

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2003**

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:** Cheryl Sanders, Chairman; Bevin Putnal, Clarence Williams and Jimmy Mosconis, Commissioners; Kendall Wade, Clerk; Amelia Varnes, Deputy Clerk; Thomas M. Shuler, County Attorney.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Eddie Creamer

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

(Tape 1-24) Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 19, 2003.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-32) Commissioner Williams made a **motion to pay the County bills.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**WILLIAM SCOTT-VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

(Tape 1-46) Mr. Scott said at the Budget Workshop his budget was tentatively approved for the FY 2003-2004. He stated this entailed him becoming a full time VSO. He said then at the last Regular FCBCC Meeting on August 19, 2003 the Commissioners voted unanimously to cut his budget back to a part time position. He stated it was also discussed at the Budget Workshop that he assume some additional responsibilities if he were to be moved to a full time position. He asked the Commissioners what happened to change the Board's decision. Chairman Sanders said her problem was the big increase in the VSO Budget, increasing from \$13,000.00 to \$32,000.00. Commissioner Mosconis stated he was the one who initiated this discussion about increasing the duties of the VSO. He said the VSO in Gulf County also handles the SHIP Program. Mr. Scott informed the Board he had to know whether this was going to be a full time position because he wanted to submit his retirement papers to the Post Office as soon as he could. Commissioner Mosconis said he would suggest Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services, assign Mr. Scott some other duties to be included in his VSO responsibilities. After further discussion about additional responsibilities for Mr. Scott Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion directing Mr. Scott to meet with Mr. Pierce to prepare a job description including the additional duties Mr. Scott as a full time VSO would assist the Planning and Zoning Department, to decide on a salary for Mr. Scott and to report back to the Board at the first Public Hearing to finalize the FY 2003-2004 Budget on September 8, 2003.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**HUBERT CHIPMAN-SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

(Tape 1-380) Mr. Chipman reported the Public Works Department had drained Mr. Duncan's property in Eastpoint. He said they finally decided to place storm water drainage ditches down Carroll Street to Plum Street and then back to North Bayshore to

**FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003**

help keep Mr. Duncan's property drained. He said the drainage problem has been improved.

(Tape 1-394) Commissioner Mosconis said at the "Big Oaks" there is a ditch, which runs from Bluff Road draining the area where those houses are. He stated the County has cleaned this ditch for years. He said he rode by the ditch the other day and it looks to him like the ditch hasn't been touched or cleaned in a long time. He asked Mr. Chipman to go look at the ditch and see if he could get a crew out there to at least clean the ditch out. Mr. Chipman assured Commissioner Mosconis he would take care of the problem

(Tape 1-419) Commissioner Putnal stated a lot of the "shoulders" in Carrabelle where the roads turn off into driveways are causing the pavement to break. He said the roads are already in bad shape, but this seems to be making them worse. Mr. Chipman replied he has been working on this problem.

(Tape 1-447) Mr. Chipman said he wanted to inform the Board he doesn't even have enough men to work at the Road Department. He stated his men work really hard and he just doesn't have the staff he needs. He explained DeWitt Polous has been busy with all of the new requirements the State of Florida has implemented for the Mosquito Control Department. He informed the Board Mr. Polous was actually the Safety Director for the Road Department. He said Mr. Polous just does not have the time to keep up with all of the road signs for the County and the safety inspections for the road signs for the County. He asked the Board to allow him to hire a full time employee for his Department. He said this would give him an additional position at the Road Department. The Board asked Mr. Chipman to come to the Budget Workshop on September 8, 2003 as well.

**VAN JOHNSON-SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

(Tape 1-597) Mr. Johnson informed the Board he had selected Christopher Spann, who lives in Eastpoint, for the vacant position in the Solid Waste Department. He said the DOC has also approved Mr. Spann's certification so he can supervise DOC Inmates.

(Tape 1-603) He announced the opening of the 2003 Little League Football and Cheerleading season began on August 25<sup>th</sup>. He said this year's season combines more than 140 boys and girls from the Carrabelle, Eastpoint and Apalachicola communities to represent all of Franklin County in the Big Bend. He said the kids would play together, with kids of their own age groups to comprise three divisions. He informed the Board the League would be divided into the Pee Wee Division, Ages 11-12; the Tiny Mite Division, Ages 9-10; and the Teeny Mite Division, Ages 7-8. He explained to make the season a success, Superintendent Joanne Gander, Franklin County School Board, is considering the donation of buses to transport the kids to their away games. He asked the Board if the County could approve the expenditure of \$1,100.00 from the Parks and Recreation Budget to pay for Certified Game Officials. He stated such officials are required for the Franklin County League to be able to compete in the Big Bend area. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion approving the expenditure of \$1,100.00 from the Parks and Recreation Budget to pay for Certified Game Officials for the Franklin County Little League Football League.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for.

**FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003**

**MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Sanders said she was “very pleased” that Franklin County had a Countywide football program. Mr. Johnson informed the Board he had received a lot of positive input about the program.

(Tape 1-656) Kendall Wade, Clerk, asked Mr. Johnson about the monument he had given him to be placed at the D. W. Wilson Sports Complex on Bluff Road. Mr. Johnson replied he had the monument and was awaiting the placement of a brick encasement for the monument. He said he was working on the monument.

(Tape 1-670) Chairman Sanders said she received several disturbing telephone calls about the prospect of mandatory garbage pick-up on SGI, Alligator Point and Lanark Village. She asked if he and Mr. Pierce were still compiling the information the Board had instructing them to get together for the Board. Mr. Johnson replied he and Mr. Pierce met with a representative from Waste Management, Inc. to discuss this issue. He said they were still in the information gathering stage of the project. Chairman Sanders stated she wanted everyone to know the Board had not formally adopted this policy and the County staff was just gathering information to discuss with them about the possibility of a mandatory garbage pick-up requirement on SGI, Alligator Point and Lanark Village.

(Tape 1-684) Mr. Pierce asked Chairman Sanders if she wanted to make the announcement about the Carrabelle Sports Complex. Chairman Sanders said the County now owned 89-acres in Carrabelle purchased through a FRDAP grant from the St. Joe Company. He informed Mr. Johnson there was a big sign in his office to be placed at the designated site for the new complex.

(Tape 1-703) Commissioner Putnal said he went and watched the Little League Football practice the other day. He informed Mr. Johnson there were some good coaches out there coaching the kids this year. Mr. Johnson agreed and thanked Commissioner Putnal. Commissioner Putnal stated he “loved it when you got blacks and whites together doing something positive”. He said he loved that. He stated it was “beautiful when he saw them boys hugging one another, that’s something to me and really touched me”.

**BILL MAHAN-COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR**

(Tape 1-728) Mr. Mahan said he had attached, to his report this morning, copies of the July issues of the Florida DACS Newsletter Issue #24 and Issue #25.

(Tape 1-775) He said a clam-farming workshop titled “The Basics of Processing and Marketing Clams” was taught on August 21, 2003 at the FSU Marine Lab. He stated another similar workshop, on August 22, 2003, was held for the certified shellfish dealers in the Franklin, Gulf and Wakulla County area to discuss developing a local clam marketing and distribution system. He said both workshops went very well.

(Tape 1-821) He updated the Board on the issues discussed at the Annual 2003 ISSC Meeting in Portland, Oregon. He said the ISSC Meeting went well for Florida with no major changes being approved by the Conference, which would have any negative impact on the State’s Oyster Industry.

## FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

(Tape 1-877) Mr. Mahan presented a memo to the Board from him regarding the DACS forming an "Apalachicola Bay Oyster Advisory Committee" for Franklin County. He said the Board had instructed he and Mark Berrigan, DACS Division of Aquaculture, to submit a proposal of who should be on the committee and how many people should be on the committee. He said the Board had also asked them to include the groups that needed to be represented on the committee. He presented these written suggestions to the Board at this time and asked them to think about the proposal. He did tell the Board this committee would just be an advisory committee and no more.

(Tape 1-976) Mr. Mahan reminded the Board of the scheduled workshop this afternoon at 1:30 p.m. with Bill Teehan, FWC Staff Biologist, to discuss the Skimmer Net Issues with the local Shrimpers.

### **BIDS-ELEVEN METAL DOORS FOR WEEMS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

(Tape 1-982) Chairman Sanders announced it was time for the bid opening for the Removal and Replacement of Eleven (11) Metal Doors and Frames at Weems Memorial Hospital. The Clerk, Mr. Wade, informed the audience and the Board there were no bids submitted for this project. Commissioner Mosconis instructed Mr. Pierce to advertise for bids for this project again. Mr. Pierce replied he would take care of this matter and try to send as many request for bids as he could to the surrounding areas.

### **BILL MAHAN-CONTINUED**

(Tape 1-1020) Mr. Mahan said there was a moratorium at the State level for placing any kind of boat ramps or dredging projects in waters approved for shellfish harvesting. He stated this caused a problem with the County helping the clam industry with a boat ramp in this area. The Board discussed the boat ramp issues in Franklin County with Mr. Mahan. Commissioner Mosconis said he knew there was land available for boat ramps. He stated Mr. Pierce should submit another FRDAP grant for a boat ramp in the two-mile area. Mr. Pierce said he knew this property was very expensive. Commissioner Mosconis said he was going to make a **motion directing Mr. Pierce to check with St. Joe Development about a "Seasonal Boat Ramp" or at least some parking areas in the Two-Mile area outside of Apalachicola.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1286) Chairman Sanders informed the Board and audience Chad Gunter, TRG Environmental, had his office call the Board Secretary, Amelia Varnes, this morning and cancel their time on the agenda this morning. She said Ms. Varnes informed her Mr. Gunter would call back and schedule another time at a future Board Meeting.

### **BRIAN MARTIN-DIVISION OF FORESTRY**

(Tape 1-1302) Mr. Martin said the Board asked him to come back to the meeting this morning. He stated he was here to continue his discussion with the Board regarding spot spraying of herbicide on invasive species in Franklin County. He presented the Commissioners with a packet of information prepared by FDEP regarding the use of herbicides for spot spraying of invasive plants. He stated the Board asked him to present

## **FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003**

some information containing statistics regarding what the impacts of spraying this herbicide would be if the herbicide got into the Bay somehow. He said this information he presented this morning would answer these questions. He assured the Board there would be little or no herbicide, which would filtrate into the Bay because it would be stopped by the soil before it reached the Bay. Mr. Martin continued his presentation and again the Board expressed their biggest concerns about the pollution of the Bay. Commissioner Mosconis said this discussion was really not necessary and asked Mr. Martin to attend the Skimmer Net Issues Workshop this afternoon. Mr. Martin assured the Board he would be at the meeting at 1:30 p.m. this afternoon. Commissioner Mosconis also made a **motion to invite Mr. Martin back to the September 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and asked him to invite someone from the National Estuarine Reserve to attend the meeting too.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **ALAN PIERCE-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

(Tape 1-1952) Mr. Pierce informed the Board Steve Jernigan, the Architect, and James Rogers, the Contractor, on the Courthouse Annex Construction Project are continuing to work together to try and solve the mildew problem in the Annex. He explained one area of concern is whether the windows have been installed properly. He said another area is the air conditioning system and whether it is running long enough to take the moisture out of the air. He stated the County Attorney, Michael Shuler, is interested in going to a one-day seminar to address the legalities of mold and mildew problems, which will be held in Tallahassee. He said Mr. Shuler has volunteered to travel on his own expense if the Board would cover the cost of the seminar registration fee of \$300.00. Commissioner Mosconis said he thought the new Engineering Technician Chris Clark should go to this seminar instead of Mr. Shuler. Mr. Pierce explained this particular seminar is specifically designed for attorneys. Commissioner Mosconis said it sounded to him like this seminar “was going to prepare attorneys to sue people”. After discussion Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the County Attorney, Michael Shuler, and the Engineering Technician, Chris Clark, to attend this one-day seminar in Tallahassee regarding the legalities of mold and mildew problems.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Sanders said she received a telephone call from Willie Meggs, the State Attorney, expressing his concerns about the mold and mildew problem in the Annex since his staff is in this building. She stated she called the Health Department to see what they could do about the problem. She said they are also concerned about the problem, but couldn't help with the situation.

(Tape 1-2168) Mr. Pierce interrupted his report to conduct a Public Hearing.

### **PUBLIC HEARING-LU AND REZONING CHANGE 0.81 ACRES**

(Tape 1-2178) Mr. Pierce said this public hearing was a continuation of the public hearings held on June 17, 2003 and July 15, 2003. He said the property belongs to Ivan Delmain. He stated the problem is that part of the property is zoned C-4 and the rest of the property is zoned R-1. He said the proposal is for the 0.81 acres to be rezoned from C-4 Commercial Residential to R-1A Single Family Residential. He stated the County had set a standard about rezoning property from Commercial to Residential. He said

**FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003**

there is sewer and water available. He explained after reviewing the survey provided by the adjoining property owner, Billy Anderson, it was decided most of Mr. Delmain's property is not zoned C-4, since most of it is R-1. He informed the Board they couldn't approve a rezoning from a R-1 zoning to a R-1A zoning since this would be an increase in density. He said the Board has never supported such a rezoning. He stated the issue is since most of the property is zoned R-1 therefore it couldn't be rezoned to R-1A. Billie Anderson, Billy's Beauty Shop in Lanark Village and adjoining property owner, said she was adamantly opposed to any rezoning or land use change for this property. Mr. Delmain appeared before the Board this morning and said he understood this property had a commercial business on it before he even bought it. He explained if it is considered residential then he understood the County could not split residential property. He said if this is the case this property has already been rezoned incorrectly. He stated he didn't understand how a commercial business could be on the property and the other part of the property zoned residential. Mr. Pierce said did not know about any of the prior rezoning issues. He stated he just knew the property couldn't have been zoned R-1A since this is a subdivision rezoning. Commissioner Mosconis said he would like to make a suggestion regarding this matter. He stated he thought some further research needed to be done regarding Mr. Delmain's request. Commissioner Mosconis then made a **motion tabling this request for a Land-Use Change and a Zoning change for an 0.81 acre tract in Section 12, T7S, R4W located on Highway 98 in Carrabelle from Commercial to Residential.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**ALAN PIERCE-CONTINUED**

(Tape 1-2708) Mr. Pierce said he needed to correct the Board's action taken at the last meeting regarding acceptance of the low bid for the shuttering project of the Carrabelle Senior Citizen Center. He explained the Board did authorize to accept the low bid from Architectural Products for shuttering of the Carrabelle Senior Citizen Center. He informed the Board Miles Anderson, Division of Emergency Management, and the department paying for the project rejected the bid submitted by Architectural Products because the bid package was not complete. He said Mr. Anderson now recommends the Board accept the low bid submitted by Wind-Tech Products in the amount of \$22,774.00. He asked the Board to make a motion rejecting the previous low bid from Architectural Products because of the package being incomplete and accepting the next lowest bid submitted by Wind-Tech Products in the amount of \$22,774.00. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to reject the low bid approved by the Board at the last meeting submitted by Architectural Products because the bid package was incomplete and awarding the bid to the next lowest bidder Wind-Tech Products in the amount of \$22,774.00.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-2742) He stated he would read the following into the record. He said the Board did not need to take any action today, but needed to think about what they were going to do. "Anita Grove, Apalachicola Bay Chamber Director met with him to discuss the fishing pier issue for the old SGI Bridge. She has consulted with the residents of SGI, and I called Boh Brothers, the bridge contractors, and FDOT. Anita and I both agree

## FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

there is a decision by the Board that is going to determine how much bridge the Board wants to keep. If the Board is interested in providing free fishing similar to fishing off the causeway with limited amenities then the bridge can be scaled back to about 1,000 feet on either end. If the Board wants to make the bridge an attraction and if done properly draws people to the area, the Board needs to keep the 3,000 feet on either end. By making it an attraction, the Board will have to expect that the fishing piers would be leased out and a fee charged. If the bridge is scaled back the Board will not get as much money from FDOT, but it was told to me by both FDOT and Boh Brothers if the bridge has to come out a later date, the 1.5 million dollars the Board is getting will not be enough to mobilize a contractor to remove the bridge". Commissioner Putnal said he wanted the contract to remain in effect and allow the County to receive these funds and the 3,000 feet on either end. Commissioner Mosconis expressed his concerns about leaving the 3,000 feet on either end and the costs to the County in the future the bridge might cause. Commissioner Putnal stated it was too late to start changing things. Chairman Sanders said she agreed with Commissioner Putnal and stated it had already been decided how much bridge would be left on each end. She stated that would be 3,000 feet on either end. The Board agreed to leave the matter as it is presently with the FDOT giving the County 1.5 million dollars for the bridge displacement and allowing 3,000 feet on either end.

(Tape 1-3109) Mr. Pierce said he would like to update the Board on the Eastpoint Channel Dredging Project. He stated he has talked with a number of people this last week including Terry Jangula, USCOE, Mike Sole, FDEP, and Bobby Pickles, Congressman Boyd's representative about this matter. He informed the Board Mr. Sole told him they met with the USCOE on August 7<sup>th</sup> and has agreed to let the USCOE submit a dredging plan, which included open water disposal on the breakwater. He said Mr. Jangula said the USCOE is working on the plan and he would provide an assurance, in writing, the funds allocated for the Eastpoint Channel Dredging Project would be spent on the Eastpoint Channel regardless of what fiscal year it actually gets dredged in. He said Mr. Jangula assured him, by telephone on Thursday, this would be submitted to the Board in writing. He stated Mr. Pickles has offered to intervene if things do not move along at a steady pace this fall. He said the only bad news is Mr. Sole would no longer be working on this project because he is being transferred to another division with FDEP.

(Tape 1-3199) He said he also had an update on the Alligator Point Emergency Shoreline Stabilization Project, which the USCOE offered to do with no cash match required by the County as long as construction and design costs are held within a certain level. He said he needed the Board to authorize the submission of a FDEP Florida Beach Management Grant for the completion of the design of the T-Groins and the beginning construction of the groins. He stated the design of the T-Groins has already begun, but if the grant is awarded the County could complete the design and begin construction of the T-Groins. He said he also needed the Board to authorize the use of funding for Phase 2 from the Bald Point Trust Fund, if the County does not receive the Federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program Funding. He requested Board authorization as well to submit Phase 2 FDEP Florida Beach Management Grant Application through the current consultants, Mike Dembrowski and Preble-Rish Engineers. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to**

**authorize the following for the Alligator Point Emergency Shoreline Stabilization Project: Submission of a FDEP Florida Beach Management Grant for the completion of the design and beginning construction of the T-Groins; the use of Bald Point Trust Fund to fund the Phase 2 funds if the County doesn't receive the Federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program funds for this project; and the submission of Phase 2 DEP Florida Beach Management Grant through the current consultants, Mike Dembrowski and Preble-Rish Engineers.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-3415) He updated the Board on the request from the Geiger's, who owned property zoned Agricultural and had it rezoned or converted to Residential Zoning, wanted, after receiving the tax bill, to change the land back to Agricultural Zoning. He said they had now decided to keep their property zoned Residential. He stated this was just information for the Board.

(Tape 1-3432) He informed the Board he and the Property Appraiser, Doris Pendleton, discussed the possibility of changing the way Ms. Pendleton had planned to finish her GIS Mapping System. He explained Ms. Pendleton was planning to advertise for bids to complete the project. He said both he and Ms. Pendleton thought it would best if the County Employees develop the system rather than hire a consultant. He stated, at this time, with Ms. Pendleton's support and cooperation he has directed Chris Clark, Engineering Technician, to contact the Department of Revenue to find out what needs to be done. He explained Mr. Clark thinks he has the skills to finish the program and to add certain components, which would be useful to the Planning Department. He said the Planning Department and the Property Appraisers Office plan to jointly manage the development of the County's GIS System.

(Tape 1-3501) He informed the Board the County is entitled to two large-scale land use changes per calendar year. He said the approval of the "Summer Camp" land use change was the first. He explained the Board has the ability to schedule the second large-scale transmittal hearing. He said, at this time, the proposed transmittal hearing would involve some 60-acres on the north side of U. S. Highway 98 between Eastpoint and Carrabelle currently know as "The Soundings", but might also include a proposed change in the Plantation on SGI for the Phipps Corporation. He said the Phipps Corporation is proposing to change 40-acres of land previously owned by Ben Johnson. He stated their proposal is going to be considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission on September 9<sup>th</sup>, and if it is approved by Planning and Zoning he would like to have both "The Soundings" and the Phipps proposal handled at the same time on October 7<sup>th</sup>. He explained if the Phipps proposal is not approved then their proposal would not be scheduled for the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and would have to be considered at a later date. He asked the Board to authorize him to advertise the Transmittal Hearing for "The Soundings", which has previously been approved by P&Z and the advertisement of a Transmittal Hearing for the Phipps Project, if P&Z approves them on September 9<sup>th</sup>. He said the date of the Transmittal Hearing would not be advertised until after the September 9<sup>th</sup> P&Z Meeting, but would be before the September 16<sup>th</sup> FCBCC Meeting. He said if the Board wants to wait until after the P&Z Meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> before making a



**FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003**

decision about advertising the Transmittal Hearing dates then the Transmittal Hearings would have to be scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Commissioners instructed Mr. Pierce to wait to schedule any Transmittal Hearing until after the P&Z Meeting is held on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

(Tape 1-3602) He asked the Board to approve the Chairman's signature on the State and Federally Funded Sub Grant Agreement 04BG-04-02-29-01-019 between DCA and Franklin County, which provides funding of the County's Emergency Management Program. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the State and Federally Funded Sub Grant Agreement Number 04BG-04-02-29-01-019 between Franklin County and the State of Florida DCA for funding of Franklin County's Emergency Management Program.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-3621) He asked the Board to allow the submission of a Hazard Mitigation Grant Application to provide the necessary funds to purchase another home on Alligator Point. He explained this grant would be used to purchase the house owned by Ms. Melanie Perez, previously known as Melanie Gerrell, on Alligator Point. He said the property is approximately two houses west of the western end of the Alligator Point Revetment. He informed the Board the house would be demolished and is considered a repetitive loss structure on Alligator Point. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the submission of a Hazard Mitigation Grant Application to provide the necessary funds to purchase the home of Ms. Melanie Perez, previously known as Melanie Gerrell, on Alligator Point-a repetitive loss structure.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-3664) Mr. Pierce said Mark Curenton, Assistant Planner, has several items for the Board to consider: The recommendation the Board approve a revised close-out report for the Hurricane Earl CDBG. The County will refund \$3,717.34 of CDBG funds to the state and the county will receive an additional \$5,360.96 from the State as part of the State's match that the State should have paid. The County will be come out with a profit of \$1,643.62. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion to approve a revised closeout report for the Hurricane Earl CDBG and authorizing the Chairman's signature on the document.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** The recommendation the Board approve the advertisement and hiring of an engineer to design the Bluff Road Bike Path. Design funds are currently available, but construction funds are still several years away. Preble-Rish Engineering is the Board's engineering firm and because these are special grants the County must go through a separate selection process for this project. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the advertisement and the hiring of an engineer to design the Bluff Road Bike Path in Apalachicola.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** The recommendation by he and Debbie Belcher, consultant for the CDBG Program, to authorize advertising for engineers to oversee construction, surveying, and appraisal for the current CDBG Project. Preble-Rish Engineering is the County's engineering firm, but because these are federal funds the County must go through a separate selection process. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion**

**authorizing the advertisement for an engineer to oversee construction, surveying, and appraisal for the current CDBG Project.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** The recommendation the Board appoint a review committee to evaluate the qualifications for engineers and surveyors and authorize the committee to open and evaluate the qualifications and present the rankings to the Board on October 7<sup>th</sup> at their regular meeting. A proposed committee could be Debbie Belcher, Mark Curenton and Alan Pierce. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion appointing Debbie Belcher, Mark Curenton and Alan Pierce as the review committee to evaluate the qualifications for engineers and surveyors, giving this committee the authorization to open and evaluate the qualifications of these applicants and then to present the rankings to the FCBCC at their regular meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-3771) He presented a copy of a letter from Debbie Belcher, which highlights the status of the CDBG Project in Franklin County. He explained it appears to him most construction for the CDBG Project would not begin for five or six months.

**PUBLIC HEARING-"SUMMER CAMP" PUD**

(Tape 1-3791 Continued on Tape 2-51) Mr. Pierce said this public hearing was scheduled for the last Board Meeting, but was not properly advertised. He said the matter before the Board this morning is the request for approval of a PUD Ordinance and Master Plan for the "Summer Camp" Development. He said this ordinance contains the restrictions and rules, which would apply to this development of the "Summer Camp" Project. He informed the Board the development contains 174-acres of land with 499 houses and 25,000 to 30,000 square feet of commercial property on the East end of the County. He explained the Board would need to take action to adopt the PUD Ordinance and the Master Plan, which contains a preliminary and sketch plat. He said this action the Board takes today does not include the adoption of any final plats for the property. He stated this would all come at a later time. Dave McClain, ABARK; Jim Lycett, Carrabelle; Roger Bybee, Carrabelle; Paul Johnson, APECO-1,000 Friends of Florida-Florida Wildlife Federation; Mark Krause, St. Teresa; Pat Maier; Charles Pattison, Executive Director 1,000 Friends of Florida all stated their concerns about the project. The citizens expressed their concerns about wastewater, water, and assurances there will be plenty of "Open Space" in the project. Commissioner Mosconis said he knew the "Open Space" had been designated in the project. The majority of the public speakers also had a problem with the portion of the Ordinance on Page 8, which states in Section 8, Subsection A. Requests for an amendment to the approved Master Plan shall be submitted to the County Planner. After hearing the public speakers and questioning Billy Buzzett, St. Joe Company, Director Strategic Planning about the exclusion of a marina in the project Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to adopt "An Ordinance of Franklin County, Florida, Relating to and amending the Zoning Code; Amending the Franklin County Zoning Map; Designating and establishing the Summer Camp Planned Unit Development to Supersede Requirements in the Franklin County Zoning Code; Providing for Repeal of any Conflicting Ordinances; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date" with the change on Page 8, Section 8,**

**Subsection A. be changed to Requests for any amendment to the approved Master Plan shall be submitted to the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners and contingent on the County Attorney's final review of the Ordinance to make sure the changes are made in the actual Ordinance.**

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Buzzett if St. Joe had already designated an "Open or Green Space" as discussed earlier. Mr. Buzzett informed the Board the areas determined "Open or Green Space" has already been dedicated to the property owners. He said they do have a conservation easement for the 50-foot buffer around all of the wetlands and have agreed to a conservation easement for the "Turkey Point Marine Lab" to FSU. He said this would totally be addressed when the project is reviewed in the final plat process. Commissioner Mosconis informed Mr. Buzzett he wanted St. Joe to know this project was the first such project St. Joe was proposing in Franklin County and he could be sure the Commissioners and citizens would be scrutinizing the project. Chairman Sander said she appreciated all of the assistance Mr. Buzzett has provided to the Board and citizens. She stated he has not lied to her yet and she felt like he wouldn't do anything to cause friction between St. Joe and the County. She said everyone could rest assured she was going to stay "on top" of this project.

**KENDALL WADE-CLERK**

(Tape 2-1254) Mr. Wade reminded the Board the State Legislature has updated the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and asked the Board to direct the County Attorney to update the County's EEOC Section of the Personnel Rules. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion directing the County Attorney address and change, if necessary, the EEOC Portion of the County's Personnel Rules and Policies.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-1285) He presented the Annual Florida Department of State Division of Library and Information Services FY 2003-2004 State Aid to Libraries Grant Application to the Board for signature. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the Annual Florida Department of State Division of Library and Information Services FY 2003-2004 State Aid to Libraries Grant Application.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-1306) He presented the Annual State of Florida Office of Criminal Justice Grants Florida Department of Law Enforcement-Byrne Formula Grant Program Certificate of Acceptance of Sub Grant Award FY 2003-2004 Number 04-CJ-J33-02-29-01-177 to the Board for the Chairman's signature. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the Annual State of Florida Office of Criminal Justice Grants Florida Department of Law Enforcement-Byrne Formula Grant Program Certificate of Acceptance of Sub Grant Award FY 2003-2004 Number 04-CJ-J3-02-29-01-177.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-1325) He read the following Resolutions for Unanticipated Revenues into the record: Whereas, Franklin County is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and

**FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003**

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 \$70,000.00 from VARIOUS ENTITIES (SEE LIST ATTACHED) FOR FUNDING OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE, and Whereas, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2002-2003, 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 Contract Services \$70,500.00 Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$70,500.00 in the GENERAL REVENUE FUND in order to comply with FS 129.06(2)(d). THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2003. Cheryl Sanders, Chairman ATTEST: Kendall Wade, Clerk. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the Resolution of Unanticipated Revenues in the amount of \$70,500.00.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-1397) 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 \$16,910.00 from FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES, GRANT NO. 03-ST-74, and Whereas, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2002-2003, 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: 137.37.571.4300 Utility Service \$1,750.00; 137.37.571.5200 Operating Supplies \$4,160.00; 137.37.571.6400 Machinery & Equipment \$4,000.00; 137.37.571.6600 Library Materials \$7,000.00 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$16,910.00 in the LIBRARY FUND in order to comply with FS 129.06(2)(d). THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2003. Cheryl Sanders, Chairman ATTEST: Kendall Wade, Clerk. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the Resolution of Unanticipated Revenues in the amount of \$16,910.00.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-1434) 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 \$170,464.80 from the STATE OF FLORIDA, PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES PROGRAM, and Whereas, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2002-2003, and Whereas, FS 129.06 (2)(d) provides for budget amendments

**FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003**

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: 001.99.584.9600 Reserve for Contingency \$170,464.80 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$170,464.80 for use in the GENERAL FUND in order to comply with FS 129.06(2)(d). THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2003. Cheryl Sanders, Chairman ATTEST: Kendall Wade, Clerk. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the Resolution of Unanticipated Revenue in the amount of \$170,464.80.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-1450) He presented the following budget amendments to the Board for approval: The following budget amendment is needed in order to adjust for the jail roofing project and lightning assessment project approved by the Board. These two projects were to be funded from the Payments in Lieu of Taxes received by the Board. Decrease 001.99.584.9600 Reserve for Contingency \$116,450.00; Increase 001.80.581.9100 Transfer to Fine & Forfeiture \$116,450.00; Increase 120.381.000 Transfer from General Fund \$116,450.00; Increase 120.81.523.3100 Professional Services \$9,450.00 and Increase 120.81.523.4600 Repair & Maintenance \$107,000.00. Commissioner Williams made a **motion approving the listed budget amendments in Order to adjust for the jail roofing project and lightning assessment project approved by the Board-to be funded from the Payment in Lieu of Taxes received by the Board.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-1500) Mr. Wade said he was informing the Board this morning the Constitutional Officers had adopted a new policy regarding per diem, etc. effective today. He stated the update would include \$50.00 per day and 37-cents a mile to reflect the same increase the State has adopted. He stated if the Board was interested in changing the County Policy then they would have to adopt a Resolution reflecting these changes. Chairman Sanders said the Board had already instructed Mr. Shuler to prepare such a Resolution.

**THOMAS M. SHULER, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

(Tape 2-1569) He reminded the Board they had instructed him to invite representatives from EmeryStat, Inc. and Weems Memorial Hospital-DasSee Inc. to the meeting this morning.

(Tape 2-1573) He announced the County now owns the Sumatra Cemetery property. He asked the Board to authorize him to have a survey done on the property. He said this would sort of "lay out" the plots so the County could consider the price, etc. of the lots. He informed the Board he has not heard anything from the Sumatra Community about a group or organization taking responsibility for the operation of the Cemetery. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the County Attorney to pursue a survey of the Sumatra Cemetery property the County has acquired from the Drew**

**Branch Estate in Sumatra.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-1603) He informed the Board they would need to formally amend the Four-Wheeler Ordinance to allow four-wheelers on the beaches of Franklin County for the purpose of watching and noting the "Turtle Nesting" sites in Franklin County. He asked the Board to approve the scheduling of a public hearing and advertisement of the public hearing to consider the changes or amendments to this ordinance. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion permitting the County Attorney to prepare an amendment to the Four-Wheeler Ordinance allowing four-wheelers on the beaches of Franklin County for the purpose of "Turtle Nest" watching and authorizing the advertisement of public hearing to consider such an amendment to this ordinance.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-1633) He said a suit has been filed against the owner of the nine Pit Bulls the Animal Control Director had mentioned to the Board at a previous meeting.

(Tape 2-1640) He said he had received a letter from Thom Lewis's attorney Randall Denker regarding the proposed lawsuit Mr. Lewis is intending to file against Franklin County. He stated this property is on SGI and apparently Mr. Lewis and his attorney have lost patience with the Florida Association of Counties investigation and is ready to move forward with a lawsuit. He reported he has sent a letter to Ms. Denker and would try to resolve the matter before an actual lawsuit has been filed.

(Tape 2-1670) Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Shuler if he had the Resolution changing the per diem, etc. for the County Policies and Procedures Manual ready for adoption. Mr. Shuler replied he did not have the final Resolution, but would have it prepared for the next meeting.

#### **CHAIRMAN SANDERS-PAVING ISSUE**

(Tape 2-1687) Chairman Sanders asked the Board to just think about a paving program. She said if the County can budget any extra money anywhere in the Budget she would like to see it used for paving in the County. She said she reviewed the road-paving request submitted by the City of Carrabelle and the City of Apalachicola. She said she felt this was very imperative that the Commissioners implement a paving program immediately or as soon as possible. She stated the City of Apalachicola listed 36 roads to be paved just in the City of Apalachicola alone. She said this budget or fund could be a revolving fund, which could be refunded each year along with the Local Gas Tax to fund paving of roads in Franklin County. Chairman Sanders said she had received a TRIM Notice and her taxes did increase, but she felt if she could drive some decent roads she would feel a little better about her taxes. She stated she had received numerous complaints about the roads. She asked the Commissioners to at least consider or think about this issue. Commissioner Mosconis said he felt the Commission needed to have the Engineering Technician review these lists and try to come up with an estimate as to how much it would cost the County to pave just the roads listed. Mr. Pierce assured the Board he had given the list to the Engineering Firm. Commissioner Putnal said when the

## FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

County Commissioners asked the City of Carrabelle to provide a list of roads in need of paving the City sent the list of the most important roads needing attention. He stated this is all the City of Carrabelle included on their list, but he felt all of the roads needed repairing. He said the roads are all torn up just like they are in Apalachicola. He stated they are full of potholes and the list from the City of Carrabelle only listed the roads the sewer and water project had been finished on. He said since then, the City of Carrabelle Mayor has informed him another road needed to be added to the list. Commissioner Putnal said he knew there was going to be a continuing problem with the roads being added to this list. Chairman Sanders said she felt every road in Apalachicola and Carrabelle needed to be repaved. Mr. Pierce said the City of Apalachicola had approximately 40-miles of roads needing repair, but only listed 12.9-miles on the actual request for paving or repair. Chairman Sanders stated the City of Carrabelle needed a lot more roads paved or repaired than was on the original list. She said other areas in the County needed to be considered and not just the Cities. Mr. Pierce stated the engineers are not reviewing any County roads they are only reviewing the City roads. Chairman Sanders stated this was the "County Commission" and County roads need to be fixed too. She said the Commission does not only serve the Cities, but all of Franklin County. Chairman Sanders stated she was asking the Commissioners to think about this situation and she would discuss the matter further at the first Budget Workshop Public Hearing on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Mosconis said both cities need to commit to assist the County with funding since they get some of the gas tax monies for Franklin County. He stated he felt people were being "double taxed". He said he knew the County had almost 1 million dollars in the bank for road paving and money is real "cheap" now since the interest rate is so low. He stated he wanted the County to borrow the money because he didn't want the people to be taxed for a use like gasoline. He said it wasn't fair to the people to be charged a Gas Tax and Ad Valorem taxes. Mr. Pierce stated the City of Apalachicola would contribute \$100,000.00 to the paving program in the City of Apalachicola. Raymond Williams, City of Carrabelle Commissioner, said he agreed with Chairman Sanders and suggested the program be a revolving fund as well. He said it would take at least three or four years to just pave the areas needing paving. He stated the City of Carrabelle does have approximately \$100,000.00 in a Road Paving Fund, which they would also contribute to the paving project. Chairman Sanders said this was just "Food for thought". Commissioner Mosconis said the last time there was a road-paving project in Franklin County the County only had about \$600,000.00 in the paving fund and completed about 1.5 million dollars worth of road paving because of an agreement worked out with the contractor, C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. He said he knew there were "innovative" ways of doing this road paving without using Ad Valorem Taxes. Chairman Sanders asked if the added revenue was in the Budget why couldn't the paving be completed this year. She said she knew people felt like they were seeing something for their money if they could just see some roads repaired or paved in the County. Commissioner Williams said he had been a member of the FCBCC for seven years and has never had any paving whatsoever completed in his District. He stated he is anticipating over 1 million dollars worth of paving in his District alone. He said he wanted to check over the City of Apalachicola list because there might have been some roads left off the list. Commissioner Mosconis stated there has never been enough money in the County Budget to pave all the roads in the County. He said this was a "pipe

## FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

dream”. Chairman Sanders said the important word in her statement was “revolving” or “reoccurring” program. Commissioner Williams said he wanted some paving done in his District. Chairman Sanders said the Gas Tax produces \$387,000.00 to the County. She stated if the County could impose the extra penny they could impose the County could receive another \$62,000.00 in Gas Tax Revenue. She said she had been a member of the Board for five years and the only thing paved in her area was Highway 67 because it was paid for through grant funds. Commissioner Mosconis said he wanted a better plan for paving in the County. He asked how much Ad Valorem Tax money was going to be spent on this project. Chairman Sanders replied anything extra in the Budget left over after budgeting for the County needs. Commissioner Williams said when he first became a member of the Board the Gas Tax wasn’t even implemented yet. He stated this is one of the first things he agreed to do. He said he hasn’t seen anything for seven years as far as paving in his District. He stated his roads are in severe disrepair and must be fixed. He said he felt somebody was going to get “sued” over this issue. Commissioner Williams said he wanted some paving done. Chairman Sanders said the last quote she had was a cost of \$80,000.00 per mile of paving. Mr. Pierce stated this was a quote for “resurfacing” of the roads. Chairman Sanders said, according to her calculations, the County could pave approximately eight to ten miles of road a year if the paving program was revolving year to year. She stated she didn’t think the County could ever “catch-up” with the paving problems. Commissioner Mosconis said the County didn’t pave any roads in the City of Apalachicola or the City of Carrabelle during the last paving program because of all of the new infrastructure being placed in both cities. He stated the County knew this and didn’t do anything “unwise”. He said the money was spent in Eastpoint, on the Island, in his area, etc. He stated this was done intentionally because of the water and sewer projects in both Cities. Commissioner Mosconis said Commissioner Williams gave him his budget for paving at that time. He stated the next time road paving is done it should be done in the Cities. Commissioner Putnal said the cities are almost through with these projects and he wanted to see some equipment moving to pave the roads in Carrabelle and Apalachicola. Chairman Sanders said she would discuss this in more detail at the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **MR. SHULER-CONTINUED**

(Tape 2-2168) Mr. Shuler said the Board had received, and he assumed a copy of the document was in their packet this morning, a letter from The Rivas Law Firm of Tallahassee, Robert Rivas, concerning the redistricting issue in Franklin County. He asked the Board to authorize him to respond to the letter and then he would be more prepared to make a recommendation to the Board at one of the future Board Meetings. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the County Attorney to respond to and prepare a response to a letter from The Rivas Law Firm, Robert Rivas, regarding the redistricting issue in Franklin County.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-2197) Mr. Shuler reported he had asked Mike Lake, DasSee, Inc., the operator of the local hospital, Weems Memorial, to answer questions from the Board about the hospital. He said he also had asked a representative from EmergyStat, Inc. to come to the



## FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

Board Meeting this morning too. He stated Skip Chormicle, Manager for EmeryStat, Inc., was here this morning too. Chairman Sanders said she would like for Mr. Chormicle to address the Board first this morning. Mr. Chormicle said he was the Regional Manager for EmeryStat, Inc. in this area. Chairman Sanders said she had to express her concerns about the problem of EmeryStat, Inc. not bringing patients, when they request to be carried to Tallahassee or Panama City, to the hospital. She stated she couldn't understand why a patient, who requested to go to Tallahassee from Carrabelle or the eastern end of the County, had to be brought all the way back to Apalachicola and then moved to Tallahassee or Panama City. She said it seemed to her this was a waste of time. She asked Mr. Chormicle what, if anything, could be done about this matter. She also reminded Mr. Chormicle the County did provide \$10,000.00 per month in funding for the ambulance service. She asked Mr. Chormicle why a patient had to be brought to Weems Hospital in Apalachicola if they wanted to go onto Tallahassee to begin with. Mr. Chormicle replied he did understand her concern. He said the EMS staff has been instructed to take any patient who request to be taken to Tallahassee or Panama City to the hospital of their choice. He stated there were exceptions to this situations and the EMS staff has no other option, but to carry a patient, who is deemed in need of going to the nearest hospital, to Apalachicola Weems Memorial since it is the nearest hospital. He explained this is for the safety of the patient. He said if there is no life threatening injury or sickness the patient is usually carried to the hospital of their choice whether it is in Tallahassee or Panama City. He stated in the incident Chairman Sanders is referring to, the patient was having chest pains, diaphoretic, high blood pressure, slurred speech, and his pupils were unequal and sluggish, which indicated to the paramedic, on scene, this patient was either having a heart attack, a stroke or both. He stated the phrase in the EMS business "Time is Muscle", which refers to a heart attack victim. He said the quicker you get a victim of a heart attack to definitive care the quicker you stop damage to the heart. He explained the distance from the incident to Weems Memorial in Apalachicola was about 20-minutes where it would have been 1-hour to get the same patient to Tallahassee. He stated the damage done to the heart in a situation like this is irreversible so the paramedic chose to take this patient to the nearest hospital with definitive care. He said then after the patient was stabilized the patient could have been transferred to either Panama City or Tallahassee. He explained this would happen in any case where life was in danger. Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Chormicle about the situation that happened in Carrabelle last week. She said a man was having a heart attack and he was taken immediately to Tallahassee to the hospital. She asked what the difference was. Mr. Chormicle replied it could have been possible, since he didn't really know the particulars, the patient could have had chest pains, but not have been a heart attack or not having any of the other signs or symptoms of a heart attack. He stated it is deemed there is not a life-threatening situation the paramedic could determine where to take the patient. Chairman Sanders said she didn't mean any harm in this statement, but she said if EmeryStat, Inc. ever had a call to 4901 Jeff Sanders Road in Carrabelle that is a major, major emergency since this is her house, she doesn't want to be taken anywhere else but Tallahassee. She stated she is not going to call the ambulance unless she is dying or something is terribly wrong and she is going to want to be taken to Tallahassee to her doctors. Chairman Sanders said this has been a problem with the ambulance service for years. She stated she wanted to be sure the patients in the eastern end of the County are allowed, if so

## FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

requested, be taken to Tallahassee. She stated it didn't matter to her if she was dying with a heart attack, she would like to die on the way to Tallahassee. She said she wanted the public to have the opportunity to go to the hospital of their choice either Tallahassee or Panama City. Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Chormicle if he was aware there was \$200,000.00 in a budget in Franklin County waiting for EmergyStat to access to use to purchase two new ambulances. Mr. Chormicle replied he was aware of this and the manager for the local area, Patricia Shuler, was going to pursue these funds and the purchase of the ambulances. He explained Ms. Shuler, who has been working for about a month as Director, is going to take care of this matter. He said he would like to ask the Board to auction the old ambulances at an auction. Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Chormicle if he could assure her if they are called to Carrabelle or to the eastern end of the County and want to go to Tallahassee they will be taken there no matter what. Mr. Chormicle replied he couldn't promise this if there was a life-threatening situation. He said the paramedics cannot make the decision to risk a person's life to go to Tallahassee. He stated this was not something they chose to do since it would be what was in the best interest of the patient. He said they are trained, tested and certified by the State of Florida to follow certain rules and regulations; this is something that has to be done, since they don't really have a choice. He stated an Emergency Room Doctor or Medical Director can be contacted by phone and then they agree, after receiving the signs and symptoms, to have the patient carried on to Tallahassee or Panama City. He said the doctor has to agree to it. He stated a doctor rarely gives this clearance since the long-term effect to a patient could be detrimental. Chairman Sanders asked if the patient or the patient's family members sign a waiver so the ambulance service wouldn't be responsible if something did happen on the way to Tallahassee. Mr. Chormicle replied he would get an answer to this questions since he has never been asked a question like this. He stated he would also provide any written policies he has for EmergyStat employees and anything else pertaining to State Statues, etc. regarding this matter. Patricia Shuler, appeared before the Board, and informed the Board she had talked to the Finance Officer, Ruth Williams, about the ambulance budget. She stated she was going to work on this matter and would attempt to use the Florida Sheriffs Association Vehicle Bid Purchase list so the ambulances could be purchased directly and not have to be bid out. She assured the Board the ambulance service would take citizens to Tallahassee if they asked to be taken, but only if a non-life threatening situation. She stated she would, along with Mr. Chormicle; check into whether the patient or the patient's immediate family member could sign some type of waiver. She reminded the Board the paramedics do know that people's life's are in their hands and it is so important, in some situations, to get to the nearest hospital. Mike Lake, CEO, DasSee Community Health Systems, the operator of the local hospital, Weems Memorial, appeared before the Board at this time. Mr. Shuler reminded the Commissioners they instructed him to invite Mr. Lake to this Board Meeting this morning. He stated the primary issues involved the payment of Ad Valorem Taxes by DasSee and the filing of a Personal Property Tax Return by DasSee as well. He stated Mr. Lake has been very "forthright" in returning the telephone calls and e-mails he has sent Mr. Lake. He said Mr. Lake has paid \$10,000.00 of the approximate \$30,000.00 in Ad Valorem Taxes since the last meeting. He stated he informed Mr. Lake he would have to work with the Tax Collector, Mr. Harris, and with the Property Appraiser, Ms. Pendleton. He said he understands he has contacted these officials, but did not release

## FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

Mr. Lake from attending this Board Meeting this morning. Mr. Harris informed the Board he had not had any contact with Mr. Lake, but he did receive \$10,000.00, which he placed in an escrow account until the balance of taxes due, \$28,085.00 is paid in full. He stated he has not had any conversation with Mr. Lake about this matter. Ms. Pendleton said she has had contact with Mr. Lake's secretary, she assumed, about the Personal Property Tax Return. She stated no return has been submitted to her office as of today. Mr. Shuler said those are two issues the Board would probably want to address this morning. He stated he was acting as a conduit between Mr. Harris, Ms. Pendleton and Mr. Lake. He said he knew Mr. Harris couldn't apply a partial payment to a Ad Valorem Tax Bill. Commissioner Mosconis asked if there was a time line given to Mr. Harris by Mr. Lake. Mr. Shuler replied the agreement was for approximately \$10,000.00 to be paid each month for the next 3 months. Commissioner Mosconis said he felt this was a lot cheaper than going to court and having to hire a lawyer. Mr. Lake said he would like to inform the Board he has never received, although he had requested, a tax bill in his company, DasSee Community Health Care Systems, Inc., name. He stated this is the company who has the lease with the County. He said Mr. Harris is sending tax notice to whoever is listed on the tax roles as owner of the property. He stated when the lease was signed it probably should have been recorded so the tax notices could be sent to DasSee. Mr. Lake stated his company, since March 1997 through August 2003, has paid the County a total of \$780,000.00 in lease payments, \$187,000.00 in taxes, which totals \$967,000.00 for Franklin County. He said his company provides, since March of 1997, 18.6 million dollars in payroll. He stated his company does provide paychecks to the employees unlike the previous company leasing the hospital. He said they are trying to be good "stewards" and operate the local hospital. He said the County did provide \$100,000.00 when the HVAC equipment went out. He said his company paid \$650,000.00 to assist with the installation of the new HVAC equipment. He said they recently upgraded all of the services in the hospital and all of the equipment has been replaced. He stated they have upgraded the ER Staff. He said the ER visits have more than doubled and there have been three physicians retire in Franklin County during the last year. He stated this has caused a lot of strain on the ER. He informed the Board, as of September 8<sup>th</sup>, the hospital will be operating a walk-in primary care clinic at the hospital staffed by Nurse Practitioners. He said this should take some of the pressure off the existing or remaining Franklin County physicians. He stated the ER group does cover patients in the hospital on the weekends as well. He said he did agree there was no health care provided between the eastern end of the County and Apalachicola. He said he knew there was an access problem in the County. He said one of the things he is going to propose in the future is the construction, by his company, of a new hospital somewhere between Carrabelle and Eastpoint. He stated there are certain funds available for "Critical Access Hospitals" to be constructed. He said there have been six of them constructed by this fund, which is a HUD fund. He stated, with the County's approval, he would consider the purchase of some property on Highway 65 or a little further east. He said he has the plans for a 61,000 square foot hospital with 48 beds. He stated he would let the County know that if he built the hospital and if he sold the hospital the County would have the "first right of refusal" to purchase the hospital. Myrtice Corley, Carrabelle, asked the Board to allow her to speak this morning. Ms. Corley said she had an incident last year at the Georgian Restaurant in Carrabelle. She said the ambulance service came to the Georgian to pick

**FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003**

her up and she asked them to take her to Tallahassee. She said the ambulance staff told her they could not take her to Tallahassee. She stated she asked them to call Life Flight so they could take her to Tallahassee. She said they told her Life Flight was not in operation. She stated after she finally gets to the hospital in Tallahassee Life Flight was in operation. She said this year she had to go back, on an emergency situation, to Tallahassee, but she did not call an ambulance. She stated she has told her family to take her to Tallahassee. She said she didn't call the ambulance because she knew she would have to come all the way to Apalachicola. She stated the citizens of the eastern end of the County certainly needed an ambulance to at least take the patients to Tallahassee if they so desire. She stated she would drive herself, even if she was sick, to Tallahassee. She said the ambulance charged her \$926.00 for an emergency call to her husband. She stated the hospital couldn't even find out what was wrong with her husband. She said she felt very strongly about this situation. Chairman Sanders thanked Mr. Chormicle and Mr. Lake for coming to the meeting this morning.

**MARY DEBLE-LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTH FLORIDA**

(Tape 2-3625 Continued on Tape 3) Mary Deble, Legal Services of North Florida, appeared before the Board at this time. She thanked the Board for supporting her group in Franklin County. She informed the Board her group had served 85 families in the County, which consisted of domestic violence, homelessness prevention, elder services, etc. She said the County provided \$2,200.00 to their service. She stated it leverage some other resources from the government entities for further services in Franklin County. She said there would be some changes when Article V, Revision 7 comes into play next year. She stated this would eliminate the access of filing fees for Legal Services. She said she is asking the Board to continue this amount of funding in this next fiscal year, which would total \$550.00. She stated next year it would be around \$2,200.00 due to the changes caused by Article V. She asked the Board if they had any questions. After no questions from the Board she thanked them for their time.

**REVEREND JAMES WILLIAMS-FC MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE**

(Tape 3-82) Reverend Williams said he was here a few weeks ago to request \$10,000.00 from the County at the first Budget Workshop. He stated he thought the Board agreed to furnish the \$10,000.00 for the Franklin County Ministerial Alliance. He said everything was okay, but he found out he was supposed to appear at the next Board Meeting to discuss the request further. He said he didn't know he was supposed to come to the next Board Meeting after he left the Budget Workshop. He stated he was here today to address this matter since he found out the Board had voted to withdraw the funding. Commissioner Mosconis expressed his concerns about the name of the association, the "Franklin County Ministerial Alliance". He said he knew the County couldn't give religious organization any County funding. Discussion continued. Mr. Shuler, the County Attorney, reminded the Board he had researched the subject and found out the County couldn't use any public moneys either "direct or indirect" can be used in support of any church, sect, etc. He said the language "direct or indirect" is the problem and whether it is in the best interest of taxpayers of Franklin County to support any church, sect, etc. Commissioner Mosconis encouraged Reverend Williams to change the name of his organization to exclude any reference to a religious organization, etc. He asked

**FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-SEPTEMBER 2, 2003**

Reverend Williams to ask his Board of Directors about this matter and come back to the September 8<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop for final discussion. Chairman Sanders said she agreed with this subject about the name of the organization. Reverend Williams said he would schedule a meeting for this weekend to see what could be done. He stated he would have representatives at the September 8<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop.

**COMMISSIONER PUTNAL**

(Tape 3-674) Commissioner Putnal asked Lt. Leonard Martin, FCSO, to come to the microphone at this time. Commissioner Putnal said he wanted to “talk” to him just a second. He asked him about something that happened at the Courthouse recently with an “elderly lady who is sick and crippled”. He said Lt. Martin “hurt her feelings real bad and said some things to her”...Lt. Martin stopped Commissioner Putnal at this time and said “I don’t think this is the time or place to discuss this issue”. Commissioner Putnal stated he just wanted Lt. Martin to “be aware, you are the Security Guard here, no matter who it is, if they are old and in need or they are hurting in some way, be kind and courteous to those people that is all I am asking”. Lt. Martin replied, “Well, first of all I would like to say I don’t think you should use this forum, the Franklin County Commission, to make a personal statement. I know where you are coming from, but first of all I am kind to any person, anybody that knows me knows that. I think you need to know the whole story”. Chairman Sanders interrupted this dialogue and said she was going to adjourn the meeting.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD  
THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED UNTIL 1:30 P.M. FOR THE SCHEDULED  
SKIMMER NET ISSUES WORKSHOP.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **CHERYL SANDERS, CHAIRMAN**

\_\_\_\_\_ **KENDALL WADE, CLERK**