

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
FEBRUARY 3, 2009
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Joseph Parrish – Chairman, Pinki Jackel, Cheryl Sanders, Noah Lockley Jr

Commissioner Absent: Bevin Putnal – Vice Chairman

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

Call to Order (9:00 AM)

Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge (9:01 AM)

There was a Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Payment of County Bills (9:05 AM)

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the payment of the County's bills as presented; Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of the Minutes: January 20, 2009 Regular Meeting 9:05

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to approve the January 20, 2009 meeting minutes; Motion carried 4-0.

**Bill Williams – Gulf County Commissioner & Carter Johnson – Congressman Boyd's aide:
Discuss Congressman Boyd's Health Care council meeting (9:06 AM)**

Commissioner Williams of Gulf County, who serves as Chairman of Congressman Boyd's Health Care Council, asked the Board to reappoint Commissioner Lockley as Franklin County's representative on the Health Care Council. Commissioner Williams also discussed some of the earlier and proposed actions of the council, who will be attending the next council meeting, and what will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Mr. Carter Johnson, Representative Boyd's aide, also discussed the Health Care Council.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to reappoint Commissioner Lockley, as the County's representative, to Congressman Boyd's Health Care Council; Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Parrish stated that he would be traveling with Commissioner Lockley to the council meetings.

Mr. Pierce stated that Chuck Colvert, Weems Hospital CEO, will also be attending the council meeting.

Commissioner Williams discussed some of the activities at the next scheduled meeting.

Commissioner Jackel invited Congressman Boyd to attend a County Commission meeting when his schedule allows.

Commissioner Lockley stated that Franklin County will be requesting an additional Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) at the council meeting and wanted Congressman Boyd to assist the County as much as possible with this request.

Chairman Parrish discussed the recent Board actions to expand the County's health care services.

Commissioner Lockley explained that the length of the County and declining economy restricts what health services are available to the community, and the Board passed a healthcare surtax to try to improve healthcare in the County, but more assistance is needed.

Commissioner Williams discussed some other options for improving health care in the County, including Representative Patronis' influence as Chairman of a health care committee.

Mr. Pierce stated that the Hospital Board discussed expanding the FQHC services in the County, especially on the eastern end of the County, but a funding amount was not discussed.

Mr. Williams explained how a FQHC is funded, and how the County could go about requesting these funds, discussed how other counties were able to receive this type of funding, and promised to help the County with this request.

Commissioner Lockley stated that he has not been satisfied with the current FQHC in the County, as their patients were not being referred to Weems Hospital for services, and wanted and expected more of a cooperative effort from the local FQHC.

Mr. Pierce explained some of the other problems with the local FQHC.

Commissioner Williams explained what role he would play in the process and encouraged the Commissioners to talk to commissioners from other counties, such as Liberty County, that have been through this process, as it is not restricted by the Sunshine Law.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, directing County staff to work with Commissioner Williams of Gulf County on the request for the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that

will be presented at Congressman Boyd's next Health Care Council meeting; Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Williams suggested that Commissioner Lockley contact Mr. Doug Kent, Gulf County's Health Department Director, and get as much information as possible since Gulf County successfully went through the process of applying for a FQHC. Commissioner Williams stated that he would forward any information he has to Commissioner Lockley and then suggested scheduling a workshop with the Board of County Commissioners and the Hospital Board to discuss this matter before the Congressman's health care council.

Allan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services - Report

4- Provide Board with copy of letter to Rep. Boyd regarding FEMA and Alligator Point that the Board authorized at the Jan. 3 meeting. I held off sending the letter after advising FEMA staff they had until the end of January to get some action out of their agency. No action has occurred.

Mr. Pierce hand delivered the letter to Mr. Carter Johnson.

Department Supervisor Report

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works – (9:22 AM)

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report

Mr. Pierce presented the following item from his report.

Item 9- Provide Board with list of county employees and the types of communication equipment assigned to the employee. After consulting with the Road Dept. and Solid Waste the following reductions in communication costs have been reached. Six radios and two cell phones have been turned off in the Solid Waste/Parks and Rec budget. One cell phone is no longer in use in the Building Dept. The Road Dept. has only one spare radio and that is currently on loan at the EOC. Some of the men at the Road Dept. are using their own cell phones for communications but that is their choice; they have all been provided radios. As it stands now, the county pays for 19 cell phones for county employees, but there are no criteria, or policy, for who needs a county cell phone.

Mr. Pierce distributed a list of County employees that currently have radios and cell phones.

Chairman Parrish discussed a conversation he had with Warden Harrison regarding a requirement to have two types of communication for inmate crews. The Chairman stated that County inmate supervisors need to notify the work-camp if they are planning to work in an area where communication will be a problem so that other safety measures could be taken.

Commissioner Sanders was against any county inmate supervisors using their personal cell phones as a source of communication while they are working.

Commissioner Lockley stated that he would prefer that the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) have their own radio and return the one that they are borrowing from Road Department.

Mr. Chipman stated that he could give the EOC the base station that is currently located at the Road Department, as it is not used by the Road Department, in exchange for the handheld that the EOC currently has.

Chairman Parrish suggested discussing this matter at the February 11, 2009 communication meeting and asked Mr. Pierce to invite Warden Harrison, the new warden, who wants to attend all of the communication meetings.

Commissioner Jackel asked what other criteria should be used to determine what other County employees get cell phones.

The Board, Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. Pierce discussed possible options regarding the communication issue.

Chairman Parrish suggested that the Commissioners review the list that Mr. Pierce distributed earlier, and at the next meeting Mr. Pierce set aside some time on the agenda where the Board could discuss the communication matter.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Chipman and Mr. Rothwell to look into the Timber Island boat ramp because anyone using the boat ramp gets stuck if they back up too far.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:34 AM)

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

ITEM #1 - ST. GEORGE ISLAND COUNTY PARK:

*FOR BOARD INFORMATION: On January 27, staff completed the repairs to the playground equipment at the County Park on St. George Island, making the Park fully accessible to the public as of that date. **ACTION REQUESTED: None.***

ITEM #2 - DEER CARCASS DISPOSAL:

*FOR BOARD INFORMATION: As of January 16, Solid Waste and Animal Control personnel have collected and disposed of 41 animal carcasses at the newly installed Deer Carcass Disposal sites. **ACTION REQUESTED: None.***

ITEM #3 - CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATES:

FOR BOARD INFORMATION: As requested by Commissioner Sanders at the January 6 meeting, following are cost estimates for the construction of a basketball court and a pavilion at the old recycling site in Lanark Village using Inmate labor.

1-50'x84'x4" Basketball Concrete Court	- \$5,200
(Estimate provided by Brooks Concrete Service)	
1-World Class Playing Surface (Three Coats)	- \$4,500

<i>(Estimate provided by McLean Tennis, Inc.)</i>	
1-Pair of Heavy Duty Gooseneck Basketball System	- \$1,350
<i>(Estimate provided by Collegiate Pacific Sales Catalog)</i>	
1-10'x10' Covered Pavilion -	- \$ 700
<i>(Estimate provided by Taylors Building Supplies)</i>	
1-10'10'x4" Concrete Slab -	- \$ 400
<i>(Estimate provided by Brooks Concrete Service)</i>	
2-Pinac Tables –	- \$ 400
<i>(Estimate from Recent Construction)</i>	
2-Outdoor Park BBQ Grills -	- \$ 450
<i>(Estimate provided by Belson Outdoors)</i>	
1 – Miscellaneous/Contingency	- <u>\$2,000</u>
<i>(Estimate for framing lumber, rentals, saw blades, freight to ship basketball system, price fluctuations, etc.)</i>	
TOTAL COST TO CONTRUCT:	- \$15,000
ACTION REQUESTED: None.	

ITEM #4 - COMMUNICATION:

FOR BOARD INFORMATION: *As instructed by the Board at the January 6 meeting, I have reevaluated the communication needs of the various departments under my supervision. At this time, I have determined with less employees our communication needs have decreased over time. With that, I have ordered the cancellation of six - 800 megahertz radios, two – cell phones and the accompanied insurance. Management and staff will continue to do our part during this economic downturn to ensure that we deliver the most efficient and economic services to the Board and citizens of Franklin County as possible. **ACTION REQUESTED: None.***

ITEM # 5 - LANARK VILLAGE RECYCLING SITE:

FOR BOARD ACTION: *I received a letter from Mr. Carl Updyke, Chairperson of the Lanark Village Association concerning the recycling facility located in Lanark. The association is asking that the County provide a cardboard container with smaller openings to discourage the disposal of household garbage at the site and the subsequent visits by bears looking for food.*

*When we established the site at St. James, we purchased containers that required recyclers to flatten the boxes before placing them inside. With Board approval, we would like to let bids for the purchase of similar containers for Lanark using a portion of the \$180,000 set aside for capital outlay in the Solid Waste Management Grant. The estimated cost for two containers including freight is \$12,000. **ACTION REQUESTED: Motion approving bids for the purchase of two cardboard recycling containers with small openings for the Lanark Village recycling site.***

Commissioner Sanders stated that she attended the Lanark Village association meeting and when the recycling site was discussed it was suggested that restricting access to the recycling area at night might help solve the problem and there might not be a need for the containers.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to coordinate with the Lanark Village Association and create a schedule that would allow the recycling area to be closed at night, which might discourage the disposal of household garbage and visits by bears at the site; Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she would get with Mr. Johnson this week to discuss a recycling site in Eastpoint.

Chairman Parrish reminded Mr. Johnson that the Legislative appropriation that the County received for Lombardi Park included requirements for recreational items and wanted the County to move forward with fulfilling these requirements, even if we have to go out for bids. Mr. Johnson recommended bidding out this portion of the project because inmate labor is not available for this type of work.

Commissioner Lockley stated that since kayaking is one of the recreational requirements in this project, wouldn't the County need to move forward with digging out the ditch that is in the launch area.

Chairman Parrish stated that even though kayaking doesn't require as much water he agreed that at some point the County would have to dig out the ditch and wanted staff to see if this could be considered a mosquito control ditch which might avoid some of the permitting procedures, and he hoped that by putting this project out on bid it would help give a small economic boost to the community. The Chairman told Mr. Johnson that while he is developing the specs for this bid, do not hesitate to contact the Board members or County staff for assistance.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to have Mr. Johnson start the process of fulfilling the recreational portion of the Lombardi Park project, and dig out the ditch at the launch area and at the observation point at Lombardi's Park; Motion carried 4-0.

Attorney Shuler recommended putting bio-hazard signs on the deer carcass containers.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to authorize Mr. Johnson to post bio-hazard signs on the deer carcass containers located in the County; Motion carried 4-0.

The Board expressed their satisfaction of the frequent use of the containers.

Dan Rothwell – County Engineer (9:44 AM)

1. BOARD ACTION: Indian Creek Park Department of Environmental Protection permit:

The staff requests the Board to authorize the Chairman to sign a dredge and fill, to allow payment of the \$100.00 permit fee, and to designate the County Engineer as the County's agent for this project.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, authorizing the Chairman to sign a dredge and fill permit, authorize the payment of the \$100.00 permit fee, and designate the County Engineer as the County's agent for the Indian Creek Park project; Motion carried 4-0.

2. Indian Creek Park:

Staff is still working on the construction plan for the breakwaters and the marsh grass planting area.

3. West Gulf Beach Drive Drainage:

The notice to proceed has been delivered and the material submittals reviewed and returned to the contractor. The contractor's surveyor should complete stake out his week.

Mr. Rothwell asked Mr. Jack Husband, of Bailey, Bishop, and Lane, to present some of the options to the Board, which he and Commissioner Jackel discussed previously, to use some of the leftover funds from the grant the County received for the Eastpoint boat ramp project.

Attorney Shuler recommended a meeting with Mr. Husband, Mr. Pierce, and Attorney Shuler to review these items and present a contract to the Board for approval.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, directing Mr. Husband, Mr. Pierce, and Attorney Shuler, to meet, review the items as described by Mr. Husband, and create a contract, which will include these items for Board approval; Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Husband gave an update on Eastpoint boat ramp project stating that the National Marine Fisheries (NMF), which is a division of the Corps of Engineers, is the holdup with the permitting process, but the Corps will implement a rule on March 15 that will give the NMF two months to complete the designation or determination process on a site, and if they don't, the Corps will proceed with the permitting process. Mr. Husband also stated that the Corps told him that they will consider issuing the permit on March 15 if it hasn't been issued before then.

The Board and Mr. Rothwell stated that this rule will also affect other projects, which should be good for the County.

Mr. Husband gave some specifics on the oyster shell footpath and the parking area as Commissioner Lockley had expressed some concerns.

Commissioner Jackel stated that additional parking will be needed in the near future, because there is an overflow parking problem now, and that the existing dock will be repaired and refurbished after the construction is over.

Commissioner Sanders asked if the St. Joe Company has responded to the County regarding the Ochlocknee Bay boat ramp.

Mr. Rothwell said that of this date they have not.

Commissioner Sanders recommended sending the St Joe Company a letter regarding this project, since they are the reason why this project is not moving forward, and this project is grant funded with a timeline.

Mr. Rothwell gave some details on the timeline of the project and that the St. Joe Company has had the necessary documents for over a month.

Chairman Parrish stated that it should be a strong letter with all of the facts, including the timeline, and inform them that they are the reason why this project is not moving forward.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to send the St. Joe Company a letter regarding the Ochlocknee Bay boat ramp project, with all the necessary information and timeline, and with strong wording informing the St. Joe Company that they supported the grant for this project but now they are hindering the progress of the project; Motion carried 4-0.

Pam Register – Emergency Management Director (9:55 AM)

- 1. February 11, 2009 at 6:00 PM, the Franklin County 911 Communications Group meeting will be held at the St. George Island Firehouse East Pine St.*
- 2. February 1st-7th is Hazardous Weather Awareness Week the state will be conducting a tornado drill on the 4th and our office will observe the Franklin County School and ABC school for this drill.*
- 3. The All Hazard Workshop for the business, homeowners associations and citizens who live on the islands in our county is scheduled for March 10, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the Eastpoint Firehouse, 24 6th St. Eastpoint.*
- 4. Mike and I will be attending the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association Conference for training courses from February 12-13. Mike will be attending the Hazard Mitigation application Development workshop and I will be attending the Recovery from Disaster course.*

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report

Mr. Pierce presented the following item from his report.

Item 6- Inform Board that at the authorization of the Chairman, and because of the onset of cold weather, the bid was awarded to Gunn Heating and Air for the work at the EOC last week. Gunn Heating and Air became the only qualified bidder as the other bidder did not have all their paperwork in order and could not have started the job immediately.

Chairman Parrish stated that he asked staff to expedite this project, because he was attending a meeting at the EOC recently at about 1:30pm and they were using many space heaters to keep the area warm, and the County would be experiencing colder weather later in the week.

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (9:57 AM)

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

Commissioner Jackel was pleased with the manner in which the flounder issue was resolved.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report

Mr. Pierce presented the following item from his report.

3- Inform the Board that FWC called last week to assure the Board that they are not considering any rule changes for floundering. They admitted that their agenda was misleading.

William Scott – Veteran's Affair Director – (9:58 AM)

Mr. Scott distributed the list of applicants and discussed the applicant's qualifications.

Mr. Scott recommended Mr. Charles Galloway for the assistant veteran's service officer position based on his experience.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to accept Mr. Scott's recommendation and hire Mr. Charles Galloway as the County's assistant veteran's service officer; Motion carried 4-0.

Open Bids: Carrabelle Airport Road (10:02 AM)

Mr. Pierce opened and read the bids.

GAC – \$287,207.07 – Bid Bond

C W Roberts – \$239,080.60 – Bid Bond

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to forward the bids to Preble-Rish, the project engineers of record, for a recommendation; Motion carried 4-0.

Lee Lewis – AVCON & Ted Mosteller – Chairman of the Airport Advisory Board: Presentation of Proposed Airport Hanger (10:04 AM)

Mr. Lewis, of AVCON, did a presentation on a proposed corporate hangar program at the Apalachicola Regional Airport. Mr. Mosteller was also present.

Chairman Parrish stated that he expressed to the airport committee at the last meeting he attended that it was very important for the Airport to become self sustaining, especially

because of the hard economic time the County was presently facing. Chairman Parrish stated that he preferred the 10,000 square feet hangar with 4,000 square feet of office space option, as the office space is a good revenue generator. The Chairman complimented Mr. Lewis on the work AVCON has done thus far on this project.

Commissioner Sanders also complimented Mr. Lewis on the work AVCON has done, including the format of the presentation that was done today. Commissioner Sanders agreed with the Chairman that 4,000 square feet of office space is needed in the hangar, and was glad that AVCON was keeping their promise of trying to create economic opportunities at the airport. Chairman Parrish thanked Mr. Lewis for keeping the Board informed as to the progress of this project.

Recess (10:26 AM)

Chairman Parrish called for a recess.

Reconvene (10:37 AM)

Chairman Parrish reconvened the meeting.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (10:37 AM)

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

Item 1-Recently when the Sheriff's Dept. was in the process of completing applications for grants, it was discovered the County needed to re-adopt its Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEO). The policy statement comes straight out of your personnel policy and says "Franklin County is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners to comply with all federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, or any other status or condition protected by applicable state or federal laws. All employment decisions, including, but not limited to recruitment, hiring, and promotion, shall be made without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, or any other status or condition protected by applicable state or federal laws." I need a motion to adopt the EEO Short Form which outlines the policy, objectives, steps, and the dissemination of the same. I would also ask for a motion approving the Chairman's signature on the certification forms for two separate grant applications for the Sheriff's Department: 1- a \$32,795 application for the narcotics unit and 2- a \$1000 application for traffic safety equipment.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to adopt the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan that was presented by Mrs. Johnson; Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the certification forms for the \$32,795 and the \$1000 grants for the Sheriff's Department; Motion carried 4-0.

Item 2- For information, we received \$72,036.42 for the month of November in revenues from the Hospital Sales Tax. We deposited one-half (\$36,018.21) into the hospital's operating account, and the other one-half into the Capital Fund. Currently, the Capital Fund has a total of \$552,515.47. The amounts collected have decreased. September's revenues were around \$97,000 and October's revenues were around \$85,000.

Mr. Pierce stated that the Hospital Board has discussed this matter at their last meeting and is confident that they will meet their goal of \$1.5 million.

Item 3 – I received a request from the Health Department to get your approval to add a new fee to their 08-09 Fee Schedule. The fee would be \$27.00 to receive a fluoride varnish application on teeth. The Health Department stated they were starting a new program for children ages 6 months to 4 years to receive these new fluoride treatments for teeth. The Board approves the fees the Health Department charges for services they provide.

Chairman Parrish stated that this is a new service that is being offered for the children of the County by the Health Department.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve the request from the Health Department to add a new \$27.00 fee for a fluoride varnish application to their 08-09 Fee Schedule; Motion carried 4-0.

Item 4 – I met with the County Departments and Constitutional Officers to discuss our economic situation and suggested everyone be cautious with spending and look for ways to cut costs.

Mr. Pierce stated that hopefully the Property Appraiser will be present at one of the meetings in March to discuss the preliminary tax base amounts.

Chairman Parrish stated that after talking to the finance department it appears that County departments are making an effort to reducing spending.

Mr. Pierce stated that when the Board implemented the hiring freeze, it was one of the biggest factors in reducing spending.

Commissioner Sanders asked if municipal code link on the website included all the updated information.

Mrs. Johnson stated that the information in municipal code was current and at the meeting each office was asked to look at the County's website and send any information that needs updating on the website to her office.

Commissioner Lockley asked if there was any new information regarding Dr. Miniati and the old health department building.

Mrs. Johnson stated that there was no new information at this time and that there was a possibility that the Hospital Board would get involved in the negotiations.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (10:46 AM)

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

Item 1- Update on economic stimulus package and impact to Franklin County:

A) Inform Board that FDOT has contacted the county about what projects the county might seek funding for if federal stimulus funds become available. I submitted a request for \$125M for road paving. Mr. Keith Shores, FDOT, said that the county might have to prioritize the list, so commissioners need to be thinking about what roads in their districts they need paved first in the event the whole list is not funded. In discussion with Commissioner Sanders it is my understanding the FDOT had asked for \$7B for transportation projects and the House version of the stimulus package only allocated \$1.4B to Florida so prioritization is likely.

B) Commissioner Jackel has brought to my attention the need to contact Senators Nelson and Martinez to support the inclusion of funding for public libraries in the stimulus package. Many Americans, especially when they are looking for work, utilize services available at public libraries. Board action.

Chairman Parrish expressed his support for including funding for libraries.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, directing staff to contact Senators Nelson and Martinez and ask them to support the inclusion of funding for public libraries in the stimulus package; Motion carried 4-0.

2- Inform the Board that C.W. Roberts will be hauling approximately 5000 CY of fill to the Carrabelle Urgent Care site starting this week. They will haul it, spread it, and compact it as a donation to the county. The area they will fill is large enough for the proposed building, parking area and helipad.

Motion by Sanders, second by Lockley, directing staff to send C.W. Roberts a letter of thanks for hauling, spreading, and compacting 5000 cubic yards of fill at the Carrabelle Urgent Care site; Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler updated the Board on the progress of the Carrabelle Urgent Care center.

3- Inform the Board that FWC called last week to assure the Board that they are not considering any rule changes for floundering. They admitted that their agenda was misleading.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

4- Provide Board with copy of letter to Rep. Boyd regarding FEMA and Alligator Point that the Board authorized at the Jan. 3 meeting. I held off sending the letter after advising FEMA staff

they had until the end of January to get some action out of their agency. No action has occurred.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

5- Provide the Board with copy of letter to Ms. Lori Switzer from Seltzer Management, the group who reviews SHIP programs for the state. Ms. Switzer received a perfect score for the review of her files and work programs for fiscal years 05/06, 06/07 and 07/08.

Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Pierce to send Ms. Switzer a letter of appreciation.

6- Inform Board that at the authorization of the Chairman, and because of the onset of cold weather, the bid was awarded to Gunn Heating and Air for the work at the EOC last week. Gunn Heating and Air became the only qualified bidder as the other bidder did not have all their paperwork in order and could not have started the job immediately.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

7- Provide Board with copy of letter sent to Superintendent Marks regarding the future acquisition of the School Board administration building at the corner of 12th St. and Ave E in Apalachicola. The School Board building has 4800 square feet of office space, divided essentially equally on 2 floors. Provide layout. Because the building has received Historic Preservation grants, and is architecturally significant, exterior or structural alterations are going to be very difficult to get approved. The 2nd floor does not have an elevator so there are limitations on public access at this time. I believe over time, and if necessary, an elevator could be put in, but it will take some engineering.

All of the offices have phone lines, computer lines, and appear to have adequate electrical outlets. The carpeting appears to be in good shape in the offices, but the entrance hallway needs some improvement. The County Building staff did receive an estimate for a partition wall and drop ceiling for approximately \$9000. The exterior of the building needs to be pressure washed and cleaned.

For comparison purposes the following offices currently occupy this much space:

**Supervisor of Elections: 2400 square feet*

**Tax Collector: 1700 square feet*

**Property Appraiser: 2500 square feet*

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Pierce discussed using the first floor for public access since there was no elevator to the second floor, and what has been done to make the first floor ADA accessible.

Mr. Pierce stated that the agreement did not include the "band building" which is attached to the main building with a covered walkway.

Attorney Shuler stated that he was present when Mr. Pierce spoke to the Superintendent and it seems that they are willing to let the County assume the building.

Commissioner Jackel asked if the School Board has officially offered the building to the County. Mr. Pierce said that there has been no formal offer and then read a letter that he sent to the Superintendent of Schools requesting the assumption of the building.

8- Inform the Board that Senator Nelson's office has informed the county of an FAA Notice of Award for funds to purchase the land in the safety approach zone at the end of one of the runways that the Airport Advisory Committee had requested. Mr. Mosteller is completing the grant application. I had to contact Senator Nelson's office because the FAA had put out a timeline for Mr. Mosteller to follow that was unreasonable. Mr. Mosteller has now received a phone call from the FAA giving him the relief he needed. Board action to sign grant application for land acquisition.

Chairman Parrish asked for verification that the purchase of this property is not to extend the runway but to restrict the construction of any residential buildings at the end of the runway. Mr. Pierce and Mr. Mosteller verified that this was the case.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the grant application for the land acquisition; Motion carried 4-0.

9- Provide Board with list of county employees and the types of communication equipment assigned to the employee. After consulting with the Road Dept. and Solid Waste the following reductions in communication costs have been reached. Six radios and two cell phones have been turned off in the Solid Waste/Parks and Rec budget. One cell phone is no longer in use in the Building Dept. The Road Dept. has only one spare radio and that is currently on loan at the EOC. Some of the men at the Road Dept. are using their own cell phones for communications but that is their choice; they have all been provided radios. As it stands now, the county pays for 19 cell phones for county employees, but there are no criteria, or policy, for who needs a county cell phone.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

10- Inform Board of issues discussed at Hospital Board meeting:

A) The Board supports an expansion of FQHC services in the county. Specifically, they believe there is a need, and an opportunity, for pediatric and dentistry services as part of an FQHC. And, they believe that the current FQHC in Eastpoint does not provide adequate coverage for Carrabelle and points east.

B) The Carrabelle Clinic has been open approximately six weeks now, and is very busy. The hours of the Clinic may be expanded because clearly there is a need for medical services. The Hospital Board was shown a chart of where patients were coming from. Approximately 40% of the patients are from the Carrabelle zip code, but the other 60% are coming from Eastpoint, Apalachicola, and other areas.

Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Pierce to schedule a meeting with Commissioner Williams of Gulf County to review all of the information before Congressman Boyd's Health Care Council meeting.

Commissioner Jackel asked if there has been any consideration or discussion for an Urgent Care Center in Eastpoint.

Mr. Pierce stated that the focus of the Health care sales tax was for an Urgent Care facility in Carrabelle, so Eastpoint has not yet been discussed.

The Board discussed this matter further.

C) The Hospital will be taking delivery of 12 new Hospital beds on March 12th. Since the existing beds are completely worn out, and will be taken away by the provider bringing the new beds, the Board needs to determine that the 12 beds are worn out and have the Clerk remove them from inventory. The beds, and some IV pumps, are being paid for out of a \$122,000 grant.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, authorizing the Clerk to remove the 12 beds that are being replaced at the Hospital from inventory; Motion carried 4-0.

D) The TMH/Weems agreement is already paying dividends. TMH will begin to bring specialists in to review the opportunities for setting up clinics and providing specialist care in Franklin County.

E) The Hospital Board is aware of the possibility of budget problems in the upcoming year, and is addressing the cost of the ambulance service. At this time the county provides a \$375,000 annual subsidy for the ambulance service. One of the largest costs, after personnel, for the ambulance service is fuel. The Hospital will be purchasing one new van type ambulance that gets twice the gas mileage as the conventional box type ambulance. The van type is intended to be used for transport of non-critical patients on long runs, specifically back and forth from the new nursing home in St. James. The Hospital is aware that the van type ambulance is not as large as the box type, but with a fuel efficiency of 10 mpg for the box versus 20 mpg for the van, the Hospital is trying to reduce costs. The Hospital is also encouraging, and has had some success, with getting additional personnel trained in EMS. By having more staff available to work shifts, there will be less overtime for some existing staff. While this is disappointing to those receiving overtime, it is cost effective to pay more staff at regular pay rather than few staff earning overtime at time and a half.

F) Weems Hospital celebrated fifty years of operation in January, 2009. A celebratory cake will be cut at the end of the Board meeting.

11- Inform the Board that the legal description for West Dr. and Lighthouse Estate roads that the Board agreed to take about two years ago is in this Board file and Mark Curenton keeps a county roads file.

12- Remind Commissioners, and the public, that there is a 911 Communications meeting that everyone is invited to attend on Feb. 11, at 6 PM, at the St. George Island fire station on East Pine. Progress Energy will be in attendance to discuss their response time.

Commissioner Sanders ask Mr. Pierce to have a representative from Progress Energy attend the next regular meeting to discuss some of the issues the Commissioners discussed at the last meeting, especially their response time to emergencies.

13- Airport Advisory Committee recommend acceptance on the completion of the rehabilitation of Runway 6-24. Board action to sign certificate of final completion.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the certification of the final completion; Motion carried 4-0.

14- Airport Advisory Committee met Friday night to review Avcon stormwater proposal.

Mr. Lee Lewis, of AVCON, and Mr. Mosteller, the Airport Manager, stated that AVCON is ready to move forward on this project and Mr. Lewis discussed some of the details of this project. Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Mosteller discussed availability of sewage in this area and if it will be available to the new building.

Chairman Parrish and Mr. Mosteller discussed Phases I and II of this project.

Mr. Mosteller and Commissioner Sanders discussed the administrative fees for this project, which Mr. Mosteller will receive, which will be 1% of the 200,000 grant.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, authorizing AVCON to proceed with the stormwater improvement project; Motion carried 4-0.

15- I attended a meeting sponsored by Ms. Jeanni McMillan on Friday, Jan. 30, concerning several issues but one of them was the development of plans for central sewage on St. George Island. Ms. McMillan is working with a group of FAMU engineering students on a class project. In attendance at the meeting was Mr. Jim Waddell, who also has a client working on a proposed sewer system, and Ms. Nita Molsbee, representing Mr. Gene Brown who has previously said he might develop a sewer system. The Board had previously talked about holding a workshop to discuss sewage for St. George Island. With these groups working independently, it seems appropriate for the Board to schedule a workshop, say in April, and receive presentations from these different groups about their proposals and how they might work. Board action to hold a public workshop about central sewage for St. George Island after the Board meeting on April 7.

Chairman Parrish ask Mr. Pierce to have the Health Department at a future meeting to discuss what measures they are taking to resolve the sewage issues on St. George Island.

Commissioner Jackel asked that the Health Department attend the April 7 workshop.

Commissioner Jackel discussed the possibility of going to a bid proposal after the workshop in case this project could be funded by the stimulus program, because any programs funded by the stimulus program must be ready to move forward within 120 days once funded.

Attorney Shuler explained that the Board could not make binding decisions at a workshop, and after discussing this matter further, suggested that the Board only receive input on this matter at the workshop, then at a subsequent meeting when funding is available, move forward with the RFP process.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she only wanted to prepare any prospective bidders on this project as much as possible so that the County could take advantage of any stimulus funding that will be available.

Chairman Parrish reminded the Board that stimulus funds could only be used with County built and managed infrastructure, not anything built by a private entity.

Attorney Shuler stated that because of this type of project, the Board will probably want to hold other workshops that will involve public input and discuss some restrictions that will have to be included in the RFP.

Ms. Joyce Estes, Chairman of the Eastpoint Water and Sewer District Board, discussed the possible role the Eastpoint Water and Sewer District would be involved in this project and would have a representative attend the April 7 workshop.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to schedule a workshop on April 7, 2009 with Mr. Pierce deciding the meeting time; Motion carried 4-0.

16- FDLE has sent the Board a letter asking for an opinion on whether the Medical Examiner for this District, Mr. David Stewart, M.D. should be retained as Medical Examiner. Board action can either be FOR, AGAINST, or DO NOT WISH TO EXPRESS AN OPINION.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, stating that the Board “Does not wish to express an opinion” regarding Mr. David Stewart M.D. as the Medical Examiner for this district; Motion carried 4-0.

Open Bids: Kendrick Park Tennis Court (11:24 AM)

Mr. Pierce stated that there was a bid amendment and he was unsure if all the bidders received notice of the bid amendment before submitting their bid.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to reject all bids and re-advertise this project; Motion carried 4-0.

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report (11:26 AM)

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

Attorney Shuler informed the Board that there will not be an Executive Session after the regular meeting today.

1. Florida Association of County Attorney Dues

The annual fee for membership in the Florida Association of County attorneys is now due. This association allows for the collaboration among county attorneys and the sharing of resources. It is especially helpful for small counties. Dues are \$100.00.

Board Action Requested: Board authorization to pay the annual dues and for the Clerk to issue a check for that cost.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to authorize the payment of the annual membership to the Florida Association of County Attorneys for Attorney Shuler; Motion carried 4-0.

2. South Shoals

For the reasons stated in my memorandum to you, I recommend dismissal of the claim that a road through South Shoals subdivision was dedicated by the Plat of Peninsular Point Unit One subdivision. The dedicator of the plat did not own the land which became the road through South Shoal at the time he recorded the plat in 1946.

Board Action Requested: Motion authorizing me to dismiss the claim that the plat dedicated a road through South Shoals.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, authorizing Attorney Shuler to dismiss the claim (Count 1) that the plat dedicated a road to the County through South Shoals; Motion carried 4-0.

Attorney Shuler stated that since the developer had a \$5.4 million mortgage foreclosure filed against them in January, he has filed a motion to continue the other counts in this litigation and is waiting for the Judge to rule on this motion.

3. Bid Policy

The Board has established a local bid preference policy. I recommend we codify that as an ordinance and establish other bid qualification criteria.

Board Action Need: Motion authorizing me to schedule a public hearing for you to consider a local bid preference ordinance, which also establishes other bidder qualifications.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, authorizing Attorney Shuler to schedule a public hearing for the Board to consider a local bid preference ordinance, which would also establish other bidder qualifications; Motion carried 4-0.

The Board members were very much in favor of this action.

4. Tax Collector

At the last meeting you asked me to review whether the resolution submitted by the Tax Collector concerning his request to remain a "budget office" wherein he submits to you all the County revenue he collects and in turn you fund the expenses of this department based on a budget approved by the County Commission. This is how the Tax Collector's Office has always operated.

The motion complies with the requirements of law

Board Action: I recommend approval of the resolution

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to approve the resolution submitted by the Tax Collector concerning his request to remain a "budget office"; Motion carried 4-0.

5. Weems Hospital

The attorneys have approved the form of the architectural contract for the Carrabelle Urgent Care Facility. The formal execution will occur at the next meeting.

In sum, the Clemons-Rutherford firm ("CRA") will provide design-build architectural services, including all sub-consultants, for a total fee of eight percent (8%) of the construction cost. CRA rejected the County's proposal that they be paid seven percent (7%). In other situations involving grants, the County typically pays closer to twice that amount. The County is using the hospital tax money, not grants, to construct the facility in Carrabelle.

Board Action: None recommended. The contract will be formally presented next meeting. It may be that the hospital board wants to present this to you.

6. M/A-Com Contract:

They have had my proposed changes to their standard agreement since last meeting. I am waiting on their response.

Board Action: None recommended

7. Media Com Cable Franchise

Last meeting you asked me to report when the Media-Com cable franchise expired. It will expire June 30, 2010.

Board Action: None recommended.

Attorney Shuler stated that after reviewing the Mediacom franchise agreement he discovered that the agreement terminates on June 30, 2010 and that the 5% franchise fee has not been paid in a while, but more research is needed to figure out when it was last paid.

Mr. Kerry Anthony, of Fairpoint Communications, stated that Fairpoint is starting a new television service in Franklin County called IPTV and discussed the service in some detail. Mr. Anthony stated that the contact number for anyone that is interested is 1-800-400-5568, which is the regular customer service number.

Chairman Parrish was excited for the competition to the cable company and satellite dish providers.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to send a letter to Mediacom regarding their lack of franchise fee payment, to direct Attorney Shuler present the results of his research on this matter and also have Mediacom attend the first meeting in March; Motion carried 4-0.

8. County Probation Contract

On January 21, 2009, I met with two representatives of Judicial Corrections Services regarding their contract. I have asked them to provide me with an electronic version of the contract they have with Gulf County. I am still waiting on that contract.

The start date of their services is March 1, 2009.

Board Action: None recommended.

9. SHIP Program (State Housing Initiative Program)

Mr. Buzier is going to meet with the SHIP Board before this matter is returned to you, if at all. It may be that they resolve the matter. If not, it will come back to the County Commission.

Board Action: None recommended.

Open Bids: Kendrick Park Tennis Court – Continued (11:44 AM)

Mr. Pierce stated that the one bidder, where there was a question as to whether or not they received the amendment, was contacted and stated that they did in fact receive the amendment and included it in their bid.

Attorney Shuler recommended that the County re-advertise the bids anyway.

Commissioners' & Public Comments (11:46 AM)

Commissioner Jackel discussed the ARPC meeting she attended last week, as the Board representative. The Commissioner stated that Comp plans were the main discussion at the meeting, and she was glad for the opportunity to network with Commissioners from other districts. Commissioner Jackel stated that she had the opportunity to talk to Bruce Ballister, who is the ARPC's Economic Development advisor, about the County's intent to create an Economic Development Council (EDC) and Mr. Ballister stated that he would support and assist the County with the formation of the EDC and also guide the County with finding grants and funding for the EDC. Commissioner Jackel stated that Van Johnson, of the City of Apalachicola, and Dawn Radford, the Governor's appointee, also attended the meeting.

Commissioner Jackel asked each Commissioner to provide two names from their district who they would like to see serve on the EDC, and stated that she will be asking other community and business leaders to also serve on the EDC. Commissioner Jackel stated that she is in the process of compiling information from other Counties who have an existing EDC and will try and have some information at the next meeting or at the first meeting in March to discuss, review, and possibly approve, as stimulus funding might be on the way. Commissioner Jackel explained that at the ARPC meeting it was stated that there will be no new vehicles or application sources for receiving the stimulus funding, the funds will be processed via standard County and State programs that are already established, so having a County EDC in place is very important if we want to receive any of the funding.

Commissioner Lockley asked if Commissioner Jackel was going to chair the EDC.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she doesn't want to chair the EDC, but would like to serve as the Board's representative to the EDC.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to appoint Commissioner Jackel to the Economic Development Council, when created, as the Board's representative; Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Parrish was in favor of economical development in the County but warned that the County will have a lot of logistical battles to overcome with forming the EDC, as he has been trying to do the same thing for the past few years, especially while he served on the Chamber of Commerce. The Chairman discussed the lack of access to major roads to transport products, our proximity to the coast, lack of infrastructure such as affordable housing to house a workforce, environmental sensitivity, and the state of the economy as some of the concerns an EDC will have to overcome. Chairman Parrish stated that he was not in favor of hiring an Executive Director for the EDC at this time, because the County is about to enter tough budget discussions because of the bad economic times, and thinks that the EDC could accomplish a lot without an Executive Director at this time.

Commissioner Jackel agreed that the EDC will have a lot to overcome, but the time to start is now. The Commissioner stated that one of the main concerns when looking at potential economic opportunities is the effect it will have on the local environment and that is one of the reasons she will ask someone from the Apalachicola Bay and River Keepers to serve on the EDC. Commissioner Jackel stated that she is in favor of hiring an executive director if there is State or grant funds available and it would not be a cost to the County, but as we are still in the fact finding mode of this venture, she will continue to gather information and keep the Board informed.

Commissioner Lockley suggested scheduling a workshop to discuss this matter further.

Commissioner Jackel recommended waiting until she is able to gather more information before scheduling a workshop.

Chairman Parrish stated that he attended a meeting with Gulf County EDC director, Rick Marcum of Opportunity Florida, and a representative of the Workforce Board, where an idea of Gulf County using the deep port at the old paper mill site and utilizing the Apalachicola Airport, as it is, was discussed to promote economic opportunities in both Counties.

Commissioner Sanders discussed some of the reason why EDCs failed before in the County. Commissioner Sanders supported Commissioner Jackel and stated that she is what is needed to have a successful EDC in Franklin County and was glad that Commissioner Jackel was being proactive and not reactive regarding economic development in Franklin County, as other counties are getting very aggressive with their economic development. Both Commissioners Sanders and Jackel discussed the community support they have received regarding an EDC thus far.

Commissioner Sanders stated that she has received complaints that roads are being closed in Tates Hell forest without any type of notification to the public.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to send a resolution to Commissioner Charles Bronson, of the Department of Agriculture, stating that the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners are opposed to any road closing in the State funded forests without proper public notification and send another resolution to the County's Legislative Delegation regarding road closings in the National funded forest; Motion carried 4-0.

Open Bids: Carrabelle Airport Road

Clay Kennedy of Preble-Rish stated that based on his review of the bids for the Carrabelle Airport Road he was recommending awarding the project to C.W. Roberts, the lowest bidder.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to accept the recommendation of Mr. Kennedy and award the Carrabelle Airport Road project to C. W. Roberts; Motion carried 4-0.

Jay Abbott, St. George Island Fire Chief, asked for Board authorization to close off 1st street from West Gulf Beach to West Gorrie and another unnamed road which is in front of Doug's Seafood Stand for the St. George Island Chili Cook-Off on March 6 & 7, 2009.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Lockley, to approve the requested road closer for the St. George Island Chili Cook-Off on March 6 & 7; Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Abbott reminded the Board that the Franklin County United Firefighters will be meeting on February 4 at 7 PM at the St. George Island Firehouse and that the 911 communication meeting would be on February 11 and asked all Commissioners to attend if possible, especially because Progress Energy will be attending.

Attorney Shuler reminded the Board that all meetings where there is the possibility that more than one Commissioner will be in attendance, has to be advertised.

Mr. Abbott stated that he attended grant writing class in Panama City and will distribute this information at the meeting.

Commissioner Sanders and Mr. Abbott discussed requirements for fire hydrant maintenance.

Brad Shiver, of Eastpoint, stated that his miniature horse went missing on Sunday night, which ended up being attacked by a dog, being shot and left in his fishing pond. Mr. Shiver asked the Board for better enforcement of stray dogs throughout the County and is offering a reward for any information on this matter.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Pierce to have Mr. Van Johnson, the County's animal control director, and the Sheriff contact Mr. Shiver and provide any assistance that they could with this matter.

Joyce Estes distributed some information regarding the Eastpoint Library, updated the Board on the status of the project and asked the Board for any assistance they could provide to help finish with the construction of the Library, especially with the stabilizer for the parking lot which is needed as soon as possible. Ms. Estes also discussed the importance of the Library to the community.

Mr. Pierce stated what the County has done so far to assist with the construction of the Library, but at this point he feels that it is at a point where the assistance they need is beyond his scope of authority, and it would cost at least \$9000 if the stabilizer is to be purchased.

Board discussed different options, including the cost of purchasing the stabilizer that is needed to help the Library.

Attorney Shuler stated that because the County is restricted from doing any type of improvements to private property, the Board is very restricted with the type of service it can offer to help with the construction of the library.

Board and Ms Estes discussed this matter further, including the bad financial shape that the County is in and the cost to haul the stabilizer.

Chairman Parrish suggested that Ms. Estes contact the owner of the lime-rock pit and solicit some type of donation.

Commissioner Sanders stated that she will contact the owners of the lime-rock pit, Gulf Coast Aggregate, and ask if they could donate some of the stabilizer.

Bill Ruic, of the Apalachicola Airport, discussed a trial project which some local young men were enrolled at Haney Technical School and now these young men will be graduating next week and have received job offers. Mr. Ruic said that there is an opportunity, through a scholarship, to train more people in the County but transportation to the training center is a problem. Mr. Ruic said that the School District is willing to provide a bus and a driver but is asking the County to pay for the insurance. Mr. Ruic discuss some of the opportunities that are available for the local residents, if they could just get to the training center.

Attorney Shuler suggested that the Board let him investigate this matter further and report back to the Board.

The Board thanked Mr. Ruic for his efforts on this matter.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, directing Attorney Shuler to contact the School District and the County's insurance carrier and present a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting; Motion carried 4-0.

Adjourn (12:43 PM)

There being no further business Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting.

Joseph Parrish, Chairman – FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M Johnson, Clerk of Court