

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 3, 2003**

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

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

(Tape 1-41) Commissioner Putnal made a **motion approving the minutes of the meetings held on May 20, 2003 and May 28, 2003.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-46) Commissioner Putnal made a **motion to pay the County bills.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-54) Chairman Sanders asked if Hubert Chipman, Superintendent of Public Works, was at the meeting this morning. She asked Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services, if he or anyone else had heard from him. Mr. Pierce replied he had not heard anything from Mr. Chipman or anyone else from the Road Department. Commissioner Creamer said Mr. Chipman was probably not going to be at the meeting today since he is still recuperating from his surgery. Commissioner Mosconis asked if anyone was here to address the Board or answer any questions the Board might have for the Road Department. He asked if Larry Brown, Assistant Superintendent, was here today. Commissioner Mosconis asked why Mr. Brown was not at the meeting. Mr. Pierce replied he had no idea why there was no one at the meeting this morning to represent the Road Department. Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Pierce to go and get Chris Clark, Engineering Technician, so the Board could address several questions or problems they are having in their respective districts to him. Mr. Pierce left the meeting to go and get Mr. Clark. Commissioner Putnal said he thought somebody needed to be at the meeting to at least go back and inform the Road Department of the Commissioners concerns and questions. He said he invited the Mayor of Carrabelle, Wilburn Messer, to come and address the Board about a problem the City of Carrabelle is having with a ditch. Mr. Clark came into the meeting at this time. Chairman Sanders asked Mayor Messer to go ahead and begin addressing the Board at this time. Mayor Messer thanked the Board for allowing him to speak this morning. He stated he had a problem with a ditch holding water and flooding. He said the ditch he was referencing was located at Ryan Drive and if it was lowered approximately a foot to the South of the ditch it would probably alleviate this flooding problem. He stated it also needed to be cleaned out. He said he would glad to go and show anyone interested in looking at the site exactly where the problem is. He informed the Board the sidewalk was not the problem, the problem was the ditch. Chairman Sanders explained this was the sidewalk funded for the City of Carrabelle by the ICTEA grant. She said P. B. S. & J., Panama City, completed this project. She asked Mr. Clark if he could go with the Mayor to look at the ditch and see how the problem might be corrected. Commissioner Putnal said he would like for Larry

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Brown to go with them. Chairman Sanders said the ditch was on Ryan Drive going toward the Three Rivers Road. She stated water was standing in the ditch at this time. Mayor Messer said he would be glad to met Mr. Clark and Mr. Brown at the site whenever they are ready, but preferably this afternoon. Mr. Clark said he would go and look at the site this afternoon.

(Tape 1-198) Chairman Sanders asked Mayor Messer when the City of Carrabelle would be finishing their sewer project. Mayor Messer replied he really couldn't say. He said one problem creates another problem and he really couldn't answer this question. He stated some of Ryan Drive has been completed and part of Three Rivers Road has too. Chairman Sanders asked Mayor Messer to have someone contact the County Offices and let someone know when the City of Carrabelle has completed their projects. She said then the County could begin their paving project. Mayor Messer said he would contact the County when they are finished. Mr. Pierce asked Mayor Messer to furnish him with a list of roads that would need to be paved or repaved once the City's project is completed. He replied he would furnish a list to the County.

(Tape 1-252) Commissioner Mosconis addressed the ditch located at Eleanor Linehan's house off of Bluff Road in Apalachicola. He said the County has been working on the ditch for probably nine months. He stated this was one of the first items he asked Mr. Clark to go look at when he was hired several months ago. He said Mr. Clark had the culvert realigned and raised. He asked Mr. Clark about the grassing of the site. Mr. Clark replied the site had been grassed, but had been grassed during the dry spell the County just went through. He said it would be okay in the ditch where it was kind of wet, but he didn't think the seed on the actual culvert would ever take root unless the County received some good rain. He stated then that if it rains really hard the rain could wash the seed away from the site. Commissioner Mosconis suggested Mr. Clark meet with Van Johnson, Solid Waste Director, and have him bring his hydra-seeder out to the site to plant some seed. Mr. Clark stated he had already discussed this with Mr. Johnson. He explained Mr. Johnson had the seed and water, but didn't have the necessary mulch for the project. Mr. Johnson suggested they use some hay to cover the seed after it is planted. Commissioner Mosconis said he thought this was a good idea since FDOT does this as well. Mr. Clark said he and Mr. Johnson would go and try to finish this project.

(Tape 1-294) Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Clark if he had completed a plan for the little ditch in front of Billy Hicks' house. Mr. Clark replied he had decided the County needed to do a little maintenance on the ditch. He said the ditch needed to be cleared and maintained since he felt the ditch was flowing all right as it was.

(Tape 1-305) Commissioner Mosconis said he thought Larry Brown should have been at the meeting this morning. He stated he wanted to either have Mr. Brown or Mr. Chipman at the next meeting. He said Mr. Chipman should notify someone when he is not going to be at a meeting since this is the second meeting in a row he has missed. He stated Mr. Brown needs to be at the next meeting if Mr. Chipman cannot be here. He said Mr. Clark needs to be at the meeting as well. He stated he wanted some communication between the Road Department and the Engineering Technician. He said there is no reason in the

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world why there was a lack of communication between them because they all have cell phones, radios, etc. He said the County has an in house person, Mr. Clark, to work on the actual problems with ditches in the County. He stated he has really been impressed with Mr. Clark's "ditching" knowledge. He said he really understands water and hydrological problems. He stated he has been hearing some "rumblings" that there might be some coordination problems still going on with the Road Department and Mr. Clark. He said if there is they needed to be solved now and get on the right track so the County doesn't have people going in different directions and not getting these jobs completed. He said these particular ditches have been a problem since early last fall. He stated there are too many wheels being spun and no action taken.

(Tape 1-363) Chairman Sanders said she had a problem with a main ditch running from Highway 67 all the way to C-30. She stated this is a main drainage ditch. She asked Mr. Clark if he would go and look at this ditch to see if he could suggest how the ditch could be cleaned out. She said this was a very long and big ditch. She stated this ditch hasn't been cleaned or maintained in a long time. She said it needs to be taken care of. Mr. Clark stated if it is a man made ditch going through uplands the ditch is usually easy to maintain, but when a ditch runs in low areas or crowded areas then there is a problem. Chairman Sanders said a lot of the property owners have filled in their property causing this ditch to flood even worse. Commissioner Putnal said where the ditch goes under U. S. Highway 98 there is a small culvert-pipe there being used for the water to flow through. He stated this culvert is too small and needs to be enlarged. He stated he has talked to FDOT about this matter, but they don't want to do any changes to the road because it is a major highway. Chairman Sanders said she thought the first thing that needed to be done to the ditch was to clean it out. She stated this might alleviate a lot of the problems. Mr. Clark assured the Board he would go and look at this ditch to see if anything could be done about the problems mentioned this morning.

(Tape 1-429) Chairman Sanders said she wanted Mr. Pierce to contact the Road Department to make sure a representative from the department is at the next Board Meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**VAN JOHNSON-SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

(Tape 1-450) Mr. Johnson stated after some intense lobbying by the Small Counties Coalition and Recycle Florida Today both the Florida House and Senate agreed to place 6.5 million dollars in their respective budgets for the Solid Waste Grant Program. He said \$4 million of the \$6.5 million would be divided equally between the Counties with populations of 100,000 or less. He said the remaining funds would be placed in a competitive innovative grant program for Solid Waste Management. He stated once the Governor signs the State Budget Franklin County would receive their portion of the budget, which should be \$117,747.00. He explained this amount would result in the combination of the Recycling and Education, Waste Tire, Litter Control and Small County Grants that were awarded in previous years. He explained due to this change the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has already mailed the applications for the newly combined grant. He informed the Board the application is due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated he has the application completed and ready for the Chairman's

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signature this morning. He requested the Board approve the Chairman's signature on the new Consolidated Solid Waste Management Grant Program Application. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the FDEP Consolidated Solid Waste Management Grant Application in the amount of \$117,647.00.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-500) He said during the Board Meeting held on May 6, 2003 he agreed to check into Advanced Environmental Technologies (AET) proposal of exchanging the waiving of tipping fees for their company for them providing sampling laboratory analysis of the Landfill's monitoring system. He explained, after further review of actual scale-house data, he has discovered the continual collection of tipping fees from this company would be extremely more beneficial to the County. He said he had attached, to his report this morning, a chart highlighting the company's disposal activity over the past ten-months. He stated the chart reflects a steady increase in waste brought into the Landfill for disposal. He informed the Board he didn't need any action on this matter since he was just reporting this information to the Board for informational purposes.

(Tape 1-533) Commissioner Mosconis said out on "his" road one of the neighbors is cleaning up. He asked Mr. Johnson to take the "cherry picker" out there for them to use. Mr. Johnson replied he has had an opportunity to have the trucks kind of spread out though the County. He said he would take care of the matter today.

**BILL MAHAN-COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR**

(Tape 1-551) He said he wasn't at the last Board Meeting because he was attending the Ninth Annual 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program and announced the winners as follows: 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Division, Careah Bell, ABC School; Robert Osburn, Chapman Elementary; Lakota Humble, Carrabelle Elementary; and Wesley Bellew, Brown Elementary; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Division, Angie Ochala, Carrabelle High School; Tabitha Hardy, Brown Elementary; and Bre'Anna Bryant, Chapman Elementary.

(Tape 1-570) He informed the Board he is now registering 4-H'ers for this year's County and Shooting Sports Camps at 4-H Camp Timpooshee. He said there has been a good response for camp registration materials, however, at this point, there are only four campers who have either returned their registration or told him they are going to attend camp. He said the Franklin 4-H Camp would be held the week of June 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> and the Shooting Sports Camp would be held the week of June 29<sup>th</sup>-July 3<sup>rd</sup>. He stated he would miss the next two Board Meetings due to him being at Camp Timpooshee.

(Tape 1-588) He said he received a letter from Ken Moore, ISSC, informing him he had been appointed to the ISSC's Education Committee for 2003. He reminded the Board he is also a member of the Vibrio vulnificus Education Subcommittee and the Bio-toxin Committee.

(Tape 1-606) He informed the Board he attached a copy of the new Bivalve Bulletin newsletter produced by Leslie Sturmer, UF-IFAS Clam Aquaculture Agent in Cedar Key

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featuring stories entitled, "Consumer Responsibility", "Clam Marketing", and Upcoming Events".

(Tape 1-612) He informed the Board on June 5, 2003, this Thursday, the Extension Office would be conducting the first Clam Aquaculture Workshop for the 2003 season entitled "The Basics of Handling and Harvesting Clams". He stated topics included in the workshop were, license requirements, State and Federal requirements for tags, time/temperature matrix, Alligator Harbor's Shellfish Management Plan, harvesting strategies and market sizes.

(Tape 1-628) He said he contacted Bill Teehan, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, about them conducting a workshop in Franklin County on the use of skimmer trawls to catch shrimp in the Bay. He said Mr. Teehan didn't have a problem with conducting a workshop in Franklin County, but he would like to know when Franklin County would like the workshop scheduled for. He said Mr. Teehan also informed him there are only two boats using the trawls in the Apalachicola Bay. Commissioner Mosconis instructed Mr. Mahan to contact the local shrimpers and see when a workshop would be convenient for them.

(Tape 1-733) Commissioner Mosconis said last week the Board listened to a man who lives on Alligator Point and who wants to give some property to the County for a boat ramp. He stated Mr. Pierce would probably discuss this matter later in the meeting today. He informed Mr. Mahan he might have to become involved in this matter if the gentleman wants to give the County the property for a boat ramp.

**RICHARD SPOHRER-ACCESS ACROSS COUNTY R/O/W-EASTPOINT**

(Tape 1-761) Mr. Spohrer presented a photograph and a plat drawing of his property in Eastpoint. He said, as the Board can see on the photograph, his property is between Allen Seafood and the public boat ramp in Eastpoint. He stated it is a strange shaped piece of property something like a "pie shape". He said he didn't have any way of getting into his property because of the drainage ditch the County installed. He stated the drainage ditch is right down the property line. He asked the Board to have a section of culvert placed into the ditch so he can place a driveway into his property. Commissioner Mosconis told Mr. Spohrer if he would purchase the culvert pipe the County would install it. He said this is how the County generally handles this type of problem. He stated the proper procedure is to have the County Engineer to go to the site and decide how the pipe needs to be installed. He stated then after Mr. Spohrer purchases the pipe the County would install it as specified by the Engineer. Mr. Spohrer said he would check into purchasing the pipe. He stated he would also ask the County Engineer to come and design an installation plan. Mr. Pierce said the only problem he had with this was that there was a parking area on the County's side of the ditch. He stated he is concerned about the parking problem. Mr. Spohrer said he would only want access at the point of his property. Commissioner Creamer said then this also needed to be considered when the engineer went to look at the area. Mr. Spohrer showed Mr. Pierce and the Board where he wanted the culvert pipe placed in the ditch. He said it should be out of the way of any parking area. Mr. Pierce stated he is still concerned about the boat ramp

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and the parking of the vehicles using the boat ramp. Commissioner Creamer stated he wanted to go look at this property before anything was done. Mr. Pierce said the County doesn't or shouldn't have any responsibility for providing access to Mr. Spohrer's property. The County Attorney, Michael Shuler, stated the County has no legal obligation to provide Mr. Spohrer access to his property. Commissioner Putnal said he would like to make a **motion Commissioner Creamer, along with the County Engineer, meet at the site with Mr. Spohrer and come back to the Board with a recommendation at the next Board Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mr. Pierce said he did know it would take a forty-two inch culvert pipe for the ditch. Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Spohrer to meet with the Engineer and Commissioner Creamer this afternoon at the site. Commissioner Creamer said he would meet Mr. Spohrer this afternoon. Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Pierce to notify the County Engineer about this meeting as well. Mr. Pierce agreed to tell the County Engineer.

**ALAN PIERCE-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

(Tape 1-941) Mr. Pierce said he would begin his report and could be interrupted for the public hearings scheduled for this morning.

(Tape 1-942) He said he needed the Board to approve the Chairman's signature on the USCOE's agreement on the redesign of the Alligator Point Road. He stated this is for a feasibility study and not the actual construction of the road. He said the cost for this study to Franklin County is \$20,000.00, but FDEP is paying these costs and the County has already received their money. Commissioner Williams made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the USCOE Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement for the Alligator Point Study.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-968) He asked the Board to approve the Chairman's signature on a request for a time extension from FDOT for the landscaping project on SGI. He said the SGI Beautification Committee originally made the request after a request was made by the bridge engineer for a time extension. He reminded the Board this grant was for \$100,000.00 to complete this project. He informed the Board the project would be extended until June 30, 2004. Commissioner Creamer made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on a request for an extension from FDOT for the landscaping project on SGI in the amount of \$100,000.00 until June 30, 2004.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-983) Commissioner Mosconis said he wanted to discuss the sign problem on SGI he brought to the Board's attention several meetings ago. He stated he would like for Mr. Pierce to address this problem with the Planning and Zoning Commission to see what they thought about this matter. He said the County needed some kind of ordinance or guidelines for signs especially on SGI. Commissioner Putnal asked him to discuss billboards with them too. He said he didn't want a solid billboard on U. S. Highway 98. Mr. Pierce stated he would talk to the P&Z Commission members about this problem. Chairman Sanders said another matter to be considered is the "Scenic By-Way" being

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proposed for Franklin County. She stated one of the restrictions of this by way is that no signs or billboards would be constructed or installed after the by way is approved. She said the ones already erected would be able to stay on the road or grand fathered in. She stated then no signs or billboards could be installed afterwards. Mr. Pierce informed the Commissioners the State of Florida has already adopted some strict standards about billboards, etc. He explained the State does regulate billboards and signs on their state roads and the Federal Government regulates billboards and signs on US Highways, etc. He did assure the Board he would mention this to the P&Z Commission.

(Tape 1-1073) He asked the Board to approve the advertisement for bids for the landscaping project per the request of the SGI Beautification Committee. He said Mark Curenton, Assistant Planner, would be supervising the grant and is aware of the funds available. He explained the Board would actually open the bids and would retain control as to whether any bid was accepted. He reminded the Board there is approximately \$100,000.00 available for this project. Commissioner Creamer made a **motion authorizing the advertisement of bids for the landscaping project, the FDOT SGI Bridge Landscaping Project per the request of the SGI Beautification Committee.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1090) He requested the Board approve the Chairman's signature on the letters and Florida Communities Grant (FCT) Grant Applications for the Alligator Point Preserve and the SGI Marine Park. He said the funds would be used by the County for a boat ramp and the relocation of the road in Alligator Point. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the letters and FCT Grant Applications for the Alligator Point Preserve and the SGI Marine Park Projects.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1103) He said the Board, at the last meeting, deferred a decision on the request submitted by Dan Garlick, Garlick Environmental, as agent for Dean Marshall of Alligator Point. He said the Board received two letters, one from APECO and one from APTPA, regarding the matter. He reminded the Board Mr. Marshall made a request to exchange two of his lots for the County right-of-way between his properties in Alligator Point. Commissioner Sanders said she met with Mr. Garlick at the site and she was informed by him that if he didn't have support for this request he would not be at the meeting this morning. She stated this is probably why neither he nor Mr. Marshall is present. Mr. Pierce reported the two letters oppose the request submitted by Mr. Marshall. Linc Barnett, APTPA, said he would like to clarify something about the boat ramp Commissioner Mosconis mentioned for the Marshall property. He stated unless Mr. Marshall has changed his mind he is adamantly opposed to any boat ramp, he only wants a place for kayaks and canoes to be launched at. He said Mr. Marshall stated to APTPA he did not want a boat ramp or boat traffic on his property. Commissioner Mosconis said he just wanted to make Mr. Mahan aware of the possibility of this boat ramp. Commissioner Creamer said he wanted to make sure the public knew the Board shouldn't or wouldn't give any power to any one group such as APTPA or APECO. He stated this would be a decision made by the Commissioners. He said he felt it was a good idea to listen to the group's position, but it was the final responsibility of the Board to

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make the final decision on any project or request. He stated he wanted Mr. Garlick to know he or Mr. Marshall could still come to the Board and make a presentation for the Board to decide on, not a group. He said these groups are not the policy makers for Alligator Point. He stated this is what Chairman Sanders was elected to do. Chairman Sanders said she did meet with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Garlick and was non-committal to either one of them. She stated Mr. Garlick informed her that he would like to see if he couldn't come up with a plan that would satisfy everybody. She said the groups, APTPA and APECO, know they don't make any final decisions about such a matter. She stated only the Commissioners can finalize a plan like this.

(Tape 1-1266) Mr. Pierce informed the Board he has a situation between the Edgecombs and the Jettons on property zoned Agricultural where there was a total of 49.5 acres owned by the Edgecombs and they sold 40 acres to the Jettons leaving the Edgecombs with only 9.5 acres. He said this did not leave the Edgecombs enough land to continue to keep their mobile home on. He stated the Jettons are planning to put a mobile home on the forty-acre parcel the Edgecombs sold them. He said this would place two mobile homes on one agriculturally zoned parcel, which is supposed to contain forty-acres or more. He reported he has sent letters to the Edgecombs and the Jettons about this problem. Chairman Sanders said she knew this was a real "mess". She stated she talked to Ms. Edgecomb about the matter and she was quite concerned about the letter. She said Ms. Edgecomb requested the Board not proceed with any further action this morning other than the sixty-day time limit Mr. Pierce allowed her in the letter. Chairman Sanders said she wanted everyone to just wait until the next meeting. Commissioner Creamer said he thought 9.5 acres was plenty of land for one mobile home. Mr. Pierce stated he isn't saying it isn't, but he did want the Board to be aware of the situation. He said this was the zoning for the area. Chairman Sanders said she thought Ms. Edgecomb would be at the next meeting.

(Tape 1-1414) He told the Board he talked to Mike Sole, DEP, regarding the Eastpoint Channel Dredging Project. He said Mr. Sole assured him DEP does want to help Franklin County with the dredging project, but the County still needs to submit an application to DEP for the project. He suggested the Board direct Chris Clark, Engineering Technician for the County, to complete the DEP Wetland Resource Permit, utilizing Preble-Rish, Inc., as a consultant if necessary. Commissioner Creamer said he wanted this project to move forward and made a **motion directing the Engineering Technician, Chris Clark, to complete a DEP Wetland Resource Permit, utilizing Preble-Rish, Inc., as a consultant if necessary for the Eastpoint Channel Dredging Project.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Creamer asked Mr. Pierce if Mr. Clark could start on this application today. Mr. Pierce replied he could and he had already given him the application to complete.

(Tape 1-1452) He said he wanted to ask the Board to direct him as to what to do about the following issue: At this time the Board does not have a policy of requiring any particular County employees be available to work immediately after a disaster. This problem came up after Hurricane Opal. The County responded with asking for



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volunteers from the Road Department to be on call, but it was on a voluntary basis. Linc Barnett, as a County consultant is assisting the County in a program entitled "Continuity of Operations" meaning the County would be able to continue its essential functions during times of disaster. If certain critical employees are not available to re-open roads, remove debris, clean ditches, then in fact the County might not be able to continue its essential functions. He asked the Board if they wanted to either have him or Mr. Barnett complete some policies for the Board to consider regarding employees and their role during and following a State or local emergency. Commissioner Mosconis said he knew the County had people on staff in charge of these type emergencies. He asked if the EOC Director wouldn't be in charge of these type things if a disaster occurred in Franklin County. Mr. Pierce said the problem was, during Hurricane Opal, the County was on the verge of having to conduct a general evacuation of the entire County, but even though there was not a general evacuation a number of Road Department employees evacuated anyway. He stated when the County was trying to clean up the next morning there was nobody from the County Road Department working or assisting the other citizens. Commissioner Mosconis asked if this wasn't a concern for Emergency Management and what all the money was spent for. Mr. Pierce replied Emergency Management cannot dictate to County employees whether they have to stay during an emergency or a hurricane. He said only the Commissioners could do that. Commissioner Mosconis said the Emergency Management Director could formulate a plan and then the Board could adopt it. Mr. Pierce said then that would be fine. Commissioner Putnal said there are certain employees who always volunteer to stay during emergencies. He stated he didn't know about any of the County employees not helping out during an emergency situation. Commissioner Creamer said the County didn't need volunteers during an emergency they needed commitment. Chairman Sanders stated there are certain employees within the Road Department who are on and remain on call during any emergency situation. She said she knew they were on call even when a hurricane was just threatening the County. Mr. Pierce said he didn't have a list of employees who were supposed to stay and assist during emergency situations. Chairman Sanders replied the Road Superintendent, Hubert Chipman, knew who they were and how to reach them if he needed too. Commissioner Creamer said the Assistant Superintendent Larry Brown should know them too. Mr. Pierce said during Hurricane Opal, and he knows this for a fact, everybody left town and there was nobody to operate the equipment. Commissioner Mosconis said there are people "in house" that can operate the equipment. He stated this hasn't been a real problem in the past. Mr. Pierce said he is concerned the Commissioners don't have a policy regarding this matter. Commissioner Mosconis encouraged Mr. Pierce to meet with the EOC Director, Tim Turner, and try to work something out. Commissioner Creamer stated he could understand what Mr. Pierce is talking about. He said the County does need to have certain employees, especially the Supervisors, who know where their employees are during emergencies and how to reach them at any time if they are needed. Mr. Pierce explained he was just trying to get a list or something in writing to know who to call and how to reach them during an emergency. He asked if all of the Solid Waste Department and Public Works Department employees were required, by County Policy, to stay in Franklin County during an emergency situation or not. He said he thought half of them leave. Chairman Sanders said she knew they had designated employees to stay and assist with the clean up. She stated she knew there was machinery in Carrabelle, in

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Apalachicola, in Eastpoint, etc. for emergency situations. Commissioner Putnal said he knew they had a plan and asked Mr. Pierce to talk to Mr. Chipman. Mr. Pierce stated he could state emphatically these employees were not available during the last disaster. Commissioner Mosconis said then Mr. Pierce should get a meeting together and have a list completed after the meeting. Commissioner Creamer said he would talk to Mr. Chipman this weekend. He stated he should be back at the next meeting. Mr. Pierce stated he wanted the Board to know they have many good employees, but he is simply asking the Board to set a policy as to how the County should function during and after an emergency within the County.

(Tape 1-1596) Dan Garlick came into the meeting at this time and Chairman Sanders informed him the Board had discussed the Marshall issue earlier in the meeting. She asked him if he had anything to say about the matter. Mr. Garlick replied he talked to Mr. Marshall and was instructed by him to just wait and let them readdress the request. He stated he had already talked to Paul Johnson, a representative of APECO, about the matter, but did want to wait until he has had a chance to discuss this request with Linc Barnett, APTPA, further. He said waiting to discuss this matter or address this matter could wait and he would let the Board know when he and his client, Mr. Marshall, are ready to re-present this project to the Commissioners. He said it was perfectly all right with him to wait. Chairman Sanders stated she just wanted to make sure it was okay with him and Mr. Marshall.

(Tape 1-1624) Chairman Sanders interrupted Mr. Pierce's report to open bids for the Apalachicola Airport project.

**BIDS-DESIGN BUILD/ADDITION MAIN HANGAR-APALACH AIRPORT**

(Tape 1-1634) Mr. Wade, the Clerk, said his office received two bids as follows: The Ingram Group, LLC in the amount of \$415,200.00 and Poloronis Construction, Inc. in the total amount of \$157,311.00. The Board acknowledged the attendance of the members of the Apalachicola Airport Committee and Mr. Wade suggested the Board allow the Apalachicola Airport Committee to review the bids and furnish their recommendation to the Board as to which company should be awarded the bid. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the Apalachicola Airport Committee to review the bids submitted from The Ingram Group, LLC in the amount of \$415,200.00 and Poloronis Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$157,311.00 and furnish a recommendation to the Board for award of the bid.** Commissioner Creamer seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1722) Commissioner Mosconis informed Ted Mosteller, President of the Apalachicola Airport Committee, he had received a "serious" complaint about the FBO Bill Ruic and the operation of the Apalachicola Airport by a pilot. He stated this pilot told him the FBO, Bill Ruic, threatened him with having F-16's shoot him down. He said the pilot has written a letter to FAA complaining about this situation. He stated the pilot is pretty "ticked off" about the situation. He said he just wanted the Committee to be made aware of this situation. Mr. Mosteller explained security is very important to the local airports. He stated if there is something out of the ordinary that goes on at the

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airport then there is a problem. Commissioner Mosconis stated the story he received is the airport knew the plane was coming into the airport. He said these people told him they were regular customers. He said the pilot told him he felt like he needed to complain to the FAA about the matter. Mr. Mosteller said this was the best thing for the pilot to do, but if it was the incident he knew of, the pilot did communicate to the FBO they were not coming into the airport, then they came in after hours when the gates were closed and locked. He said they supposedly climbed the fence to get out of the airport.

**ALAN PIERCE-CONTINUED**

(Tape 1-1787) Mr. Pierce said he has asked the City of Carrabelle to consult with their engineers and provide the County with a list of roads the water and sewer repairs have been completed on and the City of Carrabelle would like to have paved this fall. He informed the Board the City of Apalachicola has been asked to provide a similar list. He said he hopes to have the lists available within 30 days.

(Tape 1-1804) He stated that last week the Board held a special meeting to consider modifying the County's agreement with FDOT regarding the demolition and exactly what length of the old SGI Bridge they would leave standing for the County on each end of the old bridge. He said no action has been taken by anyone, nor any offers for changes been made in the six days since the meeting. He asked the Board to instruct him on whether the Board should just simplify the issue and ask the FDOT District Office in Chipley if the FDOT is willing to maintain the old SGI Bridge for vehicular traffic from Eastpoint to the causeway. He said if FDOT is not willing to maintain the old SGI Bridge, which is what Harry Buzzett is requesting of the County, then the County would have to consider whether the County taxpayers can afford to maintain a 30-year old bridge for vehicular traffic. He informed the Board Mr. Buzzett is out of town for the next few weeks and before he left he informed Mr. Buzzett of this fact. He explained maintaining the 1.3-mile bridge for pedestrian traffic is another issue. He said Mr. Buzzett wants to maintain the status quo, which means cars. He said Mr. Buzzett told him he had mixed feelings about the value of maintaining the old bridge for pedestrian traffic because he realized most people are not going to walk 1.3 miles with fishing gear to go fishing. He said if a person does do this then they would in all probability not bring much back with them, so the causeway could quickly become an unsightly mess of trash, dead fish, etc. He ask the Board if they wanted him to send a letter to Edward Prescott, P. E., FDOT District Office in Chipley, and simply ask him the question of whether the FDOT would even consider changing the agreement they already have with Franklin County. Commissioner Mosconis said he thought this was a good idea and made a **motion directing Mr. Pierce to send a letter to Mr. Prescott and ask him if the FDOT would even consider allowing Franklin County to change the agreement signed October 19, 1999 accepting a portion of the old SGI Bridge on each end when the old SGI Bridge is demolished and asking FDOT if they are willing to change the agreement so they could maintain the old SGI Bridge for vehicular traffic.**

Commissioner Creamer seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Mosconis said he thought the agreement originally made with FDOT was for 600-feet on each end of the old bridge, but the agreement stated the County would receive six-tenths of a mile on each end. He stated that was a lot of bridge to maintain for

the County. Mr. Pierce said there was desire by the citizens of SGI for a fishing pier on their end too. He stated the reason the County agreed to keep six-tenths on each end was so the people from the SGI side could actually go out far enough to even catch fish. He said the water is so far from the land area on the Island. Commissioner Creamer said if people are on the old bridge, especially on the Eastpoint side, fishing and there are people oystering all under, around, and beneath the pier the oyster harvesters are going to be unhappy about this situation. Commissioner Mosconis agreed this might be a problem. Commissioner Creamer stated oyster harvesters were here first and that is the Board's first priority. Commissioner Mosconis said if FDOT is not willing to do what the County is now asking he would like to see if they would shorten the distance on each end of the old bridge for the County to maintain. He stated there would be a lot of problems with the people fishing and the people on the oyster bars oystering everyday. Chairman Sanders stated her feeling was FDOT couldn't make a decision without discussing the matter with Mr. Prescott or some other person in charge. Commissioner Creamer stated this County could not afford to keep up maintenance on the old SGI Bridge especially for vehicular traffic. Mr. Wade said he checked with Escambia County and found out they lease their fishing pier, which was the old bridge, to a private company for maintenance and operation of the pier. He stated the representative from Escambia County stated the County did try to operate and maintain the old bridge, but it was cost prohibitive. He said even if the County leases the old SGI Bridge to a private entity if they cannot continue to maintain the area the County would have to step forward and pay all of the costs of the maintenance of the bridge. Mr. Pierce said this matter needed to be resolved since the new SGI Bridge Project would be finished around December of this year and the demolition on the old Bridge should begin around November. He stated time is of the essence. Commissioner Mosconis said he would suggest the County advertise bids for operation and maintenance of the fishing pier or the old SGI Bridge portion that remains standing. He stated he could see potential problems with this matter.

(Tape 1-2163) Mr. Pierce reported he had an advertisement published in the local newspaper requesting applications for the vacant Science position on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Ms. Varnes, the Board Secretary, informed Mr. Pierce he had placed the wrong telephone number in the advertisement. She said the ad informs the public interested in this position to call 653-8868 and not the correct phone number, 653-8861. He stated this was the Apalachicola Times telephone number. He said he was sorry, but this was just a mistake. He said the newspaper could tell them the correct number to call.

(Tape 1-2186) He said he wanted to provide the Board with the following executive summary of the public visioning workshops: As the Board is aware over \$100,000.00 in public and private funds are being spent in a Comprehensive Plan Update and a series of visioning workshops. The Comp Plan Update is a requirement of the State; the visioning workshops are a request from citizens who want to provide the Board with their input on a variety of topics, some of which go beyond the Comp Plan. The County has hired the FSU Planning Department, who has in turn contract with the Center for Conflict Resolution, to conduct the Visioning Workshops. Four initial workshops have been held. In total over 500 people have attended these workshops, and over 1,500 hours of the

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public's time has been consumed seeking consensus on a wide variety of topics. A great deal of effort has been expended by the public in learning about the County, and in offering suggestions for making the County a better place. The following are the highlights and points of the steps the County has already taken. The public is very concerned about making sure future growth pays for itself. This includes the Board considering impact fees and other funding mechanisms to maintain County infrastructure. The Board has recognized that economic development is a top concern and has appointed a committee to prepare an optional element to the Comp Plan covering economic development. Funding will be an issue the committee hopes to cover. The public is very concerned about affordable housing. The Board has supported the establishment of a "Habitat for Humanity" and adopted a Resolution allowing for tax credits to be obtained by entities making donations to Habitat as allowed by State law. The Board is also moving forward with an affordable housing project proposed by the St. Joe Company on property near Carrabelle. The public is very concerned about the functioning and structure of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustment. While it is expected a future workshop would be held on the structure of local government in the near future, the Board has recently made several appointments to Planning and Zoning which will help balance out the Commission. The public is very concerned with protecting the environmentally sensitive resources in the County. The Board has always considered the impact of development to the environment when reviewing large developments. The public would like to see closer scrutiny on variances and the BOA appears to be sensitive to this issue, but more work needs to be done in this area. An additional workshop on the County's zoning rules and environmental regulations is also planned in the near future. The public is very concerned with improving the quality of health care in the County. Several years ago, the Board had appointed a Blue Ribbon Panel to review the function of the hospital. Many people think it would be appropriate for the Board to allow another Blue Ribbon Panel to make recommendations to the Board regarding overall improvements to the County's health care structure. Does the Board want to appoint such a panel and if so the possible representatives should be; someone who provides health care; someone who provides health care insurance; someone from the local hospital or emergency room; a member of the general public; and a local employer. He asked if the Board was interested in holding a workshop to learn more about what issues the public are concerned about, and for the Board to begin discussions about the issues. Chairman Sanders said she wanted the Blue Ribbon Panel for the County reactivated since most of the people the Board appointed are still very much interested in serving on the panel. Mr. Pierce replied he would contact the Clerk, Mr. Wade, to see if he could get the group together for a discussion, etc. The Board instructed Mr. Pierce to just keep them updated on the visioning process because they did not want to schedule a public workshop yet.

(Tape 1-2442) Commissioner Mosconis asked Mr. Wade the status of the hospitals rent and tax payments. Mr. Wade replied he didn't check before the meeting, but he would check with the Finance Office. He said he thought their rent was current. He stated he wasn't sure about the taxes.

**KENDALL WADE-CLERK**

(Tape 1-2476) Mr. Wade asked the Board to approve the Chairman's signature on the Application for Revenue Sharing 2003-2004 State Fiscal Year with the DOR. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the DOR Application for Revenue Sharing 2003-2004 State Fiscal Year.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Wade if he knew the amount of money the County was going to be cut due to the recent cuts in the State of Florida Budget. Mr. Wade said he had not received any notification from DOR, but as soon as he did receive something he would inform the Board.

(Tape 1-2504) He said Sheriff Varnes has requested the Board to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Annual Law Enforcement Task Force grant in the amount of \$108,347.00 for funding of the Franklin County Narcotics Task Force. Commissioner Putnal made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the Annual Law Enforcement Task Force grant in the amount of \$108,347.00.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-2538) He reported he had received a letter from Sheriff Varnes requesting the Board approve the donation of the 14-year old phone system, an Electra Mark II with phones, to the Gulf County Port Authority. He stated the letter states the Sheriff has offered the old system to the other entities in Franklin County and nobody has use for this old system. He said, according to the letter, several of the phone cards do not work either. He asked the Board to authorize the donation of this system to the Gulf County Port Authority. He also informed the Board the Port Authority had sent a letter requesting the equipment and also telling the Board they were a government entity in Gulf County. Commissioner Mosconis asked if the Sheriff used this system anymore. Mr. Wade replied "no" he had purchased a new system since this system was so outdated. Commissioner Putnal asked how the Port Authority was going to use it if the County couldn't. Mr. Wade replied it would work for a small company or group, but the parts were very hard to get for repairing the system as well. Commissioner Mosconis said he wanted more information on this matter. He asked Mr. Wade to call and ask Captain McWhinnie, who sent the letter, to come to the Meeting this morning. Mr. Wade replied he would go after he finished his report and call her. Commissioner Putnal said he thought the Road Department of Landfill could probably use the system. Mr. Wade stated he thought the Sheriff had already checked with all of these departments. He said the letter very clearly stated they had checked with the other County groups to see if anyone in the County could use it. Mr. Wade said he would contact the Sheriff and ask him to send Captain McWhinnie to the meeting this morning.

(Tape 1-2622) Mr. Wade said the current Rental Agreement between Franklin County Board of County Commissioners and Tank Recyclers of Georgia, LLC for one year would expire on June 6, 2003. He stated the term of the rental was for twelve months beginning on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 2002 and continuing through and including the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 2003. He said the company leased a portion of the Apalachicola Airport property to store tanks on. He asked the Commissioners whether they wanted someone from the

County, more specifically the Landfill, since this is the type of storage the company rented the property for, check to see the property has been vacated and whether the company left the property cleaned up, etc. He said someone needed to check for spills as well. He stated, above all, he wanted to bring this to the Board's attention this morning. Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Wade if anyone from the company had contacted him about reinstating the rental agreement. Mr. Wade replied he had not heard from anyone from the company about renewing the lease. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion directing a representative from the Landfill to go to the rental site at the Apalachicola Airport to make sure the company, Tank Recyclers of Georgia, LLC, has left the property rented from Franklin County properly cleaned up and restored to it's original state.** Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-2707) He presented the annual Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) Interagency/Public Works Agreements for the period of July 1, 2003 through July 1, 2004 for use of inmates from the Franklin Work Camp for the Chairman's signature. He said one of the agreements is for 5 inmates and the other agreement is for 28 inmates. Commissioner Creamer made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the annual Florida Department of Corrections Interagency/Public Works Agreements for the period of July 1, 2003 through July 1, 2004 for the use of inmates, one for 5 inmates and one for 28 inmates, from the Franklin Work Camp.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-2740) He reminded the Board about the workshop scheduled for tonight at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the reapportionment issues with the Franklin County School Board. He stated this was a joint meeting to listen to public opinion and input about the reapportionment issues facing the County.

**THOMAS M. SHULER-COUNTY ATTORNEY**

(Tape 1-2785) Mr. Shuler said he was prepared to discuss the Sumatra Cemetery issue scheduled for the agenda this morning at 11:30 a.m. He stated this subject was formally scheduled for 11:30 and he would want to wait to discuss any issues regarding the Sumatra Cemetery until that time.

(Tape 1-2817) Commissioner Mosconis informed Mr. Shuler several of his constituents had asked him to have the speed limit on Bluff Road raised from 35 MPH to 40 or 45 MPH. He asked Mr. Shuler if the County needed to contact FDOT to conduct a traffic study in that area. Mr. Shuler replied he had found that Bluff Road, Magnolia Bluff or County Road 65, and all of the Airport Road in Apalachicola's speed limit had been adopted by an ordinance. He said the ordinance was entitled "Franklin County Road Speed Limits", Ordinance 80-2 Franklin County, Florida. He stated the speed limit for these listed roads was set at 35 MPH in the daytime or nighttime. He said he thought the Board could address this speed limit change by an amendment to this ordinance. Commissioner Putnal stated he thought the County Engineer should conduct a traffic study. Commissioner Mosconis said he thought FDOT had done them before for Franklin County on different roads. He stated, he knew, FDOT regulated speed limits on

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County Roads. Mr. Shuler informed the Board he would check into this issue and report back to the Board at the next meeting. He said, since the original speed limit was set by County Ordinance, the speed limit would probably have to be changed by County Ordinance. Commissioner Mosconis instructed Mr. Pierce to have Chris Clark, the County Engineering Technician, to check into the matter as well.

(Tape 1-2923) Commissioner Creamer said he would just like to ask Mr. Shuler if the citizens of Liberty County wanted to purchase the Sumatra Cemetery in Liberty County. Mr. Shuler replied he wanted to wait until the scheduled time for the discussion at 11:30 on the agenda. He said a public notice was in the local newspaper and said he knew a lot of people would be here for the discussion. He said he did think there were people in Liberty County who were very concerned about this cemetery.

(Tape 1-2971) Chairman Sanders said she there was a 35 MPH speed limit from downtown Carrabelle all the way out to the Mill Pond, approximately 4 miles at 35 MPH. She asked if FDOT had set the speed limit in this area. Mr. Pierce said he didn't know whether FDOT had set the speed limit or not. Chairman Sanders asked if this was because of the new prison. Mr. Pierce again said he didn't know whether it was or not. Chairman Sanders stated she remembered the County sent a letter to Mr. Prescott, FDOT, about the speed limit in the St. Teresa Avenue area. She asked Mr. Pierce if he had heard anything from Mr. Prescott about this matter either. Mr. Pierce replied he hadn't heard anything from Mr. Prescott about this road either. Mr. Pierce assured the Chairman and the Commissioners he would check into each of these situations.

(Tape 1-3080) Mr. Shuler again stated the public notice for the issues regarding the Sumatra Cemetery was scheduled for 11:30 a.m. and he would ask the Board to wait until 11:30 before the matter was discussed. He also stated there was a public hearing scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to consider a land use and rezoning for 7.91 acres north of Eastpoint from Rural Residential to Residential.

(Tape 1-3103) Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Pierce if he had very good response from the Visioning Process meetings. Mr. Pierce replied he had a variety of good discussion. He said there were many people concerned about the future issues facing Franklin County. He stated it was a good process and it had helped with offering suggestions for the necessary changes in the Comprehensive Plan Update.

(Tape 1-3275) Chairman Sanders and Commissioner Mosconis both expressed their concerns about the ambulance service, EmergyStat, Inc., not meeting the deadline for the ambulance grant. They stated they were concerned about the County not being able to purchase another ambulance for the citizens. The Board all expressed how happy they were with the service EmergyStat, Inc. is providing for the County. Mr. Pierce said this was a concern for the people involved in the Visioning Workshops. Chairman Sanders stated she had a lot of people who were very pleased with the ambulance service since EmergyStat, Inc. has taken over the service. She said she did hope EmergyStat, Inc. would take advantage of the grant next year so the County could purchase another ambulance for use here in the County. She stated the Commissioners have always



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supported this grant application to the State for the purchase of additional ambulances. She said this is how the County has purchased most of their ambulances in the past.

**PH-LAND USE AND REZONING-7.91 ACRES-RURAL RESI. TO RESI.**

(Tape 2-2) Chairman Sanders said it was time to consider the land use change request submitted by Walter Armistead for 7.91 acres in Section 30, T6S, R7W located North of Eastpoint from Rural Residential to Residential and the rezoning request for the same parcel of land from R-6 Rural Residential to R-1 Single Family Residential. She asked Mr. Pierce to inform the Board and the audience regarding the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Pierce stated the Planning and Zoning Commission had approved this request and so he would ask the Board to approve it as well. Walter Armistead, the owner of the property, said the land was located on Fort Gadsden Creek and backs up to the National Forrest. He stated he was going to use this 7.91 acres and make 5-lots out of it. He said he would have to follow the subdivision process the County requires. Chairman Sanders asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to address this request. After no response Commissioner Creamer made a **motion adopting and authorizing the Chairman's signature on An Ordinance Amending the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan to Change the Permitted Land Use of a 7.91 Acre Tract in Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 7 West Located North of Eastpoint from Rural Residential to Residential.**

Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Creamer made a **motion adopting and authorizing the Chairman's signature on An Ordinance Rezoning a 7.91 Acre Parcel in Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 7 West located North of Eastpoint From R-6 Rural Residential to R-1 Single Family Residential.** Commissioner Mosconis seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-74) Mr. Wade said he would like to update the Board on the hospital rent. He stated they are current with the rental payment, but have not paid their taxes.

(Tape 2-83) Mr. Pierce stated he would like to acknowledge Don Ashley, Florida Wildlife Federation, who was present at the meeting this morning. Mr. Ashley asked to address the Board. He said since Mr. Buzzett was not at the meeting this morning and would be gone for about ten days any decision about the SGI Bridge should be delayed until he gets back and can give the Board some input into the matter. He stated Mr. Buzzett has put in a lot of effort to find an option, which would allow recreational fishermen to use the SGI Causeway. Mr. Ashley said following the Special Meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> he sent out letters with an alternate proposal to about six groups in Florida. He stated he had a response from one. He said the idea is to gather all of the groups together with the State and Federal entities to further discuss these options. He stated he understood the County's concern about liability, etc. He said he didn't have a solution to that problem. He said the Florida Wildlife Federation informed him, by letter, they would support the ideas he proposed in the letter. He stated he hasn't heard anything from 1,000 Friends of Florida, APECO, ABARK, etc., but he would follow through with this matter this week sometime. He said he would like the Board to go ahead and send the letter to Mr. Prescott, FDOT, to see how they feel about the proposal. He stated he

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felt the most important was the involvement of DEP in the decision. He said he understood the issues were access to the causeway by recreational fishermen, etc., the birds, and potential damage done to the Bay caused by the demolition of the old SGI Bridge. He stated there might be some way to minimize these issues and serve all purposes too. He said he was just encouraging the Board to wait until a workshop could be scheduled. Chairman Sanders said she would suggest everyone just wait until a response is provided by the FDOT about this matter. She stated since the County already has a valid agreement with FDOT they might not want to change anything so it is probably a "moot" point. Mr. Shuler interrupted the Chairman at this time to discuss the OAR contract for use of the old SGI Bridge for an artificial reef. He stated he still has the contract, which would allow the OAR group permission to submit the necessary permits to have the bridge demolished. He informed the Board he would hold onto the contract until the Board directs him to send it back to OAR. He suggested holding on to the contract until this matter is resolved.

**CHAIRMAN SANDERS RECESSED THE MEETING AT THIS TIME AND INFORMED THE PUBLIC THE MEETING WOULD BE RECONVENED AT 11:30 A.M., WHICH IS THE TIME THE PUBLIC MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE SUMATRA CEMETERY ISSUES.**

**CHAIRMAN SANDERS RECONVENED THE MEETING AT 11:30 A.M.**

(Tape 2-300) Chairman Sanders said she would reconvene this meeting at this time. She reported to the Board that a representative from the Sheriff's Office, Ginger Coulter, was here to discuss the old telephone system the Board wanted to hold off on making a decision on as to whether to give the old system to the Gulf County Port Authority. She asked Ms. Coulter to address the Board. Ms. Coulter explained, as reflected in the letter mentioned earlier, the Sheriff's Office has replaced their old 14-year old system with a newer one. She said the system is obsolete because the company no longer even makes parts for the telephone. She stated there were only two cards remaining for the system and informed the Board it is a standalone system. She stated it would not work with any other system. She said the phones would not even work if they were placed into a regular phone jack. Commissioner Mosconis asked why the Port Authority would want such a system if it is that bad. Ms. Coulter replied, to be honest, she didn't know, but the Gulf County Port Authority found out the Sheriff's Office was getting a new system. She said they are a new group and trying to start out with a small system. She stated they probably don't have the money to purchase a new system. She said this might be very useful to them. Commissioner Mosconis said he would make a **motion authorizing the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to donate the old Electra Mark II, with phones, to the Gulf County Port Authority.** Commissioner Creamer seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-351) Chairman Sanders said the other item, which needed to be addressed before the public meeting begins is the bid award for the improvements at the Apalachicola Airport. She asked Mr. Mosteller if he was ready to make a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Mosteller said he had reviewed the bids with the Apalachicola Airport Committee and the County Engineering Technician, Chris Clark.

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He stated the group was recommending the Board accept the best and lowest bid submitted by Poloronis Construction, Inc. Mr. Mosteller stated this bid totaled \$157,311.00 and approval of the bid was contingent on the FBO Bill Ruic, financing from the bank and FDOT Joe Smith being able to furnish the funds to complete the project. Mr. Pierce informed the Board this bid was still over budget. Mr. Mosteller replied the project would not move forward until there was proof of financing, etc. Commissioner Mosconis **motion accepting the bid submitted by Poloronis Construction, Inc. in the total amount of \$157,311.00 for the Design/Build Addition to Main Hangar project at the Apalachicola Airport contingent on proof of funds being available to complete the project.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 2-415) Mr. Mosteller informed the Board the FBI, FDLE, FAA, FDOT and the Sheriff's Office would be having a meeting concerning Airport Security this Friday. He invited anyone else who wanted to attend the meeting to come to the EOC Office at the Airport on Friday.

**PUBLIC MEETING-SUMATRA CEMETERY ISSUES**

(Tape 2-435) Mr. Shuler said several months ago the Board instructed him to begin negotiations for the purchase of the Sumatra Cemetery located just inside Franklin County. He stated though these negotiations the owners have agreed to a purchase price of \$10,000.00. He said the owner is Drew Branch, Jr. and the County has received a signed contract with Mr. Branch for the purchase of the property. He stated the meeting this morning is for the Board to discuss the finalization of the contract. He said one of the issues he wanted the Board to be aware of is the resale of the plots within the Sumatra Cemetery following the purchase of the property. He informed the Board there had been some discussion from members of the Sumatra Community who have relatives buried at the Cemetery. He said he wanted these citizens to be able to express their individual opinions to the Board since the Board is the final decision maker. Chairman Sanders said she would allow individuals to address the Board at this time. Earnest Hill, a resident of Sumatra, said he had lived in Sumatra all his life and has had members of his family buried in the Cemetery since 1912. He stated he was glad Franklin County was going to buy the Cemetery. He informed the Board that Cleve Lindsay had been in contact with Mr. Branch this week. He said Mr. Lindsay told him Mr. Branch is willing to sell the Cemetery to the Sumatra Community members if Franklin County would let him out of his contract. He said he did not know this to be a fact, but was told this by Mr. Lindsay. He stated he wanted the County to table any decision to purchase or implement the contract until the Sumatra Community could pursue this matter. He asked the Board to wait for a few weeks at least. He informed the Board the Community would place the Cemetery into a cooperative and they would adopt by-laws, etc. to make sure the matter was handled properly. Commissioner Creamer asked Mr. Shuler if the County had a signed contract for the purchase of the Cemetery. Mr. Shuler replied "yes" the County does. He said the contract has been signed by the seller, Mr. Branch, and is awaiting the Chairman's signature. He said he would be glad to hold the contract until someone from the Sumatra Community contacted Mr. Branch to see if he was willing to sell it to the residents. Commissioner Creamer asked if the County did buy the Cemetery and if the

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residents wanted to buy it from the County what would happen. Mr. Shuler stated he would answer this question in about ten minutes after he thought about it. Tommy Sander, Sumatra, thanked the Board for allowing him to speak to this matter. He said he has many relatives buried in the Sumatra Cemetery. He stated Mr. Branch has always caused a lot of problems about the Cemetery and he would like to see the County purchase the Cemetery. He said he wanted the people of Sumatra to operate and run the Cemetery and if this wasn't possible then he wanted Franklin County to pursue their contract for purchase with Mr. Branch. Rhonda Norred, Sumatra, asked if the Branch's truly owned the Cemetery. Mr. Shuler replied the County had completed a title search on the property and it has been determined the Branch's do own it. Ms. Norred asked if the County does purchase the Cemetery how much would the County charge for burial plots? Commissioner Creamer replied he was a member of the Eastpoint Cemetery Committee and they have a Board, which charges \$250.00 for four plots. Commissioner Williams said he knew it costs \$1,200.00 for four plots in the Magnolia Cemetery in Apalachicola. Chairman Sanders said Carrabelle charges \$200.00 per plot. Commissioner Creamer said the County would have to recoup the actual cost since it would be taxpayers money used to buy the Cemetery. He stated he would think the number of plots that could be sold would be determined first and then the price would depend on how many plots were available. Ms. Norred asked what would happen to people who already had their husband or wife buried their with a double headstone on it. Commissioner Mosconis replied the problem is if the County buys the Cemetery then it would become County property and be opened up to anybody who wants to purchase a plot there. He stated the Sumatra Community wants to protect their interest in the Cemetery, but he knew if the County bought it as a Government entity then the taxpayers of Franklin County would have to be reimbursed. He said at least the County has gotten to the point of knowing who actually owns the land and the owners are now willing to sell the property to the County for a set price of \$10,000.00. Mr. Shuler replied the contract the County has with Mr. Branch is not assignable so the County does not have the option of reassigning the contract to the Sumatra Community. He said the seller did not want to have an assignment clause in the contract. He stated one of two things could be done; it could be purchased by the County and managed by the County as a public cemetery or the County could explore whether the property could be resold to the Sumatra Community in the future. He said he didn't know if the Sumatra Community, as a whole, would qualify under State regulations to purchase real property owned by the citizens of Franklin County. He admitted he really had not researched this matter. He said the County is allowed to purchase the property with taxpayer dollars. Commissioner Mosconis asked if there was a "feeling" that Mr. Branch was not willing to sell the Cemetery to this group. Mr. Shuler replied he did not know and had not had such a conversation with Mr. Branch or his attorney Mr. Randolph. Mr. Shuler stated he wanted the Board to be aware that if the County does not sign this contract within some reasonable period of time Mr. Branch might withdraw the offer. He said then everybody would be back at "square one" once again. Commissioner Putnal asked if the Board could delay one week. Mr. Shuler said he could contact the attorney and see if Mr. Branch would be willing to the delay. Robert Hill, the Liberty County Clerk, asked the Board to allow the community at least a week to contact Mr. Branch personally and see if he would be willing to sell them the Cemetery. Mr. Hill said he would suggest waiting one week, if it wouldn't jeopardize the contract,

FCBCC REGULAR MEETING-JUNE 3, 2003

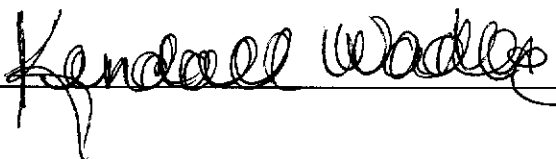
and allow Mr. Shuler to contact Mr. Branch's attorney to see if he was willing to sell the Cemetery to the community. He said Mr. Shuler could at least check to see if the conversation with Mr. Lindsay was official and if he meant it. The Board all agreed this would be the best thing to do if Mr. Branch was willing to wait one week for the County to sign the contract. Mr. Shuler reminded the Board he would do this, but he wanted everyone to know he was the Franklin County-County Attorney and would make sure he protected Franklin County in these discussions. Mary Nell Rogers, Bristol, said she commended the Board for everything they have done to try to get this situation straightened out. She stated as a community they are very concerned about not being able for families to use the Cemetery like they have for many, many years. She said people wanted to be buried with their families if they are already buried there. She stated she again wanted to thank the Board for all of their efforts. Bill Lunsford, a Sumatra resident, stated he and his wife, Nell, would be willing to do whatever is necessary to purchase the Cemetery. He said he built a house last year on "Doyle Creek". He stated they have not made any plans for a burial site, but they would like to be buried in the Sumatra Cemetery. He said he would like to thank Doris Pendleton, the Franklin County Property Appraiser, who has provided him essential information concerning the Cemetery. He stated he and his wife would help the people in the Sumatra Community buy this Cemetery from Franklin County if this is what needs to be done. He said they would be happy to help in any way to remedy this problem. He stated he didn't want just anybody coming to be buried in the Cemetery, since the people already buried there belonged to families in the Sumatra Community. He said he definitely wanted the local people to have control of the Cemetery. Joann Fant, Sumatra, said she wanted the Board to know she appreciated everything they have done for them as well. She stated most of what she wanted to say has already been said this morning. J. Y. Wimberly, Sumatra, reported he had already spent approximately \$4,000.00 on his families plot. He said his first wife is buried there. He stated he would hate to have to buy this all over again, which is his real concern. Commissioner Mosconis said he was sure something could be worked out for people in Mr. Wimberly's predicament. Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Shuler if he had any further comment regarding the issue before the Board since this was all of the public comment. Mr. Shuler said he would like a motion from the Board instruction him to contact Mr. Branch's attorney to see if the Branch's would be willing to sell the Cemetery to the Sumatra Community. Commissioner Putnal said he would now make a **motion authorizing Mr. Shuler to contact the Branch's, the owner of the Sumatra Cemetery, attorney to see if the Branch's would be willing to sell the Sumatra Cemetery to the Sumatra Community and if not authorizing the Chairman's signature on the binding contract the County has with Mr. Branch for the purchase of the Sumatra Cemetery for \$10,000.00.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Mosconis said the community would have to be in control of the Cemetery. He stated he knew everybody was real clear in that the Sumatra Community would be the sole owner of the Cemetery. Commissioner Putnal said he wanted two members from Sumatra added to the Sumatra Cemetery Committee. Chairman Sanders said the current members are Doris Pendleton, Bill Bouington, Willie B. Lewis, and Robert Hill. She stated this would make a committee of six. Commissioner Creamer asked if the motion meant that if Mr. Branch did not want to sell the Cemetery to the Sumatra Community the Chairman could go

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ahead and sign the contract and send it back to Mr. Branch so this matter could be finalized. Commissioner Putnal said this way the County would be assured ownership of the Cemetery, but he would rather see the Sumatra Community own the Cemetery if possible. Commissioner Mosconis said he didn't want the Board to mislead anyone in the Sumatra Community. He stated if the County does purchase the Cemetery then the County Attorney would need to immediately begin researching the law to see how these people could form some sort of entity to purchase the property from the County. He said he sure didn't want to force the County to bid the property out to the general public. Mr. Shuler stated he was very clear on his direction from the Board. He said he would negotiate for the purchase of the Sumatra Cemetery by the Sumatra Community and then if Mr. Branch was unwilling to sell the Cemetery to the Sumatra Community then he is authorized to finalize the purchase of the Cemetery by Franklin County. Chairman Sanders said this would conclude the meeting and thanked all the citizens from Sumatra for coming to the meeting.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD  
THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.**

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

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