

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
MAY 15, 2012
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Court, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney (joined Meeting at 9:30 AM), Michael Morón – Deputy Clerk/Board Secretary

Call to Order (9:00 AM)

Chairman Jackel called the Meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge (9:00 AM)

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes - April 17, 2012 Regular Meeting (9:02 AM)

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to approve the Minutes for the April 17, 2012 Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills (9:02 AM)

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

Department Supervisors' Report

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works (9:03 AM)

Mr. Chipman had no items for Board action but updated the Board on the status of grass cutting through-out the County.

Commissioner Sanders thanked Mr. Chipman for his work at the boat ramps in Lanark Village.

Chairman Jackel asked Mr. Chipman to deliver about a half a load of sand to the Eastpoint Pavilion.

Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:05 AM)

Mr. Johnson had no report for the Board but stated that the architect for the Armory is here and would like to make a brief presentation to the Board.

Mr. Johnson stated that he has advertised, in house, for the upcoming vacant position of Solid Waste Director and had a recommendation based on the two applications he received.

The Board discussed interviewing both of the applicants.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to have the Board interview applicants for the Solid Waste Director at the first Meeting in June and have the Assistant Director act as interim Director until the position is filled by the Board; Motion carried 5-0.

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed scheduling the interviews during the Meeting in June.

Mr. Warren Emo, of EMO Architects, updated the Board on the status of the Armory renovations and reviewed a handout, which was distributed to the Commissioners. He discussed good and bad elements of the current status of the Armory building. He said the out-building next to the high auditorium building has a major roof leak in the roof and the main electrical panel for the building is right below it. Mr. Emo said several attempts had been made to repair the leak but none had been successful. He also discussed issues with drainage around the building.

Commissioner Sanders asked about the extra building which was built onto the Armory and stated that she was in favor of moving forward with the project.

Chairman Jackel and Mr. Emo discussed a timeline to begin construction.

The Board, Mr. Pierce and Mr. Emo discussed the bid process and the many components that can be done by local contractors.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to proceed with the Armory renovation project; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sanders, on behalf of the Board, thanked Mr. Johnson for all of his services provided through-out his years of employment with the County and reflected on memories of his time with the County.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to make an official presentation to Mr. Johnson for his years of service to the County and to designate May 31, 2012 as Van Johnson Day in Franklin County; Motion carried 5-0.

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management (9:31 AM)

Mike Rundel stated that there are no action items on Mrs. Brownell's report.

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Rundel discussed storm readiness for the County.

Action Items: None

Information Items:

- 1. The Emergency Management office will be participating in the State Hurricane Exercise scheduled for May 21-22, 2012.*
- 2. Emergency Management will host a meeting for the American Red Cross at the EOC on May 23, 2012 at 10:00 am.*
- 3. The Emergency Management office will participate in the Cops & Kids day on May 25, 2012 at the Franklin County Sheriff's office to hand out get a plan information as a part of our public outreach program.*
- 4. Mike Rundel and I will be attending the Region 2 meeting located at the American Red Cross building in Tallahassee, May 29, 2012.*
- 5. Emergency Management has scheduled a Meet the Press Day, so county agencies Public Information Officers can meet at exchange contact information with the press, before an incident happens.*

Chairman Jackel discussed designating Pam Brownell as a Department Supervisor.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to start the procedure to designate Mrs. Brownell as Senior Management; Motion carried 5-0.

Bill Mahan – Extension Office Director

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

Franklin - UF IFAS Updates

- 1) Annual Countywide 4H Tropicana Public Speaking Contest – The 19th Annual Countywide 4H Tropicana Public Speaking Contest was held on May 10th at the Chapman Auditorium. The results are:
4th/5th Grade Division
1st. Beyla Walker, "Cyber Bullying" – FCS/Ms. Humble/5th Grade*

- 2nd. Camille Williams, - "My Little Bother" – ABC/Ms. Bockelman/4th Grade
3rd. Cale Barber, "Switch-Out" – "FCS/Ms. Barber/4th Grade
Honorable Mention: Grayson Constantine, "Angry Cupcake" – ABC/Ms. Lanane/5th Grade
Hannah Hogan, "Hats" – FCS/Ms. Humble/5th Grade
- 6th Grade Division
1st. Faith Sapp, "The Grey Wolf" – ABC/Ms. Ward
2nd. Natalie Terhune, "10,000 feet Up Bear Mountain" – ABC/Ms. Ward
3rd. Hannah Westbrook, "Chocolate" – FCS/Ms. Keuchel
Honorable Mention: Harper Westbrook, "Dogs" – FCS/Ms. Keuchel

Chairman Jackel suggested having the two 1st place finalists attend a Board meeting in June to read their paper.

- 2) *Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference Committee Appointment - I received an email from Ken Moore that Chairman of the Executive Board has reappointed me to the ISSC's Foreign Relations Committee for 2012 – 2013. This is the seventh committee that I've been appointed to for 2012 & 2013.*
- 3) *Franklin County Traffic Safety Team Meeting – At the last FCTST Meeting a topic of discussion was the "new" 35 mph speed limit on US 98 through the Eastpoint business district. Since the change there have been several complaints about the lower speed limit and a request to return the posted speed to the "old" 45 mph speed limit. The Traffic Team was informed by an FDOT representative, that since a traffic study supported lowering the speed limit to 35 and that it takes "legislative" approval to change the speed limit on a US highway, that the speed limit will not be changed in the near future unless conditions change and a new traffic study supports the need for a higher speed limit. The next FCTST Meeting is scheduled for noon, May 16th at the Carrabelle City Complex.*

Chairman Jackel commented on this issue and was in favor of the 35 mph speed limit.

Glenda Ondracek – Public Library Director (9:38 AM)

Glenda Ondracek, Franklin County Public Library Director, updated the Board on some of the children, teen and adult activities going on at the Library this summer. She provided statistics on visitors to the Library and discussed the new automated library system.

Open Bids – Alligator Point Revetment Removal (9:43 AM)

Mr. Pierce reviewed the Alligator Revetment Project bids.

I-C Construction (Panama City, Florida) – w/Bid Bond – Base Bid \$81,274.08 – Alternate Bid - \$476,816.00

North Florida Construction (Clarksville, Florida) – w/Bid Bond - Base Bid \$111,552.00 – Alternate Bid - \$225,000.00

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to forward the Alligator Point Revetment Project bids to Mike Dombrowski, the project’s engineer, for a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.

Open RFQs – County Auditor Services (9:49 AM)

Mr. Pierce discussed and opened RFQs for the County auditor services.

Carr, Riggs and Ingram (Panama City, Florida)

Roberson and Associates (Panama City, Florida)

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to forward the RFQs for County auditor to the appointed committee for a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.

Recess (9:51 AM)

Chairman Jackel called for a recess.

Reconvene (10:11 AM)

Chairman Jackel reconvened the Meeting.

BOA – Report (10:11 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented items from the Board of Adjustment.

1 – (Approved by the ABOA) a request for a variance to construct two sets of exterior stairs on a single family residence, 4 feet into the Critical Habitat Zone on property described as Lot 10 & 11, Sandpiper Village, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida, as requested by Larry Taylor, agent for Tim Wright.

2 – (Approved by the ABOA) a request for a variance to construct a rock revetment within the Critical Habitat Zone on property described as Lot 19, Heron Bay Village, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida, as requested by Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc., agent for Stephanie A. Mason.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to approve Item 1, a variance to construct two sets of exterior stairs on a single family residence at Sandpiper Village & Item 2, to construct a rock revetment at Heron Bay on St. George Island; Motion carried 5-0.

Planning & Zoning – Report (10:12 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented the Planning & Zoning items to the Board.

SMALL SCALE LAND USE CHANGE & REZONING:

1- Recommended Approval- Unanimous: Consideration of a request to re-zone a 3.72 acre parcel of land described as 957 Highway 98 West, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida from R-1 Single Family Residential and R-4 Single Family Home Industry to C-3 Commercial Recreational and a Small Scale Land Use Change from Residential to Commercial Recreation. Request submitted by Coastline Rentals, LLC.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve public hearing to consider a request to re-zone a 3.72 acre parcel of land described as 957 Highway 98 West, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida from R-1 Single Family Residential and R-4 Single Family Home Industry to C-3 Commercial Recreational and a Small Scale Land Use Change from Residential to Commercial Recreation; Motion carried 5-0.

COMMERCIAL SITE PLAN REVIEW:

2 - Recommended Approval- Unanimous: Consideration of a request for Commercial Site Plan Review for a 3.72 acre parcel described as 957 Highway 98 West, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. The proposed site plan will include an RV Resort with 36 sites and amenities such as Manager's Residence/Office Space, Activity Center, Bath House and a Swimming Pool. Request submitted by Coastline Rentals, LLC.

This item is on hold and will be resubmitted after the Public Hearing.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (10:15 AM)

Mrs. Johnson had no report for the Board.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (10:15)

Mr. Pierce presented his report to the Board.

1- Inform the Board that the Alligator Point Water District has sent the Board a letter inviting the Board to use the District's office if we need to hold meetings on Alligator Point.

2- Inform the Board that the Franklin County Community Development Land Trust has sent the Board a very nice letter of appreciation for the donation of the house in Lanark.

3- Inform the Board that on May 2 I did issue a permit to Eastpoint Sewer and Water for the 6 cuts necessary to finish the sewer projects so that all residents on Ridge Road will be provided sewer through the current grant.

4- *Inform the Board that after Sept. 30, 2012, Ms. Lori Switzer will no longer be working full time as the legislature did not fund the SHIP program in the coming year. Ms. Switzer is working on some options that will allow her to continue at least part-time and she will provide a more complete update in the near future.*

5- *Inform the Board that I participated in a conference call regarding the RESTORE Act, and Commissioner Parrish attended a meeting in Destin on the RESTORE Act and NRDA funding. This is my summary. The RESTORE Act is held up in committee in which there appear to be significant disagreement between the House and the Senate on what to approve. Congressman Southerland is trying to get the RESTORE Act taken out of the larger transportation bill so that it can be voted on separately, but he is not getting much support for that.*

On NRDA funding, the state of Florida received \$100M in early restoration funds. That is all the early restoration money the state will receive. Approximately \$5M has been allocated to Escambia County for 2 or 3 projects, and it was announced at the conference that the remaining \$95M in funds will be allocated in the next round. The state has not announced when the allocation will be made, or even what sort of projects will be considered. Any projects not funded in the next round will have to go through a full NRDA review. There is absolutely no timeline on when any projects beyond the early restoration projects will get funded.

Chairman Jackel and Mr. Pierce discussed the prioritized list for these projects.

Commissioner Parrish said they plan to expend the money by October but said he didn't know which projects were being pushed forward.

The Board discussed this matter further and Commissioner Parrish expounded upon his representation at the RESTORE Act/NRDA Funding meeting.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Putnal, to authorize Chairman Jackel to sign the current letter of support or have Staff create a new letter in support of this action; Motion carried 5-0.

6- *Inform the Board that after a series of conversations with DR. Rick Harper, UWF, regarding the \$10M of UWF funding discussed at the last Board meeting I have not yet written any letter to our legislators. I need to correct some information. The stipulation of creating 10 jobs that I found burdensome can be created over a 3 year period. I was under the impression that the 10 jobs had to be created in the first year. Dr. Harper wrote me an email where he also said, "... or it can be fewer jobs if they pay enough so as to produce a similar payroll. There are also excellent new resources coming on line under Florida's new state small business credit initiative for brand new startups that are targeted at meeting financial needs. A description of those programs can be found at eflorida.com/ssbci."*

I have not had time to go online to see what these resources are. I will report back to the Board before I write a letter. Dr. Harper also wanted the Board to know, "The modification of our grant program from an initial requirement of 15 jobs in rural counties down to 10 jobs was done several months ago so as to better accommodate exactly the concern that the Board is

expressing. In our view, it is important that the FL and the UWF program be as completely in alignment as possible, since the intent of the legislature was to have these funds be supplemental to existing state programs in attracting businesses to the disproportionately affected counties.”

The Board commented on this item and discussed the fact that it is difficult for Franklin County to meet the criteria for the UWF funding, even though it is designated to help small counties and believed a letter should still be sent concerning this matter.

7- At the last regular meeting, I discussed with the Board replacing the existing 40 ton condenser with a 30 ton unit for the Annex. The Board asked to have assurance that if a 30 ton is used that it will work with the inside components. The short answer is that there will need to be a retrofit of the inside system. The cost of retrofitting the inside system could be as high as \$16,500 according to the firm who did the initial load test that determined a 30 ton system would work. It is possible that it will cost less than \$16,500 for a brand new inside system so why spend that much on retrofitting 12 year machinery. Board direction.

Commissioner Parrish and Mr. Pierce discussed this item and Commissioner Parrish suggested bidding a new 30 ton unit.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, to start the bid process for a new 30 ton HVAC unit for the Annex; Motion carried 5-0.

8- Provide Board with copy of response I sent regarding the status of special districts in Franklin County. Evidently some county in Florida had created one or more special districts without authorization from the state, and now the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee is asking every county to verify the special districts in each county. Franklin County does not have any unauthorized special districts.

9- Board action on a Resolution acknowledging that Franklin County is eligible for reduced DEP permit fees because of the amount of tax exempt property in the county, being the state and federal lands.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Putnal, to approve the Resolution acknowledging that Franklin County is eligible for reduced DEP permit fees because of amount of tax exempt property; Motion carried 5-0.

11- Board action to approve a Resolution to allow the Franklin County chapter of Habitat for Humanity to apply for a Florida Community Contribution Tax Credit Program. The Resolution allows Habitat to provide tax credit to businesses that donate materials to the building of low income housing.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to approve Resolution to allow the Franklin County chapter of Habitat for Humanity to apply for a Florida Community Tax Credit Program; Motion carried 5-0.

12- Inform the Board that DEP is coming over to dive the Eastpoint Channel today. The Chairman and I were supposed to meet with some of the staff members to discuss the project, and while the staff members are not coming the divers still are.

13 – APTA recommendation information

10- Airport update. Provide Board with copy of report and pictures of the FBO taken by Robin Brinkley, Building Official. The FBO is being repainted with inmates this week. I have authorized approximately \$5300 for new carpeting in the entire building, and approximately \$3000 for a phone system that will be owned by the county. Without a phone system all calls were going to Ted Mosteller's cell phone and his phone was being overloaded, and a phone system is necessary for the credit card system to sell fuel.

After talking to Mr. Perky White on Friday, and then Mr. Mosteller and Mr. White on Monday, I believe the Board needs to clarify the emergency roles that were approved at the emergency Board meeting last Wednesday. Mr. White and Mr. Mosteller believe they have been made temporary full-time employees but with an unknown salaries. The Board clearly wants the airport to be selling fuel as soon as it can, and to be operating what other services it can on a temporary basis, including collecting rent for the T-hangers, but the Board has directed its attorney and Chairman to continue to negotiate with Fly High so it is unknown how long the county will need employees.

I believe it might be better for Mr. Mosteller to remain Airport Manager, and to continue to get his 1% administrative fees from grants as his payment and not an hourly salary, and then to employ Mr. White as a temporary employee under the supervision of Mr. Mosteller. The temporary employee status cannot exceed six month or the position would be eligible for benefits. Mr. White asked me what the Board had intended to pay him. I realize the Board did not discuss a salary so when I mentioned an hourly rate to him I advised him that this would have to be approved by the Board. I suggested to Mr. White that a fair hourly rate for this temporary position would be \$16/hour on a 40 hour work week.

I realize Mr. White and Mr. Mosteller could spend a lot more time at the airport but in the interim the airport needs to operate on a consistent but limited basis until we have resolved the lease issue. I also told Mr. White that if the negotiations with Fly High fail the Board would be looking for another solution and it is possible that Mr. White would then be able to submit a proposal for running the airport, either as a county employee or as a leasee.

Board action on Mr. White's salary of \$16/hr and a 40 hour week.

The Board discussed the proposed schedule.

Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve salary of \$16 per hour at a 40 hour week for Perky White; Motion carried 5-0.

In brief discussions with Mr. Mosteller and Mr. White, the Board could also set T-hangar rental rates if the Board is ready. The new rates would be \$100/month lower than what the former FBO charged as we are trying to get tenants back in the hangars. The new proposed rates for T-hangers would be \$250/month for the large hangars, and \$200/month for the small hangars. Board action on rental rates.

Attorney Shuler explained that existing leases will be honored and this rate will be for new rentals on a month to month or an interim basis.

Mrs. Johnson stated that sales tax must be added to the rental fee.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to approve T-hangar rental rates at \$250/month for the large hangars and \$200/month for the small hangars; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Shuler, myself, Mr. Mosteller, and Mr. White met with a prospective fuel supplier, Perry Brothers. Perry Brothers would like to enter into a six month arrangement with the Board to provide fuel and fuel trucks. Their price appears reasonable. We also asked them to inspect our fuel farm so that it can meet the industry standard of a "branded" fuel, meaning it is fuel sold by a brand name, in this case Phillips Petroleum, and then Phillips provides additional liability insurance for their products. If the Board agrees to a six month lease with Perry Brother's fuel will be in the tanks on Wednesday. Board action on fuel.

Attorney Shuler updated the Board on the current proposed contract with Perry Brothers for fuel at the Airport.

Chairman Jackel and Attorney Shuler discussed the contract and the fact that Perry Brothers was willing to agree to a six month lease.

The Board and Attorney Shuler discussed using a credit card for self-serve fueling.

Mr. Pierce stated that the County would charge a dollar more per gallon for fuel.

Mr. Mosteller, Manager of Apalachicola Airport, stated that self-serve would need to cost less per gallon.

Cont'd after Attorney Shuler's discussion (11:00 AM)

Commissioner Sanders and Clay Kennedy, of Preble-Rish, discussed the status of the bridge project on Highway 67.

Commissioner Sanders reminded Mr. Kennedy of smoothing the approach to the boat ramp in Carrabelle.

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Pierce discussed the status of the application for the Hospital at the USDA.

Commissioner Putnal and Mr. Pierce discussed the status of the old Highway Patrol station in Eastpoint. Mr. Pierce said the property is being deeded back to the County.

Commissioner Sanders recommended this location be used as a Welcome Center for the County.

Commissioner Putnal stated that he would like a health clinic for the people of Eastpoint at this location.

Chairman Jackel updated the Board on a meeting, set up by Bobby Pickles, with Progress Energy for the switch over to the new power lines. She stated that Progress Energy had already picked a date of July 9 for the switch-over, which is not what she was told prior to the meeting. She said she was told that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the date to do the switch-over and to get input from business owners and residents of St. George Island.

Chairman Jackel asked for a Letter of Support asking Progress Energy for a delay in the switch-over date, as it is the peak seasonal time of the year. She believed the earliest date for the switch-over should be August 15th.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to send a Letter of Support to Progress Energy to change switch over date; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce informed the Board of his vacation schedule.

Chairman Jackel discussed a meeting with Lesley Palmer about the plan to remove the power poles from the Bay during the week of July 9th and how it would affect oyster harvesting.

Commissioner Putnal commented on the sediment affecting the oyster bars.

Chairman Jackel asked Mr. Pierce to check with DEP for permitting.

Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report (10:53 AM)

Attorney Shuler stated that Dr. Catlin has filed a lawsuit against the County Hospital and discussed this claim further.

Attorney Shuler updated the Board on the negotiations with Fly High, who terminated negotiations with the County.

Chairman Jackel confirmed with Attorney Shuler that negotiations with Fly High have been terminated.

Attorney Shuler and the Board discussed options regarding selecting a FBO at the Airport.

Commissioner Sanders suggested that the Airport committee send a recommendation to the Board as to how to move forward regarding a FBO at the Airport.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to send this matter to the Airport Committee for a recommendation for moving forward with a FBO at the Airport; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Lockley discussed the importance of establishing a timeline for selecting a new FBO.

Commissioners and Public Comments

Commissioner Sanders discussed that the Fire Chief Bud Evans, of the Lanark Village Volunteer Dept., is leaving. She wanted to send him best wishes from the Board.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to send a Letter of Appreciation to Chief Bud Evans of the Lanark Village VFD; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sanders discussed her recent surgery and thanked everyone for their support during her ordeal. She thanked everyone for their prayers, letters, calls, food and flowers.

Commissioner Sanders and Chairman Jackel discussed the recent tragedy the County experienced and expressed condolences to the families that experienced the loss.

Lorraine Banks, of Apalachicola, stated that there are problems with the upkeep of 12th Street in Apalachicola, especially with the ditches.

Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler stated that this area is within the City of Apalachicola.

Commissioner Lockley stated that he will try to have the County Road Dept. look into this matter.

Adjourn (11:23 AM)

There being no further business, Chairman Jackel adjourned the Meeting.

Pink Jackel, Chairman – FCBOCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts