

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
FEBRUARY 2, 2016  
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 Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 19, 2016.**

**Payment of County Bills**

**Commissioner Parrish made a motion to approve payment of the County's bills. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley questioned a payment to Sacred Heart Hospital. Mr. Moron discussed paying for any resident seeking out of county medical care. Commissioner Sanders asked if this is through the Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA). Mr. Pierce reported any out of county medical provider who treats a resident has the right to ask for payment from the County. He said the money is budgeted and is paid on a first come, first serve basis. Mrs. Johnson commented that there is a cap on how much the County has to pay for a whole year.  
**Motion carried; 5-0.**

**Department Directors Report**

**Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works**

Mr. Nabors appeared before the Board but had no report at this time.

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

Mr. Davis presented the Board with a handout about the dune walkovers at Alligator Point. He stated the walkover at Chip Morrison is in bad shape and the residents are calling. He explained this walkover was replaced in-house one time. He reported the Conservation Corp have provided an estimate on the work that needs to be done. Mr. Davis reported the County needs to get this one replaced before moving forward on the others. He stated the estimate is about \$4,000 plus administrative costs. Commissioner Lockley asked who is in charge of this group. Mr. Davis said Mrs. Betty Webb is here with the group. Commissioner Lockley questioned if this item is in the budget. Mr. Davis answered yes, in the repair and maintenance line item. He went on to say it would be great if TDC had money to pay for the repairs. Commissioner Sanders was not sure if TDC had any money to address this project. Mr. Davis expressed concern that someone might get hurt on this walkover. Commissioner Watson asked if Mr. Davis is only referencing 1 walkover. Mr. Davis said 1 for now. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to ask TDC for the money to complete this repair and if they do not have the funds then for Mr. Davis to take this money out of his budget. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Davis informed the Board he would like to install a tracking system on 12 trucks. He explained this will help with FEMA on where they go and what they pick up during a storm. He reported this will cut down on the use of fuel. He explained if the County gets a call that a truck is somewhere it should not be, then a full report can be obtained to show all activity. Commissioner Sanders asked if a cost estimate was done to see how much this will cost. Mr. Davis reported the annual cost is \$3,000. Chairman Massey asked if the tracking will run across the computer screen at the shop. Mr. Davis answered yes. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to install tracking in 12 trucks.** Commissioner Watson asked if this item is in the budget. Mr. Davis answered yes and said they talked about it last year. **Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Davis reported Waste Pro has called wanting to use a small area at the landfill for an office. He explained they will use a mobile unit. Commissioner Sanders asked if there is space for them to place an office. Mr. Davis said they have room next to the trailer. Commissioner Lockley questioned if they are going to pay for this space. Mr. David said they are willing to pay. Mr. Moron stated they have been checking the rates where they rent now and Mr. Cooper has given him some information about the space the Hospital rents in Eastpoint. He reported they are trying to come up with a comparative price. Commissioner Sanders said the office must be placed where it does not disrupt the landfill operations or endanger anyone. She also asked if this office will be used for paying bills as that is what they do at their current location. Mr. Moron was not sure but agreed this would cause increased traffic. Mr. Davis stated he thought they were using the office for their employees but he will clear up what they are using the office for. Commissioner Sanders reported it could be a liability issue if the public is allowed in this area.

Mr. Davis informed the Board the County is now being charged for used oil disposal. He stated the charge is \$.90 a gallon for oil and \$1.25 a gallon if it has any water in it. He was not sure how long the County would be charged but said in the past we have been charged, they have paid us, or they come get it for free. He said the waste oil is considered hazardous waste. He reported the County may need to start charging individuals bringing in the waste oil. Mr. Pierce stated the County takes the oil for free because the disposal was free but now that has changed. He said it has been better for the

County to collect it than have the public dispose of it illegally.

Mr. Davis said the playground at Vrooman Park has been installed. He stated the contractors were putting up the pole shed this morning. He said it is 24' x 36' and will be used as a pavilion. Mr. Davis reported this work should be completed today. Chairman Massey reported this park looks good.

Commissioner Lockley brought into discussion the bathrooms at Carrabelle Beach. Mr. Pierce stated TDC paid for some architectural drawings but the County had just had the roof repaired so the plans did not include additional roof work. He reported they thought the roof was corrected but the roof patch did not work so now the roof needs to be incorporated in the plans. Mr. Moron read Item #6 from his report:

At the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board motioned to proceed with the bid process for the Carrabelle Beach Park bathrooms. While reviewing the plans, staff realized that neither the roof nor any electrical upgrades were included in the plans. I contacted Mr. Doug Shuler who explained that those items were not part of the original request. Board action is needed to authorize Mr. Shuler to amend the plans to include repairs to the roof and any electrical upgrades that are needed.

**On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Attorney Shuler to amend the plans to include the roof and the electrical upgrades.** Chairman Massey stated some items were included in the plans that did not need to be replaced. He said these items could be removed and the money put toward the roof and the electrical. Mr. Pierce stated the architect will need to revisit the site. Mr. Moron said once the new set of plans is submitted then the Board can review them and determine what needs to be bid. Commissioner Watson stated he would like to see this project move along.

Mr. Davis reported the bathroom at Cassie Lowery Park is in working condition now. Chairman Massey said they did a good job.

#### **Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director**

Mrs. Brownell was not present. Mr. Moron read the following action item from her report:

Action Items:

1. Request the Board approval and signing of the contract for the Residential Construction Mitigation Contractor.

Commissioner Parrish asked if Attorney Shuler has reviewed this contract. Attorney Shuler reported he looked over this contract and the tracking contract for Mr. Davis. He stated some changes were made to the contract and he has not heard any objections from the contractor so he assumes everything was agreed to. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to approve the contract for the Residential Construction Mitigation Contractor. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Pierce stated the Board asked for the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) to include the Eastpoint lift

station and it was included and the state has approved the plan. He said the information has been provided to Dewberry and they are assisting Attorney Shuler in trying to find some funding sources to repair the lift station.

#### 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 is attending the FEPA Conference and Training in Daytona from 01/31/16 to 02/05/16.
4. Jennifer Daniels met with DOH regarding our Special Needs Residents.
5. Pam Brownell had back surgery on 01/26/16.

#### Erik Lovstrand – Extension Office Director

Mr. Lovstrand requested permission to advertise for the Office Manager Program Assistant position. He reported Mrs. Jamie Johnson who has been in this position and done exemplary work has accepted a position with the K-12 County School. He requested permission to start the process of placing an advertisement for this position in the newspaper. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Mr. Lovstrand to advertise for the Office Manager Program Assistant position.** Mr. Lovstrand said Mrs. Johnson has done great work in this position and helped him during his early stages in his position. He informed the Board they are sad to lose her but the County school system will be gaining an asset.

### Franklin County Extension Activities January 20, 2016 – February 2, 2016

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

Extension Director was on annual leave during this period.

#### General Extension Activities:

- Extension Director participated in coordinating efforts between Florida Wild Mammal Association, Duke Energy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Research Reserve in Eastpoint and homeowners on St. George Island to reconstruct and replace a nest for two Eaglets whose nest was destroyed in a recent storm.

#### Sea Grant Extension:

- Extension Director coordinated with panhandle Sea Grant agents regarding a turtle lighting project across the panhandle.

#### 4-H Youth Development:

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

- Extension Director and Program Assistant attended a meeting with the 4-H Regional Specialized Agent and other 4-H Agents to discuss programs and opportunities available to the youth of Franklin County.

#### Family Consumer Sciences:

- Family Nutrition Program Assistant continuing to implement in-school curriculum in Franklin County. She is currently teaching 13 different classes in Franklin County Schools.

#### Agriculture/Horticulture:

- Soil test kit and information was provided to the Florida Forest Service to detect problems in soil surrounding trees with problematic issues.

Commissioner Watson asked for an update on the eagle's nest on St. George Island. Mr. Lovestrand reported they tried to repatriate a baby eagle that was in a nest that blew down. He said the tree was on state property and he described the location of the property. He explained the nest blew down because it was in a dead pine tree. He went on to say the eagles took over an osprey nest built in the tree but typically eagles build nests in live pine trees. Mr. Lovestrand reported the tree blew down during an intense storm on January 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. He reported the 2 chicks that were in the nest were on the ground and were taken to the Wakulla County rehabilitative facility. He said they were then sent to Pensacola for rehabilitative work as there is an eagle specialist at that facility and they have foster parents that can handle the chicks. He said one chick had a fractured femur and a wing fracture so that chick stayed in Pensacola. He explained FWC and other partners were interested in putting the healthy chick back in the nest. Mr. Lovestrand reported he contacted someone at Duke Energy and they committed a bucket truck and a lineman. He said their public relations manager was also present. He stated DEP, FWC, the Extension Office and the neighbors were all involved in the effort. He reported Duke Energy put up a platform in the tree about 50 ft. off the ground. He explained the nest was rebuilt, placed on the platform and the chick was placed in the nest but the parents did not come back. Mr. Lovestrand said the chick could not be left for very long and when the parents did not return, it was moved back to Pensacola where it will probably be raised. Commissioner Watson said this is a wonderful example of the state agencies working with everyone locally and Duke Energy and he thanked them for their work. Chairman Massey suggested writing a letter to thank everyone for their work. Mr. Lovestrand stated they are working on a story of the events.

#### **Anne Birchwell – Library Director**

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

- This week, from February 1 to February 6<sup>th</sup>, for parents to sign up their students for the Music as a Second Language Program 2016, youth ages 10 – 17. This program was brought to the library through the generosity of the Rock by the Sea non-profit organization, and Now I Play Along Too. After the sign up week, the prospective students and parents will be contacted for an interview to explain the selection process because of the limited instruments available.
- Also, as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, AARP Free Tax Assistance has begun at both branches of the library from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. You can sign up for a time slot by stopping by at either branch and pick up the list of what you will need to bring.

- This Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, author Lorraine Haddock will be presenting her children's book "The Duck without a Quack" to our Mommy & Me Story time from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. She will also do a craft and spend time explaining how she created this book.
- On Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Carrabelle Branch Franklin Correctional Institution will be holding a Job Fair from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to fill forty-four (44) positions that are available. They will be hosting a job fair at the Eastpoint Branch on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 3:30. Call the library for what you will need for documentation.
- Also, on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> the Carrabelle Branch will be hosting a Valentine Craft Day for children ages 5 to 12 beginning at 4:00 pm. The children can make up to three crafts to give to their loved ones at no cost to them.
- On Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at the Eastpoint Branch at 1:30, Andy Wraithmell of the Public Access & Wildlife Viewing Office Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation will be our birding expert who will tell us the best viewing areas and birding tips.
- Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, Erik Lovestrand will present Backyard Beekeeping at 1:30 at the Eastpoint Branch. He will have a slide presentation and bring various beekeeping equipment for viewing purposes. This is an extremely popular topic and we look forward to this workshop.
- On Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, the staff of the library from both branches will be attending the Staff Development Day held at the Wakulla Library. Both Eastpoint and Carrabelle Branches will close to allow the staff to learn more about library security steps.

Mrs. Birchwell informed the Board Ms. Audrey Strange has started working as the new permanent part-time person at the Carrabelle Branch.

Commissioner Watson asked how many students will get musical instruments and lessons. Mrs. Birchwell stated there are 4 acoustic guitars, 2 electric guitars, 2 bass guitars, 4 drums and 4 keyboards. She reported there are a limited number of students now but they can place any interested students on a waiting list. Commissioner Watson questioned the response to this program. Mrs. Birchwell said she will find out today as the program just started yesterday. Commissioner Lockley asked how long the training will last. Mrs. Birchwell reported the lessons will last for 24 weeks. She explained the students will then perform at a recital for their peers and Rock by the Sea. She reported after the performances the students will be allowed to keep their instruments.

### **Delores Croom & SWAT – Presentation & Request**

Mrs. Delores Croom and members of the SWAT Executive Board introduced themselves and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Board for helping make the County tobacco free. They informed the Board they would love to see the Certificate on the wall. Commissioner Lockley stated they have a place out front for the Certificate.

### **Mike Cooper – CEO – Weems Hospital – Request**

Mr. Cooper introduced Mr. Jarrod Wester, the new EMS Director, who started work yesterday. He explained Mr. Wester got off to a rough start as he responded to an issue at the prison. Mr. Cooper reported the state did an annual survey last week of the EMS and vehicles and they passed with flying colors. He explained last week they were notified the state has adopted a number of additional regulations pertaining to ambulances. He stated the new regulations have resulted in construction costs of ambulances increasing by \$42,000. He explained the regulations should be enforced now but they are not citing anyone now. He said they will begin enforcing these new regulations in 2018. He went on to say any ambulance constructed in 2015 or after will have to be brought up to code. He explained the County has some choices as they have an ambulance in production. Mr. Cooper stated the County can complete the full upgrade now, complete some of upgrades or wait to complete the upgrades. He recommended completing the changes that will cost more if they have to take the ambulance apart and then re-construct it. He reported the biggest expense is a new mandated lifting system that lifts the stretcher into the trucks. He said the installation of the lift represents a \$28,000 upgrade. He suggested the Board wait until 2018 for this upgrade as there may be grant funds available. Mr. Cooper recommended completing the upgrades inside the walls of the ambulance such as wiring, outlets and seat belts. He estimated these upgrades to cost \$12,000-\$13,000. He said the lift can be installed later as it is not a patient safety issue. Mr. Cooper reported right now the ambulance that has been ordered has been pulled off the line until we decide what we are going to do. Commissioner Lockley questioned if these upgrades are mandatory. Mr. Cooper stated the regulations will be mandatory in 2018. Commissioner Watson inquired how they will pay for these upgrades. Mr. Cooper reported the Board approved the purchase of this ambulance from County funds so that is why he is here. Commissioner Parrish asked if the lift can be placed at a later time without tearing the ambulance apart and also some grant funds may be available. Mr. Cooper answered yes. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to move forward with the recommended changes. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.** Commissioner Lockley asked how many ambulances need to be upgraded. Mr. Cooper said only 2 ambulances will have to be retrofitted-the 1 recently purchased and the 1 in production. Commissioner Sanders asked if the other ambulances are “grandfathered” in. Mr. Cooper answered yes. He explained these new regulations will affect all ambulances statewide so that is why they believe there may be some grants. Commissioner Sanders stated some of the Commissioners are meeting with the delegation tomorrow and could let them know small counties may need some help with these ambulance retrofits. Commissioner Watson questioned what state agency funded the ambulance. Mr. Cooper said the Department of Emergency Management. Commissioner Parrish welcomed Mr. Wester to Franklin County and asked him to explain about the chase vehicle. Mr. Wester thanked the Board and the county as a whole for the welcome and hospitality his family has received and said his family already has a place to live and has moved into the community. He discussed the new chase vehicle that was purchased through the generosity of the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department. He reported the chase vehicle has been re-stickered and will be an advanced life support (ALS) unit. Mr. Wester said he will be staffing the vehicle but would also like to add a captain and keep this vehicle on the road 24 hours a day. He said this will allow the County to have a first response unit available if an ambulance is tied up or they have an area that is not as accessible by ambulance. Commissioner Sanders inquired if Mr. Wester worked in Okaloosa County before coming here. Mr. Wester answered no and stated he started his career in Gulf County and worked in Calhoun County in addition to some life flight services. Commissioner Sanders reported the life flight experience is a

plus. Mr. Wester thanked the community as a whole for their welcome. Commissioner Watson asked about the incident at the prison that was mentioned earlier. Mr. Wester stated due to HIPPA regulations he can only provide some information. He reported there was a trauma incident that turned into cardiac arrest. He said he was already on the road and that is the purpose of the chase vehicle to already be mobile. Mr. Wester reported the ambulance arrived on scene very quickly. He explained this chase vehicle allowed him to be on scene and then he rode in the ambulance back to the Hospital. He described the importance of having 2 paramedics in the back of the ambulance during a cardiac incident. Mr. Wester said they have a fantastic staff and he looks forward to great things happening with EMS. Commissioner Watson thanked Mr. Wester for his enthusiasm.

**Lisa Bretz – Executive Director – Area Agency on Aging – Update**

**Ann Kincade – Executive Director – Liberty County Senior Citizens – Update**

Ms. Bretz stated her agency allocates funds for senior services for 14 counties with Leon County as their home base. Ms. Kincade introduced herself to the Board and said she has been in her position for 32 years. Ms. Bretz said Mr. Eddie Fields, former past President Area Agency on the Aging Board of Directors, is also present. She apologized for not appearing before and is here to inform the Board of some changes in the community. She said she is familiar with the challenges in the community and is here to assure the Board there will be no gap in services no matter who the provider is. Ms. Bretz stated they were in a situation of having to find another contractor for Franklin County as the former contractor, Wakulla County Senior Citizens Council, asked to cancel their contract for services in Franklin County. She reported they had to seek emergency procurement and Liberty County Senior Citizens will be serving as your lead agency. Ms. Bretz stated this is not intended to be a permanent solution as they are looking for a local provider. She explained in order to have no gap in services; Liberty County will contract for Franklin County effective yesterday. She said the existing staff of Wakulla County will be providing services. She detailed the staff as a case manager, Ms. Tasia Jones, 6 direct care workers and 1 additional position, Ms. Gail Mathis, meals coordinator at the Carrabelle site. She presented an updated handout and said the revised form shows the actual annual allocation. She explained there are 2 funding cycles and the total allocation for senior services is \$208,000. She thanked the Board for the match of \$16,000 they provide to these programs. Ms. Bretz discussed the allocation amount left, the amount of clients currently being served and the number of clients waiting for services. Ms. Bretz explained there are currently no clients being served by the Alzheimer's disease Initiative but there will be growth in this program. She reported all the other programs are maxed out. She stated there are 3,093 clients which represent about 26.5% of the population that is elderly. She went on to say 13% are considered frail, having at least 2 disabilities, and 8% are probable Alzheimer's. She reported the Alzheimer's disease Initiative provides respite care to caregivers. Commissioner Sanders questioned if they will keep all the staff at this time. Ms. Bretz answered yes. Commissioner Sanders asked if the staff have been notified they will have their jobs. Ms. Kincade reported they are meeting with them this afternoon. Commissioner Sanders stated there has been a lack of communication. Ms. Bretz said the agency that should have taken this action did not and that is why she is here. Commissioner Sanders stated when she heard about this problem then she contacted Ms. Bretz. She explained they have always had elder services and they were always housed in the Franklin County Senior Citizens Council building until a few years ago and now they are in the Carrabelle Garden Center building. Commissioner Sanders reported the County needs to do whatever they have to do to keep these services going. Ms. Bretz asked the Board to review their budget and see where the other funds are going for these services. She stated



their line item is for meals on wheels and they provide much more than that service. She explained they help seniors age in place with their services and provide recreation for them. Ms. Bretz stated the current funding only allows local based recreation so it does not include field trips. She reported Ms. Mathis is very valuable to the community and uses her own time and money. Commissioner Sanders stated she also uses her own vehicle. Ms. Bretz said funding is based on the number of seniors. Commissioner Sanders questioned if Ms. Bretz met with the County staff. Ms. Bretz reported she met with Mr. Moron and they are not defunding any services they are providing. She stated they need to start over, move forward and improve the quality of care for seniors. Commissioner Sanders said the Board needs to do what they can to provide continuous care and step up and take care of our own citizens. She expressed disappointment for the way Wakulla County Senior Citizens Council handled this matter. Commissioner Parrish asked if they are looking for a better path on how the money is being spent. He questioned why other counties are providing these services and our county is not. He stated none of the Commissioners have the expertise to chart a course and they are looking to the state agencies to help them find the best way to spend the tax dollars to achieve this goal. Ms. Bretz stated Franklin County is lacking a local voice for senior services. She explained Liberty County will have an opportunity to bid for the services but she would also like to see a local advisory council established representing the organizations that are funded for senior services. She explained without a collaborative effort they will not be able to expand their services. She said there are clients waiting for services and the list will grow of individuals needing services. She explained a local advisory council can be formed to guide the Area Agency for the Aging in their request for proposals (RFP) for a local provider. She proposed a workshop to discuss what the programs are about, to see what interest is out there and what type of guidance the Agency Area on the Aging needs to provide to insure a local provider is selected. Chairman Massey agreed a workshop is needed to address the issues and maybe the problems can be fixed. Commissioner Lockley reported he sat in on a meeting and there are big issues. He stated there should be money out there to provide the services and the providers may not be doing what they should to provide these services. He reported he does not want another county providing services for our county but he does appreciate their help. He questioned how long it will take to secure a local provider. Ms. Bretz stated she would like to have a contractor in place by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Lockley asked if this is advertised in the newspaper. She said every 6 years they advertise for bids and this item was bid last year. She stated the only one who responded was Wakulla County. Ms. Bretz reported no one locally has expressed any interest. Commissioner Lockley questioned if Liberty County is only working temporarily. Ms. Bretz answered yes and said she will be providing an advertisement to the local newspaper. Chairman Massey suggested Ms. Bretz contact Mr. Moron about coordinating a workshop. Ms. Kincade said they do not mind stepping up to help or provide some training if they get a new provider. She reported one of the biggest issues is they have no vehicle. She reported Ms. Mathis picks up clients and brings them to the center. Commissioner Sanders questioned if the Sheriff's Department has any reserve vehicles. Mr. Pierce questioned how anyone who is not a County employee can drive a County vehicle. Attorney Shuler stated this is a question for the insurance carrier. Chairman Massey said the County may need to give a vehicle to help care for the elderly. Commissioner Sanders questioned why the Transportation for the Disadvantaged is not able to transport these clients. She stated Gulf, Wakulla and Liberty County have a vehicle and Franklin County needs one. Mr. Pierce reminded the Board Gulf County is running the Transportation for the Disadvantaged. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Moron to look into this matter. Ms. Kincade reported Ms. Massey transports 3-5 patients a day using her vehicle. Ms. Bretz discussed the liability issue and insurance carrier concern. She stated they are not able to provide funds for a vehicle. Ms.

Kincade said no personal vehicles are used in Liberty County to haul clients. Commissioner Parrish suggested Mr. Moron and Attorney Shuler meet with Ms. Bretz and Ms. Kincade and find out how these vehicles are being handled in other counties. Ms. Kincade stated they do not have a vehicle in Liberty County. She explained they contract for transportation services. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to direct County staff to get with Ms. Bretz and Ms. Kincade and see how this program is being done in their counties and authorize staff to schedule a workshop.** Commissioner Lockley stated the Transportation for the Disadvantaged may need to transport these individuals as the County provides some funding. Mrs. Betty Webb, City of Apalachicola, explained the City of Apalachicola received funding because they provided a building and a vehicle. She stated senior citizens are transported daily and also taken on field trips. She reported the City has not charged the Agency for the Aging for the vehicle or use of the building. Chairman Massey stated he will attend the City of Carrabelle meeting this week and ask about this matter. Commissioner Parrish said the reason for the workshop is to bring everyone together to improve the services and coordinate a plan. Chairman Massey stated Carrabelle has a good senior citizens building. Commissioner Watson said this is a great opportunity to develop a comprehensive program and he thanked everyone for their work. Ms. Kincade reminded the Board the County has to produce units to draw the money down. Mrs. Webb reported the City of Apalachicola also bought extra meals for the people who come daily to the site. **Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Recessed at 10:00 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:11 a.m.

#### **Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Courts – Report**

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

#### **Alan Pierce – RESTORE Coordinator – Report**

1- Inform the Board that I spent 2 days in Defuniak Springs, Jan. 19 and 20, attending US Treasury training. While training was attended by only RESTORE coordinators and staff for the 8 counties, the US Treasury did not specifically talk about the RESTORE Act. US Treasury had 3 representatives in attendance and at every question they would respond that the policy answer was still being worked on.

Mr. Pierce informed the Board the attendees were less than pleased about what they learned about Restore but they did learn a lot about the federal code of regulations.

Attached to my report is a US Treasury sheet on the RESTORE funds that have so far been distributed/obligated to the 23 counties. Please note that \$0.00 dollars have been distributed. At this time no county has received any RESTORE funds, and no county has even had their planning grant to develop the Multi Year Plan approved. The US Treasury is being very cautious in releasing RESTORE funds.

Mr. Pierce stated Gulf County's planning grant has been approved but no money has been released.

2- Inform the Board that I will be attending a 3<sup>rd</sup> TRIUMPH workshop in Niceville on Feb. 18. Ms. Sheree Keeler, Wakulla County RESTORE Coordinator, Chris Holley, Gulf County Economic

Development Coordinator, and I am unsure of the outcome of these workshops. There appears to be a disconnect between what Florida's Great Northwest organization is trying to accomplish and what the TRIUMPH Board asked for. The TRIUMPH Board asked for a presentation from the 8 impacted counties on what "transformational economic change" would be. Florida's Great Northwest (FGN) has tried to position themselves as the ones to lead that presentation but it might be that the TRIUMPH Board does not want a presentation from FGN. I will know more after Feb. 18. While there had been a definitive date for a presentation to the TRIUMPH Board that date has been moved back.

Mr. Pierce reported there will not be a Triumph Board meeting in February and there may not be one in March either.

3- Remind the Board of the Dewberry led RESTORE workshop at 1:30 PM on Feb. 16. Public notice has been developed by Dewberry and is in the paper.

Mr. Pierce stated he participated in a teleconference yesterday with the 8 impacted counties Restore Coordinators. He reported there will be an equal split of the money unless the Governor makes a change. Commissioner Parrish questioned which pot of money this is. Mr. Pierce reported this is the Consortium pot of money (pot #3) which will be split equally between all 23 counties. He said each county will get \$12.4 million dollars. Commissioner Parrish questioned if you have to apply for projects for these funds. Mr. Pierce answered yes and he expressed concern that the \$12 million for each county is coming in over time. He questioned who will get their projects done first as the money is coming in over a 15 year time period. Commissioner Parrish stated it should be similar to the Restore where each county will have projects and not take any money until there is enough for their project in their fund. He suggested the County prioritize their projects and see how many years it will take to fund their projects. He questioned if Dewberry will assist with this pot of money also. Mr. Pierce said Dewberry will assist the County. He questioned what will happen if some counties do not have enough for their projects. Commissioner Sanders agreed if the County does not use their funds then other counties may try to use Franklin County's money for their projects. Commissioner Parrish said each county should have their projects and wait until they have enough in their account to fund the project. He reported the County's money should sit until they have a project ready to go. He said everyone should be treated equally. Commissioner Parrish expressed concern that Franklin County may be last due to the low population. Commissioner Sanders reported the 15 disproportional counties kept bringing up that the 8 impacted counties were getting their own pot and this is how this split happened. Commissioner Sanders said the Consortium meeting was supposed to be on February 4<sup>th</sup> but it was cancelled and rescheduled for April 21st. Commissioner Lockley stated these counties should not have received the same thing as the counties affected. Mr. Pierce reported the Consortium was put on hold and may be put on hold again as Consortium staff has not had their planning grant approved either. He explained the Consortium cannot write the state expenditure plan right now so he is not sure how much more work they can do until their planning grant is approved. Commissioner Parrish questioned why the County planning grant is being held up. Mr. Pierce stated U.S. Treasury is unwilling to approve anything and cannot determine if the County is complying or not so that is why the grant is being delayed. Commissioner Parrish asked if this is intentional or unintentional. Commissioner Parrish questioned if they are holding the money to obtain more interest. Mr. Pierce was not sure. Mr. Pierce said everyone is having the same problem with getting funds released. Commissioner Parrish reported in the beginning they had Boards from multiple states that traveled to Washington D.C. to do the Restore Act. He said they may need to get all these states together again to at least try to get the planning grants released so the multi-year plan

can be completed. He went on to say then the Consortium can be working on the expenditure plan. He said all the states need to work together and talk with the federal delegation. Mr. Pierce suggested they discuss this matter with Dewberry at the workshop on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Pierce reported the FL Senate and Governor have agreed to allocate the \$300 million in Triumph money to the 8 counties but the funds have not been approved by the Judge yet. Commissioner Parrish discussed the proposal they received for the airport and said Franklin County would like to move forward with this type of project. Mr. Pierce stated each county will present a proposal at the meeting on the 18th. Commissioner Parrish said Mr. Pierce is their representative so he can let them know of our ideas, what steps we want to make and how we want to move forward. He reported this money would allow the placement of the infrastructure needed to draw business and create jobs. Chairman Massey said the Board made a good decision in placing Mr. Pierce in this position. Attorney Shuler reported in response to the question about Dewberry's scope of responsibility, he amended the contract to require them to provide consulting services for both pot #1 and pot #3.

### **Michael Morón – County Coordinator – Report**

1. Inform the Board that the Bluff Road rail replacement project has been completed. The cost of the project did not exceed the amount paid by the insurance company so no County funds were used for this project.
2. Inform the Board that based on a recent review of some data, the County is saving approximately 35% - 50% monthly on electricity cost here in the Annex building since the solar panels have been installed.

Mr. Moron stated Commissioner Parrish asked him to get this information and present it to the Board. Mr. Moron explained the Clerk's Office was forwarding the information to Mr. Mark Curenton and he was tracking this item on a spreadsheet. Commissioner Parrish stated the solar panels have worked out well for this building. Commissioner Lockley asked if the County can get solar panels for the Armory. Mr. Pierce said the roof has to be flat and angled the right way. He reminded the Board the cost for the solar panels was \$125,000 but they received a grant. Mr. Pierce stated it will probably not be cost effective at this time. Mr. Moron questioned if the State will allow solar panels when they have provided the money to restore the building. Commissioner Watson reported the building is also a historical building. Commissioner Sanders said she asked one time and was told the roof was not designed for solar panels. Mr. Moron agreed to discuss this matter with Mr. Curenton.

3. Inform the Board that the Armory Renovation project should be completed by February 22nd. The Board has discussed setting new rental rates to cover the cost of the new HVAC system that has been installed. To assist the Board in determining a new rate, Duke Energy has provided an option that would allow me to get daily kilowatt usage for a range of dates, which I will do after the upcoming event at the Armory. I will forward this information to the Board before the next meeting for consideration when setting new rental rates.

On a similar matter, our office has received three reservation requests, Franklin County High School prom from April 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, Joe Taylor's Plein Air event scheduled from May 7<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, and the MLK celebration event in January of 2017, and all three events would like the rental fee waived. Without finalizing the new rental rates, will the Board continue to waive rental fees or establish a rate structure? Board discussion.

Mr. Moron stated Mr. Joe Taylor is present. Mr. Moron reported the Board has received handouts Mr. Taylor presented for them to review. Mr. Pierce reported the rate now is \$400.00 for a weekend from Friday-Sunday. Mr. Moron said he will send an email to Duke Energy for a certain time frame and they will send the kilowatt usage for the building. He stated Duke Energy warned they can do this now but may wish to do it again in the summer as the usage will increase. Commissioner Parrish stated they do not want to set the rate so high that the building can't be used utilized. He stated the citizens of Franklin County should not subsidize the building. He reported the Board needs to set rental fees and everyone should be treated equally. He cautioned the Board about waiving the fee and said he is not in favor of waiving the fee unless it is done for everyone. Commissioner Sanders reported the County needs a rental policy and then follow the rental policy. She said the County has to adjust the electric rates and then when they know the rates they can have a rental policy. Commissioner Watson asked if there is a deposit required and a clean up fee. Mr. Pierce said in the past half of the fee was paid down and then half at the end. Mr. Moron said there was no clean up fee but they have had some issues with rentals. Commissioner Parrish stated the Board needs to look at clean up when the rate is set. Commissioner Parrish reported no one should come to the Board for a waiver once the fee is set. He explained the County is not looking to make money but do need to cover the costs of insurance, electric and clean up. Chairman Massey agreed if someone wants to use the facility then they have to pay the bill. He stated the County needs to see how much it will cost. Commissioner Sanders stated this is why she suggested a rental policy. Commissioner Lockley agreed a rental policy is needed and he asked about the number of days involved with the rentals. Commissioner Watson asked about the current policy. Mr. Pierce said the Board waived the fee for non-profits before the renovation as you were not getting much as the building was in need of repair. Chairman Massey agreed the County needs a policy. Commissioner Parrish said the Board needs to look at a cost per day and the energy costs. He explained the rent cannot be the same for 1 day as multiple day events so everyone is treated fairly. Commissioner Watson asked what is being done now with these requests. Commissioner Parrish reported the Board does not need to do anything until the rates are established. Commissioner Lockley expressed concern about letting someone use the building for free and then have someone come in who wants to rent the facility and pay. Commissioner Sanders agreed everyone needs to pay the same thing. Chairman Massey questioned when the decision is going to be made as people are being held up. Commissioner Parrish said the building has been upgraded and is more usable and the Board should not start today granting waivers. He expressed his opinion that no one should use the building free of charge. Mr. Pierce stated the rent now is \$400 plus tax and some groups did not pay in the past. He reported they need to know what to tell people who want to rent now. Commissioner Watson agreed to stay with the \$400 until this matter is evaluated. Commissioner Parrish stated the charge can be \$400 contingent upon the cost for the electric bill or make reservations contingent upon paying for the electric bill. Mr. Taylor stated he agrees with the Board but he reserved the armory when Ms. Nikki Millender was in place and he double checked with Mrs. Kelley when she started handling the Armory. He explained before people started registering he checked with Mr. Pierce. He explained a budget was made for this event and they have 100 people planning to attend. He informed the Board he would never ask again for free but at the time he went with what he was told. He reported the fee for the event is set, people are registering and it is the first ever Southeastern event here. He stated the reservation was made 2 years ago when he was trying to plan the event and now that it is closer things are changing. He explained people have already paid their fee and signed up and he cannot change it. Commissioner Lockley questioned if Ms. Millender had the authority to rent the building for 10 days. Commissioner Sanders stated she had no authority to agree to this rental. Mr. Taylor said he

confirmed with Mrs. Kelley after Ms. Millender was gone and then touched base with Mr. Pierce. Mr. Pierce said the date is reserved but he never realized it was for 10 days and that no money was involved. He stated they are trying to make sure the calendar is accurate. Commissioner Parrish questioned if Ms. Millender authorized the use of the building for 10 days for no money. Mr. Pierce reported this is what Mr. Taylor is saying. Commissioner Lockley questioned if Mr. Taylor said people are paying for this event. Mr. Taylor answered yes and stated there are 30 speakers scheduled for this event and the expense involved is \$40,000. He informed the Board he did not expect this expense but can try to pay something. He stated his organization is a non-profit and all the money goes back to other programs. Commissioner Lockley stated they cannot use the electricity for 10 days and then expect the County to pay. Commissioner Watson said the census of the Board is not to waive the fee but he suggested the County meet with this group and try to work out a settlement of some kind. He suggested the County stick with \$400 until they get a better figure. Commissioner Parrish asked when the event is being planned. Mr. Taylor reported May 7<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Parrish agreed the Board needs to table this item and think about the rental. Mr. Moron said in a week he will have some electrical rates. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion.** Mr. Pierce stated there are also other venues such as the old high school gymnasium and the old Chapman School gym. Mr. Taylor stated this event is using 4 venues- Holy Family, the Community Center, the History Center and the Pavilion at Scipio Creek as the participants will be moving all throughout the downtown. Mr. Taylor stated they have not done a conference on this scale using all 5 facilities. Commissioner Parrish apologized for now knowing about the reservation but said they will do something at the next meeting. He explained there have been dramatic changes to the building and the overhead has increased. **Motion carried; 5-0**

4. On another Armory issue, Ms. Je'Meane Pickney of IBeats Promotions would like to have her IBeats Weekend III event at the Armory on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Pickney is asking the Board to allow her an extra hour on both nights, so instead of ending her event at 1am it would end at 2am. I haven't verified that both Apalachicola Mayor Van Johnson and Police Chief Bobby Varnes support the one hour extension, as Board approval is the first step. Board action to approve this one hour extension for both nights contingent on both Mayor Van Johnson and Police Chief Bobby Varnes supporting this request.

Mr. Moron stated Ms. Pinkney is not asking for a waiver. She would like to know about the additional hour before paying the rental fee. Commissioner Sanders inquired if the County has set hours for the building. Mr. Moron reported he thinks rules and regulations were set. Commissioner Parrish stated a request was granted before and the adjacent property owners do not want this approved again. He explained several years ago there was an event and all the bars had to close at 1:00 p.m. but the event was allowed to continue until 2:00 p.m. He expressed his opinion that the event needs to end at 1:00 p.m. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to end the event at 1:00 p.m.**

5. Inform the Board that after reviewing both locations FWC has decided to use the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Courtroom for their June 2016 Commission meeting. Their staff liked the ease of access at the Armory but couldn't resolve some other issues before the upcoming meeting. FWC staff realizes that they will be responsible for any cost resulting in having their meeting in the Courtroom. Board action is needed to notify 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Chief Judge Sjostrom that the Board is allowing a non-court event in the Courtroom.

Mr. Moron stated they want a registration area that is totally sealed off from the main meeting room. Commissioner Sanders asked if the Judge needs to make this decision. Mr. Moron reported the court operations are the Judge's responsibility but the building belongs to the County so they need to notify the Court. Commissioner Parrish stated FWC wants to have the event, not the Board. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to notify 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Chief Judge Sjostrom that the Board is allowing a non-court event in the Courtroom and work with FWC on the cost involved. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Moron to make sure the Judge knows FWC is having the event and not the County. Mr. Moron agreed to provide this information to the Judge. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

6. This item was handled earlier in the meeting.
7. Inform the Board that Alan did speak to Mr. Marcus Beard on Jan. 25 regarding a future cutting the US Forest Service is going to let in the Brickyard/Ft. Gadsden area. The Board received notice of the proposed cutting in December. Alan told Mr. Beard of the Board's concern about the county roads being damaged by loggers, and Mr. Beard assured him that the US Forest Service puts contractual agreements in place to make the loggers responsible for returning the road to pre-logging conditions. Mr. Beard said that this particular cut does not have a definitive schedule yet but should occur sometime in 2016.
8. Inform the Board that Mr. Ray Maynard, a home owner on Gulf Shore Blvd, has been informed by Rep. Graham's office that FEMA will be finishing their environmental review of the relocation of Gulf Shore Blvd by March 15. Mr. Maynard has called Alan to give him the news. Alan says the county has a time extension with FEMA to get the project done by June 30, 2016, and the county has an easement with Mr. Maynard to allow traffic on a temporary measure across his property until June 30. Mr. Maynard has told Alan that he will not renew the easement as he gave it for a specific period of time and if FEMA is not going to assist the county in moving the road then Mr. Maynard is not intending to let people keep using his property.

The road to be constructed will be a limerock road and if the FEMA approval is given by March 15 the part of the road that needs to be moved off of Mr. Maynard's property can probably be built by June 30. But that is only if FEMA gives the approval right around March 15.

Commissioner Parrish expressed concern that the limerock base will get washed away. Mr. Pierce reported the road has been relocated about ½ mile back from the coast. He explained the County got an easement across Bald Point State Park and that is what they have been trying to get FEMA to understand.

9. Inform the Board that bids will be opened on Feb. 16 for the final repairs to the Alligator Drive revetment. As the Board may recall, Mr. Shuler informed the Board in November of last year that the final court order had come down in favor of the county so DEP has now activated the permit that had been challenged by Capital City. The work to be done will be paid for out of FEMA money from Tropical Storm Debby, which occurred in 2013.

When this project is complete, which could be by May 1, and then the only remaining FEMA project is the above mentioned Gulf Shore Blvd. Alan has worked both of these projects and he is trying to close them out by June 30.

10. Inform the Board that Alan has been working with Mr. Larry Morgan, DEP representative, on the funding for the maintenance and operation of the yet to be built Island View Park. In the near future, DEP will be providing some \$170,000 of funding for the cost of maintaining Island View Park. The money is intended to provide all maintenance costs for 10 years. If the county does not spend all the money in 10 years the maintenance agreement will be renewed so that funds remain available to the county until it is all used.

Alan says that the funding for Island View is part of the Phase 4 NRDA Early Restoration funds that BP is providing the state of Florida. BP has not yet transferred the funds to the state, but the schedule is for the funds to be transferred next week. Then DEP and The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will develop a schedule for the improvements at Island View to be done. TPL will be responsible for construction. It is expected the Island View Park will be completed by the end of 2016. The county's 10 year maintenance period will not begin until TPL turns the improvements over to the county.

The improvements being paid for out of the NRDA money include a turn lane to access the south side, a pervious parking area, a boardwalk along the shore, enhance the shoreline vegetation, and rebuilding the two existing docks for fishing and cast netting. There will be landscaping and a sprinkler system installed on the south side. On the north side, remaining federal money will be used to establish a section of long leaf pine habitat and re-establish a wetland area.

Board action to have Mr. Shuler review the DEP generated maintenance agreement as the Board will have to approve the agreement.

**On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to direct Attorney Shuler to review the DEP generated maintenance agreement.**

11. Board action to direct Attorney Shuler to review the St. George Island and Eastpoint Fishing Pier Improvement projects access agreements and then present to the Board at a later date for approval. Copies of the agreements are attached. Board action.

Mr. Moron said this project is still a few months out. Mr. Pierce reported the St. George Island and Eastpoint projects are also NRTA money but the Restore money is still not moving. **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 review the St. George Island and Eastpoint Fishing Pier Improvements Projects access agreements and then present the agreements to the Board at a later date for approval.**

12. Inform the Board that DOR has informed the County of the distribution percentages of the local option fuel tax to the County and both the Cities of Apalachicola and Carrabelle. There has been no substantial change to the percentages from prior years.

Mr. Pierce said the County may see a maintenance agreement on the Lombardi property. Mr. Moron stated they are doing an inspection there today. Attorney Shuler stated at the end of last year the Board had given direction to hold a public hearing to consider increasing the gas tax by 1 additional penny but all the statutory deadlines had passed by the time the action was taken. He reported the County will be proceeding forward this year to hold the public meetings necessary for the Board to consider this issue. He reported if the Board approves increasing the tax, it would not take effect



until January of next year. Attorney Shuler explained all taxes of this kind go into effect in January 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year so there are certain scheduling dates that the Board will have to meet with Department of Revenue before you can take this action.

13. Ms. Dreamal Worthen met with Commissioner Lockley to discuss her Apalachicola Fire Station Incubator project. I attached information regarding this project. Ms. Worthen is seeking funding for this project and would like the Board to write a letter of support. She has received letters of support from the City of Apalachicola, The Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce, The Franklin County Tourist Development Council, and others. Board action to authorize a letter of support for Ms. Worthen's project.

Mr. Moron informed the Board he received this information yesterday and it will offer help for small business owners. Mr. Pierce said she is applying for money to USDA and FAMU about having some classes.

**Commissioner Lockley made a motion to authorize a letter of support for Ms. Worthen's project.**

Commissioner Sanders asked Commissioner Lockley's opinion of this project. Commissioner Lockley stated she is trying to help people learn skills, move forward with their jobs and learn how to get licenses. **Commissioner Sanders seconded by motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

14. Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on two FDLE documents for the Sheriff's Office. The first is a Certification of Conflict of Interest and the other is a Certificate of Acceptance of Subgrant award in the amount of \$38,266.00. Board action.

Commissioner Sanders asked what the money is being used for. Mr. Moron answered the salary for one of the drug officers. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Certification of Conflict of Interest and the Certificate of Acceptance of Subgrant Award.**

15. For Board information, attached is a copy of a letter of support for Mr. Mike Hill of PanCare Health who is applying for funds to provide dental care in Franklin County. Both Mr. Hill and Ms. Linderman, of the Health Department, are on next meeting's agenda to discuss this program with the Board.

Commissioner Sanders asked where this company is from. Mr. Moron stated Bay County. Commissioner Watson said this will replace funds that were deleted last year for the dental program. Mr. Moron reported they will explain at the next meeting about this program and why someone from Bay County and not someone locally applied for these funds. Commissioner Lockley stated he knows Mr. Hill as he used to be on the health care committee. Mr. Pierce reported the State of Florida cut the funds and the health department is trying to team up with someone to provide the services. He explained the FQHC in Eastpoint could have applied but did not and were not encouraged to as they have not been cooperative in the community. He stated Bay County's FQHC is interested in expanding and providing services in the County. Commissioner Sanders said if the local FQHC is going to be in this community then they need to provide services in this community. Mr. Moron stated Ms. Linderman will explain that the local FQHC has applied for these services in another county. Commissioner Sanders reported she will wait for the presentation.

16. For Board information attached is a copies of an email I sent to the Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition (RCSC) supporting their letter dated January 25, 2016 that included comments, concerns, and questions posed to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). Also attached is Alan's letter and Board

resolution sent by Alan to the USACOE to provide for commercial navigation on the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River.

Mr. Pierce reported this is all associated with the water flow.

17. Inform the Board that Camp Gordon Johnston days will be from March 11 – 12, 2016. An informational flyer is attached.

Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Moron to contact them and let them know they will be in the parade.

Mr. Moron brought into discussion the fracking bill and the removal of the Dr. John Gorrie statue. Commissioner Watson stated the fracking bill passed the House but has not passed the Senate. He reported 65 counties and municipalities filed Resolutions against the bill. He said this bill establishes a study commission to evaluate fracking. He reported the Senate will take this bill up next week. He said the Board may need to address this issue with the legislators.

Mr. Moron discussed the removal of the John Gorrie Statue from The Capitol. Commissioner Watson explained the Senate introduced a bill to replace the civil war general statue in The Capitol and establish a way to determine what statues should be replaced. He said when the House took up the bill they said both statues should be removed and a procedure should be set up to determine what statues should be there. He stated the Senate bill does not contain this language and should be passed in a week or two. He suggested the Board also talk with the legislative delegation about this issue. Commissioner Watson reported he does not know how the removal of the Dr. John Gorrie statue came about but it mobilized the community and a lot of emails, calls and letters have been generated. Commissioner Watson reported if the Senate bill prevails then this issue will go away but he is not sure what will happen on the House side. He explained it gives Dr. John Gorrie advocates a chance to make their case to the Department of State, Bureau of Historic Resources, and the Great Floridian program. He said TDC could use this issue to do some marketing for the area. Commissioner Parrish asked if the statue is located on the federal side or in The Capitol. Commissioner Watson reported in The Capitol Rotunda. Mr. Pierce added in Washington, D.C. Commissioner Parrish said each state is allowed to have two statues in this federal building. Commissioner Parrish stated he has been approached by constituents asking them to pass a Resolution opposing removal of the statue. He suggested adopting this Resolution and sending the Resolution to the Governor and a copy to the local delegation, Senate President and the House Speaker. He reported the Resolution should highlight the significance of Dr. John Gorrie not only to Florida but also to the whole world. Commissioner Watson stated Florida would not have developed without the invention of air conditioning. Commissioner Parrish said people do not understand the historical contributions of Dr. John Gorrie. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to direct Attorney Shuler to complete a Resolution about removal of the Dr. John Gorrie statue and send the Resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker and the local delegation. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Chairman Massey asked Mr. Moron to check with Mr. Alex Quintana, Congresswoman Gwen Graham's Office, about the Eastpoint Channel.

Mr. Moron stated he received an email from Ms. Deborah Belcher about the CDBG ads for home rehabilitation projects. He said the Board will receive calls so he will try to send a copy of the ad and summary of what is included so they can answer questions.

Mr. Pierce reported the Legislature is in session and the County has one Historic Preservation Grant in there. He explained if the Legislature funds \$9-\$10 million in projects then the County will receive \$180,000 for the Armory. He said the project is #27 out 52 projects.

### **T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report**

Attorney Shuler appeared before the Board and presented the following report:

#### **1. Capital City Bank vs. Franklin County**

Ed Steinmeyer is one of the two outside counsels appointed by your insurance carrier to defend the county in a lawsuit filed by Capital City Bank against Franklin County.

Mr. Steinmeyer has notified me that he has formed his own law firm. At this time, Franklin County has three choices; to wit:

- a. First, we can remain with the current law firm, Lewis, Longman and Walker, and they will appoint another lawyer in the firm to represent Franklin County; or
- b. Second, we can follow Mr. Steinmeyer to his new firm, Steinmeyer and Batta;, or
- c. Third, we do not have to use either firm, and can have the insurance carrier appoint a third firm.

I recommend that we continue to use Mr. Steinmeyer as outside counsel, as he has done a good job for the county and is already familiar with the case, and he works well with myself and Bill Graham, the other attorney appointed by your insurance carrier.

#### **Board Action Recommended:**

If the board agrees, then I will need a motion “To authorize the continued use of Mr. Steinmeyer as outside counsel in the lawsuit filed by Capital City Bank against Franklin County”

*Alternative:* Other action as determined by the Board.

Chairman Massey said the Board should stay with Attorney Steinmeyer. **Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize the continued use of Mr. Steinmeyer. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish agreed and said he has already done work on this case. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

#### **1. Abercrombie Boat Ramp**

I request Board approval for myself and Mr. Moron to contact property owners immediately south of the Abercrombie Boat Ramp for the purpose of negotiating a power line easement to provide electricity service to the boat ramp. Duke Energy will also need to be contacted to discuss the location and size of the easement needed.

The distance from the current power service to the boat ramp property is about 300 feet or less. If the board uses the current public road to provide electric service, it will require 7/10's of one mile of new power lines.

The solar powered light at the ramp has not worked for years since it was destroyed by vandalism. Commissioner Parrish has recently reported further vandalism in the form of cut tires. I am further informed that the parking lot at the ramp is scheduled to be paved during the current paving projects.

Disclosure: My family owns one of the four parcels that will need to provide a power line easement to Franklin County.

**Board Action Recommended:**

Motion to authorize Mr. Moron and Michael Shuler to contact property owners to discuss obtaining a power line easement across their property and to contact Duke Energy for their input as to the location and size of the power line easement needed.

Alternative: Other action as determined by the Board.

**On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Mr. Moron and Attorney Shuler to contact property owners to discuss obtaining power line easements across their property, and to contact Duke Energy for their input as to the location and size of the power line easement needed.**

**1. Evaluation Team – Weems Hospital Construction Manager at Risk RFQ's**

On January 19, 2016, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners appointed an evaluation team to review the RFQ's submitted by several firms seeking to provide services as the construction manager at risk for the final design of the new hospital. Possibly, this same firm would also be used for construction manager services during the construction phase of the new hospital.

Mr. Michael Moron was among the members appointed to the evaluation team. However, the county needs Mr. Moron to provide administrative services to the evaluation team, such as, but necessary limited to, providing the RFQ's to the committee, receiving and tabulating evaluation team score sheets, scheduling public meetings of the evaluation team and keeping minutes of those public meetings, and any interviews which may be conducted by the evaluation team. Mr. Moron cannot be a member of the evaluation and provide these necessary administrative services.

For this reason, the evaluation team has not commenced any labor evaluating the RFQ's opened on January 19, 2016.

I recommend that the Board appoint a new evaluation team consisting of the following persons:

- a. Mr. Mike Cooper, hospital CEO.
- b. Mr. Nick Hill of the Adams Group, the county's consultant.
- c. Mr. Duffie Harrison, hospital advisory board member

- d. Mr. Joe Bynum of TRO Jung Branen, your architect.
- e. Fifth member as determined by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners.

**Board Action Recommended:**

First, Motion to dissolve the evaluation team appointed January 19, 2016.

Second, Motion to appoint new evaluation team as set forth above with Mr. Moron providing administrative services to the team. The Board will need to appoint a 5<sup>th</sup> person to the evaluation team.

**Alternative:** Other action as determined by the Board.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to dissolve the evaluation team appointed on January 19, 2016.**

Commissioner Parrish asked for a recommendation for the County appointment. Commissioner Parrish suggested Mr. Mark Curenton. Chairman Massey suggested Ms. Amy Kelley. Mr. Pierce reported Mr. Curenton has more experience with this kind of evaluation. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to appoint the evaluation team of Mr. Mike Cooper, Mr. Nick Hill, Mr. Duffie Harrison, Mr. Joe Bynum and Mr. Mark Curenton.**

**Commissioners' & Public Comments**

Commissioner Lockley stated he is receiving complaints about the Transportation for the Disadvantaged. He explained citizens are having trouble reaching someone by telephone. He went on to say when they do get someone; they are being told it will be 72 hours before they can be transported. He said the contractor is not explaining to the people about the transportation. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to write a letter to the contractor about these problems.** Commissioner Lockley said people do not know this company is the new contractor.

Commissioner Lockley questioned how fast the price for the Armory rental will be determined. Chairman Massey stated in two weeks. Commissioner Parrish reported staff will review the current charges, energy audit and then provide recommendations to the Board. He said the charges can be per day or by event. Commissioner Watson agreed the Board needs a recommendation from staff. Commissioner Parrish stated the Board can probably address this item at the next meeting.

Commissioner Lockley asked if there are Administrative Costs involved with the project for the Conservation Corp. Commissioner Parrish answered yes. **Commissioner Lockley amended his motion to take this out. Commissioner Sanders amended her second.** Commissioner Watson questioned what the motion is. Commissioner Lockley reported he was not aware Administrative Costs were included in this request. Commissioner Watson questioned if the County pays this Administrative Costs. Chairman Massey said he thought Mr. Davis handled the Administration. Mr. Taylor explained the administrative fee covers tools, generator, fuel, transportation and safety

training. He stated the administrative fee is not paying for staff. He said it is the support to get the Corp. where they are supposed to be to do the job. **Commissioner Lockley rescinded his motion. Commissioner Sanders rescinded her second.**

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

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William Massey - Chairman

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts