

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
MARCH 4, 2008
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

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

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

Call to Order (9:00 AM)

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge

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 payment of the County bills with the exception of the payment to G&N Painting; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to approve payment for G&N Painting; Motion carried 4-0, Chairman Lockley abstained.

Approval of Minutes (9:03 AM)

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve the Minutes for the February 5, 2008 Special Meeting and February 19, 2008 Regular Meeting including Commissioner Crofton correction to change the name of the Chairman on the February 5, 2008 Special Meeting minutes; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Report

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

Commissioner Crofton asked that all Departments do line locations before they do any digging, as he received complaints from St. George Island residents of damaged lines resulting from County crews digging.

Mr. Chipman submitted the following report for the Board's review.

Would like to let the Board know that we will be beginning the CR30A Road Bank Re-nourishment and Revetment Installation Project on Thursday, February 28

Work Performed

- Hauled 3 loads approximately 54 cubic yards of lime rock and leveled for the Chili Cook Off on St. George Island
- Hauled 23 loads approximately 414 cubic yards of milled asphalt from the Tallahassee State Yard
- Hauled 29 loads, 550.15 tons of Screened fill dirt for Will S. Kendrick Ball Park in Carrabelle.
- Hauled 3 loads of Black dirt for the City of Carrabelle to go on the Veterans Park on HWY 98
- Hauled Sand, Graded, Filled in washout and laid sod at the Will S. Kendrick Ball Park in Carrabelle.
- Cleaned Bloody Bluff Cemetery, Browns Cemetery and Sumatra Cemetery in Eastpoint
- Graded roads in Apalachicola, Eastpoint and St. George island
- Filled in holes with lime rock in Eastpoint
- Put lime rock on shoulders of road in Apalachicola and Eastpoint
- Repaired Intersections on St. George Island
- Picked up litter in Apalachicola, Carrabelle, Eastpoint and St. George Island
- Cut ditches and dug bottom of ditches out in Carrabelle
- Replaced culvert in Eastpoint
- Put signs on St. George Island

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services (9:05 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented this item from his report for discussion and/or approval as it related to Mr. Chipman's department.

Item 12 - At the last meeting the Board directed that I investigate an incident involving property damage at the Road Dept. I am making this report to the Board.

It is my recommendation, based upon this small accident, as well as the expected budget cuts that are going to require consolidation of effort in the near future, that the Board place Mosquito Control back under the direct supervision of the Superintendent of Public Works, effective immediately. Mr. Dewitt Polous would continue to be the Mosquito Control Director but he would work under the direction and supervision of the Superintendent of Public Works, Mr. Hubert Chipman. Board action.

Board discussed this matter.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to transfer the Mosquito Control department to work under the direction and supervision of the Superintendent of Public Works; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Crofton asked Mr. Chipman to fill in the holes at Indian Creek Park.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:12 AM)

Mr. Johnson submitted the following report for the Board's review.

REQUEST FOR DEBRIS REMOVAL:

FOR BOARD APPROVAL: Mr. Ron Harper out of Eastpoint has requested County assistance in removing about 100 pine trees to be placed on the right-of-way off North Bay Shore Drive. At present, the trees are still standing but were damaged during the wildfire that swept through that section of Eastpoint in early 2006. Mr. Harper's request is born out of a concern for public safety and that falling limbs from the dead trees are constantly causing power outages in the area.

However, the County Policy governing debris removal states in part that Land Clearing Debris is ineligible for pickup by the county and that removal of such debris is the responsibility of the property owner. For your review I have attached a copy of the Debris Removal Policy. ACTION REQUESTED: Board's directions.

Crofton stated that after investigating this request it appears to be land clearing

Ron Harper, President of Magnolia Bay Association, stated that the trees have allowed fires to spread quickly in the neighborhood and this scenario would be similar to the action taken by Board during the tornado in Apalachicola.

Commissioner Crofton didn't think that this was an emergency situation.

Attorney Shuler stated that this request violates the Board's Debris Policy and recommends denying the request.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to deny this request as it violates the Board's Debris Removal Policy; Motion carried 5-0.

PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITY UPDATE:

FOR BOARD INFORMATION: The Franklin County Dixie Youth 2008 baseball season will commence with the Annual Day of Baseball on Saturday, April 5, 2008, at the Will S. Kendrick Sports Complex outside of Carrabelle. League officials are expecting approximately 400 kids countywide to participate this season.

Prior to the Day of Baseball on Friday, April 4, there will be an official opening of the new complex and a dedication ceremony. Also, before the Apalachicola League's first home game (TBA) there will be a dedication of the baseball fields named after the two deceased youths that played for the Apalachicola League. ACTION REQUESTED: None.

Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Johnson to use some of the sports clay on the baseball fields in Eastpoint and also asked if these parks can be lighted.

Commissioner Parrish stated that the lights at D. W. Wilson were not working a few nights ago and asked Mr. Johnson if he could investigate this matter; Mr. Johnson said he would.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Johnson to coordinate with Mr. Rothwell on item 10 of his report.

Commissioner Crofton stated that he received a complaint that an electrician from Wewa was working on the landfill and wanted to know why local electricians were not being used. Mr. Johnson stated that many local electricians are used for other projects but he always tries to use the Contractor that will give him the best price on any project he may have.

Dan Rothwell – County Engineer (9:24 AM)

Mr. Rothwell submitted the following report for the Board's review.

1. BOARD ACTION Eastpoint Water & Sewer District (EPWS) 5th Street Easement:

Staff recommends that the Board grant a permanent easement to install a new and larger vacuum station within the 5th Street Right of Way (R/W) at the northeast corner of the intersection of 5th Street and the Progress Energy Power Easement (see attached graphic). The District believes the station is necessary to increase capacity and efficiency.

Board discussed the possibility of this road being previously abandoned

George Allan EPWS stated what portion of the road was actually abandon

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to approve this request contingent on Attorney Shuler's research and approval; Motion carried 5-0.

Kevin Begos, of the Seafood Taskforce, asked the Board to authorize Mr. Rothwell do some survey work at Indian Creek Park.

Ben Withers, referring to Item 6 on Mr. Rothwell's report, stated that he is working on this project and needs inspections and direction from Mr. Rothwell to complete the project.

Mr. Rothwell stated what issues are unresolved, including the asphalt testing.

Mr. Withers stated that he didn't realize the asphalt was a problem and did not agree with the testing method Mr. Rothwell wanted to use and explained why.

Attorney Shuler stated that this meeting was not the correct process to resolve this issue; the Board agreed with Attorney Shuler and asked Mr. Withers to discuss this matter with Mr. Rothwell.

Commissioner Sanders asked Attorney Shuler if he has reviewed Items 3 & 4 of Mr. Rothwell's report and expressed her concerns on possibly being late and affecting the funding for the boat ramps. Attorney Shuler addressed Sanders concerns and stated that the funding of the boat ramps should not be affected.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services (9:37 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented this item from his report for discussion and/or approval as it related to Mr. Rothwell's report.

Item 10 - Inform the Board that Bailey, Bishop, and Lane, have volunteered to write the construction boat ramp grants at no charge for the Ochlockonee Bay and Eastpoint ramps, for which they are currently doing the design.

Board action to accept their offer to write the FWC grants at no charge.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to accept Bailey, Bishop, and Lane's offer to write the FWC grants at no charge; Motion carried 5-0.

2. CR-30 Road Bank Re-Nourishment & Revetment Installation:

Contract with Jason White Construction has been negotiated and work schedule between County and Contractor has been established. The contract will has been amended and sent to the County Attorney approval prior to both parties signing.

3. Eastpoint County Landing Park Project:

Bailey, Bishop & Lane has been sent the revised professional services contract from the County Attorney.

4. Ochlockonee Bay Boat Ramp Project:

Bailey, Bishop & Lane has been sent the revised professional services contract from the County Attorney.

5. Lake Morality Road:

Cliff L. Knauer, P.E., Vice President of Preble-Rish, and engineer of record for the project has submitted their recommendation(s) under the signature of the Engineer of Record (without seal) for the project and staff recommends.

6. Airport Access Road:

Staff is preparing information for the URS to write Ben Withers a date limitation notice for completion of incomplete project work.

7. Drainage Survey of Linden Road:

Staff surveying and engineering and met with Public Works to discuss the work to be performed on 8-26-2008 and delivered the drawing for the work to be completed.

8. Alligator Point Dune Walkovers:

The dune walkover plans have been completed and delivered to Van Johnson to start construction at his discretion.

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

C.W. Roberts said they should start construction within three (3) weeks.

10. Lanark Village Recycling Center Relocation:

Staff has notified the Solid Waste Director that the project has been staked.

11. Carrabelle Sports Complex Football Field:

Staff has staked the new Ken Cope Ave entrance on US98.

Butch Baker- Emergency Management Director (9:38 AM)

Mr. Baker submitted the following report for the Board's review.

Action & information items for the Board of County Commissioners meeting on March 4, 2008:

Action:

1. Convert Emergency Management Director Position classification from Regular Employee to Senior Management.

The Board, Mr. Pierce, and Mrs. Johnson (Clerk of Courts), discussed this matter.

Donna Butterfield, of St. George Island, stated some of her experiences as a senior manager with the state of Florida and asked the Board investigate the financial aspect of this request before approving it.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to table this request until more information is known; Motion carried 5-0.

2. Select a date for a Senior Leadership Briefing (SLB), or reject the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) Director's offer to conduct the SLB.

The Board took no action on this item.

3. Allow all three emergency management employees to attend the Governor's Hurricane Conference, in Fort Lauderdale. We would depart on May 11 and return on May 16, 2008. Mr. Alan Pierce has agreed to cover the office while we are away.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Putnal, to authorize all three of the Emergency Management employees to attend the Governor's Hurricane Conference in Fort Lauderdale, with all expenses paid from the Emergency Management grant; Motion carried 5-0.

4. The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be conducting its 2008 Hurricane Awareness Tour in April. It will visit only five cities. We are part of the tour. NOAA is sending its P-3 Orion, Hurricane Hunter aircraft to the Apalachicola Airport, on April 17, 2008, for a static display. Seven groups of 4th & 5th graders, from Franklin, Gulf, Liberty and Wakulla counties are scheduled for educational briefings and a tour of

the aircraft. The general public will be invited to partake in the briefings and tours, after the school groups have completed their activities. Board action is required to allow NOAA to use the airport for the display.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Putnal, to allow NOAA to use the Airport for their static display on April 17, 2008; Motion carried 5-0.

Information:

1. The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) will participate in the Camp Gordon Johnston Day Parade on March 8, 2008.
2. DEM will participate in the statewide hurricane exercise on May 28 & 29, 2008. We will practice our pre-event plans for notification and evacuation of special-needs patients and no-transportation citizens.
3. DEM is conducting an on-going series of Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, in order to bring the county into NIMS compliance.
4. DEM has had an initial meeting to establish a three-year training and exercise program. The intent of the program is to familiarize and train all appropriate city & county departments, non-governmental entities/organizations and volunteer groups on their roles and responsibilities before, during and after any disaster or major incident. We will be contacting all proposed participants to gain their insight and inputs into the program.
5. DEM personnel will attend the FDEM Region Two Quarterly Meeting, in Jefferson County, on March 5, 2008.

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (9:49 AM)

Mr. Mahan presented the following report for the Board's review.

FL Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) Updates:

Economic Impacts of Natural Resource Related Activities in FL: On February 27th the FWC released a report, "The 2006 Economic Benefits of Wildlife-Viewing Recreation in Florida," prepared by Southwick Associates, Inc. The report states that in 2006, 3.3 million Floridians viewed wildlife at or near their homes, and 1.6 million Floridians and tourists traveled around Florida for the sole purpose of wildlife viewing. These travelers generated more than \$3 billion in total economic impact throughout Florida. Retail sales accounted for approximately \$1.8 billion of this total. While other areas of the economy may be experiencing a downswing, the FWC's report finds retail sales for wildlife-viewing activities have almost doubled from \$1.575 billion in 2001.

"The total economic impact of wildlife viewing in Florida is strong and growing, almost doubling in the past five years," said Ken Haddad, executive director of the FWC. "We hope this report underscores that conserving habitat for fish and wildlife can be a valuable means of sustainable economic development."

The annual economic impact of recreational hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in Florida tops \$11 billion, according to the FWC.

Florida's Saltwater Hatchery & Habitat Initiative: Under the supervision of the FWC an ambitious, long-term project called the "Florida Saltwater Hatchery and Habitat Initiative is underway. It involves the formation of a public/private partnership created to ensure that the exceptional recreational fishing opportunities that have earned Florida its

place as the fishing capital of the world remain available. The initiative is a multi-year, multi-million dollar project, with stepped implementation phases. The Wildlife Foundation of Florida will take the lead in generating public awareness and fund-raising under the umbrella "Support Florida Sportfish." Part of the initiative is an ambitious plan that would create a statewide network of about 12 new and existing fish hatcheries focused on raising popular sport species such as redfish, snook and tarpon, then releasing them into the wild. The initiative calls for seven to eight new aquaculture facilities throughout the state and for the expansion of existing ones, such as Florida Tech's Vero Beach Marine Laboratory. I have attached a copy of a Floridatoday.com article "Officials see hatcheries as a way to save fishing" from January 28 story for your information on the initiative.

North Florida Spotted Seatrout: The recreational harvest season for spotted seatrout in North Florida reopen on March 1. The maximum daily bag limit for spotted seatrout in North Florida is five fish per person; the statewide slot limit is 15-20 inches total length. However, anglers may keep one spotted seatrout larger than 20 inches as part of their daily bag limit. Seatrout may be taken only with hook-and-line gear and cast nets and must be landed in a whole condition.

Freshwater Turtle Harvesting Concerns: The harvest of freshwater turtles in Florida is sparking a concern about the future populations of these reptiles. Currently, FWC is reviewing the situation to ensure conservation of the turtle population. There is increased demand in the Asian market for turtles, but it is unclear how that relates to harvesting turtles in Florida. There are restrictions for harvesting certain rare species of freshwater turtles in the state, but there are no limits in place for harvesting other freshwater turtles. In addition, there is a seasonal closure from May 1 to July 31 for softshell turtles during their breeding and nesting season. Since there are limited baseline inventories of turtle populations in Florida, the impacts of the harvest on turtle populations has yet to be determined.

UF – IFAS Extension Updates:

UF IFAS Master Gardener Distance Education Training: Five residents from Carrabelle began their UF IFAS Master Gardner Training last week on February 27th. Once trained, they will work as Franklin County Extension Office volunteers assisting with homeowner gardening questions & problems in addition to working on special projects in the community.

National Oyster Tasting Contest: On Monday April 7th, the National Shellfisheries Association is kicking off its 100th Anniversary Annual Meeting at the Westin Hotel in Providence, RI. On the evening of the 7th there will be a formal oyster tasting event complete with celebrity chef tasters and full press coverage. Rowan Jacobson, author of *The Geography of Oysters*, will be one of the judges. In addition to ranking by some of the country's most discriminating oyster lovers, oysters will be analyzed chemically to look at salt and mineral content in order to gain a better understanding of the chemistry behind the various tastes – the "meroir" of oysters from across the country. The only requirement to enter oysters in the contest is that they be aquacultured/lease-raised oysters. I am contacting our oyster lease holders to see if they would like to enter the competition. I contacted the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce about the contest and they have graciously agreed to pay up to \$600 (\$200/entry) for the contest entrance fee. Chef David Carrier, from the Gibson Inn's Avenue Sea Restaurant was nominated as a chef taster and he has been accepted as one of the judges for the event.

**** Board Action**** *Black Bear Program Update:* A public safety issue was raised by several local residents attending the ANERR's Black Bear Program held on February 20th, at St. Joe's Summer Camp Events Room. The residents suggested that "bear-crossing" signs be posted in high bear traffic areas along US 98 between Carrabelle and Lanark Village (like the ones posted in Gulf County) to warn tourists and out-of-area travelers to be on the lookout for bears. However, the residents reported that they weren't sure how to request the signs. They reported that recently there have been several bears killed and vehicles damaged from collisions in that area; and that most of the people visiting the area are completely unaware that bears are in the area and that they regularly cross the road to feed along the

shoreline. So at this time I'd like to ask the Board to consider writing a letter to FDOT to request that bear crossing signs be posted in key areas along US 98 in an effort to warn people about the bears in the area.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to send a letter to FDOT requesting the bear crossing signs on US 98; Motion carried 5-0.

Kevin Begos – Update on Riparian County meeting in Blountstown, and update on Congressional Testimony (9:52 AM)

Mr. Begos, of the Seafood Task Force, stated that he was invited by the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment to testify before them at their hearing on Tuesday March 11, 2008 in Washington D.C., and that this Subcommittee is very interested in the seafood industry in Franklin County and there was a possibility of additional hearings after this one. Mr. Begos stated that he was given an opportunity to have a technical advisor and wanted authority to have Commissioner Parrish as that person. Mr. Begos stated that other people testifying will be someone representing the City of Atlanta, someone representing farming interest of South Alabama, and someone representing power companies but there will be no representatives from the three States, Florida, Alabama, and Georgia.

Commissioner Putnal stated his concerns of someone adequately representing the seafood industry in North Florida at these hearings.

Commissioner Parrish stated that he and Mr. Begos will meet with as many officials as possible before the Subcommittee hearings.

Mr. Pierce stated that the Friends of the Reserves are willing to donate to the expenses of this trip to Washington D.C. Lee, of the Friends of the Reserves, thanked the Board for their actions on this matter and stated that his group will donate \$500 towards the expenses of this trip to Washington D.C.

Commissioner Lockley reiterated his recommendation from previous meeting that the County should join the City of Apalachicola in their lawsuit against the Army Corp of Engineers.

Attorney Shuler stated that the City of Apalachicola would like him to attend a meeting in March in Jacksonville that will address some of the issues with the City's lawsuit and after that meeting would make a recommendation if the County should join the City in the lawsuit.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to authorize travel and expenses for Commissioner Parrish to travel to Washington D.C. and represent the County at the Subcommittee hearings; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to authorize travel and expenses for Attorney Shuler to attend and represent the County at the meeting in Jacksonville; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Begos discussed other issues regarding the Congressional Testimony, and stated that the shrimp and blue crab workers are actually in a worse economic situation than the oystermen. Mr. Begos also stated that because of the big turnout at the State financial aid meeting, the State is now beginning to realize the financial problem the seafood industry is experiencing.

Commissioner Parrish and Commissioner Crofton discussed scheduling another financial aid meeting and agreed that as soon as the help is needed, the Board would schedule another meeting.

Michael Allen of WOYS asked that when another meeting is scheduled that more timely notice is given to the media so that the general public could be informed.

Linda Raffield, of the Seafood Workers Association, stated that between the cutbacks and the bag limits that are being imposed on the seafood workers, they are experiencing financial hardships and really need some assistance from the County.

Mr. Begos stated that the oyster industry has problems, but because of the numbers that the Governor's office sees, it appears that the oyster industry is doing ok and getting financial assistance at this time will be difficult, but suggested that other services like budget management can help the seafood workers.

Mrs. Dorothy Inman-Johnson, of Capital Area Community Action Agency, discussed some of the financial assistance her agency is able to provide, including the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), for which she distributed and discussed a handout. Mrs. Inman-Johnson stated that Franklin County has received more money than was originally allotted, and stressed that Florida is not receiving its fair share of funding from the Federal Government for LIHEAP and community services block grant funding which is unfair in her opinion. Mrs. Inman-Johnson discussed some of the emergency fund programs created by some of the neighboring Cities and Counties to assist with financial assistance for some of the residents.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to direct Mr. Pierce to contact the Governor's office to schedule another financial assistance meeting and after it is scheduled, advertise the meeting in the news media; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Begos stated that financing for the Lombardi property has been approved and a closing will be possible within a few weeks.

Commissioner Sanders asked, that based on an email that was sent to the Governor's office and different State agencies by Mr. Begos, was the Seafood Taskforce dependent or independent of the Board of County Commission. Mr. Begos stated that the Seafood Taskforce was under the impression that they were independent of the County Commission but that matter has since been clarified.

Commissioner Sanders gave some history on the creation of the Seafood Taskforce, discussed the email to the State, and the problems that it caused with the relationship and communication between the County, the Governors Office and some of the State agencies such as DEP.

Mr. Begos stated his position on the email.

Commissioner Sanders stated that in her opinion, in this instance, Mr. Begos overstepped his authority and wanted some assurance that this wouldn't happen again in the future because his action caused the need for a lot of damage control.

Commissioner Parrish discussed the results of the meeting with Secretary Sole of DEP, stated that there was still not an agreement between the three states regarding the "water wars" and acknowledged the problems the lack of communication has caused.

Mr. Begos discussed some of the frustrations the Seafood Taskforce was experiencing with DEP and the State.

Chairman Lockley and Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Begos to coordinate his correspondence with the Board before contacting the State in the future, especially on this matter.

Commissioner Crofton stated that whether the Seafood Task Force was dependent or independent of the County Commission still had to be clarified.

The Board discussed this matter further.

The Board asked Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler to review the Bylaws of the Seafood Task Force.

Attorney Shuler and Begos discussed how the Sunshine Law affects the Seafood Task Force.

Commissioner Sanders suggested that if it is determined that the Seafood Task Force is dependent of the County, all major communication should be cleared with the Board.

Mr. Pierce stated that it is important for Attorney Shuler to attend that meeting in March in case the Army Corp of Engineers decides to rewrite their water management plan, and then a lot of the lawsuits, including the City of Apalachicola would be amended or voided.

Board discussed this issue further.

Mr. Allen gave an update on the Eastpoint Water and Sewer Districts (EWSD) current and future projects.

Commissioner Putnal asked what was done to correct a problem a customer was experiencing with sewer backing up on her property. Mr. Allen explained that the problem started because this customer was at the end of the vacuum line so the District had to install a separate vacuum pit to address this problem.

Commissioner Putnal stated that he was somewhat concerned of how the district was going to handle the additional capacity from the new consolidated school and other planned development projects such as Port Haven.

Mr. Allen discussed some of the solutions the District has taken to be able to serve new customers. Mr. Allen stated that there are no problems with the Eastpoint Water and Sewer Plant; the capacity of the sewer plant is about 300,000 gallons per day, the daily operating level is at about 105,000 gallons per day, and there is committed capacity on the books that will take them up to 200,000 gallons per day, which includes the new consolidated school.

Commissioner Putnal asked if the County would be responsible for any problems resulting from EWSD, as Apalachicola had with Huckleberry Creek. Attorney Shuler stated that EWSD is an independent district and would be responsible for any problems they may experience.

Mr. Allen stated that EWSD is inspected by DEP regularly, besides the problem with the sewage line coming from the Jail, they have not had any other line breaks, and still has capacity to handle additional customers and have a contingency plan for additional development including the school, so overall the EWSD does not have any problems.

Mr. Allen discussed other sewage capacity matters with the Board.

Mr. Chuck Colvert – Hospital Update (11:23 AM)

Mr. Colvert gave an update on the recent actions of the Hospital Board and discussed the four possible options for the management of the hospital.

Options

1 – Tallahassee Memorial Hospital – Management contract of the Hospital

2 – Pioneer – Leasing agreement of the Hospital

3 – Sacred Heart – Mix of Lease and Management contract

4 – Combination of Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and Pioneer proposals

Commissioner Crofton inquired about the financial status of the Hospital; Mr. Colvert stated that as of now, the hospital is financially stable.

Commissioner Sanders asked about the progression of the health services project in Carrabelle; Mr. Colvert gave an update on this project.

Commissioner Sanders expressed her concerns of some of the management companies not being familiar with the area and hoped that the Hospital Board will select a company that will provide good health services and treat the current employees well.

Mr. Pierce discussed some of the priorities that must be addressed when discussing the future management of the hospital.

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Colvert discussed the likeliness of starting construction of the Carrabelle Health Center in 2008.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (11:35 AM)

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

1-On December 18, 2007, the Board passed a motion approving a budget amendment to transfer \$59,495.05 in Tourist Development Fund Interest earned into the General Fund. After that action, my finance officer questioned whether or not the interest earned on the sales tax should remain with the fund, and she has been in contact with other counties to see how they handled the interest earned. I know the TDC also had questions on the same issue.

Although there is no Attorney General opinion regarding this matter, it does appear appropriate from other opinions issued, for the interest earned to remain with the TDC account. I've discussed the matter with Mr. Curt Blair, and he reported TDC had no problem with the Board leaving that amount of \$59,495.05 in the TDC account to be used on county projects at Indian Creek Park and the Lombardi site, with future interest earnings to remain with the TDC to be allocated pursuant to our ordinance. I'd request the Board rescind that earlier motion approving the budget amendment, and allow \$59,495.05 interest earned in prior years to remain with the TDC to be used for county projects at Indian Creek Park and the Lombardi boat landing site.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to rescind the earlier motion, as requested by Mrs. Johnson, approving the budget amendment, and allow \$59,495.05 of TDC interest earned in prior years to remain with the TDC and is to be used for County projects at Indian Creek Park and the Lombardi boat landing site; Motion carried 5-0.

2-I have a resolution for adoption on unanticipated revenue. It deals with \$2,280 received from the Sheriff's Department for damages to a mosquito control storage shed, and the money will be put into 142.42.562.6200 for Buildings.

**RESOLUTION
FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

WHEREAS, Franklin County has received unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$2,280.00 from the FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT for DAMAGES TO A MOSQUITO CONTROL STORAGE SHED, and

WHEREAS, said revenue is needed to pay certain expenditures incurred in Fiscal Year 2007-2008, 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:

142.42.562.6200	Buildings	\$2,280.00
-----------------	-----------	------------

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appropriates these unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$2,280.00 in the MOSQUITO CONTROL FUND in order to comply with FS129(2)(d).

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 4TH day of MARCH 2008.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to adopt and authorize the Chairman's signature on the Resolution; Motion carried 5-0.

3-

Proposed Budget Cuts				
Account #	Account Name	Budgeted Now	Proposed Budget	Decrease
001.20.511.6100	Co Comm-Capital Outlay-Land	500,000.00	100,000.00	400,000.00
001.20.581.9100	Co Comm-Tr to Capital Outlay	368,255.00	0	368,255.00
001.51.581.9100	Hospitals-Transfer to Hosp. fund	607,000.00	0	607,000.00
001.51.526.6401	Ambulance-Machinery & Equip.	400,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00
001.20.511.3400	Seafood Task Force	17,500.00	0.00	17,500.00
001.52.562.9400	Health & Human Serv-Health Dept	183,131.00	91,565.50	91,565.50
001.52-569.8200	Franklin's Promise	17,500.00	8,750.00	8,750.00
001.52.569.8201	Boys & Girls Clubs of Big Bend	25,000.00	12,500.00	12,500.00
001.52.569.8203	Transportation Disadvantaged	13,524.00	6,762.00	6,762.00
001.52.569.8204	Humane Society	56,420.00	28,210.00	28,210.00
001.52.569.8206	Refuge House	12,500.00	6,250.00	6,250.00
001.52.569.8208	Elder Care Services	29,120.00	14,560.00	14,560.00
002.52.569.8400	Senior Citizens	27,300.00	13,650.00	13,650.00
001.52.569.8303	Literacy Program	61,880.00	30,940.00	30,940.00
001.52.569.8302	Camp Gordon Johnston	4,550.00	0	4,550.00
		2,323,680.00	513,187.50	1,810,492.50
Less increases due to utilities,fuel, insurance, workman's comp.,loss of grants				-600,000.00
				1,210,492.50
Total Objective in budget cuts				2,000,000.00
Cuts Proposed to-date				1,210,492.50
Amount still needed to meet 2 million				789,507.50
When it comes to making budget cut proposals, it's very difficult because it affects family, friends, and good projects sometimes that are a real help to our citizens.				
After discussions that included some thoughts from commissioners, Alan Pierce, the Clerk, and the Clerk's finance staff, the above figures were derived.				
We don't have true numbers on revenues at this time, and we must remember that some expenditures will be increasing such as utilities, fuel costs, property insurance, and workman's compensation.				
Also, we've been told the county is losing a solid waste grant and we may also face a reduction in a mosquito control grant. In addition, as we add new land and park purchases, there are expenses for utilities, maintenance, and insurance. We now have Kendrick Park, several new boat ramps, the Lombardi property, Indian Creek Park and new airport hangers. To offset any increases, we can only estimate that cuts could really be closer to about \$1.2 million rather than the \$1.8 million figure.				
If the Board accepts the figure of \$1.2 million in proposed cuts, it's recommended that, by resolution, the Board require that tentative budgets be submitted by May 1st including realistic reductions. We still think we could be looking at 2 million dollars in reductions based on information we received from the Property Appraiser, so additional cuts have to be made. It is better that departments cut their own budgets where they feel it's feasible rather than having the Board decide the cuts.				
Board action is needed to approve tentatively cutting the budgets of the following in half for the next year: Health Department, Franklin's Promise, Boys & Girls Club, Transportation Disadvantaged, Humane Society, Refuge House, Elder Care Services, Senior Citizens, and Literacy Program. Board action is needed to cut the remaining budgets so that the total of them plus the reductions of the non-governmental entities listed above amount to \$1.2 million. Board action is then needed to adopt a resolution requiring that tentative budgets be submitted by May 1st with realistic reductions, and to inform those agencies above of the action				

today and asking all departments to make reductions anywhere possible.			

The Board discussed these budget cuts, including State mandated cuts.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to approve the recommended non-governmental budget cuts; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioners Sanders and Crofton asked that all departments, County and Constitutional, are made aware that they will be expected to make cuts in their budgets.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to approve the recommended governmental cuts; Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Johnson requested Board action to adopt the following Resolution.

RESOLUTION
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida are concerned about the economic situation existing, and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to begin the budget process earlier to ensure enactment of their proposed fiscal policies, and

WHEREAS, more time is needed to make sure the budget is in compliance with county requirements and is tentatively prepared.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, that all Constitutional Officers, Department Heads, and any other entity requesting funds, be directed to submit their tentative budget by May 1, 2008 for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

ADOPTED in open, regular session this 4th day of March, 2008.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to adopt and approve the Chairman's signature on the Resolution; Motion carried 5-0.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (11:51 AM)

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

1- Inform Board that the Public Hearing for the turtle ordinance amendment is scheduled for April 1 Board meeting, at 10:00 AM.

2- Remind the Board that the Public Hearings for the Small Land Use Change is set for March 18th Board meeting, but at 1:30 in the afternoon. Because we estimate it will take an hour to hear all land use changes, we scheduled after the regular Board meeting.

3- I presented a review of the proposed large scale land use changes at the Feb. 5 Board meeting, but the discussion was that the Board would think about when to schedule that adoption hearing. Board direction on scheduling a public hearing for large scale land use changes. The Board transmitted these changes to DCA in May, 2007. Since we already have one lengthy public hearing for April 1, being the turtle ordinance, I would recommend either April 15th or May 6th. Board direction.

The Board agreed to schedule the public hearing on April 15.

4- Inform Board that the Planning Office received a letter from Mr. Mark Hudson on behalf of Ms. Jean McMillan, Alligator Point, contesting the way a 45 acre parcel on Alligator Point has been assessed for beach renourishment.. Board action to turn the letter over to Mr. Shuler for his review, but only if the Beach Vote passes. If it fails, there is no need to respond as the assessment goes away.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to forward Mr. Hudson's letter to Attorney Shuler if the Alligator Point beach restoration project referendum passed; Motion carried 5-0.

5- Board action to renew agreement with ARPC to the Small County Hazardous Waste Assessment for \$3500. This is a budgeted item and the ARPC traditionally does it every two years.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Crofton, to renew the agreement with ARPC to the Small County Hazardous Waste Assessment; Motion carried 5-0.

6- Franklin County is attempting to get a reduction in a permit fee from the NFWFMD by documenting that the county has a higher percentage of tax exempt land than the state average. The form that needs to be filled out requires that the following information be stated in the Board minutes. The total assessed property value in 2007 in Franklin County was \$5,583.3 million. The total value exempt from taxation in 2007 was \$1,583.8 million or 28.4% of the total value. The state wide average is 27.9%, so the county is above the state average. We have made this request on the Alligator Point Beach Renourishment permit with DEP, which was a \$20,000 permit fee. There is no action by the Board but the information needs to be in the minutes.

7- Board action to sign Public School Facilities Waiver Form for DCA. Since the school board is building a new consolidated school and has no expectations of needing any new school facilities for at least the next 10 years, the Board is entitled to ask for a waiver from writing a school facilities element for the comprehensive plan. The School Board Chairman has also requested the waiver and we recommend the Board makes the same request.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Public School Facilities Waiver Form for DCA; Motion carried 5-0.

8- Board action to accept the direction of the Seafood Task Force and not participate in a DEP matching grant awarded to the County for finding more seafood landing facilities. The grant was written before the county acquired Indian Creek, and before Lombardi became available. The matching grant would require the county to invest its resources in identifying more landing facilities, and at this time the county needs to spend its resources developing and managing the landing facilities we are currently working with. Board action to reject the DEP matching grant.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to reject the DEP matching grant for locating more seafood landing facilities; Motion carried 5-0.

9- Board direction on allowing the City of Apalachicola to develop a re-use system for county property at D.W. Wilson Sports Complex, Weems Hospital, and the Courthouse and Annex. The City will design and install the system, but the County will be responsible for maintenance. The other issue of concern is control of the timer. Currently the proposal is the whole re-use system will be controlled by a timer in City Hall. Of the county sites, only the courthouse has a sprinkler system attached to the city water system. The other sites do not have sprinkler systems so any installation will add another system that has to be maintained by the county. Board direction.

The Board asked Mr. Pierce to investigate this matter further.

10- Inform the Board that Bailey, Bishop, and Lane, have volunteered to write the construction boat ramp grants at no charge for the Ochlockonee Bay and Eastpoint ramps, for which they are currently doing the design. Board action to accept their offer to write the FWC grants at no charge.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

11- Provide Board with notice submitted to the Board by the City of Carrabelle that the property owners of seven parcels of land are being voluntarily annexed into the City. These parcels will extend the city limits along the north side of US 98 to and include the Carrabelle Palms RV Park and Carrabelle Beach.

12- At the last meeting the Board directed that I investigate an incident involving property damage at the Road Dept. I am making this report to the Board.

It is my recommendation, based upon this small accident, as well as the expected budget cuts that are going to require consolidation of effort in the near future, that the Board place Mosquito Control back under the direct supervision of the Superintendent of Public Works, effective immediately. Mr. Dewitt Polous would continue to be the Mosquito Control Director but he would work under the direction and supervision of the Superintendent of Public Works, Mr. Hubert Chipman. Board action.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

13- Mr. Ted Mosteller, Airport Advisory Committee Chairman, requests the Board direct the Airport Committee to advertise another Request for Proposal for the \$350,000 FDOT Grant that was tentatively reserved for Mr. John Bone to build a hanger at the airport. Mr. Bone is not interested in pursuing building his hanger now, so the Committee needs to find another interested tenant before June 30. Mr. Bone's business activities are connected to the Panama City Airport, and now with that on hold, he is unsure of when he would be willing to enter into a contract to build a building in Apalach and occupy it. Board action to allow for an RFP for the existing FDOT grant to build a corporate hanger at the airport.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Sanders, to allow for an RFP for the existing FDOT grant to build a corporate hanger at the Apalachicola Airport; Motion carried 5-0.

14- Open bids to resurface Alligator Point on April 15, 2008

Attorney Ron Mowery, representing the Alligator Point Water District, stated that the Water District is against the resurfacing the road where it is presently located as it is prone to damage by future storms, and wanted the road and the water lines relocated behind the fire station where they would be protected.

Attorney Shuler and Mr. Pierce addressed Attorney Mowery concerns and discussed the problems with moving the road, especially the compensation to the fire department for the property that will be needed.

Commissioner Sanders and Mr. Pierce discussed the specifications of the bid that affected the section of road that was being discussed.

Board discussed some possible options.

Ken Osborne, of Alligator Point, asked that the Alligator Point fire department is present or represented during any further discussions regarding the relocation of the road behind the fire department. Mr. Osborne asked why the relocation of the water lines can't be separated issue from the relocation of the road. Mr. Pierce stated that funding is the main reason that ties the two projects together.

The Board stated, for the record, that no one was representing the Alligator Point Fire Station at this meeting.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to schedule the bid opening to resurface the Alligator Point Road on April 15; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce reminded everyone that the Alligator Point non-binding referendum votes will be opened on Monday March 10 at the Supervisor of Election office and the Board will meet at 9 AM on Tuesday March 10 at the Armory to receive the tally from the Supervisor of Elections and discuss further action.

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney- Report (12:20 PM)

Attorney Shuler stated that he didn't have any items to report to the Board.

Commissioners' & Public Comments (12:21 PM)

Commissioner Sanders forwarded an email to Mr. Pierce for his review that could result in possible funding for roads.

Commissioner Sanders stated that the agreement between the City of Carrabelle and Lanark Village will be signed on Thursday March 6, 2008.

Commissioner Crofton discussed success of the Chili Cook Off on St. George Island.

Linda Raffield, Secretary of the Seafood Workers Association, stated that the oyster per bag prices cuts, the bag limits, high fuel prices, have caused financial problems for all of the oysterman in the County. Ms. Raffield disagreed with the numbers that were used to state that the oyster industry is in good shape, because as boats are counted, the number of people on the boats is not. Ms. Raffield also stated that imported oysters using the Apalachicola names are also causing financial problems for the local oysterman, the data collected regarding the oyster industry is flawed and is contradictory by different State agencies, and that the local oyster industry is looking for assistance from the Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Raffield asked that the Board of County Commissioners join the City of Apalachicola in the lawsuit against the Army Corp of Engineers and asked the Board to help with making sure that all oysters sold with the Apalachicola name is actually from Apalachicola.

Adjourn (12:34 PM)

Chairman Lockley adjourned the Regular Meeting.

Noah Lockley Jr., Chairman - FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts