

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

Commissioner's Present: Cheryl Sanders – Chairman, William Massey – Vice Chairman, Pinki Jackel, Noah Lockley, and Joseph Parrish

Staff 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 (9:01 AM)

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes (9:02 AM)

Motion by Massey, seconded by Lockley, to approve the Minutes of the August 20, 2013 Regular Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills (9:02 AM)

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

Department Supervisors Report

Howard Nabors –Superintendent of Public Works (9:03 AM)

Mr. Nabors informed the Board that he has an open position for employment at the Road Dept. and asked for Board approval to advertise the vacant position.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Massey, to approve advertising for vacant position at the Road Dept.; Motion carried 5-0.

Fonda Davis– Solid Waste Director (9:04 AM)

Mr. Davis presented his report to the Board.

VACANT POSITION:

FOR BOARD ACTION: On September 5th Employee Anthony “Buddy” Wood resigned from the Solid Waste Department, leaving a vacant position to be filled. I am requesting the Board allow me to advertise consecutively in house and publicly to fill this position.

ACTION REQUESTED: Motion allowing me to advertise and fill the vacant position by advertising consecutively in house and publicly.

The Board and Mr. Davis discussed his request to advertise to fill the vacant position consecutively in house and publicly.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Massey, to advertise for Solid Waste Dept.’s vacant position in-house first and then advertise to the public; Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Sanders and Attorney Shuler discussed the issue with garbage collection in Lanark Village.

Nikki Millender – Parks & Recreation (9:10 AM)

Mrs. Millender gave an update on work going on at the County parks.

Katie Green asked for a waiver or a reduced fee to use the Armory for a public event called Authors in Apalach, which will be held on March 15, 2014.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Jackel, to approve waiver of the fees to use the Armory for Authors in Apalach on March 15, 2014; Motion carried 5-0.

Pam Brownell- Emergency Management (9:14 AM)

Mrs. Brownell presented her report to the Board.

Action Items: None

Information Items:

- *The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) met Sept. 10, 2013 to discuss possible fundraisers and future training for CERT. We also discussed helping with Coastal Clean up on Sept. 21, 2013.*
- *On Sept. 11, 2013 at 1:30pm Mr. Phil Worley and I met at the EOC with the Solid Waste Department, the City of Apalachicola, and the City of Carrabelle to discuss their debris management plans and the new FEMA pilot program.*
- *I will be in Tallahassee attending a mitigation workshop on Sept.18, 2013.*
- *Sept. 19, 2013 I will be meeting with the Panama City Fire Department to discuss their Water Rescue Unit along with members of the CERT.*

The Board and Mrs. Brownell discussed the new storm in the Gulf.

Bill Mahan – County Extension Director (9:15 AM)

Mr. Mahan asked for Board approval to attend the upcoming ISSC meeting.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to authorize travel and expenses for Mr. Mahan to attend the ISSC meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Mahan stated that he received an email informing him that the County did receive the Sea Turtle Grant.

Mr. Pierce explained when the Sea Turtle Grant will be used.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Mahan discussed advertising the Sea Turtle Grant.

Mr. Mahan discussed the following item from his report.

Franklin - UF IFAS Updates

- 1) *UF IFAS /DACS Intro to Intensive Oyster Culture – UF IFAS & DACS will be holding a workshop – Intro to Intensive Oyster Aquaculture on Thursday September 26 at the FSU Coastal Marine Laboratory at Turkey Point. The workshop is free and will be held from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM.*

Jeff Mason, Emerald Warrior Update (9:19 AM)

Joe Kuceras addressed the Board on behalf of Mr. Mason and discussed the Emerald Warrior 14 training exercise.

Travis Huckeba presented awards to the Board for Emerald Warrior 2012 and Emerald Warrior 2013. He thanked the County for their cooperation during their training exercises.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Massey, to authorize Emerald Warrior 14 training exercises in the County in the spring of 2014; Motion carried 5-0.

TDC Contract Renewals (9:22 AM)

Paul Parker presented the Contracts and Sustaining grants that needed Board action for renewal. He explained some of the services provided by these vendors. He discovered the Visitor's Guide and stated that it won the 3rd best in the State of Florida.

Commissioner Massey asked about the funding for the proposed Visitors Center and Museum in Eastpoint at the old Highway Patrol station.

Mr. Parker stated some of the funding sources the TDC is looking at for this project.

Commissioner Lockley renewed his request to bring the administration of the TDC program as a County office and employee.

The Board and Attorney Shuler discussed this matter.

Motion by Lockley, to have the administration of the TDC as an in-house County office and employment position; Motion failed for lack of a second.

Chairman Sanders stated that there were concerns raised by the Board over the past two years with Geiger as a vendor.

Mr. Parker and Curt Blair, of the Franklin County Tourist Development Council, suggested allowing the marketing committee of the TDC to look at alternative options to use the money that was allotted for the Geiger contract. The Board agreed.

Motion by Massey, seconded by Lockley, to not renew the Geiger contract and allow the TDC to present alternative options for use of the allotted funding; Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Jackel, seconded by Massey, to renew all other contracts, except to the Geiger contract, presented by the TDC; Motion carried 3-2, Parrish, Lockley opposed.

The Board discussed the process of how to move forward with the Eastpoint Visitor's Center project. Chairman Sanders suggested that TDC create a plan for this project and present it to the Board.

Recess (9:35 AM)

Chairman Sanders called for a recess.

Reconvene (9:45 AM)

Chairman Sanders reconvened the Meeting.

Warden Atkins – Franklin County CI – Update (9:45 AM)

Warden Atkins updated the Board on the new Work Camp and the work crews that are being dispatched from the new location. He stated there is still some equipment at the old location that is in the process of being removed.

Mr. Pierce commented on the process for the County to get the property.

Warden Atkins stated that he has 30 vacancies at the Franklin Correctional Institute.

Commissioner Massey stated that the City of Carrabelle lost a crew a few years ago and asked the Warden if they would ever get it back.

Warden Atkins stated that he wasn't able to answer that question because of all the variables that were involved.

Advisory BOA Consent Agenda (9:50 AM)

Recommended for Approval by ABOA- Consideration of a variance to extend an existing rock revetment 26 feet into the Critical Habitat Zone on property described as Lot 4, Clipper Bay Subdivision, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc., agent for William Kidd, owner. Approved as requested.

Mr. Pierce presented and discussed the item for approval. He explained some of the concerns of erosion by the neighboring property owner and recommended tabling this item.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to table consideration of a variance to extend an existing rock revetment 26 feet into the Critical Habitat Zone on property described as Lot 4, Clipper Bay Subdivision, St. George Island until there is a solution to the erosion problem; Motion carried 5-0.

Marcia M. Johnson- Clerk of Courts- Report (9:53 AM)

Mrs. Johnson presented her report to the Board.

1-The Health Department has requested approval of their annual contract with the Board to be effective October 1, 2013 to provide environmental health services, communicable disease control services, and primary care services. The contract does list the county's funding appropriation of \$50,000. It lists the two health dept. buildings now owned by the county, and it says all their vehicles will be transferred to the ownership of the County who shall ensure insurance coverage. The Board would agree that the director/administrator be selected by the State with the concurrence of the County. There is a termination at will clause of no less than 180 calendar days notice in writing unless a mutually agreed upon lesser time is established,

and there is a 24 hour notice of termination clause in the event funds become unavailable.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to approve the Health Department's annual contract with the Board to be effective October 1, 2013 to provide environmental health services, communicable disease control services, and primary care services; Motion carried 5-0.

2- As required, the Health Department has submitted a request for approval of a resolution adopting their fee schedule. It's understood that the health department fees are set at 125% of the Medicare reimbursement rate.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to approve a resolution adopting the Health Department's fee schedule; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sanders asked for travel and expenses for Michael Moron, Board Secretary, to attend the FAC Conference in November.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to approve travel and expenses for Mr. Moron to attend the FAC Conference in November; Motion carried 5-0.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report (9:57 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented his report to the Board.

1- Mr. Dewitt Polous, Mosquito Control Director, would like the Board to know that he will be off, starting tomorrow, Sept. 18, for approximately 2 weeks while he recovers from knee surgery. Mr. Scott Tucker will be filling in for Mr. Polous although Mr. Polous will be available by phone if something comes up. I have Mr. Tucker's cell phone number if the commissioners need it.

2- Mr. Polous recommends the Board write a letter in support of the FSU Panama City campus as it tries to restore its mosquito lab and services by getting funding from next year's legislature. The program provided critical services to all the NW Florida counties, including offering the required training that now must be obtained in Orlando, and provided mosquito identification which is now required in order to receive FEMA reimbursements. During storm events FEMA is requiring proof that a certain kind of mosquito population is in existence otherwise they will not reimburse the county for additional spraying. Board action to write letter.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to approve sending a Letter of Support to FSU Panama City campus in support of restoring its mosquito lab and services; Motion carried 5-0.

3- Inform the Board that Congressman Southerland has asked for an amendment to the funding mechanism in the Fisheries Disaster Mitigation Fund that will allow the Apalachicola Bay oyster

failure to be eligible for funding if Congress appropriates money. Provide Board with copy of letter.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Jackel, to send a Letter of Support for Congress Southerland's amendment to the funding mechanism in the Fisheries Disaster Mitigation Fund to allow the Apalachicola Bay oyster failure to be eligible for funding if Congress appropriates money; Motion carried 5-0.

4- Inform Board that I received an electronic response from the US Air Force indicating they had received the Board's letter.

Commissioner Parrish discussed an email he received on this matter. He stated that the State had given permission for the Air force to use the land over a year ago. Commissioner Jackel also discussed emails she received on this matter. She explained that the Commissioners are not unpatriotic, just concerned about protecting the area and keeping it available for public use. Chairman Sanders explained the importance of preserving Tate's Hell and said it was never intended for military use.

5- Seek Board input on name change. The Dept. of Economic Opportunity is responding to comments that the current designation of many Florida rural counties as "Rural Areas of Economic Critical Concern" has negative connotations in the business community. DEO is trying to counter that concern by changing the name of the designation, and since Franklin County is one of the RACEC counties, DEO is asking for the Board to vote on which of the four names it prefers:

Rural Areas of Opportunity; Targeted Rural Areas of Economic Growth; Rural Florida Areas of Strategic Opportunities; and Rural Florida First Regions.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to recommend changing the name, 'Rural Areas of Economic Critical Concern', to 'Rural Areas of Opportunity'; Motion carried 5-0.

6- Provide Board with bridge report on Syrup Branch Bridge. While the bridge is classified as "functionally obsolete" it is not structurally deficient nor is DOT recommending any changes to the weight limit on the bridge.

7- Board action to approve the 2013 CRS re-certification. The CRS program is a voluntary participatory program that provides reductions to flood insurance premiums if a local government meets certain thresholds in the National Flood Insurance Program. Franklin County's participation provides a 15% reduction in premiums on flood insurance policies in the county.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to approve the 2013 CRS re-certification; Motion carried 5-0.

8- Inform the Board that after discussing with Mr. Randall Terry the lack of bidders on his hanger project we are re-bidding the job and will open bids on Oct. 1. We expect there to be a number of bids this time.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Pierce discussed contacting local contractors on this item.

9- Inform the Board that Ms. Glenda Ondracek has submitted her resignation as County Librarian, effective Oct. 31. The Franklin County Library Advisory Board (LAB) is prepared to advertise the opening with a starting salary of \$33 to \$35K depending on qualifications. Ms. Denise Butler, representing the LAB, has offered to create a 3 member committee to review applications and make a recommendation to the Board. Board direction.

Commissioner Massey and Ms. Butler discussed the members of the committee.

Commissioner Lockley asked that they try and hire a local applicant.

Ms. Butler stated that names of the 3 member committee to review the applications and discussed.

Commissioner Jackel thanked Ms. Butler and Ms. Ondracek for their services.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to approve advertising for the County Librarian position and the committee members to review the applicants; Motion carried 5-0.

10- Inform the Board that the Planning and Zoning Commission held a public workshop on Sept. 10 on St. George Island to receive community input regarding the future of the commercial district. The Commission was unable to hold a regular meeting for lack of a quorum. The Commission has been operating with less than a full Commission for some time and it will be beneficial if vacancies are filled. The Zoning Code created the Commission with 9 seats, and 2 alternates. Please find below the breakout of the Commission and what seats need to be filled:

District 1- At-large- Paul Riegelmayr

District 1- Science- Larry Perryman

District 2- At large- John Murphy

District 2- Forestry- VACANT

District 3- Real Estate- Bill Laine, but he has not attended any meetings in 2013

District 3- Alternate- VACANT

District 4- Seafood Worker- VACANT

District 4- Seafood Dealer- Steve Davis

District 5- At Large -Dan Rosier

District 5- At large- Skip Frink

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to appoint Aaron Wray to the D3 Real Estate seat; Motion carried 5-0.

11- FRDAP applications- The Planning Office has until Sept. 30 to submit completed FRDAP applications. The Board has previously discussed the improvements to be requested at D.W. Wilson Park. I have discussed improvements at Kendrick Park with Chairman Sanders and Ms. Nikki Millender. Ms. Millender inquired about the use of the back property at Kendrick Park for a horse arena/ riding trails, but the FRDAP program does not score horseback riding that high. More points will be obtained by building another baseball field for 7/8 year olds (pitching machine), a bathroom to serve the T-ball field, a small picnic shelter at T-ball field, and a large picnic pavilion to hold team meetings. Ms. Millender has agreed these improvements should be submitted.

Commissioner Jackel would like the Eastpoint project to be a children's playground and bathroom at the county property across from the Pavilion.

Board action to submit FRDAP applications.

Commissioner Jackel discussed concerns with the area in Eastpoint being used as a parking area, and would rather the area be used as a children's playground.

Shannon Hartsfield, of Eastpoint, stated that the area isn't good for a children's park and believes parking is more of a priority in that location.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Hartsfield discussed which use is needed more for this location.

Commissioner Parrish stated that he received calls from residents in Eastpoint that are not in favor of a children's park in that location. He stated that he would prefer that the pavilion at Vrooman Park is expanded and couldn't support a park in the other location.

Commissioner Lockley was not in favor of a park in that area, as it isn't safe for numerous reasons.

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed Mrs. Millender's ideas for the expansion of Vrooman Park. Chairman Sanders also stated that she didn't think this area was good for a children's playground.

Commissioner Massey stated that parking is needed in that area.

Mrs. Johnson provided some history on the reason for the purchase of this property. She also stated that she has received some requests for lights on the walking path at Vrooman Park.

Mr. Pierce stated that there is other County owned property in Eastpoint that is available to build a children's playground.

(Mrs. Millender returned to the Meeting and discussed this matter after Mr. Pierce's last item)

Mrs. Millender discussed what changes need to be done at Vrooman Park, which would be additional equipment, expanding the park, adding a pavilion and building a new T-ball field.

She also suggested adding bathrooms.

The Board discussed these options.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to submit FRDAP with Vrooman Park as the Eastpoint Park choice; Motion carried 5-0.

The Board discussed the removal of equipment on the proposed parking lot.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to use the property purchased in Eastpoint as a parking lot; Motion carried 5-0.

12- Board action to sign contracts for North Florida Construction to build Carrabelle Multi-Use Path. Board selected North Florida as the low bidder at a previous meeting.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to authorize the Chairman's signature on contracts for North Florida Construction to build Carrabelle Multi-Use Path; Motion carried 5-0.

13- Inform Board that Ms. Pam Brownell and CERT- Community Emergency Response Team will be doing a fundraiser on Saturday during the Seafood Festival by providing paid parking at the parking lot in front of the Chapman Auditorium and the ABC School. Ms. Brownell has coordinated with the Dr. Office and ABC School. The Franklin County Senior Class provides paid parking around the Courthouse as a fundraiser for a school project.

14- Board action to sign Dept. of Economic Opportunity Technical Assistance grant for \$25,000 to provide analysis of the economic impact of tourism in the county.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Massey, to approve Chairman's signature on the Dept. of Economic Opportunity Technical Assistance Grant in the amount of \$25,000; Motion carried 5-0.

15- Board action to direct Preble-Rish to prepare bid and specifications for Oak St. in Lanark Village and the Bayshore/ Twin Lakes loop in Eastpoint as the FDOT has sent the county the Notice to Proceed on both projects.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Massey, to approve Preble-Rish to prepare bid and specifications for Oak St. in Lanark Village and Bayshore/Twin Lakes Loop in Eastpoint; Motion carried 5-0.

16- Read draft letter to Eastpoint Water and Sewer District to Board

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to approve letter to Eastpoint Water and Sewer District; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Parrish asked for an update on the warning flag system on the County's beaches. Mr. Pierce stated that there has been a flag at one location on St. George Island, but not at other locations.

Commissioner Parrish expressed concerns of not having flags in other locations on St. George Island and throughout the County.

Mr. Pierce and Commissioner Jackel explained the flag system further.

Chairman Sanders and Commissioner Massey discussed the Head Start Program's needs for equipment and supplies, due to the reduction in their budget.

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Pierce discussed Mr. Bill Laine asking to serve on the ABOA.

Michael Shuler- County Attorney- Report (10:49 AM)

Attorney Shuler had no action items for Board approval.

Chairman Sanders and Attorney Shuler discussed a public records request. Commissioner Jackel asked about possible problems with County Probation Office services in the County. Attorney Shuler said everything is working as it should.

Commissioners and Public Comments (10:50 AM)

Chairman Sanders inquired as to who owns the old Island View property just east of Carrabelle. She asked Staff to verify who owns this property and find out if the County can negotiate and acquire this it as a County park.

Chairman Sanders also asked Staff to look into surplus lands in Tate's Hell that might be beneficial to the public and report back to the Board.

Shannon Hartsfield, FCSFWA, informed the Board that \$420,000, which was allocated for the seafood industry, was air-marked for another aquaculture study by DACS. He discussed some of the sampling done recently and stated that a core sample study should be done to try and figure out some of the problems in the Bay. He said nothing has been accomplished at this point.

The Board and Mr. Hartsfield discussed this matter and possible solutions.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to direct Attorney Shuler and Mr. Pierce to confer with Mr. Hartsfield on this matter and return to the Board with a plan; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Hartsfield informed the Board of the availability of Farmshare in the County next Monday.

Chairman Sanders and Mr. Hartsfield discussed how the County can help to make the Seafood Workers meetings run more efficiently.

Rev. John Sink informed the Board of today being Constitution Day.

George Floyd, of the Maritime Museum, discussed a problem between DEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on snagging obstructions in the navigational channel. He discussed the danger it would cause using the channel. Mr. Floyd gave more information regarding the economic history of the Apalachicola River and discussed options for preserving future endeavors. He spoke of numerous counties and cities that have already adopted the

Resolution. Mr. Floyd asked for the Board to support a Resolution that would support snagging in the channel. He stated that there might be some possible litigation regarding this situation in the future.

Commissioner Parrish stated how snagging affects local boat owners and seafood workers and stated that he supports the Resolution, but realizes the Board had no budgeted funds to get involved in any litigation regarding this matter.

Commissioner Lockley also supported the Resolution.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to support a Resolution to support snagging in the channel; Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn (11:19 AM)

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

Cheryl Sanders, Chairman – FCBOCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts