



**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**

**DECEMBER 15, 2020**

**9:00 AM**

**AGENDA**

*The Board of County Commissioners asks that all cell phones are turned off or placed on silent (vibrate) mode. **Any handouts (information) for distribution to the Commission must be submitted to the Board Secretary (Clerk's Office) or to the County Coordinator on or before the Thursday prior to that Tuesday's meeting. Failure to do so will result in your removal from the agenda or a delay of any action relating to your request until a future meeting.***

**Call to Order**

*A. Public Notice*

*To comply with CDC and Government social distancing requirements, the general public will not be allowed in the commission meeting room for this meeting; therefore, this Board of County Commission regular meeting will be conducted via livestream and Zoom. **Those wanting to view the meeting can use the livestream link (<https://facebook.com/forgottencoasttv/>) or go to Forgotten Coast TV's Facebook Page. The livestream feed will promptly start 5 minutes before the meeting commences. **You do not need a Facebook account to view Facebook live.** Those wanting to participate during "Public Comments" should use the Zoom log-in/call-in information provided below. There is a link to a list of videos and Getting Started Resources on the main "Agenda and Minutes" webpage for those unfamiliar with Zoom. If you are experiencing any issues with the livestream or Zoom, call (850) 653-9783 extension 373 for assistance.***

*Any person who wishes to appeal a decision made by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners, with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, must have a record of the proceedings. He or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made.*

- B. This meeting is being held via Zoom and all attendees are muted by default. To join via computer, use the link on the meeting date and time: <https://zoom.us/j/91245430887>

If you do not have speakers or a microphone on your computer or prefer to call, you can dial in for audio. Call (301) 715-8592 or (312) 626- 6799 or (929) 205-6099 and enter ID 912 4543 0887#.

If you would like to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting, you have the following options:

Online - select the "raise your hand" icon.

Phone - press \*9 to raise your hand, \*6 to unmute to submit verbal comments.

Public engagement is important to us, and meeting remotely is still a new process. We appreciate everyone's understanding.

**Prayer and Pledge**

**Recognition of Clerk of Courts Marcia M. Johnson**

**Approval of Minutes**

C. Approval of December 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes

**Payment of County Bills**

**Public Comments**

*This is an opportunity for the public to comment on agenda or non-agenda items. When you are recognized to be heard by the Chairman, please sign the speaker's log and adhere to the time limit. An individual will be allowed to speak for three minutes whereas a designated representative of a group or faction will be allowed to speak for five minutes.*

**Sheriff's Office -- Ginger Coulter -- Software Update**

**Department Directors Report**

**Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors**

**D. Road Department Board Report**

**Information Items:**

1. Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District (see attached documents)

**Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis**

**E. Solid Waste Directors Board Report**

**Information Item:**

1. Right-of-Way Debris Pickup/Recycle Material Hauled (See Attached Document)

**Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell**

**F. Emergency Management Board Report**

**Information Items:**

1. Digital Kiosks have been placed in their assigned locations within the County.
2. EOC staff continue to put together COVID Care Bags and have begun to distribute them to the vulnerable populations in the County.
3. Alligator Point dune walkovers have been obligated.
4. EOC staff are scheduled to meet with DOH 12/15/20 to discuss COVID vaccinations.
5. Message Boards have arrived and are in the process of getting tags for them in order to put them out in the community.
6. EOC Staff continues to work Hurricane Sally from 09/12/20 and continues to work with FDEM and FEMA.
7. EOC Staff continue to participate in the NOAA Tropical Weather Training.
8. EOC has submitted our New LMS Plan and corrections to the state and are awaiting approval.
9. EOC Staff along with our CERT Volunteers continue to distribute washable & reusable cloth mask throughout our community. We have partnered with the City of Carrabelle and City of Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce along with the St. George Island & Eastpoint Visitor Centers to assist with distribution to local businesses and residents. We will continue this effort as long as supplies are available.

10. EOC Staff are working diligently with DOH Staff regarding the COVID-19 virus. This includes hosting meetings with representatives from DOH, Sheriff's Dept. Weems, EMS, as needed. We also are assisting with Conference Calls, information distribution from DOH via Alert Franklin, Facebook and our EOC Website.

11. EOC Staff continue to participate in conference calls with State DEM, Region 2, DOH, FEMA, etc. regarding COVID 19. We also continue to update WebEOC with Local State of Emergency and SitReps.

12. EOC Staff continue to work on FEMA reimbursement claims from Hurricane Michael. This includes working with FEMA staff regarding mitigation of damaged parks, roads, etc. Mitigation takes some time but EOC Staff continue to work diligently with FEMA Staff on the most beneficial repairs for Franklin County. We are in contact with our PDMG regularly regarding these projects and will update the Board as soon as the State Review is completed. EOC Staff has also began the FEMA reimbursement claim process for COVID-19 and Hurricane Sally.

13. Below is a copy of the DOH Dashboard regarding COVID-19 Cases in Franklin County as of 12/15/20 at 1:30 pm. (see attached document)

## **Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand**

### **G. Extension Board Report**

#### **Informational Items**

##### General Extension Activities:

1. During this period, the Extension office assisted citizens on the topics of a large oak with thinning canopy, home landscaping questions, raccoon issues, citrus greening disease, more trees attacked by pine beetles, damage to old cedar tree, minor fish kill in a pond, and more.

2. Extension Director transported an injured adult Bald Eagle from St. George Island to the veterinary hospital in Tallahassee for surgery.

3. Extension staff collected 63 pounds of peanut butter during the annual Peanut Butter Challenge this year. This is matched each year by the North Florida Peanut Producers and then donated to local food banks in the County.

##### Sea Grant Extension:

4. Extension Director participated in statewide Sea Grant discussion via Zoom to share project work and discuss program needs.

##### 4-H Youth Development:

5. Extension staff are working to initiate another 4-H club as two new adult volunteers are going through the certification/screening process with UF.

6. One of the existing clubs is planning to begin a shooting sports program, beginning with archery. The Extension office is seeking donations for the purchase of start-up sets, targets, etc. All donations are tax deductible as they are processed through UF fiscal procedures.

##### Family and Consumer Sciences:

7. Family Nutrition Program assistant, following school and UF Covid Phase III policies, is continuing to conduct some in-person lessons in local schools.

##### Agriculture/Home Horticulture:

8. Assisted multiple property owners in Apalachicola with oak species identification and issues regarding potential risks to nearby structures.

### **TDC Administrator – John Solomon – Report**

#### H. TDC Administrator's Board Report

##### **Information Items:**

1. Collections Report: September Collections were \$140,186.24 Which is a 55.7% increase over September 2019. An increase of \$50,134.67. This is the highest amount ever collected by the Franklin County TDC in the month of September. Also, in the past two years the September Collections has increased by 100% 2018 collections were \$70,419.47.

2. Fiscal Year Collections: The 2019-2020 Fiscal year collections was \$1,432,091.48. Which is an increase of 2.17% over last years collections. Considering vacation rentals were closed for over 2 months this is a remarkable collection number for the year.

3. Visit Florida Flagler Awards: “The Flagler Awards is an annual statewide competition recognizing outstanding Florida tourism marketing. The program was created by VISIT FLORIDA to honor the countless individuals and organizations that help position Florida as the No. 1 travel destination in the world. Each year the Flagler Awards pay tribute to the determined efforts of those who use their skill, resourcefulness, creativity and innovative spirit to market Florida to the world.”

The Franklin County TDC won three Flagler Awards for the 2019-2020 year:

Silver - Direct Marketing – **Open for the Businesses of Peace & Quiet Villages Invitation**

Bronze - Resource /Promotional Materials Consumer – **Franklin County Visitor Guide**

Bronze – Television Advertising – **Discover the Forgotten Coast TV Show**

The Franklin County TDC also assisted Play Hard Florida in the production of the Explore the Forgotten Coast video. That video won the Henry for Rural County Marketing.

I would like to express how proud I am of all of the TDC for their efforts in marketing Franklin County, these awards do not come easily and the level of competition is the best the state has to offer.

4. Occupancy Statistics: Attached you will find two reports, they are comparing the year to date stats for 2020 as well as 2019. Both reports compare Franklin County with Northwest Florida and Florida in average Length of stay and occupancy percentage for the year. In the Average length of stay Franklin County was 8.7 days leading Florida by 2 days and Northwest Florida by 2.7 days. In Paid Occupancy for the year Franklin County increased in 2020 to 62.2% versus 59.1% in 2019. Where Florida and Northwest Florida both had decreases in Occupancy. Florida had a 42.7% Occupancy and Northwest Florida had a 48% Occupancy for 2020.

5. Web Stats for Fiscal Year 2019-2020: Web hits to Floridasforgottencoast.com were 434,053 which is a 10% increase over the previous year 85% was new visitors to the website. Visitor Guide mail out requests were 2,813 which was a 18% increase over previous year. The Franklin County Tourist development facebook page had over 3.6 Million Impressions in this past fiscal year.

6. The Florida’s Forgotten Coast Mobile app is now available for download on both Apple and Google platforms.

### **Weems CEO -- David X Walker -- COVID-19 Vaccine Update**

#### **Public Hearings 10:00 A.M. (ET)**

**I. Due to unforeseen discrepancies with the advertisement of the Public Hearings that were heard on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 we have had to reschedule them for Tuesday, January 19, 2021**

**Land Use Change of 6.08 Acres- 10:30 AM**

**Re-Zoning Change of 6.08 Acres- 10:35 AM**

**Land Use Change of 10 Acres- 10:40 AM**

**Re-Zoning of 10 Acres- 10:45 AM**

- J. Consideration of a request for Land Use Change of a 6.08 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2514 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida from Residential to Commercial. Request submitted by Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.

**BOARD ACTION:** To Approve, Table or Deny

- K. Consideration of a request to Re-Zone a 6.08 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2514 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida from R-2 Single Family Mobile Home to C-3 Commercial Recreation. Request submitted by Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.

**BOARD ACTION:** To Approve, Table or Deny

- L. Consideration of a request for Land Use Change of a 10 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2536 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida from Agriculture and Residential to Commercial. Request submitted by Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.

**BOARD ACTION:** To Approve, Table or Deny

- M. Consideration of a request for a Re-Zoning of a 10 acre parcel lying in Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2536 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida from A-2 Forestry Agriculture and R-2 Residential to C-3 Commercial Recreation. Request submitted by Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.

**BOARD ACTION:** To Approve, Table or Deny

**Board of Adjustment – Amy Ham-Kelly – Report**

- N. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR A VARIANCE TO CONSTRUCT A 100' X 8' ROCK REVETMENT ON THE SHORELINE OF THE APALACHICOLA RIVER AND 8' X 93' ALONG THE SHORELINE OF A PRIVATE CANAL ALONG AN EXISTING DILAPIDATED SEAWALL (SEAWALL TO BE REPAIRED IF IT CAN BE SALVAGED). THE ROCK REVETMENT WILL NOT BE ANY STEEPER THAT A RATIO OF TWO HORIZONTAL TO ONE VERTICAL (2/1 RATIO) AND WILL EXTEND 8 FEET FROM THE SEAWALL. PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS 11 BIG OAKS, APALACHICOLA, FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA. STATE AND FEDERAL PERMITS ATTACHED FOR THE 100' X 8' SECTION AND WILL BE CONTINGENT UPON RECEIVING THE STATE AND FEDERAL PERMIT FOR THE 93' X 8' PORTION. REQUEST SUBMITTED BY GARLICK ENVIROMENTAL ASSOCIATES, AGENT FOR CLAY PALM, APPLICANT.

**BOA ACTION: TO APPROVE AS REQUESTED.**

**BOARD ACTION: TO APPROVE, TABLE OR DENY.**

**Planning and Zoning – Amy Ham-Kelly – Report**

- O. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock located at 381 River Road, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. The dock walkway will be 6' x 10' and the dock width is 12' x 16' with a 18' x 32' Boat Slip. The applicant has the DEP self-certification Request submitted by Craig Shearer, applicant. (House has been permitted)

**Planning & Zoning Recommendation:** Unanimous vote to approve contingent upon receiving the State and Federal Permits.

**BCC ACTION:** To Approve, Table or Deny

- P. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock located at 1927 Indian Harbor Road, Lot 7, Indian Bay Village, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. The application will be contingent upon receiving State and Federal Permits. The dock walkway will be 176' x 4' and 61' x 4' with a 6' x 26' terminal platform. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Jared Orciani, applicant. (Proposed House)

**Planning & Zoning Recommendation:** Unanimous vote to approve contingent upon receiving the State and Federal Permits.

**BCC ACTION:** To Approve, Table or Deny

- Q. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock at Lot 3 Egret Landing, 2514 Egret Lane, West of Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida. The dock will be 250' x 4' with a 6' x 20' terminal platform with a 2' step down. The applicant has all State and Federal Permits. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for Dan Guild, applicant.

**Planning & Zoning Recommendation:** Unanimous vote to approve this item. The applicant has all the State and Federal Permits.

**BCC ACTION:** To Approve, Table or Deny

#### **Sketch Plat Approval**

- R. Consideration of a request for Sketch Plat Approval of a 5.66 acre parcel of land lying in Section 36, Township 8 South, Range 7 West, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. The subdivision will be named "The Bluffs of North Bayshore" and will consist of 5 lots over 1 acre each. Request submitted by Andy Durham, agent for LMKS, LLC.

**Planning & Zoning Recommendation-** Unanimous vote to approve this Sketch Plat with the applicant numbering the lots.

**BOARD ACTION:** To Approve, Table or Deny

#### **Land Use & Re-Zoning Public Hearing Request**

- S. Consideration of a request for a Public Hearing to re-zone a 20 acre parcel lying in Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 7 West, North of Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida from R-6 Rural Residential to R-1 Single Family Residential. Request submitted by Thomas M. Shuler, applicant.

**Planning & Zoning Recommendation:** Unanimous vote to approve this request for go forward with a Public Hearing.

**BOARD ACTION:** To Approve, Table or Deny request for a Public Hearing

- T. Consideration of a request for a Public Hearing for a Large Scale Land Use Change for a 41.64 acre parcel lying in Section 10, Township 6 South, Range 3 West, located at 471 McIntyre Road, West of the Ochlockonee River from A-1 Forestry Agriculture to C-3 Commercial Recreation. Request submitted by Gary West and William McKinney, agents for BB&G Resorts, LLC, applicant.

**The County has received letter of opposition concerning this project.**

**Planning & Zoning Recommendation:** Unanimous vote to deny the request to go forward with a Public Hearing based on:

- a. **Spot Zoning-** although it is not illegal, it is not good practice.

**b. Historical Features-** The Florida Master Site File shows that the McIntyre area has been captured by "Camp Gordon Johnston" along with undocumented site called "McIntyre Saw Mill Site".

**c. Traffic-**

i- The County has not performed any traffic counts for McIntyre Road and the number of RV and Primitive Camping lots would be a good indicator of the new traffic pattern. At this time there are 32 proposed RV lots an undisclosed number of primitive lots and would definitely increase the traffic on that road.

ii- The County has an Ordinance #92-3 states the prohibited uses of McIntyre Road limiting the number of axles to no more than 2 axles and no driving, operating or pulling any trailer having a load of over 5,000 pounds on McIntyre Road.

**d. Wetlands:** The National Wetlands Inventory Map shows the area within possible wetlands. If there are any jurisdictional wetlands the setback from them would 50 feet. If they are non-jurisdictional wetlands you would have to have state and federal permits to fill them and would require a variance or build up to them, but not within them. At this time a detailed wetlands study has not been conducted.

**e. Water & Sewer-** Water and Sewer is not available to this area. A potable water well for this project would have to be approved and permitted by DEP and the Northwest Florida Water Management. Septic Source- would be required to be approved by the Department of Health.

**Planning & Zoning Recommendation-** Unanimous vote to deny this request based on the information stated above to not send this request to a Public Hearing.

**BOARD ACTION:** To Approve, Table or Deny

**CDBG Administrator – Report (Deborah Belcher)**

U. CDBG Administrator Board Report:

**Action Items:**

1. The County is eligible to apply for Hurricane Michael CDBG Disaster Recovery funds, in the Hometown Revitalization Program. Applications are due February 16, 2021, and can be for a minimum of \$250,000 and up to a maximum of \$15,000,000, with more than 1 application allowed per applicant. This is a commercial revitalization program for business areas that were damaged by Hurricane Michael. Money does not go directly to the business, but the grant funds demolition and rehabilitation of buildings, building facade improvements, and infrastructure repairs/replacement, etc. relating to storm damage. The project must specify a commercial area with at least 3 adjacent businesses. The Eastpoint zip code was identified by HUD as a most-impacted area, and I think we might come up with one or more projects that would fit the program.

*Requested Action: Provide direction regarding pursuing one or more applications for the CDBG-DR Hometown Revitalization Program.*

2. DEO is finalizing an application process for another type of CDBG grant, relating to COVID-19. Applications will probably be due within 3 months. This money can be used for a variety of activities that prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus pandemic. A list of eligible activities is attached. Assistance to business, public services and public facilities might be appropriate for Franklin County to pursue.

*Requested Action: Provide direction regarding pursuing one or more applications for the CDBG-COVID Program.*

**Information Items:**

3. The CDBG-DR grant application was submitted to DEO 11/30/2020, requesting funds for sand dune restoration on the County's public beach on Saint George Island. With agreement from Alan Pierce and Michael Morón, I put \$5,000 in Restore Act funds into the CDBG-DR application as "leverage". This should result in the application receiving the optional 5 points for local leverage. The application requests funding for dune replacement in the central business area, dune fencing to develop dunes in the remaining area, and planting (sea oats or other) to stabilize the dunes, as well as engineering and administration. I appreciate the assistance provided by Alan Pierce, Mark Curenton, Michael Morón, Lori Hines and Clay Kennedy. A summary of the grant application is attached. It is possible that all, some, or none of the funding will be awarded, depending upon competition.

4. The 7 Eastpoint Wildfire CDBG mobile home replacements in bid package #3 are now complete. An additional 3 more mobile home replacement contracts and CDBG mortgages were executed 11/18/2020 (bid package #4). The 4th proposed replacement will not occur because the homeowner (Daniel Walker) passed away in late November. A late application was submitted by an elderly couple who appear to be eligible. They had a nice double-wide home prior to the fire, and are insisting on a new double-wide as a replacement. I am advertising for proposals for a double wide home of quality comparable to that of the single wide homes we have been purchasing through the CDBG program. The couple already received a donated single wide home, which would have to be transferred to another needy household. If we receive one or more proposals that appear reasonable, and the dealer can guarantee project completion by April 30, 2021 (the grant expiration date), I will bring those proposals to the Board for consideration in January, 2021.

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

#### **Special Projects Coordinator – Alan Pierce – Report**

#### **V. Special Projects Coordinator Board Report**

##### **Action Items:**

1. Board action on draft letter to USACOE. The Corps has requested the Board send the letter to further confirm the county's commitment to paying the non-federal share of costs related to dredging Eastpoint and Two Mile Channel. While Mr. Shuler and I recognize the Corps is in control of the costs, the Corps has advised that any changes to the proposed language will delay the review and approval of the MOA that is still sitting in Atlanta. In my conversations with Corps personnel I now realize part of the problem in getting this MOA out of the Corps is that it is not standard practice for the Corps to accept non-federal funds to complete projects. Our project is about the second MOA the Mobile office has done in 10 years, so no one in the Corps is familiar or comfortable with what they need. The concern for the Corps is that they are going to be signing the contract with the dredge operator, so they will have the legal requirement to pay the contract, not Franklin County.

2. Board action to authorize the disposal of a 1988 Chevy S-10 Blazer and a 1994 GMC Jimmy. In 2019, Mr. Ted Mosteller brought into the County Finance Office vehicle tags to two vehicles that had been used at the airport but had been deemed no longer road worthy. He brought the tags in as evidence the vehicles would not be driven off the airport property. He parked the vehicles under the Shade Hanger and left them there. In March/April of 2020, Mr. John Collins, AVCON, was called by the contractor building the airport access road and was told there were two abandoned vehicles in the path of the road, and what did Mr. Collins want the contractor to do with the vehicles. The contractor said his options were to charge the county for disposal of the vehicles as they were in the way, or to give the vehicles away if someone would move them at no cost. One of the vehicles was a 1988 Chevy S-10 Blazer and the other vehicle was a 1994 GMC Jimmy.



Mr. Collins called me and asked me what to do. Acting on the information that the vehicles did not have tags I assumed the vehicles had been abandoned and had no value. I did not draw the connection to the vehicles still being owned by the county as there were no plates on the vehicles and they had been moved at some point from beneath the Shade Hanger. I told Mr. Collins to get rid of the vehicles at the lowest cost, which in this case was for the contractor to give the vehicles away.

Now, in December, 2020, someone in Eastpoint has ended up with the 32 year old Chevy S-10 Blazer and needs the title. Board action to acknowledge and authorize the disposal as junked surplus equipment both the 1988 Chevy S-10 Blazer and the 1994 GMC Jimmy during the airport road construction project in 2020. The sprayer equipment that was mounted on the 1988 Chevy Blazer is missing and was not on the vehicle at the time it was in the path of the road. Board action.

**Information Items:**

3. Provide Board with a status report of projects that Commissioner Boldt asked me to create.
4. Inform Board that I have consulted with Bay County regarding the language they use for bidding out county roads being rebuilt with FEMA funds. Bay County is in agreement with what Franklin County does. Bay County uses similar language limiting qualified bidders to FDOT pre-qualified firms, but they do it by citing the appropriate Florida Administrative Code. Dewberry and I are moving forward with re-advertising Alligator Drive.

**County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report**

W. County Coordinator's Board Report

**Action Items:**

1. Carrabelle Artificial Reef: At your last meeting, Ms. Lorena Holley and Mr. Frank Gidus of Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Florida asked the Board to consider applying for a FWC grant to construct an artificial memorial reef, in honor of Dr. Bart Carey, on the Carrabelle 10-mile reef. The Board asked that I meet with Ms. Holley and Mr. Gidus to verify that they would follow the same procedure as the group that is building the Buddy Ward artificial reef around the St. George Island area. Chairman Jones and I met with Ms. Holley and Mr. Gidus and were informed that the CCA would act as the responsible party, agreeing to an MOU, assuming all project costs including permits and reporting. Mr. Gidus stated that since this memorial reef will be constructed on the Carrabelle 10-mile reef which is already a restricted area, so therefore there shouldn't be any issues with shrimpers. In addition, there have been discussions with those in the seafood industry to make sure there are no issues. I sent a copy of the MOU to Attorney Shuler for his review providing the Board authorizes proceeding with the grant application today. Ms. Holley and Mr. Gidus are available this morning if the Board has any additional questions.

*Request: Board action to authorize Ms. Holley and Mr. Gidus to apply for a FWC grant to construct the Dr. Bart Cary memorial artificial grant.*

2. Animal Control Agreement: During the 2019 – 20 budget process Mr. Fonda Davis, your Animal Control Director, informed the Board that without additional staff his department could not continue to respond to calls in the unincorporated areas of the County and in both the City of Apalachicola and the City of Carrabelle. The Board agreed to add the necessary staff to his department, but in order to reduce the burden of a tax increase to the residents residing in the unincorporated areas of the county, both cities would have to agree to share in the cost and other terms if they wanted continued response to animal complaint calls. If not, the Board would remove both cities from the Animal Control service area by amending the Animal Control Ordinance. Both cities initially agreed to the terms and paid the first year's cost, however the City of Apalachicola would like to meet to discuss and possibly renegotiate

the agreement and the City of Carrabelle will not participate in any further cost sharing or other terms regarding animal control services. Based on the information provided, is the Board ready to schedule a public hearing to amend the Animal Control Ordinance?

*Request: Board discussion and direction regarding the Animal Control Ordinance.*

3. Business Grant Approvals: At your last meeting a partial list of CARES Act Business Grant applications in addition to food pantry applications were approved. That same afternoon staff received additional approvals from Opportunity Florida, so for bookkeeping and auditing purposes, a complete list of approved applications along with the approved food pantries is before you for final approval. Approval of a separate check run will also be requested. I talked to Mr. Roy Baker of Opportunity Florida regarding the process used to review the applications, as questions regarding the denied applications will be posed to the Board and staff. Mr. Baker explained that Opportunity Florida used the same model developed for Jackson County (first client) when reviewing similar applications and is using that model for all of their other counties. That model was developed with the assistance of Jackson County's Auditor, CARES Act Consultant, Administrative staff, and within the guidelines of the State's available rules and regulations. Mr. Baker is available to discuss this matter further at a future meeting if needed.

*Request: Board action to authorize payment of the final list of approved CARES Act Business Grant applications and authorize a separate check run for these payments.*

4. Public Comments Policy: At your last meeting Chairman Jones discussed possible changes to the Board's meeting public comment procedure. Earlier, I emailed a draft copy of the proposed changes for your review and for today's discussion. Chairman Jones will review the document with the Board this morning.

*Request: Board discussion and possible action on the changes.*

5. Minimum Wage Salary Study: Towards the end of your December 1st meeting the Board discussed preparing for the mandatory \$15 minimum wage increase. After the meeting, Mrs. Erin Griffith forwarded a salary study that was done in 1995 by RES but never adopted by the County. Would the Board consider authorizing staff to develop a Request for Qualifications or Proposals to have a similar study done that would include a plan to adjust county employee wages for the yearly mandatory increases to the minimum wage?

*Request: Board discussion and direction.*

6. H67 Sidewalk Change Order: Franklin County has received Change Order No. 2 for the Highway 67 Sidewalk project. This is the final change order to clean up all the loose ends on the project. There is no change in the dollar amount of the project or the number of days. The only change is in the scope of the project. Some items are added, and some items are deleted.

*Request: Board action to approve Change Order No. 2.*

7. Alligator Point Multi-Use Path FDOT Agreement: FDOT has sent the County the agreement for the construction of another phase of Alligator Point Multi-Use Path from Tom Roberts Road to Gulf Shore Boulevard. We are negotiating with FDOT about what to do with the multi-use path in the area where Alligator Drive will be rebuilt. It appears that FDOT will agree to take the area where the road will be reconstructed out of the multi-use path project with the understanding that Franklin County will provide a connection through this area for bicyclist and pedestrians.

*Request: Board action to approve the agreement for \$369,773.00, and also approve a Resolution authorizing the chairman to sign the agreement.*

8. CR67: FDOT has sent the County a Supplemental Agreement for the CR 67 SCOP Project (FPN 440644-1-54-01) that reduces the amount of the grant from \$4,109,841 to \$3,468,302. This is because the CEI costs and the construction bid were lower than what was originally estimated. This will still leave some contingency funds available in case something comes up during construction, but it will allow FDOT to fund other projects with the excess funds.

*Request: Board action to approve a Resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the Supplemental Agreement and approve the Supplemental Agreement itself.*

9. CR30A Resurfacing Project: FDOT has sent the County a Supplemental Agreement for the CR 30A SCRAP Project (FPN 440621-2-54-01) that reduces the amount of the grant from \$1,376,018 to \$1,312,301. This is because the CEI costs and the construction bid were lower than what was originally estimated. This will still leave some contingency funds available in case something comes up during construction, but it will allow FDOT to fund other projects with the excess funds.

*Request: Board action to approve a Resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the Supplemental Agreement and approve the Supplemental Agreement itself.*

10. SCOP, SCRAP, CIGP Grants: The Florida Department of Transportation has announced that the cycle for state funded transportation grants (Small County Road Assistance Program – SCRAP, Small County Outreach Program – SCOP, and County Incentive Grant Program – CIGP) opened yesterday and will close on March 12, 2021. These are the grants the County has frequently used in the past to resurface various County roads. If the Commissioners have any roads that might be eligible for one of these grants, please contact the Planning Department so they can start preparing the grant applications.

*Request: Board discussion and direction.*

11. CRF Fraud Case: Mrs. Lori Switzer-Mills, administrator of your Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) program, notified me of a potential fraud case based on an application and supporting documentation that was submitted, approved, and received \$2500 of program funds. I suggested to Ms. Mills that she contact the Sheriff's investigation unit and present the information for their review. The investigator contacted Ms. Mills last week and stated that the applicant is would like to pay back the \$2500 and asked if the County would consider dropping the charges. Mrs. Mills has contacted Florida Housing (State) and is waiting for a response. If the State defers to the County, will the Board accept full restitution and drop any charges or proceed with prosecution?

*Request: Board discussion and direction.*

12. Duck Hunting Issues: You have received complaints regarding actions of out-of-town duck hunters that are negatively affecting certain grass beds and killing more ducks than are allowed based on FWC rules. Commissioner Parrish is very versed on this situation and I will ask him to relay to the Board the same information he did to me last week. Commissioner Boldt volunteered to contact FWC to find out what options the County has to help rectify this situation and would like to discuss those options with the Board. I asked Attorney Shuler to look at what other counties have done that may have experienced this same situation.

*Request: Board discussion and possible action on this matter.*

13. FWC Commission Meeting: The next FWC Commission meeting is scheduled for tomorrow Wednesday, December 16, 2020 and it is a virtual meeting. The first action item on the agenda is the Final Rule on the Apalachicola Bay Oysters. As the Board is aware, at the FWC Commission July 2020 meeting the FWC Commissioners supported restoration efforts in the Apalachicola Bay by approving draft rules to suspend harvest of wild oysters and prohibit on-the-water possession of tongs. Commissioner Lockley, Chairman of the Board of County

Commissioners at the time, spoke at that meeting and expressed his desire for the FWC to provide some type financial relief to the displaced oystermen, frequent reporting of the condition of the Bay to the County Commission, and a possible reduction of the closure from 5 years to 3 years. Chairman Jones plans on addressing the FWC Commission tomorrow morning to repeat those same requests along with any other concerns this Board will discuss today.

*Request: Board discussion.*

14. Legislative Delegation: Franklin County's Legislative Delegation with Representative Shoaf and Senator Ausley is scheduled at 5:00 pm this afternoon here in your meeting room. The agenda format is slightly different than it has been in the past so everyone, including elected officials, have to submit a request to speak by filling out a virtual speaker card. Chairman Jones has submitted a request. Do any other Commissioners plan on speaking or do you prefer the Chairman to present, at the meeting, all items discussed today.

*Request: Board discussion.*

15. Legislative Budget Requests: Senator Ausley office sent out the Legislative Budget Request forms. Below is last legislative session's funding request, which included requests from both cities. This year's legislative session begins on March 2nd, so the deadline to submit our funding request is Friday, January 15th, 2021. I will have a list for your approval at the January 5th, 2021 meeting.

*Request: Board discussion.*

New Emergency Operations Center (\$1,500,000) – County Project

Fort Coombs Armory Fire Sprinkler Installation (\$250,000) – County Project

Wastewater Treatment Plant Repairs (\$528,000) – City of Apalachicola

Drinking Water and Facilities Planning and Design (\$112,250) – City of Carrabelle

Inflow and Infiltration Study and Repairs (\$370,000) – City of Apalachicola

Lift Station #4 Improvement and Repair Project (\$492,000) – City of Apalachicola

16. Armory Rentals: To comply with CDC and Government COVID-19 safety recommendations, the Board suspended event rentals for the Fort Coombs Armory. Staff has received a few calls inquiring about rentals for 2021. Will the Board continue this suspension policy until at least the end of March 2021?

*Request: Board discussion and direction.*

**Special Information Item:**

17. Mrs. Amy Ham-Kelly Resignation: It is with a heavy heart that I inform the Board that your Flood Plain Manager and Zoning Administrator, Mrs. Amy Ham-Kelly, submitted her resignation effective January 22, 2021. Mrs. Ham-Kelly served the County faithfully for 20 years. She decided that it is time to use her skills in a different field of employment. As you can imagine, Mrs. Ham-Kelly will be missed by the Building Department and Planning staff, this Board, the Planning and Zoning Commission members, the Board of Adjustment members, contractors, homeowners, and other residents that asked for her advice when considering building project, large or small. Amy, we wish you the best, and we know that you may no longer be a part of this office, but this office will always be a part of you!

**County Attorney – Michael Shuler – Report**

X. Buddy Ward Artificial Reef Contract Discussion and Possible Action

**Commissioners' Comments**

## **Adjournment**