

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
MAY 21, 2013
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Cheryl Sanders – Chairman, William Massey – Vice Chairman, Noah Lockley, Joseph Parrish, Pinki Jackel

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

Call to Order (9:01 AM)

Chairman Sanders called the Meeting to order.

Chairman Sanders asked for a moment of silence in memory and honor of the citizens involved in the tragic tornado in Oklahoma.

Prayer and Pledge (9:01 AM)

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes (9:03 AM)

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Massey, to approve the Minutes of the May 7, 2013 Regular Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills (9:03 AM)

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

The Board, Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Pierce discussed some of the items on the list.

Department Supervisors Report

Hubert Chipman – Superintendent of Public Works (9:06 AM)

Mr. Chipman had no items for Board action.

Chairman Sanders stated that this is Mr. Chipman's last meeting as Superintendent of Public Works and thanked him for his services to the County throughout the years. The other Board members also thanked him for his services and wished him a good retirement.

Mr. Chipman spoke of his years of service to the County.

Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director (9:09 AM)

Mr. Davis had no items for Board action.

Nikki Millender – Parks & Recreation Director (9:09 AM)

Mrs. Millender presented her report to the Board.

1. *For Board Information: Franklin County Parks and Recreation gave two Franklin County High School Seniors with \$500 each. One student will be attending the Under Armour Baseball Nationals in Omaha, Nebraska on July 22, 2013; the other student will be attending the USA Junior Basketball Nationals in Columbus, Ohio on July 8, 2013. REQUESTED ACTION: None*

Mrs. Millender stated that the recipients of the scholarships were David Butler and Skyler Hutchinson.

The Board congratulated both of the scholarship recipients.

2. *For Board Information: Repairs to Vrooman Park are now complete and the park will officially open to the public Monday, May 20, 2013. The total cost for repairs to the park was \$27,342. Parks and Recreation was responsible for \$5,000 of the cost for the required deductible. Also the incident that occurred in March 2013 where the vehicle ran over the fence and through the building at Vrooman also required Parks and Recreation to pay out a \$5,000 deductible which is a total of \$10,000 of insurance deductibles. I would like to make the board aware of these unforeseen expenditures that have occurred over the past couple of months. REQUESTED ACTION: None*
3. *For Board Direction: On Tuesday, May 14th, I was at Classie Lowery Park located at 705 SE Avenue C in Carrabelle inspecting the playground equipment. I found the equipment to be in very poor condition. While there we had to disassemble and remove the swings and also the platforms on the play set. I would like to make the Board aware that this playground is very old and in need of further attention. REQUESTED ACTION: Board's Direction*

There was discussion on this item.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to direct Mrs. Millender to get an estimate on repairing Classie Lowery Park and inform the Board of the condition of all the County Parks; Motion carried 5-0.

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management (9:14 AM)

Mrs. Brownell presented her report to the Board.

Action Items: None

Information Items:

- 1. Pamela Brownell and Mike Rundel attend the Governors Conference last week for training and information purposes. The official Atlantic Basin Seasonal Hurricane Prediction and Forecast for 2013 by Drs. Gray and Klotzbach is 18 named storms, 9 of them will Hurricane and 4 of the Major Hurricanes.*
- 2. The Emergency Management office and Weems Hospital met with The Management Experts on May 16, 2013 to finalize the plans for the table top hospital shooting exercise.*
- 3. May 20, 2013 the Emergency Management participated in the State Wide Hurricane Lay Exercise and invited our county stakeholders and business to come out and participate also.*
- 4. May 29, 2013 the Emergency Management Office will participate in a Hurricane exercise hosted at Marianne Emergency management office conducted by the National Weather Service along with our neighboring counties.*

Mrs. Brownell updated the Board on the results of the Hurricane exercises.

- 5. May 30, 2013, Tom Durham the Emergency Management office Public Information officer and I will attend the WJHG-TV office in Panama City for a Hurricane Season preview and communication discussion. One tropic will be the best way to get our messages out in the event of a storm this season.*
- 6. May 10, 2013 Joyce Durham attended Cops and Kids day at the Franklin County sheriff's office. Frisbees, water mugs, and stress balls were handed out to the kids and adult.*

The Board and Mrs. Brownell discussed the County's storm readiness status.

Bill Mahan – Extension Office Director (9:16 AM)

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

Franklin - UF IFAS Updates

- 1) Annual 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program – The Franklin County School had their School 4H Public Speaking Competition on May 17th. The Annual Countywide 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Contest will be held on at the Franklin County School at 9:00 A.M. on Friday May 24th.*

NOAA National Marine Fisheries

- 2) *NOAA Announces New Gray Triggerfish Regulations - On May 9, 2013, NOAA Fisheries approved Amendment 37 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico. This rule adjusts the commercial and recreational annual catch limits and annual catch targets, establishes a 12-fish commercial trip limit and a 2-fish recreational daily bag limit, establishes an annual fishing season closure from June 1 through July 31 for the commercial and recreational sectors, and establishes an overage adjustment for the recreational sector. A final rule implementing these regulations was published in the Federal Register on May 9, 2013 (78 FR 27088). The commercial and recreational annual catch limits, annual catch targets, and in-season recreational closure authority are effective immediately. The commercial trip limit, recreational bag limit, and annual seasonal closure for commercial and recreational sectors become effective on June 10, 2013.*

Opening RFP's for Engineering Services for the Alligator Point Multi-Use Path (9:17 AM)

Mr. Pierce opened and read the name of the companies that submitted RFQ's.

Preble-Rish Engineering
Genesis Group
Southeastern Consulting & Engineering
DRMP

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to forward the RFP's to the review committee for a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.

Advisory Board of Adjustment Report (9:18 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented the single item for Board action.

Approve a request to construct a single family dwelling 6 feet into the front setback line on Lot 1, Block 11, Unit One East, 300 East Gorrie Drive, St. George Island, Florida. Request submitted by Bill Barnes, agent for Bruce Smith and Sally-Ann Greenfield, owners.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to accept the ABOA recommendation and approve request to construct a single family dwelling 6 feet into the front setback line on Lot 1, Block 11, Unit One East, 300 East Gorrie Drive, St. George Island; Motion carried 5-0.

Planning & Zoning Report (9:20 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented the items for Board action.

CRITICAL SHORELINE REVIEW:

- 1- **RECOMMENDED APPROVAL (Unanimous):** *Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock at Lot 2, Oyster Bay Village, 2219 Coquina Drive, St.*

George Island, Franklin County, Florida. The Dock will be 494'x 4' with a 6' x 26' terminal platform and (2) 10' x 20' Boat Lifts. This application has all State Permits and Federal Permits and meets all county requirements. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Agency, agent for Bennett Land & Timber, applicant. (No House)

- 2- *RECOMMENDED APPROVAL (Unanimous): Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Boardwalk and Dock at Pogy Road, Apalachicola, Franklin County Florida. The Boardwalk will be 285' x 4' and the Dock will be 45' x 4' with a 20' x 6' platform and (2) 21' x 10' boat lifts. This application has all State Permits and Federal Permits and meets all county requirements. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Agency, agent for David and Mary Paine, applicant. (No House)*

Commissioner Parrish and Mr. Pierce discussed this item.

Dan Garlick, of Garlick Environmental Agency, stated that the dock goes 45 feet into the River.

- 3- *RECOMMENDED APPROVAL (Unanimous): Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock at Lot 19, Bay Cove Village, 2051 Turpentine Trail, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. The Dock will be 85'x 4' with a 8' x 20' terminal platform and (2) 8' x 12' Boat Lifts. This application has applied for the State Exemption and not required to have Federal Permits and meets all county requirements. Request submitted by Larry Joe Colson, agent for Rennie Edwards, applicant.*
- 4- *RECOMMENDED APPROVAL (Unanimous): Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock at Lot 3, Block 59, Unit 5, 363 Bruce Street, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. The Dock will be 107'x 4' with a 6' x 12' terminal platform. This application has applied for the State Exemption and not required to have Federal Permits and meets all county requirements. Request submitted by Docks 4 Less, LLC, agent for Scott Leamon, applicant.*
- 5- *RECOMMENDED APPROVAL (Unanimous): Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock at 2054 West Highway 98, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. The Dock will be 200'x 4' with a 20' x 8' terminal platform with (2) 20' x 10' boat lifts. This application has all State and Federal Permits and meets all county requirements. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental, agent for Sandspur Beach, LLC, applicant. (No House)*

Chairman Sanders and Mr. Garlick discussed this item.

Motion by Massey, seconded by Parrish, to approve items 1-5 on the Planning & Zoning Report; Motion carried 5-0.

RE-ZONING & LAND USE CHANGES:

- 6- *RECOMMENDED APPROVAL (Not All 4-1 Vote) request to schedule a public hearing: Consideration of a request to re-zone Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, Block 9, Unit 1 East, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida from C-2 Commercial Business to C-4 Commercial Mixed Use Residential. Request submitted by Galloway Construction, Inc. Agent/Applicant.*

- 7- *RECOMMENDED APPROVAL (Unanimous) request to schedule a public hearing: Consideration of a request to re-zone Lots 49-64, Block A and Lots 1-8, 19 & 20, Block F, Lanark Beach, Lanark Village, Franklin County, Florida from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-2 Single Family Mobile Home. Request submitted by Stephen Cutchen, applicant.*

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Pierce stated that the only action approved today is to schedule public hearings.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to schedule Public Hearings on items 6 & 7 for re-zoning and land use changes; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Parrish asked that all information on this matter is submitted to the Board before the Public Hearing.

Marcia M. Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (9:24 AM)

Mrs. Johnson had no report for the Board.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (9:25 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented his report to the Board.

1. *At the last Board meeting I was asked to check on the status of the GIS system being installed by the Property Appraiser's Office. I spoke to Ms. Rhonda Skipper, Property Appraiser, and to Mr. Joseph Farrell, GIS specialist. The GIS system is 85% complete now, but before it goes public they will be doing a final check on parcels so it will probably be 2-3 months before the system is accessible by the public.*

2. *At the last meeting the Board opened bids for the widening of CC Land Road and turned them over to Preble-Rish Engineers for review. Board action to accept recommendation from county engineers, Preble-Rish, to accept the low bid from C.W Roberts and to negotiate the bid to*

within the grant amount. The low bid was \$681,222.60, but the DOT funding was for \$646,578. Board action.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to approve Preble-Rish's recommendation to accept the low bid from C.W Roberts and to negotiate the bid within the grant amount of \$646,578; Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Sanders commented on how much it costs to repave 2 miles of a road.

3. Inform the Board there were 21 applicants for the Courthouse Janitor positions. Because of the number of candidates it will take a little while to review and interview all the applications. I hope to have the position filled in 30 days.

4. Inform the Board there are 3 applications for Road Dept. Superintendent, Lamar Hardy, Dewitt Polous, and Tommy Sadler.

5. Inform the Board that while I was out of the office last week I had a phone call from FCI Warden Atkins who was concerned over the delay in notifying DOC of any allegations involving state inmates. There was a discussion of allegations at the April 16 Board meeting but it was not until May 9 that DOC was notified. I told the Warden that I would recommend to the Board that the next Road Superintendent and myself meet with the Warden and other DOC personnel to be properly trained on how and when to make reports to DOC.

Chairman Sanders discussed this matter further and suggested DOC training for the Board members, along with Staff.

The Board discussed the importance of following the protocol of DOC for inmate supervision.

6. Inform the Board that Congressman Southerland has written a letter signed by 25 other members of Congress to the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure informing the Committee that these members of Congress believe the US Corps of Engineers has overstepped its authority by re-allocating water from Lake Lanier without proper Congressional oversight. The members are asking the Committee "to ensure that a legislative solution is included in the Water Resources Development Act." The Committee is drafting a new Act and apparently has the authority to include legislative solutions to the 20 year ACF water war. I am providing a copy of the letter to the Board.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Massey, to send a letter to Congressman Southerland and Governor Scott thanking them for their efforts on this matter; Motion carried 5-0.

7. Some months ago the ABC Charter School received a report that indicated the curtains in the Chapman Auditorium might contain asbestos. The report did not test the curtains but made the pronouncement on the basis of the age of the curtains and materials in it. The ABC School has now had the curtains tested and the report indicates the curtains are Non-asbestos. I am providing a copy of the report to the Board.

8. *Board direction on whether to apply for a state Historic Preservation Grant to repair the roof at Chapman Auditorium. Several years before the county received the building from the school board, a new roof was put over the office portion of the building, but no work was done on the auditorium. The state has opened up applications for small Historic Preservations projects with the maximum grant amount of \$50K. After T.S. Debbie the auditorium experienced leaks in several places but FEMA discounted the leaks as storm damage and said the roof had outlived its life expectancy. At the time we had estimates to replace to the roof for some \$70,000. Mark Curenton has done some estimates on what it would take to replace the auditorium roof as well as fix some minor leaks in the office portion of the building. Mark recommends the Board submit a Historic Preservation grant for \$50K, acknowledging that the county will have to provide funds in excess of the grant award of \$50K if the project is approved. The county share of the funds could come out of the board's capital outlay fund. Board direction.*

Commissioner Jackel asked about the use of the building and expressed concerns of the cost that might be over the \$50,000 grant.

Commissioner Parrish suggested using the recent study on the building, which was conducted by the University of Florida, to include in the grant application.

Mr. Pierce discussed the findings of the University's study.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to approve submitting an application for a State Historic Preservation Grant to repair the roof at Chapman Auditorium; Motion carried 4-1, Jackel opposed.

9. *Provide Board update on NRDA projects. Chairman Sanders may have additional information regarding NRDA from her meeting in Key Largo last week, but this is the current status of NRDA projects. Governor Scott announced two weeks ago his list of NRDA projects to be put forth for the next round of funding. In that list were several projects which listed Franklin County as a benefactor. One of the projects was a \$5.4M oyster reef restoration project for Apalachicola Bay, as well as two other bays. If the money is awarded through the NRDA review process, the funds will go to DACS for administration, not Franklin County.*

The Governor's list, if approved, will allocate \$70M of the \$100M that BP has provided Florida in what is called early restoration funds. As the Board may recall, the county submitted \$50M worth of NRDA projects, so if only \$30M remains for the state of Florida it is highly unlikely that Franklin County, or any county, is going to get a large project approved that was submitted where a single county is the only beneficiary.

Chairman Sanders had asked me to review Shell Point beach restoration project that was in the Governor's list to see why Franklin County's projects for Alligator Point were not funded. While the details have not been released, the significant difference between the Shell Point project and all the other beach renourishment projects was that Shell Point was using an upland sand source with a very limited scope.

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed this matter further.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to send a letter endorsing the NRDA project for Franklin County; Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Sanders gave an update on the Gulf Consortium Meeting she attended with Attorney Shuler. She stated that Mississippi is asking the Consortium to look at a five state committee from Florida to Texas.

Attorney Shuler also commented on the role the five states would take in the project. Commissioner Parrish provided additional information concerning how this process would work.

Commissioner Lockley asked if there was any discussion regarding guidelines for these projects. Chairman Sanders and Attorney Shuler discussed.

Mr. Pierce expressed his concerns of the possibility of getting projects funded.

10- Board action to approve the 5 DOT Roadside Beautification Assistance Programs previously discussed. DOT has agreed to the projects. The Board will have one year from the date of DOT signing the agreements to get the projects installed so it is my expectation that we are looking at a fall planting considering it will be June before the state signs the agreements.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to approve the 5 DOT Roadside Beautification Assistance Programs; Motion carried 5-0.

11- Provide Board with copy of letter from FWC to Board thanking the Board for input on the red snapper season. The FWC did follow the Board's recommendation and at their April 17 FWC meeting did agree to create a 44 day red snapper season in state waters. The letter also states that the FWC believes the federal red snapper rules are likely to change as well.

Mr. Pierce read and discussed a proclamation declaring May as Civility Month.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to approve declaration of May as Civility Month; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce updated the Board on the St. George Island Fishing Pier project.

Commissioner Massey asked if a request can be sent to clean up the location of the fire between Carrabelle and Lanark.

Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Pierce to look into the purchase of the area around the curve where Island View Motel was located. Mr. Pierce discussed issues with this location.

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed work done on the property recently purchased next to the Jr. Food Store in Eastpoint.

Commissioner Jackel suggested creating a children's park on that property instead of using it for parking as the County is under contract for some other lots that will provide parking.

Mr. Pierce suggested discussing a lease with the Jr. Food Store for the propane tank that is on the property.

Commissioner Parrish asked for the Attorney to look into the liability of having a children's park close to the propane tank.

Chairman Sanders discussed a thank you letter from a citizen who recently used the services at the Hospital and asked Mr. Pierce to forward it to Mr. Brownsworth.

Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report (9:57 AM)

Mr. Pierce discussed a Resolution to increase the MSBU rates for Alligator Point and St. George Island.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Massey, to approve a Resolution for MSBU rate increase for Alligator Point and St. George Island; Motion carried 5-0.

Public Hearing for Eastpoint Golf Cart Ordinance

Attorney Shuler presented the Golf Cart Ordinance to the Board.

The Board and Attorney Shuler discussed golf carts crossing Highway 98.

Chairman Sanders opened the floor for public comments. There were no public comments.

Commissioner Lockley and Attorney Shuler discussed night time driving for golf carts.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to approve the Golf Cart Ordinance for Eastpoint; Motion carried 5-0.

The Board, Attorney Shuler, and Mr. Pierce discussed having golf cart public hearings for other areas of the County.

Allen Fiefer, of Alligator Point Taxpayers Association, discussed possible problems with golf cart usage in Alligator Point.

Commissioners and Public Comments (10:09 AM)

Chairman Sanders discussed a card she just opened from the Governor asking how he can help with job creations. The Board discussed this matter.

Mr. Pierce suggested asking about using this area for drone testing.

Chairman Sanders suggested sending a letter in response to the Governor and asking for his assistance with job creation in the County.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Pierce discussed the DEO study in the area.

Commissioner Jackel suggested using results of that study to send to the Governor to help with job creation.

Chairman Sanders commented on the potential for jobs in the County.

Commissioner Parrish stated that the area around the palm tree at Steve Davis's driveway needs to be trimmed due to visibility issues. Mr. Pierce stated that he will check with Transfield on this matter.

Mr. Pierce discussed some of the projects being funded at this time that will affect the County.

The Board discussed the funding of the SHIP program.

Chairman Sanders and Mr. Pierce discussed the funding for DOC inmate work squads.

Mr. Pierce discussed the restructuring of the Gulf County Health Department.

Allen Fiefer, of Alligator Point Taxpayers Association, discussed problems with roadside trash and debris caused by residents and contractors. He stated that this is causing a decline in property value on Alligator Point. Mr. Fiefer also stated that at some point the Board might need to require rentals and residents to have dumpsters and trash receptacles.

The Board and Mr. Pierce commented on this matter.

Mr. Pierce stated what was done on St. George Island to stop these same type of problems. Commissioner Jackel suggested more no littering signage in the County stating the laws and fines. She also suggested sending a letter to the Sheriff's Dept. asking for more enforcement and ticketing for violators.

Mr. Fiefer will check with rental management companies about including trash receptacles at the rental locations.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to have the Road Dept. to take an inventory of locations needed for no littering signage and a letter to the Sheriff's Dept. asking for enforcement on littering laws; Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment (10:26 AM)

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

Cheryl Sanders, Chairman – FCBOCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts