

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
FEBRUARY 16, 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, 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.

Payment of County Bills

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

Approval of the Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 2, 2016.

Department Directors Report

Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works

Mr. Nabors reported there were tornadoes last night in Lanark Village and Carrabelle but the rest of the County is good. He said they are working on clearing the highways and right of ways. Chairman Massey thanked Mr. Nabors for sending the men out last night. Mr. Nabors stated they will pick up the debris if the residents will put it by the side of the road. Commissioner Lockley asked if DOT was called in. Mr. Nabors said the Sheriff's Office called them in and they did a good job of clearing the roads and Highway 98.

Fonda Davis – Solid Waste Director

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

Commissioner Sanders asked when the first day of ball will be. Mr. Davis stated it is scheduled in April. Commissioner Sanders questioned if the fields are up and going. Mr. Davis reported they are working on the fields.

Chairman Massey said the park in Eastpoint looks good.

Pam Brownell – Emergency Management Director

Mrs. Brownell requested the Board approve advertising for RFQ's for debris monitoring. She reported the current contracts will run out in April and July. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to advertise for RFQ's for debris monitoring.**

Action Items:

None

Information Items:

Franklin County EOC Staff continue to promote our Re-Entry Tag program and encourage all residents to apply for their Re-Entry Tag.

EOC Staff is updating our Special Needs Database to verify current information of our Special Needs Residents.

Staff attended the FEPA Conference and Training in Daytona from 01/31/16 to 02/05/16.

Staff continues to process applications for the RCMP Grant.

Commissioner Lockley asked if Mrs. Brownell is checking for damage after the tornadoes. Mrs. Brownell answered yes and said there are some trees on houses. She asked the location of the houses with trees so they can check for structural damage. Chairman Massey reported she needs to check 4th Street, Avenue D, E, & F, 1st, 12th and 13th Streets in Carrabelle. Mrs. Brownell reported she has been in contact with the state and apparently Walton County has a lot of damage also. She stated they will document all of the damage in case they are able to get some help.

Erik Lovstrand – Extension Office Director

Mr. Lovstrand reported he has been working with the Bay County Sea Grant Agent to put together a project related to additional sea turtle lighting work. He explained this FWC grant is over \$530,000 and will address work in 3 counties. He reported it will be the same type of work

performed before but will focus on conservation properties and lighting within 1000 feet of conservation land. Mr. Lovstrand stated each county will have one position staffed from this grant. Mr. Pierce asked if this grant will address the state park. Mr. Lovstrand stated the areas are the St. George Island State Park, Fitz Preserve, Jeff Lewis Wilderness Preserve on Dog Island and the St. George Island Lighthouse Park. Mr. Pierce explained they are trying to create dark areas and make sure the area is expanded out instead of just addressing individual houses. Mr. Lovstrand agreed this is part of some surveys done by the "Dark Skies Initiative" for FWC a few years ago and now there is funding to try and expand the dark sky area around conservation lands.

Mr. Lovstrand informed the Board he is in the process of searching for a staff person for the Extension Office. He said applications will be received until the 26th and then he will move forward with the hiring process.

Mr. Pierce asked if the money for the dark skies project from FWC is NFWF money. Mr. Lovstrand stated he thinks the funds came from NRDA. Mr. Pierce said the BP money is flowing every way but through Restore. Mr. Lovstrand reported the money came straight from BP to the State and FWC. Chairman Massey asked if the staff position for this project will be over when the funds run out. Mr. Lovstrand said this is a one year project addressing a lot of property in a short time. He explained there will be an overall coordinator position also to oversee the other three positions. Chairman Massey asked if Mrs. Johnson's position is full-time. Mr. Lovstrand said her position is full time with benefits. Mr. Pierce said her position is funded by the County Commission.

Commissioner Watson asked if anything is going to be done locally about the zika virus. Mr. Lovstrand stated he sat through a webinar on the zika virus. Mr. Lovstrand said a hotline has been established through the State Health Department so people can call if they have questions. Mr. Moron stated the Health Department and the Mosquito Control Director are here to discuss the zika virus. Mr. Lovstrand said Extension Offices are trying to help by getting information out and the University of Florida has links on their website.

Franklin County Extension Activities February 3, 2016 – February 16, 2016

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

General Extension Activities:

- **Franklin and Wakulla Extension Faculty hosted first pesticide applicator core class and exam for people in Franklin County who need this FDACS certification (i.e. County staff, agency staff, private landscaping companies, etc.)**
- **100% architectural plans for the new Extension facility have been completed. Construction beginning planned for mid to end of March.**

- **Extension Director participated in webinars on the topics of the Zika virus and Laurel Wilt Disease.**
- **Extension Director participated in district-wide promotion/tenure workshop and County Extension Director meeting.**
- **Recruitment for new Extension Office Manager/Program Assistant began this period. A debt of thanks is owed to the previous incumbent (Mrs. Jamie Johnson) for a job well done during her tenure in the position. We wish her well in her new job with the Franklin County School System.**

Sea Grant Extension:

- **Extension Director was certified in the role as the Primary Investigator on a second turtle lighting grant that will address lighting issues on and adjacent to conservation lands in Franklin, Gulf and Bay Counties. Will be collaborating with the Bay County Sea Grant Faculty to administer the project. The grant will be from FWC to IFAS with a funding level of just over \$530,000. This will provide an additional OPS position to be based in Franklin County for the project. This is a one-year grant.**

4-H Youth Development:

- **Extension Director participated in volunteer screening process with Wakulla 4-H Faculty.**
- **Franklin County had seven (7) 4-H members participate in the “4-H at the Capitol” event this year.**

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 provided a “Backyard Beekeeping” program at the Eastpoint Library.**

Bob Flowers – CW Roberts – Update (County’s Paving Project)

Mr. Bob Flowers, C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc., appeared before the Board to provide an update on the paving project. He explained the contract was reviewed with staff and they are in good shape to finish the contract on time. He stated the only work they have done is a little striping. Mr. Flowers stated they are mobilizing a crew and will execute this job. He reported a crew will be coming down from Panama City in a week or two and will start doing base work on the west side. He explained two to three weeks later another base group will come down from Tallahassee and start working on the east side. Mr. Flowers reported as the roads get ready then they will be paved on an as needed basis. He reported they have experienced a lot of bad weather going back to December and they also shut down the business during Christmas.

Chairman Massey questioned when they will be in Carrabelle. Mr. Flowers stated they will grade and subgrade starting in Districts 2 and 5 early to mid-March and will follow whatever the Board's priority list is for the roads. He said the base crew will be here next Monday or the Monday after for Districts 1, 3 and 4 and then later to Districts 2 and 5. Chairman Massey stated they should be there as fast as they can. He reported it has been four months since the bid and the project was supposed to start the beginning of the month. Mr. Flowers reported the completion date is July 15th. He said they will be working two base crews and two paving crews and feel the contract time will be from mid February until mid May. He reported the schedule he sent actually shows them finishing early but he does not think they have ever finished one early. He thanked the Board for the work and said they will do a good job.

Marsha Linderman – Health Department – Update

Ms. Linderman appeared before the Board. She reported there are 21 confirmed cases of the zika virus in Florida and all of the cases are travelers. She stated none of the cases were contracted in Florida. She explained information has been provided to the health care providers about how to screen for the virus. Ms. Linderman stated the second focus is to work with Mosquito Control Departments on how to communicate with the public about protecting themselves. She introduced Mr. Zach Hodges, Director of Environmental Health Services, and Mr. DeWitt Polous, Mosquito Control Director. Mr. Hodges presented a handout to the Board about the zika virus. Mr. Hodges explained the message is one of prevention and mosquito control. He stated the species of mosquito that carry the virus is easily controlled as they are a container mosquito. He reported the mosquito does not travel but about 100 feet from where it breeds. He explained there are travel advisories for the areas in South America and Africa on the website. He thanked Mr. Polous for his work in keeping the mosquito population down. Commissioner Watson asked if there will be public service announcements. Ms. Linderman stated they are sending out press releases daily and the information goes to all their media outlets and on their website. Mr. Polous said he is also working on a press release. Ms. Linderman stated the mosquitoes breed in a tiny amount of water. Commissioner Lockley inquired about the symptoms of the zika virus. Mr. Hodges said a mild rash, fever and joint pain. Ms. Linderman reported the virus is mild and all the health care providers know how to screen for the virus. Commissioner Lockley asked if there is a cure. Ms. Linderman answered no and said it is just a virus you recover from. She stated they are working on a vaccine but it will not be ready for 18 months. She explained if a provider has a patient they think meets the criteria for the virus then they can contact the Health Department 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. She said they will provide the information about testing and what state lab to ship the test to. Mr. Polous emphasized that homeowners need to be aware this mosquito is specific to containers and they should take this opportunity to empty all containers to control the mosquitoes. Ms. Linderman stated they can call the Health Department if they have any questions. Commissioner Watson reported this publication is good and should go on the website. Ms. Linderman agreed to send this publication to the County to place on the website.

Ms. Linderman provided an update on dental services the Health Department was providing. She explained they opened the dental services in 2012 in Carrabelle and in the local school. Ms. Linderman stated this was the year the State changed Medicaid payments to Medicaid managed care and reduced their reimbursement for medical and dental care. Ms. Linderman explained the second item affecting the program was the foundation money that launched the program ended. She reported this was federal money distributed to Health Departments, FQHC's and hospitals statewide to help offset the cost of services to the uninsured. She said the funding stopped in June, 2015 and they held the program together until December and then closed the dental clinic. She reported even before they closed the clinic she was having conversations with other providers looking for someone who was more sustainable to provide dental care services. She stated there is no Medicaid dental provider in the County and their biggest concern is the children. She said Pan-Care Health from Bay County is a FQHC and was contacted about this issue. She informed the Board an FQHC receives federal grant dollars to provide services and has some financial protection against lower reimbursements. She reported they are guaranteed a higher rate of reimbursement than a private provider or a Health Department. She informed the Board she talked with them and they expressed an interest in providing dental services in Franklin County. She said they had a chance to apply for some oral health expansion dollars and they agreed to target those dollars in Franklin County. Commissioner Sanders questioned if Ms. Linderman contacted the FQHC in Franklin County with the same idea presented to Bay County. Ms. Linderman answered she did not. Mr. David Walker, Franklin County Health Department, said when the expansion dollars came out for oral health every qualified health center had an opportunity to look around the state and see where they wanted to expand their services. He explained the local FQHC chose to expand these services in Gadsden County. He reported Pan-Care was interested in expanding their services in Franklin County. Commissioner Sanders said she does not understand why the local FQHC approached Gadsden County and did not take care of Franklin County and she has a problem with this. Ms. Linderman introduced Mr. Mike Hill, President and CEO of Pan-Care Health, and Mr. Robert Thompson, Chief Operating Officer of Pan-Care Health. Mr. Hill said he worked with Commissioner Sanders years ago when they were trying to establish an FQHC in Franklin County. He explained in 2003 he founded Pan-Care Health and opened a free clinic in Bay County with the help of the health council and the health department. He reported in 2005 he was granted FQHC status with the federal government and the following year expanded into dental services. He stated his company now operates clinics in Bay, Walton, Liberty, Calhoun, Washington and Holmes County. He said there are 9 clinics (2 dental and 7 medical) and 2 dental buses (mobile units) that provide 6 operatories. Mr. Hill stated the mobile units are serving the school children in Bay County. He said there are 2 mobile medical units that have not been put into service yet but will be used in rural communities. He said they were eager to help in Franklin County when they were approached by Ms. Linderman. Mr. Hill stated they are planning to staff a dental clinic for 3 days a week with a full time dentist. He reported they are trying to make the building a little more efficient as there are only 2 dental operatories and that is not sustainable for a dental practice. He explained their plan is to increase the capacity by 2 and then they will have 4 dental operatories. He reported they will then have the opportunity

to operate 5 days a week and have a room for the dental hygienist to offer hygiene. He said this will not be a free clinic. Mr. Hill said the federal government expects them to break even so the dental services will be provided on a sliding scale. He reported the fee to see the dentist is \$50 a visit. He stated they will see everyone whether they have insurance or the ability to pay. Mr. Hill reported they are not going to turn anyone away that has a real dental emergency. He informed the Board the grant for the expanded services went in last Tuesday and if it comes through it will provide \$300,000 a year for 2 years to operate the expanded program. He said normally they will roll this into their base grant so they anticipate being here a long time. Mr. Hill stated they look forward to working with Weems Hospital to improve the health services and working with the Health Department. Commissioner Lockley asked where the building is. Mr. Hill answered the Health Department building in Carrabelle. Commissioner Lockley asked what the cost is for children. Mr. Hill stated when they go to the schools they send out permission slips to the parents and bill Medicaid for those individuals that have Medicaid. He reported they will see the other children free of charge. Commissioner Lockley asked if this is the same program they had before. Ms. Linderman answered yes but said they will expand the number of rooms to see more clients. Commissioner Lockley asked if they will let his company provide services if there is already one FQHC in the county. Mr. Hill stated he has permission to be here now with a mobile unit. Commissioner Watson asked when the grant decision will be made. Mr. Hill stated his company is also in the process of a FQHC grant for Gulf County as the Health Department grant will end this month. He informed the Board he received an email from one of his contacts and they expect a decision in 2 weeks. He reported he is meeting with the employees today to negotiate employment contracts as if they will be the provider. He said when the doctor in Gulf County died unexpectedly and Ms. Linderman called; they provided a doctor. Mr. Hill reported they are providing a doctor in Gulf County now 1 day a week and a behavior health person. He reported his company will move forward like they have the grant as they have never been denied an expansion grant. He reported the situation in Liberty County was similar when they lost FQHC status and he took over the clinic and has now been operating there for 2 years. Commissioner Lockley questioned if there is a mile limit like the other FQHC. Mr. Hill said normally they look at time of 30 minutes or less but the rule is actually within an hour of whoever needs service. He explained there is no written rule on mileage. He said it builds a stronger case if you are closer to the population you are going to serve. Commissioner Lockley said this is a good thing but it should be open if the Hospital wants to do a similar thing. He explained the Eastpoint clinic has the County land locked. Mr. Hill stated they serve the entire County in every county they are operating in. He said they look forward to being a good partner with the Commission and the Health Department. Commissioner Sanders questioned if any services are being offered in the Health Department in Carrabelle. Ms. Linderman stated Mrs. Helen Cook is there on a part time basis doing women's health services and WIC is there. She said Ms. Lisa Hogan does immunizations when Mrs. Cook is present and when WIC services are being provided and also does Vital Statistics. Commissioner Sanders suggested Ms. Linderman let people know when the Carrabelle Health Department is open and closed. Ms. Linderman agreed to address this issue.

Mr. Pierce brought into discussion Ms. Linderman's request for an inspection to see if an additional external generator for the Health Department would be available. He said his suggestion was to relocate the 250kw generator that is not being utilized from the old work camp to the Health Department. He stated at this time the Hospital does not need the generator. He explained it is possible they will come back with a plan for the Health Department to pay to move the generator. He reported it could be located so it can serve both the Health Department and the Hospital but it would get the generator on line sooner as the Health Department has a need for the unit. He explained he is trying to get the generator moved where it can be used and also the Health Department may help pay to move it.

Mr. Hill presented the Board with cards with his contact information.

Mrs. Pinki Jackel, Supervisor of Elections, appeared before the Board and discussed the Presidential Preference Primary. She stated her office will be staying open until 8:00 p.m. today for registration updates. She reported there will be public service announcements on the radio today also. She informed the Board early voting begins on March 5th and will continue until March 12th. She explained this is the 8 days they are required to have early voting according to Florida Statute. Mrs. Jackel said voting times will be from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 pm. at the Carrabelle Annex and at the Supervisor of Elections' Office in Apalachicola. She stated the primary is only for registered democrats and republicans. She thanked the Board for the new equipment grant and for the other funds provided to have all the equipment in place for the upcoming election. Mrs. Jackel thanked the Board for their support of her office.

Recessed at 9:49 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:57 a.m.

Curt Blair – TDC – Report

Mr. Blair stated the collections for October and November look good. He reported October is up 17% and November is up 10%.

Mr. Blair said they have been hearing from local lodging companies about the need to fill mid-week beds. He stated they have started a program with non-profits to begin driving events to mid-week and they should be seeing the effects soon. Mr. Blair reported they are giving them a little boost in their grant if they start doing mid-week events.

Mr. Blair reported TDC received 2 Visit Florida grants last year. He explained they are moving forward with the grants and 1 will allow continuation of the maritime (fish) display they did last year in Carrabelle. He reported they are doing a similar thing in Eastpoint. He explained there is also a prototype for the visitors' centers that they hope will provide some standardization on

the interior design. He stated this year they have applied for 2 additional grants which were submitted 2 weeks ago. He explained these grants will be to do some public service announcements on the strength of the bay and what is being done about sustainability and the other is to focus on pet friendly lodging and entertainment activities.

Mr. Blair said the Board will be finalizing a recommendation on the Camp Gordon Johnston contract at their special meeting on February 24th and hopefully will have a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Blair reported the TDC legislation is still being circulated and the House still has some objectionable language in their bill but there will be an amendment this week on the Senate side which limits the damage to most TDC's and focuses more on the counties west of us. He explained the amendment will take Franklin County out of the impact of the legislation. He stated they are optimistic the Senate bill will be approved.

Mr. Blair stated the TDC Board heard a request from the Big Bend Scenic Byways about building kiosks around the County promoting the Byways. He said the Board has seen contracts for the kiosks that will be placed on County property. He explained there is one site identified on Millender Drive in the Byways plan but the State has indicated they do not want the kiosk placed on their property. He reported a representative of the Byways has requested permission to place a kiosk at the Visitors Center. He stated this is the only one that will be erected in Eastpoint. Mr. Blair said the TDC Board felt it was a decision for the Commission and they will accommodate the kiosk if the Board feels this is a good idea. He said there will be one in Apalachicola, two in Carrabelle, one at the Ochlocknee River and one on Highway 65. He stated the Board can make a decision later as they will be contacting the County about a change of the lease agreement. Commissioner Sanders asked if the TDC Board specified the location of this sign. Mr. Blair answered no as they wanted to wait and get the survey of the property completed before they made any recommendations. Mr. Blair said the flags were posted yesterday and it was a good thing it was done as they could not have estimated the side boundaries accurately. Mr. Blair informed the Board he has not walked the property but it does reduce the width of the property from what they had anticipated. Chairman Massey stated they do not need to erect any signs on the highway to the west that will block the driveways. Mr. Blair reported these signs have been moved to the front of the Visitors Center property.

Mr. Blair explained as part of their partnership with the Riverways, they received a grant with Visit Florida to participate in (6) trade shows over the course of a year. He said the representative from Riverways will shadow the first 2 trade shows to see how they are done. He explained they will attend all 6 trade shows to promote the area. He informed the Board he has been asked to attend the trade show in Madison, Wisconsin next month. He explained this is the Canoecopia tradeshow which is the largest paddling tradeshow in the country. He said they will promote the Riverways and Paddle Jam and the quest to get the world's largest paddle

jam activity. He stated he will be traveling the second Board meeting in March but will have someone here to answer questions if anything comes up.

Mr. Blair stated the webcam that used to be in Apalachicola has been down due to renovations on the City building. He explained Main Street wanted to work on getting it replaced and since he had money in the budget to replace the unit, they agreed to split the cost to replace the unit. He stated the TDC Board has approved an agreement to work with them on getting the unit replaced.

Mr. Blair reported the TDC Board meeting on February 9th has been cancelled and they will have a special meeting on February 24th to address Camp Gordon Johnston and other items.

Commissioner Watson stated TDC sponsored the Tour of Homes on St. George Island and it was very successful as they had over 700 people attend.

Bid Opening – CR370 Revetment Repair Project

Mr. Pierce stated the bids are for a FEMA project to repair the revetment on Alligator Drive. He explained this project has been delayed for many years by litigation but now these issues have been resolved. He described the location as a section east of Tom Roberts Road. He said they will put in rocks and take out the rubble to make the area a little stronger. He reminded the Board this project is FEMA funded. Mr. Moron and Mr. Pierce opened the bids, as follows:

North Florida Construction, Inc.	Tallahassee	\$194,780.00	bid bond
Coastline Clearing & Development, LLC	Eastpoint	\$ 81,538.80	bid bond
Roberts and Roberts, Inc.	Tallahassee	\$137,860.00	bid bond
LG contracting	Tallahassee	\$ 99,992.00	Cashier's Check

Mr. Pierce informed the Board some of the bids are within the allocation from FEMA for this project. He recommended the Board turn the bids over to the engineering firm for a recommendation. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to turn the bids over to the County Engineers for a recommendation.** Chairman Massey said the low bidder is a company from Franklin County. Mr. Pierce was a little concerned about the tremendous range of bids. He stated this is not a big job so hopefully the Board can award the bid at the next meeting and the work can be done by May 30th.

Jason Puckett – Airport Manager – Update

Mr. Puckett stated they are in the process of the airport rehabilitative project and are working on Runway 14-32 and Taxiway A and B2. He explained there was an inspection yesterday with FDOT, Avcon, Polaronis Construction and Pettibone Construction and the work is being done in

accordance with the specifications. He said FDOT is satisfied with how all the work is being completed.

Mr. Puckett reported they are in the process of doing the access road for the infrastructure and the drainage improvements. He said the total FDOT grant is \$3.4 million and they should have a 60% design drawing from Avcon this month.

Mr. Pucket said the 90% drawings are complete for upgrading the airfield lighting system. He reported the 100% drawings should be completed in 30-60 days. He stated the project will be bid in May and construction will start in late July. He advised the Board the total FDOT grant for this project is \$1.2 million.

Mr. Puckett reported the County received an FDOT grant for an Economic Development Study. He said this grant will be released around July 1st.

Chairman Massey stated they are moving the gas pumps at the Carrabelle Airport and would like to know if the cards work well in Apalachicola. Mr. Puckett said the self service pump works very well. He explained they can self serve hundred low lead and Jet A. Mr. Puckett said a large portion of their sales are self serve.

Commissioner Lockley questioned the amount of the Economic Development Study grant. Mr. Puckett stated \$50,000 a year for 2 years. Mr. Pierce agreed he thought the grant was \$100,000.

Mr. Puckett asked for an update on the corporation that was interested in the airport. Mr. Pierce stated the information was turned into Enterprise, Florida and they have not heard anything at this point. He said it was a statewide response so he is not sure how many responses were submitted. He reported there may be a shortlist at some time but he felt like it would be 30-60 days before the County hears anything.

Commissioner Watson inquired about the traffic at the Airport. Mr. Puckett said it is the same as last year. He stated it is a little slow this time of year but will increase in March and April. He reported the winter months are slow and the Board will see this reflected in the fuel sales.

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. Pierce stated he does not have a report today and U.S. Treasury has not taken any further steps on the planning grant. He informed the Board he has a conference call with U.S. Treasury

tomorrow. He reminded the Board there is a workshop with Dewberry today at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Sanders inquired how long the workshop will be. Mr. Pierce stated an hour or so.

Michael Morón – County Coordinator – Report

1. Inform the Board that Chairman Massey has coordinated with Farmshare to send a truck to the County on Saturday February 20th. Commissioner Massey has recruited, and is still seeking, volunteers that will assist with unloading, packing, and distributing the food. This food is primarily for anyone affected by the closing of the Bay for the last month. Distribution will be at the Eastpoint Fire Station and will start at 10 am.

Chairman Massey thanked Ms. Lois Swoboda for all her help. Commissioner Watson inquired when volunteers are needed. Chairman Massey said they will start bagging at 8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Ms. Swoboda said there are 5 pallets of 50 lb. bags of dog food (135 bags) and cat food (100 bags) in addition to the food Farmshare is bringing. She explained during economic crisis, people have a tendency to leave their pets at the shelter creating a burden for the County. She reported all the pet food was donated by residents. Chairman Massey requested Power County 2 Radio and Oyster Radio broadcast this item Saturday morning. Mr. Moron agreed to contact the radio stations. Commissioner Watson stated he will announce it at the St. George Island Civic Club meeting on Thursday. Chairman Massey said they are bringing a semi truck loaded with groceries. He thanked Mr. David Barber for using his forklift to unload these supplies. Commissioner Sanders questioned if the state agencies have been contacted and if there is additional help available through DEO. She reported usually when the bay is shut down for this long, state agencies are coming down to talk to the County. She questioned what is wrong and why no help is being offered. Chairman Massey stated Duke Energy is working with Franklin's Promise to help assist people with paying their bills. He said residents should not wait until the power is shut off before asking for help. He stated they must first call Duke Energy and then go to WorkForce. Mr. Moron reported they have flagged all the Franklin County accounts that are past due and the customer service agents are trained to tell people what to do. Chairman Massey said the bay has been shut down for almost 2 months. Commissioner Parrish discussed the river levels and said the bay is automatically shut down when it reaches a certain level. He explained they may open the bay next week if the river keeps subsiding and there is no contamination in the oysters. Commissioner Parrish stated the summertime harvesting is starting soon but they are limited to starting at 11:00 a.m. so it will be a problem until October. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to contact the State Agencies and have them come down and explain their plan of action to help the people in Franklin County.** Commissioner Sanders reported it is not just the people that work on the bay but also everything associated with it.

2. Board action to schedule a Workshop with Area Agency on Aging and other concerned parties relating to Senior Services in the County on March 1st at 1:30 pm.

On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to conduct a workshop with the Area Agency on Aging on March 1st at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Lockley asked if Mr. Moron is contacting all the people who are involved in this kind of work. Mr. Moron agreed to contact the cities and the Carrabelle Senior Citizens Council. He said they will also make a public notice. Chairman Massey stated the City of Carrabelle will attend. Mr. Moron reported he will spend some time with Wakulla County and Gulf County to see how their programs are operated. Commissioner Parrish said he suggested Mr. Moron see what the structure is in the neighboring counties. He stated he has received a lot of public comment about this issue. He reported it is about providing the senior citizens with the services this Board allocates funding for. He said the Board needs to know how the money is being spent and how the services are being provided to the citizens. He stated there are also questions about transportation. Commissioner Parrish reported there is a \$10,000 fund to help people with dementia and the grant is not even being spent. He said there are people across the County with dementia that needs these services. He stated the County needs to hold the workshop and hopefully get the structure in place to provide these services to the seniors. Chairman Massey agreed it is embarrassing for another County to bring a vehicle down and drop it off for us to use. He said Ms. Mathis has put many miles on her own vehicle hauling residents. Commissioner Sanders reported Ms. Lisa Bretz, Area Agency for the Aging, brought up the issue of the County funding three entities to perform the same services. She stated the County needs to check on what services are being provided. Commissioner Sanders reported there are many people in the County who are affected by dementia and Alzheimer's. She stated the Board is here to provide services for people at risk and in need. Commissioner Lockley agreed the services may need to be combined as people are missing out on services. He said the state is already cutting back so the Board needs to do what is best for the people.

3. For Board information, last meeting we discussed the cost savings to the County's electrical bill because of the installation of the solar panels on the Annex building. Today I am happy to report that Shane Phillips of your maintenance department, within the last 2 months, has reduced the Courthouse water bill by half due to his progressive maintenance efforts.

Mr. Moron said Mr. Phillips walked the two buildings and has sealed leaks and brought the water bill down. Chairman Massey stated Mr. Phillips does a good job and works hard.

4. Board action to close Chili Blvd and West Gulf Beach from Franklin Blvd to 1st Street on Friday March 4, 2016 and Saturday March 5, 2016 for the St. George Island Chili Cook-off.

On motion by Commissioner Watson, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to close Chili Blvd. and West Gulf Beach from Franklin Blvd. to 1st Street on Friday, March 4th and Saturday, March 5th, for the St. George Island Chili Cook-off.

5. Board action to approve Grant Amendment #1 with the Department of Economic Opportunity. This grant is to create a geographic information system (GIS)-based Planning Map for the unincorporated Franklin County. The amendment will allow for a change in deliverable dates and the Scope of Work.

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve Grant Amendment #1 with the DEO for the GIS based Planning Map.

6. At the last meeting the Board directed me to submit new rates for the rental of the Fort Coombs Armory. I recommend a weekend rate, from Friday to Sunday, of \$600 with a \$150 refundable key and cleanup deposit. I also recommend a \$250 daily rate with a \$150 refundable key and cleanup deposit. After Board approval of the rental rates I will create a new rental agreement and present it at the next meeting for Board approval. Board discussion and action.

Mr. Moron explained they need the \$600 and an additional \$150 for the refundable key and cleanup deposit. Mr. Moron reported in the past half of the rent was taken in the beginning and the other half was paid the day before the rental. He said people have not been bringing back the keys or things have been damaged. He reported with the new proposal once the key is back, Parks & Recreation will complete an inspection and then the \$150 could be refunded. He stated this deposit will also apply to the daily rate. He said the new rental fee incorporates the electric rates based on the last event that was held. He reported the fee will also allow the County to keep newer and better tables. Mr. Moron stated this fee should keep the Armory in good shape for rentals. He reported Mr. Curenton is working on another grant for the flooring. Mr. Moron stated the County is steadily investing money in the building but also need to be better stewards of the building. Commissioner Sanders questioned if he included the comments of Commissioner Parrish about treating everyone the same. Mr. Moron answered yes and said these are the only 2 rates he is recommending. He explained he consulted the Finance Department and Mr. Davis as well as reviewing the past rentals and the cost of keeping chairs and tables in good condition. Commissioner Parrish asked what the current charge is. Mr. Moron answered the weekend rate is \$400. Mr. Parrish said this is a good structure with the increase only being about \$70.00 more per day. He informed the Board he attended the

Mardi gras event and the new kitchen looked good. He said the functionality of the building is good and the handicapped accessible bathrooms looked good. He said this building is going to be very nice and will probably rent a lot and that will impact the local businesses. Commissioner Parrish reported this building will be an economic draw for the whole county. Mr. Moron stated the Board has a copy of a rental agreement that was prepared by Mr. Van Johnson when he worked for the County. Mr. Moron said he will use this agreement as the starting point to draft a new rental agreement and he will incorporate the changes that need to be made. He reported the Board approved each one of the items as Mr. Johnson drafted the agreement. Commissioner Parrish stated the clean up fee is important because it will insure the kitchen is cleaned which will help with pest control. Commissioner Watson said he is comfortable with this structure but suggested the Board may want to revisit the rental agreement after one year to see what the actual costs are. Mr. Moron agreed and said these rates are based on winter use of the building but when the summer comes around it may be more difficult to cool the facility. He said they can check the rates with Duke Energy on a day to day basis. Commissioner Lockley stated the public needs to know what is being done and asked if this is the cost for non-profits also. Mr. Pierce said anyone who uses the facility will pay the fee. Chairman Massey agreed anyone who rents the building will pay the fee. Commissioner Lockley stated everyone needs to be aware of the cost. Mr. Moron requested the Board approve the rates. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the suggested rates of \$600 for a weekend, \$250 for daily rental, and \$150 for a refundable key and cleanup deposit.** Mr. Pierce reminded the Board there have been some people who have paid the old rate and they are honoring those rentals. Commissioner Lockley asked how long they are honoring the old rates. Mr. Pierce said there were a couple of weddings where people have already paid the rate. Mr. Pierce stated Mr. Taylor never paid any money for his reservation so he will need to pay the new rate.

7. FDOT has informed the County that we are eligible to submit two projects for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP). SCOP's primary purpose is to provide funding assistance to counties for the resurfacing of county owned roadways. In addition to resurfacing, the program has expanded to include but not limited to repairing or rehabilitating county bridges, addressing road-related drainage improvements, or resurfacing or reconstructing county roads. FDOT provides 75% of the cost and the County is responsible for a 25% match. However, Franklin County's "Rural Area of Economic Opportunity" designation allows for a waiver request of the 25% match. Attached is information from Clay Smallwood who is here to discuss this project further. Board discussion and action.

Mr. Clay Smallwood, Preble-Rish, appeared before the Board. He explained he received an email this morning about another program the County applied for which is CIGP. He said the SCOP applications are due April 15th and the deadline for CIGP is April 22nd. He explained the County has time to make a decision on what they want to apply for. He suggested the Board let

him know by the second meeting in March. Mr. Moron stated SCOP has two projects and CIGP has one. Mr. Pierce reported CIGP is supposed to be a road that reduces congestion on a state highway system. Mr. Moron said last year the County submitted Hickory Dip, some mileage on C.R. 30, and Highway 67 but the projects were not funded. Mr. Smallwood explained these projects met the criteria but sometimes the funding does not match the request. He said the Board can reapply or select new roads. Commissioner Sanders stated the County has time to think about the projects. Mr. Smallwood suggested the Board make a decision the second week in March and then they will have time to submit the applications. Commissioner Lockley asked if there is a mile limit. Mr. Pierce answered no but said there is a money limit on how much money is provided to each district. He explained the County is competing with other counties within the district. Mr. Pierce said it will depend on how much money is allocated by the Legislature. Mr. Pierce reported FDOT will review the roads in each County and then they will make a decision about the projects. Commissioner Sanders stated for years they tried to get Mill Road addressed through SCOP but because it was a dirt road they could not get it done. She explained now with the new criteria the road will be funded in 2017. Commissioner Parrish asked if they will have time if the Board makes a decision at the second meeting in March. Mr. Pierce stated the application is short. Mr. Smallwood agreed it will not take too much time to complete the application.

8. 2kWebgroup is almost complete with redesigning the County's webpage. They have submitted two different designs for the main page. Do the Board members have a preference as to which design to use? Board discussion.

Mr. Moron said the pictures are the last two pages in the packet. He asked the Board to review the pictures and then give him a call.

Mr. Moron asked Commissioner Watson to give an update on the Dr. John Gorrie statue. Commissioner Watson said the Senate passed a bill that does not include the Dr. John Gorrie statue, only the civil war general statue. He explained the Senate bill is in the House now and Senator Montford has requested they take up the Senate bill. He reported Representative Brashears has also made this request. He said they think this will happen and the County will have an opportunity to weigh in. He stated the Resolution submitted from the County is very good.

Commissioner Sanders inquired about the House passing the Fracking bill. Commissioner Watson reported the bill has not come up in the Senate yet but it does look like it will pass. He explained the bill sets up a study and the state preempts local government. Commissioner Sanders said her concern is it preempts local home rule. Commissioner Watson reported there were over 60 municipalities and counties that filed Resolutions opposing fracking. He expressed his opinion that this bill will pass. Commissioner Sanders reported when the House committee passes the bill then the Senate usually will pass it also.

Commissioner Watson reported in reference to the TDC legislation, it looks like the Senate has the more reasonable view and preferred position.

T. Michael Shuler – County Attorney – Report

Attorney Shuler advised the Board as part of the \$575,000 payment by Orion Marine to settle the lawsuit for damage to the fishing pier; they have asked the County to sign a Standard Release from Other Liability for the damages they have caused. He stated he has reviewed the release and finds it to be in proper form so he recommended the Board authorize the Chairman's execution of this release. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Chairman Massey to execute the Standard Release from Other Liability.**

Attorney Shuler stated the public hearings for the updates and amendments for the Litter Ordinance and Animal Control Ordinance will be heard the second meeting in April.

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 10:49 a.m.

William Massey - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts