

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
JANUARY 6, 2009
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Joseph Parrish – Chairman, Bevin Putnal – Vice Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, Pinki Jackel, Noah Lockley

Others Present: Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Court, 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 Parrish called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge (9:00 AM)

There was a Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes: December 16, 2008 (9:03 AM)

Commissioner Jackel asked that the Minutes be amended to include “the Chronicle will meet the definition of a paper of general circulation” in her motion on page 13 under item 12 of Mr. Pierce’s report and to include Commissioner Sanders recommendation of not pursuing these type of grants due to the hard economic times on page 14 under item 14 of Mr. Pierce’s report.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to approve the December 16, 2008 regular meeting minutes as amended; Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills (9:06 AM)

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to approve payment of the County bills as presented; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Report

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works (9:07 AM)

Mr. Chipman didn't have items for discussion or Board action.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative – Report

Mr. Pierce presented this item from his report as it related to the Public Works and Landfill departments.

Item 9 - For the past 15 months or so the Franklin County Public Works and Franklin County Solid Waste have been using radios that are part of the 800MHz system Sheriff Mock purchased for law enforcement. Each Department has approximately 22 radios, and each radio costs \$14/month for right to operate on the frequency set up by MayCom Communication. While the Sheriff's Office has signed a Wireless Service Agreement (WSA) with MayCom, the Board has been using the radios without a WSA. MayCom has sent me a WSA they would like the Board to sign. It is a 15 year agreement, which is the same length the Sheriff signed. The County Attorney has not reviewed the Agreement.

At this time, the Public Works radios are being billed directly to Public Works, and those invoices are being paid, but Solid Waste radios are being included in the Sheriff's bills, and those have not been paid for the last 12 months. Whether the Board signs the WSA or not, it owes the outstanding balance on the 22 radios Solid Waste/Parks and Rec has had in its possession, which is approximately \$3696. The Finance Dept. will seek funds out of the appropriate Dept. budgets to pay for the radios. My request of the Board is to ask the Department heads to verify that all these radios are necessary because each Dept. has approximately a \$300/month radio bill, which over times adds up. The review needs to include a decision on who needs a radio and a cell phone because some employees appear to have both and unnecessary duplication of communication costs needs to be avoided. Since the Board owns the radios, it can request radios be added or deleted to the WSA at any time, so the change in radio use is not locked in.

Board direction on WSA agreement with MayCom and number of radios in use.

Commissioner Sanders, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Pierce discussed the Solid Waste invoices not being paid.

Commissioner Putnal expressed concerns of signing 15 year agreement.

Commissioners agreed with Mr. Pierce's recommendation to decide who needs radios in each department before considering any service agreements for the radios.

Mr. Johnson stated that the work camp is now requiring inmate supervisors to check in every hour.

Commissioner Lockley wanted to verify that the new Sheriff will continue to use these radios.

Mrs. Johnson stated that some of the cell phones currently in use by the County are not local numbers and are costing the County and would like this situation rectified.

Commissioner Jackel recommended that all of the County's communication should be reviewed at this time and suggested looking toward a company that can provide an entire communication package for the all of the County departments; the other Board members agreed.

Attorney Shuler suggested creating and advertising Request for Proposals.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to agree to Mr. Pierce's recommendation, to have the department heads do a inventory of how many of these 800mhz radios have been purchased by their department, how many radios are needed to be active, pay the past due invoices for the Solid Waste department, and have Attorney Shuler review the MayCom Wireless Service Agreement; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Putnal, to create and advertise Request for Proposals for cell phone service providers for all County departments; Motion carried 5-0.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director - No Action Items (Report to follow) 9:17 am

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

EMPLOYEE TERMINATION NOTICE:

FOR BOARD INFORMATION: In accordance with Board policy, I issued a notice of intent to terminate the employment of a Solid Waste Department employee for failing to maintain his Non-DC Certification to supervise state inmates. Just a heads up, the employee has a right to appeal my decision and maybe be doing so directly to the Board. **ACTION REQUESTED: None.**

DEER CARCASS DISPOSAL:

FOR BOARD INFORMATION: Inmates at the prison in Carrabelle are retrofitting four used dumpsters donated by Waste Management for use in the collection and disposal of deer carcasses. The dumpsters are costing around \$400 each to makeover and once completed we will have to create a schedule and reallocate the appropriate manpower to retrieve the remains on a daily basis. **ACTION REQUESTED: None.**

KENDRICK SPORTS COMPLEX PHASE 4 FRDAP GRANT:

FOR BOARD APPROVAL: I need Board approval to let bids for the construction of tennis courts and a handicap playground area at the Kendrick Sports Complex in Carrabelle. The Phase 4 FRDAP grant, which is a special legislature appropriation, has already been earmarked to pay for the construction. **ACTION REQUESTED: Motion authorizing Parks & Recreation staff to let bids for the construction of tennis courts and a handicap playground area using Phase 4 FRDAP grant funds at the Kendrick Sports Complex in Carrabelle.**

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Putnal, to authorize the Parks and Recreation staff to solicit bids for the construction of tennis courts and a handicap playground area using Phase 4 FRDAP grant funds at the Kendrick Sports Complex in Carrabelle; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Putnal stated that the exercise track at Kendrick Park needed some maintenance and directed Mr. Johnson to address it.

Commissioner Lockley stated that there are parking problems at Lombardi boat ramp and directed Mr. Johnson to erect some parking signs.

Commissioner Parrish stated that the Abercrombie Boat ramp is experiencing the same problems and recommended that the County consider some type of Ordinance in the future to help control parking.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, directing Attorney Shuler to do a draft ordinance that would address parking at the County's boat ramps; Motion carried 4-1, Jackel opposed.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Johnson to start the dune walkovers at Alligator Point as soon as possible, especially before May 1, 2009.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Johnson to get a cost estimate to build a basketball court and pavilions in Lanark village where recycling bins were located.

Commissioner Putnal stated that the creek at Lombardi Boat ramp could use some "digging out" because when tide is low the seafood workers are unable to use the boat ramp to unload. Mr. Pierce said that he would check with Luberto and see if they have any equipment that could dig out the creek and what the cost would be to the County.

Commissioner Jackel complimented Mr. Fonda Davis for his service while Mr. Johnson was on vacation.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report

Mr. Pierce presented this item from his report as it related to the Public Works and Landfill departments.

Item 18 - Ms. Pam Register, EM Director, is attending a required meeting in Tallahassee, but has asked me to present a request to the Board to apply for a grant to build a new EOC. The grant deadline is very short- it is due Feb. 6, and Ms. Register still needs to get the required Needs Assessment out of the state before the county can submit the grant. But assuming she gets the Needs Assessment, the Board needs to identify where it wants a new EOC. The current location at the airport does not meet the flood requirements so if the building were built in its current location it would have to be elevated some, although at this time I cannot say how much. A site needs to be identified because the grant application requires a 25% match, but the county can use the value of the land as match. The maximum grant amount is \$1M and it is competitive among other counties, although many other counties already have new EOCs.

One solution that would provide additional benefits is to put the new EOC at the road department and knock down the old Road Dept. office by the road. With the Road Dept. sharing in construction they could then get new office space. Board direction.

Board discussed this matter further and agreed with Mr. Pierce's recommendation.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to apply for a grant to build an EOC, which will be located where the Road Department's old offices currently are; Motion carried 5-0.

Dan Rothwell – County Engineer (9:30 AM)

Mr. Rothwell presented the following items for the Board's review.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Rothwell if the survey he has been working on at the end of 9th street, at the park, on St. George Island was completed, and what was his findings regarding the fence that was constructed at the west side of that area. Mr. Rothwell will complete the survey and provide his findings at the next meeting.

Commissioner Jackel stated that the County was still waiting for the Corps of Engineers to approve the permit for the Eastpoint boat ramp, and she received an email yesterday from Mr. Jack Husband of Bailey, Bishop, and Lane (BB&L) stating that there was still no word from the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Husband, of BB&L, stated that the Corps has given them a letter of permission to start the dredging and do the work but National Marine Fisheries division has to approve the permit and the permit reviewer will be out until January 12.

Mr. Rothwell commented further on this project.

Item 1 – West Gulf Beach Dr @ Franklin Blvd Drainage:

The construction bid opening is scheduled for this morning and staff will give the Board a recommendation at the next Board meeting.

Item 2 – Ochlockonee Bay Boat Ramp Project:

Florida Department of Transportation has granted Franklin County an extended lease for the ramp property and the data has been forwarded to the St. Joe Company for action.

Mr. Rothwell stated that the extended lease covers all the area that is in the FDOT right of way. Commissioner Sanders directed Mr. Rothwell to contact the St. Joe Company and inquiry as to where they are with this project.

Item 3 – Apalachicola Airport Runway 06/24:

The project has come to substantial completion and will finish after sub-contractor, material men, and design engineer release forms have been submitted.

Item 4 – Indian Creek Park:

Staff is continuing field surveys and construction drawings for the completion of the breakwater, planting and shoreline restoration phase of the project. Test trenches have been made by the Road Department and no archeological issues were uncovered and a preliminary report was submitted to the State. Staff will develop cross section and profile drawings based on the elevation surveys of existing and pre-existing natural grade which were made during the excavation of the trenches. The savings value of the survey estimated at \$3,000.00, the value of

the design and plans is estimated at 10,000.00 and the trench excavation work provided by the Road Department is value is estimated at \$6,000.00.

Item 5 – Squire Road, Peachtree Road and Long Road Drainage Design:
Work on the plans and field marking is still pending prior to starting any Public Works project on these roads. When the plans are completed a recommendation will be submitted to the District commissioner for consideration and approval.

Pam Register – Emergency Management Director (9:35 AM)

Mrs. Register was not present but submitted following items for the Boards review.

1. Mike Rundel has sent correction letters out for the Jan 14, 2009 at 7:00pm meeting for the 911 communications group meeting that will now be held at the EOC.
2. We will be attending the North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force Meeting on January 6, 2009 in Tallahassee which part of our scope of work.
3. January 7, 2009 we will be attending the Regional Evacuations Study meeting.
4. We have schedule an ESF 17 Animal Protection meeting with our county partners and State partners to finalize our animal shelter plan on January 19, 2009 at 2:00 pm at the EOC.

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director - No Written Report (9:35 AM)

Mr. Mahan submitted his report but did not have any items for Board actions.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (9:36 AM)

Mrs. Johnson submitted the following item for Board discussion.

Item 1 – Hospital Sales Tax update

The hospital's sales tax collection for the month of October 2008 totaled \$84,690.69, down from the month before when we collected around \$97,000.00. One-half (\$42,345.35) was placed in the hospital's operational account and the other one-half was placed in their capital fund.

Mr. Pierce discussed some of the items covered during the last hospital board meeting.

Commissioner Putnal stated that he has been receiving complaints about the new tags that are being issued as they smear and make the tag information unreadable.

Commissioner Sanders stated that she has already discussed this issue with Mr. Harris, the Tax Collector, and was told that the State agencies are aware of the problem and working on it.

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report 9:40

Attorney Shuler submitted the following report for Board discussion and approval.

1 – Franklin County vs. South Shoals

I request that you hold an executive session with me January 20, 2009 following your next regular meeting to discuss settlement possibilities and litigation expenses in this case.

Board Action: Motion authorizing me to schedule an executive session

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, authorizing Attorney Shuler to schedule an Executive Attorney-Client Session on January 20, 2009; Motion carried 5-0.

2 – First Horizon Bank vs. William D. Holton (Case #08-563-CA)

This is a mortgage foreclosure in the amount of \$415,000.00 served on me since the last meeting. The County's \$42.00 fire tax lien was recorded before the mortgage and should not be foreclosed. I have filed an answer requesting that the court require the lender to pay the fire tax bill. Usually, I recommend accepting a default because the fire tax liens are typically recorded after the mortgage. In this case, the fire tax lien is superior to the mortgage and should be paid.

Board Action: Motion authorizing me to accept service of process

***** (See Item 3)**

3 – Suntrust Bank vs. Richard Shepard (Case #08-581-CA)

This is also a mortgage foreclosure case in the amount of \$568,000 served on me since the last meeting. The County's \$42.00 fire tax lien was recorded after the mortgage. There is no reason to contest the foreclosure.

Board Action: Motion authorizing me to accept service of process and to allow the court to enter a default against the county

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to authorize Attorney Shuler to accept service of process on the First Horizon vs. William D. Holton case (Item 2) and to accept service of process and allow the court to enter a default judgment on the Suntrust Bank vs. Richard Shepard (Item 3) case; Motion carried 4-1, Putnal opposed.

4 – Alligator Point Property Donation

Mr. Gladwin signed and mailed me the deed conveying one and one-half lots at Alligator Point to the County. The property is located near the old KOA. You have previously authorized the Clerk to pay the \$10.70 needed to record the deed.

Board Action: None recommended

5 – Lot 108, Dog Island Unrecorded Lot (Larry Handman and Monica Handman, his wife)

You recently directed that I contact the Handman's concerning their plan to clean up their house damaged by Hurricane Dennis. Their December 15, 2008 reply letter indicates that they intend to rebuild in the next six months. A copy of the letter is attached.

The second house (Lot 110, Dog Island, Unrecorded owned by Mr. Keuhne) has not responded and on December 31, 2008, I sent them a second notice to inform Franklin County of their plan to either clean up or rebuild the property.

Board Action: None recommended.

6 – Ricardo Jenkins

Mr. Jenkins filed a claim against Franklin County alleging that he was improperly arrested because a capias was not timely recalled. The insurance company has properly denied the claim because both the capias and the arrest are the responsibility of the Sheriff, not the Clerk. A copy of the December 16, 2008 letter from FACT is attached.

Board Action: None recommended.

7 – Lombardi Property

I have forwarded to Mr. Shell, attorney for the seller, the original signed IRS form 8283 and the donation letter. A copy is attached.

Board Action: None recommended.

8 – Weems Hospital Litigation Report

I have provided to your accounting firm the litigation report they requested from me regarding Weems Hospital. A copy of that letter is attached.

Board Action: None recommended.

Commissioner Putnal stated that he has received complaints from local hunters, that even though they have lived here all of their lives, they are unable to hunt on the Warren Creek State property unless they have been picked through the State lottery system, and asked Attorney Shuler to see if anything can be done about it.

Open Bids for the Gulf Beach Drive Drainage System (9:48 AM)

Mr. Pierce opened and read name and amount of the bids.

Duggar Excavating Inc. – \$35,000 - bid bond

Jason White – \$40,912.59 – check

BCL – \$54,649.00 – bid bond

CW Roberts – \$38,720.00 – bid bond

814-Sand Inc – \$51,641.53 – bid status unknown

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to forward the bids to the project engineer for a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (9:54 AM)

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

1- Pass out economic stimulus list submitted to FAC and NACO, and federal elected officials.

2- Remind Board to pick up Probation Officer packets to review as the Board will interview the two candidates at the next Board meeting, Jan. 20.

3- Board action to seek federal elected officials' assistance in getting a response out of FEMA on Alligator Point. The close-out specialist FEMA sent down to assist Franklin County was re-assigned to South Florida shortly after he got here so there has been no response to the letters the Board authorized on October 1 seeking \$5Million dollars to purchase land and relocate the road.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Jackel, to send a letter to the County's legislative delegation to seek assistance in getting a response from FEMA regarding Alligator Point; Motion carried 5-0.

4- Inform Board that Mr. Tommy Speights, DOT Public Relations, did get Phoenix Const. to start lane closures on US 98 after 8:00 AM as the Board asked.

5- Inform Board that it will be opening bids for the St. George Island Boat Ramp Revetment repair on Jan. 20, and for the Carrabelle Airport Road re-surface on Feb. 3.

6- Board direction on a tentative Bay aid meeting (REDI) organized by the Governor's Office. As the Board members are aware, the Bay was closed to shellfish harvesting on Dec. 17, with the threat the Bay would stay closed for sometime due to the heavy rainfall that had occurred north of Franklin County earlier in the week. At the direction of the Chairman I went to the Shellfish Lab on Dec. 19th to seek relief for the workers as the Christmas season is the critical part of the oyster market. That afternoon, Dec. 19th, the Shellfish lab concluded that the Bay could be re-opened.

Also at the direction of the Chairman I inquired with the Governor's Office about the prospect of having another REDI meeting here in Franklin County if the Bay continued to be closed. Ms. Diane Sholtz of the Governor's Office is considering some dates but with the Bay re-opened what is the direction of the Board in regard to a possible REDI meeting.

Commissioner Putnal stated that even if we don't have the meeting at this time, he would like the County to have as much in place as possible so when the need arises, the County will be ready to proceed with the meeting and provide the assistance that will be needed.

Mr. Pierce stated that he will discuss this matter with Ms. Sholtz of the Governor's Office and report back to Board.

7- A resident of Wakulla County has inquired whether he could salvage the copper wire that he believes still to be hanging under the St. George Island Fishing Pier. The individual did not indicate the value of the wire he believes to be there. Board direction.

Chairman Parrish expressed his concerns of any liability the County might face in this request. The Board discussed other issues regarding this request.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to deny this request; Motion carried 5-0.

8- Inform Board that Mr. Bob Landis, filling the position as realtor, has submitted his letter of resignation from the Planning and Zoning Commission. His spot needs to be filled by another realtor. Traditionally the realtor position has come from St. George Island. Ms. Jean Ulrich, a realtor on the Island, has volunteered to fill the position. Board direction.

Commissioner Jackel stated that Ms. Jean Ulrich would do a very good job serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to appoint Ms. Jean Ulrich to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill the position as the realtor left vacant by Mr. Bob Landis; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce stated that there was also a vacancy on the Advisory Board of Adjustment as Mr. Bryant Hand who filled the District 3 seat passed away and Commissioner Lockley is recommending Mr. Mitch Griner to fill that position.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to appoint Mr. Mitch Griner to the Advisory Board of Adjustment to fill the position left vacant by Mr. Bryant Hand; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sanders recommended that the term limit rules be reviewed for all County Boards.

9- For the past 15 months or so the Franklin County Public Works and Franklin County Solid Waste have been using radios that are part of the 800MgHz system Sheriff Mock purchased for law enforcement. Each Department has approximately 22 radios, and each radio costs \$14/month for right to operate on the frequency set up by MayCom Communication. While the Sheriff's Office has signed a Wireless Service Agreement (WSA) with MayCom, the Board has been using the radios without a WSA. MayCom has sent me a WSA they would like the Board to sign. It is a 15 year agreement, which is the same length the Sheriff signed. The County Attorney has not reviewed the Agreement.

At this time, the Public Works radios are being billed directly to Public Works, and those invoices are being paid, but Solid Waste radios are being included in the Sheriff's bills, and those have not been paid for the last 12 months. Whether the Board signs the WSA or not, it owes the outstanding balance on the 22 radios Solid Waste/Parks and Rec has had in its possession, which is approximately \$3696. The Finance Dept. will seek funds out of the

appropriate Dept. budgets to pay for the radios. My request of the Board is to ask the Department heads to verify that all these radios are necessary because each Dept. has approximately a \$300/month radio bill, which over times adds up. The review needs to include a decision on who needs a radio and a cell phone because some employees appear to have both and unnecessary duplication of communication costs needs to be avoided. Since the Board owns the radios, it can request radios be added or deleted to the WSA at any time, so the change in radio use is not locked in.

Board direction on WSA agreement with MayCom and number of radios in use.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

10- Board action to authorize the Chairman to sign two forms related to Medicare reimbursements for the Carrabelle Clinic. One form is to certify that the county, as the owner of the Carrabelle Clinic, will fully abide by the regulations of the Medicare program, and the other is to authorize Mr. Chuck Colvert, Weems Hospital CEO, to submit Medicare claims from the Carrabelle Clinic on behalf of county. Board action.

Commissioner Jackel asked if these documents have been reviewed by Attorney Shuler. Attorney Shuler stated that he would review the forms before the Chairman signs them.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the two forms related to Medicare reimbursement for the Carrabelle Clinic, pending Attorney Shuler's review and approval; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce stated that the Hospital has allocated \$20,000 from their capital improvement funds to purchase equipment for the temporary clinic in Carrabelle which will be transferred to the permanent clinic when it is completed.

11- Inform Board that they are invited to an Open House and tour of the facilities of the new St. James Health and Rehabilitation Center on Wed., Jan. 7, from 4 to 7 PM. This is tomorrow.

Commissioner Putnal was glad that the opening of this facility would create jobs in the County. Commissioner Sanders was concerned that the facility should have adequate beds for residents of Franklin County.

Chairman Parrish stated that the actual ribbon cutting ceremony will be on Thursday.

12- Inform Board that Ms. Lori Switzer, SHIP Administrator, has been informed by the state SHIP program that the disbursement of SHIP funds will be reviewed in the January Legislative Special Session, so it is possible that SHIP funds will be cut. We have not heard whether they will also delay the release of the \$2M in SHIP affordable housing funds the county applied for.

Chairman Parrish expressed his desire for the County to be more proactive on this issue.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Jackel, to send letter to our Legislative Delegation stating how important the SHIP program and funds are to Franklin County; Motion carried 5-0.

13- Provide Board with fully executed lease between DOT and Franklin County for the Ochlockonee Boat Ramp. Commissioner Sanders' influence with DOT got the lease signed and driven down to Franklin County on Dec. 23. I had the Chairman sign it that day and returned to DOT, and a copy to Mr. Bill Wier, St. Joe Company.

14- Provide Board with copy of signed Hurricane Gustav FEMA Public Assistance Agreement. This is the first step to getting FEMA funds. In past disasters these agreements are usually signed within 30 days of the disaster, so it is very unusual that it has taken FEMA six months to get these documents to the counties to sign.

15- Inform Board that the Florida Public Service Commission did respond to the Board's letter about the recent Progress Energy rate increase. The PSC acknowledges that it approved a 24.67% rate increase effective Jan. 2009. Two salient statements in the two page letter are: "...if Progress Energy's fuel costs for 2009 turn out to be less than what they collect through rates by more than 10%, the Progress Energy must report this to the Commission and the Commission can consider a fuel rate decrease..." and "The Commission has required Progress Energy to submit a report in early March providing a comparison of fuel rates and fuel costs, so the Commission can take potentially take action early in the year if it looks like Progress Energy is over-recovering."

The letter then goes on to discuss the connection between rates and the construction of additional nuclear power plants, "While it is expected that bills will continue to increase as construction of the nuclear power plants progresses over the next 10 years, Progress Energy customers will see significantly lower fuel costs once those plants are placed in service..."

Commissioner Putnal stated that it was unfair that the rate increase was based on fuel price increases but the rates were not decreased when fuel prices went down.

16- Inform Board that the ARPC is requesting the Board name appointments to the ARPC for County Elected, and Alternate for 2009. The ARPC will consider current appointees as members until new appointments are made. The current appointment is Commissioner Sanders. Board direction.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to appoint Commissioner Jackel as County elected representative to the ARPC; Motion carried 5-0.

17- Inform Board that the publically advertised Franklin County 911 Communications Group meeting has been moved to Jan. 14th, at 7 PM, at the EOC Bldg at the Airport. All commissioners are invited to attend.

18- Ms. Pam Register, EM Director, is attending a required meeting in Tallahassee, but has asked me to present a request to the Board to apply for a grant to build a new EOC. The grant

deadline is very short- it is due Feb. 6, and Ms. Register still needs to get the required Needs Assessment out of the state before the county can submit the grant. But assuming she gets the Needs Assessment, the Board needs to identify where it wants a new EOC. The current location at the airport does not meet the flood requirements so if the building were built in its current location it would have to be elevated some, although at this time I cannot say how much. A site needs to be identified because the grant application requires a 25% match, but the county can use the value of the land as match. The maximum grant amount is \$1M and it is competitive among other counties, although many other counties already have new EOCs.

One solution that would provide additional benefits is to put the new EOC at the road department and knock down the old Road Dept. office by the road. With the Road Dept. sharing in construction they could then get new office space. Board direction.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

19- The Board has received an invoice for \$696 from Ms. Eileen Annie Ball for services rendered to the Franklin County Library after Ms. Judi Rendell left. This covers through Dec. 30, and is for \$696. Board action.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to authorize payment for Ms. Eileen Annie Ball's invoice for services rendered to the Franklin County Library; Motion carried 5-0.

20- The City of Apalachicola would like Board support for a Local Arts Agency the county's arts and cultural constituencies. Attached to my report is a letter from Mayor Van Johnson listing the names of people who have agreed to serve on a Local Arts Agency. This list can be changed as more people interested in the Arts become known.

Chairman Parrish, after reviewing the listing of names, stated that he thought the County was well represented.

Commissioner Jackel asked if there was any limit to how many people can serve on this committee.

Mr. Joe Taylor, representing the Local Arts Agency, stated that there is no limit to the membership and explained that the list submitted was only a starting point for this program and explained the program further.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she would like a more even representation, from across the County, of the membership, and asked what process was used to form the current group.

Mr. Taylor explained that the original group was formed for and in the City of Apalachicola, but as the group wanted to progress it was necessary to expand County wide.

Commissioner Sanders agreed with Commissioner Jackel, that there should be more representation from Carrabelle and the eastern end of the County.

Commissioner Lockley stated that he wanted a County Commissioner to be part of the membership.

Commissioner Jackel asked if there would be any other groups in the County competing for these same funds.

Mr. Taylor explained that this group would act more like an umbrella organization and will coordinate with other agencies within the County seeking funding.

Ms. Joyce Estes, a member of the group, explained the County has not received its fair share of funding in the past for local arts from GALA, but by forming this organization other groups in the County will have better access for funding and grants. Ms. Estes said that there is room on the new library site for an arts and museum building.

Commissioner Jackel wanted confirmation that other agencies in the County wouldn't have to come through this organization for any type of funding or grants that they might identify.

Mr. Taylor and Ms. Estes explained that as far as they know, only DCA grants funding will have to come through this organization and explained that Franklin County has been grouped with Gulf County for funding but has never gotten its fair share of that funding.

Chairman Parrish discussed an email he got explaining GALA, which is a Gulf County organization, wanted to team with Franklin County because of our status of critical concern which would allow more grants and funding, but wanted all of the funding received to be spent in Gulf County. Chairman Parrish, continuing his statement, stated this is why he supported this organization because it would allow Franklin County to apply for and receive its own funding for arts, and as stated by Mr. Taylor, didn't think that expansion of the membership would be a problem.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to support the Local Arts Agency, subject to the submission of a plan to the Board that will state how the membership will be opened, so that there is fair representation throughout the County, and direct Attorney Shuler to instruct this organization of their obligations to adhere to the Sunshine Laws, be involved of the drafting of their by-laws, and explain that they cannot apply for grants or otherwise commit the County without Board authorization; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to direct Mr. Pierce or representative from his office to serve on this organization; Motion carried 5-0.

22- The Airport Advisory Board requests that Mr. Pal Rivers, former Clerk of Court, be recognized for his role at the airport by having the road that runs along the eastern boundary of the airport, from the round-about to Bluff Road be renamed Pal Rivers Road. Board action, and at the appropriate time there will be some sort of recognition of this so we hope the news media does not broadcast this Board action.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to recognize former Clerk of Court Mr. Pal Rivers for his role in having a road that runs along the eastern boundary of the airport, by renaming from the round-about to Bluff Road to Pal Rivers Road, with appropriate signage; Motion carried 5-0.

Recess (10:34 AM)

Chairman Parrish called for a recess.

Reconvene (10:50 AM)

Chairman Parrish reconvened the meeting.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report – Continued (10:50 AM)

23 – Letter from Attorney Nick Yonclas, representing Mr. Ben Withers, protesting the awarding of the Eastpoint Boat Ramp project to any other contractor but him.

Mr. Pierce stated that a contract has not been signed as yet.

Attorney Shuler recommended that the Board direct Mr. Pierce to conduct a bid protest hearing and then present the results at a future meeting when the Board could make a decision based on the information presented.

Attorney Shuler reminded the Board that the representative from Bailey, Bishop, and Lane stated earlier in the meeting that the County is still waiting for permits before proceeding with this project, so there is no rush at this time.

Commissioner Jackel asked if there are any requirements that must be met by someone protesting a bid before a bid protest hearing is scheduled and asked Attorney Shuler to investigate if these requirements were met. Attorney Shuler discussed some of the requirements for a bid protest hearing.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to direct Mr. Pierce to conduct a bid protest hearing, if Attorney Shuler determines that all requirements where met to conduct this hearing; Motion carried 5-0.

21- Board action on advertisement for Veteran's Affair Assistant. Present proposed ad to the Board and memo from Ms. Lucy Turner, Labor Attorney.

Mr. Pierce distributed Lucy Turner's memo along with the advertisement for the position, which was done based on the memo, to the Board.

Mr. Pierce read the memo.

Mr. Scott stated that he felt that the requirements in the ad are more than what he really needs and explained why, but wanted to have a say in who was hired.

The Board explained to Mr. Scott that if they were going to create a new County position so that he could have an assistant, they wanted someone who would be qualified to fill his position whenever he decides to retire.

The Board, Mr. Pierce, and Attorney Shuler discussed the position including the hourly pay rate. Mrs. Doris Pendleton explained that she needed to get the employee back that she temporarily assigned to Mr. Scott to assist him, but if someone is needed in an emergency either she or her chief deputy could assist Mr. Scott.

Mr. Pierce stated that he will use someone from his office to assist him until the interview and hiring process is over.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to accept Ms. Lucy Turner's, the County's Labor Attorney, recommendation, accept and publish the advertisement for a Temporary Part-Time Veteran's Affair Assistant, not to exceed 29 hours per week, until the end of the 2008-2009 budget year, with all of the applications being submitted to the Clerk's Office, and Mr. Scott will submit all of the qualified applicants to the Board, then the Board will interview and hire a candidate; Motion carried 4-1, Lockley opposed.

Commissioners' & Public Comments (11:35 AM)

Mrs. Denise Butler, of the Franklin County Library Board, recommended Ms. Glenda Kaye Ondracek to fill the position as the new Franklin County Library Director. Ms. Butler stated that Ms. Ondracek's annual salary will be \$35,000, will start her employment on January 13, 2009, and this decision was a unanimous decision by the Library Board. Ms Butler explained the process the Library Board used to interview for this position.

Mrs. Ondracek introduced herself to the Board.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to accept Mrs. Butler's recommendation to hire Ms. Glenda Kaye Ondracek to fill the position as the new Franklin County Library Director; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jackel informed the other Board members that she will be out of town attending the new commissioner conference for the remainder of the week.

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Pierce discussed the employment opportunity provided by the Gulf Coast Workforce Board by offering a scholarship for auto mechanics and aircraft maintenance. Mr. Pierce said he has made contact with Mr. Frank Stephens and when he gets more information he will post it in the local newspaper.

Cheryl Turner presented the Wilderness Coast annual report to the Board.

Adjourn (11:41 AM)

There being no further business Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting.

Swearing In Ceremony (11:42 AM)

Judge Russell swore in the following Constitutional Officers

Mrs. Ida Elliot – Supervisor of Elections

Mrs. Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Court

Mrs. Doris Pendleton – Property Appraiser

Mr. Skip Shiver – Sheriff

Sheriff Shiver swore in his Under-Sheriff
Joel Norred – Under-Sheriff

Joseph A Parrish, Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M Johnson, Clerk of Courts