

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
JUNE 4, 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 (9:00 AM)

Chairman Sanders called the Meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge

There was a prayer by Pastor Aaron Batey, of the Carrabelle United Methodist Church. The prayer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Massey, to approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2013 Regular Meeting and May 3, 2012 & May 9, 2012 Special Meetings; Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills

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

Pastor Aaron Batey - Discussion

Chairman Sanders recognized Pastor Aaron Batey, of the Carrabelle United Methodist Church. Pastor Batey discussed a new project called Project 127 that is going on in Carrabelle. He stated that this program is all about a spirit of service to reach out and help those in need in the

community. Pastor Batey asked for volunteers for this project and stated that there will also be a similar project going on in Eastpoint and Apalachicola.

Chairman Sanders and Mr. Pierce discussed waiving permit fees for these projects.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to waive permitting fees associated with Project 127; Motion carried 5-0.

Department Supervisor Report

Dewitt Polous– Interim Superintendent of Public Works

Mr. Polous asked for Board action to purchase a tractor for \$68,000.00, which will be paid for from FEMA funds.

Motion by Massey, seconded by Parrish, to authorize purchase of tractor; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Polous stated that the City of Greensboro is asking for parts from any old lawn mowers the County might have available.

Chairman Sanders reminded everyone that there is a process for this action and suggested that they charge per pound for the parts, in the same manner as the salvage yard, once it is removed from the inventory.

Motion by Massey, seconded by Parrish, to authorize sale of salvage parts to the City of Greensboro; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jackel discussed the “No Littering” signs that were also discussed at the last Meeting. She asked that a letter be sent to the Sheriff regarding enforcing littering in the County.

Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Mr. Davis had no items for Board action.

Chairman Sanders thanked Mr. Davis for Animal Control’s response to complaints at Alligator Point.

Commissioner Jackel asked that a private home owner in Eastpoint, who suffered damage during the last storm, is not charged for debris removal.

Nikki Millender – Parks & Recreation

Mrs. Millender had no items for Board action.

Alan Pierce – Report

Mr. Pierce presented two items from his report.

8. Ms. Nikki Millender, Parks and Recreation, is in great need of summer help. The TDC had budgeted \$5K in the event the county was hosting the state softball tournament. The county did not host the tournament so Ms. Millender would like to use that \$5K, plus an additional \$2500 if the TDC can find it, so hire two part-time temporary workers to help clean bathrooms on county parks through the summer. It would be a 10 week employment for 29 hours a week, at \$10 hour. Board action to request that TDC provide the funds.

Board discussed this matter further including use of TDC funds.

Motion by Massey, seconded by Lockley, to approve hiring part-time temporary workers to help with beach clean-up throughout the tourist season; Motion carried 5-0.

6. Inform the Board that Commissioner Jackel asked me to investigate the opportunity to get additional energy efficiency funds and it appears the Board will be eligible for funds to replace the energy in-efficient lights at Vrooman Park and D.W. Wilson Park with new energy efficiency lights. The new lighting will equal or improve existing lighting conditions at the ball fields. I have discussed this with Ms. Nikki Millender and she is in agreement that the lights at the ball fields are a large expense in her budget. The lights at Kendrick Park are already energy efficient and do not need replacing. Board action to submit energy efficiency grant.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Jackel, to approve the Energy Efficiency Grant; Motion carried 5-0.

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director

Mrs. Brownell presented her report to the Board.

Action Items: Authorize debris removal disposal services contract from Crowder Gulf.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to authorize debris removal disposal services with Crowder Gulf; Motion carried 5-0.

Information Items:

- 1. All EOC personnel attended the Hurricane Training Exercise in Marianna , Florida on May 29, 2013*
- 2. Pamela Brownell and Tom Durham attended a News Relations meeting in Panama City, Florida on May 30, 2013 hosted by WJHG.*
- 3. Mike Rundell attended the Region 2 meeting in Tallahassee, Florida on May 30, 2013.*
- 4. EOC personnel will participate in a shooter exercise in conjunction with Weems Hospital on June 7, 2013.*

Mrs. Brownell stated that the date for the exercise was changed to July 19, 2013.

5. *Florida Foundation and Florida Division of Emergency Management will be hosting a workshop on **HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR INSURANCE** cost on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 from 5 to 7 pm at the courthouse annex.*
6. *Hurricane Guides for 2013 have been received and will be pushed out into the community during the coming week.*

Mrs. Brownell and the Board discussed storm readiness and re-entry tags.

Mrs. Brownell discussed Bill Mahan's assistance with an appeal for Mosquito Control FEMA funding.

Mr. Pierce discussed a letter he wrote regarding aero-spraying in the County.

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director

Mr. Mahan was not in attendance.

Ray Brownsworth – Weem's CEO – Hospital Update

Mr. Brownsworth presented his report.

1. Financial summary

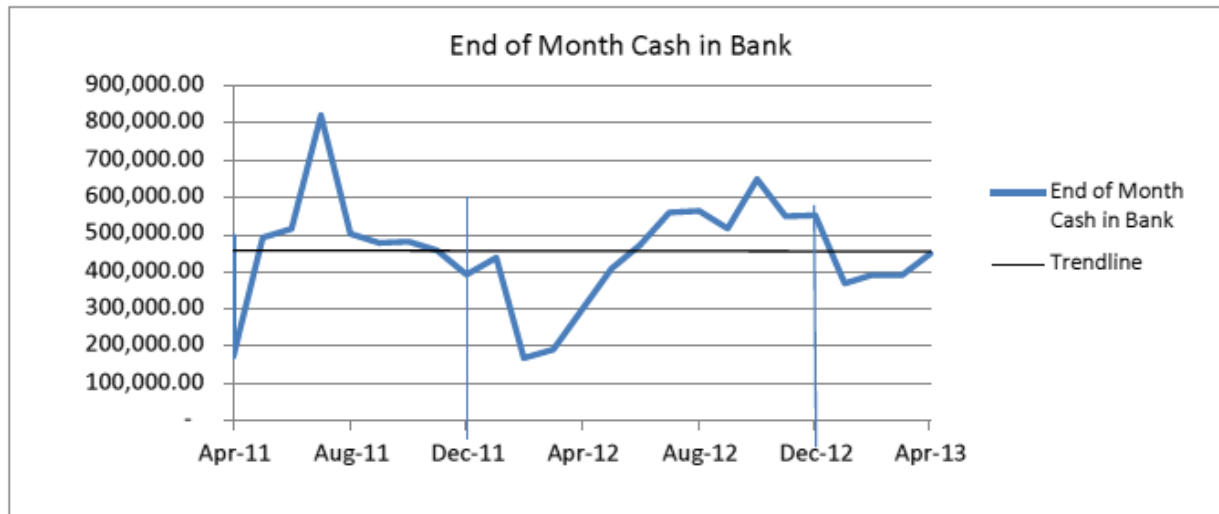
The actual April 2013 net profit was \$146,024.66 for Weems Combined. April 2012 was \$122,960.28. So this is a favorable variance compared to prior year.

Cash in the bank for April 2013 is \$408,607.97 as compared to \$142,311.86 last year for the same month.

Year to date for 2013, the net profit is -278,181.26 compared to \$182,948.64 for 2012.

However, it should be noted that by the same month in 2012 an additional \$310,767.78 from the additional ½ cent sales tax for November 2011 to April 2012 was used to supplement non-operation income and thus artificially inflating the net profit. Without this supplement, the April 2012 year to date net profit would have been -\$127,819.14.

2. Cash Flow – The following table reflects the cash on hand for Weems in bank (the operating, money market, grant and CD accounts). This is presented to show the general stability of our cash on hand, especially in light of recent negative net profit amounts as presented on recent financial reports. In our particular situation, the cash on hand while fluctuating has been generally stable as reflected in the trend line below. I will discuss this more in the board meeting and solicit questions.



Chairman Sanders stated her displeasure with the negative financial numbers and asked that this situation is turned around.

3. HB711 – The public hearing for HB711 has been conducted and a compilation of public comments has been provided to the Weems Board of Directors. Prior to the Board meeting data collected for the comparison of Weems and peer hospitals was provided. These peers were based upon like services, demographics, size and other factors. Also provided to the Board of Directors was the hospital valuation provided by Adam’s consulting group. The valuation of the hospital was determined to be \$3,000,000 based on several valuation models. My findings, based on the comparative data, are that based on a broad spectrum of criteria, Weems Memorial Hospital rated comparable to its peers on the average. The hospital Board of Directors voted having met the requirements of HB711 and that the continued public operation of the hospital was in the best interest of the communities served, they unanimously voted to not consider selling or leasing the hospital.

We will be posting the decision in appropriate locations as required by HB711 but would likewise appreciate this decision to be recognized as part of the County Commission minutes.

4. Weems Clinic West Renovations– A budget number related to the refurbishment of the clinic space next door has been received and is will be reviewed over the next 30-45 days with the Board of Directors as part of their strategic planning effort. As part of this effort, we have received a series of potential costs based upon different intensities of effort. This includes a low, medium and high intensity with the highest being a new facility. Secondly, we have developed alternate strategies for location of the clinic. These include moving WMCW into another wing of the hospital and moving support departments into the nearby clinic building as well as other physical location off of Highway 98. This by no means we are recommending an alternate plan but were put together as a matter of due diligence and challenging our own assumptions.

I have met with Adams consulting group and TRO Architects to begin discussions on the next

steps for construction. I have emphasized our upcoming strategic planning and decisions related to the prioritization of clinic and/or hospital construction projects. The decisions made as part of the strategic planning process will drive further activity related to this.

5. Extend Hours Weems East - Susan Hardin, ARNP at Weems West has requested that she be allowed to withdraw from the provision of extended hours at Weems East due to the affect it is having on her close out of charts, billing and herself physically. A review of the utilization of the extended hours has been conducted and indicates that in general Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday have minimal patient loads as a general statement. For now, my response is to allow Susan to work her 40 hours per week at Weems West and to increase Dana Whaley's Monday hours to accommodate continuation of the extended hours on Mondays. She would then decrease her Friday hours by the same amount.

The data provided on the clinic volumes historically has been found to include nursing visits. Thanks to Ginny for the discovery. Both Nicole Sandoval and Debbie Mashburn are helping us correct this for the future so we have a better feel for the productivity of our practitioners.

6. Weems Clinic East –We have contracted with a local person to keep to grounds mowed and looking better. The trash bin is having a fence put around it due to continued bear activities and will include an electric fence component as recommended by the FWC.

7. EMS staging – EMS will stage a BLS truck on the islands on weekends and an ALS truck for the Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day weekends.

8. EMS Manager – Hilda Pippin has been selected to assume the EMS Manager duties as part of an administrative change. Tim will remain as an employee of Weems in his primary position of Paramedic.

9. Preconstruction costs – I have inquired with Alan Pierce and Michael Schuler whether or not the fees associated with current and future activities for preconstruction services is payable “as we go” from the health care trust fund rather than being accumulated and paid during the project. The majority of fees such as architectural and general contractor fees will be included in the project costs and be built into the construction payout. This would apply to either the clinic or hospital projects.

10. EHR – The two final vendors for our EHR are Healthland and CSS. Site visits will occur in mid-June and reference checks have begun.

11. Nebulizer Program -We are implementing a nebulizer machine giveaway to patients with indigent status in the clinic. Approximately 15 machines were given to us by TMH through a grant several years ago and are in the purchasing department.

The Respiratory Department has given two to Susan Hardin at the clinic. The clinic has been instructed to give Respiratory a copy of the patient demographics and prescription for our files on those particular patients.

Jennifer Sockwell, Resp. Mgr. would like to implement the program further to involve the

Franklin County School System in an Asthma Awareness program. And, possibly implement the program to cover the ER patients in need of a machine. Glenda Wilson and I are working on restocking the machines through a grant or otherwise. As soon as we have more machines on hand, the larger programs will open.

12. Hospital Grounds - Craig Gibson has meet with a local person to keep up the lawns and flower beds here at the hospital and is putting together a recommendation on how to provide for a visually more attractive campus.

13. Strategic Plan - I am seeking facilitators for the hospital's strategic planning meeting and hope this can occur in the next 45 days. We have lots to consider in painting a picture of where we want to go for the future. This will drive our decision making for construction, new services, equipment, culture and other key matters thus allowing us to be aligned throughout the organization.

Mr. Brownsworth updated the Board on the data regarding the computer crash at Weems East.

Chairman Sanders recognized Lynn Bannister, State Director for Senator Bill Nelson.

Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts

Mrs. Johnson had no report for the Board.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Service

Mr. Pierce presented his report to the Board.

1. Inform the Board that even though there was discussion at the May 21 workshop to hold interviews for the position of Superintendent of Public Works, the Board must take action during a Board meeting on when it wants to schedule interviews. Board direction.

Commissioner Lockley stated that he would like to re-advertise for the job in-house as all employees didn't have an opportunity to apply.

Chairman Sanders stated that some employees were discouraged from applying.

Attorney Shuler explained the procedure for re-advertising this position.

Recess

Chairman Sanders called for a recess.

Reconvene

Chairman Sanders reconvened the Meeting.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to reject all applications for Superintendent of Public Works position and re-advertise for position in-house; Motion carried 5-0.

2. *Board action to renew a Hold Harmless Agreement with Duke Power (aka Progress Energy) to allow them to use a staging area at the airport in the event they want to stage equipment after a hurricane, subject to County Attorney review.*

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to renew a Hold Harmless Agreement with Duke Power to allow using the Airport as a staging area for equipment in the event of a hurricane; Motion carried 5-0.

3. *Inform the Board that the committee recommending engineering consultants for the engineering and design of the Alligator Point multi-use path recommends Preble-Rish Engineers. Board action to accept recommendation and to enter into a contract. All fees will be paid out of the DOT funds.*

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to approve recommendation of Preble-Rish Engineers and enter into a contract for Alligator Point multi-use path; Motion carried 5-0.

4. *Board action to allow the Apalachicola Maritime Museum to display a small cannon at the Museum here in Apalachicola that had been stored upstairs in the Armory. The cannon has no association with the Armory and is most likely a signal cannon from a ship. The museum has offered to research the background of the cannon and also to have it inspected to see if it can be fired. The cannon would only be on loan and would always be the property of the Board.*

Commissioner Parrish would like a hold harmless agreement and insurance requirements attached to the cannon.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to approve the Apalachicola Maritime Museum to display a cannon that was found in the Armory with an executed hold harmless agreement and insurance; Motion carried 5-0.

5. *At the last meeting Commissioner Parrish asked me to gather some additional information regarding some of the settlement that BP has already made. The issue came up because of news reporting of money becoming available for NRDA projects and RESTORE projects. BP has made a \$2.4Billion settlement with the federal government of which \$335M will go to Florida. However, all of these funds are already spoken for; all of these funds will go to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation who in turn will spend the money.*

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed this matter further.

Chairman Sanders suggested joining with neighboring Counties for better influence with funding for these projects. The Board discussed this option further.

Warren Yeager, Gulf County Commissioner, discussed some of Gulf County's experiences in dealing with this funding. He stated that the next meeting will be on June 12th at 9 AM in Gulf County at their EOC.

6. Inform the Board that Commissioner Jackel asked me to investigate the opportunity to get additional energy efficiency funds and it appears the Board will be eligible for funds to replace the energy in-efficient lights at Vrooman Park and D.W. Wilson Park with new energy efficiency lights. The new lighting will equal or improve existing lighting conditions at the ball fields. I have discussed this with Ms. Nikki Millender and she is in agreement that the lights at the ball fields are a large expense in her budget. The lights at Kendrick Park are already energy efficient and do not need replacing. Board action to submit energy efficiency grant.

This item was discussed earlier in the Meeting.

7. Board action to submit a funding request to the Dept. of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to provide additional funding for three projects. DEO is currently funding a economic diversification study for the county, and it appears additional funding might be available for a study providing the economic benefit tourism in the county (which is something the TDC has asked for), the economic benefit of dredging the Eastpoint Channel (which is something that will be of value in seeking federal funds to dredge the channel), and some funds to implement some of the facets of the current DEO study. Board action.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Jackel, to approve the submission of a funding request to the DEO to provide additional funding for these three projects; Motion carried 5-0.

8. Ms. Nikki Millender, Parks and Recreation, is in great need of summer help. The TDC had budgeted \$5K in the event the county was hosting the state softball tournament. The county did not host the tournament so Ms. Millender would like to use that \$5K, plus an additional \$2500 if the TDC can find it, so hire two part-time temporary workers to help clean bathrooms on county parks through the summer. It would be a 10 week employment for 29 hours a week, at \$10 hour. Board action to request that the TDC provide the funds.

This item was discussed earlier in the Meeting.

Mr. Pierce stated that Mr. Nick Hutchinson has pointed out some recent storm damage done to buildings in Eastpoint that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that some of the damage should be considered an emergency. Commissioner Jackel and Attorney Shuler reminded the Board of what types of work can be done on private property.

Commissioner Jackel asked for Board action to authorize her to use County resources to address any situation that might be considered an eminent threat.

Commissioner Lockley asked that he is sent pictures of the situation before he votes on the authorization.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to authorize Mr. Pierce to determine eminent danger and direct one of the County Department's to take action; (Motion withdrawn)

Chairman Sanders discussed issues with public nuisances with abandoned properties throughout the County.

Shannon Hartsfield explained the situation further and stated that the next storm could blow the loose hanging tin out of the trees.

Commissioner Massey and Mr. Pierce discussed reasons the Sheriff's Department doesn't assist with traffic control when road contractors are doing road work in Franklin County, as it is done in other counties.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Pierce discussed a contractor doing work on the St. George Island Bridge.

Commissioner Parrish commented on the tin problems in Eastpoint, which was discussed earlier in the Meeting.

Chairman Sanders suggested condemning any buildings that might create problems.

The Board and Attorney Shuler discussed this matter further.

Warren Yeager, a Gulf County commissioner, discussed how Gulf County handles these same types of situations.

Commissioner Parrish stated that the County doesn't have the resources to destroy any buildings that are condemned.

Commissioner Massey suggested offering the property owner the option of giving their property to the County if the County does the clean-up.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to direct Attorney Shuler to send letter to property owners notifying them of unsafe condition of buildings in Eastpoint and the danger it causes to local residents and the intention of the County to condemn; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Pierce to contact Lori Switzer, of the SHIP program, concerning an issue with Mr. Robert Key, a SHIP client.

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney Report

Attorney Shuler had no report for the Board.

Commissioners' & Public Comments

Commissioner Jackel thanked Senator Nelson's staff member, Lynn Banister, for opposing HB1024.

Commissioner Jackel discussed an email from FAC regarding the Dept. of Agriculture's Commissioner's comments on Apalachicola Bay and oyster production. She expressed her displeasure with the comments.

Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Pierce to contact the Gulf Coast Workforce Board about problems with the re-shelling programs. Mr. Pierce discussed the current status of the re-shelling program.

Shannon Hartsfield, President of Franklin County Seafood Workers Association, explained that the funds are almost depleted so no new applicants are being accepted for re-shelling at this time.

Mr. Pierce stated that there is a possibility of more funding and then the program will open up for more applicants.

Chairman Sanders and Mr. Hartsfield discussed the condition and amount of the oysters in the Bay since the summer bars opened on June 2nd.

Chairman Sanders commented on an article in the New York Times regarding a declaration by Governor Scott concerning Apalachicola Bay.

Lynn Bannister, State Director for Senator Bill Nelson, explained where the paperwork is and the process for this declaration.

Mr. Pierce provided additional information concerning this matter.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to send a letter to Governor Scott and DEP in support of the Declaration; Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Bannister discussed the funding for the Eastpoint Channel dredging project. She stated that with the sequestration she wasn't sure what is going to happen with this project. Chairman Sanders provided some history and expressed her concerns with this project.

Ms. Bannister commented on some legislation that needs support as explained by Dan Tonsmiere in the Tallahassee Democrat. She stated that everyone needs to speak with Congressman Southerland to get this legislation passed.

Ms. Bannister also commented on the upcoming Commerce Committee Meeting.

Chairman Sanders asked Ms. Bannister to thank Senator Nelson for his continued support of Franklin County.

Donna Butterfield, of St. George Island, commented on the public hearing, reports, and information regarding HB711. She explained the requirements of HB711 and discussed issues with Weems Memorial Hospital.

Commissioner Jackel and Attorney Shuler discussed this item further.

Chairman Sanders stated that she is meeting with Mr. Brownsworth next week to discuss this matter.

Adjourn (10:50 AM)

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

Cheryl Sanders, Chairman – FCBOCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts