

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
JANUARY 3, 2012  
9:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

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

**Staff:** Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Court, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, 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 – December 20, 2011 Regular Meeting (9:01 AM)**

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to approve the Minutes of the December 20, 2011 Regular Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Payment of County Bills (9:01 AM)**

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

**Cindy Drapel Weems Memorial (9:02 AM)**

Cindy Drapel, of Weems Memorial Hospital, stated that Mr. Steve Lanier is Weems Memorial Hospital's new Comptroller.

Chairman Jackel offered some words of support for Mr. Lanier.

**Department Supervisor Report**

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

Mr. Chipman updated the Board on projects throughout the County.

Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Chipman to work on roads around the Crooked River Lighthouse area.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to authorize Mr. Chipman to fill a position at the Road Dept. which recently became available; Motion carried 5-0.**

The Board discussed the details of the job position at the Road Dept.

Commissioner Parrish stated that maintenance work is needed at Lombardi's Boat Ramp and the road leading to the roundabout from Highway 98 needs maintenance in order to stabilize the road there.

Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Chipman to check on lights at the Abercrombie Boat Ramp.

**Van Johnson – Solid Waste Director (9:10 AM)**

Mr. Johnson had no items for Board action.

Commissioner Putnal asked Mr. Johnson to check on the lights at the Timber Island Boat Ramp.

**Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director (9:11 AM)**

Mrs. Brownell had no items for Board action.

*Action Items: None*

*Information Items:*

- 1. A meeting of the **Franklin County 911 Communications Group** has tentatively been set for 10:00am, Wed. January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. The meeting was requested by SGI Fire Chief Jay Abbott in order to update information from area agencies with any of their communications issues. These are information sharing meetings which have served the county well in the past year.*
- 2. Emergency Management, working in conjunction with the **Franklin County United Firefighters Association**, will be offering a 2 day Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (**EVOC**) in January 2012 to county firefighters and emergency medical personnel. We are*

*looking to certify a minimum of 20 people. This certification is required by insurance companies for any one driving an emergency vehicle.*

*There will also be a meeting of the **Franklin County United Firefighters Association** held at the St. James / Lanark VFD on Tuesday Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 6:00pm*

**Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (9:12 AM)**

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

*Franklin - UF IFAS Updates*

- 1) Beekeeping in the Panhandle – Our beekeeping class starts up again on January 9<sup>th</sup> – Honey Plants & Pollination.*
  
- 2) UF Bee College – The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual UF Bee College Program will be held on March 9 – 10, 2012 at the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience in St. Augustine, FL. The UF Bee College is an annual educational event geared toward anyone interested in honey bees—from the total novice to the experienced commercial beekeeper. No prior bee knowledge is necessary! You do not have to be a beekeeper to attend; the only prerequisite is your interest in the subject! The Bee College consists of two days of lectures; workshops and a Honey Show hosted by our team of experts and dedicated staff.  
The UF Bee College is NOT part of the UF Master Beekeeper Program — they are separate entities with separate purposes.  
For licensed Pest Control Operators, the Bee College offers an opportunity for Epi-Pen Certification (Insect Emergency Sting Treatment) and Africanized Bee Training. This is a great way to get your pest control company its CEU's.  
Prices for admission will be announced in January, along with registration. Discounts are available for youth (<18), college students (with ID), Master Beekeeper Program Students, FL Master Gardeners and FL Master Naturalists. Discounts are also available for families (parents and dependent children) and kids under 5 are free. For additional information, please contact the Franklin UF Extension Office at 653-9337, or email the UF Honey Bee Research & Extension Lab (HBREL) staff at [honeybee@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:honeybee@ifas.ufl.edu). Coupled with the UF Bee College's Honey Show we host our annual Welsh Honey Judging Certification. Welsh Honey Judge Training is the most stringent training for would-be honey judges in the world. This specific course requires a separate \$50.00 registration fee (please see registration form in January). This certification takes place over a minimum of one year. For details on the certification please contact the HBREL staff at [honeybbe@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:honeybbe@ifas.ufl.edu).*

*FL Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC)*

- 3) Recreational Red Grouper Bag Limit to Increase in Gulf State Waters –** *The recreational red grouper bag limit in Gulf of Mexico state waters (excluding Monroe County) will increase Dec. 30 from two to four fish.*

*The red grouper bag limit increase is one of several fishery management changes made at the November Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) meeting in Key Largo.*

*Management changes in 2012 will also affect gag grouper season, which is currently closed to fishing in Gulf of Mexico state waters (excluding Monroe County) and will continue to be closed through March 31, 2012.*

*Both measures will help the state achieve consistency with federal red and gag grouper management efforts.*

*Federal managers are working on a plan to further protect gag grouper, which is overfished and undergoing overfishing in the Gulf. The FWC will revisit state gag grouper management efforts in February 2012, once federal rules are solidified.*

*Season closures for red and gag grouper, as well as other shallow-water groupers, are also nearing. Shallow-water grouper season closes Feb. 1 in Gulf state waters and reopens April 1. Shallow water groupers in Gulf state waters include gag, red, black, yellow fin and yellow mouth groupers; scamp; and rock and red hind. In Atlantic state waters, it also includes tiger grouper, coney and graysby.*

- 4) Tiger shark, hammerhead prohibitions start Jan. 1 –** *The recreational and commercial harvest of tiger sharks and smooth, scalloped and great hammerhead sharks will be prohibited in Florida state waters beginning Jan. The FWC approved the management change at its Nov. 16 Commission meeting in an effort to further protect these top predators.*

*The new measures also prohibit the possession, sale and exchange of tiger sharks and great, scalloped and smooth hammerhead sharks harvested from state waters. These sharks can still be caught and released in state waters and can be taken in adjacent federal waters. Prohibited species that die while on the line after being caught in state waters should be returned to the water immediately.*

*The FWC is also working on an educational campaign highlighting fishing and handling techniques that increase the survival rate of sharks that are caught and released while ensuring the safety of the anglers targeting them. These techniques include:*

- Use tackle heavy enough to land a fish quickly, reducing exhaustion.*
- Release the fish while it is in the water when possible.*
- Use a de-hooking device to remove hooks safely.*
- Use non-stainless steel hooks that can dissolve if they remain in a fish.*
- Use non-offset circle hooks to avoid gut-hooking a fish.*

*Florida waters are considered essential habitat for these and other species of shark, especially juveniles and pregnant females.*

*Shark fishing has been strictly regulated in Florida since 1992, with a one-shark-per-person, two-sharks-per-vessel daily bag limit for all recreational and commercial harvesters and a*

*ban on shark finning. Roughly two-dozen overfished, vulnerable or rare shark species are catch-and-release only in Florida waters.*

5) *Next FWC Meeting – Is February 8 & 9, 2112 in Tallahassee.*

*Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)*

6) *The Next GMFMC Meeting – The next GMFMC Meeting is scheduled for January 30 - February 3, 2012 at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 S. Water Street, Mobile, AL 36602.*

Chairman Jackel and Mr. Mahan discussed Redfish limits.

**Open Bids – Energy Grant Work (9:15 AM)**

Mr. Pierce opened and read the bids for the Energy Grant Work.

Windows & HVAC Bids:

Rippee, Tallahassee, FL - \$246,261.00 with bid bond  
CSI, Quincy, FL - \$274,958.00 with bid bond  
Cook Brothers, Midway, FL - \$215,000.00 with bid bond  
Oliver Renovation, Tallahassee, FL - \$209,180.00 with bid bond

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to forward bids for Windows and HVAC to Mark Curenton for a recommendation and present it to the Board prior to the end of Meeting; Meeting 5-0.**

Mr. Pierce opened and read the bids for the Photovoltaic project.

Photovoltaic Bids:

Advanced Roofing, Fort Lauderdale, FL - \$134,523.00 with bid bond  
Sun Quest, St. Pete, FL – \$97,800.00 with bid bond  
Independent Green Technologies, Tallahassee, FL – \$96,140.00 with bid bond  
Cook Brothers, Inc., Tallahassee, FL – \$160,000.00 with bid bond  
Poloronis Construction, Apalachicola, FL - \$135,000.00 with certified check in lieu of bid bond  
Solar Source, Largo, FL - \$125,938.00 with bid bond

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to forward bids for Photovoltaic to Mark Curenton for a recommendation and present to the Board prior to the end of Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (9:26 AM)**

Mrs. Johnson had no action items for the Board.

**Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (9:26 AM)**

Mr. Pierce presented his report to the Board.

*1- Inform the Board that DEP and Franklin County have been jointly named in a verified complaint filed by Capital City Bank. Capital City is complaining to DEP that it has failed to make Franklin County properly permit and maintain a section of the Alligator Point revetment. The complaint was served on DEP. I have contacted DEP and offered to meet with them to discuss options. DEP is reviewing the complaint and said they would be back in touch. The County Attorney is also aware of the complaint. At this time there is no action needed to be taken by the Board.*

*2- On behalf of the Board I have contacted the Gulf Coast Workforce Board to make sure they are applying for some additional Workforce Innovation Funds (WIF). Chairman Jackel alerted the Planning Office of the grant. The county can not apply directly but we can be a recipient of funds if Gulf Coast is awarded funds. The deadline for applying is March 22.*

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed this item. Chairman Jackel asked Mr. Pierce to follow up on this matter and get as much help as possible for Franklin County.

Mr. Pierce said Kim Bodine would be coming before the Board but he wasn't sure if it was concerning this matter or something else.

*3- Chairman Jackel would like the Board to know she asked the FAC to consider using a photo from Franklin County as one of the 12 photos used in the 2012 FAC calendar. The FAC did select a photo of the Scipio Creek Marina to be used. The St. George Island Lighthouse was also considered but the calendar committee had already selected two other lighthouse photos and they did not want 3 lighthouses in one calendar.*

Mr. Pierce displayed the photo chosen for the calendar.

*4- Inform the Board and the public that engineering and design is in progress on both the Abercombie Boat Ramp dock extension and the St. George Island boat ramp bathroom project.*

Commissioner Putnal and Mr. Pierce discussed the location of the SGI Boat Ramp bathroom project and possible interference with parking.

*5- Board action to sign JPA with FDOT for the landscaping grant at the intersection of Franklin Blvd and Gulf Beach Drive. Chairman Jackel and I have reviewed the work product and we recommend the Board approve.*

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed this item.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the JPA Grant; Motion carried 5-0.**

*6- Board discussion of process it wants to use in selecting new County Coordinator. There are seven applicants: Randy Butler, Ron Copeland, Jamie Crum, Tom Daly, Franklin Mathis, Lois Swoboda, and Kevin Ward. Each Board member has received a copy of the applications electronically.*

Chairman Jackel suggested interviewing each applicant after the Regular Meeting on January 17, 2012. She suggested using a rating system in order to help the Commissioners make a decision.

Mr. Pierce stated that he would create a score sheet for the interviews.

Commissioner Lockley stated that Veteran's preference should be applied to the score sheet for each applicant.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish, to schedule a Special Meeting at 1:30 PM on January 17, 2012 to interview the applicants for County Coordinator position; Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Sanders asked about the status of the Highway 67 bridge project.

Ms. Debbie Belcher, of Roumelis Planning and Development Services, updated the Board on the CDBG Grants.

Ms. Belcher recommended that the Board request an extension for the Eastpoint Water & Sewer Project at this time because the grant expiration date is May 2, 2012. She said it isn't likely that the project will be completed by that date. She said the septic tanks couldn't be abandoned until the vacuum station is operational.

Chairman Jackel commented on this matter and suggested a 90 day extension as she would like to see EPWS complete this project as soon as possible so the County could apply for other CDBG grants.

Ms. Belcher stated that George Allen, of EPWS, said at this point they will do the connections they can do with the cuts that have been made but it might not do all of the connections that are needed at this time.

Chairman Jackel discussed the length of time this grant has been awarded to EPWS and Ms. Belcher said there was a hold up for nearly a year by FWC for an endangered species that might be blooming.

Commissioner Sanders asked Attorney Shuler for an update on the EPWS road cutting project. Attorney Shuler stated that attached to his report there is a letter from Daniel Cox, Attorney for EPWS, informing the County that they do not have funds for a letter of credit.

Commissioner Parrish expressed concerns of the hardship on Eastpoint residents if there are not enough funds in the grant to pay for residents' hook-up to the system.

Ms. Belcher discussed the available funding for this grant and the waiving of hook-up fees for the residents. She said EPWS is waiving the impact fees for the CDBG funded connections and she believed that there would be enough funds to take care of the projected connections.

Commissioner Sanders expressed her frustration with this project, including the proposed cutting of the new roads and how it will affect the Eastpoint residents.

Commissioner Lockley suggested doing a cut for one main line and servicing all of the residents on that side of the road.

Ms. Belcher responded to this suggestion and said the cut is required to connect homes on both sides of the roads. She said she will speak with the engineer and see if this suggestion might be possible.

Attorney Shuler suggested using for the letter of credit instead of transferring the \$27,000. The Board agreed with Attorney Shuler's suggestion.

Ms. Belcher explained the need for the transfer. She said from the beginning EPWS entered into this situation with the understanding that they would be paid for impact fees but they aren't going to be paid now. She also said the County would contribute to the vacuum station that is required to serve this service area, which is continuously failing but now they are not being paid for connection fees.

Attorney Shuler suggested that he and Mr. Pierce meet with Ms. Belcher on this matter and Chairman Jackel agreed.

Commissioner Putnal expressed his frustration with this project. He explained that the residents had waited a long time to have the roads re-paved and now that they were in good condition he didn't want them cut without being repaired back to their current condition.

Commissioner Lockley and Ms. Belcher discussed the length of time this grant and project has been on going and some of the problems experienced during the project. Commissioner Lockley said EPWS should have mentioned the project before paving began in the project area.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to forward this item to Attorney Shuler and Mr. Pierce for further clarification and return to the Board with a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.**

Ms. Belcher updated the Board on the Highway 67 Disaster Recover CDBG Grant and recommended a time extension for this project because the contractors will not be able close the entire road during construction.

Commissioner Sanders was not in favor of extending this project end date. She said this was originally requested due to flood issues during the spring time and she wanted the project to begin as soon as possible.

Commissioner Parrish suggested that if an extension is needed that it is asked for in March.



**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to authorize advertisement of bids for the Highway 67 Disaster Grant project; Motion carried 5-0.**

Ms. Belcher asked for Board action on and transferring \$1,350, which was the service fee payable to RMDS, from the engineering budget to the street improvement construction budget. Ms. Belcher explained that because of changes in the grant wording RMDS isn't able to receive the original fee.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to transfer the service fee for RMDS, in the amount of \$1,350, from the engineering budget to the street improvement construction budget; Motion carried 4-1, Lockley opposed.**

Ms. Belcher asked for Board action to authorize a change of \$10,716.11 in the DREF grant.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, to modify the DREF Grant by \$10,716.11 for administration and delivery services; Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Open Bids – Energy Grant Work – Continued**

Mark Curenton recommended Green Technologies for the Photovoltaic Panel project for the Annex building.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to accept recommendation of the bid by Independent Green Technologies for the Photovoltaic Panel project in the amount of \$96,140.00; Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Curenton recommended Oliver Renovation for the Window and HVAC Project for the Courthouse.

**Motion by Putnal, seconded by Sanders, to accept recommendation of the bid by Oliver Renovation for the Window and HVAC project in the amount of \$209,180.00; Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Pierce stated that since the Board has acted on these bids there is now an opportunity to do an energy efficiency project for the Carrabelle City Hall building.

#### **T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report (10:19 AM)**

Attorney Shuler presented his report to the Board.

#### *Action Item*

- 1. Apalachicola Times Contract Renewal*

*The current advertising contract with the newspaper expired November 30, 2011. The rate in effect was \$1.05 per square inch. Paragraph "C" of the addendum to that contract required that the newspaper provide timely written notice of its intent not to renew at the current \$1.05 per square inch rate. No such written notice was provided. Therefore, the contract renewed for one additional year at the rate of \$1.05 per square inch.*

*However, at most that renewal is for one additional year.*

*As an alternative to a one year renewal, you can consider entering into a new contract with the newspaper for a longer term, thereby giving the county predictability in advertising expenses for a longer term.*

*On December 20, 2011, the newspaper delivered to me its proposal for a longer term contract with fixed rates. I have attached their proposal, along with my suggested amendments thereto. My changes to their proposal are shown either as strikethroughs for deletions, or underlined for additions to the terms proposed by the newspaper.*

*Under the amended proposal, the rate would increase from \$1.05 to \$1.65 per square inch. This represents a 62% increase. Annual renewals would thereafter increase in a range no less than three percent, but no more than five percent per annum. The contract will be for a three year term, as opposed to a one year renewal, so that you will have contractually fixed your advertising expenses for a three year term, as opposed to having to renew annually with the risk of substantial price fluctuations.*

*Last year, I tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a long term contract with the newspaper. They declined because of price concerns, and would only agree to a one year contract. The new advertising manager for the newspaper is more inclined to allow a longer term contract, which I now present for your consideration.*

*Board Action: I recommend approval of a three contract with the newspaper because the longer term of the contract will provide the Board with three years of fixed and predictable advertising rates.*

*However, if the Board desires, you may decline the three-year contract and retain the benefit of a one year renewal at the current rate. However, the risk is that the rate structure and management at the newspaper may have changed by the time this renewal expires November 30, 2012.*

Chairman Jackel and Attorney Shuler discussed the price increase. Attorney Shuler recommended for the Board to agree to a three year contract extension with the price of \$1.65 per square inch for advertising.

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Sanders, to approve Attorney Shuler's recommendation to a three year contract with the price of \$1.65 per square inch for advertising; Motion carried 5-0.**

*Non-Action Item*

*Eastpoint Water and Sewer District*

*Attached for your information is a letter from the Eastpoint Water and Sewer District's attorney, excluding the exhibit, which consists of a certified copy of the state law creating the district. The letter speaks for itself regarding the District's perception concerning the county's requirement for a letter of credit prior to the District cutting newly paved roads and that the District may be damaged due to delays in the project. I will respond to the letter informing the District of its obligations in this regard.*

**Recess (10:21 AM)**

Chairman Jackel called for a recess.

**Reconvene (10:36 AM)**

Chairman Jackel reconvened the Meeting.

**Ms. Dixie Partington – Big Bend Scenic By-Way Update (10:36 AM)**

Dixie Partington, of Big Bend Scenic By-Way, thanked the Board for their support in the past and presented the Board with three year calendars from the Big Bend Scenic By-Way Highway. She said without the wisdom of Anita Grove and the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce this important resource might not exist.

Mr. Pierce reminded the Board of the Weems Memorial Hospital fundraiser at the Water Street Hotel in Apalachicola on January 7, 2012 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. There will be BBQ plates for sale and a silent auction.

The Board discussed this item further.

Mr. Pierce stated that he will schedule the interviews for the County Coordinator at the next Meeting in alphabetical order and at 15 minute increments for each applicant.

**Commissioners' & Public Comments (10:39 AM)**

Chairman Jackel discussed the need for the dredging of the Eastpoint Channel. She said the water level was so low this morning that the oystermen could not get out of the channel in Eastpoint in order to go to work.

Chairman Jackel stated that she and Mr. Pierce will increase their efforts with the State so that funding could be provided for this project.

Commissioner Putnal commented on the need for the dredging. He said it is hurting the overall economy of the County.

Commissioner Lockley suggested taking pictures of the Eastpoint Channel in the current condition (low tide) and send to the appropriate State agencies.

Chairman Jackel stated that Mr. Howard Reeder volunteered to take the pictures. The Board discussed this matter further.

Commissioner Lockley asked for an update on the hiring of a CEO for the Hospital.

Chairman Jackel stated that it wasn't discussed at the last Hospital Board Meeting but said hopefully it will be discussed at the next Hospital Board Meeting.

Commissioner Lockley would like to have the County Commission and the Hospital Board to have direct management for hiring of the CEO and Chief Nurse for the Hospital.

Attorney Shuler stated that he is planning to present a proposal at the next Meeting for Board consideration to transfer the Hospitals CFO, CEO, and CNO to the County Commission jurisdiction. He discussed this with the Board.

Chairman Jackel asked Attorney Shuler to provide the Commissioners with a draft of this proposal before the next Meeting.

Commissioner Putnal wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Sanders shared an invitation the Commissioners received to an 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for Clarence Williams, former County Commissioner.

Chairman Jackel wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that she will be a grandparent this year and informed the Board that she might miss one of the upcoming meetings.

**Adjourn (10:51 AM)**

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

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Pinki C. Jackel, Chairman – FCBCC

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts