

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY OF CARRABELLE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
AUGUST 4, 2015  
10:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** William Massey-Chairman, Joseph Parrish-Vice Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, Pinki Jackel.

**Others Present:** Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Marcia Johnson-Clerk of Court, Lauren Luberto-Deputy Clerk to the Board, Lori Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

**Call to Order**

Chairman William Massey called the meeting to Order.

**Prayer and Pledge**

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**Approval of the Minutes**

**Commissioner Parrish made a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings held on July 21, 2015, July 23, 2015 and July 29, 2015. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion.** Commissioner Jackel requested the following amendments to the minutes of July 21, 2015:

Page 2. Mr. Nabors said the St. George Island parking lot is being torn up by vehicles doing donuts and the bumpers will be placed one day next week. The minutes should reflect the parking lot is in Eastpoint.

Page 6. Mr. Blair said TDC has a changed meeting schedule and is only meeting once a month with a meeting tomorrow and another the end of August. The minutes should be amended to include the changed meeting schedule is for summer.

Page 8. Motion by Commissioner Sanders to authorize staff to begin negotiations with Inovia. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. The minutes should reflect the motion was seconded by Commissioner Parrish.

**Commissioner Parrish amended his motion to include the amendments to the minutes of July 21, 2015. Commissioner Sanders seconded the amended motion. Motion carried; 4-0.**

### **Payment of County Bills**

**Motion by Commissioner Jackel to approve payment of the County's bills as presented. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried; 4-0.**

Mr. Alex Quintana, Congresswoman Gwen Graham's Office, reminded the Board the Congresswoman's office hours in Apalachicola are today from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Sanders asked about the latest update on the dredging for the Eastpoint channel. Mr. Quintana stated the funding is being pursued at the DC level. Commissioner Sanders said it is needed as soon as possible as the County has been waiting for years. Commissioner Jackel agreed it has been pursued at the DC level for many years. Chairman Massey said every time the funding is received then it is taken away. Mr. Quintana reported the last time the money was reallocated was during Katrina in 2005. Commissioner Sanders said the County was told they would get the money back. She stated any help would be appreciated as there is a great need.

### **Department Supervisor Report**

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

Mr. Howard Nabors appeared before the Board but had no report at this time. Chairman Massey asked about the tractor. Mr. Nabors said it will be about 2-3 weeks. Commissioner Sanders requested Mr. Nabors check on drainage on the roads due to the rain.

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

Mr. Fonda Davis appeared before the Board. Commissioner Sanders discussed a complaint from Ms. Barbara Rohr about the recycling bins. Mr. Davis reported he talked to Ms. Rohr yesterday and would like to have a chance to fix the problem. Mr. Davis suggested pulling in the bins because they are being abused. He said the County may also need to install cameras. Commissioner Sanders agreed the bins should be pulled in and the cameras placed in the area. She said the cameras deterred people before but there is a constant problem in this area. Chairman Massey asked what is being put in the dumpster. Commissioner Sanders answered household garbage is being placed in the recycling dumpsters. Ms. Barbara Rohr, a resident of Lanark Village, appeared before the Board and presented pictures. She explained the photographs were taken in front of her home not near the recycling center. She reported this garbage was from a renter who never had trash service. Ms. Rohr stated the recycling center is in Eastpoint, but people do not use it because they know they can dump their garbage in Lanark Village for free. She expressed concern about the amount of money the County is paying to continuously clean the area. Ms. Rohr offered to help in any way to resolve this situation. **Motion by Commissioner Sanders to direct Mr. Davis to close the Lanark recycling area until further notice. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion. Motion carried; 4-0.**

Mr. Moron presented item #6 from his report:

Informed the Board that on **July 29**, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) informed the County that they will be accepting FRDAP applications from August 3 to August 14. As a reminder, we currently have two open projects, Vrooman Park in Eastpoint and D. W. Wilson west of Apalachicola. The application period was moved forward and shortened because the legislature is meeting earlier in 2016. Time is of the essence, especially to allow Mr. Curenton the opportunity to gather the required documentation and information to complete an application, so the Board would need to decide today if and what project will be submitted and authorize the Chairman to sign the appropriate documents.

Mr. Moron said he found out this morning the County only has one open project. He explained D.W. Wilson did not score high enough to get funded this year. He reported the Board needs to decide if they will apply and what projects will be submitted. He said Attorney Shuler may need to help with the wording of the motion as the Board will need to trust the staff to get the applications together. Commissioner Jackel questioned if the County is allowed three applications and what projects are open. Mr. Moron verified the County is allowed three and only has one open project-Vrooman Park. He said the D.W. Wilson project can be resubmitted and one other application. Commissioner Sanders asked what can be done to up the score to get the D.W. Wilson project funded. Mr. Moron said he is not sure but the staff will research a way to try and get this project funded. Mr. Moron stated he will talk to Mr. Alan Pierce this afternoon about this issue. Commissioner Sanders said Kendrick Park was built with FRDAP money . She suggested shelters over the stands as a project. Mr. Moron said Mr. Curenton thinks the project at Kendrick Park may not qualify as it must be a primary project. Commissioner Sanders said she would like lights and shelters at Kendrick Park. Commissioner Parrish questioned if the property at Ell's Court had been purchased. He suggested placing picnic tables at the Ell's Court property. The Board was not sure if this project would qualify for FRDAP funding. Commissioner Jackel asked if the new playground equipment was received for Vrooman Park. Chairman Massey said some equipment is being moved and some equipment is new. Commissioner Jackel recommended asking staff to get together the projects that will score the best and discuss the projects with Mr. Pierce and Mr. Curenton. Commissioner Jackel said staff should find out the deficiencies for the soccer fields and if the score can be bumped up then it should be a high priority. Commissioner Jackel asked if a list of projects can be submitted to the Commissioners. Mr. Moron said due to the time frame involved, the Board would need to hold a special meeting to approve the projects. Commissioner Jackel stated she does not have a problem with authorizing the Chairman to sign the applications as long as each Commissioner knows the list of projects and has an opportunity for final input before it is submitted to the Chairman. **Commissioner Jackel made a motion for staff to do as we had instructed this morning to get together the best scoring and possibilities for the projects and notify the Commissioners what our choices are and then coordinate it through our best**

**efforts for the Chairman. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried; 4-0.**

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director

Action Items:

1. Requesting Board approval of RFQ's of The Management Experts for the grant for \$12,300 to conduct a Homeland Security Exercise.

**Motion by Commissioner Jackel to approve the RFQ of The Management Experts for the grant for \$12,300 to conduct a Homeland Security Exercise. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried; 4-0.**

2. Requesting Board approval of Debris Removal Service Contractor:

Mrs. Brownell said the RFQs were ranked as follows:

1st-Crowder Gulf  
2<sup>nd</sup>-Bergeron Emergency Services  
3rd-Ashbritt, Inc.

**Motion by Commissioner Parrish to approve the RFQ for the Debris Removal Service Contractor. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried; 4-0.**

Information Items:

3. Jennifer Daniels will be attending the G-270.4 and G-557 class in Defuniak Springs on August 5-6.
4. Pam Brownell and Tress Dameron will be attending the FEPA Mid-Year Conference on August 12-14.
5. Pam Brownell will be attending the LEPC meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee.
6. Pam Brownell will be attending the Area Contingency Meeting in Panama City on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Brownell reported the County did not overspend the original budget for the Jail Retrofit project so 75% of the \$16,000 will be covered by the grant. She stated the County will only be out a little over \$4,000.

Mr. Moron presented Mr. Lovestrand's report as he is in Monticello attending an Ag Innovator Program and presenting Franklin County's selection which is Watkins' Honey.

### **Erik Lovestrand – Extension Agent**

UF/IFAS Extension Faculty have been involved in the following Extension activities during this period.

#### General Extension Activities:

- Extension Director attended town hall meeting with Dean of Extension regarding revenue enhancement and staffing plans for IFAS Extension.
- Extension Director attended NW District County Extension Director meeting for planning.
- Extension staff moved their office from the Armory to the 3rd floor of the Courthouse while construction activities take place in the Armory and at the former ANERR building where they will eventually move. Assistance by an inmate crew was very much appreciated to accomplish move in one day.
- Extension Director assisted a citizen with a honey bee swarm that needed to be relocated and also a Duke Energy employee in Carrabelle that needed bees removed from a power supply box.
- Extension staff assisted with providing "return on investment" information to the Governor's office related to the funding received in this year's state budget.

#### Sea Grant Extension:

- Extension Director assisting Apalachicola Farmers Market regarding information related to seafood safety and state requirements for mobile seafood vendors.
- Extension Director participated in oyster sampling trip for UF research project.
- Extension Director collected water samples from pond near Carrabelle for homeowner to assess water quality issues.

#### Agriculture/Horticulture:

- The Extension office provided identification services for homeowner who had an invasive plant in the yard.
- Extension Director attended the Ag Innovator luncheon and highlighted Franklin County's own George Watkins for his innovative practices in his tupelo honey production.

At this time the Public Hearing to abandon Wefing Street and Austin Street on St. George Island was discussed. Attorney Shuler requested, since the public hearing was relocated from the advertised location in Apalachicola to Carrabelle, the Board defer the Public Hearing until the end of the meeting. He reported the change in location was posted on the website, broadcast on the radio and staff is present at the Courthouse in Apalachicola, in case anyone appears. He stated staff will direct them to this meeting so everyone has an opportunity to be heard. **Commissioner Jackel made a motion to amend the agenda for the Public Hearing from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion. Motion carried; 4-0.** Attorney Shuler stated a notice was also posted yesterday notifying everyone of the change in venue for the public hearing.

Mr. Moron said at this time the RFQs for Airport Consulting Engineers will be opened and then forwarded to the Airport Committee for review and a recommendation. Mr. Moron said a shortlist was going to be prepared but there

Grimail Crawford, Inc.	Chiplew
Avcon	Niceville
Volkert	Panama City Beach

**Motion by Commissioner Sanders to forward the RFQ's to the Airport Committee for them to come back with a recommendation. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion. Motion carried; 4-0. Mr. Moron said interviews will be scheduled at a later date.**

Mr. Moron said Mr. Chad Taylor, Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition (RCSC), is doing today what Mr. Dave McClain has done in the past and is here to discuss the \$5,000 contributed by the County. Mr. Moron stated the money is already in the budget. Mr. Taylor reported he is the coordinator of the RCSC. He explained in 2007 the six Board of County Commissioners on the Riparian counties, the counties bordering the Apalachicola River, joined together to address the allocation issue. He presented the Board with 2 handouts and said the Board already has these items digitally on the I-pads. He informed the Board he is a volunteer coordinator. He discussed the funding received from the County and the importance of the assistance he receives from Ms. Janice Watson, Apalachee Regional Planning Council. He said part of the budget goes for these services. He reported he is traveling to all six counties to go over the annual report and will finish tonight in Gadsden County. He discussed the summary report and the Sustainable Water Management Plan (SWMP). He said this year the main challenge of the RCSC will be implementation of the SWMP. He reported there is a recommendation for the formation of a transboundary water management institution. Mr. Taylor reported the Coalition successfully had a person work with the State Legislature, Senator Montford's Office, to get the Fish & Wildlife Commission to fund a study of a section of 20 miles of the Apalachicola River. He stated they hope this will be the beginning of an Apalachicola Comprehensive recovery and management plan for the river and bay. He informed the Board the study will begin next week. He said they have a consultant that will get the RCSC

an application from the six counties into the FDEP Restore portal to support the development of that plan and projects throughout the basin. The Board was presented with copies of the SWMP and Mr. Taylor discussed items in the plan.

**Recessed 9:40 a.m.**

**Reconvened 9:50 a.m.**

**Marcia Johnson– Clerk of Courts**

1. Board action is requested relative to the Value Adjustment Board (VAB):
  - a. Two County Commissioners must be appointed;
  - b. A citizen member who owns homestead property within the county must be appointed. The citizen member can't be a member or employee of any taxing authority. Mr. Walter Armistead has graciously served in the past and has expressed a willingness to serve again;

Commissioner Sanders and Chairman Massey volunteered to serve on the Value Adjustment Board. **Motion by Commissioner Parrish to nominate Chairman Massey and Commissioner Sanders to be the Value Adjustment Board members. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion. Commissioner Jackel asked if Mr. Armistead should be included. Commissioner Parrish amended his motion to include appointing Mr. Walter Armistead as the citizen member of the Value Adjustment Board. Commissioner Jackel seconded the amendment. Motion carried; 4-0.**

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

Attorney Shuler did not have a report at this time.

**Michael Morón – County Coordinator – Report**

1. Inform the Board that the Chairman and I attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Carrabelle Community Fish Display. There were representatives from Senator Montford's office, Representative Halsey Beshears' office, City of Carrabelle's elected officials and staff, TDC members and members of the public. The display is located at the boat ramp on Marine Street in downtown Carrabelle. Pictures of the display are attached. Commissioner Sanders reported she did not get notice until after 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday and had already made plans. She stated they need to let everyone know if they have activities and want the Board members to participate they are going to have to give more notice than half a day. Chairman Massey said he happened to be working near the ribbon cutting. Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Moron to please let Mr. Curt Blair, TDC, know about this and in the future if they have items and want Board participation, they need to give ample notice. Mr. Moron agreed to contact Mr. Blair.
  
2. Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on a Professional Services Proposal for Timber Island Bridge railing repair that will be provided by Preble-Rish. A copy of the proposal and pictures of the damage are attached. **Motion by Commissioner Sanders to authorize the Chairman's signature on a Professional Services Proposal for the Timber Island Bridge railing repair. Seconded by Commissioner Jackel. Motion carried; 4-0.**
  
3. Board action to authorize the County to enter into an agreement to purchase Citizenserve. At the Budget Workshop on July 23, while reviewing the Building Department's budget, I discussed the need and benefits of the County purchasing this software. We would like to engage this company as soon as possible so we can start the data migration from the current system. Attorney Shuler is assisting us with the final version of the agreement. **Motion by Commissioner Parrish to enter into an agreement to purchase Citizenserve contingent upon Attorney Shuler's final approval. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried; 4-0.**

4. On Monday July 27, Attorney Shuler and I attended a meeting of the Northwest Florida Eight County Coalition in Walton County. This meeting was very well attended. There were speakers from some of the eight impacted counties (County Commissioners and/or staff), the legislative staff of US Representatives Gwen Graham and Jeff Miller, staff members from Workforce/Career Source, Gulf County TDC, Escambia County Economic Development, and an Economist from the University of West Florida. The speakers with the most important message were from the U. S. Department of Commerce, who discussed the importance of this one-time opportunity of leveraging RESTORE funds along with Federal funds for projects that would not be accomplished under any other circumstance. At some point the Board will be presented with a Resolution to join "Team North Florida".

Mr. Moron said at the Northwest Florida Eight County Coalition meeting he felt Franklin County was not included. Commissioner Parrish apologized to the Board and the public for not attending this meeting. He reported at the last minute he could not attend due to a conflict with work. Commissioner Jackel reported Franklin County is one of the eight counties and has a desire to take their place. Mr. Moron said the Board needs to move forward with considering a Restore Coordinator and needs to engage in what is going on. Mr. Moron suggested when Mr. Pierce moves into more of a part-time position the Board may wish to task Mr. Pierce with creating a Restore Coordinator job description. He suggested the Board begin interacting more with the others. He reported when Mr. Pierce decides to leave the County, the Board would then have a job description, a report and know what tasks need to be accomplished. Commissioner Jackel stated when the BP funding mechanisms get started this is going to be a complicated task. She stated at this time the County does not have the staff to perform the job as this project will be highly specified to federal, state and funding grant issues. Commissioner Jackel said the Board may need to look at the budget and make an appropriation for this type of position. Mr. Moron reported when he met with Dewberry they feel there is a way to get funding for this position. Commissioner Jackel said it may be paid for with administrative fees. Commissioner Sanders stated there has always been a disconnect with these seven counties. She said the County was contacted about the meeting as an afterthought. Mr. Moron agreed Franklin County was not on the agenda.

Commissioner Sanders reported when she attends the meeting in St. Petersburg she will tell them that Franklin County is not going to be left out. She informed the Board the Legislative delegation is not going to let anything happen to Franklin County. Commissioner Jackel said Franklin County has been well represented at the Stakeholders meetings as Commissioner Sanders has attended all of them. Commissioner Jackel stated everyone knows Franklin County must be considered. Commissioner Sanders said in the future they can let Franklin County know at the appropriate time they let everyone else know.

5. Inform the Board that Ms. Deborah Belcher has notified the County that the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has *tentatively* ranked the Franklin County Housing CDBG application in the fundable range. There will be a site visit by DEO on August 20. Mr. Curenton suggests that the Board authorize a RFQ for administration of this grant, so that once it is approved and funded, the County would be in a position to move forward. Board action.

**Motion by Commissioner Parrish to authorize a RFQ for administration of the Housing CDBG application. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion.  
Motion carried; 4-0**

6. This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.
7. Inform the Board that the County received a letter from the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget requesting that we identify and document the positive return the State would receive for the \$250,000 provided for the new IFAS facility. I asked Mr. Lovstrand from the local IFAS office to respond. Both letters are attached.
8. Inform the Board that the office of the Federal Highway Administration sent an email apologizing for the delay in responding to the letter we sent on June 23, 2015 requesting that they evaluate US 98 between Eastpoint and Carrabelle for base or subsurface failure. FHA stated that their office has recently been in a transition period but they have contacted Florida

Department of Transportation District three offices about the Board's concerns and FHA should be getting back to us soon.

9. At the July 23 Budget Workshop the Board discussed purchase of a second ALS ambulance that is in addition to the one that will be purchased with the grant. The Board could not take action at the Workshop, but wanted to discuss this matter further today. Board discussion.

Mr. Moron reported Mr. Mike Cooper, Weems Memorial Hospital, moved his report from today to the next meeting because that is when the Board meets with the Hospital Board. He questioned if the Board wants to move this discussion also. Commissioner Sanders asked if Mr. Cooper provided any information. Mr. Moron answered no but stated Mr. Cooper basically said he is asking for the ambulance but said it is the Board's decision about how to pay for it. Commissioner Sanders reported the Board requested information about the ambulance. Mr. Moron agreed to check and make sure this information is included in Mr. Cooper's report at the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Jackel questioned if Mr. Cooper will be present at the regular meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Moron said he will attend the regular meeting and the meeting with the Hospital Board in the afternoon. Commissioner Sanders suggested the Board table this item. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to table the discussion of the purchase of another ALS ambulance until the next regular meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried; 4-0.**

Chairman Massey asked if the TDC has money to place some park benches beside the sidewalks in Eastpoint. He said people walk in this area and sometimes need to sit down. Commissioner Jackel suggested the inmates may be able to build the benches. Chairman Massey asked Mr. Moron to contact the warden at FCI about constructing 9-10 benches. Chairman Massey asked Mr. Moron to get a price and bring it back to the Board. Mr. Moron agreed to call Mr. Mike Shiver and keep the Board informed about the status of this request.

Commissioner Sanders asked if there has been any information received from DOT as to when the paperwork is being sent down to sign for the paving of Bald Point Road. Mr. Moron will check into this matter. Commissioner Sanders

reported the letter and agreement should have already been received.

Commissioner Jackel asked Mr. Moron to follow up with the State about information turned over to them for the design work completed by Preble-Rish for bathroom construction for the St. George Island fishing pier. She said it was duplicated for the Eastpoint end of the fishing pier. She said the items and projects were going to be state bid and state construction with the NERTA funds the County was notified they were going to receive. She said the County was told these would be advertised and let out to bid and she requested Mr. Moron follow up on this matter. Mr. Moron agreed to handle this matter.

Chairman Massey asked Mr. Clay Kennedy, Preble-Rish, when the back streets paving will begin. Mr. Kennedy said they are working on the design and getting this advertised.

The Board conducted the Public Hearing to Abandon all of Austin Street and Wefing Street on St. George Island. Attorney Shuler presented a handout to the Board with an attached proposed Resolution for the Board's consideration on the proposed abandonment of all of Austin Street and all of Wefing Street on St. George Island. He stated this matter has been properly noticed by the Board for the Public Hearing and he received communication from Mrs. Amy Kelley at 10:34 a.m. that no one showed up in Apalachicola for this hearing. He said the Board is in a position to proceed if they so desire. Chairman Massey agreed for Attorney Shuler to proceed. Attorney Shuler discussed a diagram of the area. He reported no part of Bay Shore Drive is being abandoned. He said Austin Street and Wefing Street are located in Blocks 29, 30 and 31 of St. George Island Gulf Beaches Subdivision, recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 14 of the Official Records of Franklin County. He explained approximately 30 lots are involved. He stated one of the concerns when the Board considers abandonment of a public street is to make certain no one is landlocked and everyone will always have access to a public street. He explained all these lots, as of now, have access to Bay Shore Drive and if the Board decides to abandon Wefing Street and Austin Street the property owners will continue to have access to Bay Shore Drive. He stated none of the roads involved are used for either state or federal highway purposes and are exclusively local access roads owned by the County. Ms. Gathana Parmenas

asked if the number of access points to the bay will be reduced if the County abandons these roads. She also questioned who the property is abandoned to and who has the right to build or use the property. Commissioner Jackel said regarding the abandonment she doesn't remember being part of this Board and abandoning any streets so this is not a typical action this Board is known for taking. She stated the Board has received requests and has not honored these requests as they realize the value of public access to the County. Commissioner Jackel reported one of the things to be considered in this abandonment is that the County has never maintained this area. She stated for a number of years the road has been blocked off from public access by an electronic gate so it has been treated as a private road. Commissioner Jackel reported this matter came up as a result of a transfer of property by the church to some individuals and it was thought to be a scrivener's error in recording. She went on to say the public has never had access to this area and it should not have been recorded as a public street. She went on to say the citizens may not have been aware of all of these issues. Commissioner Jackel stated once the error had been found, then the Board is trying to take action to correct the mistake. Mr. Armistead said this does not block the public off from access to the bay as there has never been access to the bay from Austin Street or Wefing Street. He said the area is surrounded by lots so there is no access to the bay. Attorney Shuler stated it was believed for decades that the County had already abandoned these two roads but no evidence could be found of an actual formal abandonment. He stated it was reported to him that the County has issued building permits for structures constructed within Wefing Street which would tend to support the belief that the roads had been abandoned decades ago. **Motion by Commissioner Jackel to, based on the advice of Attorney Shuler, abandon the property known as Austin Street & Wefing Street on St. George Island. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion. Motion carried; 4-0. Mr. Armistead thanked the Commissioners and the Planning Office on behalf of the First Baptist Church of St. George Island.**

### Commissioners' & Public Comments

**Ms. Brenda LaPaz, Carrabelle City Commissioner, welcomed the Board to Carrabelle and thanked the Board for making the meeting easily accessible to the local community. She stated the Fish Display ribbon cutting was extremely**

**short notice and many individuals were unable to attend. She thanked the Board for the relocation of the recycling bins and the privacy fencing in the west parking lot. She stated it is a great improvement to the area.**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.**

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William Massey - Chairman

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts