

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
JUNE 3, 2014  
9:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

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

**Others Present:** Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Morón – Deputy Clerk to the Board

**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 (9:01 AM)**

**Motion by Massey, seconded by Jackel, to approve the Minutes of the May 20, 2014 regular meeting; Motion carried 5-0.**

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

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

**Sheriff Mike Mock – Discussion – Patrol Vehicles (9:02 AM)**

Sheriff Mock stated that he needed new vehicles due to the age of the current fleet. He distributed some information regarding lease options for vehicles. The Board questioned the Sheriff concerning this need and discussed this matter further. Commissioner Lockley asked if the purchase of these vehicles would affect the 2% budget cut that was requested of each

County department and Constitutional Office. Sheriff Mock said it would. Commissioner Jackel and Sheriff Mock discussed the purchase of the vehicles and the effects this would have on his budget.

Chairman Sanders asked that the Board be given an opportunity to review this request and discuss it at another Meeting.

Sheriff Mock stated that he has salvaged some of the junk cars and he would return any funds from this action to the County.

Commissioner Parrish and Sheriff Mock discussed the possibility of continuing this lease program each year.

### **Department Supervisor Report**

#### **Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works (9:13 AM)**

Mr. Nabors had no action items for the Board.

Chairman Sanders thanked Mr. Nabors for his quick action with responding to a medical emergency with one of his employees.

Commissioner Lockley stated there is an area on Gibson Road that needs some attention.

Commissioner Massey and Mr. Nabors discussed getting some used equipment that would assist his employees with packing the milled asphalt.

Mr. Nabors stated that they hired Timothy Lee to fill a vacancy at the Road Department.

#### **Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director (9:17 AM)**

Mr. Davis had no action items for the Board.

Mr. Davis updated the Board on the status of the purchase of the new tractor.

Erin Griffith, of the Finance Department, discussed purchasing options for the tractor, which would be a full purchase or installment payments.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Massey, to purchase tractor for Solid Waste with the installment payment option; Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Nikki Millender – Parks & Recreation (9:21 AM)**

Mrs. Millender had no action items for the Board.

Mrs. Millender informed the Board that the Dixie Tournament will start on June 13, 2014 at D. W. Wilson Park. She stated that the new scoreboards will be installed today, which will be in time for the tournament. She invited everyone to come out and support the Dixie Youth.

#### **Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director (9:23 AM)**

Mrs. Brownell presented her report to the Board.

*Action Items:*

1. *Requesting the Board's approval and signing of the 2014-2015 State Base Grant (EMPA) in the amount of \$105,806 and the Federal Grant (EMPG) in the amount of \$53,481.*

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to approve Chairman's signature on the 2014-2015 State Base Grant in the amount of \$105,806 and Federal Grant in the amount of \$53,481; Motion carried 5-0.**

*Information Items:*

1. *Tress Dameron and I attended the Governor's Hurricane Conference and it is predicted to be a near-normal to below-normal storm season this year. Although they are saying there is a possibility of an El-Nino meaning a wet winter with lots of flooding if this develops.*
2. *The Emergency Management office along with its ESF's participated in the State Hurricane exercise that started out as a Cat 4 and ended up a tropical storm that made land fall in Franklin County. We had great participation and training during this exercise.*
3. *Tress and I attended the Apalachicola Fire Departments meeting on June 2, 2014 to issue ID's and reentry tags and discuss upcoming training.*
4. *Pamela Brownell will be attending the Dixie County Debris Management workshop on June 5, 2014 to see if this workshop is something I might want to schedule for the county stakeholders before season gets underway.*
5. *The Emergency Management has reviewed Weems Hospital and Harbor Breezes comprehensive emergency plans for the upcoming year and they are in compliance.*
6. *We are working on scheduling a community emergency response team (CERT) train the trainer class to be able to have our own county instructors to teach basic CERT. We have a waiting list of volunteers for CERT. This wonderful!*

**Ray Brownsworth – Weem's Hospital – Report (9:24 AM)**

Mr. Brownsworth addressed the Board and asked John Graham, Chief Finance Officer of Weems Hospital, to review the Hospital's financial reports. Mr. Graham stated that the Hospital is in the black for the year and explained that this isn't likely to happen again. Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Graham discussed the adjustment and how it brought the balance to a positive balance, and to provide the Board with a summary review of the Hospital's contracts.

Commissioner Jackel and Chairman Sanders asked for a financial breakdown of each County's clinics.

Commissioner Massey and Mr. Brownsworth discussed retirement benefits for Hospital employees.

Chairman Sanders offered some history on this matter and stated her support for benefits for the employees.

The Board and Mr. Brownsworth continued the discussion concerning Hospital employee benefits.

Commissioner Parrish offered some cautious discussion as to how any benefits for the employees will be funded.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to direct the Hospital CFO to look at benefit options for the employees, discuss with the Hospital Board, and then bring it before the Board of Commissioners; Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Brownsworth updated the Board on the swing bed program based on a request from Chairman Sanders. Chairman Sanders asked why this program isn't promoted further. Mr. Brownsworth responded and explained that this is strategic effort.

Mr. Brownsworth reviewed his report with the Board.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Brownsworth discussed the Construction Manager at Risk item.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Massey, to plan a workshop with Hospital Board; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to pay for replacement of HVAC from Capital Funds; Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Brownsworth stated that the Hospital's Chief Finance Officer, John Graham, will be the temporary Chief Executive Officer after July 18, 2014.

**Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts (9:45 AM)**

Mrs. Johnson presented her report to the Board.

*1. My finance office is beginning to assemble the budget. The final certification of taxable value from the property appraiser's office will not be available until July 1st and the revenue estimates from the State will not be available until late June and early July. We have received a good faith estimate on the taxable value indicating that there will not be a decrease in the taxable value. The 2014 estimated taxable value will be 1.635 billion, which is 5.5 million dollars more than the 2013 final taxable value. The rolled-back rate, which is the rate that would generate the same amount of property tax revenues as approved for the prior year, will be almost the same as the current year's operating millage rate of 6.4705. Given this new information, does the Board still wish to see each constitutional, department and non-governmental entity cut by 2%?*

Commissioner Lockley stated that he is against the proposed 2% budget reduction.

The Board and Mrs. Johnson discussed the budget reduction request further.

Mrs. Johnson asked for some direction on the 2% reduction so the Finance Office spends time and effort creating a budget that won't require substantial changes during the workshop process.

The Commissioners each discussed their concerns with the proposed budget cut and the desire for the Board to agree on the proposed budget.

Allan Feifer, of the Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, commented on the budget process.

*2. I am requesting that you go ahead and schedule two days for budget workshops – Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> work well for the finance department and do not conflict with scheduled court sessions. Also, do you wish for the non-governmental entities to appear during the workshop - they were not required to attend last year when their funding was frozen at the same level as the year before.*

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to schedule budget workshop for July 17 - 18, 2014, pending County Court calendar; Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Sanders requested that the non-governmental departments attend the budget workshop.

*3. The Florida Legislature also passed revised retirement contribution rates that will take effect July 1<sup>st</sup> – these rates were not available when the budget forms were sent out and this increase will need to be added back to all requests. The total cost of this increase will be calculated in the next few weeks.*

**Recess (10:10 AM)**

Chairman Sanders called for a recess.

**Reconvene (10:**

Chairman Sanders reconvened the Meeting.

**Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Service (10:00 AM)**

Mr. Pierce presented his report to the Board.

*1- Inform Board that Crystal Air did send in 3 months of payments for the FBO and did become current after the last Board meeting. The payment for May is now past due. We are monitoring the payment schedule.*

Commissioner Jackel expressed her concerns with the FBO running out of fuel at the Airport. Mr. Pierce stated that there was no fuel available during Memorial Day weekend. Commissioner Jackel expressed concerns of running out of fuel during the Memorial Day weekend.

Alan Feifer, of Alligator Point, stated that the Apalachicola Airport is splitting fuel delivery with the Carrabelle Airport.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to send letter to the FBO from the County Attorney about the Board's concern with not having fuel available at the Airport; Motion carried 5-0.**

*2-Board action to sign JPA with DOT for \$2.4M for a new taxiway and drainage improvements to tie in the county industrial park to the airport.*

Commissioner Parrish stated his desire for job creation with the industrial park.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to authorize Chairman's signature on JPA with DOT for \$2.4 million for new taxiway and drainage improvements to tie County industrial park to Airport; Motion carried 5-0.**

*3- Inform the Board that the multi-use path for Carrabelle Beach is almost complete. In case the public is concerned there will be a guardrail installed at the western end of the project so people will not be able to fall into the low lying wet area adjacent to the path.*

*4- Inform the Board that the van the county contributed for to assist Disabled Veteran's has been ordered by the DAV. The DAV has sent a letter of thanks to the Board and you all are invited to an Appreciation Day when the van arrives in early August. More information will be forthcoming about the Day.*

*5- Mr. David Dale has approached the Board about selling a wedge of property in Eastpoint between the Pavilion and Patton Dr. Boat Ramp. Mr. Dale will sell if it for the current appraised (assessed) value which is \$9720. This parcel is a wedge with some 60 feet of waterfront and if the county purchases the land then the county will own the entire waterfront for some 350 feet. There are funds in Capital Outlay to pay for the purchase. Board direction.*

Commissioner Jackel stated this is the same amount of funds received from the Minute Market in Eastpoint, so it would be like a "wash out" against the subtraction from the Capital Outlay funds.

**Motion by Massey, seconded by Jackel, to purchase Eastpoint property between the Pavilion and Patton Dr. Boat Ramp with Capital Outlay funds; Motion carried 5-0.**

*6- Board action to let the Planning Office hire a temporary worker for August and September as one of the front staff will be out for 6-8 weeks with knee replacement and another staff person has some extended time they will be off. The temporary worker will not receive any benefits and will be paid the same as other part-time workers at \$10/hour.*

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to approve allowing the Planning Office to hire a temporary work for August and September to fill in for employees on leave; Motion carried 5-0.**

*7- Board action to move the June 17 meeting to Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Legislature's mandated ethics training for all county commissioners is occurring Tuesday morning.*

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to approve moving the June 17, 2014 Meeting to Monday, June 16, 2014; Motion carried 5-0.**

*8- At the last meeting the Board had asked for a status update on the GIS map being generated by the Property Appraiser's Office. The base map is on-line and active. The map will continuously be updated as land changes ownership and land is divided. There are some problem areas on the map and those are being worked through but the map is on-line and active.*

Mr. Pierce stated that the Governor's veto list was made public but none of Franklin County's projects were on the list. He also stated that none of the projects that the County wrote a letter about was added.

Chairman Sanders stated that once again the Regional Planning Council funds were on the veto list.

Chairman Sanders made the Board aware of an ARPC meeting where an agenda item, a community resilience program, was voted on at that meeting. She explained why she objected to and voted against this item at the ARPC meeting, especially with the possibility of this item allowing access to the BP/Gulf Consortium funds.

Commissioner Jackel stated some of her concerns with this item.

The Board discussed this matter further expressing additional concerns.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to a send letter to the Consortium, ARPC, and Governor's Office objecting to this action; Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Sanders and Commissioner Jackel discussed options for ARPC's to offset budget cuts imposed by the Legislature.

Mr. Pierce gave an update on operations at the County's Extension Office.

Mr. Pierce stated that the Emerald Warrior Company had leased the Bay City Work Camp for 12 days but were only there for 6 days. He asked for Board direction as to whether to charge them for 12 days or only for the days they used.

Commissioner Jackel verified that Emerald Warrior is a private for-profit company.

Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Pierce to inform Emerald Warrior that their use of the building prevents the County leasing it to anyone else.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to charge Emerald Warrior for 9 days use of the Bay City Work Camp; Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Massey stated that he is in discussions with a possible long term tenant for the Work Camp facility.

Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Pierce to respond to a letter that was sent to her.

Commissioner Lockley stated that the \$100 oyster license fee should be done away with if the barge for the re-shelling program has been discontinued.  
Commissioner Parrish stated that a status report is needed for the State's plan to continue the re-shelling program because this program is needed to keep the oyster industry alive.  
The Board discussed this item further.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to send a letter to the Department of Agriculture and the Legislature to do away with the \$100 oyster license fee; Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney Report**

Attorney Shuler needed Board direction for an executive session to discuss five pending lawsuits.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Massey, to authorize executive session to receive litigation advice; Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Commissioners' & Public Comments**

Commissioner Lockley stated that some action is needed to help with job creation in the County, especially at the Airport, even if some type of incentive is used. The Board discussed this matter further.

Chairman Sanders stated that a qualified workforce and training is needed in order to fill the positions when companies come into the County.

Mr. Pierce commented.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to send letter to Department of Economic Opportunity, Legislative Delegation, and Governor's Office to assist the County with job creation; Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Parrish and Mr. Pierce discussed design options for the Bluff Road culvert project.



Chairman Sanders commented on the paving aspect of this project.

Chairman Sanders and Mr. Pierce discussed the upcoming paving project on Bald Point Road on Alligator Point.

The Board offered prayers and support for a County employee and his medical issues.

Sandy Mitchum is asking for Board support via a letter asking to allow Gulf Coast Aggregate to expand their operation on surrounding State lands. She stated that this expansion would create a lot of jobs in the County.

Chairman Sanders asked how much acreage is being requested for this project. She stated that this request would be going into the Womack Creek area in the Tate's Hell Forest. Ms. Mitchum stated that she isn't sure how much land is involved.

Chairman Sanders stated that the expansion could affect the neighboring homeowners, the rivers and also drinking water in the area.

Mr. Pierce expressed some concerns, including environmental criteria that have to be met. Chairman Sanders wanted the company to meet certain standards before the Board agrees to a Letter of Support.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she supports job creation but would like to have more specific information regarding this request before she considers a Letter of Support.

Chairman Sanders commented on another mine in the area.

Ms. Mitchum discussed her request with the Board and gave more details concerning future plans for the expansion.

The Board requires more information and asked to have a State Representative attend a Meeting to discuss the details of this request further.

**Adjourn (11:20 AM)**

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

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Cheryl Sanders, Chairman – FCBOCC

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts