



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

JANUARY 07, 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

Prayer and Pledge

Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes-December 17, 2019

Payment of County Bills

2. Bill List for Payment

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.

Department Directors Report

Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors

3. Report

Action Items:

None

Information Items:

- A. Work Performed/Material Hauled Report (Agenda Packet)

Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

4. Report

Action Items:

None

Information Items:

- A. Debris Pickup/Recycle Material Hauled Report (Agenda Packet)

Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

- 5. Report

Action Items:

None

Information Item:

A. Staff worked on updating the LMS (local mitigation strategy).

B. FCEM Staff continues 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.

C. Please see attached update on FEMA Reimbursement for Hurricane Michael

Extension Office Director – Erik Lovstrand

- 6. County Extension Activities December 18, 2019 – January 7, 2020

General Extension Activities:

Extension office assisted clientele with issues related to soil samples, palm tree seedling control, pine tree deaths, oyster farming issues, injured wildlife, and citrus tree health.

Staff has begun moving more things to the new office location as the final floor work is being completed in early January. Plans for an open house event will be started as we get closer to being fully operational in the building.

Overall Extension Advisory Committee met for their second meeting of the year to discuss work during 2019 and plans for 2020.

Sea Grant Extension:

Extension Director participated in second Apalachicola Bay System Initiative meeting as part of the Community Advisory Board for the FSU-led Bay Restoration Effort.

Discussions continue with Sea Grant colleagues regarding a publication aimed at providing lessons learned by shellfish growers during Hurricane Michael preparation and aftermath. This will assist them with using best farm management practices to minimize losses and speed recovery following extreme weather events.

4-H Youth Development:

Apalachicola's 4-H Elite club participated in a service project with local seniors by donating blankets, socks and crocheted hats to help keep people warm this winter.

They also coordinated a "hidden book challenge" for the local community to encourage youth to read and share the books with others.

Family Consumer Sciences:

Family Nutrition Program (FNP) Assistant teaching hands-on cooking skills with pre-K youth to 8th grade with "Kids in the Kitchen" curriculum. Includes kitchen safety, cooking skills, how to follow recipes and, always the favorite part, taste testing.

FNP Program Assistant has engaged a new pre-K site to be involved with the FNP program. This will involve youth in the Head Start program in Apalachicola with nutrition education.

Franklin County Educational Team

Erik Lovestrand, County Extension Director/Sea Grant Regional Specialized Agent

Michelle Huber, Office Manager/Program Assistant, Franklin County

Kayle Mears, Family Nutrition Program Assistant

Samantha Kennedy, Wakulla County Family and Consumer Sciences

Rachel Pienta, Ph.D., Wakulla County 4-H Youth Development

RFP / RFQ / Bids Opening

7. The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will open and read aloud received sealed bids for constructing C.R. 67/ Tallahassee Street Sidewalk Improvements.

The project is located in Franklin County, Florida and consists of approximately 11,558 linear feet of sidewalk construction on CR 67/Tallahassee Street in Carrabelle, Florida.

Request: Board action to send the bids to the engineer for review and a recommendation.

SHIP Program – Lori Switzer – Report

8. Report

Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP)

Just to recap, the County has been granted disaster funds in the amount of \$1,235,000 through Florida Housing, due to Hurricane Michael.

Approximately half of the funds have been released to the county which has enabled me to really move forward.

We ran the ad in the August 29th issue of the times. The application period ran for two weeks, from Oct 1 through the 16th. We received 46 applications which consist of:

7 houses

35 mobile homes

3 campers- referred to Angela Webster w/Capital Area Community Action

1 renter who is now homeless-we are currently in the process of helping with down payment assistance.

The SHIP inspector Michael McWilliams and I went to each of the mobile homes, took pictures and assessed the damage. Priority was given to actual hurricane damage, special needs and low to very low-income applicants.

At this point we will definitely be able to assist at least 19 applicants. 7 house repairs, 8 new mobile homes and 4 with mobile home repairs. The goal is to assist more applicants, but that will depend on how much is actually spent on the repairs and new mobile homes.

I am currently in the process of getting the applicants paperwork in order and getting contractors involved in starting on the repairs. In the meantime, we are working on the bid package and advertisement for the new mobile homes.

State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP)

For the FY 2018-2019 funds we have been able to assist 31 applicants.

5 with down payment assistance

8 with Rehabilitation and emergency repairs

18 with Disaster funds (\$10,000 grants-mostly assisted with roofing)

We ran the ad for applications for FY 2019-2020 this past September and accepted applications in the month of October.

We received 12 applications for the rehabilitation and emergency repair programs. We should be able to assist all of the applicants on the waiting list. We also have funds for Down Payment Assistance. We do not have a deadline for that program and have funds available until they are spent.

Community Action Agency – Angela Webster – Request

9. Request

I received a call from the family at 579 Ridge Road requesting assistance with repairs to their home – damages caused by Limerock Fire. I was able to confirm from the list provided by EOC vinyl siding was damaged. The family residing at the above named address do not meet the income criteria for CDBG.

I have collected all required documentation for proof of identity and proof of income to confirm the family is in fact ineligible due to income.

The family informed me they were unable to arrange to have the home assessed as no local contractors were available. I reached out to a few local contractors to include:

- Oxendine Construction Services (No answer, left several messages)
- Greg Prickett Builders (No answer, voicemail box full – unable to leave message)
- Poloronis Construction (Agreed to assess home, but not available until first of the year)

I spoke with Tress (EOC) about the challenges of securing a contractor for this case. Tress referred me to Budget Remodeling & Solutions out of Bay County. I reached out to the company and they were on site within a week. During the assessment of the outside damage, survivor informed the contractor there was damage to the inside wall and flooring. It appears that over time the damages have caused leakage, so the quote includes the cost to repair the outside damage as well as inside.

I have attached the estimate from Budget Remodeling & Solutions for a total of \$4063.64. They are asking for \$2000 down and the remainder once the job is complete.

Request: Board action to approve use of fire relief funds to pay for the cost to repair damages to vinyl siding at 579 Ridge Road as the survivors do not qualify for CDBG?

Clerk of Courts – Marcia M. Johnson – Report

RESTORE Coordinator – Alan Pierce – Report

County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report

Action Items

10. FDEM Weems: At your December 3rd meeting, Mr. Pierce presented an amendment that he sent to the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) regarding the loss of

revenue at Weems Memorial Hospital due to Hurricane Michael. Staff received the FDEM agreement, allocating some \$266,000, for Weems loss of revenue claim for expenses. FDEM is asking that the County sign and return the agreement prior to January 17 as the state would like to pay these funds as expeditiously as possible.

Request: Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the FDEM agreement allocating \$266,578.78 to Weems Memorial as part of the Hurricane Michael Recovery Grant Program.

11. Library Director: At your last meeting I was directed to have a meeting with the Library Director, the second meeting in his first sixty days, regarding on going complaints and problems received by Commissioners and county staff about his treatment of library staff members, library program volunteers, and patrons and the continued neglect of his daily responsibilities as Director. I met with Mr. Corey Bard on January 2nd to discuss these matters. Mr. Bard agreed that he needed to do a better job with his day to day responsibilities, however, he felt that any complaints about the way he treated staff, volunteers, and patrons had to be "made up" because he got along with everyone he came in contact with here in the county. I reminded Mr. Bard that he was on a probationary period and could be dismissed by the Board with or without cause. I further explained that based on the comments made by the Board at the December 17th meeting, I wasn't sure how the Board would react to my update of our meeting. I made an offer to Mr. Bard, allowing him to resign with a severance pay option if he thought this job was no longer a fit for him; Mr. Bard refused that offer. At the end of our meeting, I advised Mr. Bard that I would update the Board on the results of the meeting.

On Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 4:26 pm (ET) I received the following message from Mr. Bard:

"Just a warning, if I am fired, I will build a legal team, interview the directors going back a decade and present a case of an environment of intimidation, harassment and I have the resources to file lawsuits for the rest of your life"

I remind the Board that Mr. Bard is slightly 2 months into his 6-month probation period and even though he has a master's in library science and work experience, based on his threat and drastic reaction to our meeting, I believe improvement is unlikely.

Although Mr. Bard is a probationary employee without a property interest in his employment, he has a liberty interest in his employment. If the Board decides to take adverse employment action against Mr. Bard, he must be permitted, at his request, to appear before the Board to tell his side of the story.

Request: Board action to take disciplinary action regarding Mr. Corey Bard's employment as the county's Director of Library Services.

12. Timber Island Road: The county has received the Florida Department of Transportation signed agreement for the work on Timber Island Road. This \$800,000 project includes repaving Timber Island Road from Highway 98 to the Carrabelle River and building guardrails on the Timber Island Bridge. Board authorization to start negotiations with the county's engineering firm, Dewberry Engineers, Inc. to design the improvements for this project.

Request: Board action to authorize county staff to start negotiations with Dewberry Engineers, Inc. for the project design.

13. Pastor David Walker, Weems Interim CEO, informed me that Weems was selected to participate in a Technical Assistance Program with Texas A & M University. They will have representatives in the county on January 21st and 22nd to conduct a site visit at Weems. Those representatives would like to be on the January 21st meeting agenda to explain the grant and do a brief presentation entitled "The State of Rural Health Care". The Weems Board Chairman and Interim CEO are both expected to be on the January 21st agenda to give an update and discuss the Healthcare proposals.

Request: Board action to add Texas A & M to the January 21st agenda.

14. Genesis Halff, Inc. the engineers for County Road 30A project, has finalized the merger with Halff Associates, Inc. They would like the Board to authorize a consent assigning the county's contract with Genesis Halff, Inc. to Halff Associates, Inc. Attorney Shuler will need to review the Contract Assignment Agreement. I have included a progress report (agenda packet) from Halff on the County Road 30A project.

Request: Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Contract Assignment Agreement assigning the county contract from Genesis Halff, Inc. to Halff Associates, Inc. contingent on the county attorney's review and approval.

Information Items

15. DEO Quarterly Report: Mr. Pierce has submitted the Agreement DL012 Quarterly Report for period ending December 31, 2019 to the Department of Economic Opportunity. This agreement is for the \$750,000 that the county plans to use as a match for the FEMA Alligator Drive restoration project. The county is waiting for FEMA to approve Alligator Drive's scope of work.
16. Tate's Hell Ten-Year Land Management Plan: Attached to my report (Agenda Packet) is the Tate's Hell Ten-Year Land Management Plan for your review. The plan was approved on October 18, 2019.
17. "Buddy" Ward Reef: The county has received a fully executed permit for the "Buddy" Ward Artificial Reef project. Mr. Grayson Shepard will appear at a future meeting to discuss the next steps with the Board.
18. 2020 TRIP Sidewalk Project: Based on Commissioner Parrish's request at the last meeting, Mr. Curenton was able to verify that the sidewalk walk project, from around the NAPA store to Burger King here in Apalachicola, was not selected for funding. FDOT will send some guidance and instructions for re-applying for 2020 TRIP funding.
19. Extension Services Office Contract Amendment: At a previous meeting Mr. Erik Lovestrand, Extension Services Director, stated that there was a possibility that the county would request a contract extension for his new office renovation project. Due to some flooring issues, staff did request and receive the contract amendment to extend the contract date. The flooring issues has been resolved and as soon as the contractor completes the work, we will close out the contract.

- 20. Building Inspector:** On December 18, 2019, Mr. Patterson, your Building Inspector, was issued a Provisional 1 and 2 Family Dwelling Inspector license which allows him to perform all duties of a 1 and 2 Family Dwelling Inspector. He has one year from December 18 to pass all Building Inspector examinations but anticipates completion of these exams in 6 months. After that, Mr. Patterson will pursue his Building Official license which will take an additional six months to a year.

County Attorney - Michael Shuler - Report

Commissioners' Comments

Adjournment