

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
DECEMBER 2, 2014
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

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

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

Call to Order (9:00 AM)

Chairman Massey called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge

There was a Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

There were no Minutes for approval.

Payment of County Bills

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to approve payment of the bill list as presented;
Motion carried 5-0.**

Department Supervisor Report

Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works

Mr. Nabors had no action items but updated the Board on work done on certain streets in the County that suffered some damage due to the heavy rains. He also explained that a lot of trees will have to be removed to make the lot in Eastpoint, recently purchased by the County, ready for parking. Board and Mr. Pierce discussed.

Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Mr. Davis had action items.

Commissioner Jackel stated that some maintenance is needed in the area and access road that the public uses for dumping. Mr. Davis said that he would address this problem.

Mr. Pierce presented the following item from his report.

8- Inform the Board that as Director of Administrative Services I terminated Ms. Nikki Millender, Parks and Rec Director, effective Nov. 30, 2014. She has the right to appeal my decision. If she chooses to exercise her right she has 15 days, and she must make the appeal in writing.

On a temporary basis, the Park and Rec employees are being supervised by Mr. Fonda Davis, Solid Waste Director. If the Board does not fill the Parks and Rec. Director position then at some point a permanent decision will need to be made to put the Park and Rec employees under some Dept. supervision. If the Parks and Rec Director position is not filled, the Board could increase personnel in the Parks and Rec. department by creating one, or possible two, entry level positions.

At this time, I do recommend that the temporary personnel hired through the FWC Turtle grant be put under the direction of Erik Lovestrand, Extension Director, as those 2 employees have specific duties funded through the grant that need to be done.

The Board thanked Mr. Davis for accepting the responsibilities for the Parks and Recreation department.

Pam Brownell- Emergency Management Director

Mrs. Brownell asked for Board action for the following item from her report.

Action Items:

Requesting Board approval and signing of Federal Emergency Management Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant in the amount of \$18,592.15. This grant will be used to develop a Flood Mitigation Plan.

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the grant;
Motion carried 5-0.**

Information Items:

- 1. 11/12/14 – 11/21/14 Tress Dameron and Jennifer Daniels attended the L101 Fundamentals of Emergency Management class in Starke, FL.*
- 2. 11/14/14 Pamela Brownell attended the HUD Webinar.*
- 3. 12/04/14 Pamela Brownell, Tress Dameron, and Jennifer Daniels will attend the Region 2 meeting.*

Mr. Pierce suggested that the Board opened the quotes for the new roof at the Jail as Mrs. Brownell was involved with this grant.

Open Documented Quote – New Roof On Franklin County Sheriff’s Office & Jail

Mr. Pierce opened and read the quotes.

Mike Harrell Roofing	\$733,000
EMO	\$700,781
Garrison Design & Construction	\$678,400
Cathey Construction	\$738,589

Mrs. Brownell reminded the Board that the Federal Government will be providing funding for 75% of this project.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders, to forward the quotes to the committee, consisting of the members stated by Mrs. Brownell, for a recommendation; Motion carried 5-0.

Erik Lovstrand – Extension Program Agent

Mr. Lovstrand had no action items but submitted a report.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she received compliments and congratulated Mr. Lovstrand on the work he did at the North Florida Fair. Mr. Lovstrand stated that the County was awarded 1st prize for its booth at the Fair.

Commissioner Jackel asked for and Mr. Lovstrand provided an update on the completion of the printed material for sea turtle lighting grant. Commissioner Jackel asked that attention is paid to the availability of these materials during the next turtle hatch season.

Commissioner Parrish, referring to an item on Mr. Lovstrand report, asked if the amount of 130 structures that are out of compliance listed in the FWC service letter is an accurate number. Mr. Lovstrand explained this matter further.

Commissioner Parrish thanked Mr. Lovstrand for assuming responsibility of supervising the employees working on the turtle lighting grant.

Mr. Pierce explained why the number of structures was so high on the FWC letter.

Mr. Pierce asked the Board to consider before the end of January 2015 adding to the community development requests to be funded by the Legislature a request for \$250K to assist the Univ. of Florida in upgrading the old Research Reserve Bldg in Apalachicola. He discussed this matter further.

Mike Cooper – Weem’s CEO – USDA Application

Mr. Cooper stated that CFO did not attend this meeting but will attend the next regular meeting to discuss the final audit. Mr. Cooper stated that there are additional items that he will address at the next regular meeting, including the pension plan for the hospital employees.

Mr. Cooper introduced Mr. Joe Bynum of TRO and Mrs. Mary Gavin of USDA who were in the audience to answer any questions the Board may have relating to the hospital’s expansion/ renovation project and it’s funding. Mr. Cooper reviewed the documents, which were the legal services agreement, bond council agreement, and the architectural agreement, that required Board approval today.

Commissioner Lockley asked for a time line on the project.

Mary Gavin of USDA explained the process. She stated that there is some outstanding information needed from the hospital.

Attorney Shuler recommended approving the 3 documents presented by Mr. Copper.

Commissioner Jackel explained why she wasn’t in favor of the architectural agreement for the services. She didn’t like the “open” ended agreement and the travel expenses included in the agreement.

Mr. Bynum spoke to Commissioner Jackel’s concerns.

Ms. Gavin offered an option that might address Commissioner Jackel’s concerns.

Attorney Shuler explained why there was an amendment to the contract and stated some of the language that he included in the contract to protect the County.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Cooper discussed the 10 new rooms and why the current rooms will not be renovated.

Commissioner Jackel explained her concerns with the legal services contract. She stated that even though she has concerns she is in favor of moving forward with the project.

Ms. Gavin suggested that the Board consider sending a draft agreement of the architectural services for her review. She had no concerns with the legal services agreements.

Commissioner Parrish and Attorney Shuler discussed the need to approve the three agreements and to move forward with the project.

Attorney Shuler explained that his recommendation did include a review and approval by USDA.

Commissioner Parrish explained that he was comfortable with both Attorney Shuler providing legal services and the recommended bond council.

Commissioner Sanders commented on this project and thinks that the Board should move forward.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish, to approve the legal services agreement, bond council agreement, and the architectural agreement as presented; Motion carried 4-1, Jackel opposed.

Mr. Cooper commented further on the project.

Recess10:00

Chairman Massey called for a recess.

Reconvene10:10

Chairman Massey reconvened the meeting.

Open Bids on Renovation of St. George Island Bathrooms

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Pierce when this project was authorized and what happened to the Carrabelle bathroom project. Mr. Pierce explained that the engineering work and the specs for the St. George Island project were completed first so he proceeded with that project. Commissioner Sanders preferred that both projects were advertised together as that was the Board intention when the projects were approved.

Mrs. Johnson, Clerk of Courts, asked for the funding source for these projects.

Commissioner Jackel stated that these projects will be funded by TDC.

Board discussed the availability of funding, if both projects should be advertised together, and other issues regarding this project.

Commissioner Parrish suggested opening the bids so that the Board will have some idea as to the total cost for the project.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to open bids for the St. George Island bathroom project, advertise and open bids for the Carrabelle bathroom project, then compare bids, verify a funding sources and prioritize the projects if needed; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce opened and read the bids.

R W Thomas \$75,000

Cathey Construction \$108,129

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Lockley, to hold the bids for the St. George Island bathroom project until bids for the Carrabelle bathroom project are opened; Motion carried 5-0.

Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts

Mrs. Johnson congratulated Commissioner Sanders on appointment to the Small County Coalition at the recent FAC conference.

Alan Pierce- Director of Administrative Service

1- Provide Board with letter from James Harris, Tax Collector, regarding the schedule of events at the Carrabelle Courthouse Annex.

2- Provide Board with copy of 2014 Franklin County Jail and Medical Inspection report. The Sheriff has an outside agency produce an annual inspection of the jail for compliance with state and federal regulations. There were no major deficiencies reported.

3- As the Board is aware, the Governor's Office released the 5 projects that the state of Florida is going to put forth for funding out of the Gulf Coast Council pot. This pot has some \$150M and there are eleven entities that will decide on the funding- 5 states and 6 federal agencies. Two of the 5 projects picked by the Governor, out of some 2000 submitted, will benefit the Apalachicola Bay. One project- a \$26M project submitted by the NFWMD would spend \$4.6M to place 53,000 cubic yards of shell over 266 acres in the Bay. The remainder of the funds would be used to recreate the natural hydrologic functions of various drainage areas, including restoring some 1800 acres in Money Bayou.

The second project is the \$16.8M project proposed by The Nature Conservancy and the NFWMD, where each of 7 watersheds in the 8 impacted counties would get approximately \$2M for projects that have not yet been developed. The Apalachicola Bay is one of the watersheds.

It is my understanding that the top priority of the Governor was a \$6.9M project for Tampa Bay. However, with the funds available it is possible that Florida would get another project funded as well.

4- As directed at the Nov. 18 Board meeting I attended a public meeting on St. George Island to listen to a presentation by the St. George Island State Park on proposed improvements that might be included in the Park's updated management plan. There were approximately 40 people in attendance and there was widespread opposition to one idea. The Park is proposing to build a mooring facility for up to 30 boats on the Bay side of the Park. This would provide boating access to the Park as is done in 5 other parks around the state. Park personnel said that this was only a concept and would only move forward if it could be done without any dredging or other environmental risks. I said that the county had no prior knowledge of this idea being proposed by the Park Service and that such an expansion of boating activity, including the possibility of short-term live-a-boards, was something that the Board might have some concerns about.

The other ideas in the management plan included expanding campsites, widening the road for bike lanes, and the possibility of some rustic cabins being installed in the park. Additional comments can be sent to david.copps@dep.state.fl.us

Commissioner Parrish commented on this item as he also attended the meeting.

Commissioner Jackel stated that she has received comments objecting to the boat slips and forwarded those comments to the State. She discussed other complaints she received and other issues she has with this management plans.

Lois Swoboda commented on this matter.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to send a letter to the State objecting to the amount of boat slips, certain language in the management plan, and requesting additional information on this plan; Motion carried 5-0.

5- Inform the Board that I did speak to the three companies that turned in bids for building the soccer field. Coastline and N. Florida Const. said their bid prices would be good for 6 months. Mondragon Gulf Company said their bid would have to go up by 20%.

6- Seek Board direction on submitting requests to Sen. Montford's office for community development requests to be funded by the Legislature. The list of projects that was submitted last year is:

- 1. \$2.5M for the dredging the Eastpoint Channel*
- 2. \$300,000 for drainage improvements in a system known as Smokey Hollow on the east side of Carrabelle*
- 3. \$600,000 acquisition of El's Court and Island View Campground as a county park.*
- 4. \$1.5M for the dredging of Creekmore Channel in Apalachicola.*
- 5. \$500,000 for drainage improvements in Apalachicola*

The Board has until Jan. 31 to submit projects. I have 2 projects for the Board to consider submitting for funding along with the ones from the commissioners. The two projects would be \$500K to purchase a permanent location for the Supervisor of Elections; and \$250K to assist the Univ. of Florida in upgrading the old Research Reserve Bldg in Apalach. The University has done a cost estimate and it appears that since the building sat empty for some 8 years quite a bit of deferred maintenance problems have occurred. The University is asking the county to assist in getting money for the building as well as fixing the road going into the building.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders, to add the \$500K to purchase a permanent location for the Supervisor of Elections and \$250K to assist the University of Florida in upgrading the old Research Reserve Building in Apalachicola to the list; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Parrish stated that the Board should review the list and set priorities as recommended by Senator Montford. Mr. Pierce stated that he will present a completed list at the first meeting in January.

7- On Oct. 7, 2014, the Board made application for DOT funding to improve the lighting at the airport. DOT has approved the grant. Board action to direct AVCON to begin the design and engineering for replacing the runway and taxiway lighting. The two areas of greatest concern for the airport advisory committee is the failing drainage system, for which grant funds have been allocated to fix some of the problems, and the antiquated lighting system for the runways.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish, to direct AVCON to begin the design and engineering for replacing the runway and taxiway lighting; Motion carried 5-0.

8- Inform the Board that as Director of Administrative Services I terminated Ms. Nikki Millender, Parks and Rec Director, effective Nov. 30, 2014. She has the right to appeal my decision. If she chooses to exercise her right she has 15 days, and she must make the appeal in writing.

On a temporary basis, the Park and Rec employees are being supervised by Mr. Fonda Davis, Solid Waste Director. If the Board does not fill the Parks and Rec. Director position then at some point a permanent decision will need to be made to put the Park and Rec employees under some Dept. supervision. If the Parks and Rec Director position is not filled, the Board could increase personnel in the Parks and Rec. department by creating one, or possible two, entry level positions.

At this time, I do recommend that the temporary personnel hired through the FWC Turtle grant be put under the direction of Erik Lovestrand, Extension Director, as those 2 employees have specific duties funded through the grant that need to be done.

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

9- Inform the Board that the Dept. of Ag (DACS) has notified the county that more Alligator Harbor Aquaculture leaseholders have submitted lease modifications to DACS for the right to use the full water column in their existing leases. According to documents transmitted to the county, there are 46 existing leases in the Alligator Harbor Aquaculture Use Zone. Twenty-eight (28) have already received permission from DACS for use of the full water column, and now 3 more leaseholders are seeking permission.

Commissioner Parrish stated that he received correspondence from someone in Alabama explaining the problems that these leases present for fishermen and other water related uses. Board discussed further.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to send a letter to DACS opposing the full water column for leaseholders; Motion carried 5-0.

10- At this time the Planning Office is assisting in taking reservations for the Armory. Ms. Delores Crooms has reserved the building for Jan. 19th for a community wide Dr. Martin Luther King celebration. Ms. Crooms is requesting a waiver of the Armory use fee as this is a public event.

Motion by Jackel, seconded by Lockley, to approve the waiver of the use fee for the Dr. Martin Luther King celebration at the Armory on January 19, 2015; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce asked the Board action authorizing the Chairman's signature on FDLE \$41,000 grant award for the Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, authorizing the Chairman's signature on the FDLE grant award as requested by Mr. Pierce; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce updated the Board on County Coordinator applications.

Commissioner Massey asked about funding for paving projects. Mr. Pierce stated how much is available road paving and asked that Prebble-Rish get with each Commissioner to create a list of roads.

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Jackel, to start the process of creating a list of roads for paving; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jackel asked for update on improvement projects for roads that were discussed at an earlier meeting. Attorney Shuler stated that Prebble-Rish will update the Board at the next meeting regarding this project.

Commissioner Sanders discussed safety problems drivers are experiencing at El's Court curve.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, to send a letter to FDOT about traffic accidents and incidents at El's Court curve; Motion carried 5-0.

T. Michael Shuler- County Attorney Report

Attorney Shuler had no action or information items for the Board.

Commissioners' & Public Comments

There were no comments from the Commissioners or public.

Adjourn 11:03

There being no further business, Chairman Massey adjourned the meeting.

William Massey, Chairman – FCBOCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts