

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
DECEMBER 1, 2020
9:00 A.M.
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron—County Coordinator, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

A. Public Notice

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

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

- B. This meeting is being held via Zoom and all attendees are muted by default. To join via computer, use the link on the meeting date and time:
<https://zoom.us/j/94236348231>
If you do not have speakers or a microphone on your computer or prefer to call, you can dial in for audio. Call (301) 715-8592 or (312) 626- 6799 or (929) 205-6099 and enter ID 942 3634 8231#.
If you would like to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting, you have the following options:
Online - select the "raise your hand" icon.
Phone - press *9 to raise your hand, *6 to unmute to submit verbal comments.
Public engagement is important to us, and meeting remotely is still a new process. We appreciate everyone's understanding.

Chairman Jones called the meeting to Order.

Prayer and Pledge

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

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 17, 2020.

Payment of County Bills

Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve payment of the County's bills. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Mr. Moron explained there will be a temporary approval for the payment to Roberts & Roberts until they get to an item on his report. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Public Comments

Mrs. Mel Kelly, a resident of Carrabelle, said she hopes they will allow an open meeting soon. She asked for an extension on the airport report because this issue is being rushed through and professionals from the airport group are not being considered. Mrs. Kelly requested extra time for the report to be vetted by individuals chosen for the airport board that were not included in this report.

Mr. Moron asked the Board if they would like him to respond to the comment about the airport report now or during his report later in the meeting. The Board agreed to address this later in the meeting during his report.

Department Directors Report

Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors

C. Road Department Board Report

Information Items

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

Mr. Nabors did not have a report for the Board. Chairman Jones stated the contractor should be on North Bayshore Drive today or tomorrow and they will get this area fixed so the county will not have to worry about people continuing to steal the signs. Mr. Nabors reported signs were placed in this location twice and they were stolen. He stated he has a request from Mr. Moron for some signs on St. George Island but they put the signs up and then they are stolen.

Mr. Nabors explained pictures will be taken when the work is done on North Bayshore Drive as the county will need to document the work so hopefully they can get reimbursed from FEMA.

Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis

Mr. Davis did not have a report for the Board. Chairman Jones stated yesterday they were talking about Indian Creek and he will let him know about the availability of funds. He said hopefully between him, Mr. Davis and the contractor they can come up with something to finish out this project because people are paying for a dock and do not have a place to dock. Mr. Davis stated one of the people has already looked at the supplies and one of the floating docks but he did not recommend using it.

Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

Mrs. Brownell did not have any action items. She presented the care packages that were purchased with CARES money and will be distributed to the vulnerable population of the county. She stated they will contact the 2 organizations that serve senior citizens and find out how many people they have to make sure everyone receives one of the packages. She reported people on the special needs list will also be contacted and receive a package. Mrs. Brownell said they will also distribute these to employees at businesses instead of giving the packages to the businesses to distribute to the public.

Commissioner Boldt asked if Mr. Davis is working with Mrs. Brownell on construction ready plans for Island View Park. Mrs. Brownell answered no and said a class was offered on procurement but she can assist with the scope of work, the language that must be included on the Request for Proposals (RFP) and the scoring sheets.

D. Emergency Management Board Report Information Items

1. Digital Kiosks were step-up and programed 11/24/20.
2. Message Boards have arrived and are in the process of getting tags for them in order to put them out in the community.
3. Items for the care bags for the venerable population are arriving and EOC staff and beginning to assemble them.
4. EOC Staff continues to work Hurricane Sally from 09/12/20 and continues to work with FDEM and FEMA.
5. EOC Staff continue to participate in the NOAA Tropical Weather Training.
6. EOC has submitted our New LMS Plan and corrections to the state and are awaiting approval.
7. EOC Staff along with our CERT Volunteers continue to distribute washable & reusable cloth mask throughout our community. We have partnered with the City of Carrabelle and City of Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce along with the St. George Island & Eastpoint Visitor Centers to assist with distribution to local businesses and residents. We will continue this effort as long as supplies are available.
8. EOC Staff are working diligently with DOH Staff regarding the COVID-19 virus. This includes hosting meetings with representatives from DOH, Sheriff's Dept. Weems,

EMS, as needed. We also are assisting with Conference Calls, information distribution from DOH via Alert Franklin, Facebook and our EOC Website.

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

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

11. Copy of the DOH Dashboard regarding COVID-19 Cases in Franklin County as of 11/24/20 at 11:00 am (see attached document)

Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand

Mr. Lovestrand did not have any action items.

E. Extension Director Board Report Informational Items

General Extension Activities:

1. **NOTE: Short report this period due to the Agent using a week of Annual Leave.**

2. During this period, the Extension office assisted citizens on the topics of small beetles in house (drugstore beetle, *Stegobium paniceum*), plant disease, injured wildlife, biting insects and more.

3. Extension Director attended Friends of the Reserve Board meeting.

4. Extension Director continuing to work on annual report of accomplishments as required by UF/IFAS and due on December 4.

Sea Grant Extension:

5. Extension Director participated in discussions with other faculty regarding potential for a training program for new oyster aquaculture lease-holders in Franklin County.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

6. Family Nutrition Program assistant, following school and UF Covid Phase III policies, is resuming a few in-person lessons in local schools.

Agriculture/Home Horticulture:

7. Received diagnosis of plant disease for ligustrum hedges for client in Eastpoint (disease: *Anthraco*se).

Library Director -- Whitney Roundtree

Mr. Moron said Mrs. Roundtree is not present. Chairman Jones stated they can direct questions to Mr. Moron and he can contact her.

F. Library Director Board Report Information Items

1. December 18th- Attended virtual meeting with Emily Hart and Marian Deeney, of the Division of Library Information Services, regarding available state grant programs for libraries.
 2. Completed and submitted State Aide to Libraries Grant application November 30th, 2020.
 3. November 30th is the deadline for applications for the vacant fulltime library assistant position. Pam Tullous, president of the Friends of the Franklin County Public Libraries, will be assisting the library director with conducting interviews.
- Library Events:
4. December 2nd- Eastpoint Branch: Diabetes awareness class at 10:00 AM
 5. December 2nd- Eastpoint Branch: Book Chat at 1:30 PM
 6. December 4th- Carrabelle Branch: Book Chat at 1:30 PM
 7. December 8th- Carrabelle Branch: Anime Club (grades 6-12) at 4:00 PM
 8. December 10th- Eastpoint Branch: Anime Club (grades 6-12) at 4:00 PM
 9. December 16th- Eastpoint Branch: Writer's Forum at 1:00 PM
 10. December 16th – Eastpoint Branch: Christmas Story Time (ages 1-6) 4:00 PM
 11. December 17th- Carrabelle Branch: Christmas Story Time (ages 1-6) 4:00 PM
 12. All branches will be closed December 24th, 25th and 26th, as well as January 1st, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holiday.

RFP / RFQ / Bids Opening

G. St. George Island Entry Landscaping:

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in constructing:

SAINT GEORGE ISLAND ENTRY LANDSCAPING

The project is located along the SR 300 right-of-way where it enters St. George Island between Bryant Patton Bridge and West Bay Shore Drive. The project consists of miscellaneous landscaping and irrigation improvements within the SR 300 right-of-way.

Plans and specifications can be obtained by contacting Cortni Bankston, Administrative Assistant, at cortnib@franklincountyflorida.com or 850-653-9783 x-180. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes.

Mr. Alan Pierce opened and read the bid, as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Lawnsapes of Bay County, Inc.	Panama City, FL	\$129,300.00

A check was included in lieu of a bid bond. Mr. Moron informed the Board this project does not have a 3 bid minimum requirement that most Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) projects have. He said he will have to ask if there is a review committee. Mr. Pierce explained they will need to refer the bid to Mr. Mark Curenton, County Planner, to make sure the bid amount is within the budget. Mr. Moron stated Mr. Curenton will come back with a recommendation at the next meeting. Chairman Jones inquired if this project addresses one

side of the road or both sides of the road. Mr. Moron said he will need to verify the area. He requested a motion to turn the bid over to Mr. Curenton for review and a recommendation. Commissioner Lockley asked where this project was advertised because they only received one bid. Mr. Moron reported it was advertised in The Apalachicola Times and on the county website which is the standard process. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to send the bid to Mr. Curenton for review and a recommendation.**

Mrs. Roundtree appeared before the Board and said she has no action items. She offered to answer any questions. Chairman Jones stated the Board authorized her to advertise for a position and he inquired where they are in this process. Mrs. Roundtree responded the advertisement closed yesterday and they had 12 applicants. She stated Ms. Pam Tullous, Friends of the Franklin County Library, will be assisting her with the interviews.

Mrs. Roundtree reported they are working with the new IT person, Mr. Kevin Ward, Eagle Tree Technologies, and he is doing a great job and has already fixed some things.

Mrs. Roundtree said she has a retirement card for Ms. Pat Gilleland, Administrator for Wilderness Coast Public Libraries (WILD), if any of the Board members would like to sign it. Commissioner Boldt reported the WILD Board will meet a week from Monday at 1:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Library and will be meeting in person for the first time in a long time. Mrs. Roundtree agreed she is looking forward to meeting some of the people in person. Commissioner Boldt stated they will also be meeting Ms. Gilleland's replacement that day. Mrs. Roundtree said she has already met her.

Commissioner Boldt asked if they allocated some money for new computers at the libraries. Mrs. Roundtree said she has a meeting tomorrow and it was mentioned that there may be an allotment for some new computers. She reported they need some staff computers. She stated Mr. Ward is evaluating the computers at this time to see what is needed. Commissioner Boldt said they will standby for a determination.

Commissioner Lockley questioned how the job interviews will be conducted. Mrs. Roundtree stated she and Ms. Tullous will interview all the applicants and Ms. Tullous will assist her with the process. Commissioner Lockley asked what she means by all the applicants. Mrs. Roundtree replied they will interview all the applicants that submitted applications within the time frame. Commissioner Lockley stated they will not be using the applications they have on hand. Mrs. Roundtree said no but she selected the best applicant out of the last group and unfortunately the person got a better job offer and decided to leave. Commissioner Lockley explained the reason he asked is last time they advertised but went into applications they already had. Mrs. Roundtree said they will not use the applications from the last round. She reported one person applied after the deadline last time and she was told she could reapply this time but she does not know if the person submitted an application this time. Chairman

Jones stated Mrs. Roundtree is not aware if the person reapplied. Mrs. Roundtree replied that is correct and anyone was welcome to reapply.

CARES Act Funds Consultant -- Traci Buzbee -- Update

Mrs. Buzbee said they need to talk about the applications that came in, the next deadline and what they are faced with. She reported to date there are 18 applications that were reviewed by Opportunity Florida and 8 applications were approved. Mr. Moron distributed a list of the applications that were approved for business grants. Ms. Buzbee said these business grants are being submitted to the Clerk's Office and when Opportunity Florida sends back the approval and justification and the checks are cut then all of these items will be submitted as a package to the state because they will need to review all these items. She reported the deadline for applications was November 16th and Opportunity Florida extended that another week because people did not turn in the backup documentation. Ms. Buzbee stated they are working on some applications and additional applications were received yesterday but they are getting close to the end of the applications. She offered to answer any questions. Mr. Moron requested the Board approve the business grants presented, the food pantry distributions and a special run for the checks. He explained they are trying to keep the Cares Act items separately for an audit that may follow in a year or two. Commissioner Lockley stated they need to make sure they have all the food pantries. Ms. Buzbee said there are 5 food pantries and that is the next thing she will address. She explained she talked with the state and they have reviewers looking at the packages they are submitting because they want to make sure they are getting everything they need for backup documentation. Ms. Buzbee said this is important because they want to make sure they have all the backup they need to prove why the expenditures were made. She explained December 3rd is the last day for them to turn in their Request for Reimbursement (RFR). She reported the state wants to see their entire allocation which is \$2,115,720.00. Ms. Buzbee explained this does not mean the line items above and beyond will not be there but on Thursday, December 3rd they can only submit that amount. She said she is hearing rumors the deadline may be extended but they have to work on the December 30th deadline. She stated there are a few items such as the items for the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector that will not be in until around December 14th and those will be expenditures but they will not have the checks yet. Ms. Buzbee said once they have the spreadsheet to submit on December 3rd she will send it to Mr. Moron so the Board can see what is being turned in. She reported they may not see everything on this spreadsheet because some of the other items may come out of another pot at the time. She explained the state representative said to turn in more in case some of the items are not approved by the federal government even though it is approved by the Florida Division of Emergency Management and because there are other counties that have not spent their money. Ms. Buzbee reported that will allow them 3 more weeks to request documentation or say they have more money. Chairman Jones questioned if the action items are approval of the business grants, approval of the money for the food pantries and a special check run. Ms. Buzbee answered yes and asked what the Board's meeting schedule is this month because they may have expenditures coming in that need checks before December 30th. Mr. Moron explained the Board will meet on

December 15th and at that point she can provide an update and the Board can decide if they need a special meeting or a motion to allow the authorization. Chairman Jones requested the Board have more documentation than just one page. Ms. Buzbee asked if they want to see all the applications. Chairman Jones clarified they want to know what all the other expenditures are and the dollar amounts. Ms. Buzbee stated with the Thursday deadline they do not have this on paper yet but she will send it to Mr. Moron on Friday. Mr. Moron reported Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody joined in with other states in petitioning to extend the deadline date. Ms. Buzbee agreed there are different scenarios for extending the county's current \$2.1 million and she has also heard about additional money but it all depends on what Congress does. She explained they are working on the current deadline because they do not want to leave any money on the table that must be returned. She reported they will get to the current number but they want to include the additional so if they extend the deadline and give more funds the county could say they have these additional items. Mr. Moron said Chairman Jones asked for the additional paperwork so everyone knows what the money is being spent for. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to approve the business grant applications in front of them, distribution to the 5 food pantries and that these items be done as a special check run. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish verified the December 3rd deadline allows the state to see the expenditures the county has already made and see if some counties have not spent all their money and additional funds are left. He stated in relation to Congress the CARES Act runs until December 31st just like the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) and they go back and determine what is forgiven and what is owed back to the federal government. He said everything is handled then unless this deadline is extended. Commissioner Parrish reported just like Chairman Jones he would like to see documentation of where this money has been spent. He stated they need to be able to explain to constituents where all these funds have gone. Commissioner Lockley said he wants to make sure they covered all the food pantries and that they do not leave anyone out. Mr. Moron explained they started with 3 food pantries and then 2 additional groups applied for money and were determined to be food pantries so there are 5 food pantries. He said unless someone submits a request they will not know about another organization. Chairman Jones requested they read the list of food pantries. Ms. Buzbee said the 5 food pantries are Eastpoint Food Pantry, Franklin Foods, Franklin's Promise, Carrabelle Food Pantry and ECCC. Commissioner Boldt suggested they reach out to the food pantries and see if they know about another food pantry. Ms. Buzbee stated she contacted Ms. Joe Taylor, Franklin's Promise, and he provided the established food pantries. Commissioner Lockley said he is satisfied as long as all the food pantries are covered. Mr. Moron asked if they will let him know as soon as possible if someone comes to them with another food pantry. Mrs. Griffith questioned if the \$2 million going to the county includes the allocation to Weems Memorial Hospital. Ms. Buzbee responded no, Weems Memorial Hospital received their own allocation. Commissioner Boldt said they received \$3.2 million. Mr. Moron pointed out Weems Memorial Hospital has a March or April deadline for spending their funds. Ms. Buzbee agreed they are not on the same deadline as the county. She stated the CRS funds going through SHIP do not have the same deadline either.

Motion carried; 5-0.

Clerk of Courts – Marcia M. Johnson – Report

H. Clerk of Courts Board Report Board Matters

Clerk Johnson introduced incoming Clerk Michele Maxwell that will take office on January 1, 2021. She stated Mrs. Maxwell will attend this meeting and the next meeting. She reminded the Board of all the things the Clerk's Office does on these projects such as the CARES Act funding and the extra checks runs they are asking for. Clerk Johnson reported her staff checks all of these items for accuracy. She stated all of the SHIP and CDBG expenditures are also audited by the Clerk's Office and it is a lot of work and they are spending a lot of hours on these items. Clerk Johnson read the following report:

1. Florida Statute 129.06(5) prohibits elected officials who are not seeking reelection from making any budget amendments, transferring funds between itemized appropriations, or expending in a single month more than one-twelfth of any itemized approved appropriation without approval of the Board of County Commissioners. I have two employees who will be retiring or leaving employment at the end of the month and pursuant to the personnel rules, I will need to pay out for their unused leave balances. This payout will exceed 1/12 of the budgeted values in the month of December. This should not affect the remaining portion of the year as the budget will be able to shoulder the payout stretched over the 12 month period due to changes in personnel. **Action requested is Board approval to exceed 1/12 of my budget allocation for the month of December.**

Clerk Johnson said this item was also discussed with Mrs. Maxwell. **On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to allow the Clerk to exceed the 1/12 budget allocation for the month of December.** Commissioner Ward thanked the Clerk for all her office does. Commissioner Boldt said he appreciates how much the legacy is she has brought to the County Clerk position and he encouraged her to stand by with her knowledge so Mrs. Maxwell can use that and as they may need to ask her some historical questions. He stated they welcome her input when they can receive it. Clerk Johnson said she appreciates it and will help Mrs. Maxwell all she can and will be there is anyone ever needs her.

Special Project Coordinator -- Alan Pierce – Report

Mr. Pierce read the following report:

I. Special Projects Coordinator Board Report Action Item:

1. Board action to rescind the motion awarding Anderson Columbia the Alligator Drive FEMA rebuild project. Mr. Clay Kennedy has informed Anderson Columbia of my recommendation and they have told Mr. Kennedy that they have not expended any funds on the project. While I do not like taking this step, after the Nov. 19 teleconference with FEMA personnel specializing in procurement I realize the Board should re-advertise the project. The issues at risk are: Anderson Columbia is not honoring their original bid so the Board is at risk with FEMA for awarding a higher amount to one contractor without giving other contractors the opportunity to revise their bids; the county uses the FDOT list of pre-qualified contractors as the only

contractors who can bid on a project and FEMA advises that the county cannot be so restrictive; and I cannot find any evidence where I sent the bid notice to minority owned businesses in the construction industry.

Board action to re-advertise this project on a schedule that is consistent with FEMA guidelines and with the hope of opening bids at the January 19 BCC meeting.

Mr. Pierce explained at the time he was trying to get a contract price and not trying to get a FEMA award so that is the reason these things were not done. He requested the Board rescind the motion awarding the bid to Anderson Columbia for the Alligator Drive FEMA rebuild project and re-advertise the project on a schedule that is consistent with FEMA guidelines. He explained the award was only verbal and they did not sign any documents. He stated they hope to open bids at the January 19th meeting. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to rescind the motion awarding the bid to Anderson Columbia for the Alligator Drive FEMA rebuild project and re-advertise the project on a schedule that is consistent with FEMA guidelines.**

Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Commissioner Boldt stated this is positive because the money is obligated and the project will move forward. He said once they fine tune the procedures the project will be stronger. Commissioner Parrish stated when they re-advertise they need to provide a date the contractor must get started on the project and a completion date. He explained penalties need to be included if the project is not finished on time and the project needs to move in a timely manner. Commissioner Parrish said the bid advertisement should give a certain date that the contractor must start by. Mr. Pierce said last time there was a 180 day time frame and there were penalties if the work was not completed on time. He reported they do have a timeline for the project. Commissioner Parrish said the Board does not see the bid documents but he wants to make sure these items are included. Mr. Pierce stated they will contact Mr. Clay Kennedy, Dewberry, for the documents and he will discuss these items with him. He reported most counties benefit from using the FDOT prequalified list of contractors because they know they will have a good competent contractor and they just have to determine the lowest best bid. He said he thinks other rural counties are doing the same thing on FEMA road projects. Mr. Pierce explained other counties did not have a separate scoring system and he has requested information from FEMA as they are requiring it now. He said he also requested some samples from Ms. Buzbee. Mr. Pierce explained normally the advertisement says the contractor must be FDOT prequalified to bid. He said he wants the county to be treated fairly and to make sure this is not a new person at FEMA that is requesting this item. Commissioner Parrish said if the contractor is not competent they will not be able to meet the deadlines and will not want to sign something agreeing to pay penalties.

Commissioner Lockley asked if this is a hurry up and wait situation or if the money is in the bank. Mr. Pierce stated the money is in the bank. He explained as soon as the county has a qualified competent contractor and awards the bid, the contractor can start working and they can draw their money and the county can seek reimbursement. Mr. Pierce stated any time he or Ms. Buzbee say obligated it means the money is in the bank such in the following projects: Alligator Drive, Island View, and the C.R. 30A shoreline stabilization project. He explained it is the county's responsibility to get a contractor and get moving on the projects. Mrs. Griffith pointed out the money is in the state's bank. Mr. Pierce agreed as these are handled as

reimbursements. Commissioner Boldt said the county has a \$1 million reserve and that is the source the money is drawn down from to pay the invoice of the contractor and then they fill that with FEMA money that is obligated. Mrs. Griffith agreed that is correct. Commissioner Boldt asked if \$1 million is enough. Mrs. Griffith replied they should be okay because they are early in the budget cycle and there are a lot of ad valorem tax proceeds coming in. She said the funds they collect are supposed to last for 12 months so they are in month 2 for processing invoices so they will be okay. She explained as soon as they pay a request then they will initiate a request for funds. Mr. Pierce pointed out the state is pretty good about paying the requests. Commissioner Lockley said they were blessed that things did not tear up again this year but sometimes this road is damaged 2-3 times a year. Mr. Pierce stated building the road back with the FEMA funds of \$5.5 million will not make the road secure forever because the weak points will be wherever the revetment ends and the road will blow out again until there is a beach or artificial structure there to protect the road. He stated he wants the people of Alligator Point to understand this is not solving the problem because they are saving one section of the road but other sections will be exposed. Mr. Pierce reported the ultimate solution is a beach renourishment project funded partially by the state and maintained by the property owners who will benefit from the project. He explained the beach is sacrificial to protect the road because without the beach the road will be hit with the waves from the hurricanes and the risk will return every time there is a storm. Commissioner Lockley said this is not on FEMA but on the county and they need to stop talking about it and do something. Mr. Pierce explained the first step was making application for \$200,000 for design money from FDEP and if they receive the design money then they will be on the path to get the beach. He said if they do not receive design money then they will have to face some difficult choices. He stated hopefully the Legislature will award some money in May. Commissioner Boldt reported the vision is if they can rebuild the beach seaward of the repaired area of the road the rebuilding of the beach will be from the center line of the road a mile east and west and then there is a potential benefit to the west of providing a beach area in front of the old KOA and maybe there will be room for parking lot and a bathroom. Chairman Jones said in reference to what Commissioner Parrish mentioned on this project and other bids in the bid package will there be a date on the notice to proceed of when they need to start. Mr. Pierce replied this is fairly standard. He explained once they get the notice to proceed there is a certain timeframe to complete the work. Attorney Shuler reported the sequent of events is the Board advertises, receives the bids, the bids are analyzed and ranked, the Board awards the project and then they enter into a contract. He went on to say once the contract is signed the county is in control of when the project starts and that starts with the issuance of the notice to proceed. Attorney Shuler said there is typically a 60 day window before the penalties start and there is also a provision for extending the contract. He stated the county is more in charge of when the project starts than the contractor because the county analyzes the bids and prepares the contract. Commissioner Lockley said he has been on the Board for 16 years and this is an unluckiest road because every time it is fixed and they get to the completion date within a year or two another storm comes and they start over. He stated they must do something to help protect the road. Chairman Jones agreed he has been here 4 years and this was in existence when he got here. Mr. Pierce stated this is the most exposed road in the state. Commissioner Boldt said about a year ago

they went to the state capitol and Representative Jason Shoaf hosted a meeting relative to this road and they formally asked the state to take the road back and they officially got the answer which was no. He said they even tried to trade something else. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Information Item:

2. Inform the Board that TRIUMPH has accepted AVCON as eligible to complete the design and construction documents for the TRIUMPH project. Mr. Collins, AVCON, is working on the Task Order, and when that is complete I will submit that to TRIUMPH for approval. Once TRIUMPH approves the Task Order, I will then ask the Board to approve the Task Order, and then AVCON can complete the design and begin advertising for construction.

Mr. Pierce said this project is the \$1 million fuel farm.

Chairman Jones asked Mr. Pierce to contact the COE about the return letter they are supposed to get. He explained they signed a letter but the COE wanted some of the language changed and they were supposed to send the letter. Mr. Pierce said they have not received the letter and it is frustrating but everything is not working at full speed with people working from home.

The meeting recessed at 9:59 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:07 a.m.

County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report

Mr. Moron said he wants to discuss the airport master plan because the Board has received some emails about it and there was a public comment this morning about it. He explained at the last meeting he informed the Board the public hearing was held via zoom on October 27th and December 2nd is the deadline for public comment. He reported there was 36 days for anyone to offer public comments or ask questions of Avcon. Mr. Moron stated he has an issue with people saying they had no opportunity to comment when there were 36 days.

Commissioner Parrish said Mr. Moron reported at the last meeting that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and FDOT said there was no need to grant an extension because 36 days was plenty of time. Mr. Moron stated that is correct and Mr. John Collins, Avcon, checked and both agencies felt like there was no justification for an extension. He explained the county got a grant for Avcon to do the airport master plan and the grant ends in March so they need to wrap up the public comments so they can do the summary report for the Board. Mr. Moron said there is a misunderstanding that the Board has no power or authority over the master plan. He reported the Board hired Avcon to create the airport master plan and then they will bring the plan back and the Board has the final say on what goes into the plan. He explained the public comments must be included in the summary report Avcon will present to the Board. Mr. Moron reported Avcon is not closing the runway but they will explain the problem is there will be no grant funding for a particular runway. Mr. Moron stated the Board must decide if they will leave this runway open until there is an inspection and then they must either repair

the runway or close it. He pointed out the Board will make this decision and not Avcon. He reported there will still be time for the public to comment when the Board reviews the summary report submitted by Avcon. Commissioner Ward said she reviewed the report and believes they want time to review the report. Mr. Moron agreed they want additional time to review the report. Commissioner Ward asked if they are questioning Avcon's master plan data or data from the airport. Mr. Moron was not sure and said all he knows is they want additional time to review the report. He stated if anyone reviews the zoom meeting they will see a gentleman asking about extending the time and he had a discussion with the man after the meeting and told him he would not bring this up until November 17th so any group that wanted to review it should have a meeting prior to that time and have conversations with Avcon and present what the issues are to him so he will know if there is a reason to delay the deadline and nothing has been submitted. Commissioner Ward said they will get another opportunity for public comment when the master plan is presented to the Board so they will get to comment a second time. Mr. Moron answered yes, they will have the same opportunity to comment as any other item and can send emails, comments or questions they would like asked publicly. He explained the only difference is those comments will not be part of the summary report. Mr. Moron stated the airport master plan grant ends in March and there is more work to be done. He said they cannot get the summary report done if they leave the public time period open longer. Commissioner Ward reported there is concern about the runway being closed. She said she watched the zoom meeting from October and basically FDOT is going to shut down the runway because of the pavement index and viability of the runway which could make it dangerous. Commissioner Ward reported the county must have the cost to repair the runway of \$7.9 million by 2022. She explained FAA and FDOT are providing funds to maintain the other runways but will not provide funds for this runway because they are going to recommend closing the runway. She verified the \$7.9 million will be an expense of the county. Mr. Moron said that is correct and Mr. Collins can explain it but he thinks either the county must spend this money to maintain the runway or they must close it because based on the inspection they are going to tell the county the runway is not safe anymore. Commissioner Ward reported the county can say no to closing the runway but the FAA can still shut it down for safety reasons. Mr. Moron stated either the county maintains the runway and it passes the inspection or FAA will close the runway. He went on to say because of COVID no one is flying so FAA and FDOT do not have the funds and they are looking at rural airports and if they have more than 2 runways they are not providing funds to maintain the 3rd runway. Mr. Moron stated Avcon may have reported that FDOT is not funding some of the projects that were planned in the future. Mr. Pierce agreed the projects have been delayed. He explained the airport is owned by the county and the FAA recommends standards for proper operation but if the county disagrees and wants to keep the 3rd runway open when it is not safe then that is on the county. He reported it is not realistic to keep the runway open if they cannot meet the standards. Commissioner Parrish stated the \$7.9 million is the cost now but there will also be future maintenance costs that the county will be responsible for which they do not have. Mr. Moron said the public needs to understand that there was time for public comment and the closing of the runway is a matter of money. Commissioner Parrish pointed out if they had a \$30 million private endowment they could keep the runway open for a number of years. Attorney Shuler stated the closure of the

3rd runway has been talked about for years and is not a new conversation. He said he thought FDOT cut off the funding for the 3rd runway years ago. Mr. Pierce stated at least 10 years ago they had a meeting with FDOT officials at the airport and they did not recommend funding the 3rd runway. He said there are different ways of closing a runway and the county tried different options for this runway. He stated before the pandemic FDOT provided money to restripe all the runways but provided no maintenance funds for the 3rd runway. Mr. Pierce said at least 10 years ago they warned the county they did not need the 3rd runway because there was not enough traffic. Attorney Shuler reported FDOT started that conversation. Mr. Pierce agreed. He stated there is an opportunity costs because the 3rd runway does not go away from county ownership if it is closed and there are opportunities that could occur on that space that might be beneficial to the airport and the community. He reported this space could turn into a taxiway or service area for someone and they are evaluating that. Mr. Pierce said the drone operator they are talking to would be able to operate their military sized drones in this space if the runway was closed because they would be away from the traffic pattern. He explained if they ever get into a negotiation with that company this may be an issue where they want security and seclusion. Commissioner Parrish commented that is a potential economic benefit. Commissioner Boldt said he is an aviator and a triangular runway is rare and it is special to have 3 runways. He stated it is important to remember that the Emergency Management Department is considering a new building on this property and that is where the emergency operations are going to be based. Commissioner Boldt reported there are aviation choices when they have this triangular runway and Tyndall Air Force base may be interested in training in these areas. He stated there may be money available that they were not aware of for that area. Commissioner Boldt reported shutting down a runway is a big deal. Commissioner Boldt charged the aviation associations involved with the Apalachicola Airport to get moving on this subject and bring in more information for the Board. Commissioner Ward stated hopefully in the future there will be grants to come in and resurface the runway. Mr. Pierce reported if the runway is closed the pavement will not be dug up. He said there is 5,000 linear feet of concrete that is 4-5 inches thick that will stay there. He stated it could be used for something else and if later the county got the money and the traffic patterns increased they could reopen the runway so that option would not go away permanently if the runway closed. Commissioner Ward said the regional airport is for economic growth and the community has needed the airport in the past and it helped with Hurricane Michael and during the Eastpoint fire. Mr. Pierce explained the \$1 million they are getting from Triumph for the fuel farm was based on the response the airport provided to the region because they were the mega center during recovery after Hurricane Michael and the Triumph Board recognized it. He reported they helped to get the money for the fuel farm because the airport had fuel capacity after Hurricane Michael that no one else had. Mr. Moron stated Mr. Ted Mostellar, a resident of Apalachicola, asked about digging up the runway if it is closed and Avcon said no they do not do that anymore. He said there is a possibility of other uses on this runway and that was addressed during the zoom meeting. Chairman Jones asked if there were public comments during the zoom meeting. Mr. Moron replied yes. Commissioner Ward added there were several comments and the same people got to speak multiple times and there was not a time limit. Chairman Jones said that was not the only time to comment because during the public comment period people could

send in comments that would be included. Mr. Moron agreed there were 36 days. Chairman Jones reported things are not being done like before with meetings but they are not in those times now. Mr. Moron said the benefit to the zoom meeting is anyone can view it at any time. He stated for 36 days people had a chance to watch it and comment. Chairman Jones reported the plan will be presented to the Board and if they want changes to be made there will be another chance for the public to comment. He stated there has been plenty of time for anyone to comment. Commissioner Lockley said he has heard this for 10 years and they have known it for 10 years and now all of a sudden they need more time. He stated if they give 100 days they will always need more time. He reported it is time to move on and do what they need to do. Commissioner Lockley said they know what was discussed and Avcon and FAA have also discussed it. He reported the runway is not going away but they do not have \$8 million to keep it open and another \$8 million to keep it maintained. Commissioner Ward said that amount is to keep it open. Commissioner Lockley questioned what the amount is for upkeep and said the county does not have the money and the airport is not producing that kind of money. He explained once they get some things going and have the possibility of making the money back then they would take a chance on keeping it open. Chairman Jones stated hopefully the summary report will provide more information and they will know the direction they should follow. Commissioner Lockley said they want to accommodate people but do not have the money.

Mr. Moron presented his report, as follows:

J. County Coordinator's Board Report
Action Items

1. Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator Position: At your last meeting, the Board discussed the need for a Grants Coordinator position that would effectively administer grant funded (especially FEMA) projects. I recommended Mrs. Erin Griffith for that position. The Board then discussed adding the duties and the responsibilities of a County Budget Officer to that position since Mrs. Griffith performs those duties currently as an employee of the Clerk of Courts. I asked for two independent opinions, one from the County's Labor Attorney Leonard Carson, and from County Attorney Michael Shuler, for any advertising and designation requirements, especially relating to F.S. 129.025 which addresses a County Budget Officer. They both came back with the same information, stating that F.S. 129.025 grants the Board of County Commissioners the authority to designate their own Budget Officer, and since this is an appointed position, no advertisement is necessary. I have emailed you a job description for this position for your review and to discuss this morning. If the Board accepts the essential functions of this position, the next step today would be to discuss a salary.

Request: Board discussion and action on the job description and essential functions along with a salary for a Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator Position.

Commissioner Ward clarified this action will not affect the Clerk of Court's budget. Mr. Moron said it will not and they have discussed this with the current Clerk and the Clerk-elect. He questioned if everyone is okay with the job description. Commissioner Parrish explained at the last Board meeting they were discussing different FEMA projects that are falling through the

cracks and Mr. Davis is not able to address these things and Mr. Pierce is ready to retire so they need someone to handle these items and Mrs. Griffith will fill that position. He explained the county is also missing out on grant funding because they do not have staff that is currently applying for these grants. He reported Mr. Curenton is in the DROP program and has been the grant manager but he is doing so many jobs he cannot handle all of these things. Commissioner Parrish said the grants would bring more money into the county and fund projects that would not have to be funded with ad valorem taxes. He reported they need to move forward and fill some of these functions that are not currently being filled because they have limited staff and they are dealing with Planning & Zoning issues. Commissioner Parrish said he discussed these FEMA projects with Mrs. Griffith and having the county building inspector going out and inspecting some of these projects to make sure they are done right. He reported Mrs. Griffith has done the budget for years and they trust her to do a good job. Commissioner Parrish stated there are a lot of other items she will be doing that have not been addressed. He explained they are reallocating some responsibilities and there may be some others that come along that they do not know of now. Commissioner Parrish reported the neighboring counties are getting millions of dollars in grants that this county is not getting because they do not have staff to work on this item full time. Commissioner Boldt stated since he has been on the Board he has encouraged Mrs. Griffith to be present at the meetings and that has happened. He said he sees her presence as their formal fiscal manager and grants coordinator as a full time connected position with the Board and nothing but a high quality of communications will occur and this is positive for Mrs. Griffith and the Board. Commissioner Lockley stated this is a good day because he has been asking for a grants writer since he has been here. He said if they check with small counties most counties have their own budget officer and it is set up this way. Commissioner Lockley reported the Board needs this and it will help because right now Mrs. Griffith is working for Clerk Johnson and her time is split but now they can direct her and it will be done. He explained he is not trying to take anything from the Clerk but they need this so Mrs. Griffith can work on some other things. Commissioner Lockley stated he is in favor of this change. Chairman Jones said he, like Commissioner Ward, wanted to know how this would affect the Clerk's budget and he was told it would not. He stated this is a proactive step for the Commission in having a budget officer but knowing that it would not affect the incoming Clerk's budget was what made it worth pursuing. He reported it had to be a win for everyone. Mr. Moron agreed it was a team effort. He asked if everyone is good with the job description. Commissioner Ward inquired if they asked Mrs. Griffith if she is okay with the job description. Mr. Moron said they had several days of negotiations and they agree to a pay scale of \$68,000. He reported these funds will come out of professional services for the remainder of the budget year. Mr. Moron explained Mrs. Griffith will also be looking at grant administration funds which will also help with the budget. He reported her first day will be January 1, 2021 but her first working date will be January 4, 2021. Commissioner Parrish explained as the new grants writer Mrs. Griffith may be able to get grant administration fees which will help to pay her salary. Mr. Moron said the county could not get the grant administration fees before. Commissioner Parrish pointed out because that was only a part time position and not a full time grants writer that could comply with all the rules to get the administration fees. He explained these are ways that allow them to not affect the Clerk's budget and come up with innovative ways to fund Mrs.

Griffith's salary. Commissioner Parrish said this will allow the Clerk-elect to hire someone to handle the duties that will still remain in the Clerk's Office when Mrs. Griffith leaves this position. Mr. Moron said Mrs. Griffith was a staunch defender of leaving this money in the Clerk's budget because she knew the duties that would still remain. Chairman Jones verified they are asking for a motion to create the position, appoint Mrs. Griffith to the position, and set the salary and an effective date of January 1, 2021. Mr. Moron stated they are transferring some of her leave like they did for him. He questioned if there is any objection to transferring her years of service working for the county. The Board did not have any objection.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to create the position of Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator, appoint Mrs. Erin Griffith to this position effective January 1, 2021, set the salary for Mrs. Griffith at \$68,000 annually, and transfer some of her leave and all of her years of working with the county. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. Commissioner Lockley said there are many grants out there and he is glad this is happening. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Moron stated with Commissioner Ward now serving on Opportunity Florida he thinks the combination of these two things will provide more opportunities. Commissioner Lockley asked about getting the grant administration funds. Mr. Pierce explained there are usually grant administration funds but the CARES Act funding was specifically for emergency personnel. He reported when he handled these items there were not enough grants to warrant the bookkeeping for getting the grant administration fees. He said this is a good move for the county and he supports it but there are still things the Clerk's Office is doing such as special check runs. Mr. Pierce stated there is still a burden on the Clerk's Office that needs to be addressed. Mrs. Griffith pointed out the Clerk's Office is still the custodian of public funds so the Clerk's Office will always have to cut the checks so there is still a level of responsibility there even if she processes the pay requests. She reported these items will still go to the Clerk's Office for payment and that is where these items will be housed. Commissioner Lockley asked why the Clerk's Office cannot get some of the COVID money if they are doing this work. Mr. Pierce said the way the act was written the money is for emergency response personnel and staff does not meet that criteria. He stated they will look into this issue but that is the initial understanding. Commissioner Lockley said they need to write a letter that they are putting extra work on staff and they need to get paid. He reported the private sector is getting paid and the county staff is not getting paid and that is not right. Clerk Johnson explained there was a time she would not have been in favor of this position coming from the Clerk's Office but right now she has such a good relationship with the County Commissioners and she is blessed because that is not the situation with all Clerks. She reported one reason she is in favor of this is because the Clerk's Office is still retaining the responsibilities of auditing the requests, paying the bills and cutting the checks. Clerk Johnson said it is a lot of work and every time the county gets a grant it creates work for the Clerk's Office. She stated she does support this position and she thinks Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Maxwell will develop a great relationship as well so it is a win for everyone. Clerk Johnson said she is glad they left the funding in the Clerk's Office because Mrs. Maxwell is going to need help as well. Clerk Johnson stated Mrs. Griffith was doing the work of 2 people and Mrs. Linda Phillips, Finance Officer, is also doing the work of 2 people so that is why she is glad they are leaving the money. She said they do this work because that is the kind of workers they are but there may come a point when she asks for additional funds.

Commissioner Boldt stated they have brought in another executive staff member and he wants to address Mr. Moron and consider an increase for him. He said as they moved through COVID issues they can look around and see some of the work he has done in this room. He reported the participation on zoom in this building is better than it was before the pandemic.

Commissioner Boldt stated he talks with Mr. Moron on weekends and after hours and he has helped him to understand the processes they are going through. He reported he would like to make this more in line with the executive salaries. He suggested an increase of \$3,800 a year to bring his salary up to a level of the executive staff. Commissioner Boldt stated this is value added in recognition of his work. Chairman Jones said zoom is not going away soon and they will be doing these IT things for a while and he concurs with what Commissioner Boldt is saying. He stated at the last meeting Commissioner Parrish made a motion to complete the Buddy Ward Seafood Park and Mr. Moron will be the person to complete these things. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion to increase Mr. Moron's salary in the amount of \$3,800 annually.**

Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion. Commissioner Lockley asked to add Mr. Curenton to this motion. Chairman Jones agreed Mr. Curenton did the Planning & Zoning and Board of Adjustment work for months. Commissioner Lockley stated he does not want to leave anyone out. Mr. Pierce asked if the Clerk has any ideas about her Finance Office. He stated they talked about the burden of the CARES grant staying with the Clerk's Office so there may be an adjustment for that staff due to the increased work. Clerk Johnson said it would be great if they also approved an increase for Mrs. Phillips. She explained years ago the Board voted to give the 2 Finance Clerks a \$5,000 raise and they turned it down because they felt other county employees would be hurt. Clerk Johnson stated if the Board would be willing to increase her budget for an increase for Mrs. Phillips that would be great. Chairman Jones asked if all these additional monies are coming out of professional services this year and will roll into the budget next year. Mrs. Griffith agreed they would have the ability to pay for this out of professional services this year and most likely it would be reduced for next year. **Commissioner Boldt amended his motion to include a \$3,800 increase for Mr. Curenton and increase the Clerk's budget to give a \$3,800 increase to Mrs. Phillips. Commissioner Parrish amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Moron thanked the Board. He said it is more important that the Board recognizes that there are a lot of things going on with IT that the public does not see and he feels it is very important that the public has access to the meetings. He agreed with Commissioner Boldt that the participation with the meetings is more now than before COVID and people realize things get done more efficiently if they contact their commissioner or staff ahead of time instead of waiting for the meeting. Commissioner Boldt stated this was done on a value added basis and they saw a stellar performance by the individuals they discussed and they can measure it and document it. Commissioner Lockley said the Board has left the attorney out. Mr. Moron explained while doing research about the new fiscal manager position he found out Franklin County is one of the few counties that pays their attorney an hourly rate instead of as a retainer. He reported if something comes up on a weekend he calls Attorney Shuler and did not know it would cause a problem. Mr. Moron suggested the Board take an average of what Attorney Shuler made over the last few years and turn it into a retainer because it is easier for budgeting. Chairman Jones asked if this would be similar to Mr. John Solomon's position as TDC Director where the salary is divided into 12 payments. Mr. Moron

agreed that would be easier. Commissioner Boldt reported it is about access. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to give Attorney Shuler a raise.** Mrs. Griffin reported \$100,000 is budgeted for the County Attorney-Legal Services. Mr. Moron suggested they divide this amount by 12. Mrs. Griffith said they would need to pro-rate this amount. Commissioner Lockley said he wants to give him a raise. Mrs. Griffith explained Attorney Shuler has only invoiced through November 14th or 15th so it would be whatever the balance is less what is already paid. **Commissioner Lockley amended his motion to pro-rate the amount for the rest of the year minus what he has billed and go with a \$10,000 increase. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. Commissioner Lockley amended his motion to make the amount \$112,000 to be divided into equal increments minus what has already been paid this year. Commissioner Ward amended her second.** Commissioner Boldt asked if they have conferred with Attorney Shuler. Attorney Shuler said he is happy and grateful with the motion because he has not asked for any increase in his fees since 2013. He commented the County Attorney budget has been at \$100,000 since he started in 2001. Attorney Shuler said the retainer payment would be great as he has gone to a flat fee for most of the work in his private practice. He stated he does some hourly work but mostly works on a flat fee basis. He stated this would be a flat retainer paid out in 1/12's and he is thankful for that if that is the Board's decision.
Motion carried; 5-0.

2. CR 67 Award: Clay Kennedy, of Dewberry, has reviewed the low bid for the CR 67 widening and resurfacing project and found the bid to be complete. The Florida Department of Transportation has concurred on awarding the bid to C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$2,813,971.93.
Request: Board action to award the CR 67 widening and resurfacing project to C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc.

On motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to award the C.R. 67 Widening and Resurfacing Project to C.R. Roberts Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$2,813,971.93.

3. CR 30A Award: Clay Kennedy, of Dewberry, has reviewed the low bid for the CR 30A widening and resurfacing project and found the bid to be complete. The Florida Department of Transportation has concurred on awarding the bid to Roberts and Roberts, Inc. in the amount of \$1,079,392.36.
Request: Board action to award the CR 30A widening and resurfacing project to Roberts and Roberts, Inc.

Commissioner Parrish made a motion to award the C.R. 30A Widening and Resurfacing Project to Roberts and Roberts, Inc. in the amount of \$1,079,392.36. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion. Commissioner Ward said they talked about submitting a letter to FDOT to make sure the causeway was paved as well and asked if they have heard back from them. Mr. Moron stated they have not but he is working with Mr. Benny Jacobs, Ferrovial. He reported he will send the Commissioners the link for the 5 year plan. Commissioner Parrish stated on the state right-of-way near Ace Hardware in Apalachicola the culvert is falling in. He asked Mr. Moron to talk with Mr. Jacobs about this culvert while he is talking with him about

the other issue. Mr. Moron agreed to address this item. Commissioner Parrish said Mr. Nabors talked with them last week. Commissioner Parrish stated he told them if they would replace the culvert while the road contractor was here he would pay to pave the area but they said they will wait until January and the contractor will be gone by then. He explained the culvert is on state right-of-way and is their responsibility but it is falling in and needs to be fixed. Commissioner Lockley stated he had a couple of roads paved in the area last time and he missed one road which is the road where people clean fish. He asked Mr. Moron to check on this road. He reported if this road is not private they need to fix the road. Commissioner Ward asked Commissioner Lockley if this road is off of Water Street. Commissioner Lockley answered yes and said he has money in his paving fund to pave the road. Commissioner Lockley said he does not think this is a private road. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Commissioner Parrish reported this property is owned by the City of Apalachicola. Mr. Moron agreed to contact the City about this matter and report back at the next meeting. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to pave the road contingent upon it meeting all the requirements. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley said that way he will not have to pay the mobilization fee. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

4. In-Person Public Attendance Update: At your last meeting, the Board discussed allowing in-person public attendance to your regular meetings perhaps as early as January 2021. I provided a list of recommendation for the Board to consider keeping the public, staff, and Commissioners as safe as possible. The Board asked Attorney Shuler and I to do some research on what other counties in the state are addressing in-person public attendance. I think it is safe to say there is no consensus on this matter. Some counties are allowing in person with different degrees of mask wearing, social distancing, temperature checks, etc., and other counties are still not allowing in-person attendance. If the Board is ready to set a date to allow in-person public attendance today, I ask that you consider adopting the recommendations listed below.

- Use the allowed seating locations as designated by the 2nd Circuit Court Trial Marshal, which is based on the Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice's order. Designate what seating will reserved for staff, for agenda presenters, and for the public.
- Temperature checks before entering the meeting room.
- Masks are worn in the meeting room unless you are speaking in front of a microphone. Removing your mask to speak allows for a clear understanding of what is being said for the official meeting minutes.
- Continue the use of Zoom and Live-stream. I strongly recommend that applicants, presenters, and public comments for Public Hearings, Planning and Zoning requests, and Board of Adjustment requests are heard virtually via Zoom.
- If there is an overcrowding issue based on limited available seating, those wanting to comment during the Public Comments agenda item will be rotated with anyone waiting at an outside location to speak.
- Planning and Zoning and Board of Adjustment meetings will be conducted via Zoom until further notice.
- The meeting room will be sanitized prior to and after each meeting. A hand sanitizing station will be located at the speaker podium for anyone that addresses the Board from that location.

Request: Board discussion and possible action on setting a date to allow in-person public attendance and adopting rules as it relates to CDC and State guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Moron said Chairman Jones asked the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) to ask the question about public meetings and there is not a consensus anywhere. Mr. Moron asked the Board to leave the Planning & Zoning and Board of Adjustment meeting via zoom until further notice. Commissioner Lockley asked how many seats they will leave for staff. Mr. Moron explained if they go with what the Chief Judge says there will be 17 available seats and they will reserve some for staff and the rest will be for the public. The Board discussed the number of staff that attend the meetings and the seats they should leave open for them. Chairman Jones asked if the department heads could appear on zoom if they do not have any action items. Commissioner Lockley and Commissioner Ward felt like this was a good idea. Chairman Jones said it would free up space and they would not have to leave their job to come here. Mr. Moron agreed they will try this at the next meeting. Commissioner Lockley said he is not ready for anyone to come in the meetings because COVID is still out there but he will go along with the decision of the Board. Commissioner Boldt stated they are only discussing the changes and he wants to maintain the consistency. He said no one should be there relative to a health care matter. Commissioner Boldt explained how many pathways there are for the public. He said they can hear on zoom and people can call and email the Commissioners. He stated they are accessible and people can also reach out to county staff. Commissioner Boldt reported health is the main matter they need to consider and maintain everything as they have it. Commissioner Ward stated she feels like it is important for the county to be here and have a say. She said zoom is important but they all go other places and it is no different here. Commissioner Ward reported they are taking the safety steps required for social distancing and the seats are marked off but in many stores no one is following these measures. She said they do need to be safe and take into consideration the elderly population and people with health concerns but they cannot keep the public out forever. Chairman Jones stated at some point they do have to make different accommodations and zoom is not going away but people still have to do business person to person. Commissioner Ward asked if they are still hoping to open the meetings in January. Mr. Moron replied yes but he was not sure how far the conversation was going considering the increase in COVID cases. Chairman Jones suggested Mr. Moron clarify the language based on the discussions today and then bring the matter back to the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Moron asked if it will be okay to allow staff to attend by zoom at the next meeting and see how it works. The Board agreed with this suggestion. Mr. Moron said they will try that and then at the next meeting they will be closer to selecting a date to reopen the meetings to the public. Mr. Moron informed the Board at the next meeting there will be a lot of public input on one of the items so he asked the Board not to judge by that public hearing because that is not the normal situation. Commissioner Lockley questioned if people will rotate in and out during a public hearing. Mr. Moron said that is what some counties do is allow people to rotate in and make their comment and then leave. He stated one county has a public kiosk outside of the Board room and they allow everyone to line up and comment. Commissioner Lockley said they will need a deputy present because some people want to stay and listen and provide support but not speak. Mr. Moron explained people must

rotate in to speak and then leave. Chairman Jones informed the Board he is thinking about making some changes to the public comment policy. He explained this was one of the bigger items he faced the brunt of during his campaign as people feel like they are not allowed access with the current policy. Commissioner Ward stated she dealt with the same issues in her campaign because people feel left out and that their voices are not heard with the public comment section. Mr. Moron questioned if the problem is people want to address items as they come up on the agenda. Chairman Jones explained they are fine with public comment at the beginning but they also want to be able to address an item on the agenda and to have discussion with the Board. Commissioner Ward agreed they would like to have feedback. Chairman Jones stated they could continue to take public comment at the beginning and it could be 3 minutes long but then people would be allowed to comment for 1 minute on 3 items on the agenda. He reported he does not have a definite suggestion today. Commissioner Ward said at the beginning they do not hear what is being discussed or comments and then when a subject comes up there are other things they would have said based on the discussion. She reported she is not sure how this would work but they can work together on finding the answer. Chairman Jones stated he would like the meetings to be as short as possible but in some counties public comment in the beginning is for items that are not on the agenda and then people that want to speak on an item on the agenda are allowed to do that during the meeting but not on every item. Commissioner Lockley reported both of them are new Commissioners and people are playing games. Attorney Shuler stated all the statute requires is the Board give a reasonable opportunity for public comment before they take action and how the Board wants to structure that is up to the Chairman and if a majority of the Board does not agree then by majority vote of the Board they can overrule it. Commissioner Lockley left the meeting at this time. Attorney Shuler said normally the Chairman decides the structure and what is on the agenda and not on the agenda. Mr. Moron explained the public comment at the end was what prompted the change because it was not beneficial to the public or the Board. He asked Attorney Shuler to put this question on the county attorney forum to see what other counties are doing. Mr. Moron explained at the delegation meetings everyone fills out a speaker card so they know who is registered to speak prior to the items coming up and then the Chairman can flex the amount of time needed. He stated he needs to speak with each Commissioner and know their preferences and priorities for public comment and then he can come up with a something to present. Chairman Jones said he brought this item up to get input from other commissioners. Mr. Moron agreed he will talk with each commissioner and then talk with Attorney Shuler. Commissioner Lockley returned to the meeting. The Board agreed with this suggestion.

5. Building Official Services: In November, Mr. Garry Millender, the County's Building Official informed me that he plans to resign from his position as the Building Official effective December 31, 2020. Since Mr. Steve Patterson, the County's Building Inspector, will not receive his state provisional certification as a Building Official until sometime in March, Mr. Millender has offered to provide Building Official services to the County via his company Millender Inspection Services LLC. He would provide these services at a rate of \$3500 per month from January – March 2021, and longer if necessary. Attorney Shuler has a copy of the contract, but before he starts a full review, the Board should discuss this matter and offer some direction. I have informed the City of Carrabelle that as of January 1,

2021, we no longer have a Building Official on staff so the County can no longer provide that service to them.

Request: Board discussion and direction regarding Building Official services for the County.

Mr. Moron said when Mr. Millender was full time his salary was \$48,000 plus so the \$3,500 per month is not what he was making before. He stated this will probably only be for 3-4 months. He reported Mr. Patterson passed all of his tests the first time so there has been no delay. Mr. Moron explained Mr. Patterson will have a provisional license and then will have 1 year to pass all the other tests to be a certified Building Official. He said Mr. Patterson should receive this provisional license in March or April. He reported this amount is similar to the amount paid to Mr. Millender by other counties. Commissioner Parrish asked if this is under what the Board has budgeted to pay Mr. Millender. Mr. Moron answered yes. Commissioner Parrish asked if the City of Carrabelle has been notified that Mr. Millender could do this work for them. Mr. Moron said Mr. Millender reached out to the City of Carrabelle. Attorney Shuler reported there is currently an interlocal agreement with the City of Carrabelle for Mr. Millender to provide these services so they are aware of this matter. Mr. Moron said the email to the City of Carrabelle said this agreement would terminate. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to approve Millender Inspection Services, LLC providing services from January- March, 2021 at a rate of \$3,500 per month. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Mr. Moron said this is contingent upon Attorney Shuler's approval. Attorney Shuler questioned if this is for 4 months. Mr. Moron asked for 3 months and then a month to month extension for 3 more months. **Commissioner Lockley amended his motion make this action contingent upon Attorney Shuler's approval and authorize a month to month extension for 3 months after the initial 3 months. Commissioner Parrish amended his motion. Motion carried; 5-0.**

6. Permitting Clerk: One of the permitting clerks in the Building Department has resigned so the Building Department needs to advertise to fill this vacancy. This position will be advertised publicly, not in house, at the county's \$25,000 starting base salary.

Request: Board action to authorize advertising the vacant position.

On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize advertising for the vacant position in the Building Department.

7. FAC Broadband Resolution: The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) has started ACCESS 67 Initiative. "ACCESS 67 represents a comprehensive approach to address the lack of ACCESS in many of our communities, rural and urban; small, medium, and large; to the required technological resources that our citizens need to navigate this new world." FAC is asking each county to support a resolution similar to the Small County Coalition resolution authorized by the Board at your last meeting. FAC is also asking that we complete a survey regarding broadband access in the County, which Mrs. Cortni Bankston is working on.

Request: Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the ACCESS 67 resolution.

On motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the Resolution.

8. Paving Change Order/Pay Request: Over the last few months the Board took advantage of an opportunity to save on mobilization cost and use the contractor that was building the new airport access road to pave a few county roads. The project is about 85% complete and Roberts and Roberts, the paving contractor, has submitted a Change Order/Pay request for payment. Before the Board considers this request, separate Board action is needed to replace Cape Street, which was approved to add to the approved paving list at an earlier meeting, with Sybil Court. After the Board approved adding Cape Street, right of way and ownership of a section of Cape Street presented an issue. In order to take advantage of the opportunity as the contractor was finishing the paving project, staff authorized paving nearby Sybil Court instead. The final pay application, any additional documentation, and change orders will be submitted for Board review and approval when the project is complete.

Request 1: Board action to remove Cape Street from the approved paving list and add Sybil Court as a replacement. The total cost to pave Sybil Court is \$43,917.95.

Request 2: Board action to approve this Pay Request Application/Change Order for a total of \$241,842.

On motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve a change order removing Cape Street from the approved paving list and adding Sybil Court at a cost of \$43,917.95. On motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the pay request application in the amount of \$241,842.00

Commissioner Parrish reported he had the same issue with the roads he submitted a month ago because one of the roads could not be paved because it was considered private. He explained the box culvert on Bluff Road is sagging and he talked with Roberts & Roberts about fixing this area as it was repaved only 3-4 years ago. Commissioner Parrish said this will straighten out this area and it will be in good shape and last for many years. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to include paving this area. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lockley said they should check the base because something is wrong. Commissioner Parrish agreed a prior contractor caused this problem but this contractor is aware of the issue and will fix it. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Commissioner Boldt said a couple of meetings ago they approved repaving Delaware Street and he met with someone who lives on Delaware Street and he is concerned that some of the pavement went over his property line. He stated he reviewed this area and he would like to have Mr. Moron look into this matter and he has some information about the lot descriptions. Commissioner Boldt reported they paved in the same path of the road that was there for years and has been maintained by the county. Commissioner Lockley asked if the engineers are supposed to check before they pave. Mr. Pierce stated the Board does not usually do surveying before they pave. Attorney Shuler referenced a provision in Chapter 95, Florida Statutes that says if the county has constructed and/or maintained a road for a 4 year period continuously they have an acquired ownership but he would need to talk with Mr. Nabors specifically about Delaware Street. He said according to Mr. Moron he has already looked into this and the county has maintained this road for 4 years or more so the county would have acquired ownership at least the width of the maintenance. Commissioner Lockley questioned if there are any houses past his house. Commissioner Boldt

responded yes. Commissioner Lockley asked how they can go on his property but not anyone else's property. Mr. Moron stated this is the only complaint they have had since they paved the road but he will look into this matter. Commissioner Lockley inquired if this is the first time the road has been paved. Commissioner Boldt answered yes and prior to that it was milled asphalt and compacted. Mr. Moron said he will work with Attorney Shuler and Mr. Nabors to determine how long the county has been maintaining this road and then they will report at the next meeting. Commissioner Boldt stated paving the road enhanced the neighborhood.

9. CRF Funds: At your last meeting the Board authorized Mrs. Lori Switzer-Mills to spend the remaining Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) on applicants that had already received funding, as a secondary phase, since there were no new applicants. Since that meeting, Mrs. Switzer-Mills received new applications that qualified for funding, so she stopped any second phase funding and requested an additional \$32,000 from Florida Housing to fund the new applicants. At your August 4, 2020 meeting the Board authorized Mrs. Switzer-Mills to seek additional funding if needed, provided the Board was notified. However, for better recordkeeping purposes, I am asking for Board action to approve this request for funding. Mrs. Switzer-Mills stopped accepting applications as of yesterday at noon.

Request: Board action to authorize the request for an additional \$32,000 of Coronavirus Relief Funds.

Mr. Moron said Mrs. Switzer-Mills stopped accepting applications because this is a long procedure to request the money. He stated she called this morning and there will also need to be an amendment to the contract with Florida Housing Finance. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to authorize requesting the additional money and authorize the Chairman to sign the amendment with Florida Housing Finance. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish commended Mrs. Switzer-Mills for stopping the second phase so they can help some new applicants. Mr. Moron stated because this was discussed in the meeting word got out and they have some new applicants. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

10. RCSC Newsletter: I received an email from Ms. Georgia Ackerman of the Riverkeepers that included a Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition (RCSC) newsletter (attached to the agenda packet) that includes a good overview of the legal challenge to the United States Army Corp of Engineer's (USACE) control of freshwater flow to the Apalachicola River, and ultimately our Bay. "It is expected that the judge will allow non-litigants to submit amicus letters to the court during the first week of January. As you know, the Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition is considering joining onto an amicus brief, along with other businesses and civic interests of our region. The City of Apalachicola is also in the process. The ecological and economic impact of the judge's decision affects many in Franklin County. A pro bono attorney is preparing an amicus brief for the groups."

Request: Board discussion and direction.

Attorney Shuler said he is the Chairman of the Amicus Curiae Subcommittee for FAC. He requested the Board consider allowing him to review the amicus brief on behalf of the county before it is filed with the court. He reported Ms. Georgia Ackerman, Apalachicola Riverkeeper, is on the telephone. Ms. Ackerman offered to answer any questions. She said she will forward the draft amicus brief from the attorney when she receives it in a week or so. Attorney Shuler

stated this would be consistent with how the amicus subcommittee works because once they approve the amicus brief being drafted there is someone who volunteers to prepare the amicus brief and then after it is prepared it is sent back to the subcommittee for approval before it is submitted to the court. He explained that is why he would like to review it before it is submitted to the court. Commissioner Parrish said when he talked with Ms. Ackerman they were discussing if the county would take this action or the Riparian County Stakeholders Coalition (RCSC) would do it on behalf of the county and he asked if they agreed to allow the RCSC to file this amicus brief on behalf of the county. Ms. Ackerman said she is not a member of RCSC but in her opinion if RCSC files this it would prove more powerful to a judge. She explained her concern is there are quite a few State of Georgia people intervening on behalf of the court and they want the judge to hear from parties in Franklin and along the Apalachicola River. Ms. Ackerman reported the judge is Atlanta based and the RCSC is made up of members from the 6 counties along the river and that is a powerful voice they would like the judge to hear. Commissioner Parrish stated they discussed if each county should have a signature line on the RCSC amicus brief and asked if they are going to do that or just allow the RCSC to stand on their own. Ms. Ackerman said that is an excellent recommendation but Mr. Ken Jones is the leader of the RCSC and is still listening on the call and she did carry this recommendation to Mr. Jones. She stated if each county that makes up the RCSC is in agreement she thinks that is an excellent recommendation. Ms. Ackerman reported several other counties are also addressing this matter today and Mr. Jones will be talking to them and it is important that each county that is represented by the RCSC knows what is being done and that any questions are answered. She stated the amicus brief is a letter to the judge and they can be impactful. Commissioner Parrish reported he is in favor of the lawsuit filed by the Apalachicola Riverkeepers against the COE and he wishes the state would have done the same. He explained they have spent years litigating this issue but at no time has the COE been brought into the litigation. He reported they cannot bring the COE into the litigation unless they are sued directly. Commissioner Parrish stated the lawsuit was filed against the COE many years ago and he supports their efforts. He said he always represented Franklin County in the water ways and litigation and they are all on the same page and in support and he hopes they are successful in their lawsuit. Ms. Ackerman thanked Commissioner Parrish and said if anyone has questions they can contact her. She reported other groups in the area are working on separate amicus briefs and some will be joining in. She stated if other groups wants information they should let her know. Commissioner Boldt stated the Coastal Marine Lab is a big factor in doing research and he would encourage her to ask them to join in and also the Apalachicola Estuarine Research Reserve. Ms. Ackerman agreed to follow up with this request. Chairman Jones asked what the purpose is for the amicus brief. Ms. Ackerman explained the Apalachicola Riverkeepers and several other conservation groups filed a lawsuit against the COE when they moved to update their water control manual in 2016. She reported they felt the environmental impact statement was incomplete and they were not the only ones because there were many written public comments asking the COE to do a better job. She stated the COE disregarded the recommendations and moved forward with the update of the water control manual. Ms. Ackerman explained the manual dictates how the water is released upriver on the Chattahoochee side and the update had not been done since the 1950's. She reported the

update will bring the county less water than they had before and it does not help with freshwater flow to the bay. Ms. Ackerman stated they filed suit after the update went into effect. She said the briefs are by non-litigants outside of the court case writing to the judge on how the decision could impact them and why the judge should give consideration to the case. Chairman Jones said his understanding is previously the county joined the Apalachicola Riverkeepers on a brief and now they no longer have the river channel dredged. Ms. Ackerman stated that was before her time and she would need to get more information about this item. Chairman Jones stated not having the river channel dredged also impacts how much water gets to the bay because the river gets shallower. Commissioner Parrish reported it has always been hurtful to him that the State of Georgia always intervenes on the side of the court and pays all their attorney's fees and they wonder why the COE always sides with them about water allocation. He said it is simple because it costs the COE nothing because the State of Georgia is paying their legal fees. He reported this has gone on for years and it is crooked. Commissioner Parrish explained the water control manual is how they operate the reservoirs which release or do not release water. Ms. Ackerman agreed to provide some follow-up information to the Board. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to proceed contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review of the amicus brief written by the pro bono attorney.**

11. SGI Lighted Parade: The St. George Island Civic Club is planning a lighted golf cart parade on St. George Island on December 4th, the same night as the 'lighting of the palms' event. The golf carts will be decorated with family friendly decorations and will line up along East Pine, beginning at 5:45 p.m. behind the Sheriff's vehicle. All golf carts will be at least 6ft apart and volunteers will assist with the directing carts during the line-up. The parade will begin at 6:15 p.m. and the parade route is attached for your review.
Request: Board action to approve the parade route for the St. George Island lighted golf cart parade.

On motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the parade route for the St. George Island lighted golf cart parade.

Information Items

12. Sheriff's Office Software: The Sheriff's staff attended your last meeting and explained that starting January 2021, dispatch would be out of compliance with the FBI and FDLE because a particular type of reporting software was not installed. They got quotes from three different vendors and selected one of the three, which was stated at the last meeting, but has asked the County to pause on the purchasing of that software as an additional module may be needed. When the Sheriff's Office is ready to proceed with the purchase, I will inform the Board.

Chairman Jones asked if this item will be ready for the Board to discuss at the next meeting. Mr. Moron said he hopes so but they may be past their time on this item. He explained they provided a presentation to the Board and then contacted Mrs. Griffith that they may be missing a module. Mr. Moron stated he has a meeting with the Sheriff's Department on Wednesday about a piece of equipment that would help bridge cleanup because they have not heard back

from Mr. Collins about using the airport sweeper. He said Mr. Collins indicated they may not be able to use the sweeper for the bridge. Mr. Moron stated he will discuss the software and try to bring it to the next meeting for approval.

13. Artificial Reef Grant: As requested at your last meeting, there is a conference call scheduled tomorrow with Ms. Lorena Holley and Frank Gidus (Coastal Conservation Association) to discuss the protocols and procedure required before the County would consider applying for and supporting a grant from the FWC to construct an artificial reef on the Carrabelle 10 Mile Reef in the honor of Dr. Bart Carey. Hopefully this item will be on my December 15th report.

14. COVID-19 & Sally LSE: As authorized by the Board, Chairman Lockley signed COVID-19 Local State of Emergency (LSE) Declarations on November 2nd, 9th, and 16th, and a Hurricane Sally LSE Declaration on November 3rd. Chairman Jones signed COVID-19 LSE Declarations on November 23rd and 30th.

15.SGI Lighthouse closure: Inform the Board that the St. George Island Lighthouse will be closed for the month of January and potentially a week or two at the beginning of February for some much-needed maintenance. This will be a \$94,000 self-funded project that is scheduled to start in early January and should last 4 – 6 weeks. The Keeper's House Museum and the Gift Shop will remain open while the lighthouse is closed to the public.

16.SGPOA & Mediacom: Inform the Board that the St. George Plantation Owner's Association (SGPOA) has sent an email to Mediacom (attached to agenda packet) regarding the dangerous "Health and Safety" issue that has been created due to Mediacom's violation of the underground burial agreement with SGPOA. There is an incident described in the email where a golf cart driver had a Mediacom cable get wrapped in the axle of the golf cart. The cable was active and carried some amps of electricity. If I am contacted by a SGPOA representative for assistance on this matter, this Board will be informed.

Chairman Jones reported Wakulla County recently got a grant from FWC to buy everything to bear proof the trash cans in the county. He explained whoever the contractor is in Franklin County either provides this or not but there is no mechanism for the citizens to have bear proof trash cans unless they are willing to pay the difference. Mr. Moron reported they have done this before.

Chairman Jones stated under the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) if a county employee gets COVID they can get paid one time. He questioned if the rest of the Board feels like they need to extend this beyond this year because if someone gets COVID and misses work they will not get paid. Chairman Jones suggested they address it at the next meeting. Mrs. Griffith explained it is the expiration of the extended Family Medical Leave Act which is a federal act and she thinks they may extend it but she has not heard anything. Mrs. Griffith stated the extension expires on December 31st so after that employees would have to use their own sick leave. Chairman Jones said he did not realize that was a federal act.

Commissioner Ward stated she talked with Mr. Clay Kennedy, Dewberry, and Mr. Curenton about a multi-use path/sidewalk for her district in Eastpoint from Ridge Road to Vrooman Park

and continuing down C.C. Land Road and a multi-use path/sidewalk on River Road in Carrabelle. She said these are FDOT grant funded items and the deadline for applying is in February so she would like Mr. Curenton to submit the grants. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to authorize Mr. Curenton to submit the grants for these two particular items. Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish stated he has had a lot of people from Escape Road ask for this item. Commissioner Ward reported kids go from Ridge Road to the park. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioner Ward requested a crosswalk at Carrabelle Beach where the RV Park is. She explained the traffic is heavy and someone is going to get hurt crossing the road. Commissioner Ward explained she is trying to get a crosswalk with flashing lights and in speaking with Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Curenton she was informed they need to contact the FDOT contractor Ferrovia. She pointed out this is a state road and it is their responsibility. **Commissioner Ward made a motion to direct staff to contact Ferrovia and request the crosswalk. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Chairman Jones stated they told him there would never be a crosswalk across Highway 98 and now one is going in near the Express Lane. He explained it is also hard to get crosswalks unless they have somewhere to go which the one at Carrabelle Beach does. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioner Ward reported she was informed by a constituent in her district that there is no trash pickup north of Highway 65 and she believes the fire tower is the cut off. She stated the individual had a private contractor picking up the garbage but the company is no longer in business. Commissioner Ward explained she and the individual reached out to each of the other garbage carriers Waste Pro and Waste One and they do not offer services past the fire tower on Highway 65. She stated other residents burn their garbage or bring it to the landfill but this person is elderly and cannot do either. Commissioner Ward said she offered to pick up the garbage for her but there are other people in this same situation. She stated she reached out to Mr. Davis about placing a dumpster outside the landfill because some people drive down to work but the landfill is not open. She said she understands this may create other issues. Commissioner Ward stated she does not know what the solution is and Mr. Davis responded but she has not had time to review his response. She said she knows county wide garbage collection is a sensitive subject but she does not know the answer. Chairman Jones agreed it is an issue they need to try and address. He explained if they put a dumpster outside the landfill the residents will never see a benefit because it will already be full when they get there. Commissioner Ward stated people will also place things in the dumpster that do not belong there. Commissioner Lockley asked if Waste Pro works for the county. Chairman Jones said Waste One does the hauling from the landfill to Marianna but they are not doing pickup. Commissioner Ward said their reasoning is they do not have enough business to warrant them going that far which is not fair to the people that are interested in garbage pickup. Commissioner Lockley stated they need county wide pickup. Commissioner Boldt agreed that is needed. **Commissioner Lockley made a motion to get county wide pickup.** Commissioner Ward said she does not know the legalities but she likes the idea of county wide garbage pickup. Commissioner Lockley explained the county is getting bigger and they are steadily

building houses and they need county wide garbage collection. He reported this will also help to clean up the woods. Commissioner Ward said she will be going to a conference and can reach out to other counties and see what their solutions are because this is something they will have to address eventually. Commissioner Lockley reported the 2 cities already have mandatory collection. Commissioner Ward said she has done some research and would like to do some more research. **Commissioner Ward seconded the motion.** Attorney Shuler explained if the Board goes through with this motion his next step will be to prepare an ordinance for a public hearing and he does not think he has enough direction from the Board to prepare the ordinance. He suggested it may not be time for a motion. Attorney Shuler said he will wait for Commissioner Ward to return from this conference with more information and he can start a conversation with Mr. Davis about this matter. He explained the Board has looked at this issue several times over the years but it presents an issue because the Board's only method of billing is the tax bill. He reported no previous Board has been willing to put the cost of garbage pickup on the tax bill because they do not want people to lose their property because they cannot pay their garbage bill. He stated private contractors have always refused to send in direct billing because the county does not have the means to enforce payment of the garbage bill. He reported in the cities they can shut off the water and sewer for non-payment but the county does not have this option. Attorney Shuler said his information is old because it has been many years since the Board has directed him and Mr. Davis to look into this matter but he will be glad to gather new information. Commissioner Lockley stated it is not the county's responsibility to collect the bills if the contractor has the job. He said if a company does not want to collect their bills then they should not bid when the county advertises for bids. Mr. Moron reported if the county does not bill for the service then they will not receive any proposals. He explained he met with Waste Pro and Waste One and if the county is not going to do the billing then they want to be paid up front and then the county collect the money. He stated the second issue is people like to select their own collector and do not want the county to force them to use a certain collector. Mr. Moron reported when this was discussed before it did not move forward because of these issues. Commissioner Parrish said if the garbage company does their own billing and someone does not pay then they will not pick up their garbage anymore and then the county does not have county wide garbage collection. He stated he does not have garbage collection at his home but takes care of his trash in other ways. Commissioner Parrish said some people will pay to have their garbage collected because it is the right thing to do and some people will not pay the bill so they are not covered under garbage collection. He reported some people cannot afford to pay for garbage collection. Commissioner Parrish stated if they are going to have garbage collection then it should be mandatory to everyone. He reported if the county handles the billing then they will have to take money from other taxpayers to fund the garbage bills of people that do not pay because they will put a lien on their property. He went on to say if the people do not ever sell the property then they never pay the lien. Commissioner Parrish stated it is not fair to the taxpayer to pay for other people in addition to the other taxes they pay. He said there are a host of issues that need to be worked through. Commissioner Parrish reported he is not opposed to paying for garbage collection if that is what the Board wants to do but he wants everyone to pay and he does not want to pay for other people. He pointed out some of the commissioners

live in the cities but this action would affect the commissioners that do not live in the cities. **Commissioner Lockley rescinded his motion.** Commissioner Lockley said maybe when they go to the conference they will hear about another option. Commissioner Parrish stated people must be treated fairly and there is no mechanism in place to accomplish that. He agreed there is a problem with people disposing of their garbage properly. Chairman Jones said they could look at adding a ½ cent general tax to pay for garbage collection then everyone is paying including visitors when they shop. He explained then everyone does not have a tax bill. Commissioner Boldt suggested they look at other counties that are doing this starting with Wakulla County. Chairman Jones said Mr. Moron has been taking notes and will research this issue.

County Attorney – Michael Shuler – Report

Attorney Shuler thanked the Board for their support and consideration earlier in the meeting.

Attorney Shuler stated he will not be joining them in Jacksonville for their mid-year conference as the Executive Staff for the County Attorney's Association cancelled their live meeting and turned it into a zoom meeting.

Attorney Shuler reported the Board is presently scheduled to hear an ordinance at the next meeting updating the Flood Plain Management Ordinance. He stated Mrs. Amy Ham-Kelly understood they had a January 1, 2021 deadline for this update but he talked with a representative from the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and they do not have a hard deadline for January. Attorney Shuler said Mrs. Ham-Kelly is looking into this matter to determine if there are any issues that need to be changed or if she has any suggested changes. He explained apparently DEM was anticipating some changes for modular homes or mobile homes that needed to be implemented by January 1st but FEMA has extended the deadline to sometime in 2021. Attorney Shuler reported the advertisement has already been placed in the newspaper and he has drafted the ordinance but they may or may not have the scheduled public hearing on December 15, 2020.

Mr. Pierce reported the COE called and they are still reviewing the interlocal agreement between the county and the COE. He stated the county might need to write a letter saying that they understand that any additional costs over the federal share will be paid by the county. He said he told them the county understands but he is waiting to see if they need to send a separate letter.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Lockley stated in the past election they passed a law increasing the minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour. He said the county needs to start looking at this because their future starting salary is \$25,000 and when this becomes effective they will be paying less than minimum wage. Commissioner Lockley explained they have time to deal with this but they

need to increase this amount or they are going to lose workers. Chairman Jones stated the change will be phased in over 4-5 years. Commissioner Lockley said they have time to phase this in but that is what they are facing. Mr. Moron stated the Board will need to speak with the labor attorneys about this matter because previously Ms. Lucy Turner handled these items and she is no longer available. Mrs. Griffith said Ms. Turner created a job classification and pay class scale. She reported another report was done about 20 years ago and they went around and surveyed surrounding counties and created the job classifications. She explained Ms. Turner did a more custom approach and the other company did a report where multiple counties were involved. Mr. Moron said they will have to contact someone to look at this because it will not just affect the pay at the bottom but everyone else also. He reported they have 5 years so they can plan this and it can be part of the budget planning. Mr. Moron offered to look for a company if the Board is interested in starting this work. Mrs. Griffith agreed to scan the previous report to the Board. Commissioner Lockley said the county needs to look at something because this is going to happen. Commissioner Parrish questioned if as salaries increase they are looking at a smaller workforce to reduce the larger costs. Mr. Moron stated in some places they cannot reduce the workforce. Commissioner Parrish said the money has to come from somewhere so they will either cut somewhere or taxes will go up. He explained he is not against looking at the salaries but somewhere they have to offset the costs. Mr. Moron reported since the county provides services to the public if they reduce the workforce they will reduce the services. Chairman Jones agreed there is going to be a pass through cost. He explained he wants things to be affordable but there will be a pass through with this change to minimum wage. Mr. Moron agreed it is a good idea to start planning now so they make changes to the budget year by year and not all at once.

Commissioner Boldt said he would like to recognize yesterday's ribbon cutting ceremony on behalf of Weems Memorial Hospital and Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH). He stated about 50 people attended including executive staff from TMH and staff and it was a great celebration and a strong turning point in the history of health care in Franklin County. Chairman Jones agreed it was a well-attended event.

Information Items

There were no information items.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Ricky Jones - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts