

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
MAY 5, 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 – County Coordinator, Lauren Luberto – Deputy Clerk to the Board

**Call to Order (9:01 a.m.)**

Chairman Massey called the meeting to order.

**Prayer and Pledge**

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Minutes**

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

**Payment of County Bills**

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

Alex Quintana, a representative of Congresswomen Gwen Graham spoke to the Board stating that they are at the Eastpoint library today and welcomed the public to come see them with any concerns.

Commissioner Sanders asked Graham's representative about an issue regarding Eastpoint dredging. Alex stated he would bring up the issue with the legislative staff.

Chairman Massey asked about item #1 on Pierce's Report.

Board action to adopt Proclamation that May is Boating Safety Month in Franklin County. The Proclamation is being sent to all counties in the region by Flotilla 12, Apalachee Bay and District 8 of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Mr. David Rabon, US Coast Guard Auxiliary may be present to speak.

**Motion by Commissioner Jackel, seconded by Parrish; approved 5-0**

### **Department Supervisor Report**

#### **Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works**

Bush hog and tractor have been repaired so they will start cutting grass. Also notified the Board that Matthew Roberts has not given 2 week notice yet.

#### **Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director**

Need approval for Finance Office to cut check for \$28 for soil sample test at Kendrick Park.

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

Mr. Davis also notified the Board he has two knuckle boom trucks back in operation. They were down to one. He hopes to have the third one back running soon. Commissioner Jackel asked about the balance owed on the piece of equipment that Solid Waste is still making payments on. Mr. Davis believed it was around \$150,000.00. Commissioner Lockley asked how much a new knuckle boom truck cost. Mr. Davis answered approximately \$130,000.00.

Michael Moron asked the Board to address item #7 on Alan Pierce's report while Mr. Davis was present at meeting:

7- Provide Board an update on discussions with Waste Pro over county-wide garbage collection. The Board may not be aware, but Waste Pro is the only large hauler operating in the region. Waste Pro provides garbage service in Wakulla, Franklin, Gulf, and Liberty counties. At this time Waste Management, which used to provide some routes in the four counties, is now only operating the county's transfer station.

Alan provided Mr. Ralph Mills, Waste Pro, with an estimated number of residential structures in the county, based upon calculations from the Property Appraiser, and Mr. Mills is going to verify his own estimates. Mr. Mills said, in response to the Board's concerns, that he can structure garbage collection in a variety of ways- including twice a week, 2 or more garbage cans per house, some bear proof containers for areas with high bear problems, etc. Mr. Mills

said that the most likely structure of collection would be a basic fee for once a week with one can, and then those residences who want more than once a week, or more cans, would pay for the additional charge. He is doing the same analysis for Calhoun County as they are also looking into county-wide garbage service.

On a related note, Alan did ask Mr. Fonda Davis for an update on his knuckle boom trucks. The county owns 3 knuckle booms, and as of last week, two were operational, and another one was awaiting parts. The age of the knuckle booms is 2003, 2006, and 2009. Mr. Davis plans to ask the Board to purchase another knuckle boom as soon as the front end loader is paid off, but that is still 4 years away and the oldest knuckle boom may not last that long. A new knuckle boom is approximately \$200,000. With the current workload of picking up roadside debris, Mr. Davis would prefer to have 4 operational knuckle boom trucks, but 3 is the minimum because if one goes down he has a hard time keeping up if only 2 are operational.

Mr. Davis spoke to the Board regarding the need for an additional Knuckle boom truck and repairs to the ones currently operating. The Board discussed further Commissioner Massey asked if there was a FEMA grant to help cover trash pickup on side of road. Mr. Davis said he would look into it.

**Pam Brownell- Emergency Management Director**

Ms. Jennifer Daniels stood in for Mrs. Brownell who was out of town attending a training seminar.

Action Items: NONE

Information Items:

1. Jennifer Daniels participated in the Big Bend Health Care Coalition Table Top Exercise in Tallahassee on April 22.
2. Pamela Brownell and Tress Dameron participated in the ANERR & US Coast Guard Exercise on April20-22.
3. Jennifer Daniels and Tress Dameron attended the webinar for EM Constellation Training April 28.
4. Jennifer Daniels and Tress Dameron participated in the State Hurricane Exercise on April 29.

**Erik Lovestrand- Extension Agent**

Mr. Lovestrand was not present at the meeting.

**Mike Cooper- Weem's CEO**

Mr. Cooper updated the Board on financial claims and issues at the hospital. He stated that CMS Medicare owes the hospital approximately three-quarters of a million dollars.

Commissioner Jackel asked when this money was expected to be received. Mr. Cooper expects it to arrive this week or next week. He also stated the newly hired billing company is doing a good job. They have found approximately \$400,000.00 in funds that had not been billed out by the previous billing company.

Mr. Cooper updated the Board that the hospital's telemetry equipment is not operational and patients are being transported elsewhere for this service. A new system will cost approximately \$56,000 and hospital wishes to finance this at approximately \$2,000-\$3,000 per month. Mr. Cooper and Commissioner Jackel discussed where and how the equipment would be purchased.

**Commissioner Jackel motioned to approve the purchase of the new telemetry equipment and it be paid for out of the Healthcare Trust Fund rather than financing the equipment. Attorney Shuler mentioned the bid policy and that the hospital can declare this purchase as a sole source provider and also as an emergency purchase since patients cannot be admitted into the hospital. Commissioner Jackel stated that it meets both those bid policy requirements. Seconded by Commissioner Parrish; motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Cooper updated the Board on USDA Loan application status.

Mr. Cooper updated the Board on the situation with the new doctor who decided not to begin employment at Weems. The hospital is continuing to recruit for a new physician and there are discussions/ interviews scheduled next week with three potential physicians. Commissioner Sanders asked if Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare was participating in the recruitment of new doctors. Mr. Cooper stated he has spoken with them however they did not play a part in the doctor who decided not to come.

Commissioner Sanders stated she does not want to see a decrease in the healthcare services in our county. She wants to see consistent healthcare coverage for the people of Franklin County. Mr. Cooper agreed that we need to have more providers to spread out over the county so there are adequate healthcare services.

Commissioner Parrish asked if the residency that Mr. Cooper mentioned is coming from Tallahassee (TMH). Mr. Cooper stated that this resident contacted him and inquired about a

position. The doctor currently does rural residency which would be beneficial to our area. Mr. Cooper and Commissioner Parrish further discussed the options on attracting more applicants.

Commissioner Lockley asked how Weems was planning on funding the salaries of more doctors. Mr. Cooper explained.

Commissioner Jackel asked if Dr. Stockwell was helping with the recruiting process. Mr. Cooper stated that he was involved.

Commissioner Jackel also stated Sacred Heart may be opening a clinic on St. George Island.

**Commissioner Jackel motioned to direct Mr. Cooper to investigate what it would take to have Weems open a clinic on the St. George Island in the future. Commissioner Parish seconded under the condition that this was only a fact finding mission. Motions carried; 5-0.**

Commissioner Lockley stated Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare does not seem to be helping Weems recruit a new physician. Mr. Cooper stated that TMH is working with Weems inside the parameters of their contract. Mr. Cooper and Commissioner Lockley discussed the matter further.

Commissioner Jackel announced there is a federally sponsored clinic in Eastpoint, FQHC and they are available to serve the public.

John Graham, Weems CFO spoke to the Board about financial status of Weems and collecting unpaid claims.

Commissioner Sanders asked about impact of Low Income Pool funds. Cooper explained. Commissioner Parrish also commented and clarified what Mr. Cooper stated.

**RECESS: (10:04)**

**RECONVENE: (10:13)**

**Michael Moron addressed #9 on Mr. Pierce's report:**

9- On the Board agenda is the opening of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a consultant to assist the Board in RESTORE Act. An RFQ does not have any fee amount. The deadline for submitting the RFQ was Friday, May 1, and the RFQ can be opened at any time during the

meeting, as the ad just said the RFQ would be opened during the meeting. Any respondent should have submitted 6 copies so that each Board member can have one. Only one firm responded and it is the firm that is working with both Gulf and Wakulla counties on RESTORE activities. After opening the RFQ, the Board needs to decide if each member would like to keep a copy and review the proposal, and then Alan will put it on the May 19 report for discussion of options.

**Motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Jackel to table the issue until next meeting. Commissioner Parrish stated that all commissioners will not be present at next meeting and would rather wait until a full Board was present. Commissioner Sanders amended her motion to table issue until second meeting in June. Motion carried; 5-0.**

**Marcia Johnson- Clerk of Courts**

**Mrs. Johnson was not present. No items to report.**

**Alan Pierce- Director of Administrative Service**

1- Board action to adopt Proclamation that May is Boating Safety Month in Franklin County. The Proclamation is being sent to all counties in the region by Flotilla 12, Apalachee Bay, and District 8 of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Mr. David Rabon, US Coast Guard Auxiliary may be present to speak. **This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.**

2- Inform the Board that the FAC has sent in the dues for next fiscal year, and Alan has provided the dues to the Finance Office so that it will be included in the budget calculations. The new dues structure for Franklin County will be \$2021.

**Motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley. Motion carried 5-0**

3- Inform the Board that the Finance Office is preparing to send out the budget letters to all county departments and constitutional offices. Unless the Board has different advice, the letter will read, "Please keep your request at your current adopted budget. Any increases will need to be justified to the Board."

**The Board discussed and they were in agreement with the structure of the letter.**

Last year the Board decided in advance on the allocation for the non-governmentals so those groups did not have to appear at the budget workshops. Does the Board want to take that same approach and send the non-governmentals a letter saying they will be funded at this year's amount, and not receive budget requests and presentations from the non-governmentals?

Commissioner Jackel and Commissioner Sanders recommended the letter remove the wording “they will be funded.”

4- Because of the failure of the legislature to complete its budget process on time the county finance office will not be getting state revenue sharing, retirement rates, etc, from the DOR in a timely fashion. The Finance Office has already been notified by Capital Health Plan that it will not be able to produce its rates until July 6. The Finance Office will do all it can to produce an estimated budget on time, but the state has made the task this year very difficult. The Finance Office will have a better idea by June 1 if there is going to be a significant delay in getting proposed budget information out of the state.

5- Inform the Board that the El’s Court acquisition is slowly moving through the system. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has sent a draft contract to Mr. Shuler to review. It appears that the acquisition will occur in 2 stages, with Capital City Bank selling the land to TPL, and then TPL selling the land to the county. This is the similar arrangement we had when the county acquired the Indian Creek property.

**Attorney Shuler updated the Board on the status of the transaction and requested Board action for approval of the Chairman to sign the contract. Motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley; motion carried 5-0.**

6- Provide copy for the Board file of the annual financial report for the Wilderness Coast Public Libraries.

7- Provide Board an update on discussions with Waste Pro over county-wide garbage collection. The Board may not be aware, but Waste Pro is the only large hauler operating in the region. Waste Pro provides garbage service in Wakulla, Franklin, Gulf, and Liberty counties. At this time Waste Management, which used to provide some routes in the four counties, is now only operating the county’s transfer station.

Alan provided Mr. Ralph Mills, Waste Pro, with an estimated number of residential structures in the county, based upon calculations from the Property Appraiser, and Mr. Mills is going to verify his own estimates. Mr. Mills said, in response to the Board’s concerns, that he can structure garbage collection in a variety of ways- including twice a week, 2 or more garbage cans per house, some bear proof containers for areas with high bear problems, etc. Mr. Mills said that the most likely structure of collection would be a basic fee for once a week with one can, and then those residences who want more than once a week, or more cans, would pay for the additional charge. He is doing the same analysis for Calhoun County as they are also looking into county-wide garbage service.

On a related note, Alan did ask Mr. Fonda Davis for an update on his knuckle boom trucks. The county owns 3 knuckle booms, and as of last week, two were operational, and

another one was awaiting parts. The age of the knuckle booms is 2003, 2006, and 2009. Mr. Davis plans to ask the Board to purchase another knuckle boom as soon as the front end loader is paid off, but that is still 4 years away and the oldest knuckle boom may not last that long. A new knuckle boom is approximately \$200,000. With the current workload of picking up roadside debris, Mr. Davis would prefer to have 4 operational knuckle boom trucks, but 3 is the minimum because if one goes down he has a hard time keeping up if only 2 are operational.

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

8- Board decision on whether to require a performance bond as part of the contract with New South Systems to replace the Chapman Auditorium roof. When Alan reported the base bid of \$144,800 at the last meeting, the bid did not include the cost of a performance bond at \$4900. A performance bond is not a warranty on the roof, but it does provide the Board protection in the event the contractor fails to complete the project. This contract will be complete by June 30 and there will be at most 3 pay requests. If the Board wants to include the cost of the performance bond then the base bid will be \$149,700. Board action.

**Commissioner Parrish questioned the pay requests and performance bond and asked for clarification from Attorney Shuler. Attorney Shuler explained.**

**Motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Jackel to approve the \$4900 bond. Motion carried 5-0.**

9- On the Board agenda is the opening of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a consultant to assist the Board in RESTORE Act. An RFQ does not have any fee amount. The deadline for submitting the RFQ was Friday, May 1, and the RFQ can be opened at any time during the meeting, as the ad just said the RFQ would be opened during the meeting. Any respondent should have submitted 6 copies so that each Board member can have one. Only one firm responded and it is the firm that is working with both Gulf and Wakulla counties on RESTORE activities. After opening the RFQ, the Board needs to decide if each member would like to keep a copy and review the proposal, and then Alan will put it on the May 19 report for discussion of options.

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

10- Board action to approve Resolution of Recognition for 35 year employee Rachel Ward. (Ms Ward had prior engagements scheduled and was unable to attend today's meeting.)

Commissioner Parrish accepted award on behalf of Mrs. Ward.

**Motion by Commissioner Sanders to approve Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Lockley; motion carried 5-0.**



Board acknowledged Stella Bryant; deputy with Franklin County Sheriff's Office was also retiring and thanked her for her 35 years of service with the Sheriff's Department.

11- In the beginning of the process of taking Alan's name off certain titles utilized by DOT on any Local Agency Program (LAP) project, the Board needs to adopt a Resolution naming me, Michael Moron, as Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Liaison Officer, Title VI Officer, Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Officer; and naming Robin Brinkley as Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator/Section 504 Grievance Officer.

**Motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley. Motion carried 5-0.**

12- Board action to adopt an ADA Transition Plan for Accessibility of Pedestrian Facilities. This Transition Plan is a requirement to keep the county LAP certified. The Plan has been developed in conformance with DOT standards and needs to be adopted by the Board. Mark Curenton developed the plan. Board action.

**Motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Parrish. Motion carried 5-0.**

**T. Michael Shuler- County Attorney Report**

Attorney Shuler did not have a report.

**Commissioners' & Public Comments**

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Moron for an update on the Roberson audit.

Commissioner L Lockley commented that neighboring county hospitals may be closing and he wants to make sure that Franklin County does not end up in the same situation. He does not want to see our hospital shut down.

Commissioner Parrish also commented on the hospital issues.

Commissioner Sanders welcomed Michael Moron to the Board and congratulated him on a job well done for his first day.

Commissioner Parrish motioned to postpone the public hearing that is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the ordinances until full board can be present. Seconded by Commissioner Lockley; motion carried 5-0.

**Meeting Adjourned (10:26 a.m.)**

