

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
DECEMBER 21, 2021
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Bert Boldt, II-Vice-Chairman, Noah Lockley, Joseph Parrish, Jessica V. Ward

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron—County Coordinator, Jessica Gay-Deputy Clerk to the Board

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

2. Prayer and Pledge

Chairman Jones led the Board in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Approval of Minutes
FCBCC Regular Meeting 12/7/2021**

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the minutes from the Regular Meeting 12/7/2021. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Payment of County Bills

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the payment of County Bills. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Public Comments

Mr. Ranald Ward spoke to the Board regarding a planter he has built on the county right-of-way. He said that his wife wanted a place to grow some vegetables and he built the raised bed at the end of the county road right-of-way. He said that it was approximately 8x12 and he did not realize that it would be an issue. Apparently, the state came sometime in the fall and reported it to Mr. Curenton that there was an illegal structure on county property. Mr. Ward said that in the photos provided to the Board you will see that it doesn't interfere with any traffic. Mr. Ward said that Mr. Curenton sent them a letter that it must be removed. He said that his wife had spoken to Commissioner Jones to see if he must be moved and requested an exemption or exception so that it can remain. He said that it doesn't interfere with any foot or auto traffic. Mr. Ward said he is seeking the Board's help in letting them keep the planter at the end of the street. Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Ward for his request and let him know that by policy the Board doesn't make motions and vote during public comment. He said that they may take up the issue later in the meeting.

Mr. Bruce Graham spoke to the Board about the Young Eagles program at the airport. He said there was about twelve scholarships available. He said that the program is free to the students and services are provided by volunteer pilots. Hopefully we can get the students interested in aviation. Mr. Graham said one of the first recipients of the scholarship was Chance White who now works for the county. He said this is a great opportunity for the students.

Ms. Victoria Hart spoke to the Board about St. James Lanark Village fire department. At the last meeting she was at the discussion of the Commissioner's fiduciary duty to MSBU funds. She said that she believes that the Board has a duty to provide oversight. She said that she is concerned that our tax dollars have been comingled with other funds. She said that she understood that Mr. Moron was supposed to report on the fire department. At the last meeting there was three members in attendance, one of whom doesn't live in Franklin County. She said she was provided with list of members, and several do not even live in the county or State. The only people that are members consist of one family. She requested that the Board freeze all the funds in the St. James Lanark Village fire department today. She asked that the Board not give additional funds in January until we are able to sort all of this out. She asked the Board if they knew how all the other fire departments were ran. She said they continue to break the Sunshine laws in that they do not provide an agenda to review ahead of time. There is a \$6,000 error in the budget. We need someone to oversee all the fire districts. Ms. Hart suggested having a fire marshal to oversee all the fire departments.

Constitutional Officers

6. Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell – Report

Clerk Maxwell had nothing to report to the Board at this time. She wished the Board and staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Department Directors Reports

7. Superintendent of Roads and Bridges – Howard Nabors

- a. Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District (see attached documents)
- b. Road Department and Mosquito Control will be off on the following days for the Holidays:

Thursday, December 23 (Day before Christmas) Monday, December 27 (Day of Christmas)
Tuesday, December 28 (Day after Christmas) Monday, January 3 (New Year's Day)

Mr. Nabors wished the Board and staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Moron asked the Board for clarification on the Christmas holiday. He said there are different departments doing different things. He asked how the Board would like to move forward with this. Will each department head have a say in when their departments are closed? Mr. Davis is staggering his department. Do you want each department to submit their holidays to you for approval? We need board direction on how we are going to fix it. Commissioner Ward said she

feels like it should be responsible for each department director to make the dates. She does not want to micromanage the departments.

Basically, there is no true policy, but we get three paid days off. If it falls on the weekend, we make it up on the weekdays. The closing for how many days for a county office. Commissioner Ward said it is going to be different for all the offices because of the days normally worked. Mr. Moron said yes, they work four ten-hour days. I think all of that is for inmate a better use of the inmates. Yes, you are correct, so each department works differently with different hours. I know with solid waste it's hard to close the scale house for three days in a row. As we move towards the rewrite of the policy now since it is kind of sticking out there. Chairman Jones said yes, it is something we need to look at. If we are doing days in lieu of, good bad or different, if one department is getting days off, we are going to have to make it work. I think we need to look at it and know what we are talking about. Mr. Moron said he thinks this should be included in the rewrite.

Mr. Nabors said he thinks that if a holiday falls on the weekend, they get the following Monday. We do road work it's kind of hard to bust the crews up. Mr. Nabors said it's been done like this for twenty-five years. Chairman Jones said he's been doing it for five years, and he gets complaints all the time. He gets complaints all the time for them not being open on Fridays. Commissioner Boldt said we should petition each department and then have a schedule for departments that have consistent traffic and do different for those who don't.

Mr. Davis said that the landfill will only be closed on Friday, but they will have a skeleton crew on Thursday and Monday. All our staff will get three days off, but it will be staggered. The plans are to run a skeleton crew on News Year Eve and the same on Monday following New Years. Mr. Moron said he is not saying that the employees should not get the days off, but maybe staggering to keep the office open. He would still owe them the time off, just must stagger.

Commissioner Parrish made a motion for county staff to examine the issues and bring back a resolution to the Board to make this best for our public and employees. Seconded by Commissioner Boldt. Commissioner Parrish said we need some suggestions from department heads so that we can move this forward. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Ward, Chairman Jones and Mr. Moron wished Mr. Nabors and his crew a Merry Christmas. Informational Item

8. Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

a. Right-of-Way Debris Pickup & Recycle Material Hauled (attached)

Mr. Davis reported again that the only day they will be closed will be Friday, Christmas Eve. He has had no luck in finding a location for the deer carcass container. As of now, they are leaving it there. Mr. Moron said that is what he is waiting for to do the PSA is to find a new location for it. Commissioner Parrish said according to Mr. Mosteller's report he suggested leaving it at the current site and monitoring it closely.

Commissioner Ward, Chairman Jones, and Commissioner Boldt wished Mr. Davis and his crew a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Davis said it makes it tough for bringing a crew in on the holiday. With holiday schedules essentially, they will get straight. Mr. Davis said normally we would just open for the garbage truck. but if a man comes in for two to three hours on the holiday it just isn't worth it.

Commissioner Lockley said he believes in people getting paid and if they must come in, they should get paid for the entire day. They are losing that time to spend with their family. Mrs. Griffith said we can survey our surrounding counties and see how they handle their holiday pay. Commissioner Parrish asked when dealing with the holiday calendar, can we get with the labor attorney and see how to handle this. I believe if they must come in during the holidays, they should be paid for it. Commissioner Parrish said the waste management is essential and must be managed. If they don't have anywhere to dump it the garbage services are not going to pick up. Chairman Jones said we can ask because with the current way it is set up, they are only going to get 40 hours in the week, since the holidays are federal holidays, I believe it may count as hours.

Chairman Jones said he knows at the last meeting the board spoke about fixing the erosion issue at the end of the St. George Island bridge. He thanked Mr. Davis and his staff for helping to fix it so quickly.

9. Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

- a. 12/07/21-12/09/ EOC Staff attended the Directors Workshop in Ocala. EOC Staff completed the EMPA quarterly report.
- b. 12/13/21 EOC Staff along with FDEM Staff completed the final inspections for the HLMP Grant.
- c. EOC staff continue to update plans and contracts for Franklin County. This includes our Logistics plan and MOUs with our partnering organizations.

d. EOC Staff continue to update our Kiosks located throughout Franklin County with COVID Information along with Preparedness information for storms and disasters. KIOSK LOCATIONS:

Carrabelle – Franklin County Courthouse Carrabelle Annex Carrabelle Chamber of Commerce

Eastpoint – Carquest

Apalachicola – Franklin County Emergency Management Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce

Apalachicola Post Office

We would also like to wish the residents of Franklin County a Merry Christmas & a Safe, Happy New Year!

10. Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand

Informational Items

General Extension Activities:

- a. During this period, the Extension office assisted citizens on topics of herbicides, centipede lawns, weed identification, insect pest identification, fertilization recommendations, and more.
- b. Extension Director participated in a post-North Florida Fair meeting with Fair managers and Extension faculty to assess successes and improvements. This year was a record-breaking year for both gate receipts and rides ticket sales.
- c. Extension Director

Sea Grant Extension:

- d. Extension Director participated in the virtual planning session for a Nature Conservancy-funded grant that will focus on measuring the nitrogen removal capacity for aquaculture oysters. There is potential for using aquaculture oysters for water quality improvement.
- e. Extension Director participated in a meeting of the SUNS working group to discuss potential nature-based projects to mitigate issues related to stormwater, erosion, and other coastal topics. Extension Director participated in conference call with the Apalachicola caucus/RCSC group for the river basin to catch up on recent events in basin management.
- f. Extension Director participated in workshop #2 regarding the development of metrics that can be modeled to better understand the relationship between river flow and ecosystem functions in the Apalachicola River Basin.

4-H Youth Development:

- g. The 4-H Archery Club continues to practice, and the district III 4-H youth Council held a meeting to plan for the upcoming Teen Retreat. Family and Consumer Sciences:
- h. Our Family Nutrition Program assistant continues providing nutrition programming in local schools.

Agriculture/Home Horticulture:

- i. Plant clinics continue at the Extension office and the two Libraries to assist citizens with gardening and horticultural issues that they are dealing with.
- Mr. Lovestrand wished the Board a blessed Christmas season.
Mr. Moron noted that there were three-time certain items on today's agenda.

Other Reports

11. Interim Airport Manager – Ted Mosteller

- a) Safety issue. Buzzards.
After considering the options—perhaps educating the public of responsibility as discussed last meeting is a proper course of action. I also encourage the frequent policing of the carcass receptacle area and adding security cameras. Also, the current location of the receptacle may be the better location in that it is centrally located and more likely to be used.
- b) FYI: Leaking backflow valve to #311 lift station. Plumber has been called. Water was shut off to the valve.
- c) FYI: Equipment maintenance/service--working with our county mechanics and Supervisors concerning setting up a maintenance program.
- d) FYI: Previous proposed and current projects are in engineering.
- e) FYI: The basic material kit for the Kasper hangar has been delivered.
- f) Considering the RW light random shut down issue as was reported at the last BCC meeting, TCA worked on the system but was not successful—only suggested replacing the receiver with the hope--that that would remedy the prematurely timing out at night (clue).

In researching and troubleshooting this safety situation--I have uncovered some interesting and disturbing facts.

The outdated receiver appears to be inundated by radio interference caused by the installation of updated Runway, flood, and Beacon lights with LED's.

Note: The high intensity LEDs require an electronic generator circuit that emits a radio frequency signal that is FCC certified to not cause interference problems—however—In troubleshooting, I have isolated the chief troublemaker to a particular LED ramp floodlight—and have disconnected it at the base of the 60-foot light pole. I have notified Mike Cates.

For such a sensitive safety issue I still recommend the replacement of some 29-year-old obsolete receiver—but I also recommend considering it be relocated to the FBO— away from the electric vault and remote control of the runway light system.

Allen Enterprises, Inc—from whom we have purchased lighting products in the past quotes \$3493.25 for an updated new replacement receiver— (which I can change out)— this quote also includes a new antenna (which is broken—possibly contributing to the interference susceptibility—TCA Contractors has quoted \$6,950. Currently, no FDOT funds are available for this up-date.

A disturbing discovery is the fact that someone has bypassed--disconnected and dismantled the FBO remote unit that was installed some 29 years ago???—thus the entire lighting system can only be operated automatically by the radio--or manually from the electric vault.

The remote system allowed the FBO to remotely; manually control and override the lighting system.

Another issue--the door/lock to the vault has been broken into and damaged— compromising the security of the vault—and impacting public safety. I understand the FBO's key was lost and no attempt to contact me was made. This infraction supposedly occurred some time ago.

f) FYI: John Collins accompanied by Dewberry led the scheduled walk-through Wednesday December 8th for the 06/24 lighting project—generating a punch list.

g) FYI: On Tuesday 12/14, I accompanied Bruce Graham in an apparent beneficial meeting with Josh Gabel—Senator Rubio's Regional Director, Capital Region— concerning the new FEMA Flood Map issue.

h) Questions? /Discussion? Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mr. Mosteller said they are continuing to explore the funding to replace the roof at the FBO. Mr. Moron said they have contacted AVCON, and they are going to look at some funding as well as Erin. Mr. Moron said he thinks it's time the Board moves forward with replacing the roof. Mr. Mosteller said it's not as bad as it was, but it is leaking. Mrs. Griffith said we will need to go out for bid for the roof replacement. Mr. Mosteller said he will get together with her to do so.

The Board recessed at 9:50 a.m. and resumed at 10:06 a.m.

At this time the Board moved to the public hearing scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

Presentations and Requests

15. Dewberry & Baker/Donelson - County Flood Map Update 10 a.m. (ET)

Attorney Zatzberg gave a brief overview of the discussions at the last meeting for those who were not in attendance. He said that they had heard back from FEMA and they kind of met us in the middle, approved of issuing a preliminary product. The middle ground that they are requesting

where depths are greater than one foot, we show that as zone a. We are not going to be able to mass zone as shaded zone x like we would have hoped. Typically, that is used for the 500 years, for FEMA they use the 100 years. The 500 is more of a moderate risk zone, where you have a small drainage area where it is less than one square mile. We made a case that much of the analysis fits around the airport, gave them some exhibits to convey that it was meeting both of those requirements. They focused on some of the areas that are greater than one foot. We are looking at analysis results to see how we can interpret that, seeing what that is going to look at. We are working to come up with what that is going to look like. We hope to have it in January. Attorney Zatzberg asked Jarred to talk about timing. The January would be raw results not formatted not having updated the preliminary firm base, a peek at the draft data results. If everyone is okay with the draft results, then we will move forward with providing the preliminary maps. Take about 3-6 months. We would basically replace the areas. After that we would like to initiate the workflow for the appeal period, that could take anywhere from two to four months just kind of depends on the federal register. Publish two new notices, send letters to property owners. So roughly we are currently in the appeal period it ends mid-January it could take up to a year to get back to the same workflow. The current appeal period will end in January, effective issuance in about a year. Revising the products, we are looking at about a year delay, so final issuance in two.

Chairman Jones said at the last meeting we talked about the revision and that FEMA would have to accept it. So, you are saying they have accepted what we talked about at the last meeting. Attorney Matley said yes, they did. We were hopeful that they would say it met the requirements and reissue the products. They did give us permission to revise the products with a middle ground. Chairman Jones confirmed this is strictly an update today, and there is no action needed.

Commissioner Boldt inquired about FEMA's knowledge of the storm mitigation in that area and if that may get a better classification. Mr. Matley said in terms as stormwater pipes, we don't have that, however I would say there seems to be a significant drainage period in that area. We have thousands of points, ton of lidar radars in that area. Not survey grade but close. We have good information about storm mitigation. We are not redoing the analysis or adding to but seeing where it is reasonable to interpret the analysis. Commissioner Boldt said he would like to make sure we do everything possible to keep the airport in the best light possible for future grant funding. Mr. Jarred said he believes the data they have provided is most certainly defensible. A second engineering firm has been pulled in by Michele and they concur. Attorney Zatzberg said the model being used considers topographical data, doesn't take in to account manmade structures to mitigate the flooding. Chairman Jones said we have found a way to settle the issue and we've got to move forward.

Attorney Shuler said at the last meeting the Board authorized seeking support from legislative delegation. He said that he had asked staff to stand down, since we have FEMA agreeing to revise. He would like the Board to confirm this is the direction they want to continue in. Attorney Shuler said Board direction would be okay. Mr. Moron encouraged Commissioner Boldt to set up a one on one with Attorney Shuler and Dewberry & Baker/Donelson to review the data.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present the Board, the Board authorized holding off on seeking support from legislative delegation. Motion carried 5-0.

At this time the Board moved to the following items.

Public Hearings

18. Land Use Change 10:30 a.m. (ET)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO CHANGE THE PERMITTED USE OF A 4.47 +/- ACRE PARCEL OF LAND IN SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 7 WEST, FROM COMMERCIAL TO RESIDENTIAL.

Mr. Pierce opened the public hearing. He said it is beneficial to have the zoning and comp plan consistent. Mr. Garlick said the first go around there was an error in the map. The actual advertisement is correct. You did get a copy of the layout, presentation what could be placed on this property. I kind of explained how we got to this point, other meetings with staff and what we can build in R7 which is a combination of quad and duplexes. I do know there has been a lot of comments on Facebook. The owner is trying to utilize the area. It's a good transition going from commercial to residential. The only other use for this is more storage sheds, not sure if it is a needed use. Chairman Jones called for public comments.

Mr. Howard Anderson of 85 South Bayshore Drive spoke to the Board in opposition of the rezoning. He said there is a few who support commissioners who have voted against a change in zoning. He said they were concerned about the spot zoning in respect to the comprehensive plan. There are other single-family homes being developed along South Bayshore Drive, and he feels it will put too much pressure on an already developing R1.

Chairman Jones noted the subject property is not on South Bayshore Drive and the information put out saying so is not from the county.

Ms. Deborah Samantios a resident on South Bayshore Drive said she was concerned because there is not a traffic light at that corner. She said we don't know if this is for specific workforce being built. We have tried in the past to get South Bayshore for all the large traffic to not go down that road, it is difficult. She said she lives on the curve, and she put in a circle drive to avoid the speeders. She spoke of her concern of people using South Bayshore Drive as an approach to the island.

Mr. Mike Thornburg said to start spot zoning prevents businesses from coming into the community. He said this is for work force housing, but we don't know how much work force housing it is going to be. We have all kinds of land up CC Land close to the sheriff's office and the school. He said that he thinks there is nothing to prevent them from doing VRBO in the event they decide they can't afford to do work force housing. He noted that commercial property is sparse and only place a commercial business can come into. He said that he thinks that keeping as is will be in the best benefit of the county.

Mr. Pierce said this isn't going to be a subdivision. The density is going to be a site plan. Mr. Garlick said that it is not going to be subdivided. We are at ten units.

Ms. Gail Riggermyer spoke in opposition of Board approving the rezoning. She supported preserving the commercial district and said mixing residences with business is not a responsible choice. Even though this project is not on the corner of South Bayshore Drive and Highway 98 it will affect the traffic flow. We still have that seaside serenity resort; this is going to create unnecessary traffic. It becomes spot zoning, and it sets a precedence. We need to define what constitutes workforce housing, and what can we put in effect to prevent it from becoming vacation rentals. We must be very careful that we don't cause same issue as Denton Cove in Apalachicola, how do we know this isn't going to turn into low-income housing.

Ms. Brown expressed concern regarding zoning changes. She said she believes development of housing on a busy road is a safety issue. It sets a precedence for future development of housing in a busy commercial district. She believes the school busses will have issues picking up students. She respectfully asks for the Board to keep the Eastpoint commercial district intact.

Mrs. Barbara Sanders said it is currently C2 which allows a 50 unit or less hotel, if that is correct as far as density, as you go down categories, they are consider less dense. C2 is a higher use category than R7. You are being asked as a government to change something for someone else's benefit, I would ask something in return, such as don't cut down trees, don't let your runoff for unto your neighbor's land, low lighting, creating buffers with the neighbors. All I am asking if you are considering the change, try to get something out of it for the rest of us.

Attorney Shuler recommended giving the applicant a chance to answer the public comments.

Mr. Garlick said he thinks Mrs. Barbara Sanders's ideas are excellent and they don't have any problem with those. They plan to leave a large buffer area, and the traffic the level of service is not going to be largely affected. It's not connected to Bayshore Drive.

We must do a stormwater plan, more like 50%, kids are going to be back there and it's a way form the road. Most will be for young married couples or singles who can't afford to buy a house. There's nothing in Apalachicola and Carrabelle, then you are creating more traffic on the road to travel. The biggest issue to is what is going to happen to the value, deed restriction he needs this for his employees. He can commit to not subdividing.

Chairman Jones some of the other areas mentioned are failed subdivision which happened before the crash. Mr. Garlick said he already owns the property, is the subdivisions aren't affordable.

Commissioner Lockley asked if Mr. Garlick could estimate the costs, Mr. Garlick said he thought they would be modular, four units for 120,000, he's not interested in selling he's wanting to make rooms available for his employees to live. These will be for rent vs buying.

Chairman Jones said considering the comments made by the public on Zoom and in the room, personally does not feel like we should give up commercial property to create residential. We are beginning to grow and so many things we need economically. I understand it is a downgrade, but

we are doing away with commercial property in Eastpoint. Commissioner Lockley said they haven't done anything with this property yet. He said the county is going to grow and some have nowhere to live. Said he doesn't understand the difference in having hotels in the heart of town and not allowing housing. We need affordable housing, just must make sure they are affordable.

Commissioner Boldt said he has a great passion to find affordable housing. He believes we should stay with our comprehensive plan. Commissioner Ward said she is concerned that this is not the right place for affordable housing. This property owner split this property up per his own thoughts. I think there is other property in our county that would be better suitable for affordable housing.

Commissioner Parrish said he made his comments at the first meeting. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to deny, seconded by Commissioner Ward. Motion carried 4-1, Commissioner Lockley opposed.**

19. Zoning Change 10:35 a.m. (ET)

AN ORDINANCE REZONING 4.47 +/- ACRES OF LAND IN SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 7 WEST, FROM C-2 COMMERCIAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TO R-7 MULTI-FAMILY HIGH DENSITY DISTRICT.

Attorney Shuler asked if Mr. Garlick would like to withdraw the request for a rezoning. Mr. Garlick withdrew.

The Board recessed at 11:11 a.m. and resumed at 11:19 a.m.

Chairman Jones apologized to Mr. Bruce Graham for failing to recognize him during public comments.

12. Alliant CEO (Weems) – Jim Coleman Jr.

Mr. Coleman presented a slideshow with a quarterly status update on Weems. The presentation included a status of the significant progress that has been made since the initial plan of action in January 2021. Mr. Coleman said they continue to focus on key action plan categories as follows: finance, operations & growth, and people. On the financial side, Mr. Coleman reported that they recruited and hired Ms. Susan Daniels as the CFO. The balance and reconciliation sheets are being completed monthly. The audit adjustments and findings from the previous three audits are being corrected. He noted that a stable executive leadership team is now in place. Mr. Coleman said that a 340B program has been established and there is a potential contract pharmacy opportunity of \$15-20K a month. They have completed registration with HRSA and established contracts with Walmart pharmacy, Rite Aid and CVS. Mr. Coleman noted the proforma finalized showing a small margin in year two and breakeven point in year three. They have completed a charge master review. A team from Blue was on site for a week in April to complete the review. The preliminary reports for several departments have been shared and the team is currently working through the findings. There have been three vendors chosen for consideration for Medicaid eligibility. They are Cadre, CRS and HIS. The team has reviewed current processes for collection and working with vendors to adjust. Mr. Coleman went over the CARES Act funding as follows.

Total PRF Funds Received was \$3,181,977

Total Sent from PRF Funds was \$2,135,804

- General & Administrative \$543,909
- Healthcare Related \$1,092,446
- Lost Revenues \$499,449

In addition, \$1,024,035 of non PRF funds were received and used

- Payroll Protection Program \$930,855
- State Assistance \$93,180

First Round of CARES Act Reporting was completed resulting in a payback of \$1,046,173.

Additional Funding Opportunities applied for in October

- Phase 4 General Distribution (\$17B)
- American Rescue Plan Rural Distribution (received \$254k)

An overall CMS readiness survey has been done and they continue to focus on support and preparation. They have put a quality reporting process in place. They have completed a productivity analysis with recommended staffing standards. Mr. Coleman touched on multiple aspects of the operations of the hospital which were included in his presentation.

Commissioner Parrish asked if this would be a county run pharmacy, or a third party come in. Mr. Coleman said it could be both. Commissioner Parrish said he would prefer a third party, doesn't want government competing with private entity and does not want to subsidize a pharmacy. If the data shows that there can be a profit, seems like someone would want to open one. Mr. Coleman said once we dug into it, the location and geography, the numbers it may pay out sooner than two-three years. Commissioner Parrish said when he was a kid there was a pharmacy in Carrabelle. Mr. Walker said he thinks the reason no one has done it before is profit margin for private entity. If the hospital, does it, it will be a smaller scale. Chairman Jones said I don't think this board is giving you a mandate to open a pharmacy and confirmed the board has not issued any mandates as such. Commissioner Lockley thanked Mr. Coleman and his staff for a good job. He asked when they planned to build a new hospital. Mr. Coleman said when he came in May, basically it was discussed to fix things internally first. Now we are at the position and know how we are going to perform on a day-to-day basis. There's a good plan, just needs a few tweaks. It may be best to wait mid-year, in the next six months we should be able to bring a plan back to you.

Commissioner Ward asked if he could forward the dashboard to her. Mr. Moron said it was sent in a pdf over the weekend but that he will resend. Commissioner Boldt said he is excited for all the changes made and the relationships built with all the stakeholders.

Chairman Jones thanked Mr. Coleman and his company. You've shown us today that it is panning out and was the right step to make. At the end of the day, we want to make sure we don't lose what we have, and we expand our healthcare. Mr. Coleman said they are passionate about keeping rural hospitals independent.

13. Weems CEO – David Walker

Mr. Walker said that the Alliant Team has really been a good investment for the hospital.

Mr. Walker discussed Gulf County's \$25,000 funding request to reopen the Dialysis Facility in Port St. Joe saying we need to look at how many patients that we have going for treatments from our county and then decide if we want to put any money into this project. They had indicated that

maybe we would pay a percentage or cost but no more than \$25K for five years, \$75k for Gulf County. We don't know how many patients would use the facility.

My recollection it was like 24 patients, right now we have 8 patients using Franklin Co transportation going to dialysis in Panama City. The Board would need to decide if they would like to commit to the \$25k for five years. He thinks we need to look at it at the end of the year to see if we need to give any money towards it. Gulf County will get the center back regardless. We do agree that traveling for dialysis is difficult on those undergoing it. He said he thinks we should wait to see how many patients we have attending the facility and then decide how much we want to invest. Commissioner Lockley asked if we know they have patients coming from Liberty County, Blountstown. Mr. Walker said he has not seen that data. Commissioner Lockley said he was wondering what they were going to put into it if they have patients coming in. Chairman Jones inquired on the email Mr. Walker referenced where the other option would be a percentage based on patients attending facility. Where is that money going to come from, capital outlay or Weems operational? Mr. Walker said he is thinking out of capital outlay, not out of Weems. Commissioner Parrish said the information he received was exactly as received from Mr. Walker. It will be based on the percentage of patients we have going to the center. Not sure who will stop going to Tallahassee or Panama and start going to Gulf County. Not sure where all the patients will come from, but I guess the data will support after one year. But also agrees with Chairman Jones about the capital outlay funds. If we continue to grow the funds, we may be able to pay for a hospital. How much further does this go? If you have indigent people being seen to offset the services provided to these people. These are things the board needs to look at. Mr. Walker said this may be a starting point to individuals asking for our funding. Commissioner Parrish said the way he understands this is not a free service, the patient will still be responsible for services. Chairman Jones said he is not opposed to us doing something to help this center come back to our area, but we should not do it with money that is from funds saved to build our new building. Commissioner Lockley said we are supposed to look out for the people of Franklin. Mr. Walker said the last company lost their Blue Cross/Blue Shield eligibility. Commissioner Lockley said most are going to Tallahassee, do you think they are going to be around for five years? The contract will be for five years. Mr. Moron said they are also planning to expand the services offered at this facility. Mr. Walker said it is a national company, but he believes they have a facility in Tallahassee now. Commissioner Parrish in talking about the other services they are wanting to bring into the building does that play into the number of patients or is it just dialysis. Chairman Jones said it is still dialysis. All the services to be provided will be dialysis related. Commissioner Boldt said we have a urologist that comes down once a week. Maybe look at TMH. We are building a significant infrastructure here. I see some optimistic opportunities. We sure do see a lot of potential here for something like that. The Board discussed the amount of people in Franklin County who have Capital Health Plan and how it may not cover in Gulf County. Attorney Shuler asked how Gulf County is paying for their portion, from health care or ad valorem. Mr. Pierce raised the issue if we can even use the surtax to fund this. Why would the hospital recommend this to the board and recommend this be paid out of the capital outlay fund vs hospital funding? Attorney Shuler said he is trying to gauge the receptivity of the hospital if they aren't willing to pay for it. He said he thought there needed to be more research done and brought back to the board. He recommended tabling to look at the funding issue and bring back to the board with attorney recommendation.

Chairman Jones said the way it is written on the agenda as a discussion item, can we just direct staff to find out more information and bring back to the board. The Board agreed to that. Commissioner Boldt asked why such a large corporation is asking for a subsidy from a government agency. Chairman Jones said it is probably because we are in a rural area. Mr. Moron said the same reason the pharmacy in Carrabelle is requesting one. The Board would like more information and they will discuss again sometime in January.

At this time the Board addressed the following items.

Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board Report

16. Final Plat Applications

a. Miller's Landing

Consideration of a request for Final Plat approval of a 2.01-acre parcel of land lying in Section 12, Township 7 South, Range 4 West, Lanark Village, Franklin County, Florida. The subdivision will be named "Miller's Landing" and will consist of 6 Lots meeting the minimum requirement of 14,000 sq feet each for R-1A Zoning. Request submitted by Melinda Carroll and Vicki Williams, applicants.

Staff Comments: Mr. Curenton has approved the applicant to move forward with Final Plat

PZA recommended approval of this Final Plat

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, to approve the Final Plat of a 2.01-acre parcel of land lying in Section 12, Township 7 South, Range 4 West, Lanark Village, Franklin County, Florida. Motion carried 4-1, Commissioner Parrish opposed.

17. Re-Zoning & Land Use Change Applications

a. Knight Financial Partners LLC

Consideration of a request for Public Hearing for a Large-Scale re-zone of a 79.67+/- Acre parcel lying in St. James West PUD, Franklin County, Florida from Public Facilities to PUD Mixed Use Residential. Request submitted by Inovia Consulting Group, agent for Knight Financial Partners, LLC, applicant.

Staff Comments: Application has been reviewed by Mark Curenton. This is a large scale/transmittal zoning change that will have more than one Public Hearing if approved.

PZA recommended scheduling a Public Hearing.

Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized a Public Hearing for a Large-Scale re-zone of a 79.67+/- Acre parcel lying in St. James West PUD, Franklin County, Florida from Public Facilities to PUD Mixed Use Residential. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Shuler asked if we needed to schedule a public hearing to amend the R7 zoning to make it density consistent with the comp plan to maximum of ten units per acre. Mr. Pierce said yes, we should.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, to add to a future agenda scheduling a public hearing to amend the R7 zoning density consistent with the comp plan to maximum of ten units per acre. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board recessed at 12:45 p.m. and resumed at 1:57 p.m. with Commissioner Lockley not present.

At this time the Board moved to the following items.

14. Dewberry (Engineers) - Clay Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy gave the following project updates.

Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Ph I & III & IV (007.108) FDOT:

- Phase I about to be awarded
- Phase III & IV about to go out for bids

Alligator Drive Hurricane Damage Repairs (50082808):

- Expecting delivery of sheet piles any day (should start delivering today)
- Extended construction time
- Updated or extended all permits

Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp Design (50082815):

- Design is at 90% awaiting permits to complete
- ACOE permit is supposedly ready to issue, but has not been yet

CR 67 (50082816) FDOT SCOP & CR 30A (50112837) FDOT SCRAP:

- Both completed construction, one sign issue on CR 67, CWR will replace

Timber Island Road (50112842) FDOT SCOP:

- Under construction

Franklin County EOC (50112846):

- Finalized approved layout and location
- Working with subcontractors to finalize contracts
- Should begin surveying and then design to follow the new year

CR 30A East & West Washouts (50112847) FEMA:

- Under construction

Eastpoint Restroom Washout (50112848) FEMA:

- Under construction

SGI Fishing Pier Road Washouts (50112849) FEMA:

- Bid out but bids were over budget...Rework some things and rebid

At this time, Mrs. Griffith presented the following item from her report.

b. BOARD ACTION: SGI Fishing Pier Access Road FEMA Repairs

At the meeting on December 7th, the Board also opened bids for the FEMA funded repairs to the SGI Fishing Pier Access Road Project. With this project it is not possible for the county to go back

to request additional funding for cost overruns as the damage was categorized as a 'small project'. The low bid was nearly \$70,000 more than the total FEMA cost estimate of \$109,921.67 for the project which included engineering costs.

After consulting with the engineer, we would like to request that the Board reject all bids and allow for the bid specifications to be modified to reduce the scope bid upon by contractors to get the work within the available budget. To fit within the budget, the county may need to do some of the specified work in-kind (most likely demolition and removal of the existing areas of damaged roadway).

Board action to reject all bids, determine what in-kind work that could be done by the county road department, modify the scope for the bid solicitation, and re-advertise for the SGI Fishing Pier Access Road FEMA Repairs.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized reject all bids, determining what in-kind work that could be done by the county road department, modifying the scope for the bid solicitation, and re-advertising for the SGI Fishing Pier Access Road FEMA Repairs. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Kennedy resumed his report at this time.

Island View Park (50112854) FEMA:

- County staff has a copy of 90%-100% for review
- Incorporate any issues in the design
- Go out to bid after the new year

Franklin County Landfill (50112856):

- Looking at options for expansion or swapping to a transfer station

SGI Storm Water (50141160):

- Began storm water model
- Had meeting with Comm. Jones, and staff to go over model and discuss findings
- Start working more on design and cost
- Setup and have meeting with FDOT, NFWFMD and FDEP to discuss permitting options

CO 30A East (50141161) FEMA:

- Awaiting survey information for design

CR 67 Phase II & III (50141162 & 50141163):

- Awaiting survey information for design

Other Items

- SCRAP, SCOP, CIGP Applications due March 2022
- Survey at Airport
- Lighting inspections at Airport
- Kentucky Ave in Lanark
- Parking areas on SGI

20. Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith

a. BOARD ACTION: CR30A Resurfacing Project

At the meeting on December 7th, the Board opened bids for the 5.261 miles of resurfacing on CR 30A. The low bid of \$4,840,217.74 was \$1,377,555.74 above the available grant funds (\$3,671,550). FDOT does not have the funds to make up that difference, and neither does the County. The planning department recommends rejecting all the bids and rebidding the project with a reduced scope of work to fit within the funding capabilities of the FDOT grant award. This reduction in scope will mean that the entire length of road from Thirteen Mile Road to U. S. Highway 98 will not be paved at this time. Franklin County can apply to have the portion that will not be paved included in the FDOT grant cycle that is now open.

Board action to reject all bids, modify the scope and re-advertise for the CR30A resurfacing project.

HALFF engineers on this project

Commissioner Parrish made a motion to reject all bids, modify the scope and re-advertise for the CR30A resurfacing project and apply for funding in the upcoming year. Seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Chairman Jones asked why it is so high, was it how it was engineered. Mr. Kennedy explained the design and why it may be more. He also added in that gas prices are up and that affects the cost of everything.

Motion carried 4-0.

b. BOARD ACTION: SGI Fishing Pier Access Road FEMA Repairs

At the meeting on December 7th, the Board also opened bids for the FEMA funded repairs to the SGI Fishing Pier Access Road Project. With this project it is not possible for the county to go back to request additional funding for cost overruns as the damage was categorized as a 'small project'. The low bid was nearly \$70,000 more than the total FEMA cost estimate of \$109,921.67 for the project which included engineering costs.

After consulting with the engineer, we would like to request that the Board reject all bids and allow for the bid specifications to be modified to reduce the scope bid upon by contractors to get the work within the available budget. To fit within the budget, the county may need to do some of the specified work in-kind (most likely demolition and removal of the existing areas of damaged roadway).

Board action to reject all bids, determine what in-kind work that could be done by the county road department, modify the scope for the bid solicitation, and re-advertise for the SGI Fishing Pier Access Road FEMA Repairs.

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

c. BOARD ACTION: Change Order 2, SCOP Widen and Resurface CR67

As the grant funded project for the widening and resurfacing of 6.044 miles of CR 67 from SR30 to the Cricket Creek Bridge is nearing completion, CEI Engineer AECOM has submitted a final change order for a reduction of \$66,629.20 in the contracted price with C.W. Roberts for the final adjustment of quantities and materials.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign change order #2 with C.W. Roberts Contracting for the final quantity reconciliation on the CR67 SCOP project.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign change order #2 with C.W. Roberts Contracting for the final quantity reconciliation on the CR67 SCOP project. Motion carried 4-0.

d. BOARD ACTION: Advertise for Construction Portion of Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Project

FDOT has indicated that Franklin County needs to proceed with the construction of the Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path from the marina to Tom Roberts Road. This phase of the project was delayed due to the FEMA-funded repair of the washed-out portion of the road. Request Board action to proceed with advertising for construction for this phase of the project.

Board action to advertise for construction of the Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Project.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the advertisement for construction of the Alligator Drive Multi-Use Path Project. Motion carried 4-0.

e. BOARD ACTION: Transportation Alternatives Funding Cycle Applications

At the November 16th meeting, we reported the opening of the funding cycle for the FDOT's Transportation Alternatives program. This is the funding source that Franklin County has used for sidewalks and multi-use transportation paths in the past. For practical purposes, the county should limit itself to two projects per year. During the last funding cycle, three projects were submitted: Otter Slide Road and Avenue A Sidewalk in Eastpoint, River Road Multi-Use Path in Carrabelle and the widening/resurfacing of the multi-use path on St. George Island. Last year, the Otter Slide Road and Avenue A project was ranked first, River Road second and the St. George Island path third. Otter Slide Road and Avenue A has since been funded. At the meeting, Oak Street in Lanark Village was mentioned for a path project and upon review of the proposed area it was determined that the elevation changes and some flooding issues could be worsened by the construction of a path. These concerns will need to be resolved before a formal application for a path in that area can be submitted. It is recommended that the Board proceed with submitting and ranking the two projects that were already in the que.

Board action to resubmit the Transportation Alternative Grant applications for the Widening/Resurfacing of Phase I of the Multi-Use Path on St. George Island and the River Road Multi-Use Path in Carrabelle and rank the projects by priority.

Commissioner Parrish made a motion to resubmit the Transportation Alternative Grant applications for the Widening/Resurfacing of Phase I of the Multi-Use Path on St. George Island and the River Road Multi-Use Path in Carrabelle and rank the projects by priority. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion.

Chairman Jones asked if ranking priority needs to be done. Commissioner Ward said the way Mrs. Griffith has it worded she assumed the St. George Island project will be first, and River Road second.

Commissioner Parrish amended his motion to include ranking St. George Island first, and River Road second. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

f. Board Action: Amendment 1 Supplemental Funding Armory Fire Suppression Grant In early October, we reported that Franklin County had been offered an additional

\$250,000 in grant funds from the State Fire Marshall's Office to assist with the installation of a fire suppression system at Fort Coombs Armory. To be able to accept the grant award, the county had to designate and obligate enough funds to complete the project. The county met this obligation through a combination of insurance proceeds and TDC sales tax funds. On December 16th, Franklin County received the formal grant amendment from the Fire Marshall's Office.

Board Action to accept the attached Amendment to the grant agreement with the additional \$250,000 in supplemental funding and authorize the chairman to sign.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the attached Amendment to the grant agreement with the additional \$250,000 in supplemental funding and authorized the Chairman to sign. Motion carried 4-0.

g. BOARD ACTION: Acceptance of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Equipment Grant

The Sheriff's Department applied for an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant to purchase (6) weather resistant storage truck bed boxes. The attached grant award is \$2,016.

Board action to authorize the chairman to sign the Acceptance of Federal Funding Assistance for the Sheriff's Department JAG Equipment Grant.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the Acceptance of Federal Funding Assistance for the Sheriff's Department JAG Equipment Grant. Motion carried 4-0.

h. BOARD ACTION: Change Order #2, Runway 6-24 and Taxiway B and D Lighting Rehabilitation

As the grant funded rehabilitation of Runway 6-24 lights and Taxiways B and D project is now complete, airport engineer AVCON has submitted a final reconciliation of quantities change order

for TCA Contractors in the amount of \$17,440.10. The final contract price for the lighting rehabilitation is now \$537,825.10 and is wholly funded by the FDOT grant.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign change order #2 with TCA Contractors for the final quantity reconciliation on the Rehabilitation of Runway 6-24 and Taxiways A and B Lighting Project.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign change order #2 with TCA Contractors for the final quantity reconciliation on the Rehabilitation of Runway 6-24 and Taxiways A and B Lighting Project.

Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none. **Motion carried 4-0.**

21. County Coordinator – Michael Morón

Action Items

a. State's Fire Marshal's Office: Based on the Board's direction at the last meeting, I contacted the State's Fire Marshal's Office and expressed the Board's concerns about some of the Workshop discussion creating issues with the other volunteer fire departments in the county. Those other departments may feel that they are being penalized because of another fire department's actions. Ms. Melissa Dembicer, of the State's Fire Marshall's Office, explained that the Fire Marshal's presentation would be more of an explanation on their role and how they could support the Board as it relates to volunteer fire departments. They would not be here to discuss management of any volunteer fire department unless there is a reported safety violation. With that in mind, would the Board be interested in a short presentation from the Fire Marshall Office during your January 4, 2022, regular meeting instead of an afternoon workshop?

Board discussion and direction.

Commissioner Boldt said we have not had a workshop relative to the fire marshal's office in the county. The Lanark village fire department seemed acceptive of the idea of a workshop. I would encourage that we have a formal workshop and invite all people involved in the county fire services.

Commissioner Ward said she is fine with the fire marshal giving a presentation during the regular meeting. If the fire departments want to attend, they are welcome to. Chairman Jones said he feels that maybe we as a commission have asked more of their office than what they afford. The two fire chiefs I am in close contact with, and they are doing a great job. Don't want them to get the perception that they are not doing a good job as volunteers.

b. FDOT Update: As requested by Commissioner Ward at the last meeting, I contacted FDOT about appearing before this Board at least twice a year to provide an update on county projects. FDOT explained that it is a department policy not to appear at County Commission meetings, however a representative would schedule a meeting in the County to discuss projects and concerns with each commissioner individually. Would the Board like me to schedule such a meeting early next year?

Board discussion and direction.

Commissioner Ward said she would like to schedule a meeting. Chairman Jones, Commissioner Boldt and Commissioner Parrish concurred.

c. Reef Permit: At your last meeting, Attorney Shuler presented a reef permit application from the Apalachicola Reef Association (ARA) for your approval. As Attorney Shuler explained, this would be the second application the Board would sign with the ARA. Commissioner Parrish and Chairman Jones asked for additional time to verify the proposed location of the reef to make sure there would be no unintended consequences on other seafood related industries. Is the Board ready to approve the Chairman's signature on the reef permit?

Board discussion and direction.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the reef permit application from the Apalachicola Reef Association (ARA). Motion carried 4-0.

d. Redistricting Letter: Recently, Representative Shoaf contacted Chairman Jones to discuss the State's Redistricting Committee's proposal to re-district House District 7. Due to the considerable population growth in Central and South Florida versus the Panhandle, and the constitutional tier one and tier two issues used by the committee staff to draw the maps, one map (H000H8005) would not only decrease the overall land size of House District 7 but would also pull in half of its population from downtown Tallahassee. The other proposed map (H000H8007) would meet the population requirement by extending House District 7 into more rural and coastal counties and keep House Districts 8 and 9 within their constitutional requirements. Representative Shoaf would like the Board to send a letter of support for the use of proposed map (H000H8007) to the Redistricting Committee which would allow House District 7, that includes Franklin County, to remain a rural and coastal district.

Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of support to the State's Redistricting Committee supporting proposed map (H000H8007) for House District 7.

Chairman Jones it is just to make sure that all the parts of this house district remain rural and coastal. Mr. Moron said not seeing the maps we are going on what Representative Shoaf is saying.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of support to the State's Redistricting Committee supporting proposed map (H000H8007) for House District 7. Motion carried 3-1, Commissioner Parrish opposed.

e. Contractor Notification Process: At a previous meeting, the Board asked that I create a system that would notify contractors when a bid is uploaded to the County's website. After conferring with 2kWebgroup, the least expensive and simplest approach would be to create an email account that would allow all interested contractors to submit their contact information and preferred method of notification (email or text). Then whenever a bid is uploaded to the website,

each registered contractor would be notified of the new upload with a link to County's Bid and Award webpage. Does the Board have any questions or comments related to this proposed process?

Board discussion and direction.

The contractors are going to have to contact Mr. Moron to provide their email addresses to register. Mr. Moron will have the full message on the website. Mrs. Griffith said the bids will not be filtered either, they will receive notifications for bids and awards. Chairman Jones asked if Mr. Moron would run this information on Oyster Radio for a short time. Mr. Moron said he will also ask David Adlerstein with the Times to advertise.

f. TDC LOS: Last week, Mr. John Solomon your TDC Administrator asked for a letter of support for the Northwest Florida Tourism Council's "Adventure within Reach" application. With tourism as the County's number one private sector job creator and economic engine, Mr. Solomon thinks that the "Adventure within Reach" program would diversify the tourism product locally and within the region, creating a more resilient and sustainable economy all year long. The deadline for the letter of support was Monday, December 13, 2021, so I asked the Chairman to sign the letter with the anticipation that the Board would ratify his signature today.

Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the Adventure within Reach application letter of support.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified the Chairman's signature on the Adventure within Reach application letter of support. Motion carried 4-0.

Informational Item

g. TDC Report: The following is Mr. John Solomon's (TDC Administrator) report. The collections report referred to in his report is attached. Do not hesitate to contact Mr. Solomon if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report. * The September 2021 collections were \$164,075.72. The total Collections for the 20-21 Fiscal year is \$2,458,248.97 a 71.65% increase over 19-20 fiscal year. Without the additional 1% that started in July of 2021 the collections would have been 2,115,544.12 which would have been a 47.72% increase, The largest ever increase before this year was 14.1%. *

Chairman Jones received letter regarding occupancy DEP received letter giving owner 15 days to bring septic system into compliance. They named out an address about the home being increased in the number of bedrooms since they received their original permit, and they are in noncompliance regarding the aerobic systems. Chairman Jones said he feels that we as a Board should send out a letter to the homeowner in response to this letter. Mr. Moron said he will add this item to a future agenda.

Commissioner Ward said we need to start looking into getting a cell phone tower on Hwy 65. Chairman Jones said we did have someone get an approval for a tower up highway 65. I think the holdup is the cell phone providers. Commissioner Parrish said he has reached out to the individual property owner, and they have an option to put a cell tower on their property. It is an issue for

Liberty County school also. It is a huge safety issue for everyone. Would this board like to write a letter of support for AT&T encouraging them to add a tower? Once installed other companies will co-locate. We will get an expansion of different providers. If we get co-location on the tower, we will have more service options.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to write a letter of support to AT&T. Seconded by Commissioner Boldt.

Commissioner Parrish said he has the address for AT&T. He said he was instructed not to provide the property owners address at this time. Mr. Moron said do you mind if we expand to provide to all the major companies.

Commissioner Ward amended her motion to send a letter of support to all three major cell phone providers (AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile), seconded by Commissioner Boldt. Commissioner Ward said there is a dead area in between Carrabelle and Eastpoint. She said at one time there was someone in Carrabelle that was interested in putting a cell tower up. She will reach out to them to see if they are still interested. **Motion carried 4-0.**

22. County Attorney – Michael Shuler

Attorney Shuler wished the Board a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Attorney Shuler said if we are sending the letter to the option holder address on a letterhead, it will become public record. One option would be to send a letter of support to the property owner. Mrs. Griffith wouldn't it have been on the board minutes. The board would have granted Commissioner Ward suggested just saying we have a location and to reach out to the county for more details. Commissioner Parrish said we must be careful because this company does have an option. In other words, he couldn't let another company come in and build a cell tower when he is being paid to hold it.

Chairman Jones said he wasn't trying to avoid Mr. Ward's issue earlier but there is a continual issue with things being built on the right-of-way. When I spoke to them, I assumed it was next to their house. It is not, it is sitting in the right-of-way, in favor of not allowing things in the right-of-way. Chairman Jones said that county staff may need to reach back out to them to let them know it is still in right of way and needs to be removed. Attorney Shuler said Dewberry became aware of others expanding into the right of way on the island. Mr. Moron said on first street there is a fence that is blocking the road. This fence is in an alley and adjacent owners cannot access their lot. Chairman Jones said Duke is about to undertake about a yearlong project of a storm hardening project. They are going to replace poles, lines, and transformers on the island. When we were having the discussion with them, we were able to ask them about the power poles in the middle of the dune walk overs. Seeing if they can move those so that we can address parking issues on the island.

Commissioners' Comments & Adjournment

21. Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Ward wished everyone a happy holiday. Commissioner Boldt wished warm wishes for the holidays. Chairman Jones said there are positive things that the Board is working on to better the county for our residents and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

22. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts