

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
JANUARY 19, 2016
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Michael Morón – County Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, 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 Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes of the meetings held on December 30, 2015 and January 5, 2016.

Payment of County Bills

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

Department Directors Report

Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works

Mr. Nabors said the County was lucky with all the high water that there were only some small washouts and no major damage. Chairman Massey discussed a tornado that touched down in the area and destroyed a light and a shrimp boat. Mr. Nabors stated he was contacted by the Sheriff's Department as they had a lot of trees down in the miles also.

Mr. Nabors stated Mr. David Amison has been hired as the new Inmate Supervisor. He explained this is the position vacated by Mr. Ricky Richards.

Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

Mr. Davis did not have any action items for the Board.

Mr. Davis reported the compactor and knuckle boom truck are on site. He said the compactor is working and they are waiting on insurance for the truck and then it will be out in the county.

Commissioner Watson congratulated Mr. Davis for the award he received at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration. Commissioner Lockley agreed it was very nice for Mr. Davis to receive this award.

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

4. Inform the Board that Mr. Fonda Davis and I met with FWC representatives and Ms. Debra Inlow of the Lanark Village Association to discuss the possibility of a “community dumpster program” in Lanark Village that will be funded by a FWC \$20,000 grant. Based on the meeting, what is being considered is a fenced in area, adjacent to the boat yard, which will have two bear-proof roll-a-way containers, one for household garbage and the other for recycling, which will be paid for by the grant. Representatives of the Lanark Village Association will control access to the site, based on a schedule that will be posted at the site. Solid Waste will pick up the containers based on use as determined by Mr. Davis. Since this is a test program, there is no expectation that the County will fund this program once the FWC grant funding is depleted. Toward the end of the funding, FWC Black Bear Management representatives will attend one of your meetings to discuss the outcome of the program.

Commissioner Watson stated several hundred thousand dollars was spent on bear permits and he heard the Governor might want to use some of the money for bear proof containers. Mr. Moron agreed to email Mr. Steve Shea and ask about this matter.

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director

Action Items:

1. Request the Board approval and signing of the Community Emergency Response Grant in the amount of \$5,720.00
2. Request the Board approval and signing of the Homeland Security Grant for Training and exercise in the amount of \$11,000.

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by

unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Community Emergency Response Grant in the amount of \$5,720.00 and the Homeland Security Grant for Training & Exercise in the amount of \$11,000 and authorize the Chairman to sign the grants.

Information Items:

1. Franklin County EOC Staff continue to promote our Re-Entry Tag program and encourage all residents to apply for their Re-Entry Tag.
2. EOC Staff is updating our Special Needs Database to verify current information of our Special Needs Residents.
3. Staff will attend the FEPA Conference and Training in Daytona from 01/31/16 to 02/05/16.
4. Jennifer Daniels completed required classes and has applied for her Advanced Professional Development Certificate.
5. Staff will be attending the 4th Annual Public-Private Partnership Summit from 01/18/16-01/20/16.
6. 01/11/16 Staff hosted and met with the RCMP Task Force.

Commissioner Watson inquired about the chlorine leak that happened in Apalachicola. Mrs. Brownell answered the City of Apalachicola had a chlorine leak and the Apalachicola Fire Department responded and called her. She explained her understanding is the vendor for the chlorine containers was contacted and was supposed to be a certified hazmat group but did not have a container. She stated they referred them to Valdosta but they did not have a container either so the Tallahassee Regional Hazmat Team was contacted. She explained the Tallahassee Regional Hazmat Team came down with a container, quickly contained the leak and cleaned up the area. She explained an after action report will be prepared and will help with their concern about all the equipment and training being for Leon County. She said it is fine since they are the regional team but rural counties need to have someone trained and who has equipment to at least hold their own until the regional team appears which takes about 2 1/2 hours or longer. Commissioner Watson questioned how the leak was discovered. Mrs. Brownell did not know how it was discovered or how much leaked as the City of Apalachicola had the leak and has all of the information. She stated her Department acted as a supporting agency. Commissioner Lockley asked if her Department had to evacuate too. Mrs. Brownell answered yes. She reported the Apalachicola Fire Department was great and completed the evacuations and as it got worse they added streets to evacuate to make sure no one breathed in the chlorine. Chairman Massey reported Franklin County has a good set of volunteer firefighters that do a good job. Mrs. Brownell said they do not have the equipment they need for this type of leak.

Erik Lovstrand – Extension Office Director

Chairman Massey stated Mr. Lovstrand is not present but Mrs. Jamie Johnson is present if the Board has any questions.

Franklin County Extension Activities January 6, 2015 – January 19, 2016

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

General Extension Activities:

- Extension Director assisted citizen with restricted pesticide exam information and scheduled a class for the Core Exam that will be open to others who need this certification (i.e. County staff, agency staff, private landscaping companies, etc.)
- Franklin County Extension Cluster Team met with FAMU Extension Staff regarding collaboration on activities in Franklin County.
- Extension Director met with the facility planning team regarding 60% architectural plans for the new facility. Adjusted timeframe involves 100% architectural drawings within two to three weeks and construction beginning by mid to end of March.

Sea Grant Extension:

- Extension Director met with other panhandle natural resources agents to discuss outdoor workshop planning for 2016.
- Extension Director met with Bay County Sea Grant Faculty and FWC Staff regarding budget and development for second Sea Turtle Lighting Grant.
- Extension and County staff submitted first quarterly report for the Franklin County sea turtle lighting grant 2016 year.
- Extension Director submitted annual Sea Grant OARS reporting information for the 2015 year.

4-H Youth Development:

- Franklin County Making Strides 4-H Club continues to meet.

Family Consumer Sciences:

- Family Nutrition Program Assistant continuing to implement in-school curriculum in Franklin County classrooms.

Agriculture/Horticulture:

- Extension Staff assisted citizen with soil test kit and information.
- Extension Director attended Panhandle Aquaponics Workshop in Leon County.

Anne Birchwell – Library Director

Mrs. Birchwell appeared before the Board and presented the following report:

- Mommy & Me Story time that used to be on Fridays at the Eastpoint Branch are now held on Saturdays from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. This program is for children ages 2 and up and includes stories, music, crafts, and puppets.
- Local musician, Frank Miceli, our piano teacher offered to teach seniors free piano lessons at the library before the Thanksgiving Holiday. These lessons are so popular that

he is now totally booked and has a waiting list. We are getting patrons from Apalachicola and they are becoming new patrons to our library.

- With the funding from “Now I Play Along Too” and “Rock by the Sea” we hope to begin our free “Music as Second Language” in early February for youth ages 10 – 17. I will be meeting with the group that is donating the instruments in Tallahassee next week. We will be advertising the beginning sign up date for parents of perspective students for both branches of the library.
- Author, Ginnah Howard will be speaking at the Carrabelle Branch Book Social, this Thursday, the 14th regarding her new book, “I’m Sick of This Already” At-Risk Learning in a High School Class, which is available for checkout at FCPL.
- Next week, Renae Rountree, the director of Washington County Public Library, Natalie Binder, Director of Jefferson County Public Library, and I, will have the opportunity to address the Senate Appropriations committee regarding State Aid funding to libraries.
- We are looking forward to the Friends’ Soup, Bread, and Book Sale on Saturday, January 23rd. There will even be a Silent Art Auction and musical entertainment. This will be from 11:00 am to 2:00.
Eastpoint Branch
- The Friends of FCPL have scheduled the re-graveling of the library driveway and parking lot in Eastpoint, Monday, January 18th which will be a day off, Martin Luther King holiday. On Tuesday, the 19th, the parking lot and driveway will still be in the completion mode.
- FYI, because of staff shortages and the increase need, I am working approximately 10 hours a week in unpaid overtime.

Mrs. Birchwell said she is very busy as a lot of people need help with food stamps and unemployment and she has helped people for hours. She stated one person can’t do all of this work.

Commissioner Watson questioned what musical instruments will be donated. Mrs. Birchwell reported guitars have been received already and they will be receiving keyboards and drums. She said the students will have a volunteer instructor. Mrs. Birchwell reported the organizations that have donated the instruments will allow a stipend to be paid to the teachers from Franklin County. She explained the students will sign up for the program, the parents will agree their child will be responsible for the instrument, and they will take lessons for a certain period of time. She stated if the student will follow through and practice and can perform for their peers at the end of the program, then they will be allowed to keep the instrument for

free. She informed the Board the Eileen Annie Ball grants will be ending in June and there will be nothing like these grants provided for the youth through the library. Mrs. Birchwell said music is a good thing for the youth and it has been proven that youth that are involved with music have a better focus and it helps them with school and reading. Mrs. Birchwell reported they are excited about the music program and think it will be a great asset for the library.

Commissioner Lockley questioned if the library will be helping individuals with taxes. Mrs. Birchwell answered yes and explained AARP will have the free tax assistance beginning February 1st at both branches-Carrabelle and Eastpoint. She stated this will be advertised in the newspaper.

Mrs. Marie Marshall, director of the Apalachicola Museum of Art, appeared before the Board with Ms. Caty Green, Apalachicola Municipal Library. Mrs. Marshall said they are working with the Apalachicola Library to bring the Smithsonian exhibit to Franklin County. She said the Board has a copy of the newspaper article and an invite to attend the opening reception. Mrs. Marshall reported she was on the Library Board for many years and enjoyed hearing the report from Mrs. Birchwell. Mrs. Marshall reported the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration yesterday showed the value of music. She stated she sat at the celebration thinking the arts can help transform the education system in the County. Mrs. Marshall said from working with Ms. Green she knows they are also bringing an instrument program into the Apalachicola Library with some Disney Funding. She stated the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street (MoMS) exhibit for small counties is arriving on Tuesday, January 26th and will be set up on January 27th. She reported the opening reception will be held at 6:00 p.m. on January 28th and the Museum will be open Wednesday- Sunday for 6 weeks until March 12th. Mrs. Marshall said they are working through the school art teachers to bring the children from the consolidated school and the ABC School to the exhibit. She stated the schools will intertwine the exhibit with their school work. Ms. Green said the exhibit is on Americans and Their Jobs and will be interactive. She went on to say there will be large blown up pictures of Franklin County workers on the wall of the Museum. Ms. Green reported there will also be four forums: Future Thinkers, Looking at Our Past, Superintendent Candidates and Recent Grads Finding Work/Opportunity. She expressed her hope that the word will get out and people will come and see this wonderful traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian. Commissioner Watson stated it is great that the Museum and the Library have brought the Smithsonian traveling exhibit as it is a fabulous thing for the County and he thanked them for their work. Mrs. Marshall said they are grateful to the Florida Council for the Humanities for bringing this exhibit to Apalachicola. Commissioner Watson reported not everyone gets this exhibit. Ms. Green agreed it is a competitive process.

Curt Blair – TDC – Report

Mr. Blair said there were excellent events over the weekend with the Oyster Roast occurring Saturday and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration yesterday. He explained the

celebration yesterday was one of TDC's sponsored activities.

Mr. Blair discussed the packet submitted to the Board from the last TDC Board meeting. He said collections thru October were up 22% over last year but will even out over the course of the year. He explained it is due to how the lodging providers report their revenues and sales tax for the month. He reported it will usually even off by the end of the year to between 6-10%.

Mr. Blair stated last month the Board asked about the status of the bathroom projects. He explained the TDC Board discussed this matter and have the plans for the St. George Island bathroom improvements but do not have bids or estimates on the bathrooms in Carrabelle. He said they are not sure how to proceed to get both of these projects done when they do not know the numbers for the Carrabelle facility. He said the TDC Board suggested bidding the project so the numbers are known for the Carrabelle project. Chairman Massey said the papers were drawn up but there were a lot of things added to it that were not needed. Mr. Blair asked if they want to redo the plans or bid for all of the items and take some of the items out. Commissioner Watson stated his understanding is the issue at Carrabelle Beach is a safety issue that needs to be addressed. Chairman Massey agreed it is a safety issue. Commissioner Watson said he would like to see the bids and see if both projects can be completed.

Commissioner Sanders made a motion to direct staff to move ahead with the bidding process on the Carrabelle bathrooms so the two projects can be compared and to provide the TDC Board with a copy of the plans for their review. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0. Commissioner Watson inquired as to the time frame of getting the plans and bidding out the project. Chairman Massey said it will not take long to get the bids. Commissioner Lockley stated they need to speed up and take care of the electrical repair at Carrabelle Beach so no one gets hurts. Commissioner Sanders agreed and said an emergency repair was done but it still did not fix the problem.

Mr. Blair reported they are working with the Clerk's Office to finalize the cost for the Armory Renovation Project. He stated another draw is due in the next month or so. He explained this project is close to what is budgeted but they will demonstrate caution as they do not know what the final numbers will be and they want to have enough if there are any overages. Mr. Blair reported Mr. Moron may have a better estimate of when they will be finished but they are processing the requests as they get them. Mr. Moron stated he will get the information from Mr. Mark Curenton.

Mr. Blair said they have received notice that the Camp Gordon Johnson project is on hold as they are talking to other contractors and will get back with us in a few months. He stated they have all done what they were supposed to do and Attorney Shuler has drafted a contract which we are waiting for them to sign. Mr. Blair reported we are ready to proceed whenever they are ready to proceed.

Mr. Blair discussed the request from Youth Conservation Corp. to make repairs to the

crossovers. He explained they support the work of the Corp. but do not feel comfortable making a \$20,000 allocation when they have commitments to the Armory, Camp Gordon Johnson and a couple of other projects. He said they will hold on to the request until further into the fiscal year and if they have funds that are not going to be spent then they can revisit the request. He questioned if the County has inspected the crossovers to determine if they need to be rebuilt. Mr. Blair explained one of the issues is the amount TDC is allowed to spend on beach park facilities. He stated they are limited to 10% for beach park facilities and the pending bathroom projects would max out that allocation. He requested an opinion on whether or not the dune crossovers qualify as beach park facilities so they can avoid any problems. Commissioner Watson stated the County staff has not determined what work needs to be done but it would be best to determine the status so if money is available they will know what is needed. Mr. Moron agreed in the past he met with citizens from St. George Island about the County paying for the materials and them completing the work but the project never moved forward. Mr. Moron agreed to have the crossovers reviewed and provide the information to Mr. Blair and Commissioner Watson. Commissioner Watson stated volunteers at the St. George Island Civic Club completed the repairs the last time. Mr. Blair reported TDC paid for the crossovers at Alligator Point and he does not know if anyone has reviewed them. Mr. Moron agreed to have these crossovers reviewed also. Commissioner Sanders suggested the Building Inspector look at these crossovers and determine what work needs to be done. Attorney Shuler asked if the TDC wants clarification about whether or not the dune walkovers are part of beach park facilities within the meaning of the statute. Mr. Blair stated he would like this clarification before this becomes an issue. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to direct Attorney Shuler to provide clarification on whether or not the dune walkovers are part of the beach park facilities.**

Mr. Blair informed the Board when they acquired the old Florida Highway Patrol building only a map was provided and not a survey. He stated a survey of this property is needed as they are making plans for the site. Commissioner Parrish agreed a survey is needed before the Memorial is planned so they know the boundaries. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize a survey of this property.**

Mr. Blair stated the Resolution about TDC funding was hand carried to Tallahassee and now 4 bills have been filed about TDC funding. He said another one was circulated at House Finance and Tax and it was almost the same bill Representative Gaetz circulated except the 20% going to Visit Florida has been removed. He reported there are still a number of issues in these bills. He stated the TDC Board suggested going to Tallahassee and meeting with the delegation and he is in the process of setting up meetings. He reported there will be a significant issue if one or more of these bills moves ahead. He said the delegation has the Board's Resolution.

Commissioner Watson stated the County will have a lot of allies with the other TDC's in addressing this issue. Mr. Blair agreed this bill is not popular.

Recessed at 9:35 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:44 a.m.

Mike Cooper – CEO – Weems Hospital – Report & Open RFQs – Construction Manager At Risk

Mr. Cooper reported in the last few weeks there has been a lot of defamatory information being circulated about the Hospital but the reports are false. He stated he has been here 1 month short of a year and a half and they are trying to get up to speed on what was not being done right. He said an IT billing and collection contract was cancelled as it was not doing what it should to collect the money and caused the Hospital to miss 2 deadlines which would have brought meaningful use certification. He said the Hospital implemented an interim plan and contracted with a new company and they were able to get the Hospital to meaningful use certification this past year. He explained most Hospitals would take a year or more to complete this certification but they did it in 6 months. Mr. Cooper stated the change in companies will represent a \$50,000 to \$75,000 reduction in operating costs a year. He explained by meeting the meaningful use deadline, the Hospital will not be penalized \$25,000 a year by Medicare. He went on to say by meeting the meaningful use deadline; the federal government will reimburse the Hospital in excess of \$350,000 for the effort. He said they have recruited a revenue cycle manager and the salary was funded through the deduction of having to send consultants to Tennessee. He said the revenue cycle person is in the building working for the Hospital, is a member of the community and is doing a great job. He stated the Hospital was able to get a grant for a new ambulance and this is the same grant that was turned down twice before. Mr. Cooper reported they have a new physician in internal medicine. He said Dr. Stoll is capable of taking care of illnesses that the Hospital has not been able to address in the past. Mr. Cooper stated a new EMS Director, Mr. Jarod Wester, has been recruited. He reported Mr. Wester graduated from Port St. Joe and his wife is from Wewahatchka. He explained Mr. Wester actually completed his EMT training prior to receiving his high school diploma but could not obtain an EMT license until he graduated. He went on to say on Mr. Wester's graduation day he picked up his high school diploma, drove to Tallahassee to get his EMT license, and worked a shift on an ambulance that night. He stated Mr. Wester is a certified flight paramedic and is able to fly in the helicopter. He said most of the paramedics have multiple certifications but Mr. Wester is also certified to instruct. Mr. Cooper expressed his opinion that Mr. Wester is going to bring many possibilities to EMS. He said he did not envision the Hospital could get someone with these credentials. He stated this selection was done in collaboration with a HCA Hospital in Panama City. He thanked the Hospital and said they helped him source this candidate and were a good neighbor even though they are competitors. Mr. Cooper said the Hospital team has resurrected the building program. He reported they now need a construction manager to move forward. Mr. Cooper explained all of these things are meaningless without excellent patient care. He reported there have been no infections at the Hospital for two years and the wait time at the ER is half the time of the national average. He informed the Board he received a new report from United Healthcare and although the

Hospital cannot be rated on all of the items, there are two they were measured on. He explained the Hospital scored a 0% mortality index for irregular heartbeats compared to the national average of 1.2%. He stated the Hospital scored a 0% mortality index for congestive heart failure and the national average is 3.2%. Mr. Cooper stated the Hospital is vibrant, improving and one of the County's greatest assets. He reported the Hospital has a bright future if given the opportunity. He stated the credit needs to go to the staff at the Hospital. Mr. Cooper discussed the revenue cycle and said since the last meeting the Hospital has not needed to access any of the money the Board approved. He said the collections have returned to \$337,000 a month which is getting close to where they need to be. He stated they are projecting collections in January to be \$377,000. He explained the revenues may go higher for a few months while they try to clean up prior months. Mr. Cooper said they may still need to ask for some of the money that has already been approved. He reported the cost report is due to be filed on 1/29/16 and would not normally have been done until March or April. He stated it is being filed so the Hospital can get the cost report money. He reported the federal government has promised to expedite the process as the money is in excess of \$1.2 million. Mr. Cooper stated hopefully the money will be received the 2nd or 3rd week of February. Mr. Cooper introduced Dr. Stoll, the new physician, and described her duties. Dr. Stoll thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to attend the meeting and offered to answer any medical questions or issues. She informed the Board she has been visiting the clinics and the people have welcomed her. She said this job will have a nice mesh of responsibilities. She encouraged the Board to call her if there are any concerns. Mr. Cooper provided a slide presentation of the design of the new building. He said the design is more than conceptual but may need to change. He stated currently there is a registration person at the front entrance of the Hospital and a registration person in the emergency room (ER) but this design allows the same person to handle outpatient and ER registrations. He discussed the ambulance entrance and said there will be a double door opening into a vestibule and this will keep the ambulance exhaust from entering the hospital. He said the trauma area is right inside the door. Mr. Cooper explained once a person comes into the ER there is no other area they will have to go as they will have direct access to the x-ray and CAT scan machines. He reported there will be 10 patient rooms and an activity/dining area. He explained what is unique about the design is that the nursing station for the ER backs up to the nursing station for the patient rooms. He said when there are not a lot of patients on the floor; this will allow staff to assist in the ER if necessary. Mr. Cooper stated they worked hard to move things around so all patient care will occur in the new part of the facility. He reported the old facility does not meet code and will not be easy to renovate so only staff will occupy this portion of the facility. Mr. Cooper stated they have gone as far as they can go now and are meeting with the architect again on Friday and then the plan will be ready. He said they need a construction manager to move forward. Commissioner Parrish asked if the old building will only be administration. Mr. Cooper said the old building will be used for administration and the trailers will be removed and the CAT scan will be in the new facility. He said the doors to the old building will say "Staff Only" so no patient or visitor will go into this area. Commissioner Parrish reported the new Hospital looks a lot like the clinic in Carrabelle. Mr. Cooper stated when he met with the architect he informed them the facility

needs to feel like the community and they do not want something that does not match the historic district of Apalachicola. Commissioner Watson asked how this will affect Clinic West. Mr. Cooper said it will not be affected. Commissioner Parrish asked if the clinic will be integrated with the Hospital. Mr. Cooper said no but they may make a covered walkway. Commissioner Sanders asked if the front of the building affects the helipad. Mr. Cooper answered no and said according to FAA they helipad will not have to move. He said the helipad needs upgrades but they do not want to move it. Commissioner Watson reported this is a happy day and has been a long time coming and he is pleased to see some concrete plans. Commissioner Lockley asked how soon they will see some bricks and mortar. Mr. Cooper said that is up to the Board. He introduced Mr. Nick Hill, Adams Management Services. He described the process for selecting a construction manager. He said the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) does not cost money and is the next step in the process. He stated the companies will be interviewed and then the selections will come back and the Board can select a construction manager and negotiate a price. Mr. Hill explained his company assists hospitals throughout the construction process. He reported they like to get the construction manager on board early in the design process so the design matches the dollars. He stated information was sent out and the project was advertised. He talked about the qualifications for the construction manager. He said the RFQ was sent out with a fee proposal as part of the package and then it was determined that public entities in the State of Florida with a construction manager at risk project cannot ask for fee proposals or take that into consideration. He explained the cost part of the RFQ was eliminated so the RFQ's are only qualifications. He said the proposals were due on 1/13/16 and 3 arrived on that day. He stated 2 additional proposals were sent by UPS, the planes were delayed and they arrived on the 14th. He advised the Board there is a question about whether or not these RFQ's can be accepted. He reported several laws were reviewed as they do not want to do anything that is unfair. He stated it comes down to the Board making a decision. Mr. Hill informed the Board he has the documentation from UPS and they are taking responsibility for the proposals being late. He said both of these RFQ's were sent out on time. He stated the companies sent the proposals out Tuesday morning and paid for early morning delivery on Wednesday but the proposals were held up and did not arrive until Thursday. Attorney Shuler asked for the names of the 2 companies whose RFQ's were late. Mr. Hill replied Doster Construction Company, Inc. and Robins & Morton. He questioned if Mr. Hill, as the County's consultant, has personally reviewed and physically seen the documentation and it reflects the companies timely put the RFQ's in the mail with the postage pre-paid for delivery to the correct address. Mr. Hill answered yes. Attorney Shuler asked if Mr. Hill has also seen the documentation from UPS as to why the proposals were late. Mr. Hill answered yes. Attorney Shuler recommended with these facts being on the table, the Board waive the technical defect that those 2 proposals were submitted late for the reasons stated on the record here this morning. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to take Attorney Shuler's advice and waive the technical defect that the 2 proposals were submitted**

late for the reason stated on the record here this morning. Mr. Cooper said they are under the budget of \$10.2 million and he is committed to making sure it stays that way.

Attorney Shuler and Mr. Moron opened the RFQ's, as follows:

Culpepper Construction Company	Tallahassee
Childers Construction Company	Tallahassee
Ajax Building Corporation	Tallahassee
Doster Construction Company	Birmingham, AL
Robins & Morton	Orlando, FL

Mr. Cooper said they will take the RFQ's back and create a weighted scorecard to evaluate each proposal. He suggested the panel be composed of the architect, Adams Management, himself, a Hospital Board member, and Mr. Moron if the Board approves. He explained Mr. Moron will be able to keep the Commissioners informed of the proceedings. Mr. Cooper reported hopefully in less than a month they will be back with a full evaluation and can recommend a firm to negotiate a price with. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to turn the RFQ's over to the Committee, add Mr. Moron to the Committee. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish questioned the individuals on the selection committee. Mr. Cooper said two members from the architect firm, Mr. Nick Hill and one other person from Adams Management, himself, a Hospital Board member and Mr. Moron. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Attorney Shuler said he is concerned about multiple members within the same organization being on the committee as this will be a Sunshine Law group and once appointed the members are not able to talk amongst themselves outside of the public setting to make the evaluations. He recommended leaving the committee in place at this time and he will come back to the Board if they need to make a change as he does have some concern. **Commissioner Lockley amended his motion to include what Attorney Shuler decides about the committee.** Attorney Shuler did not recommend amending the motion but said he is not sure if you can have two members of the same consulting group on the committee. He reported the Board may need to drop one individual from each consulting group. Commissioner Parrish asked if this is the consultants from the architects and Adams Management. Attorney Shuler answered yes. He explained the Board can amend the motion to drop off one member from each of the consultant groups if needed. Commissioner Sanders stated they just need direction for that matter so they avoid the problem and there will not be a possible violation of the Sunshine Law. Attorney Shuler said with the Board's permission he will have one of the members from each group drop off if it is necessary. The Board agreed to grant this permission to Attorney Shuler. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. John Graham, Weems Memorial Hospital, said he has the October and November numbers and the comparative balance sheets because it will show what is happening over a set time. He stated the November, 2014 audited balance sheet, 2015 ending in September, and the current

balance sheets as of November have been provided. He explained over 2 years the fund balance has slightly increased. He stated the current ratio of assets to liabilities is still 2 to 1. He reported the cash on hand is 7 1/2 days. He discussed the numbers from the cost report and said the report is a settlement document. He explained the Hospital has to spend the money first and then Medicare will reimburse them as this is a function of the critical access hospital. Mr. Graham stated they are looking forward to filing the cost report and getting reimbursement to take care of some of the cash and accounts payable issues. He read the following profit and loss for each facility for November; EMS had a profit of \$22,000, Clinics lost \$100,000 and the Hospital had a profit of \$69,000 reflecting a \$9,000 loss for the month of November. He said over the two months they are \$53,000 in the red. He explained they are very conservative with the estimates for what is collectible and not collectible and they are also tracking all receipts by payor. Mr. Graham said good things are happening and there is consistency with IT and the revenue cycle so they are looking for things to improve. He reported one of the major things is having Dr. Stoll present in the community and they hope to go forward from here. Commissioner Watson stated this is an excellent report and said he recognizes several members of the Weems Hospital Board present today. He said he knows the time involved with serving on the Hospital Board and he thanked the members for their service.

Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report

Mrs. Johnson was not present and did not have a report at this time.

Alan Pierce – RESTORE Coordinator – Report

Mr. Moron presented the following report:

1- Alan is attending training sponsored by the US Treasury today and tomorrow. He is in Defuniak Springs with the coordinators from the 7 other counties.

2- Alan attended a second meeting of the 8 counties' economic development offices on Jan. 11 in Niceville. The meeting was sponsored by Florida's Great Northwest (FGN) as FGN has been asked by the TRIUMPH Board to describe what "economic transformational change" would look like. The second meeting was a series of presentations by economic entities servicing the 8 counties. Presenters included Enterprise Florida, Dept. of Economic Opportunity, Spaceport Florida, and various other regional economic agencies. Alan, obviously representing Franklin County, and Sheree Keeler, representing Wakulla County, both want Chris Holley, who represents Gulf County, to be part of the presentation in front of the TRIUMPH Board. The economic development officers from the counties will get together and make a recommendation on the format of the presentation. At this time the presentation to TRIUMPH will not occur until March, and it is possible it will be delayed. The absolute earliest that the TRIUMPH Board will even know if funding is available is July, 2016 and it is much more likely that funding will not be released until sometime in 2017.

There will be another meeting in Niceville on Feb. 18 at which time each county will make a brief presentation. Each county is requested to describe the current status of their local

economy, and then what the county wants its local economy to look like in 10 years. Alan knows the current condition of the local economy, but any guidance on what the Board hopes the local economy would look like in 10 years would be appreciated.

3- Board direction to set up a workshop with Dewberry in the afternoon of Feb. 16 to begin the "Needs Assessment" for the use of the county's RESTORE funds. The purpose of the workshop will be for the commissioners to talk directly to Dewberry for an hour or so on what the local needs are, and for Dewberry to begin to talk about how to match RESTORE funds with other program funds to meet those needs. This workshop is only the beginning, but it is an important step. The Board has a meeting in the morning so does the Board want to start the workshop at 1 PM?

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to conduct the workshop on February 16, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Moron informed the Board Ms. Stella Wilson, Dewberry, is present if the Board has any questions.

Michael Morón – County Coordinator – Report

1. Inform the Board that Attorney Shuler, Attorney Robert Dees, and I, participated in a settlement hearing regarding the Orion Marine lawsuit on Jan. 13 in Tallahassee. At various times during the hearing we spoke to Mr. Pierce regarding proposals and counter proposals. I am pleased to announce that Attorney Shuler, Mr. Pierce, and I recommend to the Board, a proposed settlement agreement. In the settlement Orion Marine will pay the county \$575,000 within 20 days of the Board accepting the agreement. The Board has expended some \$654,000 out of the Bridge Fund to pay for the damages to the St. George Island Fishing Pier, and then there was some \$103,000 in additional costs to the county in preparing for litigation. This settlement offer pays the county back 72% of the total funds expended. While it is possible we could have gotten 100% of our damages if we had gone to trial, it is also possible we would have gotten less, and certainly had more expenses. It is our recommendation that \$500,000 go back into the Bridge Fund and \$75,000 be put back into General Fund, which is essentially a pro-rated reimbursement between the Bridge Fund and General Revenue.

There is currently \$999,370.33 in the Bridge Fund. If the Board puts back \$500,000 then the Bridge Fund will have approximately \$1.5M. The original allocation from FDOT was \$1.52M so the Fund would almost be fully restored. The Fund does generate interest every year and that money stays in the Fund.

Board action to accept the settlement and to disburse the money as recommended.

Commissioner Parrish stated paying for the bridge to be rebuilt has costs a lot of money and he was concerned about taking this money out of the bridge fund as these funds are set aside to demolish the bridge at some point when it is needed. He said under the maritime law as explained the company could have been just responsible for the cost of the barges which was substantially less than the proposed settlement. He reported Attorney Shuler and the County staff has done pretty well with this settlement. **On motion by**

Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to accept the settlement and to disburse the money as recommended.

2. Inform the Board that, due to a lack of quorum, there was no Planning and Zoning meeting this month. The two newest appointments informed Mrs. Amy Ham-Kelly that due to unforeseen scheduling issues they are unable to serve on the Planning and Zoning Board at this time. I recommend that the Board appoint members to fill these seats, seafood dealer and realtor, as soon as possible so that there will be a quorum at next month's meeting.

Commissioner Watson volunteered to check with the Real Estate Association to try and make a recommendation. Commissioner Sanders explained the vacancies are in specific districts. Commissioner Parrish said these vacancies are in his district and he tried to find appointments but the individuals were not sure they could commit the time but agreed to try. Commissioner Parrish stated he was not in favor of reorganizing the Planning & Zoning when Mr. Pierce discussed it. He reported they need representatives from all the areas of the County and that is the way it has always been set up. He explained for many years he served on Planning & Zoning as did Commissioner Sanders before they were elected and it takes a lot of time to learn the land use codes and how it works with the comprehensive plan. He said he would like to keep the Board the same and if other Commissioners have a recommendation he is fine with that. Commissioner Parrish reported the Board needs to make sure the members are from all over the County. He agreed to go back and try again to find appointments for these positions. Commissioner Sanders agreed they must be inclusive of all the people in the county so everyone is represented. Commissioner Watson stated it is a hard job and controversial issues come before the Board and someone has to make a commitment to serve. Commissioner Sanders reported during her time on the Planning & Zoning Commission the real estate boom was just starting and Commissioner Parrish was present during the real estate boom. She said it is a volunteer committee and it taught her a lot of things about how the codes and comprehensive plan work together. She agreed Commissioner Parrish should try and find someone to fill these vacancies. Mr. Moron stated maybe he will have someone by the next meeting. Commissioner Sanders stated her representative has been on the Commission since 1995 or 1996.

3. Inform the Board that Alan asked AVCON to assist him in developing a response to a proposal generated by Enterprise Florida for an aviation related company looking for space at an airport. Enterprise Florida is the clearinghouse for companies interested in re-locating to Florida, and Franklin County participates in Enterprise Florida. Enterprise Florida sends out short notices about the facilities a company is searching for and then responses go back to Enterprise Florida. The actual company is kept confidential by Enterprise Florida.

In this case, the company was looking for space on an airport where they could build a minimum of a 100,000 square foot hanger and generate 85 jobs with an average wage of \$46,000. The company manufactures equipment to move airplanes around on the ground.

Enterprise Florida represents all of Florida so the responses back to Enterprise Florida could be state-wide, but this is a start of the county's airport getting on the map.

In your packet is a copy of the solicitation from Enterprise Florida and the county's response.

Mr. Moron said he spoke with Mr. Pierce today but they have not heard anything yet. Commissioner Sanders reported this would be good because it would bring jobs and would not hurt the bay. Mr. Moron said it would also probably be on the job training. Commissioner Parrish stated this is exactly the kind of thing the County is looking for and they should be able to access some Triumph funds for a project like this. He went on to say the funds would help move the project forward and attract industry by allowing the County to have the ability to put infrastructure in. Commissioner Parrish stated this is the kind of project he would like to see presented to the Triumph Board for Franklin County. He explained it will help to better utilize the airport and create jobs. Commissioner Parrish stated the Triumph Fund would allow the County to bring economic development, create good paying jobs and create some diversity. Mr. Moron stated some money could be used to market the airport. Commissioner Parrish referenced Mr. Pierce's report about the County presenting what they want the economy to look like 10 years from now. He said he envisions creating more diversity with the seafood industry, tourism and this would add additional diversity to the economy. He reported he would like Mr. Pierce to present this as a sample of what they would like. Commissioner Parrish stated they do not want to do away with the seafood industry but add more diversity so if you have another oil spill then the whole industry would not collapse. Commissioner Watson said one of the things that will be important in accessing the Triumph funds is cooperation between Gulf County and Franklin County. He explained they have the port and we have the airport and they have received some money under grants to make improvements to the railroad which goes along the edge of Franklin County so the County may be able to hook up to that line. He stated this is a great opportunity.

4. This item was handled earlier in the meeting.

5. Inform the Board that FWC would like to hold their June 2016 quarterly Commission meeting in Franklin County. In the past, these meetings were held in the Courtroom on 3rd floor of the Courthouse. As an alternate site, I suggested the Armory, as it is the County's Convention Center and create less logistics and access issues than the Courthouse. Representatives from FWC toured the Armory with me and are in the process of weighing the advantages and disadvantages of both sites. In the mean time, I informed Court Administration of FWC's request to use the 3rd Floor Courtroom. On Friday, Mr. Bill Wills, the Trial Court Marshall, came to Franklin County to look at the Armory as an alternate site for trials, as part of his emergency plan, and to look at what accommodations would be needed in the 3rd Floor Courtroom if FWC decided to have their meeting there. Mr. Wills congratulated the County for its work and investment in the Armory, as it will serve as more than a satisfactory location for any major trials or courtroom activities if the situation ever arises. However, he asked that if the 3rd Floor Courtroom will be used for the FWC Commission meeting in June that the Board send a notification to the 2nd Circuit Chief

Judge, because IT and other court staff will have to be dispatched to move furniture and disconnect certain parts of the Court network that have been installed over the last few years and then reconnect the network and relocated the furniture after the FWC meeting is over. Board discussion.

Mr. Moron said there are a couple of additional items such as the vendor contractor who installed the sound system would need to disconnect and reconnect the system and there is a cost but he is not sure how much. He stated FWC would have to pay this cost. He stated an email was received from FWC stating they prefer the Courtroom as they need a private room to register people in. Mr. Moron reported the Chief Judge's Office will assist the County but this is a County building and they want to hear from the County not FWC. Commissioner Sanders suggested a letter be drafted to Mr. Nick Wiley, Executive Director of FWC, and a copy sent to the FWC Commissioners and let them know the County would welcome them with open arms for their meeting in June but, with all due respect, would like them to use the Armory as the newly renovated County convention center. She reported the Armory has been repaired with a new sound system, air condition and there is a little room to the side they can use for registration. Commissioner Parrish agreed they appreciate FWC coming to the County but prefer they use the armory. He explained if they still need the Courtroom, they will pay the cost involved with the changes and the Chief Judge does not object then we should accommodate them. He stated he wants the meeting to stay here so the local seafood workers and hunters can participate in these meetings but he would like to encourage them to use the armory and it would cost nothing. Commissioner Parrish reported they do appreciate them coming here to hold the meetings. Commissioner Sanders agreed they would have to incur the costs and get permission from the Court if the Courtroom is used. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to write a letter to Mr. Nick Wiley and FWC Commissioners and let them know the Commissioners prefers for them to use the Armory. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley reported they need to make sure they pay for the costs and that no costs come back to the County. **Motion carried 5-0.**

6. Inform the Board that the Sheriff's Department has submitted the results of the 2015 Jail and Medical Inspection. No action is needed and I have attached a copy to my report.

7. Inform the Board that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have extended the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin until January 30, 2016. A copy of the news release is attached to my report.

Commissioner Parrish informed the Board he participated in a conference call with the Tri-River Waterway people and Mr. Billy Houston. He explained this document is 2200 pages long and they have hired a consultant to go through the document and submit comments. He stated the Board wrote a letter and had it delivered to Eastpoint when they had the meeting. He explained he, along with the City of Apalachicola and Mr. George Floyd were contacted about this call. He suggested the Board may need a Resolution to make a statement on how they feel about the Water Control Manual. Commissioner Parrish said

Attorney Shuler received an email of a draft Resolution from the City of Apalachicola. Attorney Shuler agreed he received the draft copy of the Resolution from the attorney for the City of Apalachicola. Commissioner Parrish said with the Board's approval he would like to get with Attorney Shuler and work on a similar Resolution. Commissioner Parrish stated the comment period was extended for 2 more weeks and the County may also wish to pass a Resolution. He reported the County would then email the Resolution out to the other Riparian counties and ask them to adopt a Resolution. Commissioner Sanders stated it needs to be drafted similar to the Fracking Resolution. Commissioner Parrish asked if the Chairman can sign the Resolution as there is not another meeting to consider the Resolution and meet the time frame. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to direct Commissioner Parrish to work with Attorney Shuler on a Resolution to send to the Riparian Stakeholders along the Apalachicola River and authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution due to the time frame.** Commissioner Parrish stated Mr. George Floyd and Mr. Pat Floyd, City of Apalachicola attorney, were also on the conference call. Mr. Floyd said one of the biggest concerns of Georgia, Alabama and Florida stakeholders is the plan in the Water Control Manual to eliminate navigational maintenance of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River system which directly translates into elimination of the fresh water flows into the bay during periods of drought. He said it also eliminates a future source of commerce as we know in the 1800's the river was a source of economic opportunity. He reported in changing economic times everyone has heard of cruises on European and South American rivers and said there is also a federal project which is underway and will arrive here one day. He said the new project may be a form of economic diversification.

8. Inform the Board that Florida Housing has acknowledge that they have received and accepted the County's response to the SHIP Compliance Monitoring Review report. Copies of the Acknowledgement Letter and Compliance Review Report are attached to my report.

Mr. Moron said he will get together a packet of information for each Commissioner as there have been many emails from Mr. Chris Doolin about a bill related to the Certificate of Public Convenience or Necessity for life support for air handling services. He explained this is affecting small counties and he will send everything to the Commissioners as they may need to address this item at the next meeting.

Chairman Massey brought into discussion barge planting in the County. He questioned if anyone in Franklin County even has a permit to barge plant. Commissioner Parrish stated the company he works for has not done this in a while. Chairman Massey said the permits are being given to people from Texas and no one from Franklin County even has a permit. Commissioner Sanders asked if he is asking the Department of Agriculture to give special preference to the oystermen. Chairman Massey reported the oystermen are almost out of money and the company from Texas is not spending their money here and planting the shells in the wrong place. Commissioner Sanders stated the material being placed in the bay is big as a fist and she questioned what kind of material it is. Commissioner Parrish stated he does not know if the material is coming from Marianna or Cabbage Grove. He

reported the County does get orange limerock from Cabbage Grove. He explained some of the barge planting is mandated by NERTA and was part of the early restoration projects negotiated with BP. He stated BP's idea was the barge planted the shells faster and it was more cost effective. He reported BP felt they had already paid the claims of the oystermen. He reported the state funds they recently used were not mandated so the oystermen were paid to plant the shells. Chairman Massey reported the material is being placed in the wrong area. Commissioner Parrish said the state has not done a good job of monitoring as they allow people to come in who know nothing about the bay or where the bars are located. He explained when they wanted to remove the money for monitoring, he was opposed to it. He said monitoring is a huge part of the program to make sure the materials go on the correct bar and the correct amount of material is placed there. Commissioner Parrish stated they have not done anything for the west end of the bay. He explained when the river rises then there is nowhere for the oystermen to go as the west end of the bay had never been re-seeded. He said if they had planted seed on the west end then the oystermen could have moved there to work when too much fresh water closed part of the bay. Commissioner Parrish reported they can still work down there but there are no oysters. He stated there is no spat set because there were no shells set. He said Apalachicola Bay needs to be viewed as a total bay and needs to be refurbished as a whole bay. Chairman Massey stated the material is being placed in the wrong area and the money should be given to the oysterman. He suggested writing a letter about this matter. Commissioner Sanders reported she has never worked on the bay but has always supported the bay and knows the value of the bay. She expressed concern about spat attaching to the materials they are placing in the bay and how the oystermen can tong this material. She agreed a letter needs to be written to the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture Division, and ask them to look at the issues brought up by the Commissioners. Commissioner Lockley reported the material is huge they are placing in the bay and he questioned if there has been a study to determine if this material is going to damage the bay. He said they could have purchased scallop shells at a cheaper price and it would have worked because it worked before. Commissioner Lockley reported they are doing more damage than helping the bay. He agreed with Commissioner Parrish that once one area of the bay was worked, they needed to move to another area but there was nowhere to go because there were no shells placed in the west end of the bay. Mr. Moron reminded the Board that Workforce had extra money and it sat there months because all the state agencies were fighting about the shelling. Chairman Massey stated they are giving the money to people from Texas who are placing the shells in the wrong place when they could give the money to the oystermen who know where to put the shells. Mr. Moron stated Ms. Bodine said there are people on the state level who believe the oystermen are paid too much money. Commissioner Sanders expressed her concern that the state agencies hire too many educated people and are not looking at the institutional knowledge the local people have of the bay. She reported they should ask questions to the local people as that is the reason the SMARRT committee was organized. She said the state agencies do not realize the local people can help and then the institutional knowledge will be gone. She reported the state agencies need to embrace the local people so they will share this knowledge and not pay thousands of dollars for educated assumptions. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote**

of the Board present, it was agreed to write the Department of Agriculture a letter expressing concerns of the Commissioners not only about the monitoring but also the use of the barges and that the barges are not doing the planting where they need to be planting, and that they should use the local oystermen to do this planting and once again in a timely fashion plant shells in the western end of the bay.

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report

Attorney Shuler requested the Board authorize him to schedule a public hearing for the Board to consider some updates to the Litter Control Ordinance. He explained the principal form of enforcement now is criminal enforcement and the Board needs to consider an amendment to the Ordinance that would add some meaningful steps for civil penalties before it becomes a crime. He requested the Board's permission to schedule this public hearing. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Attorney Shuler to schedule a public hearing to consider updates to the Litter Control Ordinance.**

Attorney Shuler stated the Florida Probation Services' contract is up for renewal or bidding on March 16th. He explained if the Board wants to renew the contract then they just wait until March but if they want to accept bids then they need to take action now. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to advertise for bids for probation services.**

Commissioners' & Public Comments

There were no comments at this time.

Adjourn

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

William Massey - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts