

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
DECEMBER 1, 2015
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: William Massey – Chairman, Joseph Parrish – Vice Chairman, Noah Lockley, Cheryl Sanders, Rick Watson

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

Call to Order

Chairman Massey called the meeting to Order.

Prayer and Pledge

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 16, 2015.

Payment of County Bills

On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve payment of the County's bills.

Presentation – Resolution of Recognition – Robert Rickards

Mr. Robert Rickards, Public Works, appeared before the Board. Mr. Moron read the Resolution of Recognition. Commissioner Sanders stated Mr. Rickards is an example of a good Father, Husband and Friend. She congratulated Mr. Rickards and said she hoped he enjoyed his time as he worked hard and deserves it. Chairman Massey agreed and said Mr. Rickards is one of the best workers that have ever been with Franklin County.

Department Directors Report

Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works

Mr. Nabors informed the Board he has worked with Mr. Rickards for almost 29 years. He reported Mr. Rickards has always done his job and they will miss him.

Mr. Nabors stated the Road Department hauled 82 loads of milled asphalt and it will be distributed throughout the County. Commissioner Sanders asked if the milled asphalt is good. Mr. Nabors said the quality is fair.

Mr. Pierce stated there was an accident report filed for the guardrail damage on Bluff Road at the Cemetery in Apalachicola and the State Attorney's Office will be seeking restitution for the County. He also discussed damage to a guardrail at Walnut Creek on Highway 67 and said it is a heavy duty guardrail and will be expensive to replace. Mr. Nabors said they contacted the Florida Highway Patrol and Sheriff's Department but no accident report has been filed. Commissioner Sanders reported it would have to be a big vehicle to do this damage and this guardrail will have to be fixed. Mr. Pierce stated they will discuss this item with Mr. Clay Smallwood, Preble-Rish. She questioned if the County's liability insurance will cover this item. Mr. Pierce stated they do not know who did the damage. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to look into the cost of repairing the guardrail and check with the insurance company and see what available money the County may have through the insurance company.**

Chairman Massey asked if the Board needs to advertise for Mr. Rickards' position. Mr. Nabors said the County needs to advertise for an inmate supervisor. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to advertise for an inmate supervisor.**

Mr. Nabors said lights were being pulled up on St. George Island and then it rained so hopefully it will dry up this week and they will put the lights back.

Commissioner Sanders stated she is receiving phone calls about 4 wheel drive vehicles on the graves at Carrabelle Evergreen Cemetery. She requested Mr. Nabors extend the barricades in this area. Mr. Nabors reported they have some barricades at the shop that can be used. Chairman Massey stated the City of Carrabelle has three culvert pipes that are available and may be used also. Commissioner Sanders suggested using the barricades until the City of Carrabelle does something about this problem. Mr. Nabors reported they have put up barricades before in this area.

Commissioner Sanders reported she is also receiving complaints about the mosquitoes. She asked Mr. Nabors to contact Mr. DeWitt Polous, Mosquito Control Department, about increasing the spraying. Mr. Nabors stated they sprayed Sunday and last night. Commissioner Lockley said traps are also needed in the ditches.

Mr. Moron read the following item from this report:

5. Inform the Board that after the November 16th meeting, I was informed that there was an accident report regarding damage to the 12th Street/Bluff road guardrail. The State Attorney's office will include the amount to repair the guardrail to its original state as part of the plea deal. I sent a copy of the accident report to the Clerk's office so that it is forwarded to the County's insurance company.

Mr. Moron said the individuals' insurance company is also included in this report.

Mr. Pierce stated the State inmate squads are not getting out as regularly as they were before and it is not the fault of the County. He explained when there is a shortage of employees at DOC then the inmate supervisors are needed as prison guards so the inmate crews are not available to work. Mr. Nabors stated the County has 5 inmate crews and the State has 2 crews. Mr. Pierce reported this item was just for information for the public. Commissioner Watson asked if this is a permanent problem. Mr. Nabors said it has been a problem for the last couple of years. Commissioner Sanders explained the warden attended a couple of meetings and discussed vacancies at the prison. Commissioner Lockley stated there is always a shortage this time of year as people are taking vacations and maybe it will be back to normal the first of the year.

Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Mr. Davis stated on November 23rd when they arrived at work they found the compactor on fire. He reported they have been in touch with the insurance company and the engineer will be here today to see what caused the fire. He explained the adjuster will then come down and tell the value. Mr. Davis said the compactor was insured in 2004 for \$420,000 which was full coverage at the time but due to depreciation the County is not sure how much they will receive. He explained there are two quotes at this time one to lease the equipment and another to buy the equipment outright. Mr. Pierce reported the Finance Department might like the Board to wait until they know what amount will be received from the insurance company before making a decision. Commissioner Sanders asked what is being done now as the County does not have a bulldozer. Mr. Davis said they are renting the equipment. Chairman Massey asked what the best route is for the County. Mr. Davis explained the only difference in buying outright is the payments will be a little higher than the 5 year lease. He stated the lease has a balloon payment of \$185,000 at the end of the lease and the County still has to pay the maintenance. Commissioner Sanders said the payment is \$126,638 over a 5 year term with a 2.95% interest rate to buy the equipment. Mr. Davis reported Ring Power added another year to the finance arrangements and that will drop the payment \$10,000. Chairman Massey said it may be better to buy because you have a balloon payment at the end of the lease. Commissioner Parrish reported the County may be able to buy the equipment outright depending on what is received from the insurance company. Mr. Davis said the amount of the payment to purchase the equipment is \$126,000 and the lease is \$90,000. Commissioner Sanders reported the Board needs to wait until the insurance adjuster determines how much the County will receive for the claim. Mr. Davis stated the rent for the equipment being used now is \$10,800 a month.

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

6. County staff received a complaint, with pictures, of what appears to be illegal dumping on St. George Island. This is an ongoing problem that County staff has been dealing with for some time. Mr. Davis, Solid Waste Director, has informed this company on previous occasions of their violations. Board action to authorize Attorney Shuler to review the information and proceed with enforcement action if appropriate.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize Attorney Shuler to review the information and proceed with enforcement action if appropriate. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.

Commissioner Parrish discussed an area where Brownsville Road meets Oyster Road and household garbage is always dumped. Commissioner Parrish said the County cleans the area and then someone places the garbage again. He explained there are some reports the garbage is coming from other counties. He said the same problem is occurring all over the county and there is going to have to be some enforcement. Commissioner Parrish stated they do not know who the offender is but maybe a camera is needed to find the individual and prosecute them. Mr. Davis stated the Sheriff's Office may have some cameras. Mr. Moron reported the updated website will have a location to send in information or a photograph if individuals see something like this happening. Commissioner Sanders said this action needs to be uniform all over the county because everyone is having this problem. Chairman Massey said the City of Carrabelle wrote a ticket last week for \$500 to a contractor bringing the garbage in from Sopchoppy. Commissioner Lockley reported this garbage makes the whole county look bad. **Commissioner Watson amended his motion to include directing Mr. Davis to look into placing cameras in the other areas. Commissioner Lockley amended the second. Motion carried 5-0.**

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director

Mrs. Brownell recommended the Board accept Florida Retrofit Construction Company as the Residential Construction Mitigation Program contractor. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to accept Florida Retrofit Construction Company as the Residential Construction Mitigation Program contractor.** Mrs. Brownell said the program will start moving forward when the figures are sent to the State. She explained the State will approve the houses and then the work will get started. Commissioner Lockley asked if they are still taking applications. Mrs. Brownell answered yes and said the County been awarded another grant for Residential Construction Mitigation. She stated they are continuously taking applications at their office and processing the houses. Commissioner Lockley asked Mrs. Brownell to explain about this program for the public. Mrs. Brownell stated this program is for wind mitigation for homes. She explained a wind mitigation inspector was hired and he inspects the homes and then provides a report detailing what is wrong with the house. She reported they determine the cost for completing the work and submit the request to the State. Mrs. Brownell said the State will either approve the house or request they reduce the cost. She explained if the repairs cost more than the house is valued at then they will automatically deny the request. She stated they will replace roofs and shutter windows. She reported the State now requires an out swinging door on every home that is mitigated. Mrs. Brownell stated the cost for tying down the house if it is not tied down must be included in the price so the house will not be shifted off of the foundation. She reported this program is free to

the public and is State money not a matching grant. She stated individuals can come to their office and pick up an application to start the process.

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

1. Inform the Board Alan has coordinated with Ms. Pam Brownell and Mr. Byron Griffith, Dewberry, to amend the county's required Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) to include replacing the Eastpoint lift station serving the county jail and landfill. The EOC is in the final stages of updating the LMS and Alan has asked Pam to include the replacement of the lift station as a high priority on the LMS. Mr. Griffith is looking at funding sources, and one of those sources funds projects that are listed on the LMS. The updated LMS is being submitted for state review in December. After the state finds the LMS in compliance, Pam will then ask the county commission to adopt it. The deadline for updating the LMS is Feb. 16, 2016 so Pam's office is on schedule. For the Board's information, the state requires the LMS to be updated every five years. In the past, the LMS has provided points for projects that did get funded, such as raising the approaches to the bridge over the Pine Log Creek.

Mrs. Brownell stated both municipalities have to also adopt the LMS. She explained once the State approves the LMS then she will ask the Board to adopt it and then ask the two municipalities to adopt it also. Mrs. Brownell stated the two municipalities should not have any problem adopting it since they both have projects in the LMS.

Erik Lovstrand – Extension Office Director

Mr. Lovstrand informed the Board the 4-H Youth Club had a booth at the North Florida Fair for the first time in many years and is staying active and getting involved in many ways.

Franklin County Extension Activities November 17, 2015 – December 1, 2015

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

General Extension Activities:

Franklin County Extension Director attended the NW District CED Fall planning meeting in Tallahassee and presented potential goals for 2016 related to the Sea Grant "Regional Specialized Agent" component of his work. These will be focused around shellfish and the seafood industry.

Extension Director met with County Administrative Staff regarding participation on the Restore Council for Franklin County.

Sea Grant Extension:

County Extension Director attended field trip to Cedar Key to learn about Sea Grant projects being conducted in this area of the state.

Extension Director met with SMARRT group to provide an update on ISSC proposals that will affect our local seafood industry.

Extension Director met with Bay County Sea Grant Agent to plan budget for FWC Dark Skies Initiative grant that will be coordinated through UF/IFAS and address Franklin, Bay and Gulf Counties.

The Sea Turtle Lighting Specialist is working with property owners who have agreed to retrofit beach lighting to come into compliance with the County turtle lighting ordinance. She is assessing equipment

needed for purchase through the FWC grant with Franklin County.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

Program Assistant is still continuing to implement children's nutrition education in the Franklin County School and ABC School.

Agriculture:

Extension Director put together a slide program and provided a workshop for homeowners on the topic of invasive cogon grass (one of the top 10 worst weeds in the world now) and strategies for eliminating it and preventing its spread.

4-H Youth Development:

Franklin County 4-H Saddle Club is meeting on a monthly basis. They have decided to change their name to the Franklin County Making Strides 4-H Club and expand their topics beyond horse interests. The club participated in the North FL Fair with a club booth highlighting what they have been learning this year. Individual projects received a first and second place ribbon. They have participated in field trips to various horse farms where they have learned safe handling and grooming techniques and basic confirmation skills. They also took a field trip to observe cattle tagging and veterinary care.

Amy Anderson – Eastpoint Medical Center – Update

Mrs. Amy Anderson, Center Manager, appeared before the Board and said their goal is to provide quality primary care services to the entire Franklin County community including the underserved and uninsured. She explained they are staffed by one provider Ms. Diane Napier, Nurse Practitioner. Mrs. Anderson stated Ms. Napier treats patients from infants to adults and is currently accepting new patients. She said they also have a full time and part time receptionist and an LPN who are all local to Franklin County. She reported they accept most insurance including CHP, Medicaid HMO, Medicare and Florida Blue. She explained they also offer a discounted fee for services on a sliding fee basis to their patients that do not have insurance or are underinsured. Mrs. Anderson stated they have a smoking cessation class with Big Bend AHEC on a monthly basis and the class provides free tips and tools to help individuals quit smoking. She reported their corporation, North Florida Medical, has received a second year grant from the Walgreens Colorectal Screening Initiative. Mrs. Anderson explained this grant provides screening to patients 50-75 years of age at no cost to the patient. She said in the past year there have been 150 patients with positive results. She stated they provide a certified application counselor to help individuals obtain health insurance through the Federal Marketplace, Medicaid and Florida Kid Care. She introduced their counselor, Ms. Pat Walker. Ms. Walker discussed the Affordable Health Care Act through the Marketplace. She stated one of the services they provide is helping consumers with the application process. Ms. Walker reported they determine if the individual is eligible, assist them with enrolling and help them select a health plan. She stated to purchase a plan through the Marketplace the individual must have a source of income. Ms. Walker explained for those who are not eligible they assist them with Medicaid and Florida Kid Care. She stated open enrollment started November 1st and will go until January 31st. She stated they are trying to notify the community that they help with this application process and if there are other community agencies or organizations that would

like to have this information they will be glad to provide the information. Ms. Walker said for those individuals who are not eligible for The Marketplace, Medicaid and Florida Kid Care they have a sliding fee scale so they can at least obtain primary health care with a qualified physician at Eastpoint Medical Center. She offered to provide information and said several other counties and communities are also providing this information. Commissioner Watson asked how many patients they are seeing a day. Ms. Anderson stated they are averaging 10 patients a day. Commissioner Watson inquired about their hours. Ms. Anderson reported their hours are 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Mr. Alex Quintana, Congresswoman Gwen Graham's Office, appeared before the Board. Chairman Massey asked if there has been any news on the Eastpoint Channel. Mr. Quintana answered there has been no change since the last meeting. He reminded the Board of the Congresswoman's office hours today. He offered to answer any questions about the Affordable Health Care Act or help with federal agencies. Mr. Pierce stated Mr. Ray Maynard, Alligator Point, has contacted their office in Washington about the total lack of response from FEMA in assisting the County with relocating Gulf Shore Boulevard. Mr. Pierce stated Mr. Maynard is a property owner on Gulf Shore Boulevard and if they do not get this road relocated he and four other people will lose access to their homes. He reported the County has a FEMA PW for rebuilding the road in its current location but DEP will not allow the County to rebuild in this location as it is on the beach. He went on to say over a year or two ago he made a request to relocate the road and the relocation request has not been approved. Mr. Pierce said the request is not for more money but simply to relocate the road. He stated the County has an easement already approved with the State of Florida but FEMA needs to approve a change in the scope of work. Mr. Pierce reported Mr. Maynard is very upset about the length of time this has taken and has been in contact with their office. Commissioner Sanders reported some people have already lost access to their homes but the County has put them a temporary way in. She stated these people need help and the County is tired of trying to go through FEMA and not having any response from FEMA. Mr. Quintana agreed to meet with Mr. Pierce after the meeting and then get in touch with Ms. Jessica Lamb who is the Congresswoman's liaison with FEMA and a case can be opened. Attorney Shuler reported the temporary access easement expires in June of next year and the County has been informed that the owner is not likely to extend the easement so time is of the essence.

Recessed 9:38 a.m.

Reconvened 9:50 a.m.

Jason Puckett – Airport Manager – Update

Mr. Puckett reminded the Board the Airport Rehab Project involves removing the old material in the expansion joints and resealing them and also repairing some of the concrete slabs. He stated a preconstruction meeting will be held this month and a Notice to Proceed for Polaronis Construction will be issued January 11th. Mr. Pierce presented the signed contract with Polaronis Construction. Mr. Puckett said work on the access road into the industrial park was waiting on a wetland delineation

study and a survey but Preble-Rish has completed these items so Avcon is working on the plans.

Mr. Puckett reported the Airport Lighting Project will be replacing all the current lights with LED lights and running conduit in the ground. He stated the drawings are 90% complete and it should be ready for bids in the spring of 2016.

Mr. Puckett said the airport beacon that lets everyone know where the airport is has been down for about a month and a half and they have been looking at whether to repair or replace the beacon. He explained the beacon was scheduled to be replaced as part of the Airport Lighting Project. He stated Avcon and DOT were contacted to see if this beacon could be replaced now because money has already been allocated for this project. He went on to say the beacon can be replaced now and this will be done in January as part of the project.

Mr. Puckett explained the NDB (non-directional beacon) for instrument approaches into the runway has been decommissioned by FAA. He went on to say FAA decommissioned 742 of these beacons across the country and the beacon on Runway 1-4 will be decommissioned the first quarter of next year. He said there are GPS approaches to this runway.

Mr. Puckett reported when Mr. Lee Lewis, Avcon, appeared at a previous Board meeting he discussed an economic development survey and approached DOT and received a grant in the amount of \$100,000 for an Economic Development Survey. He explained this is a standalone grant and they are working on the JPA (Joint Participation Agreement). He reported when the JPA is completed it will be submitted to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Sanders asked if the airport is doing good on fuel. Mr. Puckett answered yes. Mr. Pierce reported they have sent 2 checks. Commissioner Sanders stated she would like to make sure there is fuel available over the holidays. Mr. Puckett said the Seafood Festival was a big event for the airport and he did not hear of any fuel shortages.

Open RFPs – GIS Planning Map Service

Mr. Moron reported the RFP's will be opened and then forwarded to a committee for review and then a recommendation will be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Pierce said these proposals are based on a grant the County received from Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for \$25,000 to assist the County with developing a single layer of GIS data. He explained the data that will be provided is not currently available in the Property Appraiser's Office and will add a layer to their maps. Mr. Moron stated there may also be a link added to the County website for this information to help reduce traffic flow in the Property Appraiser's office. Mr. Moron and Mr. Pierce opened the RFP's for the GIS Planning Map Service, as follows:

George F. Young, Inc.	Gainesville, Florida
VHB, Inc.	Orlando, Florida
Panda Consulting	Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
CSA Ocean Sciences, Inc.	Stuart, Florida
Grimail Crawford, Inc.	Tampa, Florida
Bay Media	Apalachicola, Florida
RAM Professional Group, Inc.	Jacksonville, Florida

Commissioner Lockley made a motion to turn the bids over to a Committee consisting of Mr. Mark Curenton, Mr. Alan Pierce and Mr. Michael Moron for review and a recommendation. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion. Commissioner Watson asked if all the applicants filed their proposals on time. Mr. Moron answered yes and said all proposals were due by 5:00 p.m. yesterday. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Alan Pierce – RESTORE Coordinator – Report

Mr. Pierce appeared before the Board and presented the following report.

- 1- Board action to appoint Mayor Van Johnson as the City of Apalachicola's appointment to the RESTORE Advisory Council (RAC). The City has sent an email verifying the appointment. This will now make 6 members on the RAC.

On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to appoint Mayor Van Johnson, City of Apalachicola, to the RESTORE Advisory Committee (RAC).

- 2- Inform the Board that the first RAC meeting is intended to be held on Dec. 15 at 5 PM. This will be an organizational meeting.

Mr. Pierce stated Dewberry will be at the meeting to give a general presentation about the Rollover Act.

- 3- Inform the Board that Florida's Great Northwest agency has requested staff representation from each of the 8 Panhandle counties to attend 2 meetings in order to develop an over-view presentation of what the panhandle needs in order for a "regional economic transformation" of the panhandle. The meeting will be facilitated by Florida's Great Northwest with an expected presentation to the Board of Trustees of the TRIUMPH fund in January. Below is an excerpt from the email that explains the purpose of these 2 meetings.

"Serving as the regional economic development organization, Florida's Great Northwest (FGNW) is the natural convener of all these key stakeholders. FGNW has engaged Vision First Advisors (VFA) to facilitate the development of this level setting presentation. In addition to looking at other parts of the

country that have successfully gone through transformation, VFA will take your important input and formulate a presentation that truly defines regional transformational change. To clarify, this presentation will provide a definition/perspective of what regional economic transformation includes – this presentation will not be specific to a Northwest Florida regional transformation strategy, nor will it include discussions of potential projects for the region. This is an opportunity to paint the picture and educate the Trustees on what the elements of transformational change look like, and how other parts of the country have successfully implemented regional economic transformation.”

I have notified Ms. Theresa Baker, FGNW, that I will attend the meetings as staff representative for Franklin County. The meetings are Dec. 9 and Jan. 11 in Niceville. Does the Board have any comments or advice they want me to convey?

Commissioner Sanders said because so many people are trying to get the money from the BP settlement the County may never see any money and still have problems. She stated Opportunity FL is now getting involved as they represent half of the 8 counties. Mr. Pierce said the Great Northwest is getting involved because University of West Florida (UWF) is already involved and they are tightly bound. He reported the driving force is Senator Gaetz who is from that area of the State. Mr. Pierce expressed his opinion the County should be represented so they know what is happening at the meetings. Commissioner Sanders explained the same things keep happening all over again instead of the problems being fixed. She stated the County will probably never see any of the BP money. Commissioner Sanders stated she does not mind Mr. Pierce attending the meetings to see what is happening. Commissioner Watson reported it seems the County's natural ally in regional economic development is Gulf County as Franklin County has the airport and Gulf County has the port. Commissioner Sanders said the reason they include Franklin County is they know they must include the 8 counties affected as that is the way the Legislation is written. Commissioner Watson asked if all of the appointments are in place for the RAC. Mr. Pierce stated one appointment is still needed. He said there is no one from eastern end of the county on the committee. Commissioner Watson stated it would be great to have the last appointment before the meeting. Mr. Pierce reported the Board has a meeting the morning of December 15th. Commissioner Parrish questioned if Dewberry will attend every RAC meeting and give guidance to the committee. Mr. Pierce answered yes and reported they have already been through this with two other counties and knows what Treasury will accept. Commissioner Parrish said he does not want to waste time on a project that does not meet the criteria. Mr. Pierce explained the first step is to develop criteria the County feels is important in judging the projects. He went on to say they want to look at a scoring mechanism for what is important to Franklin County and that will be approved before they will ever look at projects. Commissioner Parrish questioned if some direction will be given to the RAC at the organizational meeting. Mr. Pierce stated Dewberry has the experience to guide the County through this program.

Mr. Pierce reported there was a big debate at the Consortium meeting about the money and the County does not know the outcome at this time. He said the Consortium voted for one set of disbursements but the Governor has to agree to the plan. He reported the vote was to split the money between all the counties but the Governor may or may not approve the plan. Commissioner Sanders reported she left

the meeting because the meeting was not going to change after 2-3 hours. She explained the 15 disproportional counties had a meeting that was questionable under the Sunshine rules about how to split the pot #3 money after a vote had already been taken at a previous Consortium meeting to split the pot #3 money 50-50. She stated the 15 counties feel they should get the same thing as the 8 affected counties. She reported Mr. Mike Sole, one of the Governor's appointees, said the members need to be looking at the projects not the dollars. Commissioner Sanders stated after many hours of bickering she reminded them it should be about projects not dollars but she was not going to listen to the bickering anymore and that people in our county are still hurting and having problems. She stated the check stations are back and the major oyster bar for the winter is not producing and yet people are still bickering about dollars they don't know they will receive. She informed the Board they continued to bicker so she got up and left the meeting. Commissioner Sanders reported they need to stop focusing on the 15 disproportional counties and focus on the 8 affected counties. She stated she told some of the members the estimate to restore Apalachicola Bay is \$40-50 million. She said they need to look at projects and what it means to the State of Florida and the environmental and economic factors. She reported it is going to be a fight with the pots of money. Commissioner Sanders said she does not think the Governor will approve the plan as his appointees did not seem pleased at the meeting.

Public Hearing – Adopt Capital Improvement Schedule

At this time the Board conducted a Public Hearing to consider an Ordinance adopting the Capital Improvement Schedule. Mr. Moron presented the draft copy of the Ordinance. He explained it amends the Comprehensive Plan and adopts a 5 year plan for capital improvements. Mr. Pierce explained this is a list of projects the County would like to see done over time if they get the money. Chairman Massey called for public comments. There were no public comments. Mr. Moron read the proposed Ordinance. Ms. Delores Hayward-Croom, a resident of Apalachicola, informed the Board she has resided at 233 12th Street for 16 years and there has been no sidewalk in this area and she asked if this sidewalk was included in this plan. She explained her yard is flooded when it rains and when she approached the City of Apalachicola she was told the County would take care of this and was given a name of a person to contact. Chairman Massey asked if the name she was given was Mr. Howard Nabors. Mrs. Hayward-Croom answered yes and said some rock was placed there but the area is still flooding. She went on to say in June she had three deaths in her family and on one of those occasions when family members were getting in the funeral car they had to remove their shoes because of the water. She appealed to the Board to have someone look at this part of the sidewalk. She reported the sidewalk was paved from Avenue M to the D.W. Wilson Softball Park and some sidewalk was repaired from Avenue I to Highway 98 but this area was not addressed. Commissioner Lockley asked Attorney Shuler to address this issue. Mr. Pierce said the County did participate in building the sidewalk from Avenue M all the way around with the Rebuild America program but it was a County funded project with federal money. Mr. Pierce said the project on 12th Street now is a state funded project. He stated the County has always tried to assist the City but the sidewalks have always been a City responsibility. Mr. Pierce said the County can help but the City needs to take the lead on the sidewalks. Attorney Shuler reported they have discussed this issue before and his position as County Attorney is that the sidewalk is legally the City's

responsibility as it is within their municipal boundaries but the County always tries to be helpful. He went on to say the ultimate legal responsibility belongs to the City not the County. Attorney Shuler explained the County has submitted many grant applications for repairs to the Eastpoint Water & Sewer system for infrastructure but it does not make the improvements a capital asset of the County. He said similar projects have been done for the City of Carrabelle. Commissioner Sanders stated there is a need for some clarification on the position the County needs to take because while the ownership is being debated the people need work done. She explained the County can assist the City but the City does not need to say this is the County's problem. Chairman Massey stated he works for the City of Carrabelle and the sidewalks belong to the City but if he needs help he can call and the County will assist. Commissioner Lockley said in the past the County helped the City cover ditches. He explained the City bought the pipe and the County installed it. He stated if they need help, the County will assist but they do not need to blame the County. Commissioner Lockley reported the sidewalk is in the city limits. He said the County will work to get something done. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Ordinance adopting the Capital Improvement Schedule, as follows:**

ORDINANCE 2015-03
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADOPT A NEW FIVE YEAR SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, Franklin County is required to annually update the Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements in its Comprehensive Plan,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that the currently adopted Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements is repealed and a new Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements, as shown in the attached Exhibit A, is adopted.

Any other ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are herewith repealed.

This ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.

This ordinance adopted this 1st day of December, 2015, in a regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners.

**THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**BY: S/William Massey
William Massey, Chairman**

ATTEST: S/Marcia M. Johnson

 Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk

EXHIBIT A

PROJECT	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Funding Source
Infrastructure						
Lift Station @ Jail		\$300,000				Grant Funding
Parks and Recreation						
Fort Coombs Armory Renovations	\$350,000					Historical Grant
	\$535,000					TDC Funding
Fort Coombs Armory Phase II		\$180,000				Historical Grant
		\$180,000				County Match
Vrooman Park Improvements	\$50,000					FRDAP
SGI Beach Access Walkovers					\$200,000	FRDAP
Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park - Renovations		\$180,000				FRDAP
D. W. Wilson Park Improvements-Soccer/Basketball		\$ 50,000		\$100,000		FRDAP
Will Kendrick Park					\$100,000	FRDAP
Transportation Facilities						
Gulf Beach Drive Relocation		\$435,000				FEMA
Bald Point Road Resurfacing	\$1,443,446					FDOT LAP
CR 370 Alligator Drive Sidewalk			\$371,000			FDOT LAP
CR 65 (Bayshore Drive) Bike Path	\$ 54,825		\$407,000			FDOT LAP
CR 379 Mill Road Reconstruction		\$1,728,000				FDOT LAP
CR 67 Tallahassee Street Sidewalk	\$ 61,863	\$ 294,000	\$199,000			FDOT LAP
Apalachicola Airport - Drainage				\$ 500,000		FDOT Aviation
Apalachicola Airport - Rehab Pavement				\$ 3,000,000		FDOT Aviation
Apalachicola Airport - Rehab Runway 06/24 Phase II			\$306,075			FDOT Aviation
Apalachicola Airport - Stormwater and Drainage	\$ 512,000	\$ 32,000				FDOT Aviation
Apalachicola Airport - Rehab Runway 18/36 Phase II	\$ 200,000	\$ 661,653				FDOT Aviation
Apalachicola Airport - Rehabilitation				\$1,149,000	\$351,000	FDOT Aviation
Apalachicola Airport Capacity					\$600,000	FDOT Aviation
TOTAL	\$ 3,207,134	\$3,740,653	\$1,283,075	\$ 3,600,000	\$300,000	

Commissioner Parrish made a motion to direct staff to write a letter to the City of Apalachicola instructing them the County received a complaint from Mrs. Delores Hayward-Croom about the sidewalk in front of her house and that according to Attorney Shuler it is the responsibility of the City and the County would like to make them aware of it but the County will assist if needed and also that the City of Apalachicola could seek an avenue for funding to improve the sidewalks. He went on to say

the City can apply for grants the same as the County. Mr. Pierce informed the Board the City of Carrabelle applied for a grant through Traffic Safety and received the grant and has a project going on now on Highway 67. He stated the City of Apalachicola has representation on a group called the Citizen Traffic Safety Committee and they do improvements to help with items other than road paving. He explained the City of Carrabelle is getting a new sidewalk with a grant. He said the County is the Administrator of the grant but the City of Carrabelle applied for the grant, developed the project and got the funding. He stated the County will assist with putting in the sidewalk. He stated the City of Apalachicola can do the same thing. **Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mike Cooper – CEO – Weems – Report

Mr. John Graham, Weems Memorial Hospital, discussed the September 30th balance sheet presented to the Board. He explained they were late getting the balance sheet prepared for the end of the fiscal year due to a computer conversion. He stated this is the document that goes to the cost report and the final financial statement of the year. He referenced the cash on hand on the balance sheet that represents 12 days cash on hand but said there are some liabilities that need to be paid with this money. He reported the net receivables at the end of September are \$1.7 million which is an estimate of how much will be collected of the \$3.4 million. He stated last year in September the net collectibles were \$953,000. He reported the money has not been collected yet which accounts for some of the cash problems. He said 47 days is the account receivable net collection cycle or how long it takes to collect a receivable. He explained the problem is payroll is due every two weeks and vendors need to be paid in 30 days or quicker so there is no margin for contingencies. He stated as of September 30th the liabilities are \$951,000 which is down from August but up from last September. Mr. Graham reported the ratio is 2.2 to 1 for current assets over current liabilities is fairly good but they want to turn the net receivables into cash. Mr. Graham reminded the Board they changed computer systems the last week of August and the whole month of September was on the new system. He said they went to Razor Insights as an option as they were in the process of being purchased by Athena who is a major company in the revenue cycle aspect of health care and hospitals. Mr. Graham stated the problems in September have played forward to now. He discussed coding problems and said the nation went to ICD-10 coding. He explained on October 1st Medicare slowed down payments because they were making sure their systems were set up to receive bills with ICD-10 coding. He discussed issues with coding and billing but said everyone knows it will be better after the first of the year when they receive the updated system from Athena. Mr. Graham stated physician recruitment is also a problem and they are paying a premium of \$1000 a day for locum tenens physicians and that is to have them here whether they see patients or not. He said this will get better when physicians are employed or move into the community. Mr. Graham reported on paper it is a good ratio of current assets to current liabilities but the challenge is turning the \$1.7 million net receivables into cash. He stated in September \$280,000-\$300,000 was in the process of being paid and was subsequently paid the next month. He reported some of this money was reserved in the income statement. He referenced the income statement for September and the end of the year and said the clinics lost \$18,000, EMS made \$270,000 and the Hospital lost \$230,000. He discussed the 64 ½% written off or reserved as potentially uncollectible even though some of it will be collected. He reported this is a conservative estimate. He said this figure as been 52% for the last two

years. Mr. Graham stated the Miscellaneous Income for the month of September is \$334,000 in Medicaid meaningful use money they received to offset the expenses incurred to acquire the systems. He reported the depreciation year to date is \$308,000 which is an increase of about \$120,000 over last year but due to the Medicare/Medicaid payor mix they will get back about 45% on the cost report. He said they are closing September with the new system so they are taking time to get everything right as this is the document they have to use to file the cost report. Mr. Graham stated they will be changing cost report consultants due to the problems in the past. He reported two proposals have been received from two excellent audit firms who will do cost reports for them. Mr. Graham reminded the Board there is still \$385,000 from 2011, 2012 & 2013 that they still have not received. He went on to say the cost report has to be filed this year in order to get the money back. He stated another \$380,000 cash will be coming this way in the near future but it does not answer the problems now. He informed the Board there was \$30,000 in ambulance repairs this month. He explained the income statement combines EMS, the clinics and the hospital. Mr. Graham referenced EMS operations and said it shows a \$269,000 profit for the year. He reminded the Board there is a lot of Hospital Administration time and effort that go into the clinics and EMS so these costs are kept on the hospital side as it helps with reimbursement on the cost report. He summarized by saying they have a cash flow issue at this time but it will get better as they have a dedicated staff and a dedicated billing company. He reported Mr. Cooper is working hard to recruit doctors. He said he hopes to have the October and November reports by the time he meets with the Board again. Chairman Massey stated he thought the ambulance paid for itself instead of coming out of the hospital funds. Mr. Graham responded they do not separate the funds as they have better paybacks from Medicare if they keep it all under the hospital. Commissioner Sanders expressed concern that this is not an accurate number. Mr. Graham stated these are the books that go to the Medicare cost reports. He offered to separate the allocations and email it to the Board but it is not the document used to file the cost report. Commissioner Sanders asked how many days cash are on hand. Mr. Graham answered \$139,000 or about 7 days and said payroll is due Friday. Commissioner Sanders inquired about the amount of payroll. Mr. Graham answered payroll is \$145,000. He explained they will make payroll but it is a constant juggling battle. Commissioner Sanders asked what the financial status of the hospital is today. Mr. Graham stated it is touch and go and what will cure everything is more services and more doctors using the hospital. Mr. Graham said it could be better but they are operating with county money now and breaking even with very little area for contingencies. Commissioner Sanders asked if the financial status is good, fair or bad at the hospital. Commissioner Sanders stated her job is to represent the people of Franklin County to the best of her ability and she would like to know the status of the hospital. She reported there are things taking place and she has a feeling she knows what is coming around and she is scared. Mr. Graham said the status is below average. He discussed the ICD-10 coding and said most places would set aside money to handle this issue but they do not have this option. He stated they are close to getting it above average because of the physician recruitment. He reported the only thing they can do is support Mr. Cooper with physician recruitment and add more services and recruit doctors who will use these services. Commissioner Sanders asked if the vendor payments are up to date. Mr. Graham answered no. Commissioner Sanders questioned how far back the bills are owed. Mr. Graham answered 55 days. He stated local businesses are paid quicker and payroll is on time. Commissioner Sanders explained Mr. Jim Bacharach, Hospital Board, asked this Board to move ahead with building the new hospital and she and Chairman Massey

voted against moving ahead with the new hospital. She said after the vote they were criticized and ridiculed by some people within the facility because they did not support the hospital. Commissioner Sanders stated at a prior meeting she and Chairman Massey said they had people asking for a public hearing to discuss everything before the County moves forward with the hospital. She stated no one from the hospital communicates with her and now she hears they are going to build an emergency room and not a hospital. She reported she and the Board have always supported the hospital. She questioned how a new hospital can be built with the internal problems now going on with the current hospital. Commissioner Sanders stated the cash flow problems have to be corrected first and providers need to be bringing people into the facility. She said this is the reason she did not vote to move forward with the new hospital. She reported there has not been a public hearing and she would like to hear what the people of the County want. She said it is very sad to see the hospital in this state and questioned why they think they can carry on with the new facility. She reported she will not support the building of a new facility until the numbers are better. Commissioner Sanders reported she has asked them several times to get Dr. Charbonneau back as the people want him back. She said everyone can work together to fix the problems. Commissioner Sanders stated the Hospital Board is not an independent Board and they answer to the Commission and the Commission answers to the people of Franklin County. Commissioner Watson stated the balance sheet is solid and asked what kind of collections on receivables they are expecting. Mr. Graham stated \$280,000-\$300,000 will be coming in the next month and the receivables are being worked hard. He reported the \$385,000 will come from the cost report but it will be a onetime shot. He said the cash flow problems start with providers and they need providers using the hospital. Commissioner Watson stated the trends with the current management are very positive but there are cash flow problems. He asked if this is common with small hospitals. Mr. Graham explained this is the same problem with all small limited providers and this hospital is one of the few that stands alone. He reported Medicare and Medicaid tell you what they will pay and there are also indigent programs so you don't get what you charge. He explained they get about 50% of what is billed and have to serve anyone who comes in the door. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for their support but stated hospitals struggle throughout the Country. Commissioner Watson asked if this is a short term problem. Mr. Graham stated it is short term unless they don't fix the physician recruitment. Commissioner Watson questioned if about 2/3 of the care provided is uncompensated. Mr. Graham answered about 55%. Commissioner Lockley questioned if this is the first time this problem has occurred. Mr. Graham answered no. Commissioner Lockley said it will not be the last time either as this is common with small hospitals. Mr. Graham agreed it is very common. Commissioner Watson asked if hospitals usually have a trust fund or have a line of credit. Mr. Graham said some have an operating line of credit with a bank or an affiliations or joint venture with other groups. Mr. Mike Cooper, Weems Memorial Hospital, stated in the beginning a "stand alone emergency room" was discussed but it will not work here. He reminded the Board the numbers he provided at the workshop show it will cost more to build an emergency room than a hospital and operationally it will lose more money than a hospital. He explained what is being designed now is rebuilding the emergency room, radiology and patient rooms but it will still be hospital. He reported several meetings have been conducted with consultants and an architect. He stated they are making good progress on the design and hopefully will show diagrams of the building the next time they meet. He reported they have

changed the design to pare down the building and not lose any functionality of the facility. He said the square footage has gone down and the project number may go down. He stated they are not building an ER they are building a hospital. Mr. Cooper stated all of the RFP documents for construction management have been presented to the Commissioners. He said they may be some misunderstanding about what they are asking for. He explained the document is the same kind of document as the RFP for the Carrabelle Clinic and Armory. He said the next step is to get an RFP out and bring in a construction manager on board. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to approve the use of the construction manager for the construction of a new hospital and authorizing the advertising of the Request for Proposals.** Chairman Massey expressed concern that the hospital may need more money or payroll in a couple of months if they do not get any money from the receivables. Mr. Cooper said it is possible. Chairman Massey stated they may have to draw \$500,000-\$600,000 out of the trust fund. He explained it will cost \$11 million to build the hospital and money is being borrowed from the trust fund for operating costs. Mr. Cooper stated he understands the concern but this is the business of small hospitals. Chairman Massey said he knows they are trying to make it but they have had 2 draws and also trying to build an \$11 million hospital. Mr. Cooper reported building an \$11 million hospital is not going to make finances any worse it will only make them better. Chairman Massey questioned if they can build the hospital for \$11 million. Mr. Cooper said the construction manager will be "at risk" for the cost of the hospital. Commissioner Watson reported having a construction manager "at risk" is a very valuable tool for owners doing projects as they have a budget and the construction manager says they will build that facility for the price you have or they will pay the difference. He explained you can still have change orders. Commissioner Watson said there are two issues-one is cash flow and the other is the construction manager. Chairman Massey expressed concern about the hospital borrowing twice and getting \$600,000 and not having much money left in the trust fund. He stated the money has to be paid back. Mr. Cooper said this will be treated the same as the \$400,000 and will be repaid timely. He went on to say Medicare owes them close to \$1 million but they will pay when they are ready. He explained small hospitals are more reliant on Medicare and if they do not pay one month then the Hospital has to wait. Commissioner Parrish asked if the hospital will repay the money when they are reimbursed from Medicare. Mr. Cooper answered yes and stated last time they got \$300,000 and it has been repaid. Mr. Cooper reported most small hospitals are part of a larger system or have a line of credit. Commissioner Lockley stated the situation will be the same without the new hospital. Mr. Cooper said it will probably get worse. Mr. Cooper stated there is \$800,000 to \$1 million in receivables from Medicare.

Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Commissioner Parrish said the Board is not hiring anyone just advertising the RFP's. Attorney Shuler stated this will advertise for the construction manager then the Hospital Board will put together a short list and then the Board would select someone from the short list but the procedure is entirely up to the Board. Commissioner Sanders asked for a public hearing to be held for the people to say how they feel.

Motion carried:

AYE: Lockley, Watson, Parrish

NAY: Sanders, Massey

Mr. Cooper asked for the ability to draw on the trust fund with the understanding the money will be repaid. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to allow the hospital to draw up to \$280,000 from the healthcare trust fund with a repayment obligation. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion.** Commissioner Watson reported he has a lot of faith in the CEO at the hospital and he has shown he is very experienced and confident and he is basing his vote and support on Mr. Cooper's performance and experience. Chairman Massey agreed Mr. Cooper is doing a good job but the issue is the money. He said he meets with Mr. Cooper regularly. Attorney Shuler said the Board needs to amend the motion to direct the Finance Department to cut a manual check. **Commissioner Parrish amended his motion to authorize the Finance Department to cut a manual check. Commissioner Watson amended his second.** Chairman Massey asked if this money is to pay the employees. Mr. Cooper said this will allow them to pay the employees and vendors. Mr. Alan Feifer, Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, stated Mr. Cooper is an excellent CEO but they have concerns the community is not able to generate the cash flow at the present time. He explained the balance sheets looks fairly solid but it is mostly made up of the money being provided from the healthcare trust fund. He stated the expenses went up \$1 million from 2014 to 2015 with revenues only going up a couple of hundred thousand. He said over the last 10+ years he has been attending the meetings, the issues are the same. He reported the problem is the hospital has no cash. He expressed concern that the new facility will cost more to run than the current facility. Mr. Feifer reported it is imperative to inform the public that the available money is insufficient to build a totally new hospital. He said the Board should want to know in advance what is being built and for how much. He went on to say they should know what additional money will be needed to equip the hospital, recruit physicians and introduce additional services. Mr. Feifer said the Board should ask Weems management to provide a budget for moving forward with a plan for predevelopment. He stated at this time they do not know what is being proposed and how much it will cost. He said his organization supports a costing exercise as Weems has spent more than \$500,000 on the project from the healthcare trust fund since the vote on the surtax actually passed. He reported physician recruitment is expensive and there is no money for this item. He stated they are paying \$1,000 a day for physicians now so it appears to be unsustainable. He stated the management is excellent but there is very limited cash flow from the population. He requested a public hearing and full disclosure so everyone can be included in the process. Commissioner Lockley stated pictures were presented of what is going to be built and what it will cost. He agreed new doctors need to be recruited but it is small here and hard to get doctors. He reported when Dr. Charbonneau was here they still had the same problem. He reported the money is there but it is taking time to get reimbursed. He said the Board has been putting off building the hospital and it is time to build it. Chairman Massey expressed concern about having to draw money for payroll and then possibly another draw. He stated there is enough money coming in taxes to probably pay the payment but is there money to operate the hospital. Chairman Massey said he is concerned about putting the County in \$11 million debt. Commissioner Watson said after the construction management firm provides plans then it would be appropriate to hold a public hearing. He explained the Commission has not moved forward on this project but they need all the facts so a rational decision can be made. Commissioner Sanders reported people and the Board should have the facts before they move forward. She said people think the workshop was a public hearing but it was not and the citizens have asked for a public hearing. She stated the numbers looked solid before and it was not. She expressed concern about withdrawing from the health care trust fund and then not being

able to pay the money back. She stated it may be the trend for small hospitals but it is not good business practice. Commissioner Watson reported he will support a public hearing before a final decision is made. Commissioner Lockley stated the people made a decision nine years ago when they voted for the tax. He said the clinic was built and now it is time for the hospital. Commissioner Sanders reminded the Board she asked at the workshop what happens if the numbers do not meet your expectations and where they expect to get the money from if the health care trust fund can't substantiate the payments and no one said anything. Commissioner Lockley asked how much is generated by the health care trust fund. Mr. Cooper answered \$1.8 million. Commissioner Lockley asked how much the payment is for the hospital. Mr. Cooper answered \$400,000 a year in bond payments. Commissioner Sanders reported there are some big problems at the hospital. Mr. Cooper stated the numbers they presented were based on the volumes the County has had for the last 10 years. He stated it is feasible and a work plan that they can rely on. Commissioner Sanders said there was a discussion about using ad valorem taxes if the health care trust fund is not available to make the payments. Commissioner Sanders stated everyone is for medical services in Franklin County and they need more doctors. She said there are some good things that are happening at the hospital as far as the employees and the treatment of patients but there are still some problems that need to be taken care of. She reported when a Commissioner brings things to the Hospital Board's attention then it should not be ignored. Attorney Shuler stated he and bond counsel have discussed the ad valorem tax issue and the USDA cannot make you raise your ad valorem taxes to repay the bond. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Commissioner Sanders said she was on the Board when the employees were not getting paid and she will never let that happen again. Commissioner Sanders asked what month the hospital was notified of the state grant for the ambulance. Mr. Cooper said the approval was received in May, the ambulance was ordered in June and the ambulance was received in October. Commissioner Sanders questioned why it is taking so long to get the second ambulance that the Board approved. Mr. Cooper said once it is ordered then they can tell where it is in the assembly line. Commissioner Sanders reported her understanding was they were waiting to see how the ambulance performed before they ordered another one. Mr. Cooper said they wanted to make sure they had everything they needed on the grant ambulance before they ordered the next one so everything will be uniform on both ambulances. He stated the second ambulance should be received in March or April. Mr. Cooper said he received the notice in November that CHP has finally added Weems effective today for ancillary care which will basically be radiology services. He reported he is working to try and get them brought on as a full partner. Commissioner Watson said this is excellent news. Mr. Cooper informed the Board EMS Director Hilda Pippin has resigned and will be retiring. Commissioner Sanders said she did a good job. Mr. Cooper stated the position was posted internally and is now being advertised externally. He reported they are reaching out to regional providers of Hospital based EMS's to help identify candidates with the proper management experience. He informed the Board he is available if they have any questions. Commissioner Sanders referenced the Hospital Board minutes which state no County representative is attending. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion for Mr. Moron to sit on the Hospital Board as Franklin County's representative. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report

Mrs. Johnson did not have a report at this time.

Michael Morón – County Coordinator – Report

1. This item was handled earlier in the meeting.
2. Inform the Board that the Restoration Plan for the Island View Park will be published as part of the Federal Register on Dec. 1, as the funding for the Restoration is coming out of some state controlled BP funds. Alan will attend the public comment meeting on Dec. 14th in Panama City on behalf of the Board as he has the most knowledge of the project and can answer any questions. DEP has called and suggestion that Alan attends the meeting in the event there are any questions. DEP supports the restoration plan as developed. If all goes well, the Island View Plan, as well as many other state plans, will be submitted to the Trustees for approval in January, with the expectation that restoration could start in the spring. The Board has previously agreed for Mr. Doug Hattaway, TPL, to handle the implementation of the restoration plan, so as soon as the plan is approved, the Board will then enter into a contract with TPL for the work. Included in the restoration plan are funds for 10 years worth of operation and maintenance so the development and maintenance of the Park should not cost the taxpayers any money for the first 10 years.
3. Inform the Board that renovations on Fort Coombs Armory are progressing. The repaired windows have been returned to the building and the ductwork for the air conditioning system is being installed. The interior wall treatment is being nailed up in the new-handicapped restrooms. The latest estimate for completion of the project is mid to late January.

Mr. Moron said the construction of the doors is slowing down the project. Mr. Pierce reported the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration is being planned in the Chapman Building.

4. Inform the Board that the Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has extended the public comment period for the Draft EIS and Water Control Manual of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin an additional 45 days until January 15, 2016.

"We have received several requests from various stakeholders throughout the basin to extend the public comment period to allow them an opportunity to completely review the documents prior to providing comments," E. Patrick Robbins, Chief, Public Affairs said. "Therefore we have extended the comment period for an additional 45 days."

5. This item was addressed previously in the meeting
6. This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.
7. Remind the Board that the December 15th meeting will be in Carrabelle at the City Commission meeting room starting at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Moron asked the Board to adopt the Resolution of Recognition presented earlier in the meeting to Mr. Rickards. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Resolution, as follows:**

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, ROBERT RICKARDS was born on March 25, 1960, and

WHEREAS, ROBERT RICKARDS began his career with Franklin County on November 10th, in the year 1980, at the young age of 21, and

WHEREAS, ROBERT RICKARDS first worked on a labor crew, then as an inmate supervisor and finally as a truck driver, and

WHEREAS, ROBERT RICKARDS worked days and instructed martial arts at night in order to care for his young family, his wife Sandy and son Joey, and

WHEREAS, ROBERT RICKARDS throughout his career has worked under the direction of Superintendents Mr. Prentice Crum, Mr. Hubert Chipman and currently with Mr. Howard Nabors, and

WHEREAS, ROBERT RICKARDS has served Franklin County for Thirty-Five Years and has been a hardworking, loyal employee, going above and beyond the job requirements, and

WHEREAS, The Franklin County Board of County Commission would like to extend its thanks for a job well done and wishes Mr. Robert Rickards the best in his retirement, and

WHEREAS, THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION RECOGNIZES ROBERT RICKARDS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO FRANKLIN COUNTY, and

NOW THEREFORE, THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION ISSUES THIS RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO ROBERT RICKARDS ON THIS 1st DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

s/William Massey
William Massey, Chairman of Franklin County
Board of County Commission

ATTEST:

s/Marcia M. Johnson
Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Court

Chairman Massey informed the Board he received a call from Mr. Ricky Banks that he pulled the axles out of their trailer at the boat ramp near Sportsman Lodge. Mr. Pierce questioned if the boat ramp is at Indian Creek or the end of Old Ferry Dock Road. Mr. Pierce said the ramp in the creek is being rebuilt completely with NERTA funds. Mr. Pierce stated the one at the end of Old Ferry Dock Road gets a lot of

traffic. Chairman Massey reported he will contact the individual and then let Mr. Pierce know which boat ramp.

Commissioner Sanders discussed some current legislation that will be going on with TDC and stated Commissioner Watson has some contacts in this area. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to allow Commissioner Watson to make contact on behalf of the Board on the legislation with TDC and come back with a report on where the Board needs to stand on the legislation. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report

Attorney Shuler stated he is presenting the Clerk with the original sales order agreement including the exhibits and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from ES & S for the election equipment.

Commissioners' & Public Comments

Mrs. Hayward-Croom presented the Board with the flyer from the last year for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event and said it was advertised as a Franklin County event. She reported the event has continued for 28 years and the Board members will receive a formal invitation. She stated she visited the Clerk and had a very pleasant conversation with her about this event. Mrs. Hayward-Croom stated Commissioner Lockley has attended and she thinks it would be appropriate for the other Commissioners to attend as the event is advertised as Franklin County's event. She stated the event will be held 1/18/16 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapman Auditorium. She thanked the Board on behalf of the Advisory Board for making the armory and auditorium available for the event. She advised the Board people are coming from all over the place and she invited them to attend and represent the Commission. She requested the Board consider co-sponsoring the event. She said in the past, sponsors have been community churches or other individuals. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to ask the TDC to help with this event.** Mr. Pierce stated there is a small county grant application process. Commissioner Sanders reported all the money has been given out on the small county grants but the request should be submitted and they will see what they can do. **Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Chris Langston informed the Board a shelling project is being done and bids will be let tomorrow allowing a high calcium limestone as an alternate material. He explained there is no data on how this material will accomplish the goal of maximum spat recruitment. He expressed concern that a foreign material is being introduced and used in place of a product they know works and has historically been used. He discussed the spat recruitment rates and the oyster growth. He reported the fossilized shell is giving the spat a better chance of survival. Mr. Langston questioned why this limestone would be used when the County has a source for fossilized or processed shell. He reported the high calcium limestone is coming from a quarry outside of north Marianna. He stated Apalachicola Bay is one of the most sensitive ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico and introducing a cheaper product is irresponsible in the management of the bay. He asked why they are shipping in a foreign material when we have a good

source of fossilized shell in the County. Commissioner Sanders asked where the second source of the material is. Mr. Langston answered Rock Landing. Commissioner Lockley asked who makes the final decision. Mr. Langston answered Department of Agriculture and local oysterman. He explained DOA- Division of Aquaculture, are doing projects in Panama City and Pensacola and they have met with the oystermen and the oystermen don't want this material. He stated now the local project has this material added as an alternate material. Chairman Massey said this is not the County's contact. Commissioner Parrish said the oysters will attach to any material you put in the bay but you cannot tong it. He reported they do not want a petroleum product put in the bay. He stated he has concerns about this material but no authority to stop the material. Commissioner Parrish stated he is opposed to putting limestone or limerock in the bay. He reported his understanding is the SMARRT group voted to allow the material in the bay. Commissioner Parrish said he has not seen the material. Mr. Langston agreed the spat will attach to anything but if it is not the right material it will stunt its growth. He went on to say the purpose of the shelling program is to try and restore the bars. Chairman Massey asked if Mr. Langston is ready to put the shell down on this project. Mr. Langston answered no, he is not ready to bid as his test scores are not back yet. Mr. Langston stated limerock has never been put in the bay and there have been no studies in the last 30 years. Mr. Pierce reminded the Board the SMARRT group apparently evaluated this item and voted on it so this may only be part of the story. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to write a letter to DOA stating the Board has concerns about using alternative materials and that we need to be better educated about the issue.**

Mr. Feifer appeared before the Board and said he needed to make a correction that the health care trust fund is not included in the hospital balance sheet and he misspoke.

Commissioner Watson said this is his second month since his appointment and he wanted to thank the County staff, Constitutional officers and Attorney Shuler for bringing him up to speed. He reported he is amazed at the number of issues that come before the Commission. He stated looking from the outside it looked like the Commission did not get along but being here, he has a lot of respect for each one of them. He explained most of the issues that come before the Board are unanimous and there will be some issues that are not but he has a great deal of respect for each one of them.

Commissioner Lockley asked if a sidewalk can be included in the paving project. Mr. Pierce said the paving money belongs to the Board and is not state funds so it is their discretion. Mr. Pierce stated the sidewalk is within the right of way. Commissioner Parrish reported the City of Apalachicola would need to be contacted due to the liability issue. Mr. Pierce said there is also a drainage issue in this area. Commissioner Parrish stated this is a City problem and they need to address it. Commissioner Sanders suggested contacting the City to see if they can reach some kind of agreement and then ask Preble-Rish to review the area. Attorney Shuler reported the City has their own engineering firm that is more familiar with City projects and should review the area. He suggested the County maybe contribute financially to a plan the City comes up with. He explained that is the way to structure the project that protects the County from a liability standpoint because all the County would be doing was providing

funds. He went on to say maybe the City can come up with a funding source of their own and the County can contribute funds to a plan their engineer draws up.

Mr. Pierce said a letter has been received from DOT that they will be working on a project on Island Drive which is a sidewalk project and the plans are complete and Mr. Smallwood has them. He explained the project was not designed by the County and there is no County money being spent on it. He stated it is a bike path on the east side of Island Drive going to the bridge and at some point there is a crossover. He reported the County is still working on another bike path on South Bayshore Drive so there are two projects.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

William Massey - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts