

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
MAY 18, 2021
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

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

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

Call to Order

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Prayer and Pledge

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

Approval of Minutes

A. May 4, 2021 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 4, 2021. Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of County Bills

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve payment of County Bills. Motion carried 5-0.

Awards and Recognitions

There were no awards and recognitions.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell – Report

B. Report (agenda packet)

Clerk Maxwell responded to a question from Commissioner Lockley at the last board meeting on May 4, 2021, during approving the payments of county bills. The question was "What is the payment to Jay Abbott for?" The payment to Jay Abbott was for his services for testing and cleaning of mold on homes through the Ship program. Clerk Maxwell attached a copy of the invoices and payment for the Board's review.

Clerk Maxwell presented the Clerk's new official logo. She explained in having it designed she wanted to incorporate some of the important highlights of our County. The Board all agreed she had done a great job in doing so.

Mr. Moron said he would like to update the County's logo also. The Board agreed for Mr. Moron to begin the design process.

Department Directors Report

Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors

C. Informational Item

1. Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District (agenda packet)

Mr. Nabors had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Ward said she would like to see some handicap designated parking signs put up at Vrooman Park. Mr. Nabors said he will take a look at it and see what he can do.

Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

D. Informational Item

1. Right-of-Way Debris Pickup/Recycle Material Hauled (agenda packet)

Mr. Davis had nothing to report to the Board.

Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

E. Action Item

1. Request the Boards approval to advertise for RFP for Debris Monitoring and Debris Removal Services. This request includes the advertising for the municipalities (City of Carrabelle and City of Apalachicola) and Special District (Dog Island). The municipalities and special district will then have to sign their own contracts. Allowing them to advertise assures their compliance in the RFP Process.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to approve the advertisement for RFP for Debris Monitoring and Debris Removal Services.

Attorney Shuler said he would like to make the Commissioners and public aware that although the County is making sure the advertisement is done properly, the municipalities and districts will be responsible to enter into their own contracts at their own expense.

Motion carried 5-0.

Informational Items

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Amanda Anthony completed the Integrated Emergency Management Class.
4. EOC Staff participated and passed the K0705 Class.
5. Moulage is the art of applying mock injuries for the purpose of training emergency response teams. Amanda Anthony is training to become efficient in the art of Moulage. This will enable our exercises to better simulate real life events allowing for trainees to responds more effectively. Attached are a few pictures of her work.
6. EOC Staff will participate in the National Weather Training on 05/17-05/21/21.
7. Franklin County EOC/Duke Energy Meeting - Storm Season 2021 is scheduled for 05/19/21.

Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand

Mr. Lovestrand had no additional comments.

F. Informational Items

General Extension Activities:

1. During this period, the Extension office assisted citizens on the topics of pine bark beetles, composting methods, plant identification, tent caterpillar identification, and more.
2. Extension Director participated in statewide Extension Symposium that met virtually for the week of May 3-7.
3. Extension Director participated in a planning meeting for the annual CED In-service Training session for this year.

Sea Grant Extension:

4. Extension Director participated in the Reserve Advisory Committee regular meeting for the Apalachicola NERR.
5. Extension Director participated in a conference call with other UF faculty regarding a grant proposal focused on oysters as a tool for nitrogen removal from coastal ecosystems. Call for proposals is out from The Nature Conservancy.
6. Extension Director participated in the FL Sea Grant: Aquaculture Work Action Group planning meeting and a workshop in Wakulla County regarding ideas to move the oyster aquaculture industry forward in the region.

4-H Youth Development:

7. The Extension office, on behalf of the Local 4-H shooting sports club, has submitted an application to the NRA Foundation Teach Freedom grant program for additional archery supplies to be operational for additional youth. Thus far, the proposal has reached the status of “recommended for funding” by the review committee and awaits approval from their Board.
8. Extension Director participated in planning meeting for this year’s Ag Adventure program for 4th and 5th grade students.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

9. Family Nutrition Program assistant continues providing nutrition programing in local schools.

Agriculture/Home Horticulture:

10. Two Master Gardener classes took place at the local Extension office during this period. There are ten people currently taking the training over a 13-week period.

Chairman Jones asked Mr. Lovestrand about the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new building. Mr. Lovestrand said he had been working on getting some dates together to propose to the Board. Mr. Lovestrand asked the Board if they preferred early evening or working hours. Chairman Jones said early evening would work best for him but he will do whatever. Commissioner Parrish said he thought early evening would be best for the public who have to work and may want to attend. Commissioner Parrish said he would prefer early evening as well. Mr. Lovestrand will obtain possible dates and get back with the Board to finalize.

TDC Administrator – John Solomon – Report

Mr. Solomom discussed the informational items on his report.

G. Informational Items

1. Parks & Recreation installed all 20 signs on public beach access points. In the process of installing the signs they needed to construct nice frames for the signs. They used \$1049.60 of their budget to build the frames the TDC board voted to reimburse Parks & Recreation the funds.
2. The February Collections were \$84,508.31 which is a decrease of \$10,508.71 or an 11.06% decrease over February 2020.
3. The Florida's Forgotten Coast Mobile App now has 2,447 users. It has been averaging about 18 new users every day for the last few weeks.

Consultant – Traci Buzbee – Update

H. Update

Ms. Buzbee attended via telephone to give a brief update on the American Rescue Plan. Ms. Buzbee said at this time the information out is not very specific. She noted that you have to look at the entire county budget if you are going to try to capture any revenue loss. She said a possibility may be using some of the funds to match our Hurricane Sally claim or salaries like was done last year with the CARES Act. Ms. Buzbee said that you have to point everything back to COVID and with everything opening up she is not sure how we are going to do that. She recommended the Board develop a plan as to what they want to accomplish. She talked about any new construction being eligible and also retrofitting. We feel its going to be the same as last year. Just want to get the best bang for our buck. Rule that came down, so much information. Ms. Buzbee said she will be getting with Ms. Griffith this week to logon to the system, and in 5-10 days after one half of the funds should be deposited.

Chairman Jones asked if there have been any deadlines or report due dates released. Ms. Buzbee said there will be an interim report due in August and a quarterly report due in October.

Ms. Buzbee said half of the funds will be deposited, then on the next year anniversary we will get the remaining funds. She said she has not heard that we have to spend it by a certain time.

Commissioner Lockley asked if the county employees qualified for any funds noting they have passed out money to all different groups of people. Does the Commissioner's qualify? Ms. Buzbee said that all employees that work for a county are eligible, and you may could increase salary or pay. However, Ms. Buzbee recommends waiting on the guidance to come out before we do that.

Commissioner Boldt suggested utilizing some of the funds for the hospital. Ms. Buzbee said she would have to check on that because the health departments and hospitals received their own funding and we would need to make sure that we aren't using the funds for the same thing.

Item moved from County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report:

1. Congressman Dunn's Request: At your April 20th meeting, the Board was informed of Congressman Dunn's request for Congressionally Directed Community Project Funding applications. Mrs. Traci Buzbee, County's Consultant, was tasked with preparing and submitting two applications, construction funding for a new EOC and additional funding for Fort Coombs Armory fire sprinkler system. The County was notified on May 5th that Congressman Dunn submitted the \$1.5 million dollar application for a new EOC construction funding as one of the ten projects he was allowed to submit for funding. Mrs. Buzbee is available to answer additional questions regarding the application. Board discussion and direction.

Ms. Buzbee said that we have not seen anything yet that says it is approved but it is a possibility that it will be funded. She said we are just not sure which ones are going to be on the forefront. Ms. Buzbee said she is not sure which projects will get funded. She will reach out to his office to get an update on the status.

Mr. Moron would like to send Congressman Dunn a letter thanking him for sending this project through as well as the RESTORE issues.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved sending a letter to Congressman Dunn thanking him for his help on the County's RESTORE issues and the Fort Coombs Armory fire sprinkler system. Motion carried 4-0. (Commissioner Lockley had excused himself for a moment.)

Commissioner Boldt noted that Congressman Dunn will be in town next week for a promotional event.

Chairman Jones moved forward on the agenda to the following items:

RFP / RFQ / Bids Opening

- M. The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners is seeking civil engineering services relating to the construction engineering and inspection (CEI) of the multi-use trail and bike path on the CR 370 Alligator Point Multi-Use Path Project. The scope of this project will include the construction of a 10' multi-use path from George Vause Road eastward for approximately 1 mile to Gulf Shore Boulevard on Alligator Point, FL as identified in the County's Local Agency Participation contract with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Consideration will be given to only those firms that are qualified pursuant to law and that have been prequalified by FDOT to perform the indicated types of work.

Mr. Pierce and Mr. Moron opened the RFQs and they were received from the following:

- Anchor CEI of Panama City
- Southeastern Consulting Engineers, Inc. of Port St. Joe
- EXP of Tallahassee
- AE Engineering, Inc. of Tallahassee
- AECOM of Tampa

Mr. Pierce announces the evaluation committee is comprised of Mr. Steve Paterson, Mrs. Erin Griffith, and Mr. Michael Moron.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board agreed to turn over the RFQ packages to the evaluation committee for review and ranking. Motion carried 5-0.

- N. The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners is seeking civil engineering services relating to the construction engineering and inspection (CEI) for the widening and resurfacing improvements on County Road 30A from U.S. Highway 98 to Thirteen Mile Road. The total length of the project is approximately 5.3 miles. The scope of the project includes widening the existing roadway from 22' to 24' wide and resurfacing the existing travel lanes, adding 5' wide paved shoulders, necessary drainage improvements, and upgrading signage and pavement markings. Consideration will be given to only those firms that are qualified pursuant to law and that have been prequalified by FDOT to perform the indicated types of work.

Mr. Pierce and Mr. Moron opened the RFQs and they were received from the following:

- Southeastern Consulting Engineers, Inc. of Port St. Joe
- EXP of Tallahassee
- AE Engineering, Inc. of Tallahassee
- AECOM of Tampa

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board agreed to turn over the RFQ packages to the evaluation committee for review and ranking. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Griffith said the committee should have a ranking to be presented at the next board meeting.

Chairman Jones moved forward on the agenda to the following items:

Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith – Report

Mr. Pierce presented the following items:

O. Action Items

1. Accept rankings of firms for RESTORE Projects and authorization to negotiate

On Wednesday, May 5th the evaluation committee met and ranked the firms who responded to the RFQs for the County Wide Dune Restoration Project and the St. George Island Storm Water Improvements Project. Upon tabulation of the attached rankings, MRD & Associates was the highest ranked firm for the County Wide Dune Restoration Project and Dewberry and Associates was the highest ranked firm for the St. George Island Storm Water Improvements Project. On May 12th, the county finally received the formal grant award from treasury for the two design grants. As the grants are now approved, county staff can now proceed with negotiations and contract award with the two highest ranked firms.

To avoid confusion with the goal of the projects during the contract negotiations, Alan wants the Board to be aware of what kind of construction budget he thinks is realistic for \$100K worth of design. For both projects, it was Alan's intention that the design projects not only provide recommendations for solutions for each project, but also construction plans and permit applications, where applicable. Due to the significant time delay between application and approval of projects by treasury, Alan wants the design projects to be complete so that the Board and the community can move to construction as quickly as possible.

Dune Restoration- this project covers about 16 miles of beaches. Because of the variability in existing dune and beach profiles around the county, there will mostly likely be multi-pronged design recommendations. The estimated construction budget for dune restoration is \$1 million to \$1.5 million. Alan wants to make sure the Board understands that this is a dune restoration project. In areas where there are no existing dunes or existing beach, like the area in front of the section of Alligator Drive that the county is currently rebuilding, this dune restoration project will not work and those areas are not covered by this project. There must be adequate existing beach present in order to build dunes on a \$1 million dollar budget. The design consultant will evaluate the beaches and make recommendations on appropriate solutions for different scenarios.

St. George Island Storm Water- this project covers the entire business district, which is about 30 acres. There are a few isolated drainage pipes in the district leading to the retention ponds on Franklin Blvd, but those ponds are at capacity and probably treat less than 1/3 of the storm water accumulating in the district. The untreated storm water currently stays on the road surfaces causing failure of asphalt and base as there is no storm water conveyance system except for those leading to the Franklin ponds. The storm water project will analyze the entire district and then prioritize the areas that need improvements first. Alan still wants this design project to result in construction plans that will solve at least some of the storm water problems. The complexity of the solutions will determine how much construction will occur. Alan is estimating a construction budget of \$3 million to \$3.5 million.

There is currently \$9.9 million at Treasury for Franklin County. The design and construction of these 2 projects would use about \$5 million of the current funds. Next April another \$1.2 million will be put into the Treasury in accordance to the settlement worked out by the federal

government and BP. Over 15 years, the Board will receive some \$22 million of RESTORE funds, so as the funds come in the Board can continue to develop projects. Treasury will not approve projects in excess of the funds available so the Board will need to work within the funds available.

Alan has talked to the Board in the past about a beach restoration project that would build about one mile of beach in front of the Alligator Drive washout. The total budget for this project has been estimated by Mike Dombrowski of MRD and Associates at \$10 million, with \$5 million of RESTORE funds matched by \$5 million of FDEP funds. Franklin County has requested \$200,000 from FDEP this year to finish the design of the beach project. The county has not been notified whether those funds were allocated by the Legislature. If granted it could be possible that in 2023, or 2024, the county would be in the position to request \$5 million from FDEP for construction of the beach, which in turn would mean the Board would need \$5 million of RESTORE as a match. Of course, the issue of who pays for the maintenance of the beach will still need to be resolved before the county could commit to building a beach.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, to accept the rankings of the evaluation committee and to authorize staff to negotiate with the two highest ranked firms for the two RESTORE design grants.

Commissioner Lockley asked if this money could be used for the hospital. Mr. Pierce said the BP RESTORE money was sent to solve environmental reparation, infrastructure and economic development. Mr. Pierce noted that early on the county tried to get the hospital funded and they didn't approve because it didn't meet their stipulations. The hospital was not impacted by the oil spill. Mr. Pierce said there was several things that were completely off the table like building new county offices and schools. Commissioner Parrish said he thought there was a limit and Mr. Pierce said yes that may have been what it was.

Commissioner Boldt thanked Mr. Pierce for his work on the beach restoration project.

Motion carried 5-0.

2. Gulf Council Letter for Dredging Projects

Alan has been working with the Consortium to resolve issues raised by the Gulf Council concerning our dredging projects. Please find attached the questions from the Gulf Council, and the joint response from Alan and the Corps. After the Gulf Council reviewed the response, they then asked for a letter on county letterhead confirming the county will be responsible for any non-federal cost over-runs above \$5 million dollars. Alan has drafted a letter and it is also attached. The Board needs to approve this letter, or some form of it, and have Alan send it to the Gulf Council.

Just for information, Alan had a teleconference call last week with Mr. John Collins, AVCON, and the Corps of Engineers regarding the status of the FDEP permit for the Two Mile Channel. The Corps believes that FDEP will find the Corps application to be complete by the end of May, and then FDEP will have a statutorily limited time to review and issue the permit. Just like the Eastpoint Channel, the Corps says the dredging of Two Mile will take place in the fall.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve the draft letter in regards to cost over-runs for the dredging projects and send to the Gulf Coast Consortium as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Griffith presented the following items:

3. Grant Resolutions Florida Historic Preservation Grants

Requesting adoption of the attached two resolutions supporting the grant applications for the Florida Historic Preservation Grant Program for the Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park

Restoration Project and the Buddy Ward Maritime Museum Project. The applications are due on June 1st and documented community support is needed for the two projects

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, to adopt the two resolutions supporting the Florida Historic Preservation Grant Program applications. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Rolling Dump Truck Lease – Road Department

It is time to renew the rolling dump truck lease-purchase agreement for the Franklin County Road Department. Eight surrounding rural counties participated in this same program previously through Capital Truck of Tallahassee including Liberty, Madison, Suwanee, Taylor, Holmes and Calhoun. Unfortunately, this past year, Capital Truck of Tallahassee filed Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. The Mack dealership is now owned by Nextran and Nextran does not offer the same arrangement in place by Capital City as they are unable to guarantee the buyback price of the trucks. The buyback will occur at market pricing at the time of disposal. The 2021 cost of a new heavy-duty dump truck is \$154,697 per truck. The new structure will have the county owning the trucks for up to twenty-six months with making the first lease payment of \$15,000 per truck as in the previous agreement with the second year payment increasing to \$17,500 per truck. Before the third payment, the trucks will be returned to Nextran and replaced with two new model year dump trucks. This program allows the road department to have reliable dump trucks, covered by an added extended warranty with little maintenance expense year after year. This is the fourth renewal of the rolling lease program with some changes to the previous structure with new vendor Nextran.

Commissioner Lockley asked if they had money in their budget and Mrs. Griffith confirmed.

On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward and Boldt, to approve the attached resolution and authorization for the Chairman to sign the six year lease purchase agreement with Leasing 2 to finance the purchase of two new dump trucks in the amount of \$319,245.72 from Nextran of Tallahassee and the trade-in of the 2020 trucks, county property tag numbers A005451 and A005452 subject to review and approval of the agreement by County Attorney Michael Shuler.

Commissioner Ward said she felt the \$2,500 difference would be made up by the cost of maintenance on the trucks. Chairman Jones thanked Mrs. Griffith for her extensive research on this project and reiterated that this is the best deal that we can get. Commissioner Boldt said he thought that by leasing the trucks it helps our funds to go further.

Motion carried 5-0.

P. Informational Items

1. Sweeper Truck Status Update

On January 20, 2021 Franklin County issued a purchase order for the Sweeper Truck. The truck was initially supposed to be delivered in March, then delays in manufacturing caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic moved the anticipated delivery date to May and now back until sometime in June. I will keep the Board informed as to any additional changes in the anticipated delivery date.

2. Second Installment of Coronavirus Relief Funding for Airport

Franklin County was recently notified of a second round of Coronavirus Relief funding through the FAA to help offset a decline in revenues arising from diminished airport operations and activities as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funds provided can only be used for purposes directly related to the airport and can include the reimbursement of an airport's operation and maintenance expenses. The county is working on the application at

this time for these funds. The first award was \$30,000 through CARES and was used to offset the annual cost of property insurance for the airport.

Mr. Moron presented the following items at this time:

County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report

Q. Action Items

2. TRIUMPH Meeting List: At your last meeting the Board discussed State Senator Doug Broxson’s invitation to attend an 8 County Oil Spill Administrator’s meeting on Monday, May 24th at 12:30 p.m. (ET) at the Walton County Courthouse Annex in Santa Rosa Beach. The Board agreed to create a list of projects that could be funded by TRIUMPH funds set aside for Franklin County. The current list of projects includes an additional wing to Weems Hospital, completion of the Coombs Armory renovation project, Broadband infrastructure project, and a trust fund for maintenance dredging of the Eastpoint Channel and 2-mile Channel. Will the Board add any additional projects to the list? Board discussion and direction.

Chairman Jones suggested requesting additional funding for the new EOC building. Commissioner Ward suggested requesting funding for a cell phone tower on Highway 65. Commissioner Boldt suggested finding out how the county could partner with Alligator Point or the City of Carrabelle to apply for funding for a fire suppression system along Highway 98 from Alligator Point past St. Teresa.

Mr. Moron informed the Board that he has received several calls regarding the welding program at the Franklin County School and when it would be offering classes to the adult population. Mr. Moron asked for Board permission to reach out to Superintendent Lanier requesting a plan on how and when the school board plans to facilitate the classes. Mr. Moron said this was part of the agreement when the Board supported the program as it would help to provide a trained workforce for our community.

Commissioner Parrish said these projects are not listed as to classifications. Mr. Moron said his overall message is you can’t treat the rural counties the same as the urban counties. How much of our county is owned by state and county? Commissioner Boldt said look at what good stewards we are of the money that is sent here and look at how we have taken care of our obsolete infrastructure. Commissioner Lockley said we need to do something, the bay is dead and all we have is tourism. If we want people to stay here we have to do something.

Chairman Jones met with John from AVCON and discussed things that can be done at the airport. Mr. Puckett mentioned international freight at the last meeting. Chairman Jones said that it was never his intentions to facilitate international freight. Chairman Jones said what he would like to check on is what it would take to allow freight cargo to come in. He said he knew the runway would have to be extended and made thicker. He also mentioned adding a railroad spur. Just a general discussion of what we can do with the funds to enhance the airport.

Commissioner Boldt said he has noticed that Triumph looks favorably upon projects where multiple counties are working together.

Commissioner Lockley said he thinks we need to get something going on our own. We need something here, we need an economic development council.

Motion by Commissioner Lockley to create an Economic Development Council.

Mr. Moron said the last time an EDC didn’t work well. Chairman Jones said the ARPC was tasked with creating a plan and it has been created. They were waiting on the Board to be ready for the idea before they presented it. Mr. Moron asked if the plan could be brought before the Board and then created. Commissioner Lockley said no, he would like the Board to act now.

Chairman Jones said Mrs. Griffith is the county's grant manager. Mr. Pierce said our county staff is very knowledgeable in grants and what funds are available. Mr. Pierce noted the Board employs Ms. Traci Buzbee, and an additional full time staff member would be a lot of tax payer's money. In a way you already have that it is just in the way of consultants. Mr. Moron said since ARPC already drafted a plan perhaps the Board could listen to the presentation and decide what is needed for the county. Mr. Pierce noted that Gulf County has run through several EDCs.

Commissioner Ward asked who would be a part of this board. She said a lot of the boards are volunteer and we don't want an issue with people not showing up and not having have a quorum.

Commissioner Lockley said he was talking about opening up an office with a director to provide production to bring in some companies for people to work. If they don't bring in any jobs then they'll have to go.

Mr. Moron asked Commissioner Lockley if he was asking the board to add this new position to their budget.

Commissioner Lockley said you have these in every county and they have been productive. Commissioner Lockley noted that people have to leave town in order to get a job they can't look forward to staying here.

Chairman Jones announced there was a motion on the floor to add an Economic Development Council position to next year's budget. Seconded by Commissioner Boldt, opposed by Commissioner Ward. Motion carried 4-1.

3. Building Official: I am happy to report the Mr. Steve Paterson has received his Provisional Building Official (Code Administrator) license which allows him to assume the role as the County Building Official. He will have one year to pass an additional test that will remove the Provisional status. I am recommending an annual salary of \$50,000 for Mr. Patterson as your Building Official effective March 15th, as the County will not renew Mr. Garry Millender's contract for Building Official services. Board action to approve a \$50,000 salary for Mr. Paterson as the County's Building Official.

On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve a \$50,000 salary for Mr. Paterson as the County's Building Official.

Chairman Jones asked if there were funds in the budget. Mr. Moron said there was extra due to Mr. Millender's contract no longer being needed.

Commissioner Lockley asked what Mr. Millender was making, and Mrs. Griffith and Mr. Pierce said it was about the same.

Motion carried 5-0.

4. Eastpoint Streetlights: The Eastpoint Civic Association would like to install 16 streetlights on US 98 in Eastpoint between 2nd and Bayshore. It would light the area in Eastpoint that is considered the Business District with the most pedestrian traffic across Highway 98. Over the years there have been a number of traffic accidents, some including pedestrians, at this location. In addition, increased lighting reduces crime and drug activity. Duke Energy's proposal to install these 16 streetlights has a \$344.00 upfront deposit cost and has a \$171.84 monthly recurring fee. With a few exceptions, the Board has turned down past requests for streetlights in more rural and secluded areas of the County, but keep in mind this request is along Highway 98 on a heavily traveled area. I have asked FDOT to look at the streetlight proposal to determine if, based on their criteria, there is adequate lighting. If FDOT determines there isn't adequate lighting, they may add streetlights in this area at their expense therefore reducing the number of lights that the Eastpoint Civic Association would requesting for Board consideration. Board discussion and direction.

Mr. Moron said the Board would need to add this item into the new budget.

Commissioner Parrish said he would like to have them on Bluff Road, noting how dark it is, and that his grandson was killed on this road. If we are going to do it let's do it for both roads. Commissioner Parrish said Bluff Road is a very high traffic area and noted there have been several fatal accidents on this road. Commissioner Parrish said he has brought this up on several occasions and it needs to be taken care of. He is not opposed to installing the lights in Eastpoint but thinks we need them on Bluff Road as well.

Commissioner Lockley made a motion that we install the streetlights as requested in Eastpoint and Bluff Road.

Chairman Jones said the Board would need to adopt a policy for the future so that we could add a line item on the budget. He suggested including language that confirms support from the Sheriff and Superintendent of Schools for safety.

Commissioner Lockley amended the motion to approve installing the streetlights in Eastpoint and on Bluff Road, and to create a policy for the Board to approve for future use. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Parrish said the lights need to start right past the cemetery where there are currently no lights.

Mr. Moron said that FDOT is looking at proposal and it may be less cost to the County if they agree to pay for some of them.

Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting recessed at 10:31 a.m. and resumed at 10:44 a.m.

Public Hearings 10:35 a.m. (ET)

- I. 10:35 a.m. (ET) or as soon thereafter as possible: AN ORDINANCE REZONING 20 ACRES OF LAND IN SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 7 WEST, FROM R-6 RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

Attorney Shuler requested the Board table this item. The applicants are asking the Board to table and they will submit a revised request at a later date.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board tabled the rezoning request of 20 acres of land in Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 7 West, from R-6 Rural Residential District to R-1 Single Family Residential District. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Flood Ordinance Public Hearing: Mrs. Angela Lolley, the County's Floodplain Manager, is ready to proceed with the Flood Ordinance process. Mrs. Lolley has been working extensively with the FEMA representative on the ordinance. The next step is to schedule a public hearing to discuss the draft ordinance. Board action authorizing Attorney Shuler to schedule and advertise a public hearing for the Flood Ordinance.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized Attorney Shuler to schedule and advertise a public hearing for the Flood Ordinance. Motion carried 5-0.

6. County Beach Parking Workshop: At your last meeting there was Board action to schedule a workshop to discuss the County's beach parking issues before we proceed with changing the ordinance. Staff, as directed in that same action, is in the process of contacting towing companies in Wakulla and Leon counties about providing weekend "roam and tow" services on Alligator Point. I am in the process of creating the June agendas and would like some consensus if the Board wants this workshop during the regular meeting agenda or at 1:30 p.m. (ET) after one of your regular meetings in June. Board discussion and direction.

Chairman Jones, Commissioner Parrish and Commissioner Ward said they would like to have the workshop after a regular board meeting.

Commissioner Parrish asked if the Board would have information to discuss by this time. Is there sufficient violations for the towing companies to come down? If the towing company is coming in to make money and they aren't coming, then something is wrong. There has to be a reason if a towing company doesn't want to go down there and make money. Commissioner Parrish said that we need to have information to talk about if we are going to hold a workshop.

Commissioner Ward said she believes a workshop would be beneficial to bounce ideas off of each other. For example, the issue with the payment of booting. If we are going to boot vehicles then how it is going to be facilitated? How are they going to move the boots from place to place, how are they going to accept payments? There is a lot more in to play with the workshop, besides the tow trucks. Commissioner Ward said that we need signage to designate parking spots and maybe get a list of where we need to place these signs.

Chairman Jones said he agrees we need to discuss how many spots are designated for each area. We have an ordinance that allows for a vendor to park on any right away but we are talking of towing vehicles.

Commissioner Ward said the Board should contact Major Coulter and see if there are any private booting companies that are willing to come down. She suggested asking Mr. Nabors to attend the workshop to discuss installing the signs.

Commissioner Boldt noted that he made a recommendation at the last meeting to conduct a survey to see if any private towing companies were willing to come down.

Commissioner Parrish said while we are working up to this workshop if parking is such an issue the Board needs documentation and pictures. How often does it happen? Commissioner Parris said he hasn't seen any pictures of the issues and he only knows what he saw when he went there. He said the Board needs actual proof that an issue is going on in order to act accordingly. The Board needs this documentation prior to the workshop so that we have something to talk about. Commissioner Parrish said in St Augustine they built a large parking garage. Is that something we really need to be looking into?

The consensus of the Board was to hold the workshop on June 15th @ 1:30.

Chairman Jones reminded the Board and anyone who was listening, that there will be no board action at the workshop.

- J. 10:50 a.m. (ET), or as soon thereafter as is possible: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FRANKLIN COUNTY ORDINANCE 2013-1 TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXEMPTION OF WHOLLY SUBMERGED LANDS FROM MUNICIPAL SERVICE ASSESSMENTS FOR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Commissioner Parrish asked to confirm that in order to be eligible for the exemption the lot must be totally submerged. Attorney Shuler confirmed.

On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board agreed to adopt the ordinance as written. Motion carried 5-0.

- K. 11:00 a.m. (ET), or as soon as possible; AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL ONE CENT TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX; PROVIDING FOR USE OF THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to adopt the ordinance as written.

Commissioner Ward noted that the last time this happened was in 2005. This revenue will help build infrastructure needed for tourism. Commissioner Parrish said these funds can be used to address some of the issues with parking and other things.

Commissioner Ward said she had researched this issue and noted Gulf County is at 5%. Commissioner Boldt said to see the number of people enjoying themselves was proof that our TDC funds are well spent. Commissioner Ward said she would like to note that this is not a tax incurred by our residents but a tax that will be imposed on tourists renting short term.

Motion carried 5-0.

7. Bridge Clean-Up Agreement Renewal: In 2020 the Board entered into a six-month agreement with the Sheriff for bridge clean-up services. That agreement has expired and requires a renewal if the Board would like to continue these services. Board action to renew the \$11,002.00 agreement with the Sheriff for bridge clean-up for another six months.

On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, to renew the \$11,002.00 agreement with the Sheriff for bridge clean-up for another six months. Motion carried 5-0.

R. Informational Items

1. New EOC Update: At your April 20th meeting, we agreed to build the new Emergency Operation Center at the western corner of the Brownsville Road and Airport Road intersection. During that discussion there were concerns raised that if the communication tower had to be moved to that location there could be a possible issue with runway 18/36. I have asked Mr. Clay Kennedy of Dewberry to evaluate the eastern end of that same intersection as an option for the building. Mr. Kennedy has submitted both locations to the State and is awaiting a response.

Item previously discussed.

2. TRIUMPH Meeting List: At your last meeting the Board discussed State Senator Doug Broxson's invitation to attend an 8 County Oil Spill Administrator's meeting on Monday, May 24th at 12:30 p.m. (ET) at the Walton County Courthouse Annex in Santa Rosa Beach. The Board agreed to create a list of projects that could be funded by TRIUMPH funds set aside for Franklin County. The current list of projects includes an additional wing to Weems Hospital, completion of the Coombs Armory renovation project, Broadband infrastructure project, and a trust fund for maintenance dredging of the Eastpoint Channel and 2-mile Channel. Will the Board add any additional projects to the list? Board discussion and direction.

3. Shiver to Alternate Seat on P&Z: At your April 20th meeting the Board appointed Mr. Tony Shiver to the Planning and Zoning District 1 seat. Since that time, staff realized that Mr. Shiver resides just outside of District 1's boundaries so he will serve as an alternate Planning and Zoning Board member.

4. BOA New Meeting Day: Inform the Board that the Advisory Board of Adjustment (ABOA) will now meet on the second Wednesday instead of the first Wednesday every month. Since the Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the second Tuesday every month, it is easier to prepare for both meetings and meet advertising deadlines if they are both on the same week. ABOA members had no issues with the new meeting date.

L. 11:15 a.m. (ET) or soon thereafter as is possible: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR THE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF PRIVATE DIRT ROADS; FINDING THAT THIS PROGRAM SERVES A PUBLIC PURPOSE; LIMITING THIS PROGRAM TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS ONLY, EXCLUDING ALL ROADS OF ALL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND AGENCIES, EXCLUDING ALL

ARTIFICIAL ENTITIES; REQUIRING THAT THE COUNTY SHALL BE PAID IN ADVANCE FOR ITS ACTUAL COST FOR SUCH PROGRAM; ESTABLISHING LIMITATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR SUCH PROGRAMS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Public comments:

Mr. Jason White, owner of Jason White Construction, asked the Board to clarify what type of road services the County is going to do and how it would compete with local contractors.

Attorney Shuler said the Board is not getting into the road maintenance business. Historically, the County has denied repairing any private roads and they are not allowed to use funds from ad valorem taxes to do so. Attorney Shuler said it would be limited maintenance however he would consider it to be competition with private businesses. The services would be limited to maintenance to ensure roads are safe for passing of emergency vehicles and public services. Attorney Shuler said if a property owner wanted to bring their road up to county road standards they would have to obtain a private contractor to do so. There is strict limitation of one annual service not to exceed \$1000 which excludes driveways. Attorney Shuler said basically what they have now is what they will have in the future.

Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. White if he felt this ordinance would hurt his business. Mr. White said he was thinking it through but he felt that he would be competing with the county on road work. Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. White if he was able to respond to people when they call for road work. Mr. White said he employs 25 people and they bid on a lot of roads. Chairman Jones said in trying to adopt this ordinance, it was basically giving the county a way to do limited maintenance on a private road in order for emergency vehicles, busses and public services. Commissioner Lockley said we need to let the public know that the county isn't in competition with the private sector. We are only trying to repair roads in order to keep them from tearing county vehicles up.

Commisisoner Boldt made a motion to approve the ordinance as written. The motion fails for lack of a second.

Attorney Shuler said the Board could close the public hearing without approving the ordinance without any further comments.

Commissioner Boldt explained that he made a motion to approve because the county is responsible for public safety for ambulances, fire, school busses, and police.

Commissioner Ward said she had reached out to residents on Buck Road and they said it's cheaper for them to pay the private contractors than to pay the county. The residents also noted the private contractors have provided free services on Buck Road when it becomes unpassable. She said this is why she didn't second the motion.

Commissioner Parrish said these are good people. He noted that both Timmy and Jason came in and helped after the fire in Eastpoint. They are going to work with people, keep our constituents employed. Commissioner Parrish said that they could probably do it cheaper than the county. He also noted that in the proposed ordinance the homeowner would have been required to pay the county for the services upfront. Chairman Jones said that Timmy Butler with Coastline Clearing oftentimes grades Buck Road at no charge. Commissioner Ward thanked Mr. Butler for helping the residents on Buck Road.

Items 5-7 previously addressed.

5. Flood Ordinance Public Hearing: Mrs. Angela Lolley, the County's Floodplain Manager, is ready to proceed with the Flood Ordinance process. Mrs. Lolley has been working extensively with the FEMA representative on the ordinance. The next step is to schedule a public hearing to discuss the draft ordinance. Board action authorizing Attorney Shuler to schedule and advertise a public hearing for the Flood Ordinance.

6. County Beach Parking Workshop: At your last meeting there was Board action to schedule a workshop to discuss the County's beach parking issues before we proceed with changing the ordinance. Staff, as directed in that same action, is in the process of contacting towing companies in Wakulla and Leon counties about providing weekend "roam and tow" services on Alligator Point. I am in the process of creating the June agendas and would like some consensus if the Board wants this workshop during the regular meeting agenda or at 1:30 p.m. (ET) after one of your regular meetings in June. Board discussion and direction.

7. Bridge Clean-Up Agreement Renewal: In 2020 the Board entered into a six-month agreement with the Sheriff for bridge clean-up services. That agreement has expired and requires a renewal if the Board would like to continue these services. Board action to renew the \$11,002.00 agreement with the Sheriff for bridge clean-up for another six months.

R. Informational Items

Item 1 previously addressed.

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2. Carrabelle Beach Crosswalk Update: Commissioner Ward, with Board support, requested a crosswalk with appropriate signals at Carrabelle Beach to allow of safer pedestrian crossings. Carter Johnson of FDOT and I have been working on this request for a few months now. Mr. Johnson called on Thursday to inform me that FDOT has submitted a request for a HAWK Pedestrian Crosswalk to the Federal Highway Administration for approval. He feels that it is a matter of when and not if, the HAWK Pedestrian Crosswalk will be installed. Below is a YouTube link that explains how the HAWK system is used in Sarasota. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71sr59CYf54>.

3. Shiver to Alternate Seat on P&Z: At your April 20th meeting the Board appointed Mr. Tony Shiver to the Planning and Zoning District 1 seat. Since that time, staff realized that Mr. Shiver resides just outside of District 1's boundaries so he will serve as an alternate Planning and Zoning Board member.

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Public Hearings 10:35 a.m. (ET)

Public hearings heard earlier in the meeting.

- I. 10:35 a.m. (ET) or as soon thereafter as possible: AN ORDINANCE REZONING 20 ACRES OF LAND IN SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 7 WEST, FROM R-6 RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
- J. 10:50 a.m. (ET), or as soon thereafter as is possible: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FRANKLIN COUNTY ORDINANCE 2013-1 TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXEMPTION OF WHOLLY SUBMERGED LANDS FROM MUNICIPAL SERVICE ASSESSMENTS FOR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

- K. 11:00 a.m. (ET), or as soon as possible; AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL ONE CENT TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX; PROVIDING FOR USE OF THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
- L. 11:15 a.m. (ET) or soon thereafter as is possible: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR THE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF PRIVATE DIRT ROADS; FINDING THAT THIS PROGRAM SERVES A PUBLIC PURPOSE; LIMITING THIS PROGRAM TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS ONLY, EXCLUDING ALL ROADS OF ALL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND AGENCIES, EXCLUDING ALL ARTIFICIAL ENTITIES; REQUIRING THAT THE COUNTY SHALL BE PAID IN ADVANCE FOR ITS ACTUAL COST FOR SUCH PROGRAM; ESTABLISHING LIMITATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR SUCH PROGRAMS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

RFP / RFQ / Bids Opening

- M. The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners is seeking civil engineering services relating to the construction engineering and inspection (CEI) of the multi-use trail and bike path on the CR 370 Alligator Point Multi-Use Path Project. The scope of this project will include the construction of a 10' multi-use path from George Vause Road eastward for approximately 1 mile to Gulf Shore Boulevard on Alligator Point, FL as identified in the County's Local Agency Participation contract with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Consideration will be given to only those firms that are qualified pursuant to law and that have been prequalified by FDOT to perform the indicated types of work.
- N. The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners is seeking civil engineering services relating to the construction engineering and inspection (CEI) for the widening and resurfacing improvements on County Road 30A from U.S. Highway 98 to Thirteen Mile Road. The total length of the project is approximately 5.3 miles. The scope of the project includes widening the existing roadway from 22' to 24' wide and resurfacing the existing travel lanes, adding 5' wide paved shoulders, necessary drainage improvements, and upgrading signage and pavement markings. Consideration will be given to only those firms that are qualified pursuant to law and that have been prequalified by FDOT to perform the indicated types of work.

Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith – Report

O. Action Items

- 1. Accept rankings of firms for RESTORE Projects and authorization to negotiate

On Wednesday, May 5th the evaluation committee met and ranked the firms who responded to the RFQs for the County Wide Dune Restoration Project and the St. George Island Storm Water Improvements Project. Upon tabulation of the attached rankings, MRD & Associates was the highest ranked firm for the County Wide Dune Restoration Project and Dewberry and Associates was the highest ranked firm for the St. George Island Storm Water Improvements Project. On May 12th, the county finally received the formal grant award from treasury for the two design grants. As the grants are now approved, county staff can now proceed with negotiations and contract award with the two highest ranked firms.

To avoid confusion with the goal of the projects during the contract negotiations, Alan wants the Board to be aware of what kind of construction budget he thinks is realistic for \$100K worth of design. For both projects, it was Alan's intention that the design projects not only provide recommendations for solutions for each project, but also construction plans and permit applications, where applicable. Due to the significant time delay between application and approval of projects by treasury, Alan wants the design projects to be complete so that the Board and the community can move to construction as quickly as possible.

Dune Restoration- this project covers about 16 miles of beaches. Because of the variability in existing dune and beach profiles around the county, there will mostly likely be multi-pronged design recommendations. The estimated construction budget for dune restoration is \$1 million to \$1.5 million. Alan wants to make sure the Board understands that this is a dune restoration project. In areas where there are no existing dunes or existing beach, like the area in front of the section of Alligator Drive that the county is currently rebuilding, this dune restoration project will not work and those areas are not covered by this project. There must be adequate existing beach present in order to build dunes on a \$1 million dollar budget. The design consultant will evaluate the beaches and make recommendations on appropriate solutions for different scenarios.

St. George Island Storm Water- this project covers the entire business district, which is about 30 acres. There are a few isolated drainage pipes in the district leading to the retention ponds on Franklin Blvd, but those ponds are at capacity and probably treat less than 1/3 of the storm water accumulating in the district. The untreated storm water currently stays on the road surfaces causing failure of asphalt and base as there is no storm water conveyance system except for those leading to the Franklin ponds. The storm water project will analyze the entire district and then prioritize the areas that need improvements first. Alan still wants this design project to result in construction plans that will solve at least some of the storm water problems. The complexity of the solutions will determine how much construction will occur. Alan is estimating a construction budget of \$3 million to \$3.5 million.

There is currently \$9.9 million at Treasury for Franklin County. The design and construction of these 2 projects would use about \$5 million of the current funds. Next April another \$1.2 million will be put into the Treasury in accordance to the settlement worked out by the federal government and BP. Over 15 years, the Board will receive some \$22 million of RESTORE funds, so as the funds come in the Board can continue to develop projects. Treasury will not approve projects in excess of the funds available so the Board will need to work within the funds available.

Alan has talked to the Board in the past about a beach restoration project that would build about one mile of beach in front of the Alligator Drive washout. The total budget for this project has been estimated by Mike Dombrowski of MRD and Associates at \$10 million, with \$5 million of RESTORE funds matched by \$5 million of FDEP funds. Franklin County has requested \$200,000 from FDEP this year to finish the design of the beach project. The county has not been notified whether those funds were allocated by the Legislature. If granted it could be possible that in 2023, or 2024, the county would be in the position to request \$5 million from FDEP for construction of the beach, which in turn would mean the Board would need \$5 million of RESTORE as a match. Of course, the issue of who pays for the maintenance of the beach will still need to be resolved before the county could commit to building a beach.

2. Gulf Council Letter for Dredging Projects

Alan has been working with the Consortium to resolve issues raised by the Gulf Council concerning our dredging projects. Please find attached the questions from the Gulf Council, and the joint response from Alan and the Corps. After the Gulf Council reviewed the response, they then asked for a letter on county letterhead confirming the county will be responsible for any non-federal cost over-runs above \$5 million dollars. Alan has drafted a letter and it is also attached. The Board needs to approve this letter, or some form of it, and have Alan send it to the Gulf Council.

Just for information, Alan had a teleconference call last week with Mr. John Collins, AVCON, and the Corps of Engineers regarding the status of the FDEP permit for the Two Mile Channel. The Corps believes that FDEP will find the Corps application to be complete by the end of May, and then FDEP will have a statutorily limited time to review and issue the permit. Just like the Eastpoint Channel, the Corps says the dredging of Two Mile will take place in the fall.

3. Grant Resolutions Florida Historic Preservation Grants

Requesting adoption of the attached two resolutions supporting the grant applications for the Florida Historic Preservation Grant Program for the Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park Restoration Project and the Buddy Ward Maritime Museum Project. The applications are due on June 1st and documented community support is needed for the two project

4. Rolling Dump Truck Lease – Road Department

It is time to renew the rolling dump truck lease-purchase agreement for the Franklin County Road Department. Eight surrounding rural counties participated in this same program previously through Capital Truck of Tallahassee including Liberty, Madison, Suwanee, Taylor, Holmes and Calhoun. Unfortunately, this past year, Capital Truck of Tallahassee filed Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. The Mack dealership is now owned by Nextran and Nextran does not offer the same arrangement in place by Capital City as they are unable to guarantee the buyback price of the trucks. The buyback will occur at market pricing at the time of disposal. The 2021 cost of a new heavy-duty dump truck is \$154,697 per truck. The new structure will have the county owning the trucks for up to twenty-six months with making the first lease payment of \$15,000 per truck as in the previous agreement with the second year payment increasing to \$17,500 per truck. Before the third payment, the trucks will be returned to Nextran and replaced with two new model year dump trucks. This program allows the road department to have reliable dump trucks, covered by an added extended warranty with little maintenance expense year after year. This is the fourth renewal of the rolling lease program with some changes to the previous structure with new vendor Nextran.

P. Informational Items

1. Sweeper Truck Status Update

On January 20, 2021 Franklin County issued a purchase order for the Sweeper Truck. The truck was initially supposed to be delivered in March, then delays in manufacturing caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic moved the anticipated delivery date to May and now back until sometime in June. I will keep the Board informed as to any additional changes in the anticipated delivery date.

2. Second Installment of Coronavirus Relief Funding for Airport

Franklin County was recently notified of a second round of Coronavirus Relief funding through the FAA to help offset a decline in revenues arising from diminished airport operations and activities as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funds provided can only be used for purposes directly related to the airport and can include the reimbursement of an airport's operation and maintenance expenses. The county is working on the application at this time for these funds. The first award was \$30,000 through CARES and was used to offset the annual cost of property insurance for the airport.

County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report

Q. Action Items

1. Congressman Dunn's Request: At your April 20th meeting, the Board was informed of Congressman Dunn's request for Congressionally Directed Community Project Funding applications. Mrs. Traci Buzbee, County's Consultant, was tasked with preparing and submitting two applications, construction funding for a new EOC and additional funding for Fort Coombs Armory fire sprinkler system. The County was notified on May 5th that Congressman Dunn submitted the \$1.5 million dollar application for a new EOC construction funding as one of the ten projects he was allowed to submit for funding. Mrs. Buzbee is

available to answer additional questions regarding the application. Board discussion and direction.

2. TRIUMPH Meeting List: At your last meeting the Board discussed State Senator Doug Broxson's invitation to attend an 8 County Oil Spill Administrator's meeting on Monday, May 24th at 12:30 p.m. (ET) at the Walton County Courthouse Annex in Santa Rosa Beach. The Board agreed to create a list of projects that could be funded by TRIUMPH funds set aside for Franklin County. The current list of projects includes an additional wing to Weems Hospital, completion of the Coombs Armory renovation project, Broadband infrastructure project, and a trust fund for maintenance dredging of the Eastpoint Channel and 2-mile Channel. Will the Board add any additional projects to the list? Board discussion and direction.

3. Building Official: I am happy to report the Mr. Steve Paterson has received his Provisional Building Official (Code Administrator) license which allows him to assume the role as the County Building Official. He will have one year to pass an additional test that will remove the Provisional status. I am recommending an annual salary of \$50,000 for Mr. Patterson as your Building Official effective March 15th, as the County will not renew Mr. Garry Millender's contract for Building Official services. Board action to approve a \$50,000 salary for Mr. Paterson as the County's Building Official.

4. Eastpoint Streetlights: The Eastpoint Civic Association would like to install 16 streetlights on US 98 in Eastpoint between 2nd and Bayshore. It would light the area in Eastpoint that is considered the Business District with the most pedestrian traffic across Highway 98. Over the years there have been a number of traffic accidents, some including pedestrians, at this location. In addition, increased lighting reduces crime and drug activity. Duke Energy's proposal to install these 16 streetlights has a \$344.00 upfront deposit cost and has a \$171.84 monthly recurring fee. With a few exceptions, the Board has turned down past requests for streetlights in more rural and secluded areas of the County, but keep in mind this request is along Highway 98 on a heavily traveled area. I have asked FDOT to look at the streetlight proposal to determine if, based on their criteria, there is adequate lighting. If FDOT determines there isn't adequate lighting, they may add streetlights in this area at their expense therefore reducing the number of lights that the Eastpoint Civic Association would requesting for Board consideration. Board discussion and direction.

5. Flood Ordinance Public Hearing: Mrs. Angela Lolley, the County's Floodplain Manager, is ready to proceed with the Flood Ordinance process. Mrs. Lolley has been working extensively with the FEMA representative on the ordinance. The next step is to schedule a public hearing to discuss the draft ordinance. Board action authorizing Attorney Shuler to schedule and advertise a public hearing for the Flood Ordinance.

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County Attorney - Michael Shuler - Report

No report.

Commissioners' Comments

Chairman Jones and Commissioner Parrish said they have had complaints about the LMS meetings not being held. Mr. Moron said he would contact Mrs. Brownell and report back.

Chairman Jones said the homeowner at 301 W Gulf Beach Drive has cleared the County's entire twenty-five feet of right of way when creating their driveway. Attorney Shuler instructed Mr. Moron to send a letter to the property owners stating the issue and notifying them they will need to revegetate the property. If the matter cannot be worked out, Mr. Moron will defer the issue to Attorney Shuler.

Chairman Jones said there is an issue at Regatta Park where after the bars close people gather there to continue partying. The issue has caused a lot of interaction with law enforcement and grief to the nearby residential neighbors. Chairman Jones suggested closing the park or installing a fence that is closed at dusk. Mr. Moron will contact Mr. Davis and come up with a solution.

Mr. Pierce clarified that the second installment of Coronavirus Relief Funding for the airport will be for \$9,000.00 and not the previously awarded \$30,000.00.

Mr. Moron asked the Board if there was anything they could do to help Mr. Rogers. He's had an application in with the Board of Adjustment for over three months. Attorney Shuler said it was his understanding that the setback request was tabled. After reviewing the site plan, one of the BOA board members suggested that the house be moved further west to the pole barn. In doing so it is possible a setback may not be required. The house is outside of the critical habitat but the deck is inside of the critical habitat. Attorney Shuler

reported that at the meeting the members could not agree, the item was tabled and sent back to the applicant to review their comments. The issue is having a meeting with only three members in attendance. Attorney Shuler said he would not recommend the BOCC bypassing the BOA this stage. Commissioner Ward said that she knows Mr. Rogers is trying to alleviate the issues and appreciates Attorney Shuler's comments. Commissioner Boldt said what about considering a special master instead of a volunteer board to oversee the BOA. He noted that often times there is not a quorum at these meetings. Chairman Jones said a lot of the issues we have talked about today have been growth issues. He said he is not sure if special master would be a better solution but it may be something the Board can consider. Mr. Moron said we are having a problem with volunteer boards.

Commissioner Ward said that is why she didn't vote for the EDC because she wasn't in agreement with paying a board. She could see where there may be an issue with people not showing up and realizes the frustration for those who do show up. Mr. Moron said most of the time you have three members who show up for meetings.

Commissioner Boldt made a motion for the County Coordinator to explore the idea of a Special Master.

Attorney Shuler said if there is a second he would like this motion amended to say he will explore this as it is out of Mr. Moron's realm.

Commissioner Parrish said he felt this is going to be an outside person who doesn't know anything about Franklin County, and that this one person will be taking away the Commissioners and the various board's recommendation. He said most of them give a recommendation and you better have a good factual basis for not taking their recommendation. Commissioner Boldt said he doesn't feel like his authority is being taken at all. Mr. Pierce said the community driven boards play a vital role. He said we should encourage more people to be on them.

Attorney Shuler asked Commissioner Boldt if he would defer his motion until they can have a conversation and then bring back to the Board if necessary. **Commissioner Boldt agreed to defer his motion.**

Commissioner Lockley said he wasn't talking about bringing anything in house with the EDC, but setting it up separately. Chairman Jones said that the ARPC has a plan ready to present to the Board and they were just waiting until the Board expressed interest in it. It would be similar to the TDC. Commissioner Parrish asked that Mr. Moron advertise the positions that are available for the P&Z and BOA boards. He suggested putting it in the newspaper and radio as a public service announcement. Commissioner Ward said there is a vacancy on the Weems Board yet there is no public interest.

Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Moron to write something up that will give the volunteers a sense of pride to serve the community and provide input. Mr. Pierce noted there has always been an issue with getting people to volunteer for boards. He said in 1988 they would serve hamburgers at the meetings to encourage board members to attend.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts