and began construction of a lift station on the LLC property. The construction of the lift station was to serve the development, but it has taken almost two years to complete during which time the site plan extension expired. The LLC came to see me in September, 2007, and I refused to renew the site plan extension for a third time, even though they claim the City held them up because of the lift station construction. Now a third party is interested in buying the property and are seeking clarification on whether the units approved under the original site plan is still valid. The development was to contain 30 units on 0.76 acre. Board direction.

Commissioner Parrish stated that the site plan is expired; the other Board members agreed with Commissioner Parrish.

Item 16- Comp plan update. County staff and DCA have been negotiating issues associated with a comp plan transmittal package dated May 15, 2007. There were several land use changes, and several land use policies that were proposed to be changed.

Of the land use changes, DCA recommended:

- A) No objections to the 86 acre land use change from Public Facility to Mixed Use Residential. This is the land use change to support the Pepperbrush Development, which is the mixed-use residential development associated with the nursing home just north of St. James Bay Golf Course.
- B) Objected to a 15.32 acre residential development on Mill Road because of potential impacts to wetlands. The developer has withdrawn that proposal.
- C) Objected to a 45.51 acre residential development north of Carrabelle off Kendrick Road. The developer has proposed modifications which caused DCA to drop its objections. The modifications are: reduce the size of the change from 45.51 acres down to 7 acres, which is the number of lots to be created. The remainder of the property will be placed in a conservation easement. Development on the property will be served by performance based treatment systems, which are more effective than aerobic systems in removing nutrients, and admittedly more expense. And the developer will develop data and analysis to address concerns about potential urban sprawl from this project.

Of the land use policies, DCA has agreed to the following:

- D) On Policy 2.2(g) Future Land Use, DCA has no objection to increasing the intensity of development allowed in the commercial area on St. George Island. Essentially, the range of intensity proposed is consistent with intensity of commercial districts around the state. This policy was proposed by Mr. Oliver Monod for a

large development on St. George Island. Part of the site is currently being developed under existing regulations and existing intensity standards.

- E) On Policy 8.10 Future Land Use, DCA has removed its objection to the Board reducing the amount of high density land in the Eastpoint Urban Service Area from 10% down to 3%. There was some confusion about what the Board was trying to accomplish but it has been explained. The county staff proposed this policy change.
- F) Policy 8.8 Future Land Use, the transmittal reduces residential densities in the Eastpoint USA from 15 units to 10 units, and the inclusion of certain other development standards for mixed use, and attempted to change the open space requirements in PUDs to 20% from the current 33% open space requirement. DCA will drop its objections to this change if the county will make modifications to Policy 8.7 Future Land Use, which specifically deals with open space.
- G) Policy 8.7 Future Land Use Currently Policy 8.7 requires PUDs to have an 33% of the site in open space. Policy 8.7 does not say where on the site the open space has to occur. Because public comment on this project focused on the waterfront area, I proposed to DCA that the county provide incentives for developers to provide open space along the water, because it is the land between the highway and the water that needs to be kept open for two important reasons- environmental, and visual. People want to see the water.

So, Policy 8.7. as discussed with DCA, would include a new stormwater standard; a definition of “open space”; and a multiplier was added to encourage developers to dedicate open space between a public road and the water.

Mr. Pierce explained the effects of a multiplier.

The Board decided to look over this information and discuss these items at a later meeting.

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report (11:55 AM)

Attorney Shuler did not present any items for discussion and/or approval.

Commissioners’ & Public Comments (11:56 AM)

Commissioner Sanders requested payment of travel expenses for the Commissioners for March 26, 2008 Legislative Day in Tallahassee, for Commissioner Parrish when he attends his Certification Class on March 27, 2008, and for Commissioners Sanders and Lockley when they attend the FAC later this year.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to approve payment of the requested travel expenses for the Commissioners; Motion carried 5-0.

Bruce Drye, the St. George Island licensed turtle permit holder, and Bruce Hall discussed and distributed a revision to the County’s Turtle Lighting Ordinance. Both Mr. Drye and Ms. Hall stated that they would be at the next regular meeting to discuss this ordinance revision further.

Dan Tonsmeire, ABARK, stated that the Army Corp of Engineers will soon update the water control plan for the Chattahoochee & Apalachicola Rivers.

Adjourn (12:02 PM)

There being no further business Chairman Lockley adjourned the meeting at 12:02 PM.

Noah Lockley Jr., Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts