

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
JULY 1, 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, Mark Curenton – Assistant County Planner, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Morón – Clerk to the Board

**Call to Order (9:03)**

Chairman Sanders called the Meeting to order.

**Prayer and Pledge (9:03 AM)**

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Minutes (9:04 AM)**

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Massey, to approve the Minutes of the June 3, 2014 and June 16, 2014 Regular Meetings; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Payment of County Bills (9:04 AM)**

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

**Resolution - WOYS 26 Years of Service (9:05 AM)**

Chairman Sanders recognized and thanked Michael Allen, of WOYS, for the 26 years of service to the community as of July 4, 2014.

Commissioner Jackel read and presented a Resolution recognizing WOYS for its service.

**Department Supervisor Report**

**Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works (9:10 AM)**

Mr. Nabors had no action items for Board approval.

Mr. Nabors updated the Board on one of his employees who has been ill. He updated the Board on grass cutting projects around the County. Commissioner Massey and Mr. Nabors discussed getting a van that can transport all of the inmates at one time, which would save on gas and allow transporting more inmates.

Commissioner Jackel thanked Mr. Nabors for his departments work on St. George Island and the installation of speed limit signs in the Las Brisas area.

**Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director (9:12 AM)**

Mr. Davis had no action items.

Mr. Davis stated that there is a truck that is out of service and needs a new engine. He discussed the cost of repairs but stated that he has funding in his budget to cover the cost.

**Nikki Millender – Parks & Recreation (9:13 AM)**

Mrs. Millender had no action items.

Mrs. Millender updated the Board on the baseball teams that have advanced to the State tournaments. She stated that there is a summer basketball league that has advanced to National tournaments. She gave a total amount that the County has paid out to support the kids in these teams.

Mrs. Millender stated that her staff will be working this entire weekend and will be available if there are any problems.

**Pam Brownell- Emergency Management Director (9:16 AM)**

Mrs. Brownell presented her report to the Board.

*Action Items:*

*Opening of bid packages for EOC Roof Retrofit. I am requesting the Board to approve a Review of Bids Committee including Alan Pierce, EOC Office, and Tracey Buzbee, Grant Manager, Management Experts.*

Mrs. Brownell stated that no bids were submitted for this project so requested Board action to re-bid the project.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mark Curenton to inform local roof contractors of the upcoming request for bids on this project.

**Motion by Massey, seconded by Jackel, to re-bid roofing project at the EOC building; Motion carried 5-0.**

*Information Items:*

1. *Pam Brownell & Jennifer Daniels attended the Region 2 meeting in Dixie County on 06/19/14.*
2. *Pam Brownell held the Debris Workshop on 06/23/14.*
3. *On 06/25/14, Phil Worley, the Debris Contractor, Debris Monitor, Fonda Davis and Pam Brownell reviewed the Debris Plan and visited temporary debris sites.*
4. *The G428, Train the Trainer class will be held on 06/27/14 through 06/29/14 to have in county basic CERT instructors.*
5. *Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Pam Brownell will do the Final Inspection on the HMPG 1831-11-R Final Closeout on Small Drainage Project.*
6. *07/09/14 to 07/11/14 EOC will be attending the Gadsden County Summit.*

**Eric Lovestrand – Extension Agent (9:18 AM)**

Mr. Lovestrand was not in attendance due to a prior engagement.

**Anne Birchwell – Franklin County Public Library (9:18 AM)**

Ms. Birchwell was not in attendance.

(She attended later and stated there was an error on the agenda but she will be at the second meeting in July)

**Mark Curenton – Assistant County Planner (9:19 AM)**

Mr. Curenton presented his report to the Board.

*1- Inform the Board that Alan will be meeting with representatives of DEO on July 22 to get additional assistance on job creation and economic development. This meeting is a result of the Board's request from the June 3 meeting to send a letter to the Governor and DEO.*

*2- Inform the Board that, while Alan had initially informed the Board that it would be getting reimbursed approximately \$31,000 for the cost of the last property the county bought in*

*Eastpoint, which was the vacant lot across the street from the Pavilion, the county, in fact, will be getting reimbursed for all of its land acquisition in the Eastpoint waterfront area. The total amount of money the county will be receiving will be \$323,427.74. The money is not in-hand yet but should be by Sept. 30.*

Commissioner Jackel spoke of and thanked Mr. Curenton for his efforts and diligence on getting these additional funds for the County. Chairman Sanders also thanked Mr. Curenton.

*3- Inform the Board that Senator Nelson's office called to congratulate the county on a \$411K grant to remark the runways and do pavement improvements at the airport. The congratulation, while correct, is premature. According to the FAA, the county will get the \$411K for runway marking and pavement improvements after it spends \$50K in engineering, design and bidding the project. So, Board action to submit FAA grant application for \$50,070 for funds to pay for engineering and design for runway markings and pavement improvements at the Apalachicola airport and to approve Task Order No. 11 for AVCON to do the work. Board action.*

*(Once the FAA approves the engineering and design the county will then apply for construction funds that have already been reserved for the project. The FAA will not release construction funds until it approves the engineering and design. To make things a little more confusing, when the FAA approves the project, then FDOT will add some additional \$221K to the project so that the total funds available are approximately \$633K.)*

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to approve Task Order No. 11; Motion carried 5-0.**

*4- Inform the Board that the ribbon cutting for the Carrabelle Multi-Use Path will be Wed. July 23, at 11 AM at the beginning of the path, which is at the Carrabelle RV Park. There will be ribbon cutting at the RV Park and then refreshments will be served at the Carrabelle Lighthouse to encourage everyone to ride or walk the length of the bike path.*

*5- Inform the Board that FDOT has notified the county that the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) will be accepting applications until Friday, Aug. 1 for ONE project from each county. Quoting directly from the eligibility criteria, "Improvements that involve paving dirt roads or re-constructing non-state roads should be demonstrated to relieve congestion on the State Highway System." The state has not ranked the SCOP applications submitted a few months ago, and those projects were the paving of Pine St. on St. George Island, and Mill Road so those are still in the works. One project that Alan knows about now and meets the criteria is the re-paving of CR 67 from the US 98 to Lake Morality road. This section has not been re-surfaced and is in poor shape. Board direction and possible action.*

Chairman Sanders stated she wanted the road paving project to include a new base using milled material.

Commissioner Lockley suggested that any maintenance that would require the City of Carrabelle digging up any of these roads has to be done is completed before the County starts on this project.

Clay Kennedy, of Preble-Rish, suggested starting the project further north of Highway 67 where the last paving project ended.

Commissioner Jackel discussed the importance of this road as an emergency escape route and the importance of using the CIGP funding. She also discussed using SCOP for the Pine Street repairs.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to submit paving project for Hwy. 67 as stated, including Mr. Kennedy's recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.**

*6- Board action to sign letter authorizing a licensed sea oat harvester, Mr. Roger Triplet, to harvest sea oats on St. George Island. The Board has authorized Mr. Triplet in the past. He then germinates the seeds and grows the sea oats into plants. Franklin County will get a percentage of the sea oats back as plants. Mr. Triplet does this in coordination with DEP.*

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to approve Chairman's signature on a letter authorizing Roger Triplet to harvest sea oats on St. George Island; Motion carried 5-0.**

*7- Inform the Board that Mr. Warren Emo has submitted the final drawings for the Armory renovations that will be funded through the TDC. Construction is not slated to begin until after Oct. 1 as it will be cost effective to bid out the TDC funded repairs and the \$350K legislative appropriation all at once. Mr. Emo is working on the scope of work for the \$350K legislative appropriation but nothing can be finalized until the county has a signed grant agreement with the state. In general it will include replacing all the windows in the Armory, finishing the meeting room where the old dilapidated bathrooms are currently located, fixing the sidewalk at the front door, which currently holds water and makes it a mess getting into the building, and providing a "warming" kitchen. As an idea of prices, replacing all 38 windows in the Armory with 140 mph impact resistant windows will cost approximately \$200K. This estimated price is for materials and installation.*

Commissioner Jackel verified with Mr. Curenton that the bidding process can start after this step is completed.

*8- Inform the Board that the Airport Advisory Committee met on Monday, June 23, to discuss a number of projects. AVCON provided an update to the committee on construction schedules and there was a very preliminary discussion about the structure and function of the industrial park that will have airport access once the \$1.5M taxiway project is finished. Mr. Taylor Newman, Crystal Air, was also there and the committee and Mr. Newman talked about the need for improving Crystal Air's operations. Alan told Mr. Newman that it might be possible to change the way Mr. Newman reimburses the county if that would ease the cash flow situation for Crystal Air. Currently, the lease calls for a fixed monthly payment, but it is common on FBO leases for payments to fluctuate with the income being generated. So, instead of a fixed monthly payment the committee might agree to a percentage of sales, which is the payment structure that was in place for the previous FBO, Mr. Bill Ruic. Mr. Taylor is going to send a proposal to Alan who will then forward on to the Airport Committee for a recommendation.*

Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Curenton to verify that there will be enough fuel at the airport during the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Commissioner Lockley suggested that the County consider looking for a new FBO, as Crystal Air is not meeting his obligations.

Ted Mosteller stated that the fuel issue was emphasized at the last Airport Advisory meeting with Crystal air.

*9- FDOT has approved the change order to pave the turnout apron to the Carrabelle Lighthouse Park which the Board requested on April 15. Board action to approve the Change Order No. 1 to the contract with North Florida Construction to increase the contract by \$2,096.50 to pay for this work.*

**Motion by Massey, seconded by Parrish, to approve change order to pave turnout apron to Carrabelle Lighthouse Park; Motion carried 5-0.**

**Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts (9:38 AM)**

Mrs. Johnson had no report for the Board.

**Recess (9:38 AM)**

Chairman Sanders called for a recess.

**Reconvene (9:49)**

Chairman Sanders called for a recess.

**Presentation of the TDC Resort Tax Referendum (9:49 AM)**

Commissioner Jackel gave an introduction on the 2013 tourism development tax increase by referendum. She gave some details on the background of this referendum.

Paul Parker, Vice Chairman of the Franklin County Tourist Development Council, provided detailed information on the tax increase and the intention of the TDC to make tourism a year round industry in the County, which is what the tax increase will be used for. He also discussed how the current funding is spent for advertising and the lesson learned from the BP funding, which shows the importance for national advertising. He stated that the TDC is requesting that 1% of this proposed increase be used for marketing.

Chairman Sanders asked if the TDC plan would be adjusted if the tax increase is approved.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Parker stated it would and explained how it would work.

Mr. Parker explained how well national advertising worked during the BP oil spill.

Commissioner Lockley asked how much would go towards administration and Mr. Parker stated that the limit is not to exceed 9% of the total budget.

Mr. Parker stated that the other 1% would go towards the infrastructure and improvements to parks, beaches, roads and boat ramps.

Chairman Sanders stated that the Armory, Camp Gordon Johnson and public restrooms on Alligator Point would be projects she would like to see addressed. Commissioners Jackel and Massey agreed.

Commissioner Lockley stated he would like to see more money given to the non-profit events.

Mr. Parker stated that he agrees with Commissioner Lockley's recommendation but thinks that what is best for the County is national advertising to bring people in during the off season.

Chairman Sanders stated that she would like to see the ballot language before approving having the referendum on the ballot. She believed this should be voted on by the people of the County.

Attorney Shuler discussed the process of approving the referendum.

Commissioner Parrish stated his concerns that no one from the City of Apalachicola or District 4 is able to serve on the TDC Board as a collector of taxes. He stated that the TDC is a County Board and should be reflected as such. He also complained that the TDC doesn't send information to the Board prior to Board Meetings.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she asked Mr. Pierce to provide this information to Board members, so she will speak with him about it.

Walter Armistead, the newest FCTDC board member, commented on what has been done regarding this proposed tax increase.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to approve moving forward with putting resort tax referendum on November ballot, subject to Attorney Shuler working on the ballot language; Motion carried 3-2, Lockley and Parrish opposed.**

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to bring administration of FCTDC as in-house with the County; Motion fails 2-3, Sanders, Jackel, and Massey opposed.**

**Open Bids for Abercrombie Boat Ramp Dock (10:17 AM)**

Mr. Curenton opened and presented the bids.

North Florida Construction, Clarksville, FL	\$126,143.00	Bid Bond attached.
Cathey Construction & Development, Mexico Beach, FL	\$125,897.59	Bid Bond attached.
I-C Contractors Inc., Panama City, FL	\$106,317.27	Bid Bond attached.
H G Harders & Sons Inc., Panama City, FL	\$94,495.27	Bid Bond attached.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to forward to Staff and engineers for a recommendation, subject to FWC approval; Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Jackel and Attorney Shuler discussed the legality of contacting local contractors when bids are being advertised. She asked Mr. Curenton to contact local contractors and inform them when there are advertised request for bids or proposals.

**Betty Sasnett – Discussion – Soccer Field at DW Wilson Park (10:22 AM)**

Betty Sasnett, President of Franklin County Youth Soccer League, discussed the need for a local soccer field and asked for an update on the progress on the soccer field and the basketball court project at the D. W. Wilson Sports Complex. She gave some information regarding the number of youth signed up for soccer and previous discussions with the Board.

Commissioner Lockley stated that they need to move forward with these projects.

Clay Kennedy, of Preble-Rish, provided the site plan and other information for the soccer field and basketball court at D. W. Wilson.

Mark Curenton stated that FRDAP grant applications were submitted for these projects but were not approved.

The Board, Mr. Curenton, and Mr. Kennedy discussed the cost for the soccer field.

Commissioner Jackel stated that funding information is needed before the Board can make a decision.

Chairman Sanders asked what can be done to start the process while the funding information is needed.

Commissioner Parrish asked if the Road Department and the Parks and Recreation Department could do any of the work, which would save money and start the project sooner.

Mr. Nabors and Mrs. Millender discussed these projects with the Board.

Chairman Sanders suggested using the field at Kendrick Park in Carrabelle.

Greg Sasnett, of Franklin County Youth Soccer League, explained that the soccer field at Kendrick Park also needs work.

Mrs. Millender discussed the project further and made a recommendation.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Curenton discussed possible grants for lighting the soccer field.

Commissioner Massey and Mr. Kennedy discussed what is needed to get the field in working condition.

Commissioner Parrish asked if this project can be managed by Mr. Nabors and Mrs. Millender.

Mrs. Millender stated what is needed to allow this project to be completed in-house, which will require additional inmates.

Mr. Nabors stated what needs to be done to get the fields in working condition.

Greg Sasnett explained some of the problems with the current field and discussed being able to have Port St. Joe come to Franklin County to play soccer.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he would be able to address the standing water issue.

Commissioner Lockley stated that both the soccer field and basketball court should be held as the same priority.

Commissioner Parrish stated that he would like to see Mr. Nabors included in providing a cost for this project.

**Motion by Lockley, to earmark some of the funds recently returned from Florida Communities Trust for this project; No action taken on this item.**

**Motion by Massey, seconded by Jackel, to direct staff to return with cost estimates for a soccer field and basketball court at D. W. Wilson Park; Motion carried 5-0.**



Scotty Lolley and Gina Toranto commented on the importance of this project and the positive impact has had on Franklin County youth.

Mrs. Millender asked for and got a clarification on the information she needs to bring back to the Board.

**T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney Report (10:52 AM)**

Attorney Shuler had no action items.

Attorney Shuler explained what would take place during the public hearing session.

Attorney Shuler updated the Board on the Leave No Trace Ordinance wording and public hearing.

**Commissioners' & Public Comments (10:54 AM)**

The Board wished everyone a Happy Independence Day and expressed thankfulness for our troops.

Commissioner Jackel informed the Board that St. George Island Volunteer Fire Dept. Fire Chief Jay Abbott recently had a stroke but he is doing better now.

Chairman Sanders informed the Board of the scheduled Board Meeting date for the second meeting in July, which will be July 16, 2014.

Commissioner Lockley commended the ambulance and first responders for a situation that happened during his family reunion last weekend.

Tom Burnley, of Carrabelle, complained of an issue he had with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Attorney Shuler stated that he would meet with this gentleman later to discuss this matter further.

Alan Fiefer, of Alligator Point Taxpayers Association and Concerned Citizens, asked if shutters can be used instead of windows for the Armory restoration project, therefore reducing the cost of the project. Commissioner Jackel responded to this suggestion.

Mr. Fiefer asked Chairman Sanders to meet with APTA regarding the proposed restrooms on Alligator Point. He also mentioned issues with public parking. Chairman Sanders said she is aware of the issues and planned to meet with Alligator Point residents concerning the restrooms and parking.

Mr. Fiefer commented on the soccer field issue and verified that the Leave No Trace will be restricted to the St. George Island area.

Susan Mack, of Shadow Lane in Apalachicola, thanked the Board for revisiting the Leave No Trace Ordinance. She stated some of the problems that need to be addressed with the Ordinance.

**Recess (11:10 AM)**

Chairman Sanders called for a recess.

**Reconvene (1:34 PM)**

Chairman Sanders reconvened the Meeting.

**Public Hearing – Discussion – Proposed Settlement on Ambulance Claim (1:34 PM)**

Attorney Shuler gave some information on this matter and introduced Attorney Scott Seagle, the litigation attorney hired by the Florida League of Cities.

Attorney Seagle explained the proposal settlement in more detail and stated that both he and Attorney Shuler, along with the Florida League of Cities, recommend this settlement. He stated that this will require no out of pocket fees for the County as the insurance company will cover it all.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Massey, to accept the proposed settlement on Rickards ambulance claim; Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Sanders closed the Public Hearing.

**Public Workshop – Discussion – Hospital Administration and Board**

Chairman Sanders opened the workshop and asked Ray Brownsworth, CEO of Weems Hospital and John Graham, CFO of Weems Hospital, to present their reports.

**1. Report – CEO/CFO**

Mr. Graham presented the financial report. He stated that judging by the year to date figures right now; the income is up 42% compared to what it was at the end of 2013. He gave statistics on the east and west Clinics.

Commissioner Jackel, Commissioner Lockley, and Mr. Graham discussed the Clinic reports, including billing, collections, and payroll.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Graham to give an opinion on the potential of Weems Hospital. Mr. Graham stated that there is a lot of work that needs to be done, but he is confident that the staff will do what is needed to accomplish the task.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Graham about options for employee benefits. Mr. Graham stated that he would have this information at the next Meeting.

Commissioner Lockley asked what the payroll cost is for salaried employees at the Hospital. Mr. Graham said he would have those figures at the next Meeting.

Mr. Brownsworth updated the Board on the grants that Weems recently received. Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Brownsworth discussed the ambulance grant and Commissioner Jackel asked that the Board be informed if there are any issues with receiving an ambulance grant.

Mr. Brownsworth addressed some of Commissioner Lockley's concerns regarding the Clinics.

Mr. Brownsworth discussed staffing options at Weems and stated that they are working on a recruitment program for staffing.

Dr. James Stockwell expressed his fondness of the County and discussed the need for recruitment of health care providers. He also gave some recommendations on how to improve health care services in the County. Dr. Stockwell commented on the many hats worn by Hospital staff and how important it is to preserve the County's health care industry. He gave suggestions on which services to market to improve the Hospital. He urged keeping in contact with Legislative Delegation for their assistance with certain health care issues.

Commissioner Jackel thanked Dr. Stockwell for his input and comments.

Commissioner Lockley also commended Dr. Stockwell.

Mr. Brownsworth discussed the swing bed program and stated that the Hospital is able to provide rehabilitation to those recovering from serious health issues.

Mr. Brownsworth discussed how much insurance is provided by Capital Health clients that uses Weems Hospital, especially the emergency room.

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Brownsworth discussed salary and benefits for executive and full time staff versus hourly staff.

Ginny Griner, Human Resources Director at Weems Hospital, provided some history and additional information regarding benefits for the employees. She stated that there is health, dental, and vision benefits available, with no out of pocket cost, for the staff. She stated that there are no retirement benefits. She explained that the benefit package for executives at the Hospital is created in order to attract the "right" type of individuals for the job.

Chairman Sanders stated that she wanted all of the employees at the Hospital to be treated fairly, with both benefits and salaries.

Commissioner Jackel stated that until the benefits equal those of the health care facilities in the neighboring county to the west of us we are not going to be able to keep good people. She stated that Weems is going to have to be competitive in keeping employees.

**2. Update – CEO Search Update**

Mr. Brownsworth stated that John Graham, Weems CFO, will serve as the interim CEO until a new CEO is selected.

**3. Update – USDA Loan Application**

Mr. Brownsworth updated the Board on the USDA loan application process.

**4. Discussion – EMS Radio/First Responder Communication Breakdown**

Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Brownsworth to address the radio communication problems. She also stated that there was an ambulance operating without air conditioning.

Commissioner Jackel stated that when the new radio system was purchased, the vendor was told that the new system had to provide communication throughout the County.

Mr. Brownsworth responded to these concerns. He stated that the radio system is intended to be between the ambulance and the receiving hospital, not the ambulance to first responders.

Commissioner Jackel read an email she was copied on regarding communication issues.

Mr. Brownsworth stated that these issues were being addressed and would be resolved.

Chairman Sanders stated that there were problems with the radio system on the eastern side of the County also.

Chairman Sanders thanked the Hospital staff for attending the Meeting.

**Adjourned**

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

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Cheryl Sanders, Chairman – FCBCC

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts