

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

MARCH 17, 2020

9:00 A.M.

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, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

Prayer and Pledge

Commissioner Jones said a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Lockley said some misinformation was provided to the businesses. Mr. Moron stated information was sent out that the County Commission was considering closing restaurants today. He explained this item is not on the Agenda.

Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes-February 18, 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 of the meeting held on February 18, 2020.

Payment of County Bills

2. Bill List for Payment

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

Recognition

3. Resolution proclaiming March 16th - 20th, 2020, as Government Finance Professionals Week in Franklin County.

Mr. Moron stated he asked all constitutional officers and their finance staff to attend this meeting so they can be recognized. He asked the constitutional officers and their staff to stand. He said the Supervisor of Elections' Office is running late because today is Election Day. Mr. Moron read the Resolution for the Board. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley stated the Board is proud of them and they do good work. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Sheriff A.J. Smith and Mrs. Ginger Coulter appeared before the Board. He said she does an exemplary job representing the Sheriff's Office and the county and he is glad they are recognizing them. Clerk Johnson and her finance staff Mrs. Linda Phillips, Finance Director, Mrs. Erin Griffith, Assistant Finance Director, Ms. Lauren Luberto, Finance Clerk, and Mrs. Andrea Register, Finance Clerk, appeared and were recognized by the Board. Clerk Johnson pointed out she has the biggest finance staff but they are handling the finances and budget for the Clerk and the county. Clerk Johnson thanked the Board for recognizing the staff and said she could not say enough about what they do on a daily basis. Mr. Rick Watson, Tax Collector, introduced his finance staff, Ms. Stephanie Turrell, Mrs. Shawna Martina and Ms. Rainey Besore. He said they keep his office running. He stated his office takes in money and gives it to the county. Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Property Appraiser, introduced her Finance Officer, Mrs. Megan Dempsey Shiver. She reported Mrs. Shiver joined her team in 2015 and she and the rest of her staff make them look good. Chairman Lockley encouraged everyone to keep up the good work. Commissioner Boldt offered praise for all of the employees and said they give him piece of mind and help facilitate their job. He said they handle many things the public never sees and he appreciates their work. Mr. Moron thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He asked the constitutional officers to stay for the next discussion.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Mr. Moron stated Ms. Sarah Hinds, Administrator for the Florida Department of Health (DOH) in Franklin County and Gulf County, is present to provide an update on the coronavirus (COVID-19) and then they need to have a discussion about going forward as a county. He reported representatives from the City of Apalachicola are present and he hopes representatives will be here from the City of Carrabelle. Mr. Moron stated Mr. John Solomon, Tourist Development Administrator, is here to report on how this is affecting tourism, how they move forward and the message they are sending out. Ms. Hinds reported she is here with her staff and Mr. David Walker, CEO at Weems Memorial Hospital. She said the coronavirus is a new virus and they are trying to keep the community updated. She stated this community is a little more seasoned

in emergency situations and have a great partnership with each other. She discussed the mass closures and said they are really just trying to prevent the spread of the disease. She said they are still learning about the virus but about 80% of people who get the virus will have mild symptoms. She explained that group can then spread the virus to the other 20% of people. Ms. Hinds reported they are focused on the at risk population which is people over 60, people with compromised immune systems and people with existing medical conditions. She discussed not overwhelming the medical system and keeping society operating. She explained flattening the curve means instead of seeing a spike in cases they want to see a gradual tidal wave over time because it saves lives and the medical system can handle the cases. Ms. Hinds said she is asked frequently if Franklin County will have a case and the county could have a case. She said this is an evolving situation and if they take steps to implement mitigation strategies for the community they will be in a much better position. She stated they are obtaining guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website CDC.gov and she read the title of one of the documents. Ms. Hinds reported they are trying to slow down the number of cases they get over time and keep the risk population safe. She reminded everyone that COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that spreads like the flu. She handed out a flyer that explains how to prevent the spread of germs. Ms. Hinds stated they are working with Mrs. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Director, on strategies. She said their updates are on the Franklin EOC Facebook page. She explained the updates are also being sent out to a distribution list of partners, stakeholders, businesses and churches. Ms. Hinds stated there are no cases in Franklin County at this time. She said if the county gets a case then they will start with contract tracing to try to limit the exposure. She reported if they have questions they can call the Franklin County Health Department at (850) 653-2111, the Florida Health.gov hotline at 866-779-6121 or email COVID-19 @flhealth.gov. She asked for local residents to contact the Health Department first. Ms. Hinds explained the protocol for testing is to call your health care provider first if you are symptomatic to determine if there is a need for testing. She reported they should call before they go to the health care provider's office so they can take precautions to prevent exposing other people. Ms. Hinds said they are not short on testing but want to make sure they only test people that fall in that risk assessment. She reported the state lab is providing results in 24-48 hours and private labs provide results in 3-4 days but it could slow down as demand increases. She discussed the recommendations on mass gatherings. Mr. Walker stated this is an evolving situation but Weems Memorial Hospital is working hard to keep the patients, staff and community safe. He said they are following all recommendations from the CDC, DOH and the Florida Hospital Association. He reported the Hospital is prepared and capable of providing care for patients with illnesses including COVID-19. Mr. Walker highlighted the temporary restrictions in place at the hospital to limit the spread of the illness. He said they do not have any cases but are trying to be preventive. He explained over the weekend they had 6 older people in the hospital so they are doing everything they can to protect them. Mr. Walker stated they are coordinating with EMS and the Health Department. He explained in an Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 situation the health department is the lead authority on coordinating medical services. He reported if a person does not have insurance and needs to be seen or tested the Eastpoint Medical Center is the federal qualified health center and they are charged with seeing people and providing the tests. He said money

will come from the Legislature and these health centers will be identified for this money. Mr. Walker pointed out the Governor issued an Executive Order about no visiting in nursing homes or skilled nursing facilities. He said this will also be enforced for swing beds. Ms. Hinds discussed the flyer on social distancing. Ms. D.T. Simmons, DOH Public Information Officer, said it has been discussed but they have not mentioned closing restaurants. She stated Ms. Jessie Pittman is also present from the DOH. She said their job is to promote transparency and clarity to mitigate and reduce misinformation. Commissioner Jones reported if they ever get a positive result in Franklin County it will be a presumptive positive and he asked Ms. Hinds to explain that. Ms. Hinds stated that is correct if the county gets a positive test from the state lab or private lab it is a presumptive case until it is confirmed by the CDC and then it will become a confirmed case. She said a press release will be sent out if they have a presumptive positive so everyone knows and they will address the extent of exposure and contact tracing. Chairman Lockley asked if they have testing kits in Franklin County. Ms. Hinds answered yes, they are available at the Health Department and with their health care partners. She explained they reach out to their health care partners regularly to make sure they have the resources they need to handle the current situation. Commissioner Boldt reported it is important the public focuses on the information coming from the Health Department because they know what to do. Ms. Hinds stated if everyone does their part to protect the at risk population then they could see a slow gradual tidal wave but avoid a surge and keep health care at its capacity. Chairman Lockley asked if there is a time frame on how long the virus will last. Ms. Hinds stated there is no known time for how long this is going to last. She said when they get more information then they will keep everyone in the loop. Ms. Simmons explained if all this happens at once it will max out the health care system but if it is manageable then they can control it. Mr. Walker agreed they want local control. He said they may need to look at their meetings and only have essential personnel present to protect the community. He stated they are also watching the other counties because people from here go there to shop and eat. He reported they can do their part to handle this locally as long as it is not overwhelming at the same time. Mr. Moron asked about a message to the department heads and if any of the constitutional officers have any questions. Mr. Moron said a representative from the City of Apalachicola is present but he does not know if anyone is here from the City of Carrabelle but they can also ask questions. He reported Mr. John Solomon, TDC, and the Eastpoint Civic Club is also present. He stated now is the time for questions so they can try to limit misinformation. Ms. Whitney Nixon-Roundtree, Library Department, reported they have suspended all public programming for 2 weeks. She said she is concerned that they have staff and the majority of their volunteers that are over 60 years of age. She stated Leon County, Jefferson County and the City of Apalachicola have all closed their libraries. She said interlibrary loans have been halted and they are not borrowing or lending any books to other libraries. Chairman Lockley asked if they are doing a deep clean. Ms. Nixon-Roundtree agreed they are cleaning the surfaces. Mr. Moron explained he may be asking to reduce the hours at the libraries at some point because they have a small staff and rely on volunteers. Mr. Fonda Davis, Parks & Recreation, reported the Dixie Youth League has shut down for the safety of the children so there are no sports going on now. He questioned the risk to the Solid Waste Department and landfill because the items they handle are already high in contamination. Ms. Simmons stated

they can get some additional guidance from the CDC but this virus is typically transmitted from person to person. She said staff should be encouraged to practice good health practices and hygiene habits. Mr. Moron asked if any constitutional officers have questions. Mr. Rick Watson, Tax Collector, stated they have received directives from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Governor's Executive Order and anyone with a driver's license expiring in the next 30 days has an additional 30 days to renew without penalty. He reported they are encouraging the public to use the internet for renewals. He said he has temporarily suspended driving tests because of the close proximity during the test. Mr. Watson stated they have also temporarily suspended issuance of concealed weapons license and they will review that each week. He reported they have not received any direction from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACCS) who handles the licenses but some of the other Tax Collectors have also suspended this service. He inquired if they should do anything different with processing the mail in their office because property taxes are due the end of the month. He said the delinquent tax sale will be held by internet. Ms. Hinds stated there is no indication that they need to worry handling the mail. Ms. Simmons reported they need to practice basic hygiene habits and not touch their face. Mr. Watson thanked the county for the cleaning protocols they received and asked if more cleaning supplies are on the way. Mr. Moron said they are working on getting more supplies. Mr. Moron asked how long the virus can live on a surface. Ms. Hinds reported a few days per CDC guidelines. She stated they are asking for people to disinfect commonly touched surfaces and to avoid hand shaking. Mr. Moron asked the Sheriff to comment about things being done at the jail. Sheriff Smith said they are working with the State Attorney to reduce the population at the jail by releasing inmates that are a low risk to the community. He reported the Department of Corrections (DOC) has quit accepting inmates. He stated they have stopped volunteers from coming to the jail until the crisis is over. Sheriff Smith reported they already have video visitation so that is not impacted. He stated Ms. Hinds' staff has been good and will provide them with some masks if they need them. Clerk Johnson stated all jury trials through the end of March have been cancelled. She said there was a conference call yesterday with the Chief Judge and at this time no other court has been cancelled but it will be left to the discretion of the Circuit Judge and County Judge. Clerk Johnson reported Florida Statutes requires certain items from her office that she cannot suspend. She explained they are paying attention to directives from the Health Department and are sanitizing the office as they are dealing with the public on things such as marriage license, passports, fines and courts. She said her staff is sanitizing to protect themselves and the public. Clerk Johnson reported her staff of 18 is also encouraged to stay home if they are sick. She said the Clerk has discretion on people that owe fines and traffic tickets and her office will work with the public if people are out of work and have problems paying. Clerk Johnson reported payment plans are available and they can give continuances but they will look at individual cases. She said she notified Mrs. Brownell about the closing of jury services but asked if she should also notify the Health Department. Ms. Hinds reported if Mrs. Brownell receives notice she will notify the Health Department and they will update the EOC facebook page with anything the public should know. Clerk Johnson reported the Public Defender's Office and the State Attorney's Office have stopped visitors to their offices today and she looks for those people to then come to her office for assistance. Clerk Johnson said they are paying

close attention but are doing everything to remain open which also helps to stop the panic. She stated she would not like the Courthouse close unless they had to. Mr. Moron brought into discussion the number of people at this meeting and the distance that should be between people. He said the Board will not meet for 3 weeks but they will make determinations on what to do as they get to the meetings. He stated the Planning & Zoning Office is sanitizing but still conducting business with the public. He said employees are encouraged to stay home if they are sick. Mr. Moron reported schools are closed and he has parents in his office so they are trying to incorporate that into their schedule. Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Property Appraiser, stated they are staying educated and sanitizing the office. She said they are encouraging staff to wash their hands regularly and trying to keep their office and the public safe. Mr. Erik Lovestrand, County Extension Agent, reported they have moved to their new office and most of the public have not found them yet. He stated they are practicing the same things other offices are doing. He said the University of Florida (UF) is sending policies hourly and they are conducting webinars. He reported they are following the best practices on a large scale and students have been sent home from campus. Mr. Lovestrand reported classes are only available online. He said they have talked with the county offices about no public gatherings until April 30th but that date could change. He stated they are cleaning the office even though there are very few people coming in at this time. Mr. Kevin Begos, Mayor of the City of Apalachicola, thanked the Health Department for providing all the good information. He said they have closed the Margaret Key Public Library for a couple of weeks. He stated they have an emergency meeting tonight to discuss other options but City Hall is open. He encouraged people to call or use email if they have requests. Mayor Begos reported they will discuss tonight putting a temporary hold on late fees or disconnect fees for utility bills. Ms. Hinds asked for the time of the meeting. Mayor Begos answered 6:00 p.m. Ms. Hinds indicated they will attend the meeting. Mr. Moron asked if the City of Carrabelle has a representative present. There was no representative present. Mrs. Anita Grove, City of Apalachicola, Department of Environmental Protection and NOAA, said they got notice that the Nature Center will close until the end of the month and all of their programs were cancelled as of Monday. She stated DEP is waiting on official word that the museums will be closed but the natural state parks will be open during daylight hours. She said she will send the information when they get confirmation. Mr. Rex Pennycuff, Eastpoint Civic Association, and member of the Tourist Development Council (TDC), thanked the county for the way they are handling this matter. He said he has employees and they are a tourist destination. He stated the county is getting the appropriate information out and trying to maintain normal business as much as possible. Chairman Lockley explained they are taking this a day at a time but they may have to do something different later. Mr. John Solomon, TDC Director, read a prepared statement. He thanked the County Commission for the county getting together and having the same message. He stated there were a lot of rumors about the restaurants and beaches closing but he told everyone that was not on the Agenda. Ms. Hinds reported additional guidance will be coming from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for restaurants and bars and they will send it out as soon as they receive it. Chairman Lockley questioned how they will deal with the influx of kids coming in for spring break. Mr. Solomon stated they will make sure these visitors have the information the DOH and CDC is providing. He said the spring break visitors are already here. Mr. Moron reported

there are 2-3 events scheduled at the Armory and asked if those events should be cancelled. He questioned what responsibility the county has as this is a rental facility. Commissioner Jones said TDC cancelled all events they were helping to market across the county so taking these steps until the end of the month would not be inconsistent for special events. Attorney Shuler agreed these events should be cancelled and the money refunded because public health comes first. Commissioner Jones stated they need to have a county statement issued and it needs to be unified like they did today. He said if people are at risk or feel sick they need to stay home. Chairman Lockley said they want the public to know this is the information they have today but that may change as they get orders from different sources. Mr. Moron stated he will work with the web designers to have a link on the website for the information. Commissioner Jones suggested they add a clickable banner. Mr. Walker said the DOH has a great website with a dashboard. Ms. Hinds stated they will send that website out in their daily update. Mrs. Nicole Sandoval, Department of Health, explained people are asking for masks because personal protective equipment (PPE's) are in short supply across the nation. She stated they are not recommending the general public wear masks because that can cause unnecessary panic. She reported they are conserving these masks for the health care personnel and people that are sick. She said they are preserving these supplies for the health care partners because they have a limited supply. Mrs. Sandoval stated any additional supplies are being requested through Mrs. Brownell. Chairman Lockley said they are not trying to hide anything but they get their information from professionals. He stated if everyone works together then they can beat this virus. Commissioner Jones reported there is an app for anyone that has Capital Health Plan insurance and they can do telemedicine by calling Amwell. Mrs. Griffith said she called Amwell and had an appointment over the phone, paid the \$15 co-pay and had a prescription called in the same day. She read a list of items that can be handled with this app. Chairman Lockley said the Veterans' Administration also has this kind of program.

The meeting recessed at 10:06 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:17 a.m.

Public Comments

Mr. Gary Darpol, Vice President of the Alligator Point/St. Teresa Taxpayers Association (APTA), said their last meeting was on March 14th and he would like to speak about Items #22 and #24. He stated in regard to Item #22 APTA is pleased the Department of Transportation (DOT) is moving forward with supporting the reclassification of C.R. 370, Alligator Drive, and will support the county in this initiative. He reported in relation to Item #24 APTA is dismayed that this action created another delay. He stated the Association hoped the road would be under construction by now. He explained a 6 months delay will leave the area vulnerable to damage from another storm. Mr. Darpol said if another storm further damages Alligator Drive FEMA, based on their previous actions, would start the process over creating more delays, additional construction costs and leaving a constant public safety hazard unaddressed. He stated they may never realize the goal of Alligator Drive reconstruction because the bureaucratic

paperwork process will never end. He said APTA understands there is little the county can do to pressure FEMA and they appreciate the efforts of Mr. Pierce and the County Commission to keep the project on track. He asked the Board to let APTA know if there is any practical way they can support their efforts.

Ms. Lori Simmons, a nurse practitioner in Apalachicola, stated she is here to support Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) working with the hospital instead of Ascension. She discussed the non-profit aspect of TMH and said they have always supported poor people and are not about the money. She reported this is a poor area and there are a lot of elderly and people do not always have transportation. Ms. Simmons stated the third leading cause of death is medical malpractice and they need their family members there to advocate for them. Ms. Simmons said she has been here 9 years taking care of the poor and they need to make sure they get the care they need. She discussed non-profit companies versus for profit companies providing services. She stated TMH has taken over Doctor's Memorial Hospital and that is a better facility. Ms. Simmons reported some people do not have insurance and co-pays have increased. She stated TMH is the only provider for CHP. Commissioner Parrish left the meeting at this time. She reported if the critical care access is lost they will never get another hospital here. Ms. Simmons stated if Sacred Heart could get the critical access they would already have applied for it. She said they are losing money or they would not be looking for the critical access here. Commissioner Parrish returned to the meeting. She reported people have paid the surtax for 20 years and questioned who is going to pay it back if they do not get a hospital. She stated the people voted for a hospital and she asked why they are not going to get a hospital. Ms. Simmons reported they can work with the hospital they have and get the community involved and have a community action hospital.

Mr. Jerry Holt, Big Bend Scenic Byway, reported the Big Bend Scenic Byway is the only byway in Florida that has state and national status. He stated the wayshowing project is coming to fruition. He reported the panels have been written and approved and the graphics have been finalized. Mr. Holt said sometime this year the ground will be broken for the panels. He stated the engineering is in the process of being revised. He referenced a map showing the Franklin County sites where the panels will be erected for the Big Bend Scenic Byway. Mr. Holt thanked Mr. Moron for facilitating this process with the county. He said they appreciate the collaboration with the local government who have contributed to the success of the Byway.

Ms. Amy Hodson, Executive Director of the St. George Island Lighthouse Association, informed the Board in an abundance of caution yesterday they closed the Lighthouse until the end of the month. She stated their entire staff is over 60 years of age and due to the size inside the Lighthouse there is no way to distance and keep everyone safe. She reported they plan to reopen Friday, April 3rd.

Mr. Joshua Hodson, Manager at St. George Island State Park, the Orman House and the John Gorrie Museum, reported all Florida State Parks are cancelling all special events, interpretive programs, weddings and pavilion rentals for 60 days. He stated the Orman House and John Gorrie Museum are closed for tours. He said St. George Island State Park is normally open until

sunset but for 60 days they are open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. He reported all camping reservations at the state parks are cancelled for 60 days. He said Thursday night will be the last night for camping at all state parks.

Department Directors Report

Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors

4. Information Item(s):

Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District Report (agenda packet attachment)

Mr. Nabors stated the Road Department will keep working until further notice. He said they received notice that it will be 30 days before any inmates are available for work. He reported the Road Department crews will still be working and cutting grass. Chairman Lockley said they are asking the people of the county to work with them as the inmate crews have been cut back. He stated they will be slower due to not having the help of the inmates. Mr. Nabors said they graded the roads but Gardner's Landing Road and Bloody Bluff Road are closed due to high water. Chairman Lockley recommended they accept phone calls and get to them when they are able to.

Commissioner Massey asked Mr. Nabors to have the rotten tree cut that they looked at. Mr. Nabors reported he met with the state about the trees and about 70% of the trees are on private property. He said the big cluster of trees in Eastpoint is also on private property. He suggested they email the property owners to see if they want to cut the trees because the trees need to be taken down. Commissioner Massey stated 1 of the trees is on county property. Mr. Nabors said they will take care of that tree because it is hitting their equipment when they drive by. Commissioner Massey expressed concern that the tree could fall on a school bus. Chairman Lockley asked Attorney Shuler for his recommendation on how to handle the situation on private property. Attorney Shuler said he would like to discuss this matter with Mr. Nabors and report back to the Board. Chairman Lockley agreed with this suggestion.

Mr. Moron presented the following item from his report:

27. Signage @ Consolidated School Update: At your March 3, 2020 meeting, I informed the Board that Commissioner Boldt requested the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) assistance with adding signage and guardrails at the T-intersection of Highway 98 and Seahawk Lane because of what he considered a potential safety hazard for anyone leaving the school at night that is unfamiliar with that exit. FDOT added directional reflective signage on the southside of Highway 98 that will be viewed when exiting the consolidated school. In addition, FDOT recommended a "Stop Ahead" warning sign and an oversized "Stop" sign on Seahawk Lane at the Highway 98 T-intersection. Since this FDOT recommendation was based on Commissioner Boldt's request, I asked the Board to consider

paying for the sign and having the Road Department install the sign so there would be no cost to the School District. I sent FDOT's recommendation along with an email stating that the County would be responsible for the purchase and installation of the sign. I have since received a request from the School District to attend their April 20th workshop to present this offer to the School Board. It is my opinion that the offer speaks for itself, however if the School Board is seeking information to qualify why two signs would provide additional safety to vehicle traffic at the intersection, a representative from FDOT would be more appropriate. I am asking the Board to rescind the offer to pay for and install the signs on the School District's road, as that would remove the County from this matter. If the School District is interested in FDOT's recommendation, I will forward the contact information for the local FDOT representative.

Request: Rescind the motion to pay for and install the "Stop Ahead" and "Stop" sign on Seahawk Lane as recommended by FDOT.

Mr. Moron stated the county tried to do this because Commissioner Boldt requested it but his role is not to attend the meeting and explain the situation. Chairman Lockley said they tried and now they should let the school handle this. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by the following vote of the Board present, it was agreed to rescind the motion agreeing to pay for and install the stop signs on Seahawk Lane as recommended by FDOT:**

AYE: PARRISH, JONES, LOCKLEY, MASSEY

NAY: BOLDT

Commissioner Jones asked for an update on the state road and what they are doing around the school district with the blinking lights. Mr. Moron stated the blinking lights to remind people to slow down for the school have been out since the hurricane and they made a request to FDOT to determine who is responsible for the signs as it is different in other counties. He explained a year or so ago the county opted out so FDOT is responsible for the maintenance of the lights. Mr. Moron stated when they put in a request it will be elevated because it is a school and FDOT will repair the lights. Commissioner Boldt asked Mr. Moron to clarify whether it is appropriate to ask FDOT to add guardrails in this area. Mr. Moron said the county has asked twice and FDOT has determined that guardrails are not needed. Commissioner Boldt said they must have a standard for that determination and he would like a clarification on the standard. Mr. Moron stated he will have the DOT representative call Commissioner Boldt and explain their decision. Chairman Lockley said they tried to help the school but they just need to let this be.

Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

4. Information Item(s):

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

Mr. Davis asked for the Board to approve the Finance Department cutting a manual check to Richard's Freight for a little over \$9,000 because the invoices were not submitted on time. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve a manual check to Richards Freight.**

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

28. County Wide Mandatory Garbage Pickup: The Board, at your last meeting, discussed mandatory garbage pickup for the unincorporated areas of the County and asked Mr. Fonda Davis (Solid Waste Director) to discuss this matter with some of the local providers. Mr. Davis and I met with three local providers and they all had the same requests. The first is, in order for this contract to be successful, the contract would have to be an exclusive franchise agreement. Only one company could provide garbage/yard trash pickup in the unincorporated areas of the county. The other is a county ordinance with strong penalties and fines that would make it easier and cheaper for all residents to keep their accounts current as the other option would be stiff and costly. Representatives from these companies provided other county ordinances that could assist with creating an ordinance of our own if the Board decides on proceeding. If the Board is interested in mandatory garbage pickup, the next step would be for the Board to direct Attorney Shuler to proceed with a draft ordinance for the Board's review before advertising public hearing dates.

Request: Board discussion and direction.

Commissioner Parrish stated he is glad to see there are 3 providers that are willing to bill individuals for their garbage pickup. He reported approximately 90% of the county already has garbage pickup. He questioned the collection methods of the providers if they are awarded the contract and place a garbage can at every location that does not have garbage collection and then are not paid. Commissioner Parrish stated if they pick up the garbage cans if they are not paid then the county will not have mandatory garbage collection. He explained Commissioner Massey and Chairman Lockley already live within the municipalities and are already mandated to have garbage collection. He said the only way to make this happen is to have a fine larger than the amount of collection. Commissioner Parrish explained if the elderly cannot afford to pay for garbage collection and the garbage can is removed then there still is not mandatory garbage collection. He said he is not sure how to make this work but agrees about cleaning the county up. Commissioner Parrish stated this has to be enforceable across the board and if they cannot pay then they receive a fine for not paying and that is the only way to have people comply with mandatory garbage collection. He stated the Commissioners cannot call and ask for people not to be charged. He explained when the company notifies the county the person has not paid then the county would access this fine. Commissioner Parrish went on to say if the fine is not paid then a lien will be placed on their property. He stated if the Board wants to have mandatory garbage collection they need to know that people are going to call them and they will not be able to help them. He reported some people are going to claim they cannot afford this service. Commissioner Parrish stated they cannot have selective prosecution regardless of the district the person is in. He said he is not opposed to

cleaning up the county but there are going to be a lot of issues that come with it.

Commissioner Boldt made a motion to direct Attorney Shuler to proceed with a draft ordinance for the Board to review and they will look at all the issues at that point.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Commissioner Jones stated he wants to make sure the public knows they are not going to do this without public comment. He explained there will be public hearings and other things involved and this is just a step. He said what they have now is not working in every case. Commissioner Boldt clarified they are only asking for legal education on the matter. Chairman Lockley stated it takes about 3 years to process this matter. He explained the problem is people are using the county's garbage cans or the woods and if they do not do something it is going to create more trash in the county. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Mrs. Brownell reported the local state of emergency (LSE) is not on her report. She explained they have been attending all the conference calls with the state and Sunday afternoon the state informed them there is a federal designation for the coronavirus COVID-19. She reported it is only for Cat B which is for protective measures. Mrs. Brownell said they advised counties to get their local state of emergency in place for acquisitions such as N95 masks and cleaning items and only request these items from them when they find out they cannot get them. She advised the Board on Monday she contacted Mr. Moron and requested a LSE and she would like to approve this retroactive to March 16, 2020. Chairman Lockley explained this action is not to scare the public or hide anything but so the county can get their money. Mrs. Brownell stated the Board is doing this so they can order supplies to protect the first responders and citizens of the county. Chairman Lockley said the county does not have this money and it will allow them to get the money from the federal government. Mrs. Brownell reported it is hard to find supplies because they are being bought up quickly. She explained the state is having a hard time getting supplies but asked the county to put their requests in. She reported hopefully they will fill the requests quicker since Franklin County is a rural county. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt the Resolution declaring a local state of emergency retroactive to March 16, 2020. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish asked for an amendment to the motion authorizing Chairman Lockley to extend the local state of emergency until it is no longer needed. He said it must be extended each week. **Commissioner Jones amended the motion to include authorizing Chairman Lockley at his discretion to extend the local state of emergency.** Mrs. Brownell agreed it must be extended every 7 days. **Commissioner Massey amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Moron asked if Weems Memorial Hospital can request ventilators or respirators under this LSE. Mrs. Brownell replied yes they can send their request to her office and they will upload the request to the state. Mr. Moron said he talked with the CEO at Weems Memorial Hospital and they are going to request 4 ventilators. Chairman Lockley stated the best thing to do is have the equipment and not wait.

Mrs. Brownell read the following request:

6. Action Item(s):

Request the Board signing and approval of the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00.

On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve and sign the CERT Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00.

RFP / RFQ / Bids Opening

Mrs. Brownell explained this is for qualifications and not a bid because it is a set amount. She stated the RFQ's will be reviewed by a committee and a recommendation will be presented to the Board. She reported the review committee will be her, Ms. Tracy Busby consultant with The Management Experts, and Mrs. Tress Dameron, Emergency Management Department. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion for the review committee to review the RFQ's and present a recommendation to the Board. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.**

8. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Franklin County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Architectural and Engineering Planning and Design Services

Mrs. Brownell opened and read the RFQ's as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dewberry Engineers	Port St. Joe, Florida
CRA Architects	Tallahassee, Florida

Mr. Pierce explained the company will help design a structure. He reported at this time they have \$200,000 in design fees available from the state but no construction money. He explained the Board has allocated money in Consortium funds but the money was reallocated to dredge the Eastpoint and Two Mile Channel. Mr. Pierce said there will be no rush on the design since there is no construction money. Chairman Lockley asked how long the bid would be in effect. Mr. Pierce said once they select the company they can negotiate the time involved with completing the design. He estimated it will be 1-2 years before there is construction money. He stated they can get an extension on the state design money as it was allocated the last Legislative session and they usually have 1 or 1 ½ years to spend the money. Commissioner Parrish pointed out typically when they allocate design money they follow up with construction money. Mr. Pierce agreed since they allocated design/engineering money they should have allocated construction money this year but it does not look like that will happen. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioner Boldt said he discussed with Mrs. Brownell potentially cleaning up and opening a portion of Island View Park for the public to have access. He stated Mrs. Brownell felt like that was not wise. Commissioner Boldt reported he visited the site when staff was there and there are a lot of irregularities so it would be hard to insure the safety of the public. Mrs. Brownell explained there is undermining of the walkways, no railings on the piers and the area is so

washed out that it would be a liability to the county if the area was opened. Commissioner Boldt reported they discussed just opening an area for parking but there is still a potential of breaching the area so they need to wait before opening the area. Mrs. Brownell stated they signed off on the project so hopefully the federal government will push the project through. Commissioner Jones questioned if any of the projects that they are waiting for FEMA to mitigate have been checked off. Mrs. Brownell replied they are in the process of writing the scope of work for the projects. She explained once the scope of work is written and approved FEMA will let the county know and they can go out for bid.

Information Item(s):

EOC Staff continue to issue re-entry tags to residents of Franklin County.

EOC Staff are working diligently with DOH (Department of Health) Staff regarding the COVID-19 virus. This includes hosting a meeting with representatives from DOH, Sheriff's Department & Weems on 03/09/2020, Conference Calls on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays, pushing out messaging from DOH on Facebook and our EOC Website.

EOC Staff participated on the LEPC Meeting/Conference Call on 03/11/2020.

03/10/2020 EOC Staff along with Alan Pierce met with FEMA EHP for the Environmental Assessment Kickoff.

EOC Staff will be hosting its MYTEP (Multi Year Training & Exercise Program) meeting on 03/19/2020.

EOC Staff will be attending the Region 2 meeting in Liberty County on 03/26/2020

FCEM Staff continues to work on FEMA reimbursement claims from Hurricane Michael. This includes working with FEMA staff regarding mitigation of damaged parks, roads, etc. Mitigation takes some time but EOC Staff continue to work diligently with FEMA Staff on the most beneficial repairs for Franklin County. Attached (agenda packet) is an update of FEMA projects.

Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand

Mr. Lovestrand reported the University of Florida (UF) considers all the County Extension Directors as essential personnel so he is on the clock and available for questions. He said they will follow the county's guidelines concerning any office closures.

7. County Extension Activities March 4 – March 17, 2020

General Extension Activities:

- Extension office assisted clientele with issues related to suitable plants for coastal landscaping, damage to landscaping from bleach in pressure washer, aquaculture leasing questions, and more.
- Much time has been occupied with exterior work around the new office location to clean the walls, remove weedy growth, trim trees and shrubs and reorganize things. We now have operational capability with internet and phones and are open to the public if they need

Extension services. We still have work to do before hosting a public open house event and will let the BOCC know ahead of time when that will take place. The Extension Director would like to say on the record that a great debt of thanks is owed to the Board of County Commissioners, County Administration and Staff, and the local community for funding, logistical support, and most importantly support for the idea to make this a reality. We look forward to serving the community in the new location. See next page for photograph.

Sea Grant Extension:

- Extension Director participated in community meetings conducted for people interested in the oyster aquaculture leases at the 4-mile Aquaculture Use Zone. These were two pre-application meetings designed to inform people about the processes involved and help them understand what being an oyster farmer means in realistic terms. Presentations were provided by FDACS staff, and UF/Auburn faculty who work in various areas of aquaculture production and economics.

4-H Youth Development:

- Summer 4-H camp registration is underway.

Family Consumer Sciences:

- Family Nutrition Program (FNP) Assistant has begun the new hands-on cooking skills class with Healthy Weight and Lifestyle group that meets at Weems weekly for the next 6 weeks.

- Classroom programs continue at local schools with youth in various grade levels.

Horticulture/Agricultures:

- Wakulla Extension Director taught two Master Gardener classes in Eastpoint and also presented a program at the Eastpoint Library on growing tomatoes.

- Our Franklin County Master Gardeners are participating in the ANERR Bay Friendly Landscaping program by conducting evaluations on various yards for the Reserve.

University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Franklin County Educational Team

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

Michelle Huber, Office Manager/Program Assistant, Franklin County

Kayle Mears, Family Nutrition Program Assistant

Samantha Kennedy, Wakulla County Family and Consumer Sciences

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

Scott Jackson, Sea Grant/Agriculture/Technology, Regional Specialized Agent Bay County

Melanie G. Taylor, Gulf County 4-H/Family and Consumer Sciences

Ray Bodrey, Gulf County CED/Agriculture/Horticulture/Sea Grant

Heather Kent, 4-H Regional Specialized Agent

Les Harrison, Wakulla County CED/Agriculture/Small Farms/Horticulture

John Wells, Northwest Extension District Information Technology Expert

Pete Vergot III, Ph.D., Northwest District Extension Director

Public Hearings 11:00 A.M.

17. An Ordinance regulating the time for sale of Alcoholic and Intoxicating beverages; repealing ordinance 2016-05; providing for a penalty; providing for severability and an effective date.

Attorney Shuler read the caption of the proposed ordinance. He discussed the language being added and deleted in the ordinance. Attorney Shuler explained they are granting 1 additional hour from midnight until 1:00 a.m. year round for the sale of alcoholic and intoxicating beverages. He stated the current ordinance allowed for extended hours during a seasonal period of time. Attorney Shuler pointed out this ordinance applies to the unincorporated areas of the county and not to the City of Carrabelle or the City of Apalachicola. He said if there are no questions from the Board then they can call for public comment. Chairman Lockley asked for public comment. There was no public comment. Attorney Shuler advised the Board they can approve the ordinance as written, reject the ordinance or modify the ordinance. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Ordinance.**

Sheriff's Finance Officer - Ginger Coulter - Grants Discussion

Mrs. Coulter stated she is here to talk about some grants and presented a worksheet for the Board. She reported the 2018-19 Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Narcotics grant was delayed due to the sanctuary cities issue and federal government shutdowns so the funds were just received this grant year. She reported they are asking to keep the grant funds in the amount of \$45,574.00 as well as some auction proceeds to offset some of the expenses listed on the worksheet. She explained they got the new Investigations Building as it was damaged during the hurricane and the county insurance covered the cost. Mrs. Coulter said they were responsible for the setup including the electrical and fiber optics going to the new building. She explained a huge portion of the funds have gone towards that expense, the new communications center and the narcotics buy fund. She stated they have not received the funds from FDLE to reimburse them for these items. Mrs. Coulter asked to keep the \$57,178.25 in their budget this year so they do not have to seek the funds from outside sources. **On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to allow the Sheriff's Department to keep the funds in the amount of \$57,178.25 in their budget this year.** Mrs. Coulter stated the second item is a grant for this year in the amount of \$51,996.00 from the Big Bend Mental Health. She explained that is the final amount but if it changes she will come back for a budget amendment. Mrs. Coulter reported there is a new state mandate especially when handling juveniles and students in the school system. She explained if they are exhibiting certain types of behavior they have 1 hour to have them see a professional medical physician that specializes in psychiatric and behavioral issues. Mrs. Coulter said this grant covers the expenses for providing these services. She said it also covers the transportation cost as they must transport the individual out of the county. She offered to answer any questions. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by**

Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Big Bend Mental Health Grant in the amount of \$51,996.

Mrs. Coulter reported they have a couple of items that also need to be signed. She said the first one is the Victim's Advocate Grant from the Office of the Attorney General. Mrs. Coulter stated Mr. Moron has the papers that need to be signed. She explained every year they have a single audit that is presented to the Office of the Attorney General by February 1st. She reported their single audit has not been completed so they need to file for an extension. Mrs. Coulter said the other item to be signed is the current year FDLE Grant. She explained this is the 51% letter that the cities and county must agree to for the county to receive the funding. She reported they complete this letter every year. She stated the Certificate of Participation also needs to be signed today and that is for the upcoming year. Mrs. Coulter explained every year they approve this Certificate to approve them writing the grant, receiving the grant and completing the grant paperwork. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve these items. Mr. Moron said this will handle Item #29 on his report.** Commissioner Jones questioned how they are meeting the 1 hour limit in the new mandate. Mrs. Coulter reported the Sheriff's Resource Office (SRO) is equipped with a tablet or cell phone to contact the physician so they have contact within the first hour and then they transport the individual. Commissioner Boldt asked what the narcotics buy funds is. Mrs. Coulter said that allows the investigators to buy drugs covertly.

TDC Administrator – John Solomon – Report

Mr. Moron stated Mr. Solomon had to leave the meeting but he did not have any action items. He said if they have any questions he will forward them to Mr. Solomon.

9. Information Item(s):

Collections Report: The December (2019) collections were \$52,526.91 a 12% increase over December 2018 \$46,715.00.

Web Site Activity: We had 32,373 web hits in the month of February (2020) an increase of 2% over last February.

Visitor Center Numbers: The Visitor Centers welcomed 3,769 visitors in the month of February.

Meetings: The next scheduled board meeting is May 13th 2020 @ 2:00pm at the Eastpoint Visitor Center.

Commissioner Jones pointed out the month of December the collections were up 12% so the message is getting out.

Eastpoint Civic Association - Lynn Martina - Introduction and Request

10. Eastpoint Civic Association's request to authorize the association to apply for a USDA Rural Business Development Grant which will provide for the completion of an Eastpoint Waterfront Feasibility Study.

Mrs. Lynn Martina, President of the Eastpoint Civic Association, said they are working on a few things and are having round table discussions. She explained they want to be the voice of Eastpoint. She reported Eastpoint is growing and they are glad to see the growth. Mrs. Martina stated the county is in a bad situation with the condition of the bay so they are glad to see anyone that wants to start a business and provide jobs. She reported they are completing a new pavilion at the cemetery. Mrs. Martina encouraged anyone to join the Association that would like to. She stated they would like to see suggestions of what everyone wants Eastpoint to look like. She said they have a lot of ideas they would like to do. Mrs. Martina reported the Association has 59 members and 20 businesses. She asked the Board to authorize the Association to apply for a USDA Rural Business Development Grant to provide funding for the completion of the Eastpoint Waterfront Feasibility Study. She reported Mrs. Betty Webb, grant writer, is working on this grant for the Association. Mrs. Martina said Mr. Jimmy Sapp is the Vice President, Mrs. Joyce Estes is the Secretary and Mr. Donnie Gay is the Treasurer of the Association. Mrs. Martina said they have had several productive meetings and are ready to get moving. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Eastpoint Civic Association to fill out the grant application.** Mrs. Webb requested the Board sign the Resolution giving the Eastpoint Civic Association the authority to make the application and manage the grant. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Resolution.** Mr. Pennycuff said they are hoping the Association will be a point of contact for the Board and the public. He explained they can help shape what they would like Eastpoint to look like before they have so much growth and development. He reported they would like to be a voice for the citizens of Eastpoint and also provide a communication link for the Board.

Board of Adjustment – Amy Ham-Kelly – Report

Mrs. Ham-Kelly provided the following report:

11. Consideration of a request to construct a house 5 feet into the front setback on property described as Lots 2, Holiday Beach, Unit 1, 37 Carousel Terrace, Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Elva Peppers, Florida Environmental & Land Services, agent for Wayne and Susan Johnson, applicant.

BOA Recommendation: Unanimous Vote to Approve

BCC ACTION: Approve, Table or Deny

On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.

12. Consideration of a request to construct a house 12 feet into the front setback on property described as Lot 3, Block 62, St. George Island Gulf Beaches, Unit 5, 331 Land Street, St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Alan Anderson, applicant.

BOA Recommendation: Unanimous Vote to Approve

BCC Action: Approve, Table or Deny

Commissioner Jones asked if they are doing this because they lost property in the canal. Mrs. Ham-Kelly presented a diagram of the property and explained the request. Mr. Anderson said they still have a full right-of-way and he is not getting into the right-of-way as there will still be 38 ft. clear. He explained if he does not need the property he will not use it. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.**

Planning and Zoning – Amy Ham-Kelly – Report

Mrs. Ham-Kelly read the following report:

13. Consideration of a request to construct a 106 x 4 Boardwalk over vegetation and 134 x 4 Single Family Private Pier with another 141 x 4 Boardwalk over vegetation and a 26 x 6 Step Down Terminal Platform on property described as Lot 5, Silent Waters, 2930 Creek Side Drive, Carrabelle, Franklin County, FL. Has all state and federal permits. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, Agent for David Mills, Applicant. (Proposed House)

PZ Recommendation: 4/1 Vote to Approve- Contingent upon boardwalk setback being 10 feet from the property line.

BCC ACTION: Approve, Table or Deny

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.

14. Discussion concerning the requirement of State and Federal permits and whether the County would like to require a DEP Exemption at minimum. Exemptions go through a process and will require a site plan and will at minimum will provide us documentation as to whether a federal permit will be required.

PZ Recommendation: Unanimous Vote to only accept DEP Permit and DEP Exemptions and no longer accept Self Certifications.

BCC ACTION: Approve, Table or Deny

Mrs. Ham-Kelly reported self-certifications are an application that the owner can apply for but Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) does not see a plan as long as they stay within a

certain square footage. She said they are approved with the self-certifications but they still must come to the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Board for approval. Mrs. Ham-Kelly stated with the self-certifications it is like a trust between DEP and the client. She asked if the Board would be willing to allow their office to only accept self-certifications at a minimum. Commissioner Parrish and Commissioner Jones expressed confusion about this process. Commissioner Parrish questioned what is wrong with the process they currently use. Attorney Shuler reported he does not regularly attend the Planning & Zoning Commission meetings and would like to look at this issue to determine if the Board has the authority to do what they are being asked to do. He said this request does not have legal review at this time. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to table this matter.**

15. Consideration of a request for commercial site plan review to install a 16' x 64' Modular Office lying in Section 31, Township 8 South, Range 6 West, 279 Patton Drive, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Michael and Paige Richards, applicant.

PZ Recommendation: Unanimous Vote to approve

BCC ACTION: Approve, Table or Deny

On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.

16. Consideration of a request for a Public Hearing to re-zone Lot 17, Block Z, Lanark Beach, Unit 1, 2118 Highway 98 East, Lanark, Franklin County, FL from C-4 Mixed Use Residential to C-3 Commercial Recreation. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for Team Golson Motorsports Inc., Applicant.

PZ Recommendation: Unanimous Vote to Deny Public Hearing

BCC ACTION: Approve, Table or Deny Public Hearing Request

Commissioner Parrish asked why there was a unanimous vote to deny a public hearing. Mrs. Ham-Kelly reported they had the application and the survey but did not have what they were proposing. She stated they are proposing an RV park. She explained in C-3 they have the 50 ft. setback from the critical habitat zone but there are no other setback conditions. Mrs. Ham-Kelly said they made a motion to deny the request for a public hearing. Chairman Lockley stated they cannot deny a public hearing. Mrs. Ham-Kelly reported she attached all the documentation to the file if the Board would like to see it. Chairman Lockley said they must give them a public hearing or the county will be in trouble but that does not mean they have to vote for the project. He asked the Board to approve the public hearing. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to give the applicant a public hearing. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked Attorney Shuler if this is correct. Attorney Shuler agreed this has been the county's policy as long as he has been the County Attorney. Mr. Garlick explained he was not present at the meeting but there was some confusion involved with this project. He

stated he will make sure all the information is submitted before the public hearing. He said there seems to be some misunderstanding with the Planning & Zoning Commission but he still does not understand why they did not allow for a public hearing. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Moron said he received notification and did some research and based on the WCTV website the Governor has issued an order closing all nightclubs and bars in the state for 30 days beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday. He read the order which also limited restaurants to 50% capacity and asked for seating to be staggered and limited. Mr. Moron said the order encouraged people to use take-out and delivery options. He explained it also asked restaurants to screen their employees for symptoms of illness. Mr. Moron said he will verify this information through the DOH. Commissioner Parrish stated they need to get this information out on the radio and the county's website. He reported they also need to integrate what the state park service is doing. He said the public needs to know all this information and that the Governor has ordered these items.

CDBG Administrator – Report (Deborah Belcher)

18. MARCH 13, 2020

REPORT TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HOUSING CDBG GRANT for EASTPOINT FIRE VICTIMS

I again visited the home of Anna and Devin Creamer, 568 Wilderness Road, the afternoon of Tuesday, 3/3/2020. Although progress has been made, the yard is still no cleaned up was not complete. Ms. Creamer is demanding a 4-bedroom home instead of a 3-bedroom model. I informed Ms. Creamer that the cost would be higher than the County's normal policy limit, but I would have the cost information ready for the 3/17/2020 Board meeting.

Ironwood Homes of Perry provided me an estimate of the price to demolish and clear the existing structures and install a 4-bedroom mobile home of quality comparable to that of the homes provided to other Eastpoint fire CDBG homeowners. The estimated price is \$106,455.

In an effort to reduce the price of the 4-bedroom home, I requested an estimate for a lower quality home. The home would have energy efficiency upgrades, but not the level of quality in items such as cabinets, flooring, etc., and would be smaller. The estimated price for that home would be \$90,530.

Requested Action: Provide direction regarding accepting the degree of yard cleanup, and whether to pursue procurement of a 4-bedroom home or the normally upgraded 3-bedroom home.

Mr. Moron said he is distributing the picture Mrs. Belcher took this morning. Mrs. Belcher reported she wanted the Board to see the picture. She explained this situation has been going on for over a year and she did not recommend to the Board proceeding with the application because of this. She requested the Board direct her as to whether this is acceptable or not.

She stated the owner is insisting on a 4 bedroom home instead of a 3 bedroom home because they have 3 children. Mrs. Belcher said she provided pricing so the Board could see the cost. She explained the Board's normal policy is a limit of \$75,000 but it can be waived and has been waived in the past for different reasons. She stated the most that has been awarded under the Eastpoint fire grant is \$80,000 to date. She requested Board direction. Commissioner Parrish inquired if there have been any other 4 bedroom trailers. Mrs. Belcher replied no. Chairman Lockley asked about the cost of the 4 bedroom trailer. Mrs. Belcher said it is in her report and that is an estimate from Ironwood Homes of a 4 bedroom trailer of comparable quality. Mrs. Belcher said she has written specifications for the bid packages and explained the items she has addressed to make the homes more durable. Mrs. Belcher stated the estimate was \$106,455 and she asked for a price on the modified specifications that still have the upgraded insulation and that price was \$90,530. She reported they have a 5 person household. Chairman Lockley asked if they had a 4 bedroom in the beginning. Mrs. Belcher could not remember but said they added on to a single wide trailer. Commissioner Massey asked if the \$90,530 model would have less items in it. Mrs. Belcher said the quality would be less than the \$106,455 and is a little smaller. Commissioner Massey asked if the \$90,530 model would accommodate the family. Mrs. Belcher responded it would. She stated the county has been purchasing 3 bedroom, 2 bath trailers. She said her recommendation is not to proceed with anything considering the property at this stage but if they want her to go ahead and submit the environmental review she will or they can wait. She stated the other issue is whether to pursue a 4 bedroom or not. Commissioner Parrish asked how many people who received a 3 bedroom trailer will now want a 4 bedroom trailer. Mrs. Belcher explained there is 1 person who has a 3 bedroom trailer on order and would like to get her grandchildren back with her and she would have 3 children at that time. She stated the other households are smaller. Commissioner Boldt reported he does not see how there is room to get a modular home in and out of this property. He stated this family needs to cooperate with the county. He expressed concern about a precedent being set when they start switching the number of bedrooms. Commissioner Boldt referenced a standard of practice and said they need to get this cleaned up. Mrs. Creamer asked how old this picture of her property is. Mrs. Belcher responded it was taken this morning. Mrs. Creamer said she has compromised on everything that was required. She stated they are not only holding back a family but a disabled child. She reported for the last 2 years they have made compromises and questioned if they should throw away everything they have accumulated. She discussed her children and what they have been through. Mrs. Creamer explained they added an addition on their home so they had 4 bedrooms. Commissioner Parrish left the meeting. Commissioner Massey asked if they can live in a 3 bedroom home. Mrs. Creamer answered yes with the addition attached but Mrs. Belcher wants to remove the addition. Commissioner Massey asked if they can live with a 3 bedroom home with the addition. Mrs. Creamer answered yes if the addition stays. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by the following vote of the Board present, it was agreed to get the single wide mobile home and hook the addition to it:**

AYE: MASSEY, JONES, LOCKLEY

NAY: BOLDT

Mr. Moron questioned if the Board is comfortable with Mrs. Belcher submitting the environmental review. The Board agreed she can submit the environmental review. Attorney Shuler said that is presumed from the motion. Mrs. Belcher pointed out when they do CDBG housing they have to make sure the entire dwelling meet their standards. She stated she walked through the existing add-on and pointed out several things that need to be taken care of and she questioned if the Board wants to require them to make the improvements or add the rehabilitation to the cost of the single wide. Commissioner Jones inquired how much money this would cost. Mrs. Belcher was not sure if the new home would line up with the opening on the existing structure. Chairman Lockley asked about the location of the add-on in the picture. Mrs. Belcher said it is the white structure. Mr. Moron questioned if they can just inspect the mobile home as their home and then if they want to add the addition later they can do it themselves. Mrs. Belcher reported that will be a concern as it is likely Housing & Urban Development (HUD) will monitor the home instead of DEO. Mr. Moron advised Mrs. Creamer she would need to wait until HUD does all the inspections before considering the addition. Mrs. Creamer said they will do whatever they need to do. Commissioner Boldt inquired what they are going to do if they are breaching the protocols of how the loans and monies are distributed when they make exceptions and breach the standard. He reported someone from the state or federal level is going to come in and tell them to stop because they did not address this when they gave the county the money. He said he is concerned the expert gave them a recommendation and they are going to have problems with breaching the standards. Chairman Lockley stated he does not have a problem with this. Commissioner Jones explained the Board raised this limit for this one issue and that is the Board's discretion and that is why they have done it before. Commissioner Parrish returned to the meeting. Commissioner Jones stated there is no worry of a claw back measure. He explained this started because the Governor did not declare an emergency when this happened. He said the county went after the grant and the state allowed them to receive CDBG funding for about 5 years all at one time to start the process. Commissioner Jones stated they are trying to help all the families that were affected by the fire. Mrs. Belcher asked to clarify that they are authorizing the purchase of a single wide 3 bedroom home like they normally purchase. The Board agreed. Mrs. Belcher stated the mobile home may or may not line up with the existing structure. She said if the state approves this which she does not think they will until more work is done, do they put the normal steps and landing out and have it attached and have them build a connector later. Mr. Moron agreed they should let this be a standalone and then let Mr. & Mrs. Creamer decide what they want to do about the addition later. Commissioner Jones left the meeting. Chairman Lockley said they could build a breezeway. Mr. Moron stated the county should just put in the single wide mobile home the same as they do for everyone else and then let Mr. & Mrs. Creamer decide what they want to do about the addition. Chairman Lockley stated the people did not ask to be in the fire and the state should be here replacing the homes. Mr. Moron said the county did not start the fire and are trying to help. He went on to say Mrs. Belcher's role is to make sure the county does not do anything wrong and there is no claw back. He stated they must follow the rules or the claw back will come from ad valorem and the taxpayers will be paying for any

mistakes. Commissioner Jones returned to the meeting. Mr. Moron reported Mrs. Belcher's role is to protect the Board. Chairman Lockley said they are putting a trailer on this property and nothing else. Mr. Moron clarified the county is putting the mobile home and the stairs and anything that they want to do is on them. Commissioner Massey agreed they just want to set up the trailer and they can do what they want later. He said whatever the state does is not anything to do with the county. Mrs. Creamer stated she appreciates their help.

Clerk of Courts – Marcia M. Johnson – Report

Clerk Johnson said she has one item and Mrs. Griffith can answer any questions. She presented the following report:

19. Clerk's Report to Board March 17, 2020

1) The County budget process will be beginning soon and the county has received some complaints recently from providers as well as from several dissatisfied employees in regards to the county dental insurance plan. The finance department is asking the Board to sign the attached letter which will grant Acentria Insurance the ability to explore other dental plan alternatives for Franklin County.

March 17, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Please recognize John Pat Thomas and Acentria Insurance as our Agent of Record for Standard Insurance Company for the purpose of obtaining alternate proposals for Dental Insurance and negotiating current rates. We realize that we have a current Agent of Record for our existing Dental Plan. We are seeking alternatives for our employees and wish to work with Mr. Thomas on these alternatives.

Also, please recognize John Pat Thomas and Acentria Insurance as our Agent of Record for obtaining proposals for Group Life and Vision Insurance through Standard Insurance Company.

Sincerely,

Noah Lockley, Jr.

Chairman

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Chairman Lockley to sign the letter.

RESTORE Coordinator – Alan Pierce – Report

Mr. Pierce read his report, as follows:

Information Item(s):

20. Inform Board I attended the TRIUMPH meeting on March 3 in Port St. Joe. TRIUMPH staff had a long presentation about the need/opportunity for job creation in

northwest Florida in the aviation industry. According to TRIUMPH staff, some 9000 jobs will be needed in Florida in the aviation industry in the next 10 years. To that end TRIUMPH awarded \$2.8M dollars to Wakulla County Schools to partner with Lively Technical College to train students in aircraft repair and maintenance at the Tallahassee Airport. Franklin County students will be eligible to participate in this training but it is going to take some coordination between Wakulla and Franklin County schools. The reason the training will have to take place at an airport is that the training classes, the instructors, and the materials used all have to take place in an FAA sanctioned facility, and the nearest sanctioned facility is Tallahassee Airport.

21. TRIUMPH Chairman Gaetz also stated that as of March 3 the Florida Senate had not approved continuing legislation for the TRIUMPH Board to continue beyond July 1, 2021. Chairman Gaetz said the legislation is stuck in a Senate committee. If this legislative session fails to act there is still next year's session to get the TRIUMPH Board renewed. If the Legislature fails to renew the TRIUMPH Board then it is my understanding that all of the TRIUMPH funds would revert to the state of Florida, and it would then fall to the Governor and the Legislature to develop a way to allocate the hundreds of millions of dollars of TRIUMPH funds coming to the state.
22. Inform Board that FDOT has approved the county's request for a re-classification study of CR 370, Alligator Drive. The notice came in the form of an email from District Secretary Gainer.

Mr. Pierce stated they appreciate the state requesting this but at no point will the state take over the road but they may be able to get federal funds.

23. Inform the Board that Ms. Brownell and I agreed that her office should become the Point of Contact for the Alligator Point HMGP acquisition projects. The process has taken a lot longer than I expected and I am going to be on mostly retirement activities by mid-May. I have recommended the first priority for acquisition be the Alligator Point VFD. Even though that project was not the first one submitted, the acquisition of the Fire Dept property at the west end is a crucial link in providing safe access to many properties in the event of continued erosion on the west end of the washout area.

Mr. Pierce said he was on a conference call yesterday with the Alligator Point Volunteer Fire Department so they are aware of this.

24. Inform the Board that I attended a FEMA meeting at the EOC on March 10 to learn that FEMA is just now starting the supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) for the additional damage Hurricane Michael did to Alligator Drive above what was done by Hurricane Hermine. The additional damage is some 200 more feet of a road that had 1000 feet of damage by Hurricane Hermine. The estimated timeline to complete the supplemental EA is 6 months, which means if that timeline holds then it will be September before any FEMA funds would be obligated for the repairs to Alligator Drive. I was stunned to learn that FEMA was just now starting this supplemental EA,

as I thought the issue of a supplemental EA had been resolved months ago. I consulted with FCMC staff who also thought the issue had been resolved.

I advised the participants at the meeting that a delay until September could certainly affect the current validity of the bid from Anderson Columbia, because by September, 2020, the bid will be a year old. I said a lot of other things that I will not repeat here, but I also advised the meeting participants that another 6 month delay could have many unintended consequences, including the very real threat that Alligator Drive will be unprotected throughout the whole 2020 hurricane season, which was something I was trying hard to avoid.

Mr. Pierce said at the meeting they stated they will review the steps that the EA requires to shorten the timeline but he has not heard back from them. He stated he is frustrated because this was unexpected and it stops everything. He explained this is a federal issue. Mr. Pierce stated he called one staff member but the Board may need to call. He said this is the process and every day something else comes up. Commissioner Boldt asked about a Resolution to the U.S. Senators on the issue. Mr. Pierce suggested they do a letter from the Chairman. He said they need to explain that the road and people are at risk. **On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to send a formal letter to the U.S. Senators regarding the issues on this road and show the consequences of this approval not being moved forward timely.**

25. Inform the Board that I have reviewed the draft state plan for the expenditure of \$735M worth of CDBG-DR funds. The plan is some 150 pages and is online at the DEO website. The bulk of the funds will be directed toward housing projects in the Hurricane Michael impact area. The plan does not mention workforce housing as an allowable project so I am not sure Franklin County will be able to pursue workforce housing projects but there are millions of dollars allocated to help repair existing homes. The state will send the draft plan to HUD by June, and then HUD has some time to approve the plan. The timeline for applications from the counties is still estimated to be December. In order for the county to maximize its application I have previously recommended to the Board that we select a CDBG-DR grant writer. I have sought direction from DEO on what standards they might impose for grant writers and am waiting for a response. I have also asked Mr. Shuler to check with Gulf County about their CDBG-DR grant writer they have just hired in case Franklin County wants to piggy-back and use the Gulf County selection.

The good news in the draft plan is that it proposes to allow CDBG-DR funds to be used as a match for counties who receive Hurricane Michael Hazard Mitigation funds. Franklin County has an allocation of some \$5.9M Hazard Mitigation funds, but the use of funds requires a 25% match. At this time Ms. Brownell is investigating using some of Franklin County's Hazard Mitigation funds for upgrading generators at the EOC, fuel farm at the airport, Weems Hospital, Weems East Clinic (Carrabelle), and a portable generator for the courthouse. Ms. Brownell will come back to the Board with the specific details of these generator upgrades, but if the state will approve the use of the CDBG-DR funds as a match this will allow the county to apply for all these generators without dipping into cash reserves to meet the match requirements.

Since the draft CDBG-DR plan already includes the provision for using the funds as a match for Hazard Mitigation funds there is no need for the Board to finalize the resolution Mr. Moron presented at the last Board meeting about this same subject. I will defer to the County Attorney but a motion might need to be made to make it clear that the Board did not send in the resolution authorized at the last meeting.

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to rescind the approval for the Resolution. Attorney Shuler said he will not check with Gulf County on their process for hiring a consultant until Mr. Pierce gets a communication back from the state.

26. The USACOE staff has provided the county with a recommended dredging plan for the Eastpoint Channel, and a proposed cost. The recommended dredging plan will re-dredge the channel to its authorized depth of 6 feet at mean low water, with one more foot for over dredging. The plan will create spoil containment areas on the outside of the existing Eastpoint breakwater that will stabilize over time similar to the "islands" that have been created outside of the Two Mile Channel here in Apalachicola. The USACOE did receive \$2M of federal funds to design and dredge the Eastpoint Channel. At the county's request the Corps has first done the Eastpoint Channel and then has begun working on the design and permitting for the Two Mile Channel. The Corps estimates it has \$1.2M in funds remaining for dredging the Eastpoint Channel and their estimated cost for dredging is \$3.2M, so the County will need to utilize funds we have allocated from the Consortium to complete the dredging of Eastpoint and Two Mile. The Corps estimates that Franklin County will need to provide \$2M for the Eastpoint Channel and \$2M for the Two Mile Channel.

While the Corps was in the office I called Mr. Dan Duarte, Gulf Consortium staff, and the Corps and Mr. Duarte spoke about the process for getting the county funds available to the Corps. Mr. Duarte confirmed that Franklin County has some \$4-5M of Consortium funds currently available, so we have the necessary funds, but the problem is there could be a 4 month time lag in getting the funds out of the Consortium. Mr. Duarte said there is a process for the Consortium to pre-award our funds so that they would be available when the Corps needs it. Over the next few weeks I will be working with Mr. Daurte to understand what the county needs to provide in order to have our funds pre-awarded. While the county has engaged the ARPC to assist the county in applying for our Consortium funds, if it appears to me that it will be easier and faster for me to make the application on behalf of the county, then I will do that.

Mr. Pierce explained Mr. Duarte will go to the Gulf Counsel and hopefully they will take the letter and give a pre-award which will free up the money contingent upon final actions. He reported they have also asked the Finance Department to look at a short term funding mechanism because they have money in the Consortium but they are not sure if they can get the money out in enough time for the COE when they need it. Mrs. Griffith said she talked with Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Parrish about the Florida Local Government Finance Program. She explained this program provides short term financing options for less than 1 year

and other counties have used this financing for beach renourishment and road construction. She stated the issuance cost is low at only \$2,000 per \$1 million borrowed. Mrs. Griffith reported the initial issuance cost would be \$8,000 for the debt and the monthly fees are about 2.66% including the interest on the commercial paper and basis points that are charged for the administrative fees. She stated the monthly fee would be \$8,866.67 in carrying costs until they were able to get reimbursement. Mrs. Griffith explained this is a good program but does not work for long term projects. She said in this situation it would be a good option to pursue. Commissioner Parrish questioned the amount of the monthly payment. Mrs. Griffith explained that is the payment for \$4 million. Commissioner Parrish asked where the money is coming from for this payment. Mr. Pierce stated they could take the money from reserves until they get the money from the Consortium which should only take a few months. He explained the county may not need to borrow all the money as the COE may pre-award the funds. Commissioner Parrish said he hopes they pre-award the money. Mr. Pierce reported if the money is not pre-awarded then they may have a challenge. Commissioner Parrish said the money is going from the Consortium to the COE which is a federal agency and not a contractor. Commissioner Boldt asked how Mrs. Griffith feels about this option. Mrs. Griffith stated in the worst case this would be a good path for the funds but hopefully they will not have to do this. Chairman Lockley asked if the interest rates just went down. Mrs. Griffith answered yes and it will have an effect since this is short term. She stated the 2.66% is an average.

Mr. Pierce continued with his report:

It will be my intent to ask for enough pre-award funds that we can dredge both channels at the schedule the Corps develops. In the best case scenario, Eastpoint would be dredged this August/September, and then followed by Two Mile. I expect I would ask for all the available Consortium funds so that any other projects the County might want to consider will have to wait until more funds become available. Franklin County will ultimately receive some \$11.7M in Consortium funds, but the funds go to the Consortium over a 15 year period. If we use all of our available Consortium funds for dredging the two channels, the Board needs to realize it might be 2023 before enough funds will be accumulated to consider additional Consortium projects. Board discussion.

Mr. Pierce reported the next project would be the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). He explained funds may be delayed for this project unless they find another funding source. Commissioner Jones reported the reason they are doing the channel projects is because the COE communicated to them that they had an allocation from the federal government. Mr. Pierce agreed the COE needed to spend their money. Commissioner Jones stated if the COE does not spend their allocation then their money will go away. He said that is why they are going with these projects instead of the EOC.

County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report

Mr. Moron provided his report, as follows:

Action Item(s)

27. This item was addressed under the Superintendent of Public Works' Report
28. The Board discussed this item under the Solid Waste Director's Report.
29. Sheriff's Grants: The Sheriff's Finance staff requested the Chairman's signature on two documents prior to today's meeting due to deadlines. The first was a Victims of Crime Act grant audit extension request and the other was a letter to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement authorizing the distribution of \$46,433 of Federal Year 2018 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program funds for Franklin County projects.

Request: Board action ratifying the Chairman's signature on both documents.

This item was addressed by Mrs. Coulter earlier in the meeting

30. USDA Loan: As stated in a previous meeting, I was able to extend the USDA March 12, 2020 deadline to March 23, 2020, which is six days away. This deadline is based on a letter asking the county to indicate if USDA should continue to obligate the \$10 million for the Hospital Improvement Project. USDA obligated the \$10 million loan on June 22, 2015 and with the exception of recent conversations there has been no significant or expressed interest in proceeding with this project since a March 12, 2019 conference call.

Currently, the Board has two building projects to consider, the first is the 22,000 square foot addition to the existing facility, commonly referred to as the "New Hospital" project, or an Ascension/Sacred Heart proposed 12,000 square foot Freestanding Hospital Emergency Department. As of today, USDA has not committed to fund the Freestanding Hospital Emergency Department but has agreed to consider it if submitted by the county for review.

USDA has indicated that if significant progress is not made by the five-year anniversary date, June 22, 2020, the funds will be de-obligated and there is little chance for an extension beyond that date.

There is no indication that the Board is ready to commit to any of the two building projects today, and since June 22, 2020 is slightly over 90 days away, it is unlikely that significant process will be made by the five-year anniversary date. Therefore, unless directed otherwise, I would like to forward a letter to USDA explaining the Board's current position and ask them to notify the county when they decide to de-obligate the funds. I would prefer that the county actions on this loan are proactive to keep us in good standing with USDA, especially when the county decides on a building project and if it becomes necessary to re-apply for a USDA loan.

Request: Board discussion and direction.

Chairman Lockley said this does not make sense because it was a binding vote and that is law. He stated they cannot change the law because a few people do not like it. Chairman Lockley

reported the people that did not like it then are the same people that do not like it now. He stated the county has obligations and the Commission has changed but the law has not. He explained they told the people they would build a hospital and build the facility in Carrabelle. Chairman Lockley said if they keep playing with this issue they will cost the county some money. Commissioner Boldt stated the purpose is to preserve the loan potential. He questioned what the USDA describes as significant progress because the conversation has accelerated over the last 6-8 months about the facility. Mr. Moron said he cannot answer this question but he will send a letter highlighting what the Board has done and tell USDA if it becomes necessary to de-obligate the money to let the county know. He stated he will inform the Board when USDA lets him know and they can decide if they want to do something else. Chairman Lockley said he does not know how they can change the law because the vote was binding. Chairman Lockley relinquished the chair to Vice-Chairman Jones. **Chairman Lockley made a motion to build the hospital. The motion failed for lack of a second.** Chairman Lockley left the meeting. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to write a letter to USDA explaining the Board's current position and asking them to notify the county if they decide to de-obligate the funds.**

31. CR 67 Sidewalk Project Update: Mark Curenton (County Planner) notified me that the county received the modified plans and specifications for the CR 67/Tallahassee Street Sidewalk project. These revisions reduce the length of the sidewalk by just over a mile. The engineers have updated the City of Carrabelle about the changes. The Florida Department of Transportation has approved the plans and have provided a supplemental agreement and authorized the County to proceed with advertising for bids. The bid opening will be at the April 21 meeting.

Request: Board action to approve the Resolution which authorizes the supplemental agreement and authorize the Chairman's signature on both documents.

On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Resolution which authorizes the supplemental agreement and authorize the Chairman's signature on both documents.

32. Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp Project Extension: Mr. Curenton, on behalf of the county, has received the time extension on the FWC Boating Improvement Grant to design the improvements to the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp in Eastpoint. This extends the deadline for the project until June 30, 2020.

Request: Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the time extension amendment to the grant agreement.

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 time extension amendment to the grant agreement.

33. Census FCCCC Grant: On Wednesday, March 11, 2020, the Franklin County Complete Count Committee 2020 Census, working through the county coordinator's office, applied for a grant of \$4,500 from the National League of Cities' Census Rapid Response Grant Program. If received, the funds would be used to expand the capacity of our Census Assistance Centers through the purchase of internet "hot spots," inexpensive laptops, and food for families that come to special events to access the Census questionnaire online. The grant deadline was Friday, March 13, 2020.

Given the national and state declarations of emergency, the Complete Count Committee is awaiting instructions and information from the Census Bureau about going forward with the Census count. If the use of local Centers is discouraged by the Bureau, we will develop a different outreach strategy. We may be able to re-purpose the NLC grant (if received) or we may decline the grant. The Board will be notified of the success of the grant application and any recommendation to accept or deny the grant.

Request: Board action ratifying the grant application submission.

Chairman Lockley returned to the meeting. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the grant application submission.**

Mr. Moron said he received the artificial reef construction grant application from Mr. Grayson Shepard, Apalachicola Artificial Reef Association, that needs the Chairman's signature. He stated Attorney Shuler pointed out that some attachments were not included so he would like the Board to approve the Chairman's signature contingent upon receiving a completed application. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman to sign the application contingent upon receiving a completed grant application.**

Information Item(s)

34. Centric Aviation/Apalachicola Airport Event: Attached (agenda packet) to my report is an email from Ms. Tara Maugham (Centric Aviation) stating that the Ford Tri-Motor's National Tour has been cancelled. As the Board is aware, the Apalachicola Airport was a planned stop for the tour, from March 26 - 29. Ms. Maugham states in her email that all pre-booked flight reservations are being fully refunded.

Commissioner Jones said it will be several weeks until they have another meeting but does Mr. Moron need direction to pursue another way to livestream or do something different with the meeting. Mr. Moron explained Attorney Shuler has a portal for county attorneys and he has a portal for county managers and they are talking about different options that can be used. He reported the key is how to have a meeting and meet the Sunshine regulations. Commissioner Massey left the meeting. Mr. Moron said he is looking at all the options. Attorney Shuler stated he has been checking updates on his phone during the meeting with the county attorneys. He reported some of the county attorneys are interacting with the Attorney General's Office and their office may render an opinion regarding the Open Meeting Laws and

whatever opinion is rendered the Governor is going to accept. Commissioner Massey returned to the meeting. Attorney Shuler said when the opinion is issued he will distribute it to Mr. Moron, the Commissioners and the Clerk. Mr. Moron stated he will come up with a solution based on the opinion. Commissioner Jones reported if there is a change then the Board will have to call a special meeting to approve whatever is going to be done. Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Moron to take into consideration everyone trying to talk at once when he looks at the options because they had the same issue come up to the Consortium Board. He explained they cannot vote on the Consortium items if they are not there in person. He said he understands last week they were looking at how they can have a County Commission meeting and not have the public here but meet the Sunshine Law requirements. Commissioner Parrish stated he does not know if they can do some things under an Emergency Executive Order. He expressed concern that they cannot have everyone talking at once. Mr. Moron discussed the system used on the Clerk's conference calls and said these systems are not cheap especially if you want to add the video. Commissioner Jones pointed out they are under a state of emergency. Commissioner Massey said they will have to sit spaced far apart. Commissioner Parrish asked if this expense would fall under Cat B. Mr. Moron stated he will check with Mrs. Brownell.

County Attorney - Michael Shuler - Report

Attorney Shuler reported last week he sent the Board a copy of a proposed contract between the county and the School Board for the county to provide the limited services to assist the School Board in construction of the emergency escape road. He explained the School Board is in charge of clearing the path and having the debris removed. He stated the path is 24 ft. wide and they will clear 1 mile of the 2 mile escape road. Attorney Shuler reported the School Board has about \$70,000 and they can get about half a mile of limerock down for the money. He said once the path is cleared and the School Board has purchased, delivered and spread the limerock then the Road Department will use the motor grader and clean up the limerock. Attorney Shuler stated in late fall the Division of Forestry will authorize burning in place and the county will take their excavator (which is not operational now) to pick up and drop the debris into an incinerator that will be provided by the School Board. He said the Division of Forestry has estimated for the School Board and the county that the debris that is cleared from the 1 mile long, 24 feet wide path will not exceed 33 tons. Attorney Shuler explained there is already a little trail through the path so approximately 8-10 feet has already been cleared. He stated he was skeptical of the original amount of debris but the Division of Forestry reviewed the site and presented an updated estimate not to exceed 33 tons. Attorney Shuler said Mr. Nabors is comfortable with this agreement. He explained the county personnel and equipment is on an as available basis and the School Board understands and accepts that. Attorney Shuler said the agreement has been sent to Mrs. Barbara Sanders, attorney for the School Board, and she has represented to him that the School Board accepts and agrees with all the terms and conditions in the agreement. He reported embedded within the agreement is to the extent there is any damages, liabilities or injuries the School Board will hold the county harmless which also includes any escaped fires that could occur from the burning of the debris. Attorney Shuler

recommended approval of the contract subject to questions from the Board. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to accept the agreement. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish said the county will not get any inmates for 30-60 days so county staff is now going to have to start working cleaning along the roads around the county. He questioned how they are going to dedicate staff to building this road at this time. Attorney Shuler explained there has been some refinement of the agreement because originally the School Board was asking the county to spread the limerock once it was delivered but now the School Board is paying to have the hauling company spread the limerock. He reported Mr. Nabors had told him that grading the road once the limerock is spread is not labor intensive and may only take a couple of hours. Attorney Shuler reminded the Board the contract is on an as available basis and the School Board understands that. He explained the agreement is as good as they are going to get and it limits the county's involvement and obligation. He pointed out there is also a termination provision so if the county cannot provide the services they can terminate the agreement. Commissioner Massey stated they keep someone steady grading. Commissioner Boldt reported this is good that the county is working with the School Board. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioners' Comments

There were no Commissioners' comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts