

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
JULY 16, 2024
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Jessica Ward-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, Office Amison, and Anthony Croom, Jr.

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Erin Griffith-Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator and Jessica Gay-Clerk to the Board

Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Moron noted that Mrs. Griffith turned in a supplemental report and there were two things added. You can consider it as additions. Chairman Jones said let us just consider it as additions and approve now.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the agenda with additions to Mrs. Griffith's report. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes and Payment of County Bills

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
- 2. County Bill List for Payment**

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the minutes from FCBCC Regular Meeting 6/4/2024 and the Payment of County Bills. Motion carried 5-0.

Awards and Recognitions

3. Mark Curenton -- County Planner -- Resolution of Appreciation

Mr. Alan Pierce presented the resolution of appreciation to Mr. Curenton.

Mr. Pierce highlighted some of Mr. Curenton's accomplishments as County Planner. He noted that the base maps for 911 planning were all done by hand by Mr. Curenton. Those maps on mylar Mark drew by hand. He turned a circular globe into a flat map. He was critical to make that obvious and available to the public. The number of grants he did for Franklin County. His books were in complete order. Logically and orderly. Mr. Pierce noted that he was very good at giving him a conservative look at his interpretation of many issues that came up while they were working together. Mr. Pierce noted that Mark's guidance helped our county look the way it does. He was very straightforward in his thinking. Mr. Pierce read the following resolution into the record.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

MARK CURENTON

WHEREAS Mark Curenton was born in Laurel Hill, Florida, a place in the Panhandle where his family has lived for generations.

WHEREAS Mark Curenton was valedictorian of his high school class, which is usually a great accomplishment, but for Mark he was just keeping up with his older brother and sister who were valedictorians of their class before him.

WHEREAS Mark Curenton earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Florida, and a master's degree in planning also from the University of Florida.

WHEREAS Mark Curenton began working for Franklin County in December of 1988 and was the Assistant County Planner for twenty-eight years. During this time, Mark Curenton was not only the Assistant Planner, but also assisted with almost every effort tasked to County Administrator and Planner Alan Pierce during his tenure. Mark also filled in when needed as interim county administrator and planner during the periodic breaks in Mr. Pierce's service, and unfortunately this happened from time to time during hurricane season.

WHEREAS Mark was promoted to County Planner in October 2016 and has served in this position ever since.

WHEREAS Mark has performed many other roles outside of his designated planning position over his 36 years of service and has made a positive and lasting impact on Franklin County with his relentless pursuit of various transportation, historic preservation and park grant funding opportunities and the subsequent administration and completion of those same projects and improvements once awarded. Mark has also served on various volunteer service boards within the Community including the Apalachicola Historical Society, the Three Servicemen Statue Committee and the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation Board.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners to sincerely thank Mark Curenton for the 36 years of service he has given to Franklin County and this community. He will be truly missed, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

This Resolution was duly adopted on the 16th day of July 2024.

Ricky D. Jones, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Franklin County, Florida

ATTEST:

Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Courts

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board ratified the resolution as listed above. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Jones reminded the public how tremendous the grant funding is to our county. Mr. Curenton

said he does not really have anything to say other than, do not believe everything Mr. Pierce says. Commissioner Ward noted that Mr. Curenton’s knowledge is unsurmountable. Thanked Mr. Curenton for his service to Franklin County. Commissioner Sanders told Mr. Curenton to enjoy his retirement. Commissioner Amison noted that he has watched Mr. Curenton for many years from afar and thanked him for his service. Commissioner Croom noted that he has watched him also and noted that he has been able to give him knowledgeable information. He noted that thirty-six years is a long time, and he knew he was an asset to the county. Hate losing good people and you are truly a good person. Chairman Jones noted that he is sure you will not miss him coming with questions on updates for projects. Echoing what the Board has already said, the ability to have someone to come to, that could ground us in reality. You have always been a tremendous asset to Franklin County and to me personally.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

Department Directors Reports

4. Jennifer Daniels – Emergency Management Director

EMBA Grant

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the application for the EMBA Grant. Motion carried 5-0.

RFP/RFQ/Bid Opening

5. Sealed Bids - Hickory Dip Road (SCOP)

The project is the widening and resurfacing of Hickory Dip Road for approximately 0.37 miles from Old Ferry Dock Road to Bayshore Drive. Other work to include necessary Drainage improvements, upgraded signage and pavement Marking and safety improvements.

Mrs. Griffith and Mr. Moron opened the sealed bids as follows.

COMPANY	LOCATION	BID AMOUNT	BID BOND
PIGOTT ASPHALT AND SITEWORK, LLC	12 ASPHALT WAY CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327	\$517,865.20	YES
CW ROBERTS CONTRACTING, INC	22574 NE ST ROAD 29 HOSFORD, FL 32334	\$719,404.30	YES
EXTREME LAND RESTORATION, LLC	PO BOX 476 LYNN HAVEN, FL 32444	\$659,108.37	YES
NORTH FLORIDA CONSTRUCTION, INC	PO BOX 129 CLARKSVILLE, FL 32430	\$553,603.80	YES

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized staff to release the bids to Dewberry for a recommendation of award. Motion carried 5-0.

County Staff & Attorney Reports

6. Erin Griffith – Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator

1. BOARD ACTION: RESTORE COUNTY-WIDE DUNE RESTORATION PROJECT LICENSING AGREEMENTS FOR PLANTING EFFORTS

Engineers are now ready for the county to send the 18-month licensing agreements out to beach front property owners for the County-Wide Dune Restoration Project. The attached letter requests permission from the property owner to allow the project contractor access to their property for the sole purpose of completing the planting at no cost to the property owner. Attached to the letter will be an illustration depicting the project areas and a typical planting profile. The designated planting zone is expected to occupy a maximum of ten feet of cross-shore width within the existing dune system.

Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2025, prior to the commencement of sea turtle nesting season (May 1st). The contractor will likely access the project area through existing public beach access points and traverse along the beach to reach the designated planting zone on beachfront property owners' lots. In some instances, access limitations may require the contractor to briefly cross a property from the upland side. To grant the temporary access, the execution of a temporary construction access easement is required. The attached licensing agreement outlines the terms and conditions of access. The agreement must be signed by the property owner for the property to be included in the dune vegetation planting initiative. The easement will expire in eighteen months following the issuance of the project's Notice to Proceed. The licensing agreements must be executed and received by the coastal engineers by August 31st, 2024, for a property to be included in the project.

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached letter to be sent along with the licensing agreement to all beachfront property owners in the project area.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached letter to be sent along with the licensing agreement to all beachfront property owners in the project area. Motion carried 5-0.

2. BOARD ACTION: RESTORE COUNTY-WIDE DUNE RESTORATION PROJECT COUNTY PARK LETTER OF NO OBJECTION AND REDUCED PERMIT FEE REQUEST

Attached are two letters to the Department of Environmental Protection as part of the dune restoration efforts at the County Park location on St. George Island. The first letter requests a reduction in the permitting fee to \$100 due to the county being classified as a Rural Area of Opportunity. The second letter informs FDEP that the county has no objection to the proposed project at the County Park location as it is seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line.

Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached two letters to FDEP for the RESTORE County-Wide Dune Restoration Project.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the attached two letters to FDEP for the RESTORE County-Wide Dune Restoration Project. Motion carried 5-0.

3. BOARD ACTION: HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT – MARITIME MUSEUM PROJECT

The Tourist Development Council was awarded a historic preservation grant in the amount of \$188,500 for the exhibits needed for the Maritime Museum at the Buddy Ward Seafood Landing Park. In June of last year, the Board approved the contracts with the various vendors to complete the necessary exhibits/historical research and displays. The vendor agreements expired on June 30th and the attached amendments will extend the agreements through September 30th, 2024, for the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce, the Franklin's Promise Coalition, Coastal E. Solutions and Bay Media. At this time, Mark is working on one additional vendor contract amendment with Forgotten Coast TV which will also include a change in scope – this amendment should be available by the next meeting for consideration.

Board action to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the contract amendments for the four vendors above for the TDC's Maritime Museum Project.

On a motion by Commissioner Croom, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the contract amendments for the four vendors above for the TDC's Maritime Museum Project. Commissioner Amison noted that if they are going to apply for the grant, they need to do the leg work. He noted that Mrs. Griffith is loaded down and will be even more so with Mr. Curenton's retirement. Commissioner Amison noted that he is all about getting grants but noted that Mrs. Griffith spent countless hours working on the TDC spending plan. Mrs. Griffith noted that the grants have received an extension through December. **Motion carried 5-0.**

4. BOARD INFORMATION: County Budget Update & Budget Workshop Schedule

The budget workshops have been scheduled for Thursday, July 25th and Friday, July 26th. Upon conclusion of those meetings, the BOCC will authorize a millage rate that will go out on the TRIM (Truth in Millage) notices. The proposed millage rate that appears on the TRIM notice will be the maximum rate for the upcoming fiscal year barring rare circumstances. Currently, budget requests are still coming in. The 2024 taxable value as certified by the Franklin County Property Appraiser increased by approximately 13.91% over the prior year. The budget workshop schedule is attached, and the preliminary budget requests will be uploaded to the county website for review in the agenda link for the workshop.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved scheduling the budget public hearings for Tuesday, September 3rd, and 17th at 5:00 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Griffith noted the budget workshops will be where the Board will interact with the department heads and constitutional officers. The public hearing will be where the Board will discuss the millage rate and come up with a rate for the TRIM notices.

5. Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties Agreement. The Chairman called for public comments and there were none. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Ward said she wanted to make sure that we are still on course with working with Evergreen and the department supervisors. She noted that she has always been a big advocate for our county employees. She said anyone who gets any kind of certification or credential, they need to get compensated

for. She asked if there is, anyway, we can put this in our budget so that we can compensate anyone throughout the year. Mrs. Griffith noted that it is really not that often, and this has not been detrimental to our budget. Mr. Moron noted that Evergreen was going to add something into the plan. He noted that they will come back next year. This is the last year of the five-year plan since we did two years last year. Chairman Jones gave some history of the Evergreen program for Commissioner Croom's benefit.

5. BOARD INFORMATION: MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT UPDATES

7. Michael Morón – County Coordinator

1. Action Item: PUD Ordinance

At your April 17, 2018, regular meeting, a public hearing was held to adopt Ordinance 2018-04 repealing Ordinance 87-04 regarding Planned Unit Developments. At that meeting Mr. Alan Pierce, former Director of Administrative Services and County Planner, explained that when Ordinance 87-04 was adopted, it never received Governor and Cabinet approval, therefore it was never considered effective. He supported repealing ordinance 87-04. Ordinance 2018-04, which repealed Ordinance 87-04, was adopted with language that prohibits any additional PUDs in Franklin County. The minutes from that April 17, 2018, meeting does not support the prohibition of additional PUDs in Franklin County. A quote from the meeting minutes states: "Mr. Pierce explained in the future if there is a development that comes in and wants mixed use the County can re-impose another PUD Ordinance with the specific needs of the development." Additionally, the Board held a public hearing on July 16, 2019, less than two years after Ordinance 2018-04 was adopted, for the Serenity by The Sea PUD. The Serenity by The Sea PUD was approved.

Also, the County's Comprehensive Plan still contains language regarding PUDs. There was never any action by the Board to remove this language. County ordinances should not contradict language in the Comprehensive Plan. With that said, and based on conversations with Mr. Pierce and Attorney Shuler, I recommend authorizing Attorney Shuler to advertise for a public hearing for an ordinance that would repeal both 87-04 and 2018-04. This new ordinance should contain language that allows for future PUDs to be considered by the County, specific to the needs of the development. Board action to authorize Attorney Shuler to advertise a public hearing for a new PUD ordinance.

Attorney Shuler noted that after hours last night he received a formal request from the developer's attorney. Attorney Shuler paraphrased the request noting that the developers felt today's item may cause substantive discussion on the merits of the land development code. My advice to the Board is not to comment on public comments. The other matter is Commissioner Moron's report is seeking a ministerial decision of the Board to authorize a public hearing on the new PUD ordinance, recommend that you limit your discussion to the ministerial question only.

Mrs. Barbara Sanders spoke support of adoption of a PUD enabling ordinance. They have a place in land use zoning and planning. It needs to be a good ordinance with specifics. I am willing to sit down and work with Attorney Shuler. I think it needs to be collaborative. You do not want to prohibit someone from using their land, but you do not. Orderly process, ask that you let some of the public provide input. Object to Mr. Pierce's opinion that we just approve as going, called spot zoning, there is some case law out there on this.

Mr. John Alber spoke that 2018-04 is wise in one aspect, coastal high hazard areas. After hurricanes that we have learned density is disastrous. Enact an ordinance that lays out approval criteria -The county has resources with those who have already done research. Should not do site specific There is no high density, no mixed-use commercial that prevents high density

Ms. Susan Anderson spoke on behalf of the Apalachicola Riverkeepers Association – protection, preservation, and reservation, can be endangered by the attractiveness of these resources. We are growing, as we still see ourselves as a small community, the visitors see us as a destination. Our organization has a

contact of supporters of over 7500 people. We work with universities, professionals, etc. to give us a better understanding of how we are to act. I am here to let you see my face and our organization as your partner. We want to participate with you for this ecosystem and the people it serves.

Ms. Dottye Thornburg spoke to the short term. Three divided categories, the project is incompatible for our island. Noted that is our only way on and off the island. The position of the PUD. The second area is the unspecified and unanswered questions.

Ms. Teresa Spohrer asked the Board to take care of people like her. Put some teeth in the PUDs. Do not let them push you around.

Chairman Jones noted this further signifies that we need to do a separate zoning for St. George Island. Noted he is to the place, with directing staff to come up with, a special district for St. George Island. Direct staff to come up with some kind of plan with input from St. George Island, business district, civic district, and the residents. Other parts of the county are not the same. In addition to what we are trying to do, if we want to get a group together to work on this. We are not here to say we 100% know what to do and we got it. Attorney Shuler said he needs some guidance. Are we talking about authorizing a public hearing and creating a procedural path to create a special district? Chairman Jones noted that this has nothing to do with the Landings. This has something to do with us not having a PUD ordinance in Franklin County. Are we going to have a draft ready by the next meeting? Attorney Shuler noted that he cannot have an ordinance ready by then. Mr. Moron noted that he believes we need experience from a hired planner, to develop a procedure and checklist. Attorney Shuler noted that procedurally we have never used a PUD ordinance. There have been a number of PUDs that the county has approved over the course of the past 20-30 years without an ordinance. I thought the ministerial discussion today was only for the repealing of the two PUD ordinances to clear up. Commissioner Ward, one we need to authorize a public hearing to repeal the two ordinances. Also, we need to authorize a public workshop to discuss. We really need to proceed with eliminate the two PUD ordinances. Two separate items. Chairman Jones noted that this is going to take a while, it is not going to be done quickly. Whatever the Board wants to do with repealing the ordinance. Should this Board consider the input from the public and have a PUD enabling ordinance on the books? Commissioner Ward said do we need to do a public hearing or a workshop?

Commissioner Sanders commented that they should be careful not to get the cart before the horse. She noted that the county has survived since 2018 with no PUD ordinance. Attorney Shuler noted that procedurally we have never used a PUD ordinance. There was one passed in 1987 but it was never approved by the Governor and Cabinet. In 2018 the Board passed an ordinance to clean this up on the books. He noted that there have been five or six PUDs approved over the past twenty-five plus years. He noted that he thought one issue was to schedule a hearing to repeal 87-04 and 18-04 to clarify issues about PUDs being banned. Then there was the discussion regarding St. George Island overlay. These are two separate issues. Mr. Moron said you should not repeal 87 and 2018 without a plan. So basically, what I am hearing is you want to have a workshop. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to authorize a workshop, seconded by Commissioner Sanders.** Attorney Shuler noted that he is scheduled to meet with the planner on Tuesday. We are now expanding the scope of what we were going to engage her to do with the PUD and zoning issue on St. George Island. Mr. Moron asked the Board if they will authorize a workshop with a date and time to be determined. **On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Sanders to give Mr. Moron the flexibility in coordination with Attorney Shuler and the planner that we are looking at hiring, to schedule a public workshop on PUD ordinances, the time and date is yet to be determined.** Commissioner Ward noted the City of Carrabelle just redone their land comp plan, and zoning. She was going to reach out to them tomorrow. She thought it would be interesting to see how they may could help in the process. She agrees that St George Island needs to be a specific district in itself. Is that direction that we need in a motion? Mr. Moron asked that we vote on the motion on the table. Commissioner Amison noted that the advisory committee will be created after the workshop. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Moron noted that he is hearing that the Board wants him to come up with a plan, he will get with

planner and once a plan is come up with, we will bring it back before the Board. Then we will need Board action to move forward or make any changes to the plan. He noted they will need to appoint a committee for this plan also. Chairman Jones noted that it could be the same committee. Mr. Moron noted that the PUD ordinance is countywide, and he would prefer this committee to be specific to St. George Island. Commissioner Amison said in the meantime we are falling back on the 2018-04. Mr. Moron noted that is correct. Commissioner Ward noted that she does not like Municode.

The Board recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:44 a.m.

2. Action Item: Airport Stormwater Infrastructure Bid Award

From John Collins (AVCON): On Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. local time, bids were opened at the regularly scheduled Franklin County Board of County Commissioners meeting for the Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement project at the Apalachicola Regional Airport. Four (4) bids were received, and a tabulation of the bids is enclosed herein as an attachment for your reference. We have reviewed the scope of work with ECSC, LLC (ECSC) and have confirmed their understanding of the project. ECSC has extensive experience in underground utility and drainage projects and is based in Panama City. Based on their experience, ECSC appears to be qualified to complete this project. The Base Bid amount submitted by ECSC, LLC is approximately 5% higher the engineer's estimate which is within the expected range for a project of this scope and appears to be reasonable for this work. Board action to accept the Airport Engineer's recommendation and award the Airport Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement project toe ECSC, LCC.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board accepted the Airport Engineer's recommendation and award the Airport Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement project toe ECSC, LCC. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Discussion Item: Streamlined BOCC Meetings

Over the last few months, we have had some long meetings. I have received comments from the public about the possibility of streamlining the meetings. The Chairman has received similar complaints and would like to discuss some changes (attached) to our format and procedure to help with the length and efficiency of the meetings. Board discussion.

Chairman Jones said this is a conversation Mr. Moron and I have had over the past few months.

-only action items

-all reports due before Friday before the agenda; supplemental items could be added

-all of our directors are working directors, if we have our reports, we can address issues as they come up.

-items listed on the agenda could be listed as consent. We have already started a process where there are items that say action/discussion. We could do consent items.

-We do not have to verbatim read out action items.

Commissioner Ward said she received an email also. She noted that she does not think she would disservice her citizens by having a long meeting. She noted that she respects others time. The first time we are able to discuss these issues are at meetings. We have to bounce ideas on each other. I do agree that the department heads do not need to be here. I am okay with everything that you have discussed. I am not going to streamline a meeting for time's sake. Commissioner Croom noted that this is the only time that we can discuss county business. However, I agree that we have some kind of streamline. While I was at conference, I asked two different board members from different counties. They noted that we are a little behind and we need to streamline some things. Noted that he has been contacted via email several times. Think we have learned; I do not think Erin and Michael need to read all of this. Our old school practice is not always the correct practice. Commissioner Amison noted that before he came into office, my main

thing was people was complaining that the commissioner's had already taken care of things before the meetings. This is the only time that we can discuss things. In the past there was not a lot of dialogue between our commissioners. We could streamline a few things, at the end of the day, this is our time to discuss things. I would much rather have a six-hour meeting and get something accomplished. Commissioner Sanders said the best thing that she likes is the dialogue. She likes the TVs so that people can look at them and see that we are actually working together to get resolutions. Mr. Moron noted that if you guys want a department head here, please let me know. If all they have is informational items, then they will not be here.

4. Informational Item: Fires/Incidents

As the Board is aware, there have been multiple fires and traffic accidents, some with fatalities, in the county since the July 4th weekend. I thought this would be an excellent opportunity to thank all county volunteer firemen and first responders for their unselfish service. It is unimaginable to think where we would be without them during our time of need.

The Board discussed the recent tragedies on the East end of the county. Commissioner Sanders noted that he spoke with Sheriff Smith and asked what we can do. He noted that we have done all we can do, and it was just an accident.

Alligator Point – home destroyed

Lanark @ Arizona Street – couple struck by vehicle

Fire @ Lanark

Commissioner Sanders noted that there is a potential problem at Spring Street in Lanark. We need to have some type of blinking light. We need to ask DOT for a crosswalk, blinking light, or something. We may need them to look at Arizona also. Chairman Jones asked if that area has any sidewalks at the end of the road? DOT said they would not move forward with a crosswalk without a sidewalk. Chairman Jones noted that we may have to do a sidewalk. Commissioner Ward asked if those areas are illuminated there? Commissioner Sanders noted that some have lights, and some do not. Commissioner Ward noted that her experience has been the same as the Chairman with DOT. Commissioner Ward noted that DOT will be repaving all of Hwy 98 throughout Franklin County. Now is a good time for all commissioners to come up with safety issues in their areas. We can ask and we can talk until our lips are blue. FDOT is still going to do what they are going to do. If there is a fatality or accident, they look at things and weigh them a little heavier. She noted that her main job is to provide for safety of her citizens. Chairman Jones said that Ms. Thornburg brought up earlier the fatality on St. George Island bridge during the 4th. It was a tragic event. It is definitely something that has sparked some conversations in our community about different parade routes in the future. Commissioner Ward noted that our county still depends on volunteer fire departments and first responders. They save the county a lot of money. I am very appreciative of them, but I want to make sure they have what they need to do their job. We need to make sure that fire hydrants are where they are supposed to be. She said she thinks we need to look at legislative appropriation to get some kind of help from the government to install fire hydrants where they need to be. Legislatively I think we need to move forward to request money for fire hydrants, equipment, and training for our first responders. Just want to make sure they have what they need for what they do.

5. Informational Item: Permit Approval Policy

At some point in the past, it was policy for the Building and Zoning department to issue certain simple permits without Planning and Zoning recommendation for approval. I believe during the period when there was a change in the Building and Zoning department staff, along with the separation of these two departments, all permit applications were forwarded to what is now the Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board for review and recommendation. Since Mr. Steve Paterson's (Building Official/Zoning Administrator) and I decided to combine these two departments, back to how they operated in the past,

the policy to issue permits for simple application requests will be reinstated. These applications will include minor adjustment to existing commercial sites, such as an application for an addition or storage shed that does not exceed 400 sq ft and will not affect storm water or parking requirements. Another example would include a power pole application for irrigation and agricultural use. Staff will inform the district commissioner, prior to issuing the permit, of the application to address any of that commissioner's questions or concerns. If you have additional questions regarding this policy, do not hesitate to contact Mr. Paterson.

Commissioner Ward noted that there is some verbiage on the affidavit regarding power poles that needs to be changed. Attorney Shuler noted that he has already made a note to speak with Mr. Moron about this.

6. Informational Item: AOED & PZA Vacant Seats

A placement ad will run for the next three weeks seeking candidates to fill vacant seats on the Airport Operations Economic Development and Planning and Zoning Adjustment Boards. A list of candidates will be presented at your August 6th meeting for your review and consideration.

7. Informational Item: Regional Rural Transportation Plan TAC

At your June 18th meeting, Mr. John Berry, your appointee on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council's (ARPC) Regional Rural Transportation Plan, submitted some documents for your review. At your July 2nd meeting, you heard from Mr. Kwentin Eastberg of ARPC further explaining Mr. Berry's role on this committee and what is expected of the county. Mr. Berry will reach out to each of you this week for feedback to help him determine what projects should be submitted on behalf of Franklin County as part of this project. The projects are due on August 1st.

8. Informational Item: Airport Clearing Project Update

Below is information from Mr. John Collins (AVCON) regarding the land clearing project at the Airport. We received a letter from the FDEP that ruts were identified in an area being clearing inside a wetland. The contract documents with Collins Land Services requires that the contractor use equipment and processes that do not disturb the soil. During a meeting with the FDEP and contractor on July 1, the FDEP and contractor both agreed that it is impossible to clear these wetland areas without disturbing to some extent. The solution was for the contractor to submit for an ERP permit exemption to allow for this disturbance. The permit exemption will specify that the contractor will restore any disturbance to the original condition. The permit exemption documents were submitted to the NFWFMD on July 8, and we have been told the exemption will be issued this week. The contractor has also submitted the NPDES NOI, and this normally take about 1 week to get back. Once these documents are received, work will proceed outside of the airport fence. Regarding the airport clearing work, at the beginning of the project, we hired an environmental firm to locate and flag any gopher tortoise burrows within the clearing limits to avoid impacts. Approximately 7 burrows were located along a fence line and Collins Land Services has been very careful not to disturb them. On July 8, the clearing crews were onsite and noticed the burrows appeared to be disturbed by a bush hog from the airport maintenance staff. Collins wanted to make it clear that they did not disturb these burrows. I will call Ted and ask him not to go near these burrows again. No additional action is needed at this time. Let me know if you need to speak to Mr. Collins about the project.

9. Informational Item: Zoning Ordinance Public Hearing

A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to amend the Zoning Ordinance. Specifically, the language that addresses permitting of primary and accessory/secondary structures. Prior to the scheduling of the public hearing, a workshop was scheduled for this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. to discuss primary and accessory/secondary structures. However, recent discussions led to the scheduling of the July 23rd public hearing which should address the primary and accessory/secondary issue quicker than a workshop. Therefore, the workshop scheduled for 5:00 p.m. this evening is cancelled. Depending on the

outcome of the July 23rd public hearing, the Board may however, schedule a workshop to discuss primary and accessory/secondary structures in more detail.

10. Informational Item: Budget Workshops

Your Budget Workshops for FY 2024-25 are scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2024, starting at 9:00 a.m. (ET), and Friday, July 26, 2024, starting at 10:00 a.m. (ET). As usual, I will send you links to the electronic version of the budget book for your review.

11. Informational Item: Next Meeting Date

Your next regular meeting date is scheduled on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. (ET).

Mr. Moron noted that on the hospital consultant he is awaiting a confirmation for a meeting with the consultant, Attorney Shuler, and himself. He believes to have this scheduled maybe this week but no later than next week.

Conversation about no wake signs and getting coast guard to mark areas. Mr. Moron said he spoke with John Creamer last week and they are having some of the no wake signs posted based on the state's ordinances. He said to send him our ordinances. Mr. Moron said he is going to pull our ordinances to make sure they do not need to be updated. Commissioner Ward said Mr. Creamer will be here August 6th to discuss the rocks in the bay and the bears. Chairman Jones said it is not about finding out who is at fault it is just trying to get resolved. A lot of times the volume is up really high, so I do not know it is something to do with Fire Net. Do we as a board need to have someone access our current system? In between we still need to have valid communications. Chairman Jones said it needs to be operational. Commissioner Croom noted that everyone has their own system. And if we find one and unify that would be helpful. Commissioner Amison inquired about Weems security and potential hacking. Did we ever discuss with admin? Mr. Moron noted that we have not. Commissioner Amison asked where we are at with consultant? Mr. Moron noted that he is working to schedule a meeting with Baker Tolley. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Moron if he would contact Mr. Joe Ross with the Lanark fire department to see if they are ready to get going. Attorney Shuler noted that the contract is ready. Commissioner Sanders noted that she would like each fire department to sign a contract.

8. Michael Shuler – County Attorney

Attorney Shuler noted that he is having a meeting with the City of Apalachicola today regarding an amendment to the surtax. Commissioner Croom asked if he had received anything from Attorney Hartman regarding the proposed lease agreement and asked him to follow up. Mrs. Griffith noted that the agreement should be for four years. Commissioner Sanders noted that the City of Carrabelle does not want to hinder Franklin County from what they are wanting to do with the surtax. At the same time, they are wanting an answer as to what they are wanting to do, asked Mr. Moron to get with him. Mr. Moron noted that he reached out to Weems, and they have a meeting scheduled with the mayor. Chairman Jones asked Attorney Shuler if we are still working on the RV ordinance draft. Mr. Moron said we have a meeting scheduled with building official, Attorney Shuler, and me, to have something to present to you in August.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Ward noted that she will be out with Caleb Brown tomorrow to look at roads, to get a game plan for the next four years. Just wanted the Board to be aware that she is going to be doing that. We are going to have to figure out a way moving forward, that is the most fiscally responsible as well. Commissioner Sanders asked if she had heard anything from CW Roberts? She said she has not. Commissioner Sanders noted that they were down yesterday bringing signs. Commissioner Croom said he would give Caleb a call tomorrow. Commissioner Croom said as a commissioner he is not looking at St. George Island as a cash cow. It was said and he just wanted to squash that idea.

Adjournment

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

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts

The audio is available upon request. Please e-mail jgay@franklinclerk.com, call 850-653-8861 to speak with the Administrative Assistant, or submit a request in writing to obtain audio of this meeting.