

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
April 21, 2015  
9:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

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

**Others Present:** Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Morón – Deputy Clerk/Board Secretary

**Call to Order (9:00 A.M.)**

Chairman Massey called the meeting to order.

**Prayer and Pledge**

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

There were no minutes submitted for approval.

**Payment of County Bills**

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders; approved; 5-0**

**Department Supervisors Report**

**Howard Nabors –Superintendent of Public Works**

**Mr. Nabors** discussed conditions of equipment and problems with rain. They will begin mowing tomorrow.

Commissioner Massey and Mr. Nabors discussed an employee, the County's small engines mechanic, who is leaving and starting his own small engine repair business and is willing to contract with the County to provide these services. Commissioner Sanders suggested waiting until the employee tendered his resignation before discussing this matter any further. Commissioner Jackel questioned if the work would be done on the County's property or at his own business. Commissioner Parrish asked if these services wouldn't have to go through the

County's bidding process. Board discussed these and other issues regarding this matter further and requested clarification from Attorney Shuler on what would or would not be allowed.

**Alan Pierce presented the following item from his report.**

*2- Inform Board and department heads that Duke Energy is putting on a "Live Line and Storm Preparedness" workshop at the Consolidated School on Thursday, April 30, from 7-7:30 PM. This is a workshop scheduled for public employees only who would be responding to storms where there could be down power lines. Duke Energy encourages supervisors from Public Works, Parks and Rec, Emergency Management, and Solid Waste to attend. Mr. Bobby Pickels would like a head count as this is a limited seating event.*

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Jackel, for department supervisors to attend workshop; approved; 5-0**

**Fonda Davis- Solid Waste Director**

Mr. Davis had no action items.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Davis discussed the effects of the Leave no Trace ordinance on St. George Island.

Commissioner Lockley asked to discuss item #3 on Mr. Pierce's Report.

**Alan Pierce presented the following item from his report.**

*3- Inform the Board that the Planning Office did send out notices to contractors to remind them of the Board's policy on roadside pick-up. I also spoke to Ralph Mills, Waste Pro, regarding the leaking garbage trucks discussed at the last meeting. While I was speaking to Mr. Mills, he provided me an update on garbage service in Wakulla and Gulf counties. Wakulla County has mandatory garbage service and it is a charge paid on the property tax bill. It is \$180/year, which is equivalent to \$15/month. The Wakulla service is once a week garbage pick-up and once a week roadside yard clippings.*

*Gulf County does not have mandatory garbage service, and they also do not have county operated roadside pick-up. Gulf County had contracted with Waste Pro for a service to pick up roadside yard trash, but Waste Pro has informed Gulf County that the system is not working, so for the last 3 months there has been no roadside pick-up by anyone in Gulf County. Waste Pro and Gulf County are discussing options.*

*Franklin County is currently spending about \$400,000 a year to operate a roadside service and that cost does not include any capital cost for buying new equipment.*

Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Davis discussed the schedule for cleanup in the County.

Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Pierce discussed a proposal sent in the past to do a study regarding roadside pickup. Mr. Davis explained why mandatory household roadside pickup would help. Commissioner Jackel, Mr. Pierce, and Mr. Davis discussed why amnesty days would not help this situation. Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Davis discussed how mandatory roadside pickup would allow his department to run more efficiently. Mr. Pierce stated that roadside garbage attracts bears. Board discussed possible actual savings if there is mandatory roadside pickup. Commissioner Parrish suggested checking the difference in prices for 2 or 3 times weekly pickup. Commissioner Jackel asked that recycling is a component when discussing mandatory pickup.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Sanders to get information and prices for mandatory roadside pickup; approved; 5-0.**

**Pam Brownell- Emergency Management**

Mrs. Brownell was not present at meeting, therefore Mr. Pierce presented her report.

*Action Items:*

- 1. Requesting Board Approval of The Management Experts Contract for Emergency Management Contractual Services.*
- 2. Requesting Board Approval of Emergency Disaster Strategies, LLC Contract for Emergency Management Contractual Services.*

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish; approved items 1 & 2; 5-0**

*Information Items:*

- 1. Pamela Brownell, Tress Dameron & Jennifer Daniels attended the Rural County Summit in Gadsden County on April 15-17.*
- 2. Pamela Brownell, Tress Dameron & Jennifer Daniels will be participating in the Apalachicola Florida Spill and Area Contingency Exercise on April 20-22.*
- 3. EOC Staff held its ESF 17 County Meeting on April 9.*
- 4. EOC Staff held the Franklin County Flood Mitigation Planning Task Force Meeting on April 13*

**Erik Lovestrand- Extension Agent**

Mr. Lovestrand had no action items.

Mr. Pierce updated the Board on the funding for the new Extension office. Commissioner Sanders explained the problems in the Legislation affecting this funding further. Mr. Lovestrand provided additional information. Board and Mr. Pierce discussed further.

**Anne Birchwell- Franklin County Library**

Ms. Birchwell presented the following items from her report.

- *AARP Free Tax assistance has ended for this year. Although, we didn't reach the goal of 50 participants between both branches, we hope that AARP might reconsider and allow Franklin County to continue hosting at both libraries.*
- *This month, both libraries are holding special workshops revolving health. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am at the Carrabelle Branch and 1:30 at the Eastpoint Branch, Gluten: The Whole Story will be presented by Melanie Taylor from the Gulf County Extension Agency will present a great fact finding presentation. There will be a door prize of Gluten Free Items.*
- *This month, two of our staff will be attending a Customer Service workshop and two staff members will be attending a Technology Workshop for children.*
- *The week of April 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> was National Library Week, which originated in 1958 and continues to highlight the importance of libraries to communities everywhere.*
- *Sadly, our longest working volunteer Don Mac Lean, passed away. He was a volunteer at the Carrabelle Branch for 18 years. He not only volunteered, but taught harmonica to anyone interested and provided free many harmonicas. We will miss his community spirit and love of library and his country.*
- *U.S. Representative Gwen Graham from Florida's 2<sup>nd</sup> District came to the Eastpoint Library with her staff. She was available for anyone wishing to discuss current personal or community issues with her. These could include VA benefits, Social Security & Medicare Benefits, Small Businesses etc. She or her staff will be in attendance at the Eastpoint Branch the first Tuesday of every month to meet with people!*
- *Staff is gearing up for this year's Summer Reading Program, "Every Hero has a Story!"*

*We look forward to the excitement and fun these programs bring to the youth in Franklin County.*

- *I passed out the final Bite for a Book Certificates at the Franklin County Schools this past week. With the partnerships, we passed out over 2,000 reading incentive certificates to students in Franklin County schools. I will be checking with the restaurant owners to see if they will be willing to participate in this program for the 2015-16 school year!*
- *"Appy Hour" using our new 10 Ipads, is set to launch June 5, 2015! This program will be held at the Eastpoint Branch at first. Children ages 2 to 5 will experience this new technology We are also considering how we could use these Ipads for adult classes and teen classes in the near future.*

#### **Marcia M. Johnson- Clerk of Courts- Report**

Mrs. Johnson had no report for the Board.

#### **Recess (9:30 A.M.)**

Chairman Massey called for a recess.

#### **Reconvene (9:38 A.M.)**

Chairman Massey reconvened the meeting.

**Curt Blair- TDC Update**

Mr. Blair discussed hospitality training, Plein Air Paint Out event and the Apalachicola/Carrabelle joint chamber mapping project.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Blair about the financial issues he was having with Clerk's office. Mr. Blair stated that those issues will be resolved shortly.

Commissioner Sanders asked that Franklin County continues to be promoted as a family oriented vacation location, so the problems Bay county is experiencing doesn't happen here. Mr. Blair commented on this matter. Mr. Pierce and Mr. Blair explained the effect of social media on promoting tourism. Commissioner Lockley wanted to make sure that Franklin County doesn't receive the over run from Panama City beach.

**Planning & Zoning Consent Agenda**

Mr. Pierce presented the items from the Planning and Zoning report.

***CRITICAL SHORELINE APPLICATION:***

1. *RECOMMENDED APPROVAL: (UNANIMOUS) Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock located at 715 Mill Road, Lots 5 & 6, Breezy Point Subdivision, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. The dock on Lot 5 will be 21' x 4' dock with a 35' x 15' roofed over terminus with a 19' x 42' roofed boat lift with a deck above boatlift area. Then Lot 6 will have a 20' x 4' walkway to an existing terminal. Both requests complies with the Franklin County Dock Ordinance, all state or federal permits have been obtained. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc., agent for Gary Cerfus, applicant. (No House On-Site)*

**Motion by Parish, seconded by Lockley; approved; 5-0**

***SKETCH PLAT APPLICATION:***

2. *RECOMMENDED APPROVAL: (UNANIMOUS) Consideration of a request for Sketch Plat approval for "Browne's Bay" a one lot subdivision formally known as Lots 3 & 4, Bay Palm Village, Request submitted by Thurman Roddenberry & Assosicates, Inc., agent for Henry C. & Cathryn S. Brown, applicants.*

Commissioner Jackel asked if there are any advantages to a one lot subdivision. Mr. Pierce explained.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders; approved; 5-0**

**FDOT Update on its SIS-Strategic Intermodal System Plan**

Tori Wilson and Ray Kirkland, of FDOT, presented information on the plan.

**Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services – Report**

*1- Board action to move the regularly scheduled June 16 meeting to Monday, June 15, to allow the commissioners to attend FAC sponsored ethics training at the FAC conference. The ethics training is on Tuesday morning, June 16.*

**Motion by Sanders, Second by Parrish; approved; 5-0**

*2- Inform Board and department heads that Duke Energy is putting on a “Live Line and Storm Preparedness” workshop at the Consolidated School on Thursday, April 30, from 7-7:30 PM. This is a workshop scheduled for public employees only who would be responding to storms where there could be down power lines. Duke Energy encourages supervisors from Public Works, Parks and Rec, Emergency Management, and Solid Waste to attend. Mr. Bobby Pickels would like a head count as this is a limited seating event.*

**This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.**

*3- Inform the Board that the Planning Office did send out notices to contractors to remind them of the Board’s policy on roadside pick-up. I also spoke to Ralph Mills, Waste Pro, regarding the leaking garbage trucks discussed at the last meeting. While I was speaking to Mr. Mills, he provided me an update on garbage service in Wakulla and Gulf counties. Wakulla County has mandatory garbage service and it is a charge paid on the property tax bill. It is \$180/year, which is equivalent to \$15/month. The Wakulla service is once a week garbage pick-up and once a week roadside yard clippings.*

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*Franklin County is currently spending about \$400,000 a year to operate a roadside service and that cost does not include any capital cost for buying new equipment.*

**This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.**

*4- Inform the Board that the airport had its annual inspection on April 9, and did pass the inspection. During the inspection it was noted that some of the runways need remarking so FDOT is considering funding a remarking program. To give the Board an idea of estimated cost of remarking, which means repainting, it costs about \$200,000 to remark each runway.*

*Progress is continuing on the existing grants to repair the drainage system at the airport. Bids will be opened for the drainage improvements at the Monday, June 15 meeting.*

*Mr. Jason Puckett, Airport Manager, is here to give an update on the airport.*

Mr. Puckett provided additional information. He discussed the inspection and some options to remedy any concerns. He stated that Crystal Air is current with lease payments. Commissioner Jackel asked what recommendations he would make to increase business and create economic opportunities at the airport. Mr. Puckett stated that incentives and getting a company with an airplane to move here would help. Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Puckett discussed AVCON assisting with economic opportunities at the airport. Commissioner Lockley and Mr. Puckett discussed AVCON role further. Mr. Puckett discussed the indirect opportunity the Airport provides to the county. Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Puckett to take a stronger lead with creating economic opportunity at the Airport. Mr. Pierce stated some of Mr. Puckett's experiences and education with airport. Commissioner Parrish and Mr. Puckett discussed the need for local residents to get training so that if a company moves here locals will get those jobs. Commissioner Parrish gave Mr. Puckett credit for a better inspection at the airport.

*5- Inform Board that I will not be at the May 5 Board meeting. I have a previously scheduled trip. I will prepare my report but it will be delivered by Michael Moron. I will be back at work on May 11.*

*Michael Moron will be assuming the role of County Coordinator effective May 1. Upon Board approval, his leave time and years of service to the county will carry over to his new position. Board action.*

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish; approved; 5-0.**

*6- Inform the Board that over the April 18 weekend there was a "Bog-in" up CR 67 that caused problems for surrounding residents. In the past the "Bog-ins" have shut down at 9 PM but the last two events the trucks continued to run past midnight and there is a nearby residential area that hears the brunt of the noise. I have spoken to the Sheriff's Office and until there is an ordinance controlling the hours of operation the Sheriff's Office does believe they have the authority to shut the noise down. Board direction.*

Commissioner Jackel would like a public hearing on this matter to include the outdoor events at bars on St. George Island.

Commissioner Sanders gave some history on the Bog-in and how it is affecting residents that live next to the area where the Bog-in is located. Attorney Shuler stated that two different Ordinances might be needed to address both of these issues. Commissioner Sanders and Jackel stated that their intentions is not to shut any business down but to allow these events and businesses to be considerate of the neighboring residents.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Sanders for Attorney Shuler to create draft ordinances and present for discussion at the next meeting. Also schedule a public hearing during the second meeting in May; approved; 5-0**

*7- Inform the Board that Mark Curenton and I met with Warren Emo for an update on the Armory project. At this time the bid opening is scheduled for June 2. There will be a base bid and then a series of alternate bids so that depending on the funds additional work could be authorized. The basic structure of the funding is the \$350,000 of Historic Preservation funds will be used to build new ADA compliant bathrooms and to work on the windows in the building. The \$500,000 of TDC funds will be used to air condition*

*the building, rewire, repair wood work in the old Parks and Rec offices, and to wire and plumb the “warming” kitchen. One of the alternates will be to provide all the equipment for the “warming” kitchen. There will actually be 6 alternates so that Board will have an idea of all the costs identified by Emo Architects as work that needs to be done. The total list of alternates is:*

*Alternate 1- Historic Window Replacement (all or some of this will be done with the existing \$350K Historic Preservation Grant).*

*Alternate 2- Historic Door Restoration – This would replace the front aluminum doors with historically accurate doors on the front.*

*Alternate 3- Exterior Window and Door Replacement (some or all of this will be done with the existing Historic Preservation Grant).*

*Alternate 4- Warming Kitchen Equipment*

*Alternate 5- Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements- This Alternate needs to be done at some point as the water on Avenue D is still flooding under the building, and the sidewalk in front of the front doors holds water.*

*The application deadline for Historic Preservation grants is June 30. We have asked Mr. Emo for his assessment on what we should apply for once we open the bids on June 2. The equipment for the “warming” kitchen could not be paid for with Historic Preservation funds but all the other Alternate bid items could be done is succeeding Preservation Grants. The grant application this year would be considered by the 2016 legislature.*

*8- Board action on Chapman Auditorium bids. Mr. Emo has reviewed the bids for repairing the Chapman Auditorium. He has revised the work to be done in the base bid so that the low bid is \$144,800. However, Mr. Emo recommends the Board reserve \$60,000 in additional estimated construction costs in the event the entire roof decking on the building has to be replaced. So, the current projected construction cost for repairing the Chapman roof is \$205,000. The Board budgeted approximately \$95,000 for repairs, which includes a \$50,000 Historic Preservation grant. In discussion the Board had indicated that it would utilize the remaining funds in Capital Outlay to fix the roof, but considering the recommendations of the architect, it will take all of the un-obligated funds in Capital Outlay and the Board will still be about \$45,000 short of having the \$205,000.*

Mr. Pierce stated that he discussed the idea of a non-profit organization formed by residents who are interested in the Chapman Building.

George Mahr, an interested resident, stated the importance of Chapman Building as a historic art deco building in the state of Florida. He stated that there are residents who are willing to create the “Friends of Chapman Building,” a non-profit organization and contribute \$50,000 to the county for repairs to the roof and asked that a 50 year lease is granted to this organization. After the roof is repaired, the organization would be responsible for rehabilitating and maintaining the building. Mr. Mahr stated that the doctor will be given a 5 year lease with 5 one year renewal options. Commissioner Jackel and Mr. Mahr discussed the proposed renovation plans with a renovation timetable, the construction of the new library on the property, and impact on the doctor’s office. Commissioner Jackel stated that many communities have realized the financial impact of restoring and renovating historic buildings. Commissioner Lockley was against the plan as the County could apply for grants to fund the repairs.



**Motion by Jackel to consider the plan presented this morning providing there is a letter of support from the doctor; motion died for the lack of a second.**

**Motion by Jackel to approve the amount the county has in grant funds and the amount that has already been set aside for repairs but not the \$45,000 shortfall; motion died for the lack of a second.**

Commissioner Parrish and Mr. Pierce discussed the amount of funds that will be needed once the project is started. Board discussed further. Commissioner Parrish stated that there would be more support for the plan presented by Mr. Mahr if the Board was aware of the doctor's support. He stated that it is the Board's responsibility to preserve this building, either by a plan similar to Mr. Mahr or increased taxes. Board discussed the possibility of a meeting to include all interested parties including the doctor.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish to move forward with opening bids and get the additional \$45,000 from Reserves for Contingency account, not reserving the \$60,000; approved; 4-1 Jackel opposed.**

**Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley for public hearing with all interested parties including the doctor to discuss future of the Chapman building; approved; 5-0.**

*9- Inform the Board that there was one in-house transfer request for the position of Floodplain Manager and one in-house transfer request for the position of Administrative Assistant. I am recommending Ms. Amy Kelly for the position of Floodplain Manager with a salary increase of \$2K, and I am recommending Ms. Roxie Allen for the position of Administrative Assistant with a salary increase of \$2K. Both of these will become effective May 15, which is the retirement date of Ms. Rachel Ward.*

Mr. Pierce stated that the correct title for Amy Kelly's position is Flood plain Manager and Zoning Administrator.

**Motion by Jackel, seconded by Parrish to approve salary increases; approved; 5-0**

**Motion by Sanders, seconded by Parrish for Resolution of Appreciation for Rachel Ward at May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting; approved; 5-0**

*I am also recommending Mark Curenton receive a salary increase of \$5K when he becomes County Planner and Department Head of Planning and Building, effective Oct. 1. I also recommend that Robin Brinkley, Building Official, be reinstated for his \$2K of his salary that he gave to building inspectors. In 2006, Mr. Brinkley received Board approval to transfer \$1K of his salary to 2 building inspectors for a total reduction in his salary of \$2K. When the building inspectors' positions were eliminated from the budget, which happened over different budget years, Mr. Brinkley did not get his donated salary back. I recommend the \$2K be reinstated to Mr. Brinkley. Board action.*

Commissioner Jackel stated that she is in favor of Mr. Brinkley's increase but not \$5000 for Mr. Curenton and explained.

**Motion by Lockley, seconded by Parrish to approve increases; approved; 4-1 Jackel opposed.**

*10- Inform the Board that I know the light is out at the St. George Island Boat Ramp, but that is a solar light and commercial power is not available at the boat ramp. The nearest Duke Energy pole is over 1000 feet away so it will be expensive trying to get electricity to the ramp. I have asked Duke Energy for a quote in getting an outdoor fixture at the ramp.*

Commissioner Jackel asked that Duke Energy is contacted in case it is less expensive. Board discussed problems with solar lighting and cost and logistical problems for Duke Energy to install a light.

Mr. Pierce updated the Board on NERDA projects for the County that DEP will be reviewing. Board discussed and Commissioner Sanders suggested adding this project to one of the NERDA projects.

Commissioner Massey asked about a portable toilet on SGI that was moved that would allow the inmates to use while working there. It's no longer at location and it needs to be put back so inmates do not have to be transported off SGI to use restroom.

Commissioner Parrish asked about an easement at Abercrombie boat ramp that would allow a security light at that location. Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler will work into this matter.

Commissioner Jackel stated that yesterday was the 5 year anniversary of the BP oil spill and still no funding for projects and loss in Franklin County. She stated that hopefully the County will receive funding within the next 5 years.

*11- Remind the Board and the public that the Emerald Warrior exercise will be starting on April 20 and will run to May 1.*

**Mr. Pierce explained that during some research at a Lanark Village pond it was discovered that the pond is actually an artesian spring.**

Commissioner Sanders asked for and Mr. Pierce updated the Board on Carrabelle and St. George Island bathroom renovation. Commissioner Massey commented. Mr. Pierce will move forward on this project.

Board and Mr. Pierce stated that the County wide paving project is getting closer.

**Michael Shuler - County Attorney- Report**

Attorney Shuler discussed some of the items on his report.

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**Commissioners and Public Comments**

There were no further comments from the Commissioners or from the public.

**Adjourn(11:02 A.M.)**

There being no further items for discussion or action, Chairman Massey adjourned the meeting.

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William Massey - Chairman

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts