

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
JULY 7, 2020  
9:00 AM  
MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present: Noah Lockley – Chairman, Ricky Jones-Vice-Chairman, Joseph Parrish, William Massey, Bert B. Boldt, II**

**Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Erin Griffith-Assistant Finance Director, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

**Prayer and Pledge**

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Moron explained he added a new location for the call-in information for all meetings so it will not be tied to a specific agenda. He reported the information is available on the agenda page. He stated this is a change and he wanted the public to know.

**Approval of Minutes**

A. Minutes for Approval

1. June 16, 2020

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meeting held on June 16, 2020.**

**Payment of County Bills**

B. Bill List for Payment

**On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve payment of the County's bills.**

## Awards and Recognitions

### C. Resolution of Appreciation - Mrs. Pat O'Connell

Mrs. O'Connell appeared at the podium. Mr. Moron said Mrs. O'Connell has done a wonderful job as Chairman of the Complete Count Committee (CCC). Mrs. Cortni Bankston, acting CCC Chairman, read the proposed Resolution. Mrs. O'Connell thanked the Board for the Resolution and offered her assistance with the census in the fall. Mr. Moron stated Mrs. Bankston sent out an email blast yesterday to the CCC Committee so the members are listening on the phone. Commissioner Boldt said he appreciates Mrs. O'Connell and she has been a role model for him. Chairman Lockley asked about the census numbers at this time. Mrs. Bankston stated they are closer to 50% than they were before and the numbers are still coming in. Chairman Lockley said the numbers have not been that high in a long time. Commissioner Jones thanked Mrs. O'Connell for her work. Mrs. Bankston announced the following winners of the gift cards for the Census Contest:

District 1: Tom Loughridge

District 2: John Matey

District 3: Ajay Patel

District 4: Courtney Giddens

District 5: Jenny Myrick

## 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.*

Mr. Moron stated there are only 2 callers on the telephone. There were no public comments.

Ms. Sara Hinds, Franklin County Health Department, appeared via telephone. She reported they are still in Phase 2 of the Governor's reopening plan. She stated they are seeing more cases here and across the state. Ms. Hinds reported the goal is to slow the spread over time which is necessary to maintain the medical capacity for anyone needing medical care. She stated their priority remains the same to protect the most vulnerable population. She explained the age range has shifted now to people in their 20's and 30's. She stated mid to late March is when the hospitalizations were up and since that time the hospitalizations have gone down and the county is just showing a slow rise. She reported the positivity percentage over the last two weeks for the state has ranged from 10-16% so they are watching to see when it will be stabilizing. Ms. Hinds said Franklin County has a 1% positivity rate and still has the lowest case count in the state. She stated they cannot let their guard down and must still follow guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She advised visitors not to wait until they are leaving the county to get tested but test before they arrive. She reported if they have been exposed they should test at their home county and wait for the test

results before traveling here. Ms. Hinds explained if you come from another county here to get tested the results will be sent back to that county health department for follow up and contact tracing. She reminded everyone the CDC still recommends social distancing and that everyone wear a mask in public. She said people should stay home if they are not feeling well. She reported if people think they have been exposed to a positive case then they should quarantine for 14 days. Ms. Hinds said Franklin County has 15 positive cases and 7 of those cases are no longer required to isolate. She stated they will continue to see more cases and are continuing to test. She reported the numbers on the dashboard are unduplicated tests and it is showing 1,327 tests. Ms. Hinds offered to answer any questions. Chairman Lockley asked what they will do if a person tests positive and does not quarantine. Ms. Hinds said Ms. Emerald Larkin, RN, is also on the telephone to address these questions. She explained they provide a voluntary agreement to isolate at home to individuals that test positive. Ms. Larkin said it depends on if the person develops symptoms, what those symptoms are, when their test was and if they have recovered. She explained this is not a blanket statement to say that in 10 days everyone will recovered but most people that are 10 days from their symptom onset and fever free are typically okay to go. She reported it does not mean you can go back to work because that decision is based on the patient's condition and the employer. She stated it helps to have a good relationship with your community and she feels like they have that and people trust their opinion and expertise. She explained sometimes they get reports about people being out that have tested positive but normally it is when people are no longer required to isolate. Mrs. Hinds stated they have agreements in place with people that are required to isolate. She reported if someone is not in compliance there is an involuntary order but they have not had to use one yet. Commissioner Boldt asked what the difference is between the COVID-19 virus and the common seasonal flu. Mrs. Larkin stated it is just a different virus and has various symptoms. Mr. Moron said information was circulating on social media that the Health Department stated Franklin County and Gulf County were hot spots in the state. Ms. Hinds stated they have not sent out any information that said there is a hot spot in their community. She explained they share their case counts every morning with the Commissioners and the positivity rating for Franklin County is still low at 1%. Mr. Moron reported he was just trying to clear this up with the public. Ms. Hinds reported they try to address any social media rumors because normally they are copied at some point on the information. She said they appreciate the public's response and if they hear something they should contact the Health Department.

## **Department Directors Report**

### **Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors**

Mr. Nabors appeared before the Board. He said they are continuing to cut grass, clean ditches and grade roads. He stated they will start in Lanark Village this morning and then go to Alligator Point. He said they will cut grass across the county and then start over again. He presented the following items for the Board's consideration:

#### **D. Superintendent's Report**

## Action Items

1. Mr. Robert Rickards has turned in his 2 weeks resignation. Asking for Board approval to advertise for an Inmate Supervisor Position simultaneously in house and to the public with a starting salary of \$25,000.

**Commissioner Massey made a motion to advertise for an Inmate Supervisor position.**

**Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Commissioner Massey stated Mr. Rickards has been a dedicated county employee and they hate losing him. Mr. Nabors agreed he has been a good employee. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Chairman Lockley said to thank Mr. Rickards for his service to the county.

2. Request to purchase a new 2020 Ford F-150 4x4 crew cab.  
The Road Department had two employee vacancies for part of the fiscal year and has enough in regular salaries and benefits to fund the purchase of a new F150 crew truck from the State of Florida bid list. If the truck is ordered now, it will be here sometime in early September. (See attached document)  
Action requested by the Board: Motion to approve the purchase of a 2020 Ford F150 Crew Pickup from the State of Florida Bid List and to approve the line item budget amendment below:  
INCREASE 140.41.541.6401 Road & Bridge - Machinery & Equipment \$30,570  
DECREASE 140.41.541.1200 Road & Bridge - Regular Salaries \$20,676  
DECREASE 140.41.541.2200 Road & Bridge - Retirement \$1,751  
DECREASE 140.41.541.2100 Road & Bridge - FICA Taxes \$1,581  
DECREASE 140.41.541.2300 Road & Bridge - Health, Life, Dental \$6,562

Chairman Lockley asked if the inmate crews are still staying in. Mr. Nabors answered yes. He said the Division of Forestry and the Parks & Recreation Department are still getting crews but they do not have a Road Department crew. Commissioner Massey asked if he has the money in the budget for this vehicle. Mr. Nabors answered yes, he worked with Mrs. Griffith on the budget. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to purchase a new 2020 Ford F-150 4 X 4 crew cab. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked if they are purchasing the vehicle through the Sheriff's bid list. Mr. Nabors answered yes, through the state's bid list. Mrs. Griffith explained they had 2 vacancies in the Road Department that took 4 months to fill and that is how they are able to purchase the vehicle. Commissioner Massey said he wishes they could replace all the big trucks with little trucks to save the wear and tear. Mr. Nabors agreed the big trucks are good during storms but the smaller trucks are much cheaper. Clerk Johnson asked if the Board is also approving the line item budget amendment.

**Commissioner Massey amended his motion to include approving the line item budget amendment. Commissioner Boldt amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Attorney Shuler asked to address the 8 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road situation in relation to the no trespassing signs. Mr. Nabors explained he talked with a Deseret Ranches representative and the signs were put up because of people dumping garbage in the area. He said he informed them the county picks up the garbage in this area and has been maintaining the road for more than 40 years. Chairman Lockley asked if this is a private or public road. Attorney

Shuler said he checked with Mr. Nabors and the county has been maintaining these roads for at least 40 years. Attorney Shuler informed the Board a letter was sent approximately 10 days ago to the landowner telling them these are public roads and asking them to voluntarily take down their no trespassing signs. He said the letter implied if they do not take the signs down voluntarily then the county will remove the signs. Mr. Nabors stated these are the only 2 access roads the county has left going to the beach in that area. Chairman Lockley asked how much time they need to give them to remove the signs. Attorney Shuler said he is not sure how much time he referenced in the letter but they will give them 30 days or less and if they have not removed the signs then the county will remove them. Attorney Shuler stated the signs have already been removed from 10 Mile Road so only the poles are remaining but the poles and signs are still up at 8 Mile Road. He said there is a lot of garbage in this area. Mr. Nabors reported they clean this area about every 2 weeks and mow the area when they make a pass through the county. He stated they have records going back for years where the county has been maintaining the roads. Attorney Shuler said they will allow them 30 days and then send a letter that the county is removing the signs. Chairman Lockley questioned if the Board needs to take action. Attorney Shuler said the letter has already been sent but if they can wait a little longer he feels like he has authority as the County Attorney based on the facts provided by Mr. Nabors to protect the public's access to this public road. Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Nabors to clean up the garbage in this area before the next Board meeting. He stated they will give them a little more time and then the county can take action if they do not respond to the letter. Mr. Nabors reported this has never come up until they put the oyster pots out there. Attorney Shuler suggested Mr. Nabors check his local contact for Deseret Ranches to see if they are aware of the letter. Mr. Nabors agreed to contact the company. Commissioner Parrish said they also should let them know they are going to clean the area. Chairman Lockley asked if there are any no trash dumping signs in this area. Attorney Shuler said there are no signs. Chairman Lockley suggested they add some signs in this area. Commissioner Parrish suggested the signs include that they are trying to keep the roads open to the public so it might encourage people to keep the area clean. Mr. Nabors said he received a lot of calls about this matter. Commissioner Massey agreed everyone has received calls about these roads. Attorney Shuler said the STOP sign at 10 Mile is missing. Mr. Nabors reported they continuously steal the STOP signs and the street signs in these locations.

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

4. Road Department Administrative Building: On Tuesday, May 19th, bids were opened for the Road Department Administration Building. The bids came in as follows: Duncan Home Construction, Inc. \$416,239.13, OliverSperry Renovation \$393,508, Storm Construction, Inc. \$321,465, Certus Builders \$364,168. On Thursday, June 18th the review committee met and as a competitive price-based bid, the lowest bidder Storm Construction was confirmed to be the lowest "responsive and responsible bidder" and met all of the bid specifications. Franklin County does not have any sort of local preference bid policy in place and this was a price-based solicitation, pursuant to bid practices and Florida law as confirmed by County Attorney Michael Shuler - Storm Construction is the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Request: Board action to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder Storm Construction. The county also has the right to reject all bids, rebid or elect to not proceed with the project at this time.

Chairman Lockley asked where Storm Construction is from. Mr. Moron said Carrabelle. Mrs. Griffith clarified the company has a Carrabelle address and a Georgia address as well. Commissioner Parrish asked if the money is available for this bid amount. Mrs. Griffith answered yes. She explained \$298,000 was budgeted and the county received \$200,000 in unanticipated FEMA reimbursements for equipment hours and material reimbursements from Hurricane Michael. She reported they will use an additional \$20,000 that is needed for the new building project but the other \$180,000 remaining of the FEMA funds will be held until they see how it works out with the gas tax proceeds with the effects of the coronavirus and travel restrictions. Mrs. Griffith said she estimated their worst case scenario to be about \$160,000 with the closures but she does not think it is going to be that bad. She reported this is how they will make it through if necessary. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to accept the bid and proceed.** Chairman Lockley stated the county does not have a local bid policy but he would like a motion to get a local bid policy. He explained they need to consider the local businesses first if there is any possible way. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to get a local bid policy set up. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley said he thought there was already a local bid policy. Mr. Moron reported he will check but he thinks most counties in this area do 10%. He explained the policy will depend on the funding sources they use to do a project. He said this will only be based on using local funds that are unrestricted. Mrs. Griffith stated it will also be mentioned in the bid specifications if that project is eligible for local bid preference. Commissioner Massey asked if they can go over the bid amount with change orders. Mrs. Griffith stated that would have to be approved by the Board. Commissioner Massey explained he has seen that happen before and then the project goes over the amount of the local bidder. Mr. Moron said there are rules in place now and all change orders come to the Board for approval. Commissioner Parrish stated once the bids are submitted they are not allowed to come in and lower their bids. He explained there may be some companies that do not bid if the Board has this local bid policy so this could reduce the number of bids received which could lead to higher prices. Commissioner Massey stated they can only use this policy for certain funds. Mrs. Griffith explained it can only be used for county funded projects and not for state and federal grants. Commissioner Boldt asked if they could encourage Storm Construction to use local labor and help when possible. Mr. Moron said there is a statement in the bid documents about using local subcontractors. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Nabors reported the clay is there for the building and they will get it leveled so the contractors can start building when they are ready. Chairman Lockley stated they will have to wait until the clay is dry. Attorney Shuler stated he will get the local bid preference ordinance drafted and bring it back for the Board's consideration before they schedule a public hearing. He explained they do not do very many locally funded projects so it will not be presented at the next meeting unless the Board has other instructions.

### **Information Item**

3. Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District (See attached document)

**Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis**

Mr. Albert Floyd, Assistant Solid Waste Director, read the following request:

E. Solid Waste Director's Report

**Action Item**

1. Equal Shot Program: In the past, the Board has contributed to the basketball program for the youth of Franklin County. This year the Equal Shot program is offering a completely free of charge program at the Matchbox. They are asking the Board for support in the amount of \$2,500 to help keep this program free. Please see the attached Equal Shot flyer.

Request: Board approval for monetary support for the Equal Shot program at the Matchbox.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve support in the amount of \$2,500 for the Equal Shot Program at the Matchbox.**

Chairman Lockley asked Mr. Floyd to check with the travel ball team that has been winning. Mr. Floyd said they have 2 girls' softball teams going to state. Commissioner Jones reported it is the Sandlot travel team. Chairman Lockley explained they have asked to have the field lined so they can practice. He requested Mr. Floyd contact their coach about this request. Mr. Floyd agreed to contact the coach.

Mr. Moron provided the following item from his report:

6. Tillman Cellular Tower Location: County staff was contacted by a Tillman Infrastructure representative to discuss possible site locations for a new cell tower in the area referred to as Green Point. One of these locations under consideration is the Landfill and the other is at the Sheriff's Department (see maps in agenda packet). If the Board has no objections to a tower at any of these locations, Tillman asked that the Board approve and execute a non-binding Business Terms Agreement (BTA) for each of these locations. Tillman would make a decision on the best location and then contact the County to negotiate the principle terms and execute a lease. Attorney Shuler has reviewed both BTAs.

Request: Board discussion and possible authorization of the Chairman's signature on the Business Terms Agreement for one or both locations.

Attorney Shuler informed the Board this company is not just looking at these 2 locations but at multiple locations in the area. Chairman Lockley asked if this will help cell reception on Highway 65. Mr. Moron was not sure. Commissioner Jones questioned if this is a 5G tower. Mr. Moron responded Tillman was not specific about the type of service. Mr. Moron clarified both of these locations are county property so the agreements would be with the county even

though one location is at the Sheriff's Department. He stated he sent a question to the Sheriff 2 weeks ago and again yesterday to check and make sure the tower would not be a security risk for the jail. He said he also wanted Mr. Davis to make sure the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would not have an issue with putting a tower this close to the landfill. He reported he is checking on these 2 items and still talking with the representative about the towers. Commissioner Parrish stated he has talked with Mr. Moron and the Sheriff about possibly relocating the fire repeater that is on the tower at the Sheriff's Department. He explained this equipment is hard wired into the new console and if lightning strikes that tower it will blow up the new console the county purchased for the jail. He pointed out this console controls the 911 system. He reported in the negotiations they need to see if Tillman will allow them to relocate the fire repeater to the proposed tower they are going to build and then the tower can be removed at the Sheriff's Department because the Sheriff does not use this tower. Commissioner Parrish said they need to take this action because if lightning strikes again they will lose the console and the 911 capability. He explained if the repeater location is in the same general area it will not cause a problem. Commissioner Boldt reported the tower leases are sometimes for 20-40 years so this is a permanent structure. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Business Terms Agreements for both locations.** Commissioner Jones reported in relation to cell phone reception up Highway 65 he has talked with Mr. Walter Armistead who received an agreement to put up a cell tower. He explained they are still planning to construct the tower but COVID-19 has delayed the project.

### **Information Item**

2. Right of Way Debris Pickup/Recycled Material Hauled: (See attached document)

### **Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell**

Mrs. Brownell provided the following report for the Board:

F. Emergency Management Director's Report

#### **Action Items**

1. Request the Boards approval and signing of the following extensions:
  - a. Emergency Management Performance Grant Extension Modification #1.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve and sign the Emergency Management Performance Grant Extension Modification #1.**



b. Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program Extension.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve and sign the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program Extension.**

2. Request the Boards approval and signing of the EOC Design Contract with Dewberry.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve and sign the EOC design contract with Dewberry.**

3. Request the Boards approval and signing of the Inter-local Agreement with Franklin County School Board for Transporting our Transportation Disadvantaged Citizens out of the county during a storm when they evacuate.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve and sign the Interlocal Agreement with the Franklin County School Board for transporting the Transportation Disadvantaged Citizens.**

Chairman Lockley questioned what will happen with the citizens who have COVID-19 and are disadvantaged. Mrs. Brownell stated they would have to be transported separately. She reported this agreement is for people that do not have a way out of the county and do not have COVID-19. She explained if a person has COVID-19 and needs to be transported then they will contact the state and the state will move them.

Mr. Moron said there have been some emails about the status of Island View Park. He also asked for an update on the bathrooms for the fishing pier on the Eastpoint side. Mrs. Brownell reported Island View is still in the process of FEMA's environmental historical review and they cannot do anything until FEMA goes through the process and obligates the money. She explained in relation to the fishing pier and bathrooms she met last week with Commissioner Jones and Dewberry and the project has been obligated so they will be moving forward with that project. She reported they will go out for bid to fix the damages and complete mitigation. Commissioner Jones said part of the wait was getting money to mitigate the project so in future storms the infrastructure will still be there. He explained it is not just a problem with the walkway to the bathrooms being destroyed but also with the parking lot being undermined. Mr. Moron pointed out getting money from the federal government for mitigation is difficult. He stated Alligator Drive is an example of this struggle.

Mrs. Brownell said in relation to Patton Drive the boat ramp and floating dock have just been obligated so this project can move forward. Mr. Moron asked how long this has taken. Mrs. Brownell stated these were damages from Hurricane Michael.

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

5. CARES Act Agreement & Spending Plan: At your last meeting I explained that the County was slated to receive \$528,930, which was 25% of the total allocation of CARES Act funding for counties that fell below the 500,000-population threshold. Since your June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the County received the CARES Act agreement and was strongly urged by the Florida Association of Counties and the Small County Coalition to execute this agreement and upload it into the State system as soon as possible, which was done last week. The next step is to create a spending plan that would dictate how the County would spend the funds and would be submitted to U. S. Treasury for review. Ms. Traci Buzbee of The Management Experts, LLC, currently your Emergency Management consultant, is willing to create the spending plan and manage the program for the County. Her task order is attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Ben Chandler of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is willing to partner with Ms. Buzbee on the creation of the spending plan but doesn't have the staff to manage the program for the County. The County's other option would be to advertise for Request for Proposals, however, keep in mind that the total amount of CARES Act funding, approximately \$2 million must be spent by December 31, 2020.

Request: Board action on two items. The first action item is to ratify the Chairman's signature on the CARES Act agreement. The second action item is to engage Ms. Traci Buzbee to create the spending plan and manage the overall Cares Act Program with Mr. Ben Chandler assistance or advertise for Request for Proposals to create the spending plan and manage the overall Cares Act Program.

Chairman Lockley questioned what percentage people are paid to handle these funds. Commissioner Boldt replied 5%. Mr. Moron agreed there is a 5% administration fee for Ms. Buzbee and Mr. Chandler is working under an ARPC grant. He explained if possible Mr. Chandler would not charge the county because he is already being paid under the ARPC grant but he will verify that. He reported the 5% that is paid for the administration would come out of the CARES funding. Chairman Lockley said he wanted to know if 2 people were being paid. Mr. Moron explained it will be like a service Mr. Chandler is offering free of charge because he is working under the other grant. Commissioner Parrish said they previously discussed the county being responsible if the city applies for funding and spends it wrong. He asked if the county can have a separate agreement with the cities so they are responsible for paying the money back and not the county if the city spends the money in the wrong way. Attorney Shuler stated they could have a contract if the city agrees to it. Commissioner Parrish reported if they do not agree to the contract then they do not get the money. He said he does not want the county to be responsible for paying money back on projects that the county is not even involved in. Mr. Moron said on the telephone calls relating to the CARES Act they do suggest the county create an agreement with the cities and the county would have to go after the cities if the money was spent incorrectly. He reported the state will take the money from the county but will not go after the cities. Commissioner Parrish stated this is complicated because the county sets a budget and there is no money to pay for mistakes that other people make. He questioned if the consultant will make sure what they are asking for complies with the

protocols. He inquired who makes sure the money is going to that certain project and spent appropriately. Mr. Moron agreed it is the responsibility of the consultant to get all the reports and make sure the money is spent appropriately. He explained the consultant also has to make sure the expenditures have not been paid with other funds. He explained they need someone who understands this program because the same people that are running the FEMA program are running this program. Attorney Shuler said Mr. Moron has attended the zoom meetings but he has not so unless there is a provision stating the county cannot require the city to be financial responsible then the county can have a separate contract with the city. He explained it would be a contract where if they did not spend the money correctly the county would have to sue the city to replace the claw back that the state will take from the county. Commissioner Parrish stated he does not want the county to be responsible for this if they are not overseeing the project. He said they have also seen a time when the county was responsible and not a consultant because they were working for the county. Commissioner Parrish reported he is concerned about this situation. Chairman Lockley agreed he is concerned too. Mrs. Brownell suggested this be handled like any other FEMA project and documentation is required to be submitted to the county before a check is cut. Commissioner Parrish stated it would be a reimbursement. Mrs. Brownell agreed just like any other FEMA project. Mr. Moron said that is how this program is set up. Chairman Lockley stated that is better but what if they do not have any money to put up first. Mr. Moron reported he is worried about this and that is why he would prefer to have someone who is experienced with this matter. Chairman Lockley said this program is not set up well and he questioned what limits they have for the cities and the county. Commissioner Parrish reported it is better when it is handled as reimbursement so the consultant can review what is being done and make sure it complies with the rules. Chairman Lockley explained they need to know how much they can spend before they waste time setting up a project. Mr. Moron reported this \$528,000 is only 25% of the funding so they will have a little over \$2 million but the other 75% is based on reimbursement. He said the administration fee is based on how much money is spent and any money that is not spent must be returned to the federal government. Mrs. Brownell stated the projects must be tied to COVID-19 so that will limit the projects. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the CARES Act agreement.** Mr. Moron said the Board needs to make a decision about the consultant because this money must be spent by the end of the year. Commissioner Boldt agreed they only have 5 ½ months to get everything done. Commissioner Parrish agreed they must select someone to administer the program, come up with a spending plan and spend the money by December 31, 2020. He stated if they advertise for consultants they will lose another 30 days of this time. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to go with Ms. Traci Buzbee contingent upon Mr. Moron making her aware of their concerns he has heard today from the Board and that she is willing to comply with all of those items. Commissioner Boldt seconded**

**the motion.** Commissioner Jones said he talked with Mr. Chris Rietow, ARPC, and some of his staff is still not working full time and are working from home. He stated that is why they do not have the ability to complete the program at this time. Chairman Lockley asked if Ms. Buzbee has the staff for this project. Mrs. Brownell answered yes. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Chairman Lockley asked Mrs. Brownell if her staff goes to school. Mrs. Brownell responded yes, they attend training every year. She reported she and Mrs. Daniels have completed their Advanced Professional Development. Chairman Lockley asked if they take a leadership class. Mrs. Brownell said they have taken the director's course. Chairman Lockley stated he has received a lot of complaints. Mrs. Brownell explained she is working on this issue. Chairman Lockley reported the problem is people are already in an emergency situation when her department is involved. Chairman Lockley suggested Mrs. Brownell contact Mr. Moron about scheduling a class.

#### **Information Items**

4. EOC along with our CERT Volunteers are now distributing washable & reusable cloth mask that were distributed to us by FDEM throughout the County.
5. EOC Staff continues to monitor the stages of the HLMP (Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program) Grant. The HLMP grant has allowed us to mitigate numerous homes throughout Franklin County over the past 5 years.
6. EOC Staff are working diligently with DOH Staff regarding the COVID-19 virus. This includes hosting meetings with representatives from DOH, Sheriff's Department & Weems, EMS, Conference Calls, pushing out messaging from DOH on Facebook and our EOC Website.
7. EOC Staff continue to participate in conference calls (Approximately 10 calls weekly) with the State DEM, Region 2, DOH, FEMA, etc. regarding COVID 19. We also continue to update WebEOC with missions for PPE, Local State of Emergency, and SitReps.
8. EOC advertised for the SPN Coordinator/Office Admin position. We interviewed 5 applicants and have hired Amanda Anthony from Apalachicola.
9. FCEM Staff continues to work on FEMA reimbursement claims from Hurricane Michael. (Please see the Report below regarding Hurricane Michael Projects). 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. Attached is an update of FEMA projects. EOC Staff has begun the FEMA reimbursement claim process for COVID 19.
10. 06/25/20 monthly IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning System) Testing successful.
11. EOC Staff plan to attend FEPA Midyear Virtually this year.
12. EOC Staff have uploaded the CARES Act Agreement.
13. Franklin County now has 9 Total Cases of COVID-19. Attached is a copy of the DOH dashboard as of 07/02/20 12:00pm.

The meeting recessed at 10:28 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:41 a.m.

## **Extension Office Director – Erik Lovstrand**

Mr. Lovstrand appeared before the Board but did not have any action items. The following report was submitted to the Board:

### G. County Extension Director's Report

#### **Information Items**

General Extension Activities:

1. During this period, the Extension office assisted citizens on the topics of soil tests, injured wildlife, wooly aphid damage on live oak, citrus greening, invasive species, banana trees, sooty mold on longleaf pine, and more.

Sea Grant Extension:

2. Extension Director participated in a scalloping webinar series by hosting and presenting during a Zoom program for the Wakulla/Franklin county region. Experts on the topics of scallop life history and biology, seagrasses, food-safety when preparing scallops, and boating/harvesting rules and safety presented short talks, followed by a question/answer session. The event was also broadcast via Facebook Live to a larger audience.

3. The Extension office hosted the oyster harvester video that is required for harvesters annually before buying their licenses. There were 138 people that viewed the video in-person, rather than using the online option. All UF guidelines for sanitation and safety related to COVID-19 were in effect (no groups larger than 10 people, spaced more than 6-feet apart, regularly sanitized surfaces, etc.).

4-H Youth Development:

4. 4-H clubs are still not meeting in-person due to the virus but a large number of programs are being conducted online with great success and high numbers of youth participating.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

5. Transition to a distance learning platform is taking place so programs will be ready to use when school begins, as many schools will likely not be allowing outside people to come into the classroom setting.

Horticulture/Agricultures:

6. The new Wakulla County Extension Director visited with the Franklin County Master Gardener group at the Extension office and shared his vision for developing the program further. He will be coming to Franklin County at least two days/month for training, teaching and volunteer management.

## **Library Director - Whitney Nixon-Roundtree**

Mrs. Nixon-Roundtree provided the following report:

### H. Library Director's Report

#### **Action Item**

1. Requesting approval from the Board of County Commissioners to advertise for 2 FT Library Assistant positions at an annual salary of \$25,000. This request is to fill the FT Library Assistant position that is now vacant after my recent promotion to Director. She explained the second position is to fill a position left vacant by the resignation yesterday of Ms. Teresa Jackson in Carrabelle. She reported currently the libraries are operating with

one full time staff assistant and 2 part time staff assistants and that does not leave her with enough coverage for their current hours of operation at both locations.

Request: Board action to authorize advertisement for a 2 Full-Time Library Assistant positions simultaneous in house and to the public with an annual salary of \$25,000.

Chairman Lockley asked if the money is in the budget. Mrs. Nixon-Roundtree answered yes.

**Commissioner Massey made a motion to advertise for 2 full time Library Assistant positions.**

**Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked if she has enough staff now to operate. Mrs. Nixon-Roundtree responded she is traveling back and forth covering both branches. Mr. Moron explained he informed Mrs. Nixon-Roundtree if she runs short of coverage to let him know and they will reduce the hours and provide notice on the website. He stated that may happen until they are able to advertise and fill these positions. Mr. Moron pointed out they have to keep the libraries open the hours required by the consortium for the grant funding. Mrs. Nixon-Roundtree agreed one branch is required to stay open for 40 hours. Chairman Lockley questioned how long it will take to advertise and get someone hired. Mr. Moron stated they will advertise for 2 weeks and place the advertisement on the county website and send it to the county departments. Mrs. Griffith estimated they will have someone hired within the month. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

### **Information Items**

Monthly Update Programs and Resources:

2. The Summer Reading theme this year is "Imagine Your Story". The staff has been working diligently to bring virtual programming to our patrons. Each week the libraries host virtual story time, crafts and contest via the branches' Facebook pages. All Summer Reading events and programs are sponsored by our partners at Rock by the Sea and the Friends of the Franklin County Libraries.

3. Reading challenge sheets and logs are available for pick up at the Eastpoint and Carrabelle locations. Each completed sheet or log grants one entry into the prize drawing. The prizes this year are Fire HD 8 Tablets, 2 prizes per library and 1 per person. This event is open to all students grades K-12. The deadline is July 31, 2020.

Upcoming Virtual Events:

4. Animal Tales presents "Fantastic Creatures and Where they are Found" ZOOM! Live event- Thursday, July 9th at 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM.

5. Didgeridoo Down Under- Video will be available on the libraries' Facebook pages for a 7 day viewing period. July 19 -25th.

6. Florida Public Archaeology Network - North Central Region presents "Puzzles of Our Past Virtual Youth Program" ZOOM! live event- Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 10 AM – 11 AM

### **Weems Memorial Hospital – David Walker-CEO**

Mr. Walker thanked the Board for their support. He said their mission for COVID-19 is to prepare, prevent and respond. He discussed the pre-screening done for anyone that enters the hospital and clinics. He stated visitation is limited in the Emergency Department and inpatient wings of the hospital. Mr. Walker reported employees are required to undergo pre-screening and wear masks in all their facilities. He stated COVID-19 antibody testing has been offered in various areas of the county. He said they have conducted targeted testing on the front line

workers. He reported they have tested over 550 individuals and out of those 6 tested positive. Mr. Walker explained very soon they will have the capability to conduct and read an antibody test in one of the machines in their lab at the hospital. He stated one of their lab machines just received FDA emergency utilization authorization to complete this testing. He explained instead of sending the antibody testing out they will be able to process the tests and have results within 16 minutes. Mr. Walker stated they have ordered the new COVID-19 testing machine and that machine will allow them to have the results within 45 minutes. He reported the delivery date for this equipment is 6-8 weeks. He explained this is important for the county so they can build infrastructure for testing. He stated this equipment will be certified and the Department of Health (DOH) will recognize this testing equipment. He explained this will help the county so they can identify and isolate positive individuals. Mr. Walker reported right now it takes 3-5 days to get results. He said building up this infrastructure will also help when school starts back. He reported they will have a joint testing event with the Health Department next Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the hospital and they will conduct the COVID-19 nasal swab test and antibody testing. He said there will be an announcement about this event. Mr. Walker stated they have ordered 3 EKG machines and 2 will be placed at the clinics and 1 will be placed at the hospital. He said currently there are 2 EKG machines at the clinics. He stated they will have 3 EKG machines at the hospital when they add the new one. Mr. Walker reported they continue to upgrade IT equipment to be more efficient utilizing telemedicine. He stated they are looking at additional telehealth funding opportunities for the hospital. He explained they are trying to diversify funding opportunities and if they can get more funding for IT telehealth medicine then they will not have to use the COVID-19 funding they received and can use it for other items. He stated they should be hearing soon about another funding opportunity they may receive. He explained they have implemented telemedicine between the clinics and EMS. He reported the EMS Community Paramedicine Program is also up and running. Mr. Walker explained this program shows that EMS can do more in the community than just transport people to the hospital. He stated EMS is also working on screening people for chronic diseases. He reported the EMS Community Paramedicine Program will be looked at as a pilot program by the Rural Health Office. He said they will watch what is being done in this county and then roll the program out to other communities in the state. Mr. Walker stated they are participating in statewide calls and receiving daily updates in relation to COVID-19. He reported the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and DOH are monitoring bed census at each hospital and health care facility in the state for surge capacity. He said Intensive Care Unit (ICU) bed capacity is very important and the monitoring is ongoing. He explained the ICU beds used for Franklin County are in Bay County and Leon County so they are paying close attention to the utilization of these beds. Mr. Walker explained they monitor all these items to determine how well the county is handling the situation. He said they know cases will increase but they are watching hospitalizations and ICU bed availability. He reported they are working with the Health Department and the communication has been good. Mr. Walker thanked Mrs. Brownell and said they received 30,000 procedural masks last Thursday and 1,000 face shields. He stated they put in a request and that is what they received. Mr. Walker reported they welcomed Dr. David Harris as a new Weems Memorial Hospital Board member. He explained Dr. Harris lives at Alligator Point and came in and toured the hospital and attended a Board

meeting. He said Dr. Harris will be a good addition to the Board. Mr. Walker reported staff is doing a great job handling medical issues as well as COVID-19 and EMS, the clinics and the hospital are working in unity. He stated they are utilizing Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) and their COVID-19 Rural Health website set up for providers in the area. Commissioner Parrish reported the news said Bay County has no ICU beds available and the last information he received was that Leon County had 8 ICU beds available. He said that information was a week ago and the ICU beds Franklin County would use are already reaching capacity or already full. Commissioner Parrish questioned if the ventilators that were ordered have been received. Mr. Walker said they were received and now a company has to come in and certify the ventilators. Commissioner Parrish asked if people are trained to use this equipment. Mr. Walker stated they will provide the training at the time they certify the machines. He explained the purchase of the ventilators was approved out of the Health Care Trust Fund but they are using COVID-19 money to purchase the equipment. Commissioner Parrish questioned if some of the COVID funding coming to the county can be used to help the hospital with the COVID response. He explained the county is doing some response but the hospital will be the main entity responding. He asked if there is some way to use this money without duplicating the funding sources. Mr. Walker reported he looked briefly at the criteria for the county CARES funding but will look again. He said EMS was included in their request but no money on the federal level was specifically allocated for EMS. Commissioner Parrish stated it says the money is for response to COVID-19 and does not have to say specifically EMS because it does not exclude it. Mr. Moron said that is strange because the county is required to have EMS services in the county but they are not required to have a hospital. Commissioner Parrish suggested they get with the consultant and see if some of those funds can be used for EMS. Chairman Lockley asked about a bracelet he heard about that can detect COVID-19. Mr. Walker was not familiar with this item but will research it. Chairman Lockley stated it would be good for front line workers. Commissioner Boldt asked how negotiations are coming along with the management contract with Mr. Jim Coleman, Alliant. Mr. Walker reported he and Mr. Moron have done their part and the next step is for Attorney Shuler to meet with Mr. Coleman. He said the negotiations have gone well. He stated they are having conversations with TMH but are not waiting for the contract to be signed with Mr. Coleman to bring services into the county. He said they met with some representatives of TMH and Dr. Patrick Conrad about orthopedic services, wound care and a sleep center. He reported they also discussed a doctor that is interested in coming to the county. Mr. Walker explained it would be better at this time if TMH hires the doctor instead of the hospital. He reported the doctor will come down next week to take a tour of the hospital but he will probably not start until November. Mr. Walker explained he is a young doctor and has been following Weems Memorial Hospital for 5 years. He stated originally when the doctor came out of residency school he spoke with Mr. Mike Cooper, previous CEO, about coming here but at the time the situation was not right for him. Mr. Walker said he has worked previously at a critical access hospital in Montana. He reported the doctor had a lot of ideas to enhance the clinics and inpatient unit at the hospital. Mr. Walker said they are open to getting any clinical services they can while waiting for the management agreement if TMH agrees and they have been very helpful. Commissioner Massey stated if TMH hires the doctor then TMH would rent office space from the hospital. Mr. Walker agreed



they would pay fair market value for the space and the hospital would contract with the doctor to oversee the nurse practitioners in the clinics. Mr. Walker said they are in the early stages of the discussion now but it is looking favorable and would be a great asset to the community. Chairman Lockley asked how often front line workers should be tested. Mr. Walker said every 2 weeks or each month depending on the supplies available. He stated they can also do the antibody testing for quick results. Mr. Walker explained the virus is so infectious a person could be clear today and pick up the virus in the next few days. Commissioner Boldt stated in relation to the management contract he wants to make sure they are taking a comprehensive look at the health care system and not just the hospital. He explained he would like to see expansion of the EMT services across the county particularly with outreach to the east. He said he would like to see more medical personnel brought in on all levels and upgrade of the outpatient facilities. Chairman Lockley said this is good and makes sense.

### **CareerSource Gulf Coast – Kim Bodine (Executive Director) – Request**

Ms. Bodine appeared via telephone. She presented the following item for the Board's consideration:

#### I. Executive Director's Request

##### **Action Items**

1. Grantee-Subgrantee agreement between the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and your Local Workforce Development Board (Board)

Request: Board action to authorize Chairman's signature on the agreement.

Ms. Bodine explained these agreements are signed periodically and the last time they signed this agreement was in 2012. She reported she worked with Mr. Moron and Attorney Shuler on the agreement because they felt it still needed work. She reported DEO received over 400 comments about the agreement. She said the agreement is still not where they would like it to be but there is not statewide consensus to hold up the agreement so they are recommending approval. She stated much of the agreement is redundant and also included in their 4 year plan. She commented the agreement also outlines the roles and responsibilities of the workforce boards, local boards and DEO. Ms. Bodine said the local elected officials' assignment has been changed and reduced to an acknowledgement of the agreement. She reported in the future the agreement may be revisited but for now they have requested the agreements be signed before July 17, 2020. She stated the Executive Committee has approved the agreement and it went into effect July 1, 2020. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to approve the Grantee-Subgrantee agreement between the Florida DEO and the Local Workforce Development Board. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked if Attorney Shuler has reviewed this agreement. Attorney Shuler stated he reviewed the first draft but is not sure he reviewed the current draft. He explained in the county wants their assistance they must sign the agreement or decide not to take their assistance. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

2. Nomination of Mrs. Elinor Mount-Simmons to the CareerSource Gulf Coast Board of Directors as a private sector partner.  
Request: Board action to appoint Mrs. Mount-Simmons to the CareerSource Gulf Coast Board of Directors.

**Commissioner Jones made a motion to appoint Mrs. Elinor Mount-Simmons to the CareerSource Gulf Coast Board of Directors. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley inquired about the process for these nominations. Ms. Bodine reported they ask for recommendations from people in the community and their Board members. She said two names came up but the other individual declined. **Motion carried: 5-0.**

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

Clerk Johnson offered the following report for the Board:

#### J. Clerk of Courts' Report

##### **Action Items**

1. County Held Tax Certificates: Pursuant to F.S. 197.502(7), the Clerk is tasked to notify the County Commission when there were no bidders on county-held tax certificates that went to public tax deed sale. The list of 3 attached are the third batch of county-held tax certificates that have been advertised for sales. Sales were held on June 29, 2020, and nobody bid on them. These properties are available should the county wish to purchase them or you can waive your rights to purchase them at this time, and they will be placed on a List of Lands Available for sale. If not purchased, they will escheat to the County after 3 years. I have attached the list plus a copy of the forms on each for the Chairman to sign on whether you elect to purchase or not. These properties are within the same area as the properties I presented to you on April 9th that you elected not to purchase.

Action requested by the Board: a motion to either elect to purchase or elect not to purchase these properties.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed not to elect to purchase the properties.**

2. The budget workshop is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 30th. If additional time is needed, we will continue to Friday, July 31st. All constitutional offices, departments and non-governmental agencies have been asked to keep their requests at the same funding level as last year with the exception of state mandated increases.

Action requested by the Board: a motion to tentatively approve the same funding as the current year for the non-governmentals and not require their attendance on Thursday and to formally approve the Thursday, July 30th date for the budget workshop with the constitutionals, departments and other governmental offices.

Commissioner Parrish said if they ask the non-governmentals not to appear on that Thursday and tentatively approve their budgets that does not stop the Board from reducing the amount but they cannot increase the amount. Mrs. Griffith agreed that is correct. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to tentatively approve the same funding as the current year for the non-governmental agencies and not require their attendance on Thursday and to formally**

**approve the Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> date for the budget workshop with the constitutions, departments and other governmental offices. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.**

Chairman Lockley said the non-governmental agencies need to understand they are in hard times and he cannot give money to a non-governmental agency and cut a county worker or not give them a raise. Mr. Moron reported he will work with the Clerk's Office to schedule people to appear via telephone and limit the number of in person appearances. He stated they will take public comment at the beginning of the budget workshop. Commissioner Parrish agreed and said they may need to set time slots rather than have a lot of people in the room at the same time. Mr. Moron explained the budget workshop is an opportunity for this Board to talk to the department heads, constitutional officers and other governmental agencies about their budgets. He pointed out this is not the public hearing on the budget. He stated the public will have their chance to express their opinion at the public hearings. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Clerk Johnson reported Mrs. Griffith has prepared an update on the financials for the county. Mrs. Griffith read the following statement:

REVENUE UPDATE – During the partial months of March and May and all of April, many non-essential businesses and bars during this time were closed, travel was discouraged by the closure of beaches and transient rentals, and restaurants were limited to carry out only by the State of Florida to try and slow the spread of COVID-19. The Board has asked for revenue status updates for the months of the closures. Franklin County has just received the distribution of sales taxes from the Florida Department of Revenue for the month of April sales. The local tourist development tax, which is a 2% sales tax levied on transient rentals within the county, had sales tax proceeds of \$20,066.60 for the month of April 2020 and April of 2019 had sales tax proceeds of \$82,258.08. The April proceeds for transient rentals came in at just 24% of the prior year period. This reduction is attributed to the closure of the entire month to new arrivals and check-ins at transient rentals. Hotels and motels were still allowed to rent and existing vacation rentals that extended into the closure period were permitted. Franklin County also levies a 1% discretionary sales surtax on ALL taxable sales in Franklin County which is used to fund the Health Care Trust Fund. The 1% sales tax proceeds for the month of April 2020 were \$92,809.48 and April of 2019 had sales tax proceeds of \$152,507.82. The April proceeds for ALL taxable sales within the county (not just transient rentals) came in at 61% of the amount collected for the prior year period. This is better than the worst case scenario for all taxable sales estimate of 50% that we expected one month ago. I will update the Board on the May proceeds at your first meeting in August.

At this point in time, the State of Florida has not released any official county revenue estimates for the upcoming fiscal year. Per the State of Florida's Office of Economic and Demographic Research, those estimates may be available mid to late this month. As the county budget year begins in October and ends in September, we are optimistic that sales tax proceeds will not be heavily impacted next fiscal year.

Our office has also received the 2020 certified taxable value from the Franklin County Property Appraiser for next year's budget. The certified value for 2020 is \$2.14 billion. This amount is an increase of 5.4% over the prior year. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year of a steady, sustainable increase in property values. This taxable value is far below the county's market peak of \$4.112 billion dollars in 2006 during the real

estate boom. Our office will have the proposed budget to the commissioners on July 15<sup>th</sup> and the budget workshops will begin on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Information Item**

3. For information, I presented a draft Travel and Expense Policy at your last meeting. You voted to have Attorney Shuler review the policy before adoption. At this time, the review has not been completed, so the Policy is on hold until that review can be done.

### **RESTORE Coordinator – Alan Pierce – Report**

Mr. Pierce was not present and did not submit a report.

### **County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report**

Mr. Moron provided the following report for the Board:

#### **Action Item(s)**

1. Local State of Emergency: As authorized by the Board, Chairman Lockley signed the COVID-19 Local State of Emergency (LSE) Declarations for the weeks starting June 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 29<sup>th</sup>, & July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Request: Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the stated COVID-19 LSE Declarations.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the LSE Declarations for the weeks of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 29<sup>th</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup>.**

2. FWC Suspending Oyster Harvesting: As the Board is aware, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation (FWC) has an action item on their July 22-23 FWC Commission meeting seeking approval of draft rules to suspend harvest of wild oysters in Apalachicola Bay. This is the first step, of a two-step process, to request permission from the FWC Commission to advertise a rule. The second step would be to take the final rule to the FWC Commission at their September meeting for approval. This draft rule will include language to suspend harvesting effective August 1, 2020 but if the FWC Commission does not approve the final rule in September, the order would be suspended. There is a five-year sunset provision in the rule, however if the restoration is successful prior to the five years based on FWCs monitoring that requires at least 300 bags of harvestable-sized oysters in a significant portion of the Bay, there would be consideration to reopen for commercial fishery of oysters prior to the five year sunset. This meeting will be held by video and telephonic participation (Communications Media Technology) and also allows for comments to be sent prior to the meeting. Will the Board send a letter stating the County's concerns and/or have a designated Commissioner speak to the Fish and Wildlife Commission directly during the meeting?

Request: Board discussion and direction on commenting to the FWC Commission on this agenda item.

Chairman Lockley said he does not have a problem with the bay closing but does not like the way they are doing it. He explained there are people working in the bay and they are not offering to help them economically when they are putting them out of work. Chairman Lockley said these people either need some help or retraining. He stated it may not take 5 years for the bay to recover because it did not take 5 years in 1985. Commissioner Massey reported it takes 18 months for an oyster to grow. Commissioner Parrish agreed that is how long it takes if the environmental conditions are right. Commissioner Massey suggested they close the bay for 18 months and then check and see if it is ready to open back up. He said they can regulate it but 5 years is too long for the bay to close. Commissioner Massey stated they need to provide money to help these people. Commissioner Parrish reported they are not going to help with any money. He said he asked them to close the bay before there was nothing left but they waited. He said there are some oysters starting to grow in some locations but most of the bay has nothing left and now they are going to close the bay. Commissioner Parrish stated he does not know if the bay is going to come back like they want it to because the bay is not getting the fresh water flow it needs and there is too much salt water coming in. He explained whenever anything closes like redfish or trout season it never reopens and that concerns him.

Commissioner Parrish stated he was told by one of the legislators if the bay does not come back in 5 years then they may need to extend the time. He said that is the beginning and then the bay may never reopen. He explained leaving it open is not an option because there is nothing there. Commissioner Parrish said if the oysters start to grow and the oystermen catch them all then they never will return. He reported one of the state senators has requested a copy of any letter the Board sends and Representative Jason Shoaf also needs a copy of the letter. He explained he hates for the legacy of this Board to be that the bay closed and then 20 years from now the bay is still closed. Commissioner Parrish reported people think the Board wrote the letter that closed the bay but this Board is not writing a letter asking for the bay to close. He said the state is also not asking their permission to close the bay but does want the Board's comments on the proposed rule. He stated the bay is part of our heritage, history and way of life and 2,500-3,000 people are directly affected by the oyster industry. Commissioner Parrish commented he feels they need to restore the bay but he is not sure how they are going to do it. He explained he hates to see the bay close and never reopen. Commissioner Massey suggested they consider closing the bay for 18 months. He expressed concern that Tampa Bay was going to close for 4 years and now it has been closed for 35 years. Commissioner Parrish stated in the proposal it says they will look at it as they go and part of that is the Florida State University (FSU) project and their recommendations to rebuild the bay. He said enforcement will be easy if they close the bay because no one can be out there oystering. He questioned how long it will take to get 300 bags of harvestable oysters in a significant amount of the bay as referenced in the proposed rule. Commissioner Parrish explained Cat Point in the east end of the bay seems to be producing some oysters but the west end of the bay does not have any oysters so what is

considered a significant portion of the bay. He reported if they look at these areas in 2-3 years and some of the bars are producing then why couldn't they consider a short work week for oyster harvesting. Commissioner Parrish stated Apalachicola Bay has been producing 90% of oysters in Florida and 10% of oysters nationwide and that is the county's brand and he hates to see it go away. He said he does not want to shut the bay down for 5 years and if it is not all filled up with oysters then the time will be extended. Chairman Lockley stated they want to regulate the bay but not put people out there to enforce it. He reported they sold these people a license to oyster and now they are going to shut down the bay. He said in the letter they need to include that the people need some help. Chairman Lockley reported they need to put these people on a program working. He stated the county's legislators are supposed to be fighting for the county not getting a copy of the county's letter. Commissioner Massey asked if they are catching any amount of oysters. Commissioner Parrish replied no. He explained in the veto bill they cut out SHIP housing money so he does not see a fund being set up for this but they can ask for it. Commissioner Parrish stated he would like Chairman Lockley to be available to speak at that FWC meeting. Chairman Lockley agreed he would like to speak and he is going to ask for help for these people. Commissioner Boldt said he supports asking for economic help for those individuals that will be displaced from work. He stated it is wise to indicate the criteria for opening up the bay in the letter. Commissioner Massey said it may take some time for the oysters to come back but questioned if the state will reopen the bay when the oysters come back. Commissioner Parrish stated when he discussed it with them he suggested a time frame of 18 months like they did after Hurricane Dennis and they would not do it. He explained they always wanted to do it by the bushels per acre. He said they could never agree and that was why it was never done. He questioned why they would close the bay with no protocols in place to reopen. Commissioner Parrish discussed replanting oyster shells in permanently closed waters in the river channel so they can release spat down the bay to help reset some of the oyster bars to the west. He said this was suggested but never done and could be done while FSU is conducting their study. Commissioner Jones reported he is opposed to closing the bay. He stated it does not matter who it is going to affect the FWC Commission just think it needs to be done. Commissioner Jones explained the state just bought 17,000 acres of Franklin County land that is not on the tax roll which is further limiting the economy and he has a problem with that. He reported when the Apalachicola Bay Initiative Group first talked with him they said it was not a closure but a temporary suspension. Commissioner Jones stated the metrics for opening the bay are so vague it could mean many different things. He said he will be representing the county with this group and he wants the Board to know how he feels. He stated they need a solid metric because it just says they are closing for 5 years and he is opposed to the way it is worded. Commissioner Jones explained he is not saying there is not validity to what they are trying to do but if they close the bay he does not know if it will open again. Commissioner Massey agreed if the bay closes it will not reopen. Chairman Lockley said

the state stopped enforcing rules on the bay and stopped putting shells back. He stated they asked how many oystermen the county has but they know because they sold the oyster licenses. Commissioner Parrish said he also received the message that they should not fight this closure but make recommendations on how to improve it. Commissioner Boldt suggested Chairman Lockley and Commissioner Parrish speak at this meeting. Commissioner Parrish said Chairman Lockley can handle this because he understands the situation and has oystered. He said he has never oystered for a living but has always worked in the seafood industry and the company he works for owns an oyster company. Commissioner Parrish reported Chairman Lockley has oystered for a living and he has complete confidence in him speaking for the Board. He said they can send a letter, let the Chairman speak or do both. He explained at some point someone needs to say what the letter will contain. Mr. Moron read a summary of the rule sent from an FWC staff member. He said their statement about reopening is broad and he questioned what the monitoring is and how large the area is they mentioned. He suggested the Board needs to fight for clarification. Mr. Moron said he asked the City of Apalachicola how many oyster licenses they issued and their response was 300. He questioned if the state will have to refund this money. Commissioner Massey stated the number of oyster licenses went down from 2,100 to 300. Chairman Lockley reported they will not spend money to help people but they spent millions on the water wars and lost. Commissioner Boldt said the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline causes a lot of pressure too and they need some relief because this is a huge decision. Commissioner Parrish stated it goes to the FWC Commission before then. Mr. Moron explained they meet for the first time on July 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and a week and a half later the draft rule takes effect. He reported in September if the FWC Commission does not approve the rule then it stops. He agreed the timing is terrible. Chairman Lockley said they heard about this but the state did not tell them about it. Commissioner Parrish pointed out FWC is one of the few agencies in the state that does not answer to the Legislature. He said the representatives and senators have no influence on decisions made by FWC except through the budgetary process. He reported FWC has their own constitutional authority. Mr. Moron said the Governor only appoints the Board members if their term comes up for renewal. Chairman Lockley stated he wants to add in the letter that the people need some help. Commissioner Jones reported if they do a letter they need to know what the metrics will be for possible reopening of the bay before the 5 year period expires and how the public will be aware of FWC monitoring the bay. The Board discussed the deadline for the letter. Mr. Moron outlined the items to be included in the letter as some kind of displacement funding or training, an alternate rule to check the bay in 2 years rather than waiting the full 5 years to see if there are enough oysters to open for a short work week, and specifics for monitoring the bay. Commissioner Boldt said it is also important that communications are ongoing with the Board during this process and should be automatic. He reported the Board should receive a progress report every quarter. Chairman Lockley stated he agrees with closing the bay but the people need help. Commissioner Massey

agreed they need some help. Commissioner Boldt said they need to include in the letter that they are also looking for alternate funding for displaced workers. He stated copies of the letter need to be sent to Representative Shoaf because they are going to be talking to him about infrastructure money relative to the 17,000 acres the state just purchased. Chairman Lockley suggested they partner with CareerSource to provide jobs and training. Commissioner Parrish reported a copy of the letter needs to go to Senator Bill Montford and Representative Shoaf. Mr. Moron said they will include this and also have the Chairman on the Agenda to speak directly to the FWC Commission. Chairman Lockley stated this is a 3<sup>rd</sup> disaster for the county as there has been a hurricane and COVID-19. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to send a letter to the FWC Commission.**

3. SHIP Report: Attached to agenda packet is the SHIP report that includes a request to award eight (8) contracts to purchase mobile homes to Ironwood Homes of Perry for the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP) clients. Four (4) septic systems will be replaced for an additional cost. The HHRP home repair projects are moving slowly due to the COVID-19.

Last Monday, Governor DeSantis vetoed the 2020-2021 fiscal year appropriation for the SHIP Program. After the 2019-2020 funds are expended and if there isn't a reversal on the 2020-21 funding there will be no down-payment assistance, emergency repair or full rehabilitation projects.

Request: Board action to award the eight (8) contracts for replacement mobile homes for the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program to Ironwood Homes of Perry.

**Commissioner Massey made a motion to award the eight (8) contracts for replacement mobile homes for the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program to Ironwood Homes of Perry. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked how long it will take to get the mobile homes ready. Mr. Moron estimated 30-60 days. He stated Ironwood Homes is the same company that is working with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Commissioner Jones asked if this will delay the people getting homes under the CDBG program. Mr. Moron replied no, the CDBG order should already be submitted and Mrs. Debbie Belcher, CDBG Administrator, has 1 more item for Board approval. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

**Commissioner Parrish made a motion to send a letter to the Governor letting him know the detrimental effects of not funding the SHIP Program.** He stated a lot of people were using the funds for down payment assistance and emergency repairs. He said they are still working on repairs from Hurricane Michael but they ran out of money in SHIP and there are still needs. **Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley suggested amending the motion to ask some other small counties to join them. Commissioner Parrish said Mr. Moron can contact the other counties and suggest they take the same action. **Motion carried; 5-0.**



4. This item was handled earlier in the meeting.
5. The Board addressed this item during the Emergency Management Department report.
6. The Board handled this item during the Solid Waste Director's report.
7. ARPC Letter of Support: The Apalachee Regional Planning Council is seeking funding from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) through the Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant for 2020-2021 to conduct workshops on community planning activities and create a Community Planning Toolkit. ARPC would like a letter of support for this grant proposal. Your support will play a major role in securing funding for the project.

Request: Board action to authorize a letter of support for ARPC for the Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize a letter of support for ARPC for the Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant.**

8. Nature Conservancy Letter of Support: Mr. Alan Pierce the County's RESTORE Coordinator received a request for a letter of support from for a planning study that is being proposed jointly by The Nature Conservancy and the Water Management District. The deadline for the letter proposal was towards the end of June so Mr. Pierce signed the letter. There is no obligation from the County.

Request: Board action to ratify Mr. Pierce's signature on the letter of support.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify Mr. Pierce's signature on the letter of support.**

9. CMT Policy: As a means of protecting the public, county staff, and the members of the Board of County Commissioners, the County has followed Governor DeSantis extended Executive Order 20-69, which allows local government bodies to utilize communications media technology (CMT), such as the use of telephonic and video conferencing, during public meetings. This policy has worked well by allowing the public to participate during meetings via a teleconference system and view the meetings as it is happening via livestream. For a number of reasons, especially with the recent rise in positive COVID-19 cases here in the County and Statewide, the Board should consider a local CMT policy as other Florida counties are doing. If the Board is interested, Attorney Shuler and I would present a draft CMT policy for your review and approval.

Request: Board action to authorize Attorney Shuler and I to present a local CMT policy for your review and consideration.

**Commissioner Parrish made a motion to authorize Attorney Shuler and Mr. Moron to present a local CMT policy for the Board's review and consideration. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt stated the public needs to be aware this decision is not to shut out the public. He said this action is good common sense based on good science and health and is the best decision at this time. Commissioner Boldt went on to say the Board spent \$12,000 to get equipment to have a better view of the County Commission meetings. Mr. Moron stated Attorney Shuler is a good resource and has shown him some things other counties are doing that may be added here to allow the public to have other avenues to participate. Chairman Lockley agreed with Commissioner Boldt and said this is not a game and some people do recover but some people have died from the virus. He stated some people in higher authority should be taking action and this would not be going on but they are putting it on the local level. Mr. Moron said if they look at the number of public comments and livestream participation since March it probably equals the amount of all public comments received last year. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

#### **Information Item(s)**

10. Ethics Training: I have contacted Attorney Dan Cox about scheduling the required Ethics Class here in your meeting room. Attorney Cox is available any Saturday in July, but if the Board has no objections, I would like to ask the attorney if he is available in August, taking into consideration the current COVID-19 status and positive cases in the County.

Mr. Moron stated when Commissioner Parrish saw this item yesterday he called and asked if this training could be done virtually. He explained this may also allow the cities to participate without bringing everyone to the room. Commissioner Parrish stated they could put the class on the screen in this room for the County Commissioners and the city or anyone else could do the same. Mr. Moron said he will have Attorney Shuler decide if this is legal and then he will approach Attorney Cox. Attorney Shuler agreed to look into this matter.

11. P&Z/BOA Consent Agenda: In an effort to move the meetings along and if the Board has no objections, I would like to group the Planning & Zoning items such as Critical Shoreline Applications, Final Plat Applications, Commercial Site Plan Applications, Re-Zoning & Land Use Change Applications, in a consent agenda format so that the Board will approve those items by groups unless there is a particular item that a commissioner would like removed to discuss in more detail. I would like to treat Board of Adjustment items in the same manner. Let me know if you have any questions with this new proposed format.

Commissioner Parrish said there are always questions on these requests. He stated the only way he would be in favor of this is if the report was submitted to him a week before the meeting so he has time to review each one of the projects. He reported his opinion may be different than county staff. Mr. Moron stated Mr. Mark Curenton, County Planner, is reviewing

the applications so they will work out a schedule so Mr. Curenton presents the report and then the Commissioners have enough time to ask questions. Commissioner Boldt stated he wants to review these items also. The Board discussed the process of pulling the applications if they have questions. Mr. Moron reported they still need to have all the applicants on the telephone to answer questions.

Mr. Moron stated he received the Lanark Village/St. James Volunteer Fire Department review from the auditor. He reported the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) wants the Commissioners to call him if they have any questions. Mr. Moron stated he knows some of the Commissioners wants to know what is next and they need to speak with the CPA and then let him know so he can place this item on his report for the next meeting. He reported there are also some items the CPA wants the Board to incorporate. Mr. Moron said Attorney Shuler will need to let him know whether these things need to be done by ordinance or resolution. Commissioner Parrish stated he read the whole report and he has more than a few questions and this report is not good. He explained just changing the rules is not going to work for him. Commissioner Parrish reported there are a lot of unallowable expenses. He stated these are taxpayers' dollars and someone needs to be held accountable. Commissioner Parrish questioned who the person is that represents the Franklin County United Firefighters' Association. Mr. Moron said Mr. George Pruett was the Chairman of the Association but he will have to verify if he still is Chairman. Commissioner Parrish explained there was money raised by fundraising and then there are taxpayers' dollars and they can be spent different ways but when the funds are commingled there is no way to say all those expenses were spent out of the fundraising portion and not the taxpayers' dollars. He said something needs to be done about this and not just make policies. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion to continue this report on the accounting services of the fire department of Lanark Village picking up and getting a full report through the current time.** He explained this report ends on June, 2019 and they need a report from July, 2019 to current times. Commissioner Boldt reported they need to find out about this and get these items reconciled. Commissioner Parrish said that is a report for another year and asked if in the meantime they will come up with some policies and procedures to prevent this from happening. Commissioner Boldt responded yes and the policies are outlined in this report. Commissioner Parrish stated it aggravates him that these taxpayers' dollars are being misused. Chairman Lockley asked if the individual is still working there. Commissioner Massey answered yes. Commissioner Boldt explained there was one fire chief that is gone that had improprieties and now there is a new one and they have no idea how the money is being spent. Commissioner Parrish reported if it is another year that would be \$70,000 that could have been used for fire equipment. Chairman Lockley asked if they can suspend the card they are using. Commissioner Parrish stated this is a volunteer fire department and he does not know if someone will be responsible for monitoring this. He reported the volunteer fire department has a board and they need to do a better job of making sure these funds are not misused. Mr. Moron asked if Commissioner Boldt will allow him to get a proposal from the CPA firm and then they can approve it based on the price. He said he wants to make sure everyone is clear about the cost of the audit. Mrs. Griffith reported they probably need to set a time stipulation because it took a long time to get this report. Mr. Moron explained the auditor had trouble

tracking down people because the administration at the fire department had changed. Clerk Johnson pointed out her office does not do anything with the volunteer fire departments and is not responsible for monitoring the fire departments. Mrs. Griffith agreed all they do is distribute the Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) funds to the departments. Mr. Moron stated each fire department is supposed to have a Board that controls how the money is spent. Commissioner Massey said he has talked with Mr. Moron regularly about what is going on in this fire department. Chairman Lockley asked Attorney Shuler for advice on what they should do. Attorney Shuler stated he has not completed an entire review of the report but has looked at it and talked with some of the Commissioners about the questionable expenditures. He reported his initial opinion is that it should be referred to the State Attorney's Office for a potential criminal investigation and prosecution if necessary. Chairman Lockley stated that is what they need to do since they are aware of what is happening. Commissioner Boldt questioned if they are going to standby until they get a proposal on what it would cost for the audit to continue through 2020. Mr. Moron stated they are talking about 2 different administrations. Commissioner Massey reported the current administration has been there for a couple of years. Mr. Moron agreed this should be sent to the State Attorney's Office. Attorney Shuler commented the motion should be to refer the report over to the State Attorney's Office without recommendation. He explained it is not the Board's responsibility to determine whether it should or should not be prosecuted but it is their responsibility to govern public funds. He stated the Board has an audit report that has created questions that the Board would like the State Attorney's Office to look at and make the decision about whether or not they think a crime has or has not been committed. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion that this report be referred to the State Attorney's Office for their opinion on any further action. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt said it is sad that they have to do this. He said if there is a state association of volunteer fire departments he would encourage them to help with some new standards of practice with the fire departments. Commissioner Parrish explained this is why he asked who is over the United Volunteer Firefighters Association so they could see how most of the volunteer fire departments operate. He reported a lot of these expenditures were done with a debit card and the card was passed around to anyone that needed it. He suggested when they look at policies they may need to consider two people signing each check. Commissioner Parrish reported he does not think every volunteer fire department in the county operates this way but he does not know. Mr. Moron agreed to contact Chief Pruett. Commissioner Parrish stated there have been a lot of issues with this particular fire department and no one is watching what is going on there. He questioned if they have a functioning board, have regular meetings or are reviewing the financials. He asked if anyone has looked into this before the Board ordered an audit. Commissioner Massey said no. Commissioner Parrish stated the volunteer fire department seems to be dysfunctional. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioner Boldt stated they have a lot of dysfunctional issues concerning code compliance in his district and he explained the situations. He reported he met with the Building Inspector, Mr. Moron and the County Attorney about these issues. Commissioner Boldt stated he would like Mr. Moron to look into the options for a code compliance officer or some entity that can

begin to look at how they can enforce their ordinances and zoning laws. He reported Mr. Moron can look at similar counties in Florida and what they are doing about compliance. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion for Mr. Moron to look at various counties in Florida and see what they are doing about compliance. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked if he is asking for a code officer. Commissioner Boldt explained he would like a report because he would like to see enforceability of the zoning issues and what options they have. He stated this would be just in time for budget planning. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

### **County Attorney – Michael Shuler – Report**

Attorney Shuler stated he is entering the letter for 8 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road that was mentioned earlier into the record.

Attorney Shuler reported in reference to the Dollar General litigation he is required by statute to send certain statutory required notices to the surrounding property owners and the notice sent to Mr. Greg Yancey at the address he has on file with the Property Appraiser's Office has been returned undelivered. He said these items will be placed in the Board file maintained by the Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Jones stated there have been some discussions about COVID1-9 and the potential rise in cases. He said he would like Attorney Shuler to prepare something for them to consider about masks or no masks. Commissioner Jones explained enough of the citizens want to know what their stance is on this issue and they need to decide what they are going to do. He asked Attorney Shuler to have something ready at the next meeting. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to direct Attorney Shuler to prepare something concerning masks or no masks for the Board to consider at the next meeting.**

### **Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Boldt said he is having a meeting soon with Representative Shoaf relative to what type of infrastructure the state would consider in exchange for the huge amount of land they are buying. Chairman Lockley said they need to pay for all the land they are taking off the tax rolls. Commissioner Boldt reported the impending disaster of shutting down the bay in addition to putting up with a washed out road for 30 years and the state buying 17,000 acres of prime property makes it time to start talking about infrastructure.

Mr. Moron said they will come back in an hour for discussions on beach access and parking issues at Alligator Point and St. George Island.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

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Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts