

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
FEBRUARY 4, 2014
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

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

Other Present: Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts, 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 (9:00 AM)

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes (9:02 AM)

Motion by Massey, seconded by Parrish, to approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2014 Regular Meeting; Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills (9:02 AM)

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

Department Supervisor Reports

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

Mr. Nabors stated that he had to look at purchasing a different model of truck as the one he was looking for is no longer in production.

He asked for Board action to seek bids for the purchase of a used packer, as he has the funding in his budget.

Commissioner Lockley suggested that he get bids for both a new and used packer.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to approve Nabors' request to seek bids for a packer; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Massey asked Mr. Nabors to grade certain roads on the east side of the County.

Chairman Sanders asked that Mr. Nabors include which roads in each district have been graded in his report.

Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director (9:07 AM)

Mr. Davis presented his report to the Board.

RECOVERED MATERIALS ANNUAL CERTIFICATION:

FOR BOARD ACTION: I have for the Board's approval and the Chairman's signature, the annual Application for Recovered Materials Certification and Reporting Form. We are required by Florida Statutes to report our recycling activities to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection annually. During the year 2013 the recycling program, recycled 681.25, tons of solid waste. The annual cost for this certification is \$50.00. ACTION REQUESTED: Motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on the FDEP Application for Recovered Materials Certification and Reporting Form" and authorizing the payment of \$50.00 for the annual fee.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the FDEP Application for Recovered Materials Certification and Reporting Form" and authorize the payment of \$50.00 for the annual fee; Motion carried 5-0.

Nikki Millender – Parks & Recreation (9:08 AM)

Mrs. Millender informed the Board that the Dixie Youth League Day of Ball will be March 28 & 29, 2014 in Carrabelle.

She informed the Board of the upcoming tournament the County will be hosting.

Commissioner Lockley and Mrs. Millender discussed the cost of hosting this tournament.

Commissioner Jackel and Mrs. Millender discussed the amount of people this event will bring to the County.

Commissioner Lockley and Mrs. Millender discussed pending projects for County parks, especially to host tournaments in Apalachicola. She explained that the Apalachicola park needs upgraded septic systems, scoreboards and PA systems. She stated that the purchase of these upgrades will depend on receiving a FRDAP Grant.

Mrs. Millender stated that she spoke with Coke and Pepsi concerning the purchase of a scoreboard but the contract involved didn't seem feasible.

Kim Johnson, President of the Apalachicola Dixie Youth League, introduced the board members for the Apalachicola league. As the new president Mrs. Johnson explained some of the proposed changes to the league and asked the Board about funding for equipment in the parks in Apalachicola. Mrs. Johnson stated that she would like to host some tournaments at some of the fields in Apalachicola.

Mrs. Millender provided additional information on the cost of the desired park equipment needed for upgrades.

Commissioner Parrish asked about manual scorekeeping if the Board proceeds with hosting the tournament.

The Board and Mrs. Johnson discussed hosting the tournament and funding.

Mrs. Millender explained the condition of the fields in Apalachicola and possible issues with hosting tournaments.

The Board discussed further.

Motion by Lockley, to renovate D. W. Wilson field in order to host baseball tournaments; Motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Motion by Massey, seconded by Jackel, to have Mrs. Millender acquire estimates on costs for improvements to D. W. Wilson and Vrooman Parks so they are suitable to host baseball tournaments; Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Sanders and Mrs. Johnson discussed the idea of using the draft system for the league.

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director (9:30 AM)

Mrs. Brownell was not in attendance.

Action Items: None

Information Items:

- 1. Tress Dameron, Jennifer Daniels and Tim Keith-Lucas participated in the ACS exercise in Liberty County on January 23, 2014 which they say was a great learning experience for them.*
- 2. Franklin County and The Management Experts conducted its final planning meeting on January 24, 2014 at the EOC for the upcoming Wide Area Search exercise schedule for February 15, 2014. We had great participation for other agencies. This is going to be a great exercise. If any of the commissioners would like to come observe please let me know.*
- 3. January 28-30, 2014 we conducted a Wide Area Search class and had great participation.*

4. *February 2-7, 2014 Tress Dameron and I will be attending the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association training and conference in Daytona. My cell phone (850-653-6748) will be on and Jennifer Daniels will be at the office.*

Chairman Sanders thanked Roberts and Roberts, Inc. for their support during the ice storm in Franklin County last week.

George Roberts, of Roberts and Roberts, Inc., addressed the Board and explained that his family sold C. W. Roberts and has started a new smaller company. He thanked the Board for their support over the years and looks forward to a continued relationship between the County and the new company.

Ray Brownsworth – Weem’s CEO – Hospital Update (9:35 AM)

Mr. Brownsworth presented his report to the Board. He explained issues with the financial administration of the Hospital.

Commissioner Jackel expressed her concerns with the lack of financial administration at the hospital. She recommended hiring Roberson and Company as the permanent financial advisor. Mr. Brownsworth explained why Mr. Ledbetter left as the CFO contractor. He discussed the current system of how financials are reviewed daily and also discussed some of the needs for the financial departments at the hospital.

Commissioner Jackel explained that until the financial overview situation is stable Weems will not be able to move forward with building the new Hospital, so at this time it needs to be the number one priority.

Mr. Brownsworth discussed plans for the new Hospital. He also discussed staffing at the Weems East and West Clinics.

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Brownsworth discussed the average patient volume at both of the clinics.

Commissioner Massey also commented on the amount of patients on his reports versus how busy the clinics appear.

Commissioner Sanders and Mr. Brownsworth discussed the issue of the lack of adequate providers at Weems East, especially since it is so far from the hospital.

Chairman Sanders stated that it is important to continue a good relationship with the current providers at the clinics. Mr. Brownsworth responded to that concern.

Commissioner Massey agreed with the need to show appreciation to the staff.

Commissioner Massey stated that the floors at Weems East are in need of attention.

Commissioner Lockley expressed concerns of not having enough funds to hire a full-time CFO for the Hospital. Mr. Brownsworth discussed his plan to grow volume and invited the Board to visit the Hospital to see all that is going on there.

Chairman Sanders and Mr. Brownsworth discussed the status of payments owed to TMH.

Chairman Sanders is in favor of using Roberson and Company to assist with financials at Weems until the Hospital is able to hire a CFO.

Commissioner Lockley suggested looking at alternate candidates that may not ask for a large salary.

Commissioner Jackel reminded Mr. Brownsworth that it is in the Hospital's by-laws that he is required to present his report at one of the Board Meetings each month.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to approve Roberson and Company to oversee financials at Weems Hospital until a plan is presented for a permanent CFO; Motion carried 5-0.

Recess (10:06 AM)

Chairman Sanders called for a recess.

Reconvene (10:19 AM)

Chairman Sanders reconvened the Meeting.

Steve's Dockside Marina – Tabled BOA Request (10:19 AM)

Dan Garlick, Agent for Steve's Dockside Marina, discussed the plans for the request with the Board. He gave more information on the plans for boat slips and building. He explained the process of receiving a permit from DEP for the marina.

Shannon Hartsfield, President of Franklin County Seafood Worker's Association, stated what he discussed with DEP relating to this project, and that his issues were addressed.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Pierce discussed parking spaces for the marina.

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Garlick discussed provisions for stormwater runoff.

Commissioner Jackel asked if there were any changes from the original plans that were submitted at a previous Meeting. Mr. Garlick stated that there was only a drainage change and that the use was no longer for a restaurant, just restrooms.

Commissioner Jackel stated that since there was support from seafood workers and business owners with no impact to the Bay, she was in favor of approving the project.

Commissioner Parrish stated that he couldn't support this project because, even though this project didn't impact the oyster bars, a similar project to the west would and if that project to the west wasn't approved, that would create a situation.

Mr. Garlick responded to the previous comments.

Commissioner Jackel wanted it on the record that the Board would not be responsible for any problems with this marina once the Corps starts its dredging project in Eastpoint. Mr. Garlick stated that he understood this point.

Chairman Sanders expressed her concerns with the piecemeal situation this project presents.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to approve request by Steve's Dockside Marina in Eastpoint; Motion failed 2-3, with Parrish, Lockley, and Sanders opposed.

Warren Emo – Discussion on Amory Upgrades (10:34 AM)

Mr. Pierce stated that there was a good meeting yesterday regarding this project and suggested that the Board allows Mr. Emo to modify his overall plan based on this meeting and present it to the Board at the next Meeting.

Mr. Emo informed the Board that he could have the new plan ready at the next meeting. Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Emo discussed how much of the electrical system has been upgraded thus far.

Commissioner Lockley, Mr. Pierce and Mr. Emo discussed the proposed relocation of the kitchen.

Mr. Pierce stated that he will meet with each of the Commissioners to discuss the new proposed plan.

The Board agreed to meet during the afternoon of the next Meeting, if needed, to discuss this project further.

Lucy Turner – Employee Compensation Schedule (10:41 AM)

Lucy Turner, Labor Attorney, distributed and reviewed the updated version of the Wage Classification Plan. She stated that she has added some language in the proposal concerning satisfactory performance evaluations and pay raises. She discussed the evaluation guideline forms and explained performance reviews.

Commissioner Jackel stated that the County's starting salary is \$25,000 so since some of the salaries in this proposal are below that amount, the proposed numbers will need to be changed. Attorney Turner stated that she would adjust the schedule.

Commissioner Jackel stated that the \$10,000 increase in salary is not enough for 30 years of service.

Attorney Turner explained how the entire pay grid will change each year as the Board makes changes to the base salaries.

The Board and Attorney Turner discussed the pay scale and performance reviews further. They also discussed having an automatic clause for raises and the affect it would have on the yearly budget.

Chairman Sanders suggested that the Board take the opportunity to review the information presented and discuss at the next Meeting.

Commissioner Jackel suggested that Attorney Turner upgrade the pay grade and send it to the Commissioners for their review and discussion at the next Meeting.

Public Hearing – Debbie Belcher – Fair Housing CDBG Application (11:20 AM)

Ms. Belcher distributed and reviewed information for the Fair Housing CDBG application, which included a fair housing information presentation with a 2-page flyer about fair housing, and an explanation of the laws, along with some of the most common complaints, such as discrimination against families with children or people who have disabilities.

Ms. Belcher began the public hearing on the CDBG grant application and handed out material about the CDBG program, the application categories and income limits. She reported that the CDBG Citizen Advisory Task Force had voted to affirm the Board's decision to apply for a Housing CDBG.

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

The Board and Ms. Belcher discussed the draft CDBG Housing Assistance Plan, including the \$114,000 per house amount being too high and limiting the amount of houses that will be addressed. There was also discussion about not building houses in flood plains. Ms. Belcher stated that the County has to serve at least 10 houses.

Ms. Belcher informed the Board that the document must be adopted at the 2/18/2014 Board meeting, although the Board could send comments for changes to the policy.

Ms. Belcher stated that she has done more replacement projects rather than rehab projects in the past 10 years.

Commissioner Lockley and Ms. Belcher discussed working on mobile homes.

Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report (11:47 AM)

Mrs. Johnson had no report for the Board.

Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Service – Report (11:47 AM)

Mr. Pierce presented his report to the Board.

1-Provide Board copy of Resolution adopted by the City of Apalachicola abolishing the Community Redevelopment Area established in 2010, and then recreating the same Area but using the current tax year. The reason for doing this is to create a CRA that will have a tax base that would show an increase over the prior year as the CRA receives funds if the tax base increases. From 2010 to 2013 the tax base of the CRA was still falling so the City is attempting to re-establish the CRA now that the tax base has stabilized.

2- Inform Board that I attended a Consortium meeting in Tallahassee on Jan. 24 on behalf of the Chairman. The summary of the 4 hour meeting is that there are still no US Treasury rules, there is still no timeline for when the rules will be finalized, and there is no timeline when any fine or penalty resulting from the litigation between the federal government and BP will be available.

There was a long discussion by some Consortium members about the long term role of the Consortium. Some members clearly believe the Consortium is going to be in existence for a long time, a timeline of 10 to 20 years.

3- The Board had asked at the last meeting for a report on funds available in local gas tax fund. There will approximately \$1.6 M in construction funds available or approximately \$325,000 per district by Sept. 30, 2014. Commissioner Jackel had asked about the cost of milled asphalt, and a current quote for milled asphalt from CW Roberts is \$350 per truckload of milled asphalt delivered to the county yard on SR 65. A truckload is approximately 18 tons, or 18 cubic yards. How far that goes depends on the thickness the Road Dept. applies the milled asphalt.

Commissioner Jackel suggested asking Preble-Rish for estimates.

4- Inform the Board that Mr. Doug Hattaway, The Nature Conservancy, has made contact with Capital City Bank about the acquisition of the Island View Motel. Capital City is willing to work with Mr. Hattaway on finding funding for the project. Mr. Hattaway is coming down in the near future to examine the property.

Chairman Sanders commented on her intentions for this project, which differs from an article written in the newspaper.

5- Inform the Board that Senator Montford has received the 5 community requests from Franklin County. It is his request that the county rank the requests in order of priority. The 5 submitted requests are: Apalachicola Drainage Project (\$500K); Creekmore Channel (\$1.5M); Eastpoint Channel (\$2.5M); Bloomquist/Kilbourn County Park (\$600K); Smokey Hollow Drainage (\$300K). I advised his staff that I thought the Board would consider all the projects to be equally valuable to the county but the Board needs to provide the final direction.

Mr. Pierce stated that the Senator's Office asked if the County would rank the projects submitted. The Board declined.

6- Inform the Board that I met with Dr. Pete Vergot and other Univ. of Florida personnel on Thurs. Jan. 30 to discuss the possible relocation and expansion of the UF Extension Office. The current idea is to relocate the county extension office out of the Armory and into the old Estuarine Research Reserve Bldg at Scipio Creek. By putting the Extension Office in that location, the Univ. of Florida would also then locate a lab and other programs and services into that one building. The lab would provide services associated with one of several oyster re-shelling programs that will soon be started in the Apalachicola Bay.

At this time the City of Apalachicola does not have possession of the building, but the City does own the land and there is a reverter clause that if the building ceases to be used by NOAA it will revert back to the City. It is believed that by allowing the University to set up an educational program in the building NOAA will let it revert back to the City.

7- Inform the Board that I have been reminded in an email by DEP that the county has a Final Order that says we will remove the debris from the damaged revetment on Alligator Point. The county has taken no steps to remove the debris. There are some FEMA funds available to remove the debris but the amount is uncertain as it would be the funds leftover after we finish building the new road across the 4 lots the county recently obtained. An older estimate for the debris removal was less than \$100K and that amount of money should be remaining, although we have not yet gone to bid on the road construction.

8- Inform the Board that there is a problem utilizing the easement provided by the state for building the relocated Gulf Shore Blvd. The county had developed a preferred route which was slightly longer than the one approved by the state, but the county preferred route avoided a large wetland. The state park did not want a longer road across their property so they recommended to the Div. of State Lands a shorter route. On further review of the shorter route, there is a large wetland right in the middle of the easement, which will require extensive mitigation if a permit is issued to cross. I have contacted DEP Coastal Office, which has a Consent Order with the county ordering us to move Gulf Shore Blvd. and advised them that Div. of State Lands, which is in DEP, has created an easement for the county to use that now has a large obstacle in it. I am seeking assistance from DEP's Coastal Office to help resolve this issue, with the goal of letting the county go back to the easement we originally preferred which avoided the wetland.

9- Provide Board with copy of local state of emergency for the winter ice storm that hit the county Jan. 29 and 30.

Mr. Pierce stated that the deed for the Bay City Work Camp is close to being transferred to the County.

Commissioner Jackel stated that the Warden said there wasn't any possibility for the re-opening of the Bay City Work Camp. She said the Warden did suggest contacting the Federal Government for any needs that they might have that can be utilized at the building.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to direct Staff to contact Federal Government concerning INS or other federally funded possibilities of the Bay City Work Camp building; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Pierce to update the Board on any assistance programs for seafood workers who are out of work.

Mr. Pierce stated that the \$4.2 million for experimental shelling has been awarded to the County but he isn't sure how that could help the seafood workers. He discussed another grant submission.

Shannon Hartsfield, President of Franklin County Seafood Worker's Association, provided additional information regarding the grants that Mr. Pierce discussed, in addition to another grant. He discussed the possibility of a re-shelling program that would also help.

Mr. Pierce discussed the Governor's proposed re-shelling program.

Chairman Sanders stated that she will discuss this at the upcoming ARPC meeting she will be attending.

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Hartsfield discussed the shells that would be used for a re-shelling program.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Pierce to monitor the sand that was placed on the bridges for the ice storm and, if needed, contact DOT for a sweeping of the bridges.

Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Pierce to check on the pond, the intersection of Pine and Heffernan and also the debris at Lanark Village.

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report (12:09 PM)

Attorney Shuler had no report for the Board.

Commissioners' & Public Comments (12:09 PM)

Chairman Sanders, Attorney Shuler, and Mr. Pierce discussed a golf cart ordinance for Alligator Point.

Mr. Hartsfield asked if he can schedule a Seafood Workers Association Meeting at the Annex Meeting Room.

Mr. Hartsfield stated that there is a problem with boats blocking the boat ramps.

Commissioner Jackel suggested that the Sheriff's Department is contacted on these issues.

Adjourn (12:14 AM)

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

Cheryl Sanders, Chairman – FCBOCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts