

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
JUNE 1, 2010
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

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

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

Call to Order (9:01 AM)

Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge (9:01 AM)

Commissioner Putnal asked for a moment of silent prayer for the soldiers who have died protecting our Country.

A prayer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Payment of County Bills (9:04 AM)

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to approve payment of the County's Bills as presented; Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes: May 18, 2010 Regular Meeting (9:04 AM)

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Lockley, to approve the Minutes of the May 18, 2010 regular Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Doris Pendleton – Property Appraiser - Discuss Tentative Tax Roll (9:05 AM)

Mrs. Pendleton distributed a handout to the Board and reminded them that the Tax Roll information presented is tentative because her office is still working on a few areas in the County. She said there could be up to a 28% decrease in taxable value on property in the County, which would mean a loss of up to \$2.9 million in the County's budget.

Commissioner Sanders said this would mean major cuts for departments.

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed possible ways to compensate for the large reductions in the

taxable values and how it will affect the budget for the following year.
Commissioner Sanders thanked Mrs. Pendleton for giving this information to the Board.

Skip Shiver – Sheriff – Discuss State Inmate Contract (9:11 AM)

Sheriff Shiver discussed the benefits of housing State inmates in the County jail and believed that losing them would cost the County more money. He also mentioned the services that the inmates provide for the County.

Commissioner Lockley asked if inmates with medical issues could be processed quicker and Sheriff Shiver stated that the Courts control how fast inmates are processed.

Commissioner Sanders and Sheriff Shiver discussed the cheapest process to feed the inmates.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to approve State Inmate Contract between the Department of Corrections and the Sheriff's Department; Motion carried 5-0.

Capt. Carl Whaley, Jail Administrator, asked for Board approval to allow all Sheriff's Dept. Staff to fuel their vehicles at the Road Dept. fueling station and close the fuel storage tanks located at the Jail. The Board, Mr. Pierce and Capt. Whaley discussed the cost benefits to this idea, possible accessibility problems and the amount of gas that would be available.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Jackel, to table this item until Capt. Whaley and Mr. Chipman can present a workable plan to the Board; Motion carried 5-0.

Alan Pierce – Report on Item #6 (9:23 AM)

6- Inform the Board that the Byrne grant that the Board approved at the May 18 meeting for the Sheriff's Office cannot be used for funding a 911 GIS map. According to the Franklin County Sheriff Finance Office, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant is an annual appropriation that is for drug related efforts. The Board had previously approved the grant with the understanding that if it was not going to be used for a GIS map the Sheriff would come back and seek approval from the Board for the grant. Board discussion with Sheriff.

The Board discussed this matter.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Putnal, to amend previous motion that allowed use of this grant to fund the 911 GIS Map; Motion carried 5-0.

Tourist Development Council – Update (9:26 AM)

Helen Spohrer stated that the TDC had received \$252,000 of the \$540,000 in advertising funding they requested, from the Governor's office for an emergency advertising plan and explained everyone's efforts to get this funding. She thanked the Board, Legislative Delegation and all others involved with securing this funding. She stated that as soon as she received a copy of the rules and regulations she would forward it to the Board and she wasn't certain what the time restrictions would be on spending

the funds but thought it was 45 days.

Commissioner Jackel and Ms. Spohrer discussed how Franklin County was treated and Ms. Spohrer believed, after looking at what other counties received, that Franklin County was treated fairly with the funding.

Commissioner Jackel thanked the TDC for their efforts and the work they are doing. She suggested that the TDC make plans for more funding in the future.

Commissioner Lockley asked for a status on the Memorial Day weekend business and Ms. Spohrer stated that the County was at 80 – 85% occupancy versus last year which was at 90%.

Commissioner Sanders and Ms. Spohrer discussed the length of the advertising strategy.

Mr. Pierce stated that Karen Dennis had a marketing plan and asked how it could be submitted to the TDC for review. Ms. Spohrer explained the process as it currently stands.

Commissioner Sanders and Ms. Spohrer discussed ads that are currently running on national television.

Ms. Spohrer discussed other marketing opportunities. She said anyone interested in submitting proposals to the TDC should send them to: 17 Avenue E, Apalachicola, Florida or email to: info@anaturalescape.com.

Chuck Tear, CGA, explained why there is a 45 day limit on the advertising funding. He said that the funding would have to follow all disclosure and emergency funding formats.

Department Supervisor Report

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works (9:46 AM)

Larry Brown, representing the Road Dept., had no items for Board action and/or approval.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Brown discussed grading and adding shells to the Indian Creek area and verifying that adding the shells complied with the plan. Mr. Rothwell explained what plans had been approved for that area.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Rothwell also discussed opening the second ramp at the Indian Creek area and the need to move forward with it.

Commissioner Putnal stated that there are drop offs in the parking area around the ramp that is located on the FDOT property on St. George Island and Mr. Pierce stated that FDOT is bidding out a project for that area soon.

The Board discussed this matter and asked that the Road Dept. do some temporary work to repair that area.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:54 AM)

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

Mr. Johnson stated that the Dixie Girls League will be hosting a tournament at the Kendrick Sports Complex in Carrabelle starting on June 18th and said that would be a good thing for the County.

Dan Rothwell – County Engineer (9:56 AM)

Mr. Rothwell had no items for Board action and/or approval.

1. 2010 County Paving Project:

Staff has approved payment of invoice #10 for \$736,457.34 for the paving project.

2. Northwest Florida Techniques for Living Shorelines:

Staff attended and made a presentation on behalf of the Apalachicola River Keeper and Franklin County on the Indian Creek Park Breakwater Project. Staff assisted the Apalachicola National Estuary Research Reserve with a demonstration of marsh grass planting on the Sawyer Street Breakwater project.

3. Ochlockonee Bay Boat Ramp:

The dredging around the ramp has been completed and the concrete retaining wall is still under construction. The contractor believes that the project is on schedule and will be completed by June 15, 2010.

4. Alligator Drive:

Staff is working with Public Works to prepare and install sign posts, for sign installation just prior to the lane shift markings between George Vause Road and Tom Roberts Road.

5. Franklin County / Apalachicola Regional Airport Water and Sewer Extension:

The water system extension is complete, and the new force main for sanitary sewer is 70% complete. Both projects are funded by FDOT grants.

6. Franklin County / Apalachicola Regional Airport Hangar Project:

The hangar foundation and slab should be poured within two weeks and the project is funded by a FDOT grant.

7. Franklin County / Apalachicola Regional Airport Stormwater Project:

The stormwater project is expected to begin within two weeks and the project is funded by a FDOT grant.

Commissioner Jackel reminded Mr. Rothwell about repairing the solar lighting at the Eastpoint Boat Ramp. Mr. Rothwell updated the Board on the status of these lights.

Commissioner Putnal asked about the building of a retention pond at the airport and Mr. Rothwell

explained the status of building the pond.

Pam Brownell- Emergency Management Director (10:00 AM)

Mrs. Brownell presented her report to the Board.

Action Items:

1. *Requesting the Board's approval of the 2009-2010 (EMPG) in the amount of \$48,389.00*

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve the 2009-2010 Emergency Management Preparedness Grant in the amount of \$48,389.00; Motion carried 5-0.

2. *For the second year Homeland Security has only allocated monies for new EOC's for counties that are on the non-competitive list. Because of this, I would strongly advise the Board to request our Government officials (Congress, State Senator, and Legislative) to request that the Department of Homeland Security put our county on the non-competitive grant allocation list for a new EOC for next year.*

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to approve request to put Franklin County on the non-competitive grant allocation list for a new EOC; Motion carried 5-0.

3. *Extend the State of Emergency*

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to extend the state of emergency; Motion carried 5-0.

Information Items:

1. *The Emergency Management is conducting an EOC workshop for the different agencies that work the Emergency Support Functions in our EOC during an activation on June 8th 2010*
2. *June 1st is the first day of Hurricane season I would hope that everyone has their plan ready.*
3. *The Franklin County Re-Entry Tag Program is still ongoing. The following is a total number of tags issued per each re-entry zone as of May 26, 2010.*

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Apalachicola | 177 |
| 2. St George Island | 248 |
| 3. Eastpoint | 110 |
| 4. Carrabelle | 160 |
| 5. Lanark Village/East | 197 |

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (10:02 AM)

Mr. Mahan presented his report to the Board and discussed the following item.

4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program – This year’s Annual Countywide 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Contest was held on Tuesday, May 25th. The countywide winners in the 4th/5th Grade Division and the 6th Grade Division are:

4th-5th Grade Division

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| 1 st | Abby Harris | “Lung Cancer” – Franklin County School |
| 2 nd | Melody Hatfield | “Saving the Bay” – Franklin County School |
| 3 rd | Eve Bond | “U.S. Economy” – ABC School |
| 4 th | Kate McLemore | “Fieldtrip to Orlando” – ABC School |

6th Grade Division

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---|
| 1 st | Amber Henning | “Moving Into Middle School” – ABC School |
| 2 nd | Brandon Walker | “Football” – Franklin County School |
| 3 rd | Shea Winters | “Understanding Me” – Franklin County School |
| 4 th | Monique Garner | “The End of the World” – ABC School |

In addition to the ribbons, medals and plaques the speakers received, each of the county finalists were offered a scholarship to this year’s County 4-H Camp, July 5 – 9, at Camp Timpooshee. The funding for the scholarships comes from Tropicana and the County’s 4-H Scholarship funds.

Denise Butler - Appointment of Library Advisory Board Members (10:04 AM)

Mrs. Butler presented two nominees, Leslie Cox and Judy Stakowski, for Board approval to be added to the Library Advisory Board. She named the eight members, including the two nominees, who currently sit on the Board and said that there will be a revision to the Board by-laws this summer. Mrs. Butler mentioned the public hearing to be held this evening to discuss grant funding received for the new Eastpoint Library, stating that they will receive a \$150,000 grant and received a \$200,000 loan to complete the project. She said once the loan is paid off and the building is transferred to the County, it will be debt free. She discussed new changes to the Library and matters about the new building.

Mrs. Butler and the Board discussed the cost of the new building and how it will impact the Budget.

The Board and Mrs. Butler discussed this matter further.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Putnal, to approve nominees Leslie Cox and Judy Stakowski to the Library Advisory Board; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce explained that one of the reasons construction stopped on the new building was because the FDA requested they stop until financing begins.

Mr. Pierce came back later and said that Ms. Spohrer remembered the ninth Board member, Christine Hinton.

Gail Robbins – Chief Operating Officer – Farm Share Discussion (10:15 AM)

Ms. Robbins distributed information about Farm Share, which is an organization that collects surplus produce and redistributes it to churches, homeless shelters and other organizations at no charge. She explained that they just opened a location in Gadsden County and they are seeking assistance since their funding has been reduced.

Commissioner Sanders said she had asked Ms. Robbins to come before the Board and give a presentation. She asked for a financial report before the Board agreed to assist with funding and Ms. Robbins stated that she would provide the information to the Board.

Commissioner Lockley asked Ms. Robbins if they provide services to Franklin County and she stated that Farm Share provides produce and other amenities to two locations, Franklin County Senior Citizens Center and Franklin's Promise, and discussed the program further.

Commissioner Putnal said a lot of people have benefited from this organization.

The Board and Ms. Robbins discussed this matter further.

David Rash – Discuss BP Oil Spill (10:22 AM)

Attorney David Rash and his partner Justin Gross, with the law firm of Alters, Boldt, Brown, Rash & Culmo, discussed how the BP Oil spill will affect the State of Florida, especially Franklin County, even if oil never washes up on the shores. He wanted the Board to know what legal options they may have and the legal process in holding BP responsible for this disaster. Attorney Rash discussed all of the repercussions of the oil spill and the effects it will have on everyone along the Gulf Coast. He spoke of all of the lawsuits being filed at this time and said they will be consolidated into one hearing, which will be heard by one Federal judge but he wasn't sure which state this hearing would be held. Attorney Rash said no one knows what the exact ramifications of the oil spill will be but said he knows there will be a devastating impact on the fisheries industry. He explained different ways the County can protect itself and hold BP responsible for any loss of natural resources, revenues and litigation fees.

Attorney Rash said his brother had been operating a business in this community for about 30 years; he grew up in Tallahassee and had been coming to Franklin County since the 1970's. He said he wanted to leave the Commission with one request and that was to be united with the people of Franklin County.

Commissioner Putnal asked Attorney Rash if he is representing the City of Apalachicola and to what degree. Attorney Rash gave an explanation that the citizens need representation.

Commissioner Putnal and Attorney Rash discussed when the County should decide to enter into litigation against BP and Attorney Rash explained some of the actions of BP and how it is affecting local communities.

Commissioner Sanders expressed her issues with the change of the boom plan that the County took 3-

4 days to create and the lack of boom staging areas in the County. She said she was mad that all of the work the Board did to acquire boom for the County was taken away and given to Louisiana.

Commissioner Lockley commented on the State's role with Franklin County not having a boom staging area in the County.

Attorney Rash stated that it is important for the County to have representation in this matter, even before there is any damage, in order to strategize and obtain documentation.

Commissioner Lockley and Attorney Rash discussed the cost to the County if his firm is engaged.

Commissioner Jackel and Attorney Rash discussed his firm's experience with this type of litigation and Attorney Rash discussed previous and current experiences.

Commissioner Jackel discussed some information being put out by the State of Florida that had false statements and said she was very concerned that this information was going out to the public. She read some of the information which said boom maintenance was going on in several counties in Florida, including Franklin County, but it isn't. She discussed funding for boom staging. Attorney Rash commented on these statements.

The Board discussed the lack of protection with boom staging areas in the County and other Florida Counties along the Gulf Coast.

The Board and Attorney Shuler discussed engaging a firm for this matter. Attorney Shuler said he would like to look at the retainer for this firm.

Attorney Rash discussed the fees and the County's responsibility for paying these fees.

Commissioner Sanders said she believed the County needed someone who was looking out for the best interest of the people.

The Board discussed this matter further.

Mr. Tear, CGA, said he believed the direction this firm was trying to take the Board was the correct direction. He also explained the difference in what his firm does and what the law firm will do.

Commissioner Jackel stated that Attorney Rash may represent her as a business owner so she has to abstain from voting on this motion.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to engage this law firm, contingent upon the review and approval of Attorney Shuler regarding reimbursement; Motion carried 4-0, Jackel abstained.

The Board discussed sending a letter to request boom in Franklin County.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to send a letter to the Governor's Office requesting boom in Franklin County; Motion carried 5-0.

Recess (11:11 AM)

Chairman Parrish called for a recess.

Reconvene (11:33 AM)

Chairman Parrish reconvened the meeting.

Steve Rash – Comments on Oil spill (11:33 AM)

Steve Rash, seafood business owner, stated that oil has been sighted in the Madison/Swanson area, which is about 50 miles from here. He said a charter captain saw a patch of oil that was about 3 miles wide about 40 miles off of Navarre, Florida. Mr. Rash discussed how the oil spill is affecting the fishing industry and how it may affect the County. He said closure areas are getting larger and the areas that are closed now are the areas that are normally fished for deep water products and he is already having problems getting some of these products.

Commissioner Putnal commented on government regulations on the fishing industry and the need to take another look at these regulations. He also discussed the differences in the tourism and fishing industry today and in the past.

Bruce Millender, seafood business owner, stated his concerns of the oil affecting the offshore fishing and his efforts to keep checking on it. He thanked the Board for their efforts in trying to protect the County from the oil spill.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to send a letter to the State Emergency Operations Center informing them that vessels have run through some oil off the Coast of Florida; Motion carried 5-0.

David Heil – Presentation - Changes to Bay Management Plan (11:43 AM)

David Heil, Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, stated that it is time to do a new survey for the Bay Management Plan. He said the Bay is opened seasonally as well as by River and rainfall, which brings fecal contamination to the Bay and said every 12 years the National Shell Fish Sanitation program requires a complete new survey of the Bay. Mr. Heil said they have to look at pollution sources, how the water mixes and several other issues. He said the good news is that the pollution source in the area has not changed therefore that is good news for oyster harvesting. He said the bacteriological quality hasn't changed either.

Mr. Heil discussed other issues with the Bay Management Plan, including reasons for closures. He said one of the things they are looking at is the 12 month harvest out of the East Hole area, which they are proposing, but if the fishery thinks it needs a summer rest, they will be glad to implement those kinds of changes.

Mr. Heil said at the request of the fishermen, law enforcement and probably the judge, a couple of boundary line changes will be made to have better enforcement. He also discussed time limits and the oil spill.

Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Heil to research the days when the Bay is closed and open in certain areas versus opening the entire Bay for those same amount of days so that no particular bar is overworked. Mr. Heil explained the reasons that the Bay is closed during certain times.

Mr. Heil discussed the role his Department plays regarding public health and the Bay and stated that his agency is looking at the oil spill in the same manner they look at red tide and explained what will be done if oil sheen or tar balls are sited. He said there are three things that will be done if the oil makes it here: 1) If visible sheen is seen, shellfish waters will be closed 2) Presence of tar balls only will allow waters to remain open unless the presence of oil is found in the shellfish 3) At this time there is no plan in place for tar balls that coat the oysters.

Commissioner Lockley asked about reopening the Bay if, at some point, it is closed due to the oil spill and Mr. Heil explained his agency's plan in this case.

Commissioner Putnal stated that he thinks there will not be any cases of anyone sick from oysters if all oysters were from Franklin County and not other States.

Chairman Parrish thanked Mr. Heil for presenting this information to the Board.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (11:59 AM)

Mrs. Johnson had no items for Board action and/or approval.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (12:00 PM)

Mr. Pierce presented his report.

1- Inform the Board that the second window of grant applications for TIGER funding has been opened. The county has until July 16 to complete a pre-application. I am soliciting opinions from Preble-Rish and Governance on possible projects. The selection will be highly competitive and based upon the selection criteria Franklin County is not going to be very competitive because we do not have enough people or a large infrastructure owned by the county that needs replacing. Board discussion.

2- Inform the Board that Mr. Tice has provided the following schedule for the repairs at the Health Dept. building in Apalachicola. Advertisement for bids should be at paper by June 5. Pre-bid meeting for contractors on June 22, and bids will be opened on June 29 at the current Health Dept. location in the old school board administrative building.

3- Board approval of Change Order #1 for the Ochlockonee Boat Ramp in the amount of \$105,495.50 to Poloronis Construction. The Change Order has been approved by Mr. Jack Husband, engineer for the project. Grant funds are available to pay for the change order.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to approve Change Order #1 for the Ochlockonee Boat Ramp in the amount of \$105,495.50 to Poloronis Construction; Motion carried 5-0.

4. *At the Board's direction I contacted DOT regarding the problem of limited sight at the intersection of Woodill Road and US 98. In an email response back from DOT Traffic Operations, DOT recommends, "that Franklin County relocate the Stop Bar on Woodill Road 15 feet closer to US 98. This location allows the driver to stop and have a clear line of sight to the west." That is the extent of DOT's recommendation.*

Commissioners Putnal and Sanders explained the seriousness of this problem.

Commissioner Sanders suggested that the Franklin County School Board is contacted for assistance on this matter.

The Board discussed this matter further.

Clay Kennedy, Preble-Rish, and Jack Husband, BBL, commented on this matter.

The Board asked Mr. Kennedy to visit the site and return with a recommendation for the Board.

5. *Inform the Board that the GIS committee has met and recommends the Board advertise for qualifications for a firm to complete the GIS base map, and then negotiate a price with the most qualified firm. It is the opinion of the committee that part of the problem in the past is that previous efforts involved selection based only on the lowest bid and previous contractors that were selected ended up being unable to complete the task because they were not qualified to deal with all the problems associated with the project. Board direction on letting the committee advertise for Request for Qualifications and then report back to the Board with a recommendation. The Committee will also look at qualifications of firms to complete the 911 layer that Ms. McWhinnie has been concerned with.*

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed all previous funding for this project and how much of the project is completed at this point.

Chairman Parrish explained that he would like the Board to approve RFQ for this project because there have already been two firms there and only 500 out of 18,000 had been completed. He said he wanted the Board to be careful of who was selected and how they were selected.

Commissioner Jackel asked if some of the cost could be taken from the 911 Reserve, but Mrs. Johnson said she didn't believe there was that much money in that fund.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to approve RFQ and have Staff contact Mr. Lott of Alligator Point and inform him of the RFQ; Motion carried 5-0.

6- *Inform the Board that the Byrne grant that the Board approved at the May 18 meeting for the Sheriff's Office cannot be used for funding a 911 GIS map. According the Franklin County Sheriff Finance Office, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant is an annual appropriation that is for drug related efforts. The Board had previously approved the grant with the understanding that if it was not going to be used for a GIS map the Sheriff would come back and seek approval from the Board for the grant.*

Board discussion with Sheriff.

This item was addressed earlier during the meeting.

7- Franklin County is part of an eight county group in Northwest Florida (NWRACEC) that is seeking development of broadband infrastructure/technology that will be available to every business and residence in the eight counties. The Board may recall that it approved an application by Opportunity Florida for Stimulus funding to build this basic broadband system last year. That original application was not funded. Opportunity Florida, which represents the eight counties in the NWRACEC, has now put together a second grant application with another area RACEC, which is the South Central RACEC. This second grant application has made it past one level of review by the federal government. Franklin County now needs to approve a Resolution of Participation in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC, which will oversee the grant application and installation of the broadband infrastructure if the grant is funded. The grant is for \$24M.

At this time all the other seven NWRACEC counties have signed their Resolutions. Commissioner Jackel and I met with Mr. Rick Marcum, Opportunity Florida, to try and better understand what exactly the county's obligation/responsibility is if this grant is awarded. Mr. Marcum assured us the county has no risk and no liability by participating in this program, and considering that all the other seven counties have already signed to support the broadband initiative we presume if there is any risk it will be shared by all eight participants.

Board authorization to sign the Resolution participating in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC, contingent upon the County Attorney reviewing the Resolution.

Chairman Parrish stated there might be another agency that is managing the Broadband grant.

Commissioner Sanders discussed her past experiences with Opportunity Florida, which she said has not been beneficial for Franklin County. She said there were several issues that she had a problem with and did not believe the contract should be renewed. She said they need to show the Board where this organization has been beneficial to the County.

Commissioner Jackel discussed what she understood from the meeting with Mr. Marcum regarding this program and resolution. She said she left the meeting with more questions than she had answers for and discussed other issues with Opportunity Florida.

Commissioner Jackel said they invited Mr. Marcum to come to the meeting today and discuss this issue with the Board but he declined because the other seven counties had already signed a resolution participating in the alliance.

The Board discussed this issue further.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, not to authorize the Chairman's Signature on the Resolution and not to renew Franklin County's membership with Opportunity Florida; Motion carried 5-0.

8- Ms. Pat McWhinnie, 911 Coordinator, is attempting to verify addresses and house locations in St. Teresa and other areas of the county that have some problems. She would like Board approval to transfer \$10,000 of reserve 911 funds to this year's Sheriff's budget to provide her some money to pay off-duty dispatchers to assist her in this 911 verification. I have checked with county Finance Office and the funds are available in 911 reserves if the Board wants to transfer them. 911 reserves are funds specifically raised by the charge on phone lines and the funds can only be spent for 911 purposes.
Board action.

Undersheriff Joel Norred, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, commented on the work being done by Ms. McWhinnie.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to approve the transfer of \$10,000 of (911) reserve funds to the Sheriff's budget to provide money to pay off-duty dispatchers to assist in 911 verification; Motion carried 5-0.

9- Inform Board that the Hospital has submitted a request for an increase of \$51,000 in the ambulance subsidy for this next year. Next year's request will be \$425,000, up from the current \$374,000. The Hospital Board reiterates that if some other group wants to run the ambulance service they will be glad to turn over everything including the subsidy to another group. This is the first year since the Hospital took over the ambulance service that it has asked for an increase. Last year the Hospital did not ask for an increase and instead subsidized the loss from Hospital revenue. This year the Hospital by itself is estimating it will lose approximately \$500,000 and it cannot afford to subsidize the ambulances losses. The Hospital is not asking for any county subsidy because it receives a share of the sales tax revenue for hospital operations. The Hospital is budgeting \$684,000 of tax revenue for operations so that will cover its losses. Part of the Hospital losses are the result of indigent care and non-payments through the emergency room but the Hospital has seen its revenue drop this year and several factors are at play: the general economy; the reduction in the Low Income Pool (LIP) payments from the state; the change in doctors at the Carrabelle Clinic caused some loss in revenue; and the opening of Sacred Heart Hospital. The Hospital Board is continuing to look for opportunities to increase revenues and decrease expenditures.

10- Inform the Board that now the funds to build the Carrabelle Clinic are in the bank and a contract has been signed for the construction of the Urgent Care Clinic, the Hospital Board has turned its attention to the second half of the capital improvements promised the voters when the sales tax was approved, and that is improvements to Weems Hospital. The Hospital Board is proceeding with the USDA grant/low interest loan application by conducting a feasibility study that is required by the USDA.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to send a Letter of Support to USDA on behalf of Weems Hospital Board; Motion carried 5-0.

11- Inform the Board that I will be out of the office starting Friday, June 4 through June 11. Commissioner Sanders stated that there has been a request to add Mr. Pierce's report to the agenda online before the Board meetings.

Commissioner Sanders asked that Mr. Pierce contact AJAX and have them move forward with the Urgent Care Project in Carrabelle.

Mr. Pierce distributed some reports from Chuck Tear, CGA, for Board review and approval at the next meeting and Mr. Tear commented on some other items relating to the boom strategy.

Mr. Tear discussed working with Unified, a company who has the boom materials and would work with Joe Blanchard, Crowder Excavating, and he said they will work "at risk" with the County.

Commissioner Jackel said she would like to have them work with the County if they have the material for boom.

Mr. Tear said that the Board's first priority was to work with Crowder but if they don't have that much boom available then Unified would work as a team with Crowder to accomplish providing boom for the County.

Commissioner Jackel asked if a contract had been signed with Crowder and Attorney Shuler said a contract had not been signed at this time.

Commissioner Jackel said as long as there was no cost to the County she would like to move forward with this partnership.

Commissioner Lockley asked if Crowder was going to sign a contract with the County.

Joe Blanchard, Crowder Excavating, said they have not signed a contract at this time because of the up-front costs to his company. He said without any assurance that oil would come in, the cost would be too much for Crowder but they were willing to work with Unified on a boom strategy.

Attorney Shuler discussed this matter with the Board.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Lockley, to authorize Shuler to discuss this matter with Chuck Tear, CGA and Crowder; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Tear stated that there are new BP Company Representatives in the County and he will be meeting with them to bring them up to date and bring back information for the Board.

T. Michael Shuler- County Attorney- Report (12:45 PM)

Attorney Shuler presented his report to the Board.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to approve travel expenses to attend a meeting in Tallahassee; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioners' & Public Comments (12:46 PM)

Commissioner Sanders discussed the recent North West Florida Transportation Corridor Authority meeting. She said there are no plans for an alternate highway through Franklin County.

Attorney Shuler discussed a voting conflict that would disqualify any Commissioner if they were engaged by the BP Company. He recommended that none of the Commissioners have any kind of

work relationship with BP.

Commissioner Jackel asked Attorney Shuler how litigation could affect the Board's relationship with the BP Company and Attorney Shuler discussed this matter.

Adjourn (12:51 PM)

There being no further business, Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting.

Joseph Parrish – Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts