

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
JULY 3, 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, Mark Curenton – Assistant County Planner, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Morón – Deputy Clerk/Board Secretary

**Call to Order (9:01 AM)**

Chairman Jackel called the Meeting to order.

**Prayer and Pledge (9:01 AM)**

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Payment of County Bills (9:02 AM)**

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

**Department Supervisor Report**

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

Mr. Chipman discussed a time table for completing work requests in each of the Commissioners' districts.

Commissioner Sanders discussed Gulf Shore Blvd on Alligator Point and the destruction caused by the recent storm. She said some of the residents are having trouble returning to their homes and informed the Board that Clay Kennedy, of Preble-Rish, is trying to find an alternate route for these residents.

The Board thanked Mr. Chipman for the work done by his department during and after the storm.

The Board discussed damages done throughout the County.

Commissioner Lockley stated the need for an assessment on the Bay for those types of damages.

Chairman Jackel discussed the possibility of getting assistance from FEMA to repair the road going to the St. George Island Boat Ramp.

Chairman Jackel asked Mr. Chipman to check with Ms. Nettie Page regarding a ditch on Old Ferry Dock Rd.

Commissioner Sanders stated the need to start the mosquito spraying program as soon as possible.

**Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director (9:11 AM)**

Mr. Davis presented his report to the Board.

*SOLID WASTE: (Storm Debris)*

*FOR BOARD INFORMATION: For two weeks, starting June 27<sup>th</sup>, the Franklin County Landfill will be amnestying storm debris, do to the impact of Tropical Storm Debby. This measure will no doubt help our cleanup efforts, and allow us to eventually continue our regular Debris Pickup Schedule.*

*Schedule:*

<i>Alligator Point, St James &amp; Lanark Village</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> week of the month</i>
<i>Carrabelle</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> week of the month</i>
<i>Eastpoint &amp; St George Island</i>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month</i>
<i>Apalachicola</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> week of the month</i>

*ACTION REQUESTED: None*

The Board discussed the amount and types of debris on the sides of the roads.

Mr. Davis updated the Board on the schedule for the Dixie Youth League Tournament activities which will be held at Will Kendrick Sports Complex in Carrabelle.

Chairman Jackel complimented the Solid Waste Dept. on their hard work helping with the storm clean up.

Commissioner Sanders mentioned some work that Nikki Millender has been doing to help Mrs. Brownell at the EOC.

**Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director (9:18 AM)**

Mrs. Brownell presented her report to the Board.

Mrs. Brownell discussed the total amount of damage in the County (\$2,682,201.00) and how it will affect a claim for the State and the Federal government.

The Board discussed the need for assistance for County residents who have been affected by the storm.

Chairman Jackel asked about and discussed damage to the Bay.

Shannon Hartsfield, of the Franklin County Seafood Workers Association, stated that he went out on the Bay with DACS and there are problems at East Hole. He talked about problems with some of the other locations and how it will affect the seafood workers.

The Board discussed the problems with the seafood workers.

Mrs. Brownell explained part of the requirements to help the seafood workers with assistance. Commissioner Lockley discussed his experience with working the Bay the day before and stated the need for the State to test the bottom of the Bay.

Mr. Hartsfield named some of the State Officials who accompanied him on the Bay.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to send a letter to the State requesting an inspection of the Bay; Motion carried 5-0.**

The Board thanked Mrs. Brownell for her department's efforts during the storm.

Mrs. Brownell asked the Board to consider re-writing the County's personnel policy to include directing County Staff to assist her office during a storm. Mrs. Brownell stated the names of the volunteers who assisted her during the storm. She explained the procedure for activating her office during an emergency.

Commissioner Sanders discussed issues in her area which were caused by the storm and her disappointment with the National Weather Service and other federal advisory agencies. Commissioner Sanders thanked Mrs. Brownell for her efforts.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to direct Attorney Shuler and Mrs. Brownell to work on a personnel policy which will include the assistance of County Staff during a storm; Motion carried 5-0.**

The Board and Mrs. Brownell discussed the damage assessment for the County and the problems she has been having with gathering information she needs from the State. Chairman Jackel asked Mark Curenton to look into data stating that the County beaches have been engineered in order to help Mrs. Brownell with beach damage assessment.

The Board and Mrs. Brownell discussed the importance of including Franklin County in the Individual Assistance portion of the damage assistance request.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to send a letter to the Governor, Legislative Delegation and the President requesting that Franklin County is included in all assistance, especially Federal Individual Assistance; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (9:49 AM)**

Mr. Mahan presented this item from his report.

*Franklin - UF IFAS Updates*

1) *AFDO Seafood HACCP Trainer Certification – Last week I completed the 20-hour Seafood Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Train-the-Trainer certification class. As a result of the training I will be better able to answer questions about HACCP and help seafood dealers develop their plans. Charlene Burke also completed the training.*

**Jimmy Harris – Tax Collector (9:50 AM)**

Jimmy Harris, Franklin County Tax Collector, presented the Recapitulation Report of the 2011 Tax Roll. He said it had been certified to the Department of Revenue in the amount of \$22,221,749.30. Mr. Harris gave the Board a tax distribution breakdown and said he has a copy if anyone wants those figures. He said the Tax Certificate Sale went well and every available certificate was sold.

Mr. Harris asked that the Board sign the Errors and Insolvencies List and also asked that he be allowed to remove computers from his office's inventory.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to remove obsolete computers from his office inventory; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to have the Chairman sign the Errors and Insolvencies Report; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Recognition of Community Leadership (9:55 AM)**

Chairman Jackel asked the Board to recognize the Pennycuff Family, of Eastpoint, for their contributions to the community.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to recognize the Pennycuffs for their contributions to the community; Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Jackel asked Charles and Rex Pennycuff to the podium and read the Resolution which recognizes all of the contributions the Pennycuffs make to the community.

Commissioners Putnal and Sanders also commented on the hard work done by the Pennycuffs in and for the community.

Rex Pennycuff stated that it was more than just themselves who make the fishing tournament happen and would like to recognize those who help with it. He said he would also like to thank the Board for the Pavilion in Eastpoint, as it is a great asset to the community.

Beth Brinkley also thanked the Pennycuffs for their contributions to the Franklin Toy Project and the St. George Island Festival.

Chairman Jackel gave an update on the Eastpoint dredging project.

Rex Pennycuff asked for the installation of fish cleaning tables at the County's boat ramps and also some kind of resolution to repairing the road to the boat ramp in Eastpoint as soon as possible.

**Recess (10:05 AM)**

Chairman Jackel called for a recess.

**Reconvene (10:21 AM)**

Chairman Jackel reconvened the Meeting.

Commissioner Parrish asked the Chairman to recognize Mr. Steve Davis.

Steve Davis asked the Board to consider a small dredging project that would help out in the area of Marker 5 (2 Mile Channel). He presented maps for the Board to review.

Dan Tonsmeire, of ABARK, suggested that this project be included in a damage assessment claim.

Chairman Jackel asked Mr. Curenton to look into the possibility of adding this project in with the damage assessment claim.

Mr. Davis suggested other alternatives for acquiring approval for the dredging.

Chairman Jackel stated the importance of getting projects like this on the Army Corps of Engineers' list and asked Mr. Curenton and Mr. Pierce to be sure and keep these projects on the list.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, to direct Staff to look into the possibility of doing this project as a maintenance project; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Ms. Cindy Drapel/Steve Lanier – Hospital Update (10:28 AM)**

Steve Lanier, Comptroller of Weems Hospital, reviewed the income statement and financial summary, which he provided to the Board.

Mr. Lanier asked for Board action to transfer funds from the healthcare trust fund to cover the match on an Emergency Medical Services Grant in the amount of \$26,180.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, to approve the transfer of funds from the healthcare trust fund in order to cover the match on the Emergency Medical Services Grant; Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Lanier to look at some options of keeping Weems East open after a storm or a disaster in order to assist emergency workers in the event of an emergency. Commissioner Sanders reminded Mr. Lanier to have them be prepared at Weems East for the upcoming tournament that will be held in Carrabelle next week.

Commissioner Sanders asked Marcia Johnson to present an item from her report at this time.

Marcia Johnson, Clerk of Court, read the following item from her report.

*1- For information, the hospital has now completed the 6 month agreed upon period to receive 100% of the hospital sales tax collections. They received a total of \$652,657.65 or an additional \$326,328.83 for the 6 month period. Weems also receives an ambulance subsidy of \$505,592 and \$120,000 for the operations of Weems East from property tax proceeds in the county's general fund.*

Commissioner Parrish asked Attorney Shuler to address the advertising requirements and scheduling for the upcoming meeting with the USDA.

Chairman Jackel suggested scheduling the meeting for the afternoon of July 17<sup>th</sup> since the Board will meet that morning in regular session.

**Debbie Belcher – CDBG Update (10:42 AM)**

Debbie Roumelis-Belcher, Franklin County's CDBG Consultant, updated the Board on the status of the Eastpoint Water and Sewer Project. She said they have issued notice to proceed for the water and sewer connections that are funded with the Community Block Grant. She also discussed the overlay of the cuts on the roads in Eastpoint.

Ms. Belcher asked for Board action to make a minor amendment to the grant.

Chairman Jackel asked for a breakdown for the project's engineering fees. Ms. Belcher stated that she doesn't have any numbers available at this time.

Commissioner Sanders expressed her concerns with authorizing this amendment without numbers.

Chairman Jackel asked if this request could be addressed at the next Board meeting and Ms. Belcher said it could and stated that she would try to have more information by then.

Chairman Jackel asked that the intersection at Otter Slide and 4<sup>th</sup> Street be considered when doing repairs.

Attorney Shuler and Ms. Belcher discussed the timeline on this grant and how the monies would be divided.

Mark Curenton provided the Board with some of the information he had received from Clay Kennedy concerning this project.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to table this item until the July 17, 2012 regular meeting; Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Sanders and Ms. Belcher discussed other locations of this project.

**Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts Report (10:54 AM)**

Mrs. Johnson presented her report to the Board.

*1- For information, the hospital has now completed the 6 month agreed upon period to receive 100% of the hospital sales tax collections. They received a total of \$652,657.65 or an additional \$326,328.83 for the 6 month period. Weems also receives an ambulance subsidy of \$505,592 and \$120,000 for the operations of Weems East from property tax proceeds in the county's general fund.*

This item was discussed earlier in the Meeting.

*2- My finance office is getting ready to prepare the budget books. We have received the final certification of taxable value from the Property Appraiser, Doris Pendleton. If you recall, Mrs. Pendleton reported to you last month she estimated a 10% drop in values but stated it could be higher. The certification we received amounted to a drop in property values of 13%. If all other revenues and expenditures were to remain the same, this lower taxable value at the current millage rate would generate \$8,219,534 in ad valorem proceeds, a reduction of \$1,238,133. Unfortunately, the county has lost other revenues this year as well. The contract with the Department of Corrections to house state prisoners was terminated on March 31<sup>st</sup> which will amount to a loss next year of around \$293,000. The passage of HB 5301 allowed the State to reduce the County's Revenue Sharing Proceeds by past due Medicaid charges which will amount to a reduction next year of \$32,497. I am requesting you schedule two dates for budget workshops this month. Working around our finance schedules and court dates, I suggest we meet twice, on July 19th and 20th. Also, we've had budget requests turned in from Patrons of the Apalachicola Library Society for \$20,000 and Gulf County's Senior Citizens for meals on wheels for \$12,000. Since the Board hasn't entertained requests from them in the past, are*

*those to be included in the budget now?*

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to schedule budget workshops on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>; Motion carried 5-0.**

The Board discussed which services are being provided by the City of Apalachicola versus Gulf County for the Meals on Wheels Program and determined that they need more information on this issue in order to make budget decisions.

The Board discussed the Apalachicola Library Society request and expressed concerns about them requesting funds yet they aren't covered under the County's umbrella.

Mrs. Johnson said these items could be added to the budget workshop agendas without adding any additional numbers at this time.

Commissioner Parrish wanted to make sure that a representative from each agency is available to discuss both of these requests at the workshops.

Commissioner Sanders expressed her concerns with the likely reductions to the taxable value on the Tax Roll.

The Board discussed areas where budget reductions will have to be made and also reductions to budgeting for non-governmental agencies.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to direct the Clerk to send letters to all Departments and Constitutional Officers and to also submit the same budgets as last year. Also to inform non-governmental agencies to expect a 10-13% reduction in their budget; Motion carried 5-0.**

*3-At the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board agreed to accept Roberson & Associates as the auditing firm for the County. Florida Statutes 218.391 is very specific regarding the auditor selection process. I believe you need the advice of your attorney regarding the procedure to negotiate a price to be included in the budget.*

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to direct Attorney Shuler to start negotiations with Roberson & Associates as the auditing firm for the County; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Mark Curenton – Assistant County Planner Report (11:09 AM)**

Mr. Curenton presented his report to the Board.

*1 – Franklin County has received notice from the U. S. Department of Interior that it can expect a Payment in Lieu of Taxes from the federal government of \$29,957 this year. This income is already included in the budget.*



2 – *At the last meeting the Board opened bids for pressure cleaning the courthouse. The low bid was J. J.'s Tree Service out of Eastpoint. They have liability insurance and a bucket truck to access the building. The committee recommends them for the project. Board Action.*

Commissioner Parrish asked that care is taken when using heavy equipment on the Courthouse lawn due to the installation of a new sprinkler system.

Attorney Shuler suggested having the contractor use the lift from the airport.

Ted Mosteller, of the Apalachicola Airport commented on this item.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Parrish, to engage J.J.'s Tree Service to pressure clean the Courthouse; Motion carried 5-0.**

3 – *Working with Commissioner Jackel, 26 power poles have been identified along the south side of Highway 98 in Eastpoint as locations for Christmas ornaments. The steel for the decorations has been delivered to the Carrabelle prison, and the inmates are fabricating the ornaments. The Board has already approved spending up to \$7,500.00 for this project.*

*Progress Energy offers three options for holiday lighting on their poles; two options allows the county to own the equipment while in the third option Progress Energy would own the equipment and the county would pay on a monthly basis. In this third option Progress Energy is responsible for all maintenance of the equipment. The cost over time for each option is roughly the same. I recommend the county contract with Progress Energy for a total amount of \$6,683.04 for 6 years. Board Action.*

Mr. Curenton and Chairman Jackel explained the process further.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to approve a 6 year contract with Progress Energy in the amount of \$6,683.04 for the installation of electrical receptacles on 26 power poles in Eastpoint in order to have electricity for the Christmas ornaments; Motion carried 5-0.**

4 – *In 2010 Franklin County applied for \$350,000 for a special category grant from the Florida Division of Historic Resources to repair the Fort Coombs Armory. The legislature has never funded this particular grant program in recent years, so the Division of Historic Resources allows the applicants to just renew their application each year. This money, if awarded, would be used for repairs and upgrades over and above what is being accomplished with TDC funds. This grant program does require the County to put up a 10% match. Does the Board want to renew the application?*

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to renew the application and needed Resolution for the grant from the Florida Division of Historic Resources to repair the Fort Coombs Armory, and send a letter to Legislative Delegation as to the renewing of the application; Motion carried 5-0.**

*5 – Tropical Storm Debby damaged the roof of the Public Defender’s office. Four local roofers responded with proposals to replace the roof with a metal roof. The low proposal is \$4,339.53. Board Action.*

Commissioner Parrish asked if this action will void any possibility of a reimbursement from the State or Federal government disaster relief.

The Board, Mr. Curenton and Mrs. Johnson discussed extensive damage to the Courthouse.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to approve the low bidder, in the amount of \$4,339.53, for a new roof on the Public Defender office; Motion carried 5-0.**

The Board, Mrs. Johnson, Attorney Shuler and Mr. Curenton discussed the fact that repairs to the Courthouse are an emergency at this time and discussed the need to bypass the normal bid advertising and requirements.

*6 – At the last meeting the Board was notified of the vacancies on the Planning and Zoning Commission. The next P & Z meeting is scheduled for July 10. Does the Board have any appointments at this time?*

The Board discussed this issue and is still looking for candidates.

Commissioner Parrish stated that Tom Brocato is interested as the “at large” appointment.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to appoint Tom Brocato as the Planning & Zoning “at large” member; Motion carried 5-0.**

The Board and Attorney Shuler discussed filling seats on other Boards and also the need to appoint the Planning & Zoning members as soon as possible.

*7 – The Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce has provided summary of the publicity they have generated using FCTDC/BP funds.*

**T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney Report (11:30 AM)**

Attorney Shuler had no report for the Board.

Chairman Jackel asked Attorney Shuler to look into the situation concerning the barge that destroyed a portion of the fishing pier on St. George Island during the recent storm. Attorney Shuler asked that the Board let him research this matter and report back to the Board  
Commissioner Parrish suggested that the remaining structure be inspected for public safety and use.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to direct Attorney Shuler to contact the responsible company about repairing the fishing pier on St. George Island; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Bud Hayes – St. George Island Fire Department- MSBU Discussion (11:34 AM)**

Steve Kearney, representing the Board of Directors for the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department, asked the Board to approve an increase to the MSBU to \$95 for homes and no increase to unimproved lots. He stated that the SGIVFD is in dire need of more funding. Mr. Kearney explained efforts to contact all of the residents and property owners regarding this increase and he explained where the extra funding will go.

Attorney Shuler asked the Board to table this item until he is able to determine if the Board can increase the MSBU on St. George Island only and not throughout the entire County.

Mr. Kearney asked the Board to consider directing the Supervisor of Elections to include this matter on the August ballot.

Attorney Shuler said that he will include this request when doing his research.

Commissioner Parrish explained his position on this matter, which is to do the will of the residents of St. George Island.

Mrs. Johnson stated that based on a phone call to the Supervisor of Elections, this item can be placed on the General ballot in November but at this time it's too late for it to be on the August ballot.

Mr. Bud Hayes asked the Board to consider voting on this item instead of putting it on the ballot as the residents of St. George Island have already responded in favor of the increase. Attorney Shuler asked the Board to wait until he has time to gather more information on this matter before making any decisions.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Putnal, to table this item until the next meeting to allow Attorney Shuler an opportunity to review and gather information for this request; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Bud Hayes – Franklin County Humane Society Update (11:50 AM)**

Mr. Hayes introduced Karen Martin, the Executive Director of the Franklin County Humane Society, updated the board on the actions and efforts of the Humane Society. She explained a few of the programs that have been implemented at the Humane Society in the past few years.

**Joe Byron Blan III – Airport Credentials (11:54 AM)**

Joe Blan stated some of his education background, including degrees and experiences. He explained how his experience would benefit the Airport.

Commissioner Putnal stated that he has received some good recommendations for Mr. Blan and had learned more about him.

Mr. Blan stated some of his ideas and explained some of the amenities and services pilots like to have when they fly in to an airport.

Commissioner Lockley commented on this item and believed this would be a good opportunity to bring some of the young people home to start businesses.

Mr. Blan thanked the Board for allowing him to come before the Board.

#### **Dave McLain – Update on ACF Water Wars (11:59 AM)**

Dave McLain stated that he would give a quick review of his report. He congratulated the County for successfully advocating for restore monies to be directed to Franklin County due to the BP Oil Spill. Mr. McLain commented on the current litigation concerning the equitable distribution of the waters of the Bay.

Commissioner Sanders thanked Mr. McLain for all of his work on the ACF Water Wars.

#### **Commissioners' & Public Comments (12:02 PM)**

Commissioner Sanders stated the correct dates as July 12<sup>th</sup> for the banquet and the games will begin July 13<sup>th</sup> for the Dixie Youth Softball Tournament.

Michael Hall, Sunset Eagle Aviation, submitted a lease proposal to the Board for the Airport and stated his experiences as a helicopter mechanic. He discussed how his experience could benefit the Airport.

Commissioner Putnal said he had heard good things about Mr. Hall.

Ted Mosteller, of the Apalachicola Airport, discussed some items regarding the airport and his discussions with Gulf Coast Job Force regarding help at the Airport. The Board encouraged discussion with the Gulf Coast Job Force.

#### **Motion by Putnal to start the advertising process for an FBO at the airport, Motion failed for lack of a second.**

Mr. Mosteller discussed damages to the door of the FBO hangar and the Board asked that he inform Mrs. Brownell of these damages.

Bud Hayes discussed the purchase of Water Management Services by the City of Carrabelle. He would like Board action to consider an MSBU for water and sewer services on St. George Island.

Attorney Shuler and Mr. Hayes discussed some of the particulars of this request. It was stated that a private board would have to make this decision, not the County.

This item was discussed further by the Board, Attorney Shuler and Mr. Hayes.

Attorney Shuler asked for the opportunity to research this matter and discuss at the next Meeting.

Commissioner Putnal commented on the future intent of Northwest Florida Water Management Districts to create larger districts.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to direct Attorney Shuler to research the matter of Northwest Florida Water Management Districts creating larger districts and discuss at the next meeting; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Adjourn (12:18 PM)**

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

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Pinki C. Jackel, Chairman – FCBOCC

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts