

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
SEPTEMBER 2, 2008
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

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

Commissioner Absent: Cheryl Sanders

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

Call to Order (9:00 AM)

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge (9:00 AM)

There was a Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Payment of County Bills (9:01 AM)

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Parrish, to authorize payment of the County bills, with the exception of G & N Painting, as presented; Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Parrish, to authorize payment for G & N Painting; Motion carried 3-0, Lockley abstained.

Approval of the Minutes - August 19, 2008 - Regular Meeting (9:02)

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to approve the Minutes from the August 19, 2008 Regular Meeting; Motion carried 4-0.

Department Supervisor Report

Butch Baker – Emergency Management Director (9:02 AM)

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

Action items: None

Informative items:

1. The Franklin County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. has agreed to allow Franklin County to use the Senior Citizens' Center as a Post Disaster Recovery Center. Mrs. Sue Reed has sent us a letter to that effect.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to accept the letter from Mrs. Sue Reed allowing Franklin County to use the Senior Citizen's Center as a Post Disaster Recovery Center; Motion carried 4-0.

2. Actions taken in response to Tropical Storm Fay and Hurricane Gustav:

- Thursday, August 21, 2008:
- At 8:25 a.m., I contacted Commissioner Lockley and requested a local state of emergency (LSE) be declared by the BOCC. He gave his approval, and the BOCC was polled for consensus. All BOCC members approved the LSE. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at a level 2, partial activation.
- Our Ham Radio Section was activated.
- Nikki Millender (Parks & Rec. Dept.) was dispatched to the EOC to assist with phone calls.
- The Superintendent of Schools decided to close all Franklin County schools on Friday, the 22nd.
- Friday, August 22, 2008:
- At 8:00 a.m., the Emergency Management Department (EMD) began working twelve-hour shifts on a 24/7 basis.
- The Franklin County Road Department (FCRD) remained open to assist in the response to T. S. Fay, and operated out of their office.
- All Franklin County schools were closed.
- All Franklin County government offices, except for the FCRD & EMD, closed at 1:00 p.m.
- The County Department of Health sent two people to the EOC to call all our special needs patients, to make sure they were ready, if we had to evacuate.
- Parks & Rec. provided three people for the emergency information hotline.
- The Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) dispatched two people to work in the EOC. They worked shift-on-shift until 10:30 a.m., on August 24th.
- A Red Cross shelter (The Eastpoint Church of God) was placed on standby by our Red Cross liaison, Gathana Parmenas. It was opened at 6:00 p.m., and housed one transient person.
- Approximately 4,500 sandbags were dispersed across the county.
- Saturday, August 23, 2008:
- The Red Cross shelter was placed on standby. (It was not needed again.)
- The EOC activation level was raised to a level 1, full activation, because the State Division of Emergency Management dispatched two Florida National Guard liaisons to our EOC.

- We continued to monitor the storm, hand out sandbags, and answer citizens' questions.
- The FCRD continued to assist with response efforts.

- Sunday, August 24, 2008:
- The EOC was deactivated at 10:30 a.m., and all personnel were released to go home.

- Monday, August 25, 2008:
- The Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) was requested to dispatch an officer to the Rio Vista Drive community to warn the residents of possible flooding on the Ochlockonee River.

- Tuesday, August 26, 2008:
- Both the FCSO and the EMD checked on the residents in the Rio Vista Drive community. At that time they had not experienced any unusual flooding.

- Wednesday & Thursday August 27 & 28, 2008:
- The flood water from T. S. Fay defied predictions and continued to rise beyond expected levels. Also the Lake Talquin officials released a larger amount of water than was previously publicized.

- Friday August 29, 2008:
- At the end of the 11:15 a.m. conference call, with the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), I requested assistance assessing the cause of the excessive flooding in the Hickory Hammock subdivision and the Rio Vista Drive community.
- At 2:00 p.m., we had a conference call with Mr. Joel Lanier, the NWS hydrologist, Talquin Dam officials, Leon County, FDEM, The Northwest Florida Water Management District and Franklin County Emergency Management. Mr. Lanier agreed to come to Franklin County, on Saturday morning, to try to figure out what the problems was.
- At 3:00 p.m., a Local State of Emergency (LSE) was declared by the BOCC, in anticipation of possible problems caused by Hurricane Gustav.

- Saturday, August 30, 2008:
- 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Hydrologists Joel Lanier and Jason Elliot met with Mike Rundel and myself, and we toured the Hickory Hammock area. We spent quite a bit of time, with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Renard, discussing the dynamics of the Crooked River. After much discussion and touring of the area, the hydrologists determined the excessive flooding was caused by a combination of river flooding, Talquin Dam release water and excessive rain water, all caused by T.S. Fay's heavy rain fall.
- I communicated with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and met with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) to determine the proper procedure to protect the ten-foot hole from fuel released by a sunken sailboat. (Nothing to do with Fay or Gustav).

- Sunday, August 31, 2008:

- I participated in a conference call concerning hurricane shelters being opened in Florida to house Hurricane Gustav evacuees. I also spoke with the NWS concerning the future threat of T.S. Hanna, and what could be expected from Hurricane Gustav, in the way of winds, tide and storm surge.
- Monday, September 1, 2008
- The storm surge from Hurricane Gustav was greater than expected, and it washed out the seaward half of the new road on Alligator Point, and also washed out a culvert on Hwy 98.
- Alligator Point road was closed until the Road Department was able to construct a temporary lane, on the land side of the road, and make the old, temporary road passable.
- **The Road Department deserves praise for their dedication and professionalism, and their quick and efficient repair of the road.**
- VMS quickly repaired the culvert, and also deserve a word of thanks.

Mr. Pierce discussed options for a more permanent protection for the Alligator Point Road which included options of using sheet pile revetment and/or t-groins.

Commissioner Putnal favored sheet pile and wanted Mr. Pierce to investigate the cost of this project.

Mr. Pierce stated that a possibility of a trade with Gulf County, rocks for sheet pile, might be possible and discussed other options for repairing Alligator Point Road. Mr. Pierce suggested issuing C.W. Roberts a change order, since they are already under contract to pave Alligator Point Road, to have them pave the section where the Road Department created a temporary road. The Board discussed the advantages of keeping the road raised versus lowering it as a "wash out road", possibility of a bridge, and the cost effective options for repairing Alligator Point Road.

Mr. Pierce and Mr. Baker provided some history regarding the efforts of FEMA and the Alligator Point Road. Mr. Pierce discussed the damage done to some of the other roads but stated that C-30 was not damaged, partly due to the maintenance project that was recently completed on that road.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to direct Mr. Pierce to confer with the engineers and present a temporary plan for Alligator Point Road to the Board; Motion carried 4-0.

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works (9:24)

Mr. Chipman gave some additional information on Alligator Point Road.

Mr. Pierce discussed the difference in damages which were caused by Hurricanes Dennis and Gustav.

Commissioner Crofton asked Mr. Chipman to perform some maintenance on the road leading to the new boat ramp on St. George Island.

Commissioner Parrish was in favor of the sheet pilings on Alligator Point Road, and thanked Mr. Chipman for the work done at the Lombardi boat ramp and his department's response over the last week during the two storms.

Mr. Chipman stated that all grading projects in the County will be behind schedule because a lot of his department's resources are tied up on Alligator Point repairing the road and he will move to St. George Island next.

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

Work Performed Summary

- **Ground Maintenance**
 - A B C School, in Apalachicola
 - The Learning Center in Eastpoint
 - Courthouse and Courthouse Annex in Apalachicola
 - Courthouse Annex in Carrabelle
 - Weems Memorial Hospital
- **Health Department**
 - Cut bushes and tree limbs from around building in Apalachicola
- **New Well Center**
 - Bush Hogging and cut limbs/trees
- **Landfill / Parks & Recreation / Recycle Work**
 - Filled in pot hole on ramp to Waste Management
- **Sidewalks and Bike Paths**
 - *Cut grass, Edged, Cleared and Litter Control sidewalks in Lanark*
 - *Cut grass, Edged, Cleared and Litter Control bike path on St. George Island*
- **Lombardi's Project**
 - Hauled in Lime rock, Dirt & Sand, # 57 Shell
 - Cut/Weed Eat Grass
 - Removed Debris
 - Build a parking lot
 - Planted Palm Trees
- **Apalachicola Air Port**
 - Pushed trees down and removed
 - Chopped debris/stumps
- **Cemeteries**
 - Cut grass/cleaned up at the Eastpoint Cemetery
- **Roads Graded**
 - Alligator Point
 - Apalachicola
 - Carrabelle
 - Eastpoint
 - St. George Island
 - St. Teresa
- **Roads Box Dragged**
 - Carrabelle
 - Eastpoint
 - St. George Island
- **Shoulder Work**
 - Lanark

- Carrabelle
- ***Bushes / Trees Cut off of Right Of Way***
 - Apalachicola
 - Carrabelle
 - St. George Island
- ***Pothole Repair***
 - Alligator Point
 - Apalachicola
 - Carrabelle
 - Eastpoint
 - Lanark
 - St. George Island
- ***Litter Pick Up***
 - Alligator Point
 - Apalachicola
 - Carrabelle
 - Eastpoint
 - St. James
- ***Clean/ Dig Out/ Un Stop/ Installed Culverts***
 - Apalachicola
 - Carrabelle
 - Eastpoint
- ***Washouts***
 - St. George Island
- ***Driveway Repair***
 - *Apalachicola*
 - Carrabelle
 - *Eastpoint*
 - *St. George Island*
- ***Grass Cut***
 - Apalachicola
 - Eastpoint
- ***Ditches Cut/Cleaned/Dug Out***
 - Apalachicola
 - Carrabelle
 - Eastpoint
 - Lanark
 - St. George Island

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:33 AM)

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

BALLFIELD LIGHTING FOR VROOMAN PARK:

FOR BOARD ACTION: The County has received the executed contract from the Special Legislature Appropriation to make improvements at Vrooman Park in Eastpoint. Because of this, I am requesting Board approval this morning to advertise for Requests for Proposals to light the remaining two baseball fields at the complex and to upgrade the electrical accordingly. Funds have been allocated for ball field lighting within the appropriation and from Tourist Development monies. **ACTION REQUESTED: Motion authorizing the advertisement of Requests for Proposals for ball field lighting and an electrical upgrade at Vrooman Park in Eastpoint.**

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, authorizing the advertisement for RFPs for lighting and electrical update at Vrooman Park; Motion carried 4-0.

DOG ISLAND TRASH PICKUP:

FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: I received a call from Commissioner Sanders, who is presently outside of the County, asking me to discuss the possibility of sending a “knuckle truck” to Dog Island for trash pickup, which was requested by one of the residents of Dog Island.

The Board decided to discuss this matter at the next meeting when Commissioner Sanders would be present.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report

Mr. Pierce presented this item from his report, as it related to Mr. Johnson.

Item 5 – Board action on proposed FRDAP application for Indian Creek. Indian Creek is going to have limited recreational activities because it is essentially an environmental area with some passive recreational activities. The approved management plan states the Park will have a canoe/kayak launch, an observation platform, and a nature trail. There was no time line provided in the management plan for when those items have to be built so it the intention of the FRDAP grant to seek state funding for these items. Picnic tables have already been purchased so those will not be included in this grant request. Bathrooms have been discussed and Board direction is needed on that item.

While FRDAP funds could be used to build the bathrooms, the maintenance of the bathrooms will fall under the Parks and Recreation budget. Park Director Van Johnson needs to provide a recommendation on whether his budget can include the maintenance of two more bathrooms so the Board can decide whether it wants to include bathrooms in the FRDAP application.

Board discussed the need for the bathrooms, which should be at each County park and the cost to the County by increasing the Parks and Recreation Grant.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Parrish, directing Mr. Pierce to submit the application for a FRDAP grant for Indian Creek; Motion carried 4-0.

Attorney Shuler asked Mr. Johnson if he received any further information on the Transfer Lease with Waste Management. Mr. Johnson stated that he didn’t receive any calls from Waste Management.

Commissioner Crofton asked Mr. Johnson if it was possible to remove the waste and trash that was being dragged to the County's right of way by residents that were cleaning their property and also asked Mr. Johnson to check on the Eastpoint boat ramp for trash cleanup. Mr. Johnson stated that he would address both of these requests.

Commissioner Parrish thanked Mr. Johnson for his and his department's efforts at Lombardi Park.

Dan Rothwell – County Engineer (9:43 AM)

Mr. Rothwell was not in attendance but submitted the following report for the Board's review.

1. Apalachicola Airport Runway 06-24:

Breaking and removal of specific runway slabs has begun and phase 1 should be completed by the week of 9/2/2008.

2. Eastpoint County Landing Park Project:

Bailey, Bishop & Lane responding to the Request for Additional Information from the Army Corps of Engineers and revising contract drawings accordingly.

3. Ochlockonee Bay Boat Ramp Project:

Bailey, Bishop & Lane responding to the Request for Additional Information from the Army Corps of Engineers and revising contract drawings accordingly.

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

C. W. Roberts is working and 95% of the limerock base has been placed and paving should start on the week of 9/8/2008.

5. Franklin Blvd at West Gulf Beach Dr Drainage:

Staff is continuing work seeking contract revisions with Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and acquiring permits from FDOT & FDEP for the expanded parking.

6. Squire Road, Peachtree Road Survey and Long Road:

Work on the plans and field marking is still pending prior to starting any Public Works project on these roads.

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (9:43 AM)

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

Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) Updates:

Special-Opportunity Spring Turkey Hunts: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will begin accepting 2009 special-opportunity spring turkey hunt applications at 10 a.m. (EDT) Sept. 9. The deadline for submitting applications is midnight (EDT) Oct. 14.

Applications may be submitted at www.wildlifelicense.com, county tax collectors' offices or at any license agent. A random drawing decides who will receive the coveted permits. To apply, hunters can obtain application worksheets at <http://www.MyFWC.com/hunting> and at all FWC regional offices.

Demand for these hunts is typically greater than the number of available permits, but hunters can increase their chances of being selected by submitting as many \$5 nonrefundable applications as they like. Successful applicants pay a permit fee of \$50 - \$175, depending on the special-opportunity hunt area selected.

The FWC created special-opportunity spring turkey hunts for sportsmen looking to take an Osceola, the "crown jewel" of the turkey hunter's Grand Slam. The FWC designs special-opportunity turkey hunts to take place on large tracts of land, with great habitat, healthy turkey populations and a limited number of hunters.

The Osceola is a highly prized subspecies of wild turkey, found only in peninsular Florida, south of and including Dixie, Gilchrist, Alachua, Union, Bradford, Clay and Duval counties. All hunts take place within the Osceola turkey's home range.

Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council Updates:

New Grouper Rules Proposed for the Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council on August 21st, voted to send Reef Fish Amendment 30B, which deals with gag and red grouper, to the Secretary of Commerce for approval and implementation. The Amendment addresses the overfishing status of gag and the recovered status of red grouper in the Gulf of Mexico, and is expected to become effective in late 2009 or early 2010.

In the meantime, the Council requested that NOAA Fisheries implement an interim rule to implement those portions of Amendment 30B that pertain to ending overfishing of gag, red snapper, greater amberjack and gray triggerfish as quickly as possible. The interim rule, which can only be used to address those provisions that deal specifically with overfishing, is expected to become effective by January 1, 2009, and will put in place temporary regulations until Amendment 30B can be fully implemented.

Here's a rundown of what the interim rule will do:

- Set the recreational gag bag and possession limit at two-fish per person, per day. The aggregate bag limit will remain at five.
- Extend the recreational closed season for gag from February 1 through March 31. The closed season for black and red grouper will remain February 15 to March 15.
- Charter boat and headboat operators who possess a Gulf reef fish permit must comply with Federal Regulations on those reef fish species experiencing overfishing (gag, red snapper, greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish) regardless of where the fish are harvested, if those regulations are more restrictive than state regulations.

The interim rule will eventually be replaced by Amendment 30B, which establishes a recreational grouper aggregate of four fish with a two-gag and two-red grouper bag and possession limit. It also includes a recreational closed season for all shallow-water grouper from February 1, through March 31. Additionally, charter and headboat operators who possess a Gulf reef fish permit must comply with Federal regulations when more restrictive than state regulations, for those reef fish species experiencing overfishing (gag, red snapper, greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish), regardless of where the fish are harvested.

On the commercial side, Amendment 30B reduces the minimum size limit for commercial red grouper to 18" and repeals the commercial February 15 to March 15 closed season on gag, black grouper and red grouper. Instead, a commercial January through April seasonal area closure is established at the Edges 40 fathom contour, a 390 nautical square mile gag spawning region northwest of Steamboat Lumps.

Amendment 30B also sets total allowable catch (TAC) for both gag and red grouper. The gag TAC will be set at variable levels – 3.38 mp in 2009, 3.62 mp in 2010, and 3.82 mp in 2011, with the red grouper TAC set at 7.57 mp. Interim allocation of TAC between the recreational and commercial fisheries will be set at 61% recreational and 39% commercial for gag, and 24% recreational, 76% commercial for red grouper.

Finally, the amendment sets annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for recreational and commercial gag and red grouper, and for the commercial shallow-water grouper aggregate. For the commercial sector this means the shallow-water grouper fishery will close when gag, red grouper, or the shallow-water grouper (SWG) quota is met. For the recreational sector, if at the end of the fishing year it is determined that the gag or red grouper annual catch limit (ACL) has been exceeded; then any scheduled increase in the recreational allocation will be canceled. In addition, the recreational fishing season for SWG in the following year will be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure that red grouper or gag target levels are not exceeded for that year.

The regulations are necessary because the latest stock assessment completed under the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) program, indicates that gag are undergoing overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006 mandates that once a stock is determined to be experiencing overfishing, the Council must take action to end overfishing immediately.

UF – IFAS Extension Updates:

Blue Crab Workshop: I attended the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission blue crab public workshop in Apalachicola on Wednesday August 27th. The goal of the workshop was to receive comments regarding a possible closed harvest season for blue crabs. During the workshop, FWC biologists and staff explained that FWC is exploring ways to create a regional closed blue crab harvest season so lost and abandoned traps can be collected and removed from Florida's coastal waters. The primary option under consideration will establish three regional blue crab harvest closures across the state for a period of up to 10 days. Franklin County is in Region 3 and the initially proposed "blue crab harvest closure" was for a 10-day period in July. However, the local crab industry told FWC that they felt July would be a bad time of the year to close and gave a number of excellent reasons why, including: how it would interfere with their harvest season, water clarity, weather conditions, tides, the number of recreational crab traps in the water, etc. The local blue crab industry then unanimously suggested the FWC consider a closure anytime in January to mid-February. Another topic discussed was how a trap "cleanup" would be done during the closure. FWC explained that there was going to be a bid system in place that would allow an individual or group to bid for the right to conduct the cleanup. The individual/group would be paid a predetermined amount for each trap removed. Also discussed was how the current option for volunteer groups to be permitted by FWC to conduct trap cleanup and could compete with individuals/groups wanting to be paid to do the cleanup. Overall I felt the workshop was very positive and productive and FWC left the meeting with a number of very good suggestions on how the cleanup could be done in the Panhandle Region.

Africanized Bees - Don't Worry Bee Happy Program: The Wakulla County UF-IFAS Extension Office, Wakulla County Emergency Management, and Wakulla County Sheriff's Office will host a workshop for beekeepers, pest control operators and anyone else who handles bees on Thursday, September 4, 10:00 am - NOON at the Extension Office in Crawfordville. Since this workshop will be available via video conference, if anyone in Franklin County is interested in attending this workshop, however doesn't want to drive to Crawfordville, I can setup our video conferencing equipment and we can watch and participate in the workshop. If you are

interested, please contact me immediately (653-9337) so the required arrangements can be made to receive the video broadcast.

UF IFAS North Florida Research & Education Center's Fall Field Day: The UF IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center will host its 2008 Fall Field Day on Thursday September 25th with registration beginning at 8:00 am eastern daylight time. Featured tours target the wildlife enthusiast; the tomato grower; fruit tree and berry crop devotees; and bio-fuel aficionados. For the wildlife admirer, the NFREC will highlight Bat Houses, Butterfly Gardening, and Deer feeding on Wildflowers. Tomato growers will see the latest in managing bacterial spot, worms, and bacterial wilt; along with a look at variety effects on yellow leaf curl. This tour has the added bonus of viewing pumpkin and winter squash varieties. For those interested in fruit trees and berry crops, a tour will show a range of crops suitable for the area. In this age of increasing energy costs, don't miss the tour on how to make your own fuel; as well as learn about new technologies and fuel stocks for bio-energy.

The Field Day is for professionals and non-professionals alike, who are interested in gardening, landscape, farming, family health and the quality of life in north Florida. The NFREC field days provide the most current research information on agricultural practices and highlight the importance of agriculture and health science to North Floridians and their friends.

Pre-registration costs \$10.00 and will increase to \$15 after September 19th; so register early. The registration fee covers tours, breakout sessions, and lunch. To register, please call 850-875-7100 ext 0. Payment in cash or personal/agency check should be made payable to University of Florida and sent to NFREC Quincy, 155 Research Road, Quincy Florida 32351, ATTN: Event Coordinator. No credit cards can be accepted for this event.

For more information on the North Florida Research and Education Center or on the UF/IFAS NFREC Fall Field Day, please visit <http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu> or call (850) 875-7100 ext. 0.

From Stem to Stern II: Boating and Waterway Management in Florida: Mark Your Calendar and Save the Date to attend the "From Stem to Stern II: Boating and Waterway Management in Florida" on May 19-21, 2009 in Cocoa Beach, FL. This event will be of significant interest to planners, managers, attorneys and policy makers within the boating and waterway industry. For additional information please visit the [conference website http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/boating2009/index.html](http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/boating2009/index.html).

Florida's economic well-being is linked to its freshwater, coastal, and marine resources. Local and state governments face the difficult challenge of sustaining economic viability while maintaining the environmental integrity of their waterways. This challenge is driven by factors that include rapid population growth and an increase in recreational boating and other water-related activity.

Stem to Stern II will present innovative technologies and methods designed to address boating and waterway management issues faced by local and state governments. The conference will also provide a forum for planners, managers, and policy makers to share accomplishments, discuss ideas, and consider priorities for future action.

Commissioner Parrish and Mr. Mahan discussed the 10 day closing for blue crab harvesting which hopefully would use local crabbers during the 10 days for cleanup. Board and Mr. Mahan discussed this matter further, including the possibility of this closing being repeated every year.

Board asked Mr. Mahan to research this matter, look for the slowest time of the year to have the 10 day closer, and the possibility of using the out of work crabbers to assist with removing the derelict traps.

Temolyn Wintons, Community Band and Band Instruments (9:54 AM)

Mrs. Winton's read from a prepared statement which questioned the manner in which the Board transferred the band equipment that was purchased for the Community Band to the new Franklin County High School.

Board responded to Mrs. Winton's statements, including their concern of having the band equipment, which was purchased with County funds, being kept at a privately owned location. Attorney Shuler gave some history on the purchase of the band equipment and stated that the equipment was transferred from the Parks and Recreation Department to the Franklin County School system, which discussed and approved by the Board.

Open Proposals for moving rocks from St. George Island (10:15 AM)

Mr. Pierce asked the Board not to open these proposals, as Preble-Rish is currently evaluating the value of the rocks, and other options for the use of the rocks are being considered.

Mason Bean, of St. George Island, agreed with Mr. Pierce as some of these rocks could be used on St. George Island to help with flooding and erosion.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to reject all proposals and table this item until more information is known at which time the Board could re-advertise for proposals for this service; Motion carried 4-0.

Attorney Shuler announced the name of the firms that submitted proposals:

Luberto
Coastline

Open Bids for Sawyer Street Drainage (10:19)

Mr. Pierce stated that this item should not be on today's agenda, but is scheduled to be opened at the next regular meeting.

Curt Blair- TDC Small Grant Awards (10:20 AM)

Mr. Blair distributed and discussed a handout which included the recent activities of the Tourist Development Council (TDC).

The FCTDC have voted to become founding members of Coastal Vision 3000 (aka THE Beach). Coastal Vision 3000 is a coalition of regional businesses dedicated to promoting tourism and economic development to Florida's northwest Gulf Coast. Coastal Vision 3000's goal is to elevate the value of this region as a whole. The cost for membership is included in the TDC's budget for 2008-09.

Below are the results of the FCTDC's 2008-09 small grant requests.

FCTDC GRANT AWARDS 2008-09			
Organization	Event	AmtAwarded	Date of Event
	Apalachicola Antique & Classic		
Ap C of C	Boat Show	2,000.00	4/25/2009
Ap C of C	Art Walk	2,000.00	4/4/2009
Carrabelle Cares	Black Bear Festival	2,000.00	10/18/2008
	Revolutionary		
Dixie Theatre Foundation	Wizard Ben Franklin	2,000.00	1/14-18/09
Ed Ball FSU Lab	FSU Lab open house	2,000.00	4/18/2009
Habitat for Humanity	Mardi Gras	2,000.00	2/7/2009
Panhandle Players	The Odd Couple	2,000.00	11/21-23/08
Panhandle Players	Star Spangled Girl	2,000.00	1/23-25/09
St. Vincent Wildlife Assn	Island Open House	2,000.00	3/31-4/18/09
	17th Annual Trinity Episcopal Church Historic Apalachicola Home		
Trinity Episcopal Church	Tour	2,000.00	5/1-2/09
	TOTAL \$2,000 AWARDS	20,000.00	
	Forgotten Coast		
Ap C of C	Plein Air Paint Out	5,000.00	5/7-17/09
	Wild & Scenic Film		
Ap Riverkeepers	Fest	5,000.00	8/29-9/5/09
Camp GJ Assn	CampGJ Days	5,000.00	3/13-15/09
	Main Season		
Dixie Theatre Foundation	Productions	5,000.00	1/14-3/29/09
Hillside Coalition	Afro History Fest	5,000.00	2/13-15/09
	TOTAL \$5,000 AWARDS	25,000.00	
	Carrabelle Riverfront		
Carrabelle C of C	Festival	10,000.00	4/24-26/09
	46th Annual Florida		
Flo Seafood Festival Inc.	Seafood Festival	10,000.00	10/31-11 /1/08
SGI Merchants Association	Oyster Spat	10,000.00	10/1 0-12/-08
	TOTAL \$10,000 AWARDS	75,000.00	

In addition, the TDC allocated the following budget items from the 2008-09 budget.

- \$5,000 for special grant requests made over the course of the 2008-09 budget year.
- \$20,000 for TDC marketing on behalf of the programs funded under the small grant program.
- Funds for a cooperative ad in Visit Florida publications with area lodging companies.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Parrish, to approve the small budget grants that were recommended by the Tourist Development Council; Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Blair discussed the awarding, encumbering, and expending of the Tourist Development Council funds.

Commissioner Crofton apologized for not thanking the TDC for their efforts on the purchase of the Lombardi Property at the ribbon cutting event.

Mr. Blair stated that \$10,000 was set-aside for erecting signs at key entry points but the actual cost will be \$8000 and \$6000 was set- aside for the Visit Florida publications but the actual cost would be less.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Parrish, to accept and adopt the entire TDC report as submitted; 3-0, Putnal was absent for the vote.

Weem's Hospital Update (10:39 AM)

Mr. Colvert, Weems CEO/CFO, gave an update on the Carrabelle Urgent Health Care Center, stating that the City of Carrabelle was able to obtain the Carrabelle High School building from the Franklin County School Board and invited the Hospital Board to start using some of the rooms in the school building as a temporary health care center until the new building is built. Mr. Colvert stated that the temporary clinic will be manned by Dr. Chorba 2 days a week, has been approved by the Hospital Board, funds for any improvement to the rooms will be funded from the Capital Improvement Account, which has been funded by the health care surtax, and any equipment purchased for use at the temporary site will be moved to the permanent location after it is completed. Mr. Colvert stated that the Hospital will not have to pay any rent but will be asked to contribute \$500 a month toward utilities.

Chairman Lockley asked the staff to look into the possibility of designating this site in Carrabelle as a FQIC, which would be the second of such designation in the County, and contacting Congressman Boyd's office for assistance in this matter if necessary.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to approve the request of the Hospital Board to start using rooms at the Carrabelle High School for a temporary Urgent Health Care Center, the purchase of any equipment or any improvements for this location will be from Capital Improvement Account and any utilities paid will be from the Hospital Operations Account, and a lease will be executed stating the terms of the agreement with the City of Carrabelle; Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Colvert stated that the Hospital Board is recommending that the Board delay on closing on the property that will be used to construct the new Carrabelle Health Care Center, so they can have more time to review the environmental matters, such as the flood plain and the wetlands located on this property.

Mr. Pierce stated that the entire county is in a flood plain so he didn't see the need to delay the closing on the property.

Attorney Shuler suggested closing on the property unless he or Mr. Pierce discovers some reason not to.

Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler stated that they will consult with the architect firm and the engineers regarding the flood plain and wetlands on this property and if there is a problem he will report back to the Board before closing on the property.

Mr. Colvert stated that he and the hospital board wanted to make sure that they were carrying out the wishes of the Board, especially allowing for room to expand in the future.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Putnal, to authorize Attorney Shuler to represent and act on behalf of the Board of the County Commissioners at the next school board meeting regarding any actions on the closing of the property in Carrabelle to be used for the urgent health care center; Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Parrish requested that Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler meet with all parties concerned including the architect and engineer and verify that there would be no problems with the property regarding the flood plain and wetlands issues that were just raised by Mr. Colvert.

Mr. Colvert stated that the County received \$178440.20 in surtax for the month of June.

Gail Dodds, the Hospital Board's Chairperson, suggested that the Hospital Board meet with Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler to clarify the issue that was just raised by Mr. Colvert.

Mrs. Dodds discussed the process used to select the architectural firm that will be used for the Urgent Care Clinic in Carrabelle and stated that the Hospital Board recommended Clemons, Rutherford, and Associates as they were ranked 1st and needed Board action to accept this recommendation.

Mrs. Dodds stated that Tro Jung Brannen, Barnett Fronczak was ranked 2nd and 3rd.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to accept the Hospital Board's recommendation of Clemons, Rutherford, and Associates, for the architectural firm for the Carrabelle Urgent Health Care project and approve a contract contingent on Attorney Shuler's review and approval of the contract; Motion carried 4-0.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (11:10)

Item 1 – Board action to authorize payment of the closing cost for the property in Carrabelle for the Urgent Health Care Center

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to authorize payment of the closing cost for the purchase of the property for the Urgent Health Care Center in Carrabelle; Motion carried 4-0.

Item 2 – Remind the Board that the 1st Budget Public Hearing will be on Thursday September 4, 2008 at 5:30 pm.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (11:12 AM)

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

1- Board action to sign amendment to contract for fire protection provided by the Division of Forestry on forest and wild land acreage in the county. The Board is obligated under the agreement to pay approximately \$5,500.00 per year. According to the county finance office, this expenditure has been budgeted. Board action.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Parrish, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the contract for fire protection provided by the Division of Forestry; Motion carried 4-0.

2- Provide Board with copy of letter sent to Gov. Crist, and Gov. Riley of Alabama as directed at the last Board meeting.

3- Inform Board that DOT has erected a flashing school zone sign for the new consolidated school. I have provided a copy of the notification to Public Works.

4- Inform Board that Mr. Mark Curenton has provided suggestions to DCA on the rules for the Working Waterfronts legislation that will be beneficial to Franklin County. It will probably be six months before the rules are finalized by the state.

5- Board action on proposed FRDAP application for Indian Creek. Indian Creek is going to have limited recreational activities because it is essentially an environmental area with some passive recreational activities. The approved management plan states the Park will have a canoe/kayak launch, an observation platform, and a nature trail. There was no time line provided in the management plan for when those items have to be built so it the intention of the FRDAP grant to seek state funding for these items. Picnic tables have already been purchased so those will not be included in this grant request. Bathrooms have been discussed and Board direction is needed on that item.

While FRDAP funds could be used to build the bathrooms, the maintenance of the bathrooms will fall under the Parks and Recreation budget. Park Director Van Johnson needs to provide a recommendation on whether his budget can include the maintenance of two more bathrooms so the Board can decide whether it wants to include bathrooms in the FRDAP application.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

6- Inform Board that last week I had a tele-conference with Mr. Wesley Tice, Mr. Jason Flowers, and Ms. Julie Meadows-Keefe, Chief Legal Counsel for the Dept. of Health, regarding the Board's desire to seek closure on the on-going complaints about improperly permitted restaurants and on-site sewage systems on St. George Island.

I told Ms. Meadows-Keefe that the Board, and the public, value the health of the Apalachicola Bay above all else, and that if there were sanitary nuisances that might threaten the Bay immediate steps need to

be taken to remedy those problems. I was provided a file of the Notices to Abate Sanitary Nuisances that were issued last week to commercial businesses on the Island. In general, the first step in abating a nuisance is to reduce the flows into the systems, and then to pump the systems out so that what flows into the drain fields can be treated properly. All of the major restaurants are now required to pump their tanks for times a week while further testing is being done.

In conjunction with the Dept. of Health implementing steps to safeguard the water quality of the Bay, I asked the county's consultants working on the utility feasibility study that had been focusing on the eastern end of the county to see if that study could be expanded to include St. George Island. On Sept. 16th, Ms. Tami Wray, Meridian Planning, will seek official Board approval to amend the study to include some recommendations on sewage issues on St. George Island, and to include storm water treatment as the utility the Board should look into first. While improperly operated on-site sewage systems may get the most publicity, the greatest threat to water quality coming from inside the county is untreated storm water from roads. It is the greatest threat because of volume of water, as well as the wide range of contaminants that could be flowing off the road. The Northwest Florida Water Management District, at their expense, has placed 8 storm water collection devices in Eastpoint, but that is only a first step.

The consultants, on Sept. 16th, will provide the Board an overview of how a storm water utility district would work, and then to seek Board approval to amend the feasibility study to include recommendations on storm water, and St. George Island sewage options.

Mr. Pierce discussed studies on sewers and waste water in the County that have been done over the years. The Board discussed increased density affecting the Bay.

7- Inform Board that Progress Energy is moving its operations out of Carrabelle. Commissioner Sanders requests the Board send a letter to Progress Energy objecting to the move as it will lower the service and response time in Carrabelle when equipment and trucks will be staged out of Crawfordville instead of Carrabelle.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to send letter to Progress Energy asking them not to close their Carrabelle service office; Motion carried 4-0.

8- Ask Board to table bids on the St. George Island rocks because Gulf County has made a request to have time to look at the rocks because they might want them.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

9- Commissioner Sanders requests a letter be sent to the City of Tallahassee reminding them that there are people downstream of Talquin Dam, and that the City needs to provide better cooperation and communication with residents and local governments downstream of the Dam.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Crofton, to send a letter to the City of Tallahassee stating that better cooperation and communication is needed for the residents and local governments downstream of the Talquin Dam; Motion carried 4-0.

10- Ted Mosteller, Airport Advisory Chairman, requests that the Board authorize 2 JPAs for work at the airport. One JPA is a \$16,000 to finish off the interior of a hanger that is already built. The second JPA is approximately \$193,000 to build a 10,000 square foot hangar. This second JPA will be combined with an earlier one for \$350,000 to have combined funds of approximately \$543,000. The JPAs will be signed but no action will be taken to go out for bid until the Board and the Airport Committee have a better idea of exactly what sort of building needs to be built. Board action.

Motion Crofton, seconded by Putnal, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the JPA for \$16,000 to finish the interior of a hanger that is already built; Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Pierce expressed his concerns of approving another JPA for \$193,000 to build new 10,000 square foot hangar. Commissioner Crofton stated that most clients looking for hangar space can't wait for a hanger to be built, so he recommends building the hanger, and as the representative from Opportunity Florida stated, the County will be put on a available "hangar space" list and will probably get a client for the space.

The Board and Attorney Shuler discussed the contract for the new engineering firm.

Commissioner Parrish and Mr. Mosteller discussed the new engineering firm involvement and awareness of this project, so as stated during their interview, so they will be in a position to help the County with economic development and incorporate this hanger project into their plan.

Board discussed this matter further and agreed that it should not be a problem to find a client to rent the hangar space after it is built.

Mr. Mosteller discussed the possibility of additional funds to build a larger hanger or a building that could be used for other purposes.

Board stated that the new engineering firm AVCON needs to be more involved with these types of projects at the airport and should be attending the airport board meetings regularly.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Parrish, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the JPA for \$193,000 for the construction of a new 10,000 square foot hanger; Motion carried 4-0.

Clay Kennedy, of Prebble-Rish, stated that he would like to meet with each Commissioner individually to discuss a list of roads for the paving project.

T. Michael Shuler- County Attorney- Report (11:42 AM)

Attorney Shuler submitted the following items for discussion and/or approval.

1. Carrabelle Urgent Care Facility

On September 4, 2008, the Franklin County School Board will consider whether to sign the contract and close on the Carrabelle property.

Their attorney's fee continues to be an issue.

BOARD ACTION NEEDED: Does the Board want me to attend the School Board meeting on September 4, 2008?

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. South Shoals

I am still waiting on Edwin Brown and Associates, Inc., your surveyor in this matter, to report to me on the extent of paving on the disputed road through South Shoals.

This is important because if the disputed road is already paved through South Shoals into Harbor Circle, then there is no for the County to expedite the litigation. I have asked the Court to expedite the case so that our paving contractor can pave the road before they leave Alligator Point.

The Water District may have other reasons for expediting the litigation

BOARD ACTION: None recommended.

3. STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT/ST. GEORGE ISLAND

Mr. Pierce met with the State Health Department to discuss the State's planned enforcement of waste water regulations on St. George Island. The purpose of the enforcement is to bring into compliance the commercial businesses discussed at the last board meeting.

I will reinforce Mr. Pierce's efforts with the State Health Department.

BOARD ACTION: None Recommended.

4. Airport

I have reviewed the contract proposed by AVCON On August 29, 2008; I sent them my comments to their contract.

I note nothing out of the ordinary in their contract and do not expect any difficulties in reaching a contract with AVCON.

BOARD ACTION: None recommended.

5. Waste Management Lease

On August 22, 2008, I mailed the transfer station lease renewal to Waste Management. This lease should have been renewed at the same time as the contract allowing Waste Management to operate the transfer station.

To date, I have not received any reply from them.

BOARD ACTION: None recommended.

6. Lorelei Clapper Deed

The Board asked that I obtain a deed from Lorelei Clapper for property she wanted to convey to the county at Alligator Point. I have received the deed from Ms. Clapper to Franklin County. It transfers her interest in Lot 6, Block A, Unit 1, Peninsular Point.

I have **not** searched the records to verify the quality of title she conveyed to the county.

BOARD ACTION: Motion authorizing the Clerk to issue a check for \$10.70 to pay for recording the deed.

Motion by Crofton, seconded by Parrish, authorizing the Clerk to issue a check for \$10.70 to pay for recording fees; Motion carried 4-0.

7. Legal Services Contract Renewal

In 2004, the Board entered into a contract with Legal Service of North Florida to provide indigent legal services in Franklin County, Florida.

The services are paid for out of a portion of court costs collected by the Clerk. They are not paid from ad valorem taxes. The original contract was for one year. I recommend that we have a continuing contract with Legal Services of North Florida. They are the only organization I know of providing indigent care services in Franklin County.

In order to protect the county's interests in a continuing contract, I will add a provision that either party can cancel the contract upon 30 days notice.

BOARD ACTION: Motion approving a continuing year to year contract with Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. to provide indigent legal services in Franklin County paid for out of court costs, not ad valorem taxes.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Parrish, to renew the contract with Legal Services and make contract a continuing contract; Motion carried 4-0.

8. Pogy Road, Apalachicola

You asked me to determine if Pogy Road is a public road. I am unable to locate any dedication of the road to the public.

There appears to be some confusion concerning Pogy Road because it was mentioned during a prior Board meeting in which a nearby road, Magnolia Lane, was determined by the Board to be public because the county had acquired ownership as result of maintaining the road. Again, I cannot find any other information concerning Pogy Road.

BOARD ACTION: None recommended.

9. Progress Energy

Inform the Board that the meeting with Progress Energy regarding the proposed route for the new transmission lines will be at 9 am on Thursday September 9, 2008.

Commissioners' & Public Comments (11:51 AM)

Commissioner Parrish stated that Mr. Flowers, of the Health Department, said that the \$500 test that was discussed and approved by the Board at a previous meeting would still be inconclusive and recommended hiring an independent lab to review the results from the data gathering sites.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Crofton, to hire an independent lab to review results of the testing sites, at a cost of about \$25 per test, in lieu of the \$500 test that was originally approved by the Board at the last meeting, which will need to be done at the same sites on the same day for accurate results; Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Crofton asked what happened to the Eastpoint dredging project that was discussed in the past. Mr. Pierce stated that the Corps of Engineers used the money for other projects. Commissioner Parrish stated that Senator Boyd said that there was no more funding for this project at that time. Mr. Pierce stated that there would be some dredging with the new boat ramp project. Commissioner Crofton asked Mr. Pierce to look into seeking funds from the Corps for a future dredging project. Board discussed the increased cost for this project.

Commissioner Crofton discussed cleaning up the Eastpoint waterfront and asked what can be done to force the property owners to clean up. Attorney Shuler stated if the Health Department declares any of the properties a health risk, it would help the County with legal matters, and stated that he would investigate this matter and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Crofton gave an update on damage to St. George Island from the storm.

Commissioner Lockley asked who would be responsible for any damage to the Bay from maybe sewer or wastewater. Mr. Pierce stated that it depends on what is causing the flow into the Bay and enforcement for excess sewage or wastewater would be done by the State. The Board discussed this matter further including the County issuing business licenses.

Commissioner Parrish stated that more facts are needed before the Board can move forward with properly addressing this situation.

Commissioner Crofton stated that he would like to discuss business or occupational licenses at a future meeting.

Joseph Rickards asked the Board to support or at least discuss county wide voting, stated his reasons for this, and asked the Board to have a public meeting to allow the public to speak on this matter.

Attorney Shuler gave some history on this matter and stated that it would be an expensive venture for the County.

Adjourn (12:21 PM)

There being no further business Chairman Lockley adjourned the meeting.

Noah Lockley Jr., Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Court