FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX JULY 21, 2009 9:00 AM

MINUTES

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

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

Call to Order (9:05 AM)

Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge (9:06 AM)

There was a Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Sanders thanked the Board and County Staff for accommodating her after her knee injury and surgery and also stated that she was able to get through this procedure with prayer and God.

Payment of County Bills (9:07 AM)

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to approve payment of the County's Bills as presented and to include payment of invoice to Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson from the July 7, 2009 meeting bill list; Motion carried 5-0.

Recognition of Dixie Belles Softball Team (9:08 AM)

Coach Barbara Mathis thanked God for the team's accomplishments and said that the team is made up of a great group of girls who went through a lot of troubled times but in the end they made it to the State playoffs. Coach Mathis commended all of the coaching staff and parents for their efforts and she thanked the County for their support.

Chairman Parrish congratulated the Belles and coaches on behalf of the Board, and stated that it takes a lot of hard work and dedication and they did a tremendous job in representing the people of Franklin County.

The Dixie Belles team presented their trophy to the Board to display in their trophy case and the Commissioners presented the team with individual plaques.

Commissioner Jackel thanked Van Johnson & Nikki Millender for their participation and help with the trophy presentation and also for their work with the Parks & Recreation Department.

<u>Mary Ann Durrer – Proclamation of National Health Center Week- Update on North Florida</u> <u>Medical Center (9:13 AM)</u>

Ms. Durrer, manager of Eastpoint Medical Center, explained that this clinic is affiliated with North Florida Medical Center, a non-profit corporation based in Tallahassee, and Dr. Lionel Catlin and Cina Smith, ARNP, oversee the Eastpoint Clinic. She said this is a federally qualified health center, which means they have a mission to provide high quality health care to residents regardless of insurance status or ability to pay and she said the center also has a slide-fee program for lower income patients. Ms. Durrer gave the Board information on statistics and savings on prescription drugs. She wanted to invite everyone to the Health Fair on August 13th starting at 12:00 PM until 4:00 PM which will offer numerous health screenings, children's fingerprinting by the Sheriff's Department, and the Blood Mobile will be there as well.

Mr. Pierce read the Resolution, which recognizes August 9th through 15th, 2009 as National Health Center Week in Franklin County.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to recognize August 9th through 15th 2009, as National Health Center Week in Franklin County; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisors Report

Hubert Chipman - Superintendent of Public Works (9:18 AM)

Larry Brown stated that he had no items for Board action.

Commissioner Jackel asked about replacing the signs that identify the St. George Island Bridge because of places that are covered over and Mr. Pierce said those were signs from the old toll bridge and he will speak to DOT about new signage.

Commissioner Putnal wanted to have DOT change the No Passing Zones in areas between Eastpoint and Carrabelle back to Passing Zones now that construction has been completed in those areas.

Commissioner Sanders received a complaint about barricades being removed and cars driving on the Eastpoint side of the old St. George Island Bridge and wanted to be sure the barricade is put back in place.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services - Report (9:22 AM)

Item 16 – The Board has authorized a public auction of worn-out county equipment. In reviewing the items, the Dept. of Corrections Work Camp believes they can rehab some of the equipment for the inmate squads to use. Board action to remove from inventory and transfer to DOC the following equipment: 7610 Tractor, 5'Disk, Pressure Washer, and 3 mowers.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to remove equipment from County Inventory and transfer to the Department of Corrections; Motion carried 5-0.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:23 AM)

Mr. Johnson had no items for Board action or approval.

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Pierce discussed a complaint at Lombardi's about not having pilings to moor boats and the dock being too high. Commissioner Lockley said he would like to see a step ladder installed on the dock. Mr. Pierce said he provided the information to the Contractor for the determination of height by considering the tide levels and that at this point a change order would cost the County extra money.

Chairman Parrish said he had been out there, spoke to the Contractor and was going to have pilings installed on the outside for temporary mooring, which would be no extra charge to the County.

Commissioner Lockley said he had received a lot of calls from some of the elderly residents about Mediacom charging for the Christian channel and asked Mr. Pierce to send a letter to the appropriate State regulatory agency asking that this action is stopped because this is how a lot of home bound citizens participate as a church service.

Commissioner Putnal had a complaint also from Ed Lee on Herman Road in Eastpoint who would like Mediacom service at his home but can't get and would like Mr. Pierce to address this matter.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to send letter to the appropriate agencies asking that Mediacom not change the Christian Channel from basic cable to a paid service and request cable service on Herman Road in Eastpoint; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jackel had a thank you letter from the St. George Island Business Association to the Parks & Recreation Department, the County Road Department and also the Sheriff's Office for doing a good job especially with the quick clean-up response and other matters regarding the 4th of July parade on St. George Island.

Dan Rothwell – County Engineer (9:30 AM)

Mr. Rothwell presented the following items to the Board.

1. BOARD ACTION: Eastpoint Boat Ramp Invoice from Bailey Bishop & Lane:

Staff request approval to pay the final invoice for \$1,750.00 for professional services.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Putnal, authorizing payment of the final invoice to Bailey Bishop & Lane for the Eastpoint Boat Ramp; Motion carried 5-0.

2. Weems Hospital Drainage Project:

Weems Hospital Drainage drawings should be completed this week and the plans forwarded to the Hospital Administrator along with the bill of materials and construction cost estimate.

3. St. George Island Multiuse Path Lighting:

The contractor has been requested to perform repairs or adjustments prior to final invoice payment.

- 4. District 4 and District 2 cross drain inspections prior to resurfacing:
 District 4 Cross drain inspections have been made and only 1 cross drain could use replacement, but due to the depth of 20' or more it is suggested to postpone that replacement or relining.
 District 2 roads have been inspected and only two roads may need to have cross drains installed, and the road department has been requested to meet the County Engineer on site for consultation. Messer Road notices have been mailed to residences to request moving of fencing within the right of way prior to July 31, 2009.
- 5. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) were assisted on site visits: Tom Franklin and Dennis Tyus of FDEP were joined for multiple site visits. The first was a complaint of illegal dumping in the utility easement from the consolidated school, but no illegal dumping was found.

Sawyer Street Breakwater requires planting of marsh grass which FDEP will send us a vendor contact.

Needly Street @ Sawyer Street rock berm was approved as maintenance within the right of way with caution given not to violate the existing wetland grass line.

Indian Creek Park canoe ramp and adjoining non-functional ramp were observed and FDEP said that the County should apply for a repair permit.

6. Indian Creek Park restoration project will begin Friday, July 24th.

Mr. Rothwell asked that the boating public please park on the North Shore side of the Indian Creek Park due to construction in the area for about a week and a half as it will be staked off and there will be notification by radio and newspaper about the project.

Mr. Rothwell explained to Commissioner Jackel that he had recently had a conversation with DEP regarding the 'other ramp' at the head of the Indian Creek channel and was told to send in a request for permission to do repairs to an existing ramp. Mr. Rothwell said he located another old ramp that had been covered over at North Bayshore and he was going to work up

an estimate to possibly have prison labor repair this existing ramp, a building permit would not be required, just notification of the intent to repair sent to DEP.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Rothwell noted this would accommodate space for a kayak launch and smaller boats, and Commissioner Jackel suggested digging out some of the sand from the base of the ramp while the heavy equipment is located there.

Commissioner Jackel informed Mr. Rothwell that they are trying to install the solar lighting at the Eastpoint Boat Ramp but Progress Energy has not removed the existing pole. Mr. Rothwell said he called Progress Energy on Monday, asked them to remove the pole but he has not heard back from them as of yet and he will follow up on it.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to send a letter to Progress Energy asking them to expedite the removal of the power pole; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Putnal mentioned a resident who was late paying his electric bill due to hard times and was charged \$1,000 for reconnection, which he doesn't think is fair, and still has concerns about Progress Energy not providing the necessary services that the County needs. Mr. Pierce informed the Board that a public hearing with Progress Energy has been scheduled by the PSC on July 30th at 1:00 PM at the Apalachicola Community Center and Progress Energy will take public comment about the rate increase and anyone with concerns should attend this meeting.

Commissioner Sanders read a letter from the PSC about the permanent base rate increase by Progress Energy.

Mr. Rothwell said he has had an issue with Progress Energy and the removal of a power pole on Alligator Point.

Mr. Pierce reiterated that this public hearing will be the perfect opportunity to voice any concerns with Progress Energy.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Rothwell to stay on top of DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers about the permitting for the Ochlockonee Bay Boat Ramp.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Rothwell discussed the project at the end of Sawyer Street. Mr. Rothwell stated that he was informed by DEP that he needs to have the Road Department do some sediment removal behind the breakwaters and also follow up on planting the Marsh Grass.

Pam Brownell- Emergency Management (9:43 AM)

Mrs. Brownell presented the following items to the Board.

Action Items:

1. Approval of 2009-2010 EMPG award.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to approve 2009-2010 EMPG Award; Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Brownell updated the Board on the LMS meeting.

Commissioner Sanders thanked Mrs. Brownell & Mike Rundel for getting the Corn Hydro information together and asked Mr. Pierce to forward the information to Commissioner David Stoutamire of Liberty County.

Information Items:

- Mike Rundel has sent letter to Corn Hydro operations expressing the concerns of the residents of Franklin County.
- Mike and I will be attending the LEPC meeting in Tallahassee July 22, 2009.
- Rachel Ward and I will be attending a Public Information Officer class in Panama City July 23-24, 2009.
- I will be attending the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association from July 28-31, 2009; this is part of our scope of work.

Bill Mahan – Extension Office Director (9:44 AM)

Commissioner Putnal asked if the County is meeting the capacity percentage required by the post harvesters and Mr. Mahan said all capacity percentages are being met.

Commissioner Sanders recognized and thanked Mr. Mahan for his reappointment to the ISSC Vibrio Education Subcommittee for 2009 – 2010.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Mahan if he had collected the data for the fishing stats that was requested in June and Mr. Mahan said he is in the process of gathering this information.

Commissioner Putnal expressed concerns with the possibility of closing the Grouper Season for an entire year some time because once it closed it will be hard to ever have it opened again.

<u>United Fire Fighters – Jay Abbott – SGI Volunteer Fire Department (9:49 AM)</u>

Mr. Abbott was not in attendance.

Commissioner Putnal wanted to be sure the date and time for the MSBU Public Hearing is made known to the public so Attorney Shuler asked if the Board would authorize Staff to advertise the meeting.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders; to approve advertisement for the MSBU Public Hearing at the August 4th Regular Board Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (9:50 AM)

Mrs. Johnson presented the following report to the Board.

1-Board action is needed to schedule the public hearings required on the budget. By law, the County can't meet on the same date as the school board, and our dates have to comply with specific time requirements involving advertising. In order to meet those requirements and work around the court schedule already in place, I propose the first public hearing be set on either Wednesday, September 9th or Friday, September 11th at 5:15 P.M. The final public hearing would need to be scheduled on either Monday, September 28th or Tuesday, September 29th at 5:15 P.M.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to approve to schedule the first public hearing for the budget on Wednesday, September 9th @ 5:15 PM and the final public hearing for the budget on Monday, September 28th @ 5:15 PM; Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Johnson said everyone received their budget books on July 15th and to contact the Finance Office before the workshop if there are any questions concerning the books.

Planning & Zoning Consent Agenda (9:52 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented the following items to the Board.

CRITICAL SHORELINE APPLICATIONS:

Approve (unanimous) Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Dock at 437 River Road, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. The walkway will be 4' x 44' and have a 12' x 12' terminus and a 12' x 4' step down. This dock meets all state, federal and local requirements. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Agency, Inc., agent for Jason Crowe, applicant.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve construction of Single Family Dock at 437 River Road in Carrabelle; Motion carried 5-0.

<u>Recess (9:55 AM)</u>

Chairman Parrish called for a recess.

Reconvene (10:07 AM)

Chairman Parrish reconvened the meeting.

P&Z Consent Agenda Continued (10:07 AM)

Approve (unanimous) Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Dock at 1548 Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida. The walkway will be $4' \times 325'$ and have a $10' \times 16'$ platform and one $8' \times 14'$ boat lift and one $10' \times 14'$ boat lift. This dock meets all state, federal and local requirements. Request submitted by Elva Peppers, Florida Environmental Land Services, Inc., agent for Barney Crutchfield, applicant.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to approve construction of Single Family Dock at 1548 Alligator Drive, Alligator Point; Motion carried 5-0.

<u>Transmittal Hearing – Rescind St. Joe Land Use Categories and Map Amendments (10:07 AM)</u>
Mr. Pierce presented a map of the properties to be amended and the details of the proposed changes which consist of the following items.

The proposed amendments consist of two text changes to the Land Use Element:

- 1) Deleting Land Use Policy 2.2(n) which is the Marina Village Center land use category.
- 2) Deleting Land Use Policy 2.2(o) which is the Carrabelle East Village land use category.

The proposed changes to the Future Land Use Map:

- 1) Changing 1,000 acres on Ochlockonee Bay in Section 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23, Township 6 South, Range 2 West, from Marina Village Center to Agricultural.
- 2) Changing 200 acres east of Carrabelle in Sections 16, 21 and 28, Township 7 South, Range 4 West, from Carrabelle East Village to Agricultural.

Mr. Pierce said the County Commission asked the Planning Staff to review the documentation of the data analysis that was used in the creation of these land uses to see what the status was and upon evaluation of population projections. Mr. Pierce said the data available now shows a reduction in the population growth of Franklin County that warrants a consideration of a reduction in the amount of land available for residential development and gave a summary used on population estimates that was in the 2005 Comp Plan, prepared by Mr. Tim Chapin, that showed a projection of 15,690 residents in Franklin County in 2020 and the best current available data by, University of Florida BEBR, shows a projection of 13,700 for 2020. Mr. Pierce said the analysis based on the current best available data of population growth shows that the County can support a reduction of 3,400 dwelling units and said these two areas are undeveloped and unimproved so this is why they can support a residential reduction in these areas. Mr. Pierce stated that it is the recommendation of the Planning staff that the Board move forward with this Transmittal and send to DCA for their review and explained that there are two steps to Land Use consideration; the Transmittal Hearing, where the DCA reviews it and then it is sent back with an ORC Report, which might have additional comments that the Board would need to address those comments, and make a decision then whether to move forward

with the Adoption Hearing, which would be at least 90 days later depending on how time goes with DCA.

Commissioner Putnal said that back when this Land Use was approved he said no one knew what the future would bring so he recommended then that this be done one phase at a time. Mr. Pierce said there was data analysis to support population growth in 2005, when this was started, but times have changed and this requires serious consideration because the St. Joe Company sent the County a letter advising of the risk that is being taken by changing this Land Use.

Commissioner Sanders asked for a copy of the letter from the St. Joe Company. Chairman Parrish opened the floor for public comment.

Andy Smith, of the Apalachicola Bay & RiverKeepers (ABARK), stated that he had been working closely with Mark Curenton, Alan Pierce, and the Property Appraiser's Office in looking at County Statistics. Mr. Smith said he looked at the revised annual report issued in March 2009 by Bureau of Economic and Business Research, the official population trend entity in Florida and this report cited the population of Franklin County as of April 2008 as 12,331 and cited the predicted population in 2020 as 13,700. Mr. Smith said he looked at the projected population increase and what they find is that there will be 1,369 new permanent residents so by doing the formula there will be a need for an additional 4,808 available dwelling units by the end of 2020. Mr. Smith said by looking at Franklin County's total capacity for 14,192 dwelling units/homes and subtracting the current number of dwelling units/homes, which is 7,781, that leaves a capacity of 6,411 new dwelling units/homes, which puts the County at 25% over the capacity needed by December 31, 2020. Mr. Smith said 22% of this capacity is close in location to the two properties which the County is rescinding.

Mr. Smith referred to a letter that was sent to the Board by the St. Joe Company mentioning the Burt Harris Act, which was created to help property owners whose property values have been diminished by government action and explained that there are two requirements to recover under that; the first is that you have an existing or a vested right and the other is that you show a diminution of value from the government action. Mr. Smith said the dollar figures presented in the letter from St. Joe stating what has been spent on Land Use is how they are arguing that they have vested rights and they are not using those as figures that they expect to recover from the County, but it is up to a court of law to determine that they have vested rights. Mr. Smith also determined that permits to construct the Waste Water Treatment Plant for Summer Camp were issued in 2004 but the Land Use Amendments weren't adopted until 2005 and he doesn't believe that the Treatment Plant has a big enough capacity to include these two properties in order to allow the St. Joe Company to claim vested rights . Mr. Smith said that in order for them to prove diminishment of value there will have to be a change in the Fair Market Value of the property.

Mr. Smith spoke of site assessments that require integrating every aspect of a development before you develop it and gave a copy of his comments to the Board for the record. Bryan Duke, representing the St. Joe Company, said that 5 years ago the Board and Staff made a choice to plan St. James Island, which was the right decision, a good process, and it involved people in the community, and as a result of that choice, an Overlay Map was created that

planned for the future. Mr. Duke said this was all done by County folks, citizens, and the St. Joe Company, but when the County took action in approving Land Use Amendments four residents got upset and raised an issue, and the ones who objected to the Land Use Amendments challenged it and filed appropriate actions. Mr. Duke said DCA found the two Land Use Amendments in compliance, as did the Administrative Judge's recommended order, along with several other committees and judges, so there should be no rehashing of statements today that somehow there wasn't appropriate data and analysis to change the Land Uses in 2005. Mr. Duke said the County made the choice to do that and the choice was upheld at every level of Government, short of the Florida Supreme Court. Mr. Duke said the County has a choice to make in this time of budget shortfalls and crises, they can undo that which was done and approved with years of litigation behind them and the cost that has been expended or embark on a new plan to change the Land Use back to Agriculture and walk back in to the same sort of fire storm they just came out of which, will take a lot of time, effort and money and will continue the process that has been happening for many years. Mr. Duke asked what the harm is of keeping these Land Use Amendments in place and why the County would step in at this moment and time to try to undo them.

Ken Osborne, an Alligator Point resident, said he would like to challenge Mr. Duke's assertion that the community was involved in this as he was the only one who attended every meeting that was held in the development of the Comprehensive Plan and he also attended every one of the Overlay meetings. Mr. Osborne said the St. Joe Company's presentation stated that there were going to be 5 villages but he wanted to know if the other areas were going to remain residential. Mr. Osborne didn't object to the development of their land but he does object to changing the amount of units when the plan went forward, but he asked the Board to stand up to the St. Joe Company and not forget the other 4 villages that the St. Joe Company plans to develop. Mr. Pierce said the categories Mr. Osborne is speaking of have not been adopted by the Board so they don't legally exist, but the ones presented today have been adopted. Commissioner Putnal said that he didn't agree with some of the items in the overlay, including water access and affordable housing, so he needs to know more about future St. Joe projects. Commissioner Sanders had Mr. Pierce clarify, which he did, that when the Overlay Map was voted down it did away with the future projects of the St. Joe Company.

Mr. Duke and Mr. Osborne discussed the community meetings that were held about St. Joe's Land Development projects.

Don Ashley, of the Breakaway Lodge on St. James Island, commended the Commissioners on the job that they do and the courage it takes to consider this action. Mr. Ashley said he spent 4 years in litigation with the St. Joe Company and he wished the money had been spent constructively in this community instead, but believes the County has a strong Comp Plan and it is one of the strongest in the State. Mr. Ashley spoke of the importance of the Land Use decisions made by the County in regards to protecting the natural resources and said a renowned biologist made the statement that this may be the most significant biologically rich area in North America and during the meetings about the Summer Camp issue, it was almost unanimous that the residents didn't believe that Summer Camp fit the model of Franklin County. Commissioner Putnal and Mr. Ashley spoke about certain areas of Summer Camp being cut off to residents who previously used them to access the water for fishing purposes.

Mr. Ashley said he trusts that the Board will make this decision and he believes a lot of folks will stand with them, including the State. Commissioner Putnal said he sees the importance of access and affordable housing, spoke of empty houses and condos throughout the County, and expressed a desire that those without a home could utilize some of them. Mr. Duke said this is a visionary commission and said it wouldn't be easy to fight it and asked that the St. Joe Company work constructively with the Board and come to an agreement.

Commissioner Sanders said she was one of the commissioners who approved this in 2005 and she said at the time that if at any time she didn't feel like this was right for the citizens of Franklin County she would take action to remove it, which this Board is acting on now, and directed Attorney Shuler to research the Burt Harris Act.

Chairman Parrish expressing his concerns regarding the possible litigation cost to the County stated that he does have some concerns with the potential cost of this motion to the County and he is sure there will be costs involved unless a compromise can be reached.

Commissioner Putnal believes there might be some environmental groups or attorneys who would help defend these actions.

Chairman Parrish said the St. Joe Company has made public access points for some of their other properties, such as Windmark Beach, so it can be accomplished.

Attorney Shuler said the Board clearly has the authority to act this morning but there are risks with the cost of the Burt Harris Act and went on to explain that this Transmittal Hearing isn't changing anything, it is the first step of a multiple step process, and at some point there will be an adoption hearing when a decision will be made.

Commissioner Lockley said the St. Joe Company gives the County no consideration and feels like they are taking advantage.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments and authorize the transmittal of these amendments to DCA; Motion carried 5-0.

Public Hearing – South Shoal PUD and Road Abandonment (11:01 AM)

Attorney Shuler presented maps of proposed PUD and road abandonment, stating that the parties involved are Franklin County, South Shoal Development District and Alligator Point Water Resource District (APWRD). Attorney Shuler explained that currently there is a subdivision that has 23 lots, an AWP that has a rock revetment, and a road fronting on the Gulf; this proposal will reduce the number of lots to 20, the AWT will be done away with and converted into an aerobic system, the rock revetment goes away, and the road essentially goes away with the County retaining a 30' Easement for any future beach re-nourishment purposes. Attorney Shuler said that the Fire Station and Sheriff's Substation would not be in the amended PUD. Attorney Shuler said this action would allow the County to realign Tom Roberts Road with Harbor Circle, which was explained in further detail to Commissioner Putnal, and will give the APWRD a 10" water line.

The Commissioners, Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler discussed the road and water access in this area.

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Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Ken Osborne if the Alligator Point residents supported this proposal. Mr. Osborne stated that for the most part they did but they will still be calling the County for road repairs on Alligator Point.

Mr. Pierce said there is a letter in the file stating that the Alligator Point Taxing Association supported the amended PUD.

Chairman Parrish opened the floor for Public Comment.

Ron Mowery, representing the Alligator Point Water Resource District, thanked the Board and Staff for their work and suggested that 10" water line as shown on the map is to help locate it in the future.

Ken Osborne, Alligator Point Taxing Authority, asked if the public was going to be able to review the plans before the final amendment is signed.

Attorney Shuler said he would invite Mr. Osborne to view the final copy before it is signed.

Mr. Pierce was glad that this amendment will help solve the issues with the old road.

Jay Abbotson, representing South Shoal, said they still have to dot the i's and cross the t's on proposed amendment. Mr. Osborne asked if this meant there would be further changes to the amendment; Attorney Shuler said there will be no further changes, all that is needed is bank approval.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to authorize and adopt the amended PUD and the road abandonment; Motion carried 5-0.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (11:16 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented his report to the Board.

1. Board action to sign DOT Small County Outreach Program Agreement (SCOP) for the resurfacing of Avenue A in Eastpoint from Old Ferry Dock to 6^{th} St. for \$225,640. Any additional costs will have to be borne by county.

Mr. Pierce clarified that if there are any additional costs the money will come out of State Funds and not County Funds.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman signature on the DOT SCOP for resurfacing Old Ferry Dock Road; Motion carried 5-0.

2. Board action to sign DOT County Incentive Program Agreement (CIP) for the improvement of C30A in Carrabelle from Marine St. to US 98 for \$266,293. Any additional costs will have to be borne by county.

Mr. Pierce again stated that any additional costs on this project will come out of State Funds.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the DOT County Incentive Program Agreement; Motion carried 5-0.

3. Inform the Board that the GulfCoast Workforce Board Executive Director said she could not modify the Agreement to strike the Hold Harmless Provision as recommended by the County Attorney as this agreement came from the state of Florida. I have so advised the County Attorney and went ahead and had the Chairman sign the Agreement. The Workforce Board is in the process of screening applicants so if the Board wants to cancel the Agreement it needs to do so before any applicants are put to work.

Commissioner Sanders said the same situation happened in 2005 with this program. Mr. Pierce said he recommends moving forward although there is a risk involved with the Hold Harmless Agreement.

Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Pierce to check with the Workforce to see if there are any more jobs they can offer in Franklin County.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Gulf Coast Workforce Agreement; Motion carried 5-0.

4. Mr. Dave McClain has submitted a Notice that the Apalachicola Riparian Stakeholder Coalition, of which Franklin County is a member, has reached the level of organization where it is seeking recognition from the IRS as a Section 501c(4) organization. The Organization has also established an annual dues structure of \$250, effective for the fiscal year Oct. 1, 2009 through Sept. 30, 2010. Board action to pay membership dues.

Commissioner Putnal said the County needs someone on the committee to represent the Board.

Mr. Pierce believes the State of Florida has won a great battle regarding the allocations, but Commissioner Putnal warned that you never know when it might change. Mr. Pierce said it is pretty powerful but he would defer to Attorney Shuler, or anyone else who wanted to speak on this, but the US Corps of Engineers has to get approval from Congress before making any changes and if they don't get approval they have to go back to a 1970 formula, which is in favor of Franklin County.

Chairman Parrish said what the Federal Judge said in his orders about the allocation of the storage capacity of Lake Lanier is a great victory for Franklin County.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to authorize the payment of dues in the amount of \$250 to the Apalachicola Riparian Stakeholder Coalition; Motion carried 5-0.

5. Opportunity Florida is seeking Board support for its application for a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Opportunity Florida is making this application on behalf of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) of which Franklin County is a member. By adopting the Resolution supporting the application the Board is agreeing to participate in this application and not to participate in any other similar broadband grant application. The Board is not attempting any other type grant application so there is no

drawback to agreeing to this. Opportunity Florida agreed to waive its member's dues for the upcoming year as an incentive for all counties to agree to this application. In order for Franklin County to benefit from this grant, if it is awarded, at some point the county will have to agree to allow broadband infrastructure to be installed in its right-of-way, just as it allows other utilities to be installed in the Right-of-ways. Board action on the Resolution supporting the Broadband grant application.

Mr. Pierce said he received a letter from Mediacom presenting a similar competing application but does not intend to support Mediacom's proposal.

Commissioner Sanders said this will benefit some neighboring Counties also.

Commissioner Putnal wanted to be sure that this will not be an exclusive contract with one company because he believes that this service should remain competitive to keep prices down. Mr. Pierce said this grant application will give Franklin County an exclusive contract, in which the County will be part owner in this broadband infrastructure because anyone who uses this broadband service will have to pay a user fee.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to support the Broadband Grant Application; Motion carried 5-0.

6. Board action to approve a 3^{rd} and final change order at the Patton Drive Boat ramp in Eastpoint for \$3,332.00 for additional work requested by the county. Grant funds will pay for the change order.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to approve final change order for the Patton Drive boat ramp in Eastpoint; Motion carried 5-0.

- 7. Board action to approve a change to the Franklin County Housing Plan to allow the county to receive the special allocation of SHIP funds specifically for assisting residents buy a home. The program is called "Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program." While the normal \$350,000 of SHIP funds for the normal repair and rehabilitation programs was not funded this year, the state did receive Stimulus funds to assist in promoting homeownership. Franklin County's allocation is \$350,000 but in order to receive and spend the funds the Board must adopt the following policies:
- A. The down payment assistance must not exceed 10% of the purchase price or \$8,000, whichever is LESS. The maximum purchase price is \$175,000.
- B. The income categories eligible is up to \$75,000 for single taxpayers or \$150,000 for joint filers. There is no requirement to reserve funds for low income as it is unlikely low income residents can obtain a loan to buy a house.
- C. Mobile homes are now considered eligible for down payment assistance so long as the mobile home was built after June 30, 1994.
- D. The down payment assistance is a loan that will be repaid to the SHIP program. It is expected the loan will be repaid using the income tax refund established in the Stimulus bill and entitled First Time Homebuyer Credit.

E. The county may transfer any portion of the unexpended funds to any of its existing SHIP programs after the Home Buyer program expires, which is at the latest June 30, 2010.

If the Board does not adopt these policies it will not receive the funds. Even if the Board does not support these Home Buyer policies please remember that the funds will be converted to normal SHIP programs in one year so it is in the best interest of the Board to adopt these policies.

Commissioner Jackel asked how the County would be guaranteed that the borrower files the necessary paperwork to be reimbursed by the IRS for the \$8,000 advancement.

Mr. Pierce read the agreement information to the Board which stated that any applicant who failed to reimburse the County would be required to repay by a mandatory 30 year payment loan.

Commissioner Lockley asked if this was in addition to the current \$10,000 down payment assistance; Mr. Pierce said he doesn't believe they can receive both but there isn't any money currently available in the down payment assistance fund.

Commissioner Jackel asked if the County had any remedies to allow the Board to have more control over the taxes being filed, reimbursement of the \$8,000, and wanted to know the deadline to approve this item.

Mr. Pierce said Lori Switzer, the SHIP Program administrator, would have more information but he believes all of the rules are just being printed at this time and directed the questions to Mr. Sink, of the Housing Board.

Commissioner Putnal questioned Mr. Pierce about a previous revolving loan program which ended up with the County being responsible for repaying the loans if the applicant defaulted. Mr. Pierce said that was a different circumstance because it was a loan to the County and this is grant money.

Mr. Sink stated that a lien could be placed against the property and the County has the usual remedies of law to collect the money.

Chairman Parrish said if the applicants are made aware of the provisions up front and they don't utilize these funds then after a certain date the money can be rolled back in to the SHIP program.

Mr. Sink said this is correct and the money can be used for rehabilitation, homeowner disaster and those other kinds of things.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to approve the proposed change to the Franklin County Housing Plan; Motion carried 5-0.

8.Board action to advertise Request for Qualifications for firms to provide Construction, Engineering, & Inspection (CIE) services for the 3 sidewalk projects in Franklin County that are being funded through the Stimulus. This is the first step in going to bid for the actual construction. After the Board selects a firm to oversee the CIE, and after the Board received the Notice to Proceed from DOT, then the Board can finally advertise for firms to design and construct the sidewalks. This is a much longer process but it is being required because of the use of federal dollars.

Chairman Parrish said he has had a lot of local contractors asking about this particular project and he hopes this will allow for some temporary jobs to help with the local economy. Mr. Pierce said this first step is finding engineering firms to do the overseeing and then do the design stage with a local contractor.

Commissioner Jackel asked if the County has the notice from DOT to proceed on the sidewalks. Mr. Pierce said one is in and they are waiting for 2 more.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to advertise Request for Qualifications for firms to provide CIE services for 3 sidewalk projects in the County; Motion carried 5-0.

9. Mr. Lee Lewis, AVCON, update on hangar. Recommend continuing Negotiations with the two entities who expressed interest in leasing the paint hanger as a decision on the paint hanger can be made at a later date. The reason to continue negotiations is to seek additional information from the two lease candidates. The \$150,000 that was removed earlier has been re-instated, according to Mr. Phillip Deal, DOT, as of Monday afternoon.

Mr. Pierce said at a meeting yesterday there were 12 firms in attendance who were interested in building the Paint Hangar, most were local but one as far away as Gainesville. Mr. Lewis, AVCON, wanted to reiterate the good news that the DOT had re-instated the \$150,000 that was previously taken from the grant funds and to inform the Board that he had put together a funding summary, but in light of this new information he would like to update the summary and present it to the Board at the August 4th meeting. Commissioners Sanders & Jackel asked to have the information to the Board before the

Mr. Lewis summarized the Paint Hanger plans again and stated that he believes this project will be constructed and carried out within the parameters of the grant money so the County will have no dollars applied outside of the grants. He also said they have had discussions with both proposers on the lease of the Paint Hanger and the intent here is to be sure the County avoids what could be a significant investment in the Paint Hanger without having the commitment up front. Mr. Lewis said bids are due on August 3rd at 3:00 PM and will be opened on August 4th at the Board meeting; all plans will be finalized and presented to the Board on August 18th.

10. Board action to schedule a public hearing to consider rescinding the Peddler's Ordinance, No. 96-14. Mr. Shuler is still reviewing the county's ability to ban peddler's and at the same time grandfather two in, but he is willing to schedule the public hearing.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Lockley, to approve scheduling a public hearing to consider rescinding Peddler's Ordinance No. 96-14; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sanders said she has received a lot calls on this issue.

of the County.

11. Board action on disposition of the \$19,000 of TDC funds allocated for Franklin County. The City of Apalachicola is spending its \$19K for signage promoting Apalachicola. The City of Carrabelle is getting an equal amount of funds and may be spending some of it on signage, so I recommend Franklin County spend its allocation mostly on signage so that all areas of the county receive an update in visibility at the same time. The county has previously agreed to spend \$3K on the Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters plans, so I recommend the Board request the remaining \$16K be spent on signage for St. George Island, and Eastpoint, and other tourist areas of the county that might need some signage. Alligator Point already has a new sign on US 98 but it might need some beach access signs for the new boardwalks.

Mr. Pierce said Chairman Parrish mentioned a need for a new roof on restrooms at the Lombardi's location, which is not currently funded at this time.

The Board further discussed making decisions as to how to use this money in the best interest

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to delay approval of allocation of TDC funds for 2 weeks until bids are opened for Lombardi's roof project; Motion carried 5-0.

12. Commissioner Jackel has asked for assistance numerous times on keeping the bridges and causeways clean. I have spoken directly to Mr. Bob Engish, Transfield regional director, and I have written DOT as the Board has directed. Mr. English has stated that until DOT provides more funds to Transfield that there is nothing more Transfield can do. I have told Mr. English that the county has to provide more effort because Transfield's is inadequate. Provide Board copy of DOT letter.

Mr. Pierce read a portion of the letter he wrote to the DOT, detailing the issues of trash on the bridges in the County and how unattractive it is to tourists.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Pierce to write a letter to Waste Pro and Emerald Coast asking about keeping their back hatches closed on trucks while traveling down the highways as she has received complaints from citizens about these trucks traveling with their hatches open.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, directing Mr. Pierce to write a letter to Waste Pro and Emerald Coast asking drivers to keep their hatches closed on trucks while driving on highways; Motion carried 5-0.

13. Inform the Board that I have not written the letter as directed by the Board to FWC on restrictions on grouper harvesting because based upon the information provided by FWC it appears there is not a blanket year long ban on harvesting grouper. The only ban we could find was from Feb. 1 to March 31, of which has been in effect for some grouper species already.

Commissioner Putnal said he was told by a reliable source that Grouper Season is going to be closed for a whole year because the fishing is depleted.

Mr. Pierce said he had staff look on the FWC site and found a ban from February to March but didn't see a ban longer than that but he will research it just to verify.

Commissioner Lockley asked if there was any response from the net ban letter and Mr. Pierce said he has not received any response. Mr. Lockley asked Mr. Pierce to write another letter. Will Kendrick, a Carrabelle resident, said the Governor is the author of the original net ban so the Board needs to find another avenue to solve this matter and recommended contacting the FWC commissioners, which will be meeting in the new FWC Carrabelle Office in February 2010.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to send letter to the members of the FWC & the County's Legislative Delegation concerning removal of the net ban; Motion carried 5-0.

14- The City of Port St. Joe has sent over a Resolution it would like Franklin County to support regarding improvements at the City of Port St. Joe port. The City is seeking grant funds and is trying to document that the port is a regional economic draw. Board action.

Chairman Parrish thought this might create some jobs for Franklin County citizens because a lot of citizens worked at the Paper Mill, which is the same location of the proposed port, when it was open.

Commissioner Jackel wanted to know why they asked for support from Franklin County and Mr. Pierce said it is to show regional support for the Resolution in order to receive the grant money. Commissioner Sanders asked if there was a letter formally requesting support and Mr. Pierce said there was no letter, there was just information passed on by Clay Kennedy of Preble-Rish. Clay Kennedy, Preble Rish, said there was no letter directed to him, he was just asked to forward the information along from the Port Authority.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Pierce to get clarification about who is asking for support on the issue and ask that a letter be written to the Board formally requesting their support.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to table issue until a letter formally requesting the Board's support is received; Motion carried 5-0.

15- Board discussion of recent court ruling telling the U.S. Corps of Engineers that it must get approval for its water allocations from Congress, or the allocations go back to a 1970 formula.

Commissioner Jackel asked if a letter could be sent to FWC asking that they be vigilant of folks blocking and tying up at the Eastpoint Boat Ramp.

Mr. Pierce said FWC is more focused on the navigation channel so he doesn't believe they would be too eager to clear the ramp area, but recommended that the County pass an Ordinance that the Sheriff's Office or FWC could enforce.

Commissioner Putnal said he thought that there is already an Ordinance in place and has asked Mr. Johnson, the Parks and Recreation Director, to erect signs in the appropriate locations. Chairman Parrish said he had brought this up a few months ago; that not only do people leave their boats in the way, but they also leave trucks and trailers in the way and without something in place that can be enforced, a sign can be ignored.

Mr. Pierce recommended an Ordinance that there be no overnight tying up at the docks and also including the boat ramp issue which would give the Sheriff and any law enforcement something to enforce.

Commissioner Jackel asked that signs be put up at the concrete pilings and include the Ordinance number.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to authorize Attorney Shuler to start the procedure to create Ordinance regarding blocking boat ramps and overnight tying up; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jackel said there should not be any tying up whatsoever to the floating dock and there is a boat there now without a motor on it that is blocking the ramp.

Commissioner Putnal mentioned a man living on a sailboat blocking another ramp which caused a problem with seafood workers trying to unload.

Commissioner Jackel said she spoke with FWC about that and they said they couldn't do anything about making him move.

Commissioner Putnal said the County could force him to move by enforcing its zoning laws. Mr. Pierce said the zoning stops at the water's edge and this boat is tied to a pole in the water, so the owner has to row a boat to get to shore. Mr. Pierce stated that the County has tried numerous ways to get this boat removed but at this point there is nothing that can be done. Commissioner Putnal said it is an environmental issue.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to authorize Attorney Shuler to research all options the County may have to remove this boat; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Pierce if there was any word on moving the pilings out of the channel near the old St. George Island Bridge.

Mr. Pierce said DOT Engineer stated that the markers do not indicate where a piling is, it indicates where the channel is and he said they claim there are no more pilings that are hazards; the Engineer told him those markers represent where the piling corridor used to be and that area should be avoided.

Commissioner Jackel said they oyster all around those pilings and people run through there and she doesn't believe this issue has been resolved to the Board's satisfaction so she asked what the next step was.

Mr. Pierce said it would be to write a letter to Interim Secretary Jimmy Rogers but Commissioner Sanders suggested writing to Secretary Stephanie C. Kopelousos and Commissioner Jackel said to also copy to Tommy Barfield and Tommy Spades. Commissioner Sanders was concerned that someone would get hurt out there.

There was further discussion about the issue as to the location of the pilings and the hazard involved.

Attorney Shuler said he could contact the General Counsel's Office to mention the liability of this situation to the State.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to direct Attorney Shuler to contact the General Counsel's Office concerning having the pilings removed; Motion carried 5-0.

Michael Shuler - County Attorney - Report (12:06 PM)

Attorney Shuler presented his report to the Board.

1. Three Parcels Close To Eastpoint Boat Ramp

Attached is a copy of the proposed purchase contract for the Board's consideration. Neither the Seller nor the Seller's bank has agreed to the contract.

If the Board agrees with the form of the proposed contract, it will constitute an offer by the Board to the Seller. If the Seller accepts the offer, the Seller's bank will have to agree to the short sale as they will release the land from their mortgage for less than the amount owed to them. If the offer is accepted, the Board will be obligated to purchase the land as provided in the proposed contract.

Commissioner Jackel negotiated the terms of the proposed purchase of three parcels of land. However, she indicated that she would do whatever the Board recommended in this matter. The three parcels total approximately 150 feet by 150 feet close to the Boat Ramp on Patton Drive, Eastpoint, Florida. A copy of a drawing showing the three parcels highlighted in yellow is attached. A small triangular parcel of land will remain between the boat ramp and the three parcels

Essentially, the County would offer to purchase the three parcels in a short sale transaction totaling \$280,000.00, plus execute a charitable donation letter and IRS form for an \$80,000.00 donation, being the difference between the purchase price and the Seller's \$360,000.00 appraised value of the property. The parties would equally split the costs of closing. The Seller's bank will have to also agree to the short sale contract and allow the transfer of the property to the County free and clear of all liens and encumbrances I have approved the form of the proposed contract.

Board Action: Does the Board want to make an offer on the property.

Commissioner Jackel said this is a very good beginning point based on her conversations with Jay Hill who represent the property owners; however whatever the Board decides to do on this matter is suitable to her.

Mrs. Johnson informed Commissioner Sanders that there was around \$500,000 allocated for land acquisition in the budget.

Chairman Parrish asked for a copy of the appraisal on the property.

Mrs. Johnson asked why the owner was getting \$80,000 IRS deduction if the bank is still owed money after the short sale.

Attorney Shuler explained that the bank still holds the note, but the owners still hold the title and the loan is in default because they owe more on the property than it is worth. The bank will have to agree to release the property, free and clear, before the County releases any funds.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to authorize Attorney Shuler to make an offer of \$280,000 and agree to execute the IRS form for an \$80,000 donation for the discussed property beside the Eastpoint Boat Ramp; Motion carried 5-0.

2. Sandra Fields Lease

Attached is the proposed lease for the property owned by Sandra Field's company. The type lease is my original lease with changes made by them. My handwritten comments appear in the margins.

The property is located near the intersection of Patton Drive and Highway 98, Eastpoint, Florida and is approximately 300 feet long by 75 feet wide.

The lease is for a five year tern (Para. 2) with rent being equal to the annual taxes due on the property. There is no provision for early termination and the parties may, but are not required to, agree to a renewal. The cost to add this property to our insurance should be small, but I have asked our insurance agent to provide an estimate. Both the primary and secondary contacts at the insurance company are unavailable today (7/20/09)

Material issues that remain for negotiation on which I need Board direction are:

- A. Term. The lease will be for a five year term with an option to negotiate a renewal term and rent. I have no objection to the five year term, but need board input.
- B. Rent: The County should strengthen the lease to clarify that rent during the five year term shall be in an amount equal to the ad valorem taxes only.
- C. Use of Premises: The land will only be used for the purpose of parking oyster boats (para. 4). Future uses of the property in addition to parking is allowed if the landlord agrees.
- D. Liability insurance: The landlord increased the coverage requirements from \$200,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00 AND ADDED A PROVISION FOR COUNTY INDEMNIFICATION OF THE LANDLORD.

I have asked your insurance agent to inform me as to your coverage limits. It is reasonable to insure the property using your existing insurance policy limits. However, if this amount exceeds your coverage, does the board want to purchase increased coverage?

I strongly recommend that the Board not provide a hold harmless and indemnification to the Lesser. You are currently protected by sovereign immunity and should not waive that protection. The landlord should be satisfied with the Board adding the property to its insurance coverage. The Board has previously authorized entry into a lease with Ms. Fields, but I need board input on these issues.

Board Action: Board directed as indicated above.

Commissioner Jackel said she had attempted to contact the property owner to clarify terms of lease but has not heard back from her. Commissioner Jackel suggested moving forward with the Attorney's lease recommendations, which modifies the lease originally approved, set the rent for the amount of the annual taxes, and let the owner make a counter offer if they choose. Commissioner Jackel said the Board would need to know the content of the conversation before they could move forward if there were any changes other than the annual taxes.

Commissioner Putnal said there are more boats unloading on this property now than at the County's boat ramp.

Commissioner Jackel said the purpose of leasing this property would be for the purposes of parking for any overflow traffic from the 3 potentially purchased lots and the boat ramp. Attorney Shuler said the original lease stated that the property would be used for launching boats and parking, but property owner wants to limit the lease to the parking only. Commissioner Jackel said she will discuss this item with the owner whenever she discusses the lease amount.

Attorney Shuler said he spoke with the insurance agent and he was informed that there will be no additional costs to add this to the policy and the limits of coverage are \$1,000,000, but is not in favor of the County agreeing to a hold harmless agreement with the property owner although the County would be covered.

Chairman Parrish said he didn't like the idea of removing this property from the tax roll if the property owner has the option of cancelling this lease within 30 days, so he recommended that some language is included to have the taxes pro-rated.

Attorney Shuler clarified that this 30 day cancellation of the lease only applies if there is a breach by the County or the property owner.

Commissioner Sanders said that the County obtaining this property would be good for Eastpoint and working waterfronts in the County.

Commissioner Jackel mentioned the County trying to obtain the other 2 parcels that are to the East of these subsequent 3 lots.

Mrs. Johnson and Attorney Shuler discussed the hold harmless further. Mrs. Johnson also stated that County crews should not do any work on this property until the lease is signed. Commissioner Jackel asked that the contract is sent overnight to Jay Hill.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders; to approve the lease contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review and approval of the terms; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioners and Public Comments (12:19 PM)

Commissioner Jackel said she has met with Chambers Bank on two different occasions this year about the clean-up of the abandoned properties that were part of the Port Haven development, and is glad to announce that they have hired a local contractor to clean up the property, which has already started. Commissioner Jackel said they have agreed to clean all of their property which includes the removal of the dilapidated buildings in the next 30 days.

Ted Mosteller, Apalachicola Regional Airport Manager, presented the Board with information on the annual DOT inspection which is scheduled for August 25th. Mr. Mosteller also provided information regarding questions he has received from the Board, and stated to Commissioner Sanders that he gathered this information on his own.

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Adjourn (12:22 PM)

Adjourn (12:22 Pivi)	
There being no further business, Chairman Parris	h adjourned the meeting.
	Joseph Parrish – Chairman FCBCC
Attest:	
Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts	