

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
FEBRUARY 1, 2011
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

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

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

Call to Order (9:02 AM)

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to order.

Doris Pendleton - Moment of Silence – John James (9:02 AM)

Mrs. Pendleton requested that there be a moment of silence in honor of a former Franklin County Property Appraiser, Mr. John James.

Prayer and Pledge (9:03 AM)

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes – January 18, 2011 Regular Meeting (9:03 AM)

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to approve the Minutes of the January 18, 2011 Regular Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills (9:04 AM)

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

Department Supervisor Report

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works (9:04 AM)

Mr. Chipman updated the Board on recent projects and said due to some of his employees being out sick and the recent rain, completing these projects had been slow.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Chipman to look at an email regarding the need for stop signs.

Chairman Lockley and Commissioner Putnal thanked Mr. Chipman for certain work that was done.

Mr. Pierce updated the Board on a FDOT project on C30A in Carrabelle.

Commissioner Sanders expressed concerns regarding the fence that will be erected on that site and would like more safety precautions, such as guard rails.

Mr. Pierce and Commissioner Sanders discussed this matter further.

Commissioner Jackel asked about funding that allows the Road Dept. to maintain Highway 98 in Eastpoint. She also asked about funding that is used by Transfield Services for bridge cleanup. Mr. Pierce explained how this highway clean-up funding is divided between Lanark Village and Eastpoint. He said there is funding that is provided by the State for bridge clean-up.

Commissioner Jackel asked if the Board would support using that funding for bridge clean-up for a local contractor rather than it going to Transfield Services.

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed this matter further. Commissioner Jackel explained that this action would only affect bridge clean-up, not Transfield Services' other responsibilities in the County.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to ask Attorney Shuler to look at a contract and see if the County can request funding from Transfield Services for the Franklin County bridge clean-up only, providing that a local contractor could provide the service more often than Transfield Services, with their own insurance and other requirements, and create a conditional RFP for bridge clean-up 26 times a year; Motion carried 5-0.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:19 AM)

Mr. Johnson had no items for Board action.

Mr. Johnson informed the Board that Franklin County will host the Dixie League Softball Tournament in July.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Johnson to install a "No Dumping" sign at the Island Drive and Patton Drive intersection. She said Patton Drive may have been left out during the Eastpoint trash pick-up week.

Pam Brownell- Emergency Management Director (9:21 AM)

Mrs. Brownell presented her report to the Board.

Action Items: Opening of Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for Training and Exercises (EM Contractual Services) in the coming year. Emergency Management will request motion to conduct a review of the RFQs and report back to the Commission with its findings.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, to approve opening of RFQs for training and exercises in the coming year and to allow EM to conduct a review of the RFQs and report back to the Commission with its findings; Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Brownell opened the RFQs and read the names to the Board.

Disaster Strategy and Ideas Group of Tallahassee, Florida
Expert Managers of Tallahassee, Florida
Obrien's Response Management of Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to appoint Pam Brownell, Alan Pierce, and Mike Rundel, as the committee to review the RFQs and report back to the Board with a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.

Information Items:

- *The Emergency Management Office conducted a Disaster Housing Planning Workshop on January 21, 2011 at 9:00 am to update the old county Disaster Housing Plan and to form a Disaster Housing Task Force.*
- *We continue the process of setting up dates and times with different agencies and business to finish issuing re-entry tags. The Franklin County K-12 School and ABC School were visited in January.*
- *Our efforts to seek expanded cellular phone coverage in Franklin County continue. We expect to receive a supporting resolution from Wakulla County shortly, at which time the complete packaged regional request will be forwarded to the Florida Division of Emergency Management.*
- *Work continues on the Lanark Village Voluntary Firewall Survey.*
- *Pamela Brownell and Joyce Durham attended training classes at the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association January 24-28, 2011 in Orlando, Fl. This was a mandatory part of our State Scope of Work.*

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (9:26 AM)

Mr. Mahan had no items for Board action but discussed the following items from his report.

ABC School Garden – I am working with members of the Franklin County Coalition and UF's Arts In Medicine Program on a school health garden project.

Lion Fish – Ciguatera Update – Ciguatera poisoning is caused by naturally occurring toxins, called ciguatoxins, which are produced by microscopic plants - Gambierdiscus toxicus - that live on seaweed and other surfaces within coral reef communities. When fish eat seaweed or algae they consume the organisms, too, and the ciguatoxins build up in the fish's flesh. Because the toxin is fat soluble - it is stored in the fishes' body, not excreted and it accumulates over time. The bigger fish eat the little fish and the toxin gets passed on until it is consumed by humans. Predators at the top of the food chain - like barracuda - can end up with large amounts of the toxin in their flesh. No test can be done to determine if the fish is poisoned and cooking and preparation methods have no affect on the toxin. Recent test results of lionfish caught in the U.S. Virgin Islands found that 4 of the 7 fish tested, were positive for ciguatoxins.

Fisheries Management In-Service Training Update – The Fisheries Management training last week in Tampa went very well. Most of the meeting/training was spent networking with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's staff and fisheries managers from NOAA. The Council staff wants to work closely with FL Sea Grant Agents to have a better outreach to the commercial and recreational fishermen about fishing issues.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, February 5th & 6th – The FWC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established Feb. 5-6th, as Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days. These select days are a great opportunity to get young people outdoors and to introduce them to the excitement of waterfowl hunting. The statewide, two-day season allows children younger than 16 years old – with adult supervision – to hunt waterfowl, coots and common moorhens. Supervisors (18 years or older) must be present and may assist young hunters, but state regulations prohibit the supervisors from hunting. Hunters younger than 16 years of age do not need licenses, permits or federal duck stamps.

All regulations and bag limits for hunting waterfowl apply to this two-day season. Hunting regulations are available online at MyFWC.com/Hunting or in the FWC's waterfowl and coot seasons brochure, available at county tax collectors' offices.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (9:29 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented the following items from his report

8- Inform Board that David Heil, DACS, sent me an email regarding a workshop that will be held in Apalachicola next Monday, Feb. 7, at 4 PM, here in the Annex to discuss new proposed rules for the oyster industry.

David also said in his email that ISSC executive board has requested the US FDA focus on compliance of the Gulf state Vibrio reductions plans as the 60% reduction in illness rate has not been achieved. This could result in additional rules being put in place by FDA.

Mr. Pierce discussed an email he received from Mr. Heil.

Commissioner Sanders discussed the request from the Seafood Workers to use shelling funding. She suggested that the Board hold off on using the re-shelling funding until the Seafood Workers hold their annual meeting.

Commissioner Parrish discussed concerns from oystermen about the annual meeting of the Seafood Workers and also the new proposed regulations for oystermen.

Commissioner Parrish stated that he will be attending another meeting in Washington on Monday so he asked that other Commissioners attend the Seafood Workers Annual Meeting.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to request that the Seafood Workers schedule and advertise their annual meeting where elections will be held before the County gives them re-shelling funding; Motion carried 5-0.

3- Inform the Board that it was the Univ. of Alabama, not the Univ. of Florida, which received \$800,000 of BP funds to study the effects of the oil spill. Provide Board with copy of news item. FSU has also received \$500,000 to study different aspects of the spill.

Jay Abbott – SGI Chili Cook-Off – Request to close streets (9:37 AM)

Mr. Abbott and Lt. Bobby Shiver discussed the upcoming 29th Annual Chili Cook-Off on March 5, 2011. Mr. Abbott asked that Chili Blvd. and Gulf Beach Drive are closed during the event.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Putnal, to approve request to close Chili Blvd. and Gulf Beach Drive on St. George Island for the Chili Cook-Off; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jackel stated that while attending the ARPC Meeting it was announced that there was \$16,000 in scholarships for training available for volunteer fire departments.

Chief Abbott stated that his department, as well as the other local fire departments, will have to buy new narrow band radios, which will cost about \$15,000.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Pierce discussed possible grants to assist County Departments with funding.

The Board also discussed the need for a professional grant writer.

Commissioner Putnal discussed the need for the third ambulance at the Chili Cook-off.

Mr. Pierce and Mr. Abbott discussed possible training assistance for volunteer firefighters. Commissioner Jackel also provided additional information on this matter.

Commissioner Sanders commented on this matter.

Recess (9:50 AM)

Chairman Lockley called for a recess.

Reconvene (10:13 AM)

Chairman Lockley reconvened the meeting.

Steven Goodman & Carl Holiday – Proposal for Leasing the Armory (10:13 AM)

Carl Holiday and Steven Goodman provided a handout and gave the Board some history about their business and discussed their proposal for leasing the Armory in Apalachicola.

Mr. Holiday and Mr. Goodman explained their interest in the Armory and asked the Board to consider a sublease through a bidding process. They said they would renovate the building to encourage use for out of town events but would make it available for local residents. They discussed the benefits to the County if they were to be allowed to lease the Armory and shared some of the events that would be offered by their company.

Commissioner Jackel stated the importance of keeping the Armory available to the local residents and mentioned Rep. Will Kendrick's efforts to get this building for the County. She also asked about the two tier pricing that would provide a cheaper price to local residents. Mr. Holiday and Mr. Goodman responded to Commissioner Jackel's concerns.

Commissioner Jackel asked about maintaining the historical integrity of the building and asked if any improvements would require special permission.

Mr. Pierce commented on this matter and said the National Guard still had control over any changes that would be made to the Armory.

The gentlemen said they were previously members of the historical preservation boards and explained their experience with the restoration of historical buildings.

Chairman Parrish stated his concerns with public access and the historical nature of the building.

The gentlemen explained that they desire to be a part of the community along with community events and reassured Commissioner Parrish that public access would be their number one priority.

Chairman Lockley also wanted to verify that the building would be available year round for local residents.

Mr. Pierce asked if their special events would cause a conflict with local events.

The gentlemen responded to these concerns explaining that their renovations would allow the building to be used year round.

Beverly Hewitt, owner of the Apalachicola Seafood Grill, was in favor of leasing the Armory as it would provide a boost to the County's economy. She spoke about family members who are veterans and said she supports the veterans. Ms. Hewitt also stated some of the problems the Armory currently experiences.

Ed Tiley, previous business owner, spoke in favor of this project and stated that with the renovations to the Armory it would be used more for local cultural events. He also stated that the acoustics of the building need improvements.

Larry Hale, commander of the American Legion, stated that the building needs improvements so that more veteran and military events could be held inside the building. He was in favor of improvements to the building, which would be a big and expensive task.

Mr. Pierce discussed the process that would be required including approval from the State of Florida.

The Board and Attorney Shuler discussed the wording for the RFP.

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed the status of the historical preservation grant to improve the Armory.

Chairman Lockley stated the importance of ensuring public access in the RFP.

Commissioner Parrish asked that wording be incorporated in the RFP to provide public access and historical preservation.

Chairman Lockley and Commissioner Parrish discussed having a public hearing after proposals are received.

Commissioner Parrish asked that the economic benefits are stated in the RFP.

Commissioner Jackel asked that a draft of the RFPs be submitted to the Commissioners before advertisement.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Jackel, to create a RFP for subleasing the Armory; Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Shuler suggested the 2nd meeting in March to schedule the public hearing.

Open RFQ's – Energy Grant Architect and Engineering Services (10:53 AM)

Mr. Pierce stated that the Energy office asked that additional language be included in the RFQ before opening the qualifications.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to accept recommendation of Alan Pierce to delay opening of RFQs until it is approved by the State's Energy Office; Motion carried 5-0.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (10:56 AM)

Mrs. Johnson had no report for the Board.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (10:56 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented his report to the Board.

1- Board update on CDBG issues. Commissioner Sanders had asked about the feasibility of Alligator Point getting fire hydrants through a CDBG project. The next cycle for CDBG applications should be July 2011. I have spoken to Ms. Debbie Roumellis and she said that while it is possible part of Alligator Point might qualify the county will not be able to apply because we can only have one CDBG grant open at a time. Eastpoint currently has a \$700,000 CDBG grant that is part of a larger USDA grant to do major improvements to the sewer and water system. Eastpoint has opened bids and all the bids came in over the grant funds. Eastpoint is negotiating the project to try and bring it within budget but there is no way the project will be negotiated and built in the next six months when the construction timeline is one year.

The Board's ability to access additional CDBG funds depends on Eastpoint Sewer and Water completing their existing project. Or, in a worst case scenario, giving up on the project and then the Board could apply for something else. Ms. Roumellis said that Eastpoint will have to make a decision soon on their project as they have already been granted one time extension by CDBG. She will let us know if Eastpoint backs out of the project.

The Board discussed this matter and the issues with residents building homes way out from town.

Commissioner Parrish stated that he had discussed partnering with the City of Apalachicola on extending fire hydrants out to Bluff Road.

Commissioner Jackel asked if the City of Carrabelle would also be willing to partner with the County.

The Board and Commissioner Parrish discussed this matter further.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Putnal, to write letters to the City of Apalachicola asking that they partner with the County on extending water lines and fire hydrants out to Bluff Road at the Southland Subdivision and also the City of Carrabelle asking to partner with the County to provide fire hydrants to residents outside of the city limits; Motion carried 5-0.

2- Provide Board with copy of DEP permit for Carrabelle multi-use path. Obtaining the permit was a major issue as the project has to work around the large box culvert on the curve to Carrabelle Beach.

3- Inform the Board that it was the Univ. of Alabama, not the Univ. of Florida, which received \$800,000 of BP funds to study the effects of the oil spill. Provide Board with copy of news item. FSU has also received \$500,000 to study different aspects of the spill.

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

4- Provide Board with copy of DOT letter stating that the speed limits in Eastpoint will be changed as announced previously. The Clerk's Office received a phone call to say that the speed limits will be changed after the construction has finished at the intersection of Island Drive and US 98.

5- Inform Board that FWC will build six camping sites, improve the road access, and continue to allow boat launching at the Butcher Pen Landing if Board will agree to provide litter control at the landing. The Board is already doing litter control at Gardner's Landing and Sand Beach which is only a few miles away so this additional site will not add a great burden. Board action to sign Memorandum of Understanding with FWC.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with FWC for Butcher Pen Landing; Motion carried 5-0.

6- Board action to approve Resolution stating that the St. James community along US 98 represents a distinct community with significant historical, cultural, or educational value. The Resolution will be sent to DOT with other documentation in an effort to get DOT to re-install the St. James sign DOT removed last year when it was doing some project in the area.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to approve the Resolution stating that the St. James community along US 98 represents a distinct community with significant historical, cultural or educational value; Motion carried 5-0.

7- Inform Board that the FAC Legislative Day is scheduled for March 23. Please let Amy know if you plan to attend and whether you need reservations. The FAC notice states in bold print that commissioners are responsible for scheduling appointments with our own Legislators prior to your arrival in Tallahassee.

Commissioner Sanders discussed the FAC Annual Conference in Orlando in June.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to approve travel and expenses for Commissioners and Staff to attend the FAC Legislative Day on March 23, 2011; Motion carried 5-0.

8- Inform Board that David Heil, DACS, sent me an email regarding a workshop that will be held in Apalachicola next Monday, Feb. 7, at 4 PM, here in the Annex to discuss new proposed rules for the oyster industry.

David also said in his email that ISSC executive board has requested the US FDA focus on compliance of the Gulf state Vibrio reductions plans as the 60% reduction in illness rate has not been achieved. This could result in additional rules being put in place by FDA.

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

9- Inform Board that Lori Switzer would like to participate in two federally funded programs to help Franklin County homeowners who are in danger of foreclosure. When the current SHIP funding is used up her office and her services will close unless she finds additional funding, and she and I both expect the state will not allocate SHIP funds this year.

The programs that she would provide services for will be administered by the Florida Housing, which also administers the SHIP program. Lori will only be providing a service in qualifying and monitoring applicants. Neither Lori, nor the county, will be involved in any of the finances associated with the programs but the programs must be run through a SHIP office. At this time 25% of the SHIP offices have signed up for the training.

A summary of the programs is " Florida Housing was directed by the US Treasury to create and administer foreclosure prevention assistance programs that address the unique issues of our state. Treasury requires that Florida use a portion of these funds specifically for targeted unemployment programs that provide temporary assistance to eligible homeowners." The state of Florida has received approximately \$1B from the US Treasury to run these programs.

The programs are:

*Unemployment Mortgage Assistance Program (UMAP)- Loan funds can be used to pay monthly mortgage and escrow mortgage related expenses until the homeowner can resume payments or for up to 18 months.

*Mortgage Loan Reinstatement Program (MLRP) - Loan funds can be used to bring the past-due first mortgage current; up to six months will be paid.

If the Board is interested in Lori providing these services to Franklin County they need to authorize her to go to the training, and to direct the County Attorney to review the proposed contract between Florida Housing and Franklin County. Board action.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to authorize Lori Switzer to attend the Unemployment Mortgage Assistance Program and Mortgage Loan Reinstatement Program and to direct the County Attorney to review the proposed contract between Florida Housing and Franklin County; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sanders stated that there was a Carrabelle resident who recently lost their home to a fire but SHIP was unable to assist because it was a mobile home.

The Board discussed this matter further.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to ask Mr. Pierce to investigate funding to assist the resident that lost their house to fire in Carrabelle; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to send a letter to the State of Florida in support of funding the SHIP program and to state the need for rehab funds in Franklin County; Motion carried 5-0.

10- Mr. David Baker, Lanark Village resident, has written a letter to each commissioner, the Clerk, and me, thanking us for our role in getting clarification on 911 funds.

11- Board action on two items related to the Carrabelle Urgent Care Clinic.

A) As the owner of the building the Board needs to sign the Certificate of Substantial Completion for the building. The county has issued the Certificate of Occupancy and the Architect and Contractor have signed their side of the Certificate of Substantial Completion, so the Board needs to sign.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to sign the Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Carrabelle Urgent Care Clinic; Motion carried 5-0.

B) Ajax has prepared an Amendment No. 3 to the contract between the county and Ajax which reduces the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Urgent Care Clinic by some \$19,180.56, and Ajax has prepared a Final Invoice showing that same amount. Board action to sign Amendment No. 3 and Final Invoice.

Commissioner Jackel commented on the new facility and the open house event.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Pierce to ask Mr. Chipman to cut down pine trees around the helipad at the Carrabelle Urgent Care Center.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to sign Amendment No. 3 which reduces the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Urgent Care Clinic by some \$19,180.56; Motion carried 5-0.

12- Inform Board that Commissioner Parrish and I are going to Fort Walton Friday for a meeting with the six other affected counties regarding BP money. Senator Gaetz continues to push legislation through various committees whereby the State would control the oil spill recovery process.

13- Board action to take 2 metal desks off inventory at the request of the Friends of the Library. Sometime in the past the Tax Collector's office donated two metal desks to the Board who in turn gave them to the Friends for use. The Friends no longer needs the desks and they want to donate them to the Literacy program. The desks have been well used and I recommend the Board take them off inventory and let the Friends donate them to the Literacy and then the Board does not have to keep track of them anymore.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to approve taking 2 metal desks off inventory at the request of the Friends of the Library; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce stated that he received a response from Tyndall Federal Credit Union (TFCU) regarding the Board request asking TFCU to consider opening a branch in Franklin County. He read the letter to the Board.

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report (11:19 AM)

Attorney Shuler had no report for the Board.

Commissioner Sanders asked for an update on the South Shoal property and Capital City Bank. Attorney Shuler provided information and said he had not received a package from them as yet but would follow up with their attorney.

Commissioners & Public Comments (11:22 AM)

Commissioner Putnal asked that a letter be sent to the State of Florida asking that they do not buy any more property in the County as it is hurting the local economy. Commissioner Sanders agreed and asked that the State notify the Board when they intend to purchase property.

Commissioner Parrish expressed his dissatisfaction with the State's intent to close public parks and the effect it has on the economy of the County. The Board discussed the small percentage of property owners paying all the taxes, whereas the State and St. Joe Company owning a lot of property in the County but are not paying any taxes.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to send a letter to the State about purchasing property in the County and detail the negative effect it has on the economy of the County; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jackel updated the Board of the ARPC Revolving Loan fund, which now has \$430,000 available for small business loans.

Commissioner Jackel asked that Staff contact DEP about the boat ramp on St. George Island, saying it is unusable because it is filled in with sand. She also discussed the negative repercussions to marine life in the area.

Larry Hale, of St. George Island, commented on the importance of the "sand" boat ramp on SGI. He stated that it could easily be dredged and discussed the benefits to the health of the Bay from dredging.

The Board commented on their past efforts to get the State to dredge this area.

Mr. Hale also discussed the need for additional public restrooms and other amenities on the old SGI/Eastpoint Bridge, even if it means charging for admission to use the bridge for fishing. He compared this to the efforts that were done at the SGI Lighthouse.

Commissioner Jackel commented on this matter and said she was putting information together to present to the Franklin County Tourist Development Council.

Rev. John Sink, chair of Housing Board, thanked the Board for their support for affordable housing in the County and discussed the importance of this funding.

Adjourn (11:43 AM)

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

Noah Lockley, Chairman – FCBOCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts