

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
APRIL 3, 2018  
9:00 AM  
MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Joseph Parrish – Chairman, Noah Lockley-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, William Massey, Ricky Jones

**Others Present:** Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Alan Pierce-RESTORE Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Parrish called the meeting to Order.

**Prayer and Pledge**

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 20, 2018.**

**Payment of County Bills**

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

**Department Directors Report**

**Howard Nabors – Superintendent of Public Works**

Mr. Nabors asked if the Board wants to continue cutting the grass the same way they have been doing it. He explained they receive complaints from Eastpoint, Apalachicola and Carrabelle wanting the grass cut. He reported they usually cut the side roads and 15 ft. from the edge of the road on Highway 67 and C.R. 30 and then they leave the rest. Mr. Moron

reported he should have the revised schedule ready for approval soon. He said he will follow the Wakulla County model as close as possible. He stated Broadspectrum explained it is easier if the County allows them a full cut twice a year. Commissioner Sanders asked if they are talking about on Highway 98. Mr. Moron answered yes. He explained they also want a full proposal to address the area coming from the county line with Gulf County. He stated he will present a proposal at the next meeting and until that time Mr. Nabors can continue doing what they have been doing. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to let Mr. Nabors continue what he was doing on the grass cutting until the Board addresses the issue. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Mr. Nabors said he receives complaints about Highway 98 in Lanark Village and Eastpoint. He questioned if cutting it twice a year will work when the County normally cuts it twice a month. Mr. Moron reported the two cuts a year will be full cuts and the other cuts will be maintenance like they usually do. Mr. Nabors agreed that will work. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioner Jones asked about the signs for the access alleyways on St. George Island. Mr. Moron stated they are waiting for the cost and the options.

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

Mr. Davis said everything is running good and he does not have a report. Commissioner Sanders asked if the County is pursuing any championship games to be played on their sports complexes. Mr. Davis stated there is nothing set at this time but Mr. Faircloth wanted the county to hold a state tournament. He reported they need to get back in contract with him. Commissioner Sanders said they need to be sure to contact him. Commissioner Sanders reported there was no parking anywhere in the area on the Day of Ball and the county is going to have to address it. She pointed out Kendrick Park has 90 acres and the County is only utilizing a small part of the park. Commissioner Sanders stated in the future they need to look at what can be done to grow the facility with a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant like they did with the first part. She reported something can be done between the softball fields and the walkways to the back.

Commissioner Jones asked if all the Dixie League tournaments are set for summer or if the county is waiting to hear from them. Mr. Davis said they are waiting to hear from them.

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

Mr. Moron stated the Emergency Management Department is working on a project and need everyone there so they will not attend the meeting today. He reported if there are any questions, he will forward them to Mrs. Brownell. Chairman Parrish stated there were no action items on their report.

Action Items: NONE

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. EOC Staff continue to promote the Alert Franklin System and encourage residents to sign up to receive updates and information from Emergency Management.
4. 04/03/18 – 04/05/18 Pam Brownell will be attending CIEM in Tallahassee.
5. 04/04/18 EOC Staff will be participating in the Active Shooter Exercise Planning Meeting #6 at the Franklin County Courthouse.
6. 04/06/18 EOC Staff will be attending Kids and Cops Day at Franklin County School.
7. 04/09/18-04/10/18 & 04/13/18 Jennifer Daniels & DOH Staff will be doing home visits with Clients on our SPN list. This will be to update all information and set up their MYID Medical Information.

**Erik Lovstrand – Extension Office Director**

Mr. Lovstrand said the only action item he has is the time for submission for the RFQ's has closed. Mr. Moron stated this project is to renovate the Bobby Howell Building. He explained the IFAS Extension Office will be sharing office space with DEP. He reported the RFQ's will be sent to the review committee for a ranking. He stated the review committee consists of a staff member, Mr. Lovstrand and Ms. Jenna Harper from DEP. He stated they will submit a recommendation at the next meeting.

**Open Request for Qualifications**

1. *Design, Engineering, and Construction Administration for UF/IFAS Extension and ANERR Facility Renovations*

Mr. Pierce read the RFQ's, as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>
EMO Architects, Inc.	Tallahassee, Florida
Barnett, Fronczak, Barlowe & Shuler Architects	Tallahassee, Florida

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to turn the RFQ's over to the committee for review and a recommendation.**

**General Extension Activities:**

- Provided citizens with assistance on soil tests, magnolia tree disease, and turf grass management.

- Participated in ACF Stakeholder's Apalachicola Caucus and Executive Committee conference calls.
- Submitted sub-lease application for new Extension office facility (former ANERR headquarters) to DEP's Division of State Lands for processing.
- Providing Extension facility renovation details to architectural firms who are submitting RFQs to County.
- Completed annual Affirmative Action report as required by UF.
- Attended UF training on using technology in Extension programming.

#### Sea Grant Extension:

- Multi-county 40-hour Master Naturalist class is on-going. Last week involved a field trip on the Econfina Creek watershed to learn about springs in NW Florida.
- Participated in weekly conference call to coordinate Sea turtle lighting project work.
- Participated in diamond back terrapin survey workshop to recruit volunteers in a North Florida survey effort.
- Submitted local sea turtle project information/results for a possible award from the Florida Assoc. of Natural Resource Extension Professionals at their upcoming meeting.
- Participated in training on conducting a survey with volunteers to determine the current extent of mangroves in North Florida. Part of a Northern Gulf of Mexico project.

#### 4-H Youth Development:

- Local youth signed up to participate in the "chick chain" program. They will be raising chickens for a show competition involving our NW District 4-H counties.

#### Family Consumer Sciences:

- Family Nutrition Program Assistant teaching scheduled classroom programs in local school

#### **Public Comments (3-minute time limit)**

Mr. Pierce provided the following item from his report:

7- Inform the Board and the public that FDOT is building a cable and post guardrail on the causeway between Eastpoint and Apalachicola on both the north and south side of the road. This was not a project that Franklin County asked for, and I have called FDOT to find out why they are doing it.

Mr. Pierce stated some work is going on in the causeway and the causeway is owned by the State of Florida and is part of the U.S. 98 Highway system. He said he thought they were building a bike path as there was some asphalt being placed along the road. He explained this asphalt will be placed all the way on the causeway from Eastpoint to Apalachicola and a guardrail is going to be embedded in the asphalt. He went on to say the guardrail will be 11 ft.

off the asphalt. Mr. Pierce informed the Board he called DOT and Mr. Carter Johnson, DOT, called him back and this is a new state law enacted this last session called Chloe's Law. He explained this law requires DOT to install a guardrail on any state highway that had a fatality between January, 2006 and January, 2016. Mr. Pierce reported the accident that prompted this legislation was down south where a woman ran off a causeway into a retention pond. Mr. Pierce stated this has nothing to do with the 5 Year Work plan so the County was not aware of this action. He reported this will be a tremendous change from how people use this causeway and he is concerned and relayed those concerns to DOT. He said the causeway is used by many people and is 50 ft. wide so they could move the guardrail back but have told him they cannot move the guardrail back. Mr. Pierce pointed out the county did not ask for this change but DOT is required to put the guardrail in. Commissioner Sanders expressed concern about a big truck having to pull off the road and the person getting out of the vehicle being in the traffic. Commissioner Massey agreed there will not be any room. Mr. Pierce said he is concerned if people continue to park on the side of the road to fish that DOT may post No Parking signs. He explained this will be a cable guardrail and there will not be any cut thru.

#### **John Solomon – Chamber of Commerce – Proclamation**

Mr. Solomon said he submitted a letter and Resolution addressing National Volunteer Month. He reported after 8 years of doing this it started to gain ground last year and a lot of other entities in the county started recognizing their volunteers and it is getting people involved in volunteering. He asked the Board to consider another Resolution thanking the volunteers and encouraging people to volunteer. Mr. Solomon stated they have been in contact with Senator Bill Montford's office and they are pushing a State Proclamation through in the next week or so thanking the volunteers in Franklin County. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Resolution, as follows:**

## **RESOLUTION**

### **National Volunteer Week April 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> 2018**

**WHEREAS**, the entire community can inspire, equip and mobilize people to take action that changes the world; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals and communities are at the center of social change, discovering their power to make a difference; and

**WHEREAS**, during the week of April 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 all over the nation, service projects will be performed, and volunteers recognized for their commitment to service; and

**WHEREAS**, the giving of oneself in service to another empowers the giver and the recipient; and

**WHEREAS**, our country's volunteer force of 63 million is a great treasure; and

**WHEREAS**, volunteers are vital to our future as a caring and productive nation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 there was a reported 62.8 million volunteers. They averaged 32.1 volunteer hours per person, per year, which comes to 7.9 billion hours of service, the equivalent of \$184 billion dollars. An average of \$23.29 an hour that a volunteer saves the organization it volunteers for.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** do hereby proclaim April 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 National Volunteer Week in Franklin County and also urge our fellow citizens to volunteer in Franklin County. Also we urge others to recognize those who serve, by tirelessly sharing their time and talent with those in need.

This Resolution adopted by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

S/Joseph A. Parrish  
Joseph A. Parrish, Chairman

ATTEST:

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

Chairman Parrish stated there are a lot of volunteers in the county and they add to the community and are especially important in rural communities which have limited financial abilities.

Mr. Moron suggested the Board hear from Opportunity Florida before Mr. Blair as it may affect the discussion. Chairman Parrish asked if there were any objections from the Board. No objections were voiced.

**Richard Williams & Antonio Jefferson – Opportunity Florida – Presentation**

Mr. Antonio Jefferson, Chairman, and Mr. Richard Williams, Executive Director, appeared before the Board. Mr. Jefferson asked the Board to consider re-joining Opportunity Florida (OF). He said he understands the history with the county and apologized for the service the county received in the past as it did not meet the expectations of Franklin County. He explained OF was trying to find ways to fund the organization and got focused on other activities that were not at the core of their mission to help and assist their member communities with economic development. He said OF provides service to 10 counties including Franklin County. He stated OF serves counties from North Walton County to Wakulla County. He explained during the day he is the City Manager for the City of Gretna in Gadsden County and understands being from a small rural county. Mr. Jefferson said they need all member counties to be part of their organization because it makes them stronger. He pointed out they all need to be part of the organization to make sure all their interests are represented. He explained there are opportunities for Franklin County that will help this community. Mr. Jefferson reported the county has an airport and it is a wonderful asset. He explained Gadsden County is also part of the Freight Logistics Zone (FLZ) and they are also trying to capitalize on use of the Franklin County Airport along with the port and rail that extends from Gulf County to Gadsden County. Mr. Jefferson reported it is important for all the communities to work together and that is what they hope OF will bring. He stated the fee for membership is \$.10 per capita. Mr. Jefferson explained if the county is not impressed with what they receive the first year then OF will refund the membership fee. He said they want to bring services here to assist the community and figure out where to go and what the future is. Mr. Williams also apologized for the things that happened in the past. He explained he was the original Executive Director and is now back in this position. He reported the organization lost their way and are going back to basics now and that is about jobs. Mr. Williams stated they are trying to bring additional jobs into this region and OF wants to make sure Franklin County is part of the effort. He went on to say they need to visit here and know about the assets and what restrictions the county wants on those assets. He stated they need to work on existing businesses as well as bringing in new businesses. He pointed out all of the counties in this area are losing labor force and they need to stop it. He stated there may be businesses that want to grow and expand and there may be grants available to help them. Mr. Williams reported the Florida Job Growth Grant has \$85 million and they provided technical assistance to multiple applications and received over \$5 million in grants in the OF area. He said he is not sure if Franklin County put in a grant because they were not a member but they will apply for the county and it is part of the dues. Mr. Williams reported they do not ask for more money to complete these applications. He stated they just need the County to commit to join, tell them who they want representing them on the Board and provide a county contract. He said they have also worked with the City of Carrabelle on a building. He reported they need to know more about the airport and work on that item because there is not another asset like the airport in this region. He offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Lockley reported the County did have a problem with OF because they never had any success with getting something done. He said he understood if they could not bring a lot of jobs but they did not do anything and not one job was created and there was no benefit to the county. He said he is willing to try again. Commissioner Sanders said the County's reason for leaving OF was because of the former Executive Director. She explained

the County was promised some things by signing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) and Memorandum of Agreements (MOA's) and nothing happened. She reported the jewel is the airport and they tried to get OF to help but the county was not getting any benefits. She stated all of the jobs were going somewhere else. Commissioner Sanders reported the Georgia Pacific plant in Liberty County employees a few residents of Franklin County. She stated she does not mind joining anything but wants to see results. She explained Franklin County does not have I-10 or any major highways except for Highway 98 and she agrees with Commissioner Lockley about looking at OF again. She asked how they think they can help Franklin County. Mr. Williams reported they will work locally and gather leads from Enterprise Florida. He said they also went to other areas and talked to different site consultants about jobs. He reported they want to understand more about the airport and look at what has already been done and see if they can put something into action. Mr. Williams stated they need to see what opportunities are there to make things happen. He reported they need a local contact to understand what the county needs so they bring in something the county wants. He said they can also provide help to existing businesses. He explained the opportunity zones include smaller counties and they are working to get this done. He said these zones can make a difference in a county like Franklin. Mr. Williams commented everyone needs to work together and it does not sound good that Franklin County is not included. He reported on the Freight Logistics Zone (FLZ) everyone has to work together. Commissioner Sanders pointed out that Mr. Williams and Mr. Jefferson are the first ones to appear since the former Executive Director visited. She reported this sounds good and it will be good to have someone else help. She stated if they do not do what they are supposed to do then the Board will keep them in check. Mr. Pierce read the following item from his report:

8- Inform the Board that Commissioner Jones asked that I investigate the county's participation in a new federal initiative called Qualified Opportunity Zone. If a community is designated a Zone then businesses "will receive tax incentives designed to drive long term capital to rural and low income communities throughout the nation." The deadline for applying was March 29. The federal rules called out those communities that are eligible and Franklin County is one of the more than 1700 eligible Zones. The Governor's Office is responsible for nominating communities in Florida. After consulting with the Chairman I did apply via an email for Franklin County. I received an email from Mr. Grey Dodge, Dept. of Economic Development, confirming they received our application and will consider it.

Mr. Pierce stated there are more applications than can be awarded. Mr. Williams said they are advocating for smaller counties as they need these zones in rural areas. Chairman Parrish reported this program is a tax incentive program from the federal government to help generate jobs in rural communities. Mr. Pierce said the cost of \$.10 per capita to join OF will equate to about \$1,200.00 a year in dues. Commissioner Sanders pointed out that money was never the issue. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to re-join OF. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Jones said he met Mr. Williams at the ARPC meeting. He asked if someone from their organization will be taking part in the Senator Bill Nelson and Senator Marco Rubio grant education forum in Quincy in April. Mr. Jefferson stated he will attend and there will be members from the OF group. Commissioner Jones asked if the County should



send someone. Mr. Jefferson said the County can send someone if they would like to. He stated the Board should hold OF accountable and if they need to appear to explain anything or provide an update then the County needs to contact them to appear and they will. He reported they will attend events representing the county and will pass the information on to the County Administration or an Economic Development person if the County appoints one. Chairman Parrish brought into discussion the upcoming meeting at ARPC about the airport overlay and asked if someone from OF will attend that meeting and let them know how it will affect the rural counties. Mr. Williams stated they will attend this meeting and Franklin County is not the only county involved in this. He reported this region has a lot of small airports and they want to make sure they protect the airports because they are valuable assets. Chairman Parrish said he can understand some of the airport overlay if someone is building an airport but these airports are already established and people have encroached on them. He explained it is different for a rural county with an airport that is already established than a new airport and these differences need to be distinguished. He stated the County is sending representatives along with the County Attorney to the meeting but OF should also be advocating for the small counties on this issue. Commissioner Jones reported he thinks they should push an idea that was brought up at the last ARPC meeting of a state clearinghouse for companies so they do not have to go to each individual county. Mr. Williams stated one of the first things OF will do is come down and look at the county and review the assets. He explained they have already done a desktop review but they need to look at the actual properties, buildings and the airport. He explained they are not waiting on the state as they have a database for people to look at that covers all the counties. Commissioner Lockley stated the County has a big industrial park with nothing on it so they need to look at it. Mr. Pierce pointed out Enterprise Florida also has this kind of clearinghouse. He said at this time he is the contact for economic development and gets information from this clearinghouse. He explained the County gets cut out of most requests because companies need a 100,000 square foot building and access within 10 minutes to an interstate or four lane highway. He stated if you do not meet the base requirements then they do not want you to apply. Mr. Pierce reported Okaloosa County has an airport similar to Franklin County's airport and it is also under utilized so maybe they can create a satellite airport system that can serve some other use besides commercial traffic and provide services across the panhandle. He stated this is the county's transportation network that they need to focus on. Commissioner Sanders reported the county also has the Bay City Work Camp that could be used to bring in a business. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Pierce discussed the contact person they need to appoint. Mr. Moron suggested Mrs. Whitney Barfield be appointed as the economic development staff person. **On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to appoint Commissioner Jones to serve as the OF representative and Mrs. Whitney Barfield to serve as the Economic Development Council staff person.**

Attorney Shuler reported Mr. Jason Shoaf is present and he would like to address Item #1 on his report. He read this item, as follows:

1. Propane Gas Tanks:

The installation of propane gas tanks in the coastal high hazard area at grade has been raised by persons in the propane industry, as well as the construction industry. Presently, your code requires that propane tanks in the coastal high hazard areas be installed either at the height required for construction of a structure or buried and anchored underground. The issue is that persons in the industry want to install the propane tanks on top of the ground in the coastal high hazard area, not underground and not above the ground at elevation.

Board Action Requested: Board approval for me to investigate this matter and provide a recommended course of action.

Attorney Shuler explained people in the industry are telling him there is an exception that allows the tanks to be installed at ground level in the coastal high hazard area and he needs to examine the issue. Commissioner Sanders stated they had this issue in the St. Teresa area on a new house so the county needs some clarification. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to ask Attorney Shuler to investigate this issue and bring back a good course of action for the Board to take. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Jones agreed they need to find a way to approach this issue because it is a problem. Attorney Shuler reported he is working with representatives from the industry including the Florida Propane Gas Tank Association in conjunction with the planning staff. He said he will bring a recommendation back to the Board. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

#### **Curt Blair – TDC - Discussion**

Mr. Blair apologized for not being at the last meeting when the Board discussed the TDC. He reported as the Board knows the TDC Board has made a decision to go out for qualifications for all the vendor contracts. He explained it has been years since these contracts have been advertised and they are in the process of putting together the process for advertising. He reported the TDC will be addressing this at their meeting next week and he is working with Attorney Shuler on the details for this item. He said he wants to make sure they are on the same page in light of the discussion at the last meeting. He asked the Board's preference on contracts to provide services. He said there was some discussion about bringing administration in-house and that will change the advertising if that is their preference so he would like some clarification. Attorney Shuler stated there are some other items he needs to go over with the Board but one of the main issues is if the administration contract becomes in-house or out-house. Attorney Shuler stated the RFQ is now complete and it includes a draft of the contract. He explained the section about salaries cannot be drafted until he knows if this position will remain an independent contractor or become a county employee in an in-house position. He asked for clarification from the Board on how they would like this to proceed. He pointed out the Board has time because these contracts do not have to be in place until September 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. He explained the process of advertising, presenting it to the TDC Board and then to this Board for review. Attorney Lockley said his motion was to determine the difference in costs for in-house versus out-house for information purposes. Attorney Shuler stated someone

is working on a proforma potential budget for in-house but it is not complete at this time. Commissioner Lockley said the Board cannot make a decision until they know the costs. He explained they know what it costs now but they need to know how much it will cost in-house so they can compare the two. Attorney Shuler stated in his report there are some recommendations for the Board to consider. He reported if this position becomes an in-house position then the pay should be the same as other department heads plus retirement and benefits. He stated the benefits will add another \$12,000-\$15,000. He explained this cost does not include the current staff members that are being used at TDC. He stated one of the suggestions was for the Board to use the budget for the Eastpoint Visitor Center to fund these 2-3 positions and make these leased employees. He stated \$40,000 is being paid now for the TDC Visitor Center and he was not sure if that will pay for all three employees and operations of the TDC. He said it could potentially require more money for the budget for the Eastpoint Visitor Center. Attorney Shuler questioned what the TDC and administration budget is now. Mr. Blair said it is based on 90% of the revenues from the previous years so it is about \$100,000 but varies. Attorney Shuler estimated the County may be able to potentially save \$35,000-\$40,000 a year if they bring this in-house, fund the three positions that are being paid for out of a combination of visitor center money and the administration budget and consolidate it into the TDC budget. Attorney Shuler said as Commissioner Lockley pointed out they do not have the proforma budget yet. Commissioner Lockley reported these items are being paid now from some combination of funds because they are not being paid out of ad valorem funds. Commissioner Sanders stated before the Board can make a decision they need to have the budgets and do comparisons. Commissioner Jones said he has thought a lot about this issue and had several people ask him about it. He stated the Board is trying to do the same due diligence and transparency they are asking TDC to do. He explained they are trying to do this the best way possible for everyone involved and this is not about individuals or people. He reported they will determine the best way to move forward when the rest of the information is ready. Commissioner Lockley said when the county renewed the last contract Mr. Blair wanted two more years and then he is not going to be here so they are looking for the best way to go and they do not know at this time which way to go. He said they have been talking about bringing this in-house for a while and need to know the difference in the cost. Commissioner Massey agreed the Board needs to know both options. Attorney Shuler stated the total amount of money for administration is \$100,000 and the amount for operations of the Eastpoint Visitor Center is \$40,000. He said the Board also allows the use of some of the advertising money as opposed to taking it out of administrative purposes and the cap is \$17,000-\$18,000 annually. He estimated when all the pots of money are put together the total budget is about \$150,000 a year for administration and the visitor center operations. Attorney Shuler said they will review these numbers and present information on bringing this in-house. Commissioner Lockley asked what the Legislature came up with about salaries for TDC. Attorney Shuler said there was a lot of discussion but it never made it into the final version of the legislation. He stated there was a lot of talk about capping administration salaries and that the salary could not exceed the salary of the highest paid county administrator. Commissioner Lockley agreed if this position is in-house the salary needs to be in the same range as other salaries. Commissioner Massey asked Mr. Blair if he is planning to retire. Mr. Blair said he

planned at this point in his life to be retiring but there are some things pending. He explained he does not have to leave on September 30<sup>th</sup> but would like to get some guidance from the Board especially on identifying how they want to proceed and his successor. Mr. Blair stated he has enjoyed this work and thinks they have accomplished some good things largely because of the TDC Boards they have given him to work with. He stated it may be time to start looking for a replacement for his position. Chairman Parrish stated as it relates to looking at qualifications for vendors, it is nothing against the current vendors but it is a matter of transparency. He said the County may end up with the same vendors but other people need to have an opportunity to apply. He reported the Board cannot discriminate and if Mr. Blair wants to submit a proposal to continue doing this then he should have the opportunity as well as other people that are interested. He said there are a lot of perspectives on the TDC Director being in-house or out-house but he likes the way the TDC Board currently operates and the final decision still rests with this Board. He explained bringing this in-house and making this person a county employee makes them look like they are working for the Board versus the community. He agreed the Board cannot do anything until they know the numbers. He stated no action will be taken until Attorney Shuler provides the information requested by the Board. Mr. Blair stated if there is anything they need the TDC Board or him to do to help them prepare to make the decision they will be glad to do it. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to determine the cost of placing the EDC and the TDC together.** Mr. Moron clarified that the Board just appointed a staff member to be the contact for EDC and asked if this is in addition to this action. Commissioner Lockley said he wants to know the costs. Mr. Moron questioned if Commissioner Lockley is rescinding the previous motion. Commissioner Lockley answered no. Chairman Parrish stated he likes what was done appointing Commissioner Jones and Mrs. Barfield. He said he does not like the TDC and EDC combination but they can look at the idea. Commissioner Sanders agreed that TDC and EDC do not need to be together and have opposite goals but she is willing to look at the issue. Commissioner Lockley stated EDC and OF are different because the TDC works for Franklin County and OF works for the whole region. He reported both look for jobs but one is a regional approach and EDC is a local approach. Attorney Shuler said this question came up at the last meeting and he discussed this matter with Mr. Moron and staff and information is included in his report. He informed the Board he also posted this question on the County Attorney forum webpage and got one response from Seminole County. He reported their county had a separate TDC and separate EDC and merged the two departments together. He said the lady he talked with was hired to manage these departments and she told him at conferences she routinely hears the question "Why did they combine these items when they do not seem similar?". He pointed out this is the same thing he is hearing today from some of the Commissioners. He agreed to answer Commissioner Lockley's question and has asked Seminole County to send him their budget and job descriptions. Attorney Shuler said he did want to discuss with the Board how they feel about potentially merging the EDC and TDC so he will take the comments that were made today. Commissioner Jones reported he would not like to serve on a board and feel like there is no real need to be there. He explained after a while as a volunteer the person may feel like their input is not needed. Attorney Shuler questioned the length of contract the Board is interested in for the TDC administrator contract and vendor RFQ's. He said presently the Board allows a two

year time period and Mr. Blair had a 2 year extension last time so he had three years. He reported he will draft the RFQ's for two years unless he hears differently from the Board. Commissioner Lockley stated he thought the contracts were for one year at first. Attorney Shuler explained they were originally for one year and then the Board changed them to two years so he was planning to move forward with 2 year contracts. Chairman Parrish asked if this would include the administrator. Attorney Shuler answered yes. Chairman Parrish reported he likes two years because if the vendor or administrator changes, it gives the person time to work and try to make improvements. He said the Board can then review the contracts and decide if they want to renew them or advertise. Attorney Shuler advised the Board he typically builds a 6 month right of termination provision for the county and the vendors into these contracts. Attorney Shuler said the pending motion is the same direction he was given at the last meeting but the Board can take whatever action they feel is appropriate. **Commissioner Lockley rescinded his motion.**

The meeting recessed at 10:18 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

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

Clerk Johnson did not have a report at this time.

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

Mr. Pierce read his report, as follows:

1-Board direction on paying the ARPC \$1K for assistance in developing economic data for the county's TRIUMPH project. Mark Curenton and I met with TRIUMPH staff last week regarding the Armory application. In order for the Armory application to document the return on investment (ROI) equal to a \$2M TRIUMPH investment Mark and I recommend that we hire the ARPC to assist in developing some economic data directly related to the Armory. Board action.

Mr. Pierce stated ARPC paid for a Regional Economic Modeling Initiative (REMI) and the software. He explained OF has a different software and depending on what kind of data is needed, the ARPC and OF are sharing that capability. He stated the data the County needs is usually generated from a REMI model and that is what ARPC has. He reported if the Board allows this expenditure it will allow them to get the data in the format that Triumph wants to see it in. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to hire ARPC for \$1,000 to develop some economic data directly related to the Armory.** Commissioner Lockley asked if this expenditure is coming out of the Triumph money. Mr. Pierce answered no; the \$1,000 will be paid out of the County's Professional Services budget. Commissioner Lockley questioned if Triumph is paying for any of these services. Mr. Pierce stated if the County wants an application that meets their standards then the County must pay for it. Chairman Parrish reported this work

needs to be done to show the economic benefit of the project and show Triumph there will be a good return on the investment. Commissioner Lockley said he just wanted to know because he heard Triumph say they were not paying for consultants. Mr. Pierce agreed they are not paying for consultants. Chairman Parrish stated this is the same work a consultant would do and the Triumph Board is familiar with OF and ARPC so the County will not need a consultant if they use these services. **Commissioner Massey seconded the motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

2- Inform the Board that Chairman Parrish and I met with Mr. Kal Knickerbocker, DACS, regarding the expansion of aquaculture leases in waters around Franklin County. The State of Florida does not require Board action to approve any leases, but DACS would like to hear comments on two proposed leases. The first is a 41 acre expansion of the leased site in Alligator Harbor. The second is the creation of a new 131 acre lease area in the Ochlocknee Bay. Both of these sites would be divided into 1.5 acre parcels to be leased out, and the leases would include bottom and water column use. The leases could be for oysters or clams. Diagrams of the lease areas are in the Board packet.

Commissioner Sanders inquired why DACS does not need the approval of the Board of County Commissioners. She questioned what changed in their mission and said in 1999, 2000 and 2001 they would not proceed on aquaculture leases until the Board approved them. She reported when the 46 leases came into effect in Alligator Harbor DACS was told and it was approved by the Legislature that Franklin County residents got first preference and Wakulla County residents got second preference and then all others could be considered. She stated these 41 leases need to be for displaced oystermen. Commissioner Sanders questioned why they picked Chaires Creek coming out in Ochlocknee Bay. She suggested Mr. Pierce contact Mr. Knickerbocker and asked what has changed and why the Board does not have a say in aquaculture leases anymore. She said they also want to request a preference on leases. She reported any land that connects to Franklin County and is going to be in leases needs to have Franklin County residents receiving first preference and Wakulla County residents receiving second preference. Chairman Parrish reported the additional leased bottom needs to be fully utilized before they look at Apalachicola Bay for open water leases because it will conflict with crabbing, shrimping, etc. He agreed with Commissioner Sanders that Franklin County residents should be given preference. Commissioner Massey agreed. Commissioner Sanders described the area for the 46 leases and said there is a little road on the map that leads to an area they call Oyster Island and it is a very productive bar on its own. She stated the other 41 acres to the east are going to need a different place than Leonard's Landing to launch boats and that area is going to be Sun n Sand off of Highway 370 going to Alligator Point. She reported the County Commission has a right to be concerned about this area because they must have a good boat ramp for 41 leaseholders to use to access their leases. Commissioner Sanders stated the boat ramp at Sun n Sand is not sufficient and there is no parking. She explained people are parking on the sides of the road now. She said she is upset that the DACS, Division of Aquaculture, thinks the Board does not need to have a say on this issue. Commissioner Sanders reported another area around St. Teresa is also part of the proposal according to the map. Commissioner Sanders reported the County needs clarification and is also opposed to using open waters or oyster bars for aquaculture until they see if this works. She stated they asked in

2000 or 2001 to extend it between Lanark Village and Carrabelle at the mouth of the river and they said the salinity was good. She reported there are parts of the bay that can do aquaculture and some areas they cannot or it will impede fisherman. She expressed concern that DACS goes not want the county to comment. Chairman Parrish said it is already marked approved and they will submit it to the Governor and Cabinet for final approval. Commissioner Sanders stated before this goes any further the County needs to write a letter to the Governor and representatives and let them know that when the aquaculture leases were first in concept at Alligator Harbor Franklin County residents got first preference and they need it to be extended throughout the other leases. The Board members agreed. Chairman Parrish stated they also need to utilize what is there before they do any more leases. He said his understanding is Wakulla County has 45 leases and does not want any more oyster leases because of the conflict. He said they are moving the leases to Franklin County because Wakulla County does not want them. Commissioner Lockley reported the County Commission has no preference and someone out of state will get these leases. He explained the whole bay is sick and people are out of work but they want to open it up to the whole world. He said with the money the State of Florida spent they could have a lottery and let the oysterman who choose this option utilize the leases without outside help coming in. Commissioner Massey agreed other people from out of the county will get all the leases. Chairman Parrish stated in the meeting he pointed out the average oysterman does not have \$60,000 to get started with the lease. He said they will not have any income the first year from the lease because they have to grow the oysters. He stated if a lot of oysters are produced then it will drive the cost down. He reported his understanding is the State put in for some Triumph money and the State will match the money to help the local oystermen get involved but who is going to help pay their bills for the first year even if they get the money to get started. He said local people are going to be at a disadvantage. Chairman Parrish explained this goes back to the County writing a letter in the beginning against growing oysters in a water column. He stated they already approved the leases and are not asking for approval since they know how the county feels. He explained if they allow this in open waters and interfere with shrimpers, crabbers, etc. then those people will attend one of these Board meetings and say the County voted to allow it but they have problems. Chairman Parrish reported he does not want every lease to come to the Board for approval because then the Board will have to choose one industry over the other. He reported the leases they are granting should be totally utilized before they grant any more leases. Commissioner Sanders questioned why Chaires Creek is included when it is a navigatable creek. Commissioner Massey said this area used to be closed. Commissioner Lockley said they are going to do what they want anyway. Mr. Pierce said they are asking for comment because that is the law. He stated there was litigation 15 years ago and the law was changed. Attorney Shuler said he will find out about the change in the law. Commissioner Lockley reported they went through the process with the leases and then asked for comment. Commissioner Sanders said she will go and speak if someone will find out when this is coming up. She reminded the Board she went when the first aquaculture leases were done because they wanted to know if the County supported them. Chairman Parrish said some of these people are not going to be in these positions in November so they are going to push this through now. Mr. Pierce stated he asked if they could delay this matter until November and

they said no. He suggested putting some of the burden back on the state as the FSU Marine Lab is now in the hands of the Governor of the Board of Trustees and not owned by FSU. He stated they should open up the FSU Marine Lab and let the aquaculture participants use the boat launching facilities and not put the entire burden on the county resources. Commissioner Massey agreed this is a good suggestion. Chairman Parrish reported someone was just towed from the Sun n Sand boat ramp and had no car when they came in from being out in their boat. Commissioner Lockley reported if the State wants to be in control then they should leave the county out of it. Chairman Parrish said they are required to have public comment and read the other agencies that were also asked for comment. Commissioner Massey agreed with Mr. Pierce and said the Board should write a letter and suggest they use state land for the boat launching as the county has no facility to accommodate the boats. He stated they also have land where everyone can park. Commissioner Lockley agreed and said to tell them the county boat ramps are busy with tourists and this will create a conflict. Mr. Pierce explained Sun n Sand is a street end and does not have any parking. Commissioner Lockley reported the state is creating a conflict and needs to use their facilities. Attorney Shuler reminded the Board this was already approved before they asked for comments. He questioned if the Board wants to authorize him to look into and investigate their legal options for filing a lawsuit to challenge the issuance of any approvals. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to direct Attorney Shuler to look into and investigate their legal options for filing a lawsuit to challenge the issuance of any approvals.** Commissioner Sanders reported the future DACS commissioner will look at these issues. Commissioner Lockley state the current DACS Commissioner has not been here. Commissioner Sanders agreed he will not attend the meetings.

3- Inform the Board that I will be getting with Mr. Shuler regarding a proposal from GSG on a potential MSBU for Alligator Drive maintenance. This initial consultation will be focused on the legality of creating one assessment over a large area for the protection of the road. If it is found that applying an assessment over a large area is not legally defensible then the county will be faced with creating higher assessments for a smaller number of parcels if it wants to move forward. Mr. Shuler and I will return with a report in the near future.

4- Inform the Board that Ms. Whitney Barfield and I participated in a site visit to Alligator Point with FEMA on March 28. The purpose of the site visit was to close out the FEMA grant that was used to buy the Capital City Bank property. The inspectors wanted some abandoned lumber and filter fabric to be cleaned up, so I went back to the property on March 29 with the road department and they did an excellent job of removing the remaining debris. I have forwarded photos on to FEMA and am waiting a response. One of the issues that FEMA had on site was whether we would have to remove part of the cul-de-sac and I argued strongly against removing it. We will see what happens.

5- Consortium update- the public comment period for the State Expenditure Plan (SEP) is complete, and so it is logical to conclude that the SEP is ready to go to the Governor. That is not the case. I had a teleconference with Consortium staff and this is the current status. Because there were extensive comments to the SEP from state and federal agencies, the



consultants will not present a corrected SEP to the Consortium at its April 26 meeting. It is the intent of the consultants to ask the Consortium to hold a teleconference meeting sometime in May for the purpose of approving the SEP. If that happens then the Governor would get the SEP sometime in May/June with the expectation of sending it to the Gulf Council for approval in June/July. The consultants still expect the SEP will be able to start processing projects for the counties sometime in the fall 2018. However, the administration of the projects still has yet to be worked out so I am not sure when the county should expect to see projects started.

Mr. Pierce said Commissioner Sanders will attend the April Consortium meeting. He stated he will be involved in a teleconference tomorrow. He reported they are slowly working through the process but it is taking a long time.

6- Provide Board with copy of the TRIUMPH letter of support issued to FSU consistent with the \$2M cap the Board has created for the first round of projects.

7- The Board addressed this item earlier in the meeting.

8- This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Pierce said Commissioner Jones asked him about the Qualified Opportunity Zones and the deadline was March 29<sup>th</sup> so he contacted the Chairman and with support from the Board he applied. He stated he did not realize OF had already done this on the County's behalf. Mr. Pierce explained hundreds of applications have come out of the State of Florida so this will be competitive. He reported the Governor will make the nominations. Commissioner Jones said there are about 1,700 qualified areas and only 25% will be awarded.

Commissioner Lockley inquired about the \$2 million cap on the applications and if everyone is on board. Mr. Pierce said the City of Apalachicola is not on board and is applying directly to the Triumph Board without asking for a letter of support from the Board which is their prerogative. He reported there is a meeting with Triumph staff on April 11<sup>th</sup> to talk about School Board projects. He said the School Board has two projects in the process but neither has received initial approval. He reported 1 of the projects is for \$900,000 and the other is for \$2.8 million. Mr. Pierce stated the Triumph Board and Mr. Shoaf, Triumph Board member who was present this morning, are pushing for workforce development. He explained Mr. Shoaf want to create a labor force that will be able to take advantage of the new jobs created. He stated Mr. Shoaf is very strong on workforce development and on School Board initiatives. Chairman Parrish pointed out the School Board projects are not included in the first round. Commissioner Lockley reported the School Board put in for opening a shop. Mr. Pierce said yes and a house building program. Chairman Parrish explained their project is not only for kids at the high school but will also offer welding classes at night for adults. He said this program will help individuals displaced by the oyster industry learn other skills. Chairman Parrish reported this is a community wide project not just a project for kids. Mr. Pierce stated the initial idea of a \$2 million cap for all applicants was fair and the County asked for \$2 million for the Armory but

also may come back and ask for money for a project at the airport. He stated ultimately the County may have more than \$2 million worth of projects but they wanted everyone to have an opportunity to work together. Chairman Parrish reported the School Board may not be part of round one as their application has not been submitted. Commissioner Lockley asked if the county will receive money in 2020. Mr. Pierce stated the Triumph staff have received 140 pre-applications and at the last meeting he attended in March they approved one application. He explained it is taking a long time to get the applications to a status the Triumph Board is comfortable with. He reported the Triumph Board may approve 4 more applications in April so only 5 out of 140 will have been approved. Commissioner Lockley asked if the county will receive the money once the applications are approved. Mr. Pierce answered no, because a contract must be worked out that contains the claw back provisions. Chairman Parrish stated if the applicant does not meet the items in the contract then they must pay the money back. Chairman Parrish stated this is why the county needed to hire ARPC to provide the statistical data to make their application complete and show they can do what they said they would do in the application. Mr. Pierce explained they do not know where they stand in the list or how fast the applications will be addressed. He reported they are under a burden because by the next legislative session the Legislature is going to want a report from the Triumph staff on how many applications have been approved. He went on to say if the number is not sufficient then the Legislature has the ability to change the law and not give them any more money. Chairman Parrish stated there is another year of funding next year. Mr. Pierce agreed it is received every two years. Chairman Parrish stated in 2019 if the Triumph Board has not spent the money in a wise and prudent manner then the State could keep the money and not give it to the Triumph Board. He explained if the Armory project is approved, the county should get the money this year and be able to get started. He reported the County is guaranteed \$15 million out of the first \$300 million. He expressed his opinion that more projects will be approved if they meet the criteria. Mr. Pierce pointed out the problem is there are only 2 Triumph staff members.

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

Mr. Moron presented his report, as follows:

1. Weems Update
  - a. As of yesterday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the operating account balance is 171,992. Not reflected in this amount is a pending \$45,000 deposit and \$252,774 payment from the County that includes the ambulance subsidy and January's sales surtax distribution. Weems was informed that they should be receiving approximately \$743,606 of LIP and DSH funds this week. I will update the Board once Weems has received the funds. The balance in the Money Market (savings) account remains at \$353,019.
  - b. Health Management proposals – The Weems Board of Directors (BOD) met on Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup>. At this regular meeting Ms. Kristin Anderson, Pastor David Walker, Mr. Mikel Clark, and I were seated as new Board members. One of the first items discussed were options for the future of health care in the County.

- i. Sacred Heart – Some of the concerns regarding the Sacred Heart proposal expressed by the BOD included the loss of jobs and the loss of the Critical Access Designation which would effectively close the door on any chances of a future hospital. In addition, it was asked how the County would guarantee that Sacred Heart would stay and operate the new facility for years to come since we would no longer have the Critical Assess Designation. There was a comparison of the Sacred Heart plan to build this new facility and then lease it to the County versus the County using the USDA loan to build its own facility. The importance of Sacred Heart’s proposal to increase the services at Weems East (Carrabelle) was also discussed at length. If there is no objection from the Commission, I will create a list of all the BOD questions and concerns and forward it to Mr. Roger Hall, Sacred Heart’s President, for a response.

Mr. Moron said he received a telephone call on Friday that suggested the Board could go slow in making a decision and not rush. He explained there was some confusion because the proposal has a May 1, 2018 deadline so he will include this matter in his questions as to whether or not this is a deadline or they are offering an extension. **Commissioner Sanders made a motion to direct Mr. Moron to get hold of Mr. Hall for a response to the questions and ask him about the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline and report back to the Board. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Jones asked to get this response in writing since the proposal is in writing. Commissioner Lockley said they do not want this process to slow down. He stated the County is behind now and needs to make a move. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

- ii. Community Hospital Corporation (CHC) – After the BOD discussed CHC ‘s proposal to manage Weems for 2-years without risk at a rate of \$30,000 per month plus expenses there was a motion, that passed unanimously, recommending that the County cease any further negotiations with CHC. The BOD feels that some, if not most, of the deficiencies stated in the Operational Assessment could be addressed with the current administrative staff. There was a motion that passed unanimously, directing Mr. Cooper to create a list of deficiencies stated in the Operational Assessment for the BOD to review at the next meeting. **Board action** to accept the Weems BOD recommendation to terminate negotiations with CHC.

**Commissioner Massey made a motion to terminate negotiations with CHC. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley reported the CHC proposal will cost the county too much money. Mr. Moron said his plan to work with the Board of Directors once Mr. Cooper creates the list. He reported they will pick two or three items and have Mr. Cooper come up with a work plan to address the items. He explained there may be times they come back to the Board and need a consultant or need to consult TMH on the billing. He reported it was pointed out that the coding is wrong and that is why they are losing so much money. He explained one by one they can get the items taken care of and it will not cost \$30,000 a month plus expenses. Commissioner Lockley said the County needs to bring in professionals who can provide services. He said other people are willing to build a facility and furnish it with doctors

and specialties and that is how you make money and what the people need. **Motion carried; 5-0**

- iii. Alliant/Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) – I provided some history regarding the discussions of a partnership with Alliant (who would provide management of Weems) and TMH (who would provide general practitioners, specialty doctors, and other health and medical services). The BOD has requested a summary proposal, similar to what Sacred Heart has submitted, for their review. I have asked Mr. Cooper to contact Mr. Mark O’Bryant, TMH’s CEO, and request this proposal.

Mr. Moron reported Mr. Cooper met with Mr. O’Bryant yesterday and they are working on a proposal. He stated hopefully within a week or two the proposal will be received. He said it will definitely be before the next Board of Directors’ meeting so they can vet the proposal.

- c. Mr. Cooper presented a proposal to create a 501c3 which he stated would allow him to create better benefits, including some type of retirement plan, for both Hospital and EMS employees. Mr. Cooper explained that better benefits would help with recruitment and a more stable workforce. This plan would cost approximately \$43,000 a year and would be paid by Weems, not the County. A copy of this plan is included in your packet. **Board action** to authorize Attorney Shuler to meet with Mr. Cooper to discuss and review this 501c(3) proposal further.

**Commissioner Lockley made a motion to authorize Attorney Shuler to meet with Mr. Cooper to discuss and review this 501c(3) proposal further. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion but said she wants to include Mr. Moron as he is the Hospital Board Chairman.** She stated then he will be aware of what is happening and can inform the Board as well as Attorney Shuler informing them on the legal end. **Commissioner Lockley amended his motion to include Mr. Moron.** Commissioner Lockley asked them to get this proposal back as soon as possible. Mr. Moron said they tasked Mr. Cooper with coming up with something that would help the situation at the hospital because complaints were received from the EMS employees. **Commissioner Sanders amended her second. Motion carried; 5-0.**

- d. Mr. Cooper stated that Mrs. Courtney Alford would serve as the Interim Director of Nursing while Mrs. Becky Gibson continued her rehabilitation. He also informed the BOD that Mr. Mike Murphy resigned as Interim EMS director but agreed to continue creating the schedules and entering the runs into the billing system until a new EMS Director is hired. Mr. Cooper is continuing to search and interview candidates for this vacant position.

Mr. Moron stated Mrs. Gibson is here in the county and getting better but he asked Mr. Cooper to fill this position. Mr. Moron reported there has been some confusion and misinformation about the EMS situation and Mr. Cooper explained he had in his possession a resignation letter from Mr. Michael Murphy and he accepted the letter but Mr. Murphy will provide services until

a new person is hired. He stated Mr. Cooper had one person selected but they backed out so he continues to search for an EMS Director. Commissioner Sanders asked if the County has an EMS Director. Mr. Moron answered no. Commissioner Sanders questioned if the County is required to have an EMS Director. Mr. Moron said Mr. Cooper did not say that but he will ask today. Commissioner Sanders reported if there is a requirement then the county needs to get an EMS Director. Mr. Pierce questioned if by default Mr. Cooper would fill this role. The Board members agreed he would have to fill this role.

- e. Included in your packet is a handout titled "Critical Access Hospital Finance 101". Mr. Cooper gave each of the BOD members a copy and I thought it would help this Board understand some of the hospital lingo that is used when discussing Weems.

Mr. Moron stated this explains some of the terms they use and how they determine some of the financial responsibilities. Commissioner Lockley asked what the mileage difference is for critical access. Attorney Shuler stated he reviewed this in 2007 when Sacred Heart was talking about building a new facility. He said he thinks if you have a hospital within 25 miles of a critical access designated hospital then they are excluded from getting the critical access designation. He reported there was also some discussion about Sacred Heart getting a legislative dispensation or exception to the rule but if it was an option they were never successful in getting it. Attorney Shuler stated he will review this matter and report back to the Board.

2. At your January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board asked staff to look at the possibility of funding for a floating dock at Bloody Bluff boat ramp. Mr. Curenton contacted Mr. Phil Manor who manages the surrounding areas for FWC. Mr. Manor explained that FWC installed the double concrete ramp at the end of Bloody Bluff Road in 2001 and that adding a dock was considered but there was a concern that a dock perpendicular to the shore would catch debris coming down the river, especially during floods, and would require constant repairs. Instead a floating dock was added at Gardner's Landing since it isn't directly on the Apalachicola River. Mr. Manor stated that a dock parallel to the shore would be more suitable and would probably be supported by FWC. Would the Board like staff to submit an application during the next Florida Boating Improvement Grant cycle? Board discussion.

Mr. Moron explained the cycle for the current grant has expired and they will need to apply next time. Chairman Parrish agreed they need to move forward. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to move forward with the grant application.**

3. Attached to your agenda packet is the Inventory Surplus List that will be auctioned online. This list has been circulated to other County departments and Constitutional offices for their review. This auction will be at no cost to the County as the successful bidder of each item pays the auction fees. **Board action** to authorize Florida Auction Network, LLC. to proceed with the online auction.

**On motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Florida Auction Network, LLC to proceed with the online auction.**

4. Carrabelle's Mayor, Mrs. Brenda La Paz, has informed me that the legislative mandated four hours of ethics training will be provided by the Northwest Florida League of Cities in Carrabelle on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Carrabelle Municipal Complex. There is no cost to register. Let me know if you are able to attend so I can complete the registration form.

Mr. Moron stated they need a minimum of 10 people to hold this class. Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Massey agreed to attend. Commissioner Sanders said she does not have to take this class. Chairman Parrish was not sure if he could attend on a Thursday. He stated it was held on a Saturday last year. Commissioner Jones said he will check his schedule. Mr. Moron reported if the Board cannot attend on this day then he will contact Attorney Dan Cox and schedule the class here on a Saturday.

5. Mr. Kwenting Eastberg, ARPCs Regional Planner, has notified staff of the upcoming Chapter 333 Florida Statute Workshop. This Workshop will be held on Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Apalachee Regional Planning Council Conference Room. I have circulated this email to Attorney Shuler and Jason Puckett. Commissioner Jones and I are also planning to attend. FDOT has sent out a request list to assist in preparation for the meeting. **Board action** to authorize travel for all four attendees.

**On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize travel for all four attendees.**

Commissioner Jones referenced some of the items they requested in the email and asked Attorney Shuler if they will be able to provide these items before the meeting so they know the items the county is seeking. Attorney Shuler reported the County does not have an airport overlay to provide as they never adopted the zoning ordinance. He explained the reason it was never adopted is because the county at that time engaged its engineer to prepare a noise study and the study revealed the noise emanating from the airport never left the property boundaries of the county airport. He reported the county made the decision that there was no need for a zoning ordinance to fix a problem that did not exist and that was an allowed option under the federal rules and regulations. Attorney Shuler stated he suspects when he updates his research they will find that if the noise study reveals the noise does not go outside of the airport boundaries there will be no requirement for airport zoning. He said the county does not have a list of questions to provide as this is a fact finding mission to find out what the agency will do and how the county will respond. Attorney Shuler commented under the current law there is no penalty in the statute for not having an airport overlay zone even though there is a requirement. He agreed to meet with Commissioner Jones and provide whatever information he feels is necessary. Commissioner Jones said he does not have a list of questions but he did not want them to attend the meeting and not be prepared. Attorney Shuler stated he read the list of questions and they want to know the county's position so they can build an answer and

response to it in advance but he does not want to give them that tactical advantage. He said he would rather attend the meeting and ask some questions at that time if it is appropriate unless the Board has other instructions. Attorney Shuler stated they can share their concerns and then come back to the Board for a decision on how to move forward and respond.

Commissioner Jones said the state should have made two different rules, offer exceptions or rules for rural versus metro counties. Attorney Shuler agreed and said it is similar to the situation with volunteer firefighters throughout the state. He explained the volunteer firefighters here have to meet the same standard as large counties. He stated he has been working with Mr. Chris Doolan, Small County Coalition, about what the state is doing to streamline some of the requirements for the volunteer firefighters because it is burdensome for the small communities and the volunteers they have available. Mr. Moron pointed out the concern is if we do not follow the rules then FDOT will not provide the money. Attorney Shuler commented this was suggested in past years but the money has still been provided.

**Commissioner Sanders made a motion to direct Attorney Shuler to contact Mr. Julius Halas, State Fire Marshal, and see what they can do about the local firefighters and helping them.**

She reported she talked with the local firefighters and the certification they received is no longer any good. She stated the Small County Coalition has been instrumental in trying to get some help for the volunteer fire departments. Commissioner Sanders said if it comes down to it and they have no volunteer fire departments and the county starts having to fund it then it will cost a lot of money. She stated the county needs to contact Mr. Halas to see if he can provide some help to the local firefighters. **Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.**

Chairman Parrish referenced an email sent out by Mr. George Pruet, Eastpoint Volunteer Fire Department, providing information about training for firefighters. He asked Mr. Moron to add this information to the county website so the public will know and the firefighters can receive the training required for the new standards. Mr. Cliff Butler, a resident of Eastpoint, reported the volunteer fire departments are critical to the county and if you do not have them then fire insurance rates will skyrocket. He stated they need to help the firefighters any way they can. Commissioner Jones stated the email says they are getting together a class that will be held in Eastpoint and asks people to get in touch with them to schedule the class. Mr. Moron asked Commissioner Jones to forward the email to him. Commissioner Jones agreed to send the email to Mr. Moron. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

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

Attorney Shuler presented his report, as follows:

1. Propane Gas Tanks:

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. Alligator Point Parking Ordinance:

The Franklin County Sheriff's Department has asked whether the current ordinance regulating parking at Alligator Point will allow the use of a "boot" to immobilize a vehicle in lieu of towing it back to Eastpoint, Florida.

The current ordinance requires towing and does not authorize the use of a "boot" to immobilize vehicles.

Board Action Requested: Board approval for me to conduct a public hearing to amend the current ordinance to authorize the use of a "boot" to immobilize vehicles in lieu of towing or as an alternative to towing.

Attorney Shuler said the current ordinance requires towing and a civil penalty and possibly a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree Misdemeanor for repeat offenders but there is no provision for using a "boot" to immobilize vehicles at Alligator Point. He asked for Board approval to conduct a public hearing to amend the current ordinance. Commissioner Sanders asked if there is any way they can see the proposed amendment to the ordinance before the public hearing. Attorney Shuler answered yes. Commissioner Sanders inquired if they put a boot on a vehicle is there a way to pay the fine there and have the boot removed. Attorney Shuler replied yes and said the point is instead of towing the vehicle to another location the vehicle would be immobilized on site and there would be an ability to pay and have the boot removed. Chairman Parrish questioned if they will pay the fine there or the Sheriff's Department would issue a ticket. Attorney Shuler stated law enforcement would collect the money and then it would be turned over to the Clerk's Office. Attorney Shuler agreed to provide a draft of the amendment to the Commissioners. Chairman Parrish said one person brought their boat in and their vehicle had been towed and they had no way to know where it was or a way to get to their vehicle. Commissioner Sanders said they want to have the public hearing but they want to know what is included in the proposed ordinance.

3. TDC Administration RFQ:

I have the draft RFQ prepared. However, I request the Board's directions on the following questions:

- a. Length of contract: I am proposing a two-year initial contract, as that seems consistent with the length of the current vendor and TDC administration contract. I note that the last TDC administration contract was actually three years, because two years were added to what had previously been one-year contracts for both the TDC administrator and the vendors.
  - i. Whatever length of time is set by the Board for the TDC administration contract is the length of time that I will use for the vendor contracts, which at this time are also directed to be bid out by the TDC Advisory Board.

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

- b. In-house -vs- Out house: I have considered this issue and have the following initial comments for the boards consideration. I request the Board's input on the



following issues, as well as any other instructions that the Board has concerning this issue.

- i. Whether the position is in-house or out-house governs the decision of how to budget the decision.
- ii. If the position is brought in house, it will create additional expenses for retirement and benefits which an independent contractor will not have.
- iii. Furthermore, the present TDC administration budget is approximately \$100,000.00, an amount that almost doubles the amount currently paid to any department head. If the position is brought in-house, I recommend that the salary not exceed the amount paid to your current department heads.
- iv. If brought in-house, the Board could consider using the visitor center funds, currently \$40,000 per visitor center, to fund the employees at the visitor center, and cross train them to work as visitor center employees and staff for the TDC Department Head (if the position is brought in house). This could require an increase in the funds paid for the visitor center in Eastpoint and would require that they become leased employees of the county. This possible would have to be examined in detail to determine whether it results in cost savings or not.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION

- c. Combining the TDC Administrator with Economic Development duties. There has been some limited discussion of this matter among myself and Mr. Moron. I have contacted Seminole County which has combined the two functions and it is reportedly working well, but of the 67 counties, only Seminole County responded to my request for information. Seminole County indicates that one question they routinely receive when attending conferences for TDC issues and EDC issues, is that the two subject matters are fundamentally different in goals and not readily suitable for combination, or words to that effect.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION

#### NON-ACTION ITEMS

#### 4. Annexation Update – City of Apalachicola

I received and reviewed the City of Apalachicola's response to my public record request. According to this response, the city has not:

- a. applied for funding to expand either their water or their sewer services outside of the City of Apalachicola;
- b. Received any application for voluntary annexation.

Furthermore, I spoke with Brett Cyphers with the Northwest Florida Water Management District, and he informed me that the City of Apalachicola has not applied to them for funding to extend water or sewer services into the unincorporated area of Franklin

County. He committed to contact the county if his agency received any such request from the City of Apalachicola.

A copy of a letter by Alan Pierce to Thomas M. Shuler refuting a letter he signed as the Mayor of Apalachicola in the year 2000 suggesting that annexation of approximately 800 acres of wild lands purchased was required by the grant is attached.

Attorney Shuler said the City is still gathering information as late as September of last year. He explained most agencies that seek annexation do it in conjunction with an extension of water and sewer services. He reported the Board received a copy of a letter from former Mayor of the City of Apalachicola Mr. Alan Pierce concerning annexation because he received a letter from a consultant for the City saying it was a requirement of the grant. Attorney Shuler stated he finally got a copy of the grant from the City and the grant never had a requirement for annexation so Mr. Pierce drafted a letter of rebuttal that is now a part of the Board's official records.

5. Roger Crawford

Mr. Crawford request that the county respond to his letter inquiring as to his property on St. George Island, located within the new Overlay District. A copy of my letter is attached.

6. 251 W. Gulf Beach Drive (Duncan/Plymel)

At the last meeting, the Board directed me to review Mr. Plymel's site plan for compliance with the SGI Overlay. I had Mark and Amy review before my review. We three agree that Mr. Plymel's development plan does not violate the overlay. Signage was not addressed in the plan, but instead of requiring a revision to the plan, I directed Amy to send a letter to the owner, and copy the contractor, that since signage was not addressed in the plan, that any sign installed must comply with the overlay district.

7. PUD Ordinance repeal

The public hearing to repeal the local adoption of the Planned Urban Development ordinance will occur at your second meeting in April. Drafts are attached.

8. Abercrombie Boat Ramp Lights

On April 2, 2018, Duke Energy replied to my latest request for information. I am told that the materials are here and the work has been sub-contracted out to Southern Electrical Contractors. Work is scheduled to commence April 12, 2018.

9. Mrs. Pinki Jackel

As reported earlier, I served the demand letter upon Mrs. Jackel mid-March 2018 by United States Postal Service return receipt request and by Federal Express. To date, I

have not received a return of service. A copy of the demand letter is in the Board file for the March 20, 2018 meeting.

#### 10. Dog Island Conservation District – Mail Referendum

We are on schedule to complete the ballot language and determine eligible free-holders who can vote. There are some unnecessary restrictions on free-holder voting in the District's by-laws that have been discussed with Mr. Chris Teaf and the Supervisor of Elections. The District is going to discuss this at their meeting, which I believe occurs April 7, 2018. The Supervisor and I will meet this week (April 2-6) to discuss eligible freeholders. In the event of any conflict between the by-law of the District and Florida law, the Supervisor will conduct the mail ballot according to Florida law.

Commissioner Lockley asked if the county owes any money since they cut ties with CHC. Attorney Shuler answered not that he is aware of.

Chairman Parrish reported there is someone here who wants to make a public comment but the Board has already taken public comments. Attorney Shuler reported if an issue comes up for discussion during the Board meeting then the person can appear at the next meeting under public comment and speak. He explained the exception is if it was a public hearing then the person would have a right to speak and make a presentation during the public hearing.

Commissioner Sanders asked about the proposed date to fix the boat ramp at the Ochlocknee River. Mr. Pierce was not sure but said the County received the money and Mr. Davis was hoping to do this work in-house. Commissioner Sanders stated it has not been fixed yet and asked him to contact Mr. Davis. Mr. Pierce reported the money was received from FEMA because it was considered a small project. Commissioner Sanders said she knows it is not fixed because the Mayor of the City of Carrabelle asked to use the railing again. Mr. Moron said the response he got from Mr. Davis was the time she was asking for the boat ramp would have been fixed. Mr. Moron agreed to contact Mr. Davis and get an update for the Board. Chairman Parrish stated they had to build a new ramp and he knew that was done but he did not know if it had been placed back in the Ochlocknee Boat ramp.

#### **Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Jones asked when the meeting will be with Mr. Houston Whitfield, Gulf County EMS Director. Mr. Moron responded they are trying to set up the meeting for tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. to look at their EMS model. He explained their EMS is a county department and they want to see how much it costs and who they pay. Mr. Moron agreed to contact Gulf County and verify the time and place of the meeting.

Commissioner Jones stated he received some information from Mr. Bob Allen, a resident of Eastpoint, and agreed to provide a copy to the Commissioners. Mr. Moron said he has already provided the information.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

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Joseph A. Parrish - Chairman

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts