

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**COURTHOUSE ANNEX-COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**  
**DECEMBER 3, 2019**  
**9:00 AM**  
**MINUTES**

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

**Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Erin Griffith-Assistant Finance Director, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Alan Pierce-RESTORE Coordinator, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

**Prayer and Pledge**

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

1. Minutes-October 15, 2019 (Healthcare Workshop)
2. Minutes-October 29, 2019 (Healthcare Workshop)
3. Minutes-November 5, 2019

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

**Payment of County Bills**

4. Bill List for Payment

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

**Public Comments**

Mrs. Anne Birchwell, a resident of Eastpoint, provided her history with library work and her work as one of the previous Library Directors. She provided the degrees she obtained while working for the library ending with her Master's Degree in Library Science. Mrs. Birchwell

explained there was no compensation or assistance from Franklin County for her education and she amassed \$140,000 in student loans. She reported when she became Library Director her salary was \$35,000 a year and this salary is the lowest salary for a Library Director in the state. She said she is glad to hear the Board has raised the salary for this position. She referenced the minutes from the October 1, 2019 meeting where the Board was discussing with the labor attorney suspending volunteers from the Carrabelle Branch and addressed her experience as Library Director. She encouraged the Board not to interfere with the work of the new Library Director.

Ms. Barbara McInturff, a resident of Apalachicola, reported she called to reserve a meeting room at the Eastpoint Library and was told all the meeting rooms are already scheduled because of voting. She explained they did not ask her for the date and time and she would like the Board to look into this matter.

Ms. McInturff said the city and county put up Christmas decorations but should check the lights because some of the bulbs are out and have been out. She questioned if there is a group that looks at the lights before they are put up to see if the bulbs can be replaced.

Mr. Lloyd Childree, Governmental Affairs Director with Waste-Pro, stated most of them deal with Mr. Greg James when there is a local situation. He said with Christmas coming up he will leave his business card in case they need something expedited. Chairman Lockley asked him to leave his contact information with Mr. Moron and he will forward it to the Commissioners.

## **Department Directors Report**

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

#### 5. Report

Mr. Nabors said he does not have a report. Commissioner Boldt stated he appreciates the work being done in his district.

### **Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis**

Mr. Moron said Mr. Davis had a family medical issue and is out today but did not have a report for the Board.

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

Mrs. Brownell read the following item for the Board's consideration:

#### Action Items

6. I would like to discuss the options regarding cost of Repairs vs Cost of Mitigation and Repair. County is responsible for 12.5% of total cost. 12.5% of

Repair (\$419,653.50) cost \$52,456.69 vs 12.5% of Mitigation (\$1,381,067.00) cost \$172,633.37.

**Board direction** on C30 West Repair vs Mitigation FEMA project.

Mrs. Brownell reported she talked with Mrs. Griffith and the funds are available. Mrs. Griffith explained there is \$1.66 million in the current budget year available in the Road Paving Fund for future paving projects. She stated the Board will have to decide if they want to go into mitigation. She explained they can bear the cost of the repair but the mitigation was the higher amount. Mr. Pierce said the county needs to do the mitigation because this is a high bluff and the area will wash out again if there is another storm. He explained if the county has a small storm and there is no federal money and this area washes out then the county must pay for all the repairs. Mr. Pierce stated now is the time to fix the road properly even if it costs 12.5%. He reported the county has \$750,000 from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and Alligator Point will not use the entire amount unless something goes wrong with the project. He said once they sign the contract for the work at Alligator Point they will know how much is left over for this project. Mr. Pierce reported the second funding source is Commissioner Parrish's share of the gas tax money for his district. He explained they did the same thing with Commissioner Boldt using some of his money to put the surface down at Alligator Point. He explained Florida may meet the threshold and qualify for a 90-10 match for the disaster and then the county's share would only be 5%. He said this may take a long time so they could use the Road Paving Money and the extra DEO money once the Alligator Point project is resolved. Commissioner Boldt asked if the Commissioners mix their money and offer money to other districts. Mr. Pierce said road paving is expensive so they allocate an equal amount of money to each district and generally they do not share the money. Mrs. Griffith stated right now there is about \$332,000 per district. Commissioner Boldt said this project would reduce the whole pot of money. Mr. Pierce explained the money is traditionally spent by district. Commissioner Parrish said they need to do mitigation on this project and the main reason is to prevent further erosion. He agreed if there is a tropical storm and this area is washed out the cost will be borne strictly by the county. Commissioner Parrish said right now they have FEMA help to get this road fixed. Commissioner Parrish explained he met with Mr. Pierce and Mrs. Brownell and he is fine with paying this out of his road paving funds but it will severely deplete the road paving fund for District 4. He suggested half of the money for the match should come out of the DEO money and the other half out of his district's road paving share. He stated if they are short on the Alligator Point Project then the shortage can come out of Commissioner Boldt's share of the road paving funds. Commissioner Parrish reported it will still take \$90,000 out of his road paving money and \$90,000 out of the DEO money which will still allow \$660,000 to go towards Alligator Point Road. Mr. Pierce explained the contract is \$4.7 million and that would cover the match. Commissioner Parrish reported both of these roads are county roads and both were severely damaged by the storm. Commissioner Parrish explained he is concerned because if someone runs off the C.R. 30 road in that area they will fall 20 feet. He stated it will still be a while before it is done but he wants to move forward. He said they will know about the money when they get the bids. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to move forward with this project and go out for bids.**

Mrs. Brownell reported they received the official letter from the state approving the County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the CEMP.**

Mrs. Brownell stated she will be in Tallahassee Wednesday-Friday for current issues for emergency management. She reported she will be talking with mitigation about pushing their budget forward especially these projects so they know how soon FEMA can obligate the money to move these projects forward.

## 7. Report-Information Items

Mr. Pierce read the following items from his report:

16.

- b. Provide the Board with an amendment I sent to FDEM regarding the loss of revenue at Weems Hospital because of Hurricane Michael. At the last Board meeting, I provided the Board with a loss of revenue statement from Mr. David Walker which I sent on to the state. On Monday, November 25, Mr. Walker provided me with an evaluation of additional revenue losses at Weems and that same day I sent the revised loss figures to FDEM. The total revised loss for Weems is some \$1.1M.

FDEM staff informed when I sent it up that it might be too late for consideration, but they said they would try. The FDEM allocation of funds is \$25M and by my calculation there is more than \$25M loss of revenue in the counties impacted by Hurricane Michael. I asked FDEM staff how the funds were going to be allocated and she said that decision has not been made yet.

Mr. Pierce stated Mrs. Brownell may hear about this request while she is in Tallahassee.

- c. Alligator Drive Update- Additional information to be provided on Monday, Dec. 2.

Rep. Shoaf had tried to schedule a meeting for Dec. 2 with FDOT, the Federal Highway Safety Administration staff, and FEMA representatives to discuss Alligator Point but some of the people requested by Rep. Shoaf could not make that date, so Rep. Shoaf is re-scheduling it.

I have been in consultation with Clay Kennedy, Dewberry Engineers, and Joe Morrow, MRD Associates, regarding the timeline for rebuilding Alligator Drive. The Governor has extended the Emergency Final Order for work associated with Hurricane Michael so the county is going to inform FDEP that we expect re-construction to start on Alligator Drive by March 1, 2020. We are still holding the contractor to a 150 day construction time.

Mr. Pierce said this morning FEMA asked for a copy of the contract and he talked with Mr. Kennedy and they are waiting to see what FEMA wants. He stated they claim they are moving on the project.

d. HMGP fund update- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds have been announced by the state. Pam Brownell might have already provided the Board with the number, but Franklin County is eligible to receive some \$5.9M in HMGP funds for qualified projects. Pam will be working on some possible projects but the Board needs to be aware that there is a 25% match for any HMGP project, so there is a local cost to any project the county submits. The School Board and the cities are entitled to ask for some of this money, and if they do they will have to provide the local match.

Because of the high priority of Alligator Point, FCMC has already submitted a grant to purchase some 21 parcels on Alligator Point, and for that first project the state will provide the match so the first phase of acquisition on Alligator Point will not have a cost the county has to cover. At this time offers have not be made to any property owner on the Point so we still do not know whether anyone will accept the valuations FEMA is using.

Mr. Pierce said it works out to about \$200,000 a parcel and he does not think anyone will sell for this amount if that is the average value. He reported some may be old homes and they are interested in selling but some homes are going to be worth more than \$200,000.

While FCMC has written the grant request to purchase the property, FCMC will not be managing the acquisition phase. At this time Pam and I, and her consultant, have discussed her consultant handling the acquisition phase. We had a conference call last week with FCMC, and FCMC is providing Pam's consultant with all the files on the 21 parcels. The HMGP program includes an administrative fee that Pam's consultant would be able to charge for the effort of handling the acquisitions. Pam and her consultant will provide more information on that if it looks like any property owner will actually take the FEMA valuation.

Mr. Pierce stated once the grant application is approved and they get the numbers then they will see if anyone accepts and moves forward. Chairman Lockley asked if they look at appraisals. Mr. Pierce commented FEMA has done internal appraisals based on their factors and that is the number they will offer. He explained there is some variation but they are not coming up with extra money. He stated there are some negotiations but there will not be a big change. Chairman Lockley reported someone appraised them wrong. Mr. Pierce explained some of these may be vacant lots with very low values. He said there is considerable variation in the values. Chairman Lockley asked if the county can help with this. Mr. Pierce stated the county does not have any funding source available for this. He reported they will have to wait and see what the valuations come in as. Chairman Lockley asked how many lots there are. Mr. Pierce answered 21 in this application. Mr. Pierce stated there are approximately 300 houses west of the campground and if they do not solve the road problem these people are not going to be happy and want to leave. Chairman Lockley inquired what they are going to do to solve the road problem. Mr. Pierce reported a Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) needs to be applied out there to provide a funding source so the road can be maintained. He said there are other alternatives and they are looking at them. He reported there may be other ways to stop

the erosion. Mr. Pierce stated beach renourishment with an MSBU is a known way of doing this but it may not be the only way. Chairman Lockley explained they must do something because it will happen again. Mr. Pierce agreed and said it could happen at the ends that were already fixed because those areas are vulnerable. Chairman Lockley said they must start somewhere. Mr. Pierce agreed and stated they need the FEMA money to put the road in. He reported if the county does not get FEMA money to put in the road then they are going to have to discuss alternatives. Chairman Lockley said the road is no good without protection. Commissioner Parrish stated as it relates to hazard mitigation grant funds any project that Mrs. Brownell submits will require a 25% match. He explained they need to come back to the Board before any project is submitted so they can determine where the match is coming from. He stated if they do not have the 25% match then they cannot do the project. Commissioner Parrish reported the school board and cities can apply for these funds but must provide their own local match. He stated some of these projects are within the cities. He said he wants to make sure this comes back to the Board so they know where the 25% match is coming from before they apply for a particular project. Mr. Pierce explained there are ways to mitigate the local match on small projects. He explained he knows the school board is looking at an access road project but the problem is you cannot put in the kind of road you want but must put in the kind of road the federal money requires you to put in. He stated sometimes it becomes a very expensive project. Commissioner Parrish asked if the school board has applied. Mr. Pierce commented it is a discussion that needs to be finished so they know if it will be a mitigation project or not. Chairman Lockley stated they need to put the project in right or the road will wash out. Commissioner Boldt reported it seems to be a conflict because FEMA said to build the road back where it was at Alligator Point and now they are talking about buying 21 parcels landward of the existing road. Mr. Pierce replied no, because when the county proposed buying the lots to try and move the road then FEMA said there was a clause and they could not use the money. He said if they can ever acquire all the property he thinks they can overcome the intermediate level and relocate the road but until they own all the lots they cannot do it. Commissioner Boldt stated they will have the road rebuilt at \$4.7 million and in the future they potentially tear up the road and go backwards. Mr. Pierce expressed his opinion that they will not tear up the road but a hurricane will push it back. He explained if they are realistic the road is at risk for another Hurricane Michael. Mr. Pierce said the way to solve this problem is to put something out there to minimize the wave action on the structure. He explained the problem is the lots are only 100' deep so the most they could move the road is 100'. Chairman Lockley stated if they want to live there they are going to have to help pay for it. Mr. Pierce reported the road at Alligator Point is an extraordinary cost that the county Road Department budget is not prepared to handle. He reported the county spent \$35,000 on repairs after Tropical Storm Nestor and that came out of the Road Department budget. Commissioner Boldt stated in relation to the meeting they are having with Representative Jason Shoaf and DOT one option is to ask DOT to consider taking back the road and what their criteria is to consider it. He said maybe they could offer to exchange a road and take one of their state roads in the area. Chairman Lockley stated the county does not want to take anything the state has. Mr. Pierce pointed out there are very few state highways in the county. Commissioner Jones asked if it is possible to ask the state to consider giving the county a permit to have someone go offshore

and dredge a channel so the water has somewhere to break before it gets to the road. Mr. Pierce explained they had a beach renourishment project planned with a sand source off Alligator Point and they got a lot of grief from the recreational fishing industry because there were tarpon out there and they did not want them messing with the sand shoal. Commissioner Jones stated having a road for their residents should outweigh tarpon fishing.

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

Mr. Lovstrand said he does not have any additional items. He offered to answer any questions about his report. Chairman Lockley asked if they have moved in. Mr. Lovstrand reported they are waiting for the final items to be taken care of by the contractor. He said they are planning to move in December and open to the public after the first of the year. Mr. Moron stated there is a letter from the state asking to extend the funds and he asked Mr. Lovstrand to check on this matter. Mr. Lovstrand said he thinks the contracted funds go through the end of December but the contractor should be finished by then. Chairman Lockley asked Mr. Lovstrand to check on this. Mr. Lovstrand agreed he will check into it.

#### Information Items

#### 8. Report

### **County Extension Activities November 20 – December 3, 2019**

#### General Extension Activities:

- Extension office assisted clientele with issues related to native plants, tree health, and local gardening.
- Work underway on annual report of accomplishments/plan of work, as required by UF/IFAS each year.
- Extension Office renovation project “walk-through” completed and contractor working on 15-day “punch list” items prior to beginning move-in.

#### Sea Grant Extension:

- Extension Director presented to a review panel in Gainesville regarding the sea turtle/beach lighting work done over the past 4 years. This was part of the Florida Sea Grant 5-year review process.

#### 4-H Youth Development:

- 4-H Tropicana speech competition completed at the classroom and school levels. Our County competition will be held in February.
- Franklin County youth won many blue ribbons for their photography exhibits entered in the North Florida Fair competition.

#### Family Consumer Sciences:

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

**Agriculture/Horticulture:**

- Several new Master Gardener students finishing up course being taught by Wakulla CED in Franklin County.

**SunTrail Program -- Debra Preble & John Curtis -- Request (15 minutes)**

Action Items

Ms. Debbie Preble, Kimley-Horne, said she is here to talk about the Franklin County segment of the Capital City to Sea Loop Trail. She explained DOT has a grant program open and they are working with FSU and the St. Joe Company who are supportive of this segment of the trail being constructed because they both have property along the trail footage. Ms. Preble explained the county would need to be the applicant and they have met with staff and are working on the grant application. She reported the paved trail is expected to connect the sidewalks within the City of Carrabelle near Kendrick Park and go along Highway 98 over the Ochlocknee Bridge. She stated the trail will connect to a trail system on the other side of the Ochlocknee Bridge that is not built yet but is under design/construction and should be built before this section is. Ms. Preble said the grant cycle is open and applications are due December 20<sup>th</sup>. She explained they are working to get letters of support and they are asking for a Resolution in support of the grant application and an acknowledgment that the county will be responsible for the minor maintenance. She reported she has done some research on the maintenance and liability issues with respect to the county and the county would be responsible for minor maintenance which includes debris removal, mowing the grass, weed control, litter pickup and graffiti removal if it becomes a problem. She stated DOT will assume the major responsibilities such as resealing, repaving and things that need to be done in 10, 15 or 25 years. Ms. Preble said liability for the portions of the trail that lie within the DOT right-of-way would be assumed by DOT. She went on to say if some portions of the trail are outside of the DOT right-of-way then the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) at DEP have a program that the county could access to take care of the liability for those portions of the trail. She said the county's liability and maintenance costs will be minimal. Ms. Preble said the grant application does not require a local match and they are not submitting it with a local match. She stated the trail is 20.7 miles. Chairman Lockley asked if the trail goes to Alligator Point. Ms. Preble answered no but said there are future plans to include a broader trail network that would eventually go to St. George Island and Apalachicola. Mr. Pierce stated the county is developing a bike trail on Alligator Point through the LAP program but at this point it does not connect. He explained it will start at the marina and work its way towards Highway 98. Ms. Preble said eventually it will connect. Ms. Preble explained the Sea Loop Trail will eventually connect thru Tallahassee to Georgia. She reported the number of miles that will be put together will attract people internationally that want to ride bikes for long distances. She explained it will promote safety as FSU has their campus in Franklin County and it is split by a canal so they have students walking from their



lodging on the shoulder of the road to their classrooms. Ms. Preble stated FSU is expanding and will have more students and instructors at their facility. She reported it will also promote ecotourism and improve transportation choices along the Highway 98 corridor. Chairman Lockley said if the bike path goes through Alligator Point maybe they could put some sand on the beach. Mr. Pierce said the bike path is already designed and he explained the proposed plan. Commissioner Massey asked if there is money in the grant to help the county with the maintenance costs. Ms. Preble replied no. Commissioner Boldt questioned if they should set up money that they will need to maintain this trail. Mrs. Griffith explained this will most likely be handled with the Road Department and Parks & Recreation budgets and when the Board reviews the budgets they will need to consider the added responsibilities. Mr. Pierce reported they are in the design phase and construction of this trail is years away. Ms. Preble agreed construction is a minimum of 5 years away. Commissioner Boldt said this sounds like a group effort and excellent opportunity. Commissioner Jones clarified the SUN Program is Shared Use Non-Motorized. Ms. Preble agreed that is correct. Commissioner Jones stated he wants the public to be aware of what kind of trail they are discussing. He reported this trail will look similar to what is already above Highway 98 in Wakulla County. Ms. Preble answered yes, it will be a 12' wide paved trail. Mr. Moron asked if there is another county they could use as a model to judge what the amount of maintenance costs are per mile. Ms. Preble stated their best judge would be the existing trails they are already maintaining in the county. Attorney Shuler said the county would add this to the insurance policy for liability. Attorney Shuler inquired once the trail is paved does maintenance include repair to the asphalt and resurfacing. Ms. Preble answered no, DOT will assume that responsibility for the portions of the trail that are in the DOT right-of-way. Attorney Shuler inquired about the portions outside the DOT right-of-way. Ms. Preble stated they do not know if there will be sections outside of the DOT right-of-way. She reported there has been some talk about the trail meandering away from Highway 98 in some areas but the county could choose not to do that because of maintenance and liability. She explained there is also the program at OGT where they can get a designation of the trail as part of their trail system and they will help with those areas. Attorney Shuler asked the length of the trail in Franklin County. Ms. Preble responded 20.7 miles in Franklin County including the portion that goes over the bridge so approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile is outside of Franklin County. Attorney Shuler inquired if they know how much of the trail is outside of the DOT right-of-way. Ms. Preble said the majority if not all of it is in the DOT right-of-way. Attorney Shuler questioned if this matter would come back to the Board before they have to assume repair, maintenance or construction costs. Ms. Preble explained the way she is writing the grant application if the grant funds are awarded the money would come to the county and the county would administer the grant and have control over how the funds are spent. She reported the county would choose the engineer to do the design work and they would have input. Ms. Preble reported if the grant is awarded it will be under the county's control. Commissioner Jones said he wants to make the Board aware that Mr. Chris Rietow, Executive Director for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC), serves on the OGT Executive Board. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.** Ms. Preble thanked the Board. She said they are working to get letters of support and are even getting them from Commissioners in

nearby counties. Ms. Preble stated she has some generic letters of support and will wait outside for a few minutes if anyone in the audience would like to sign one.

The meeting recessed at 9:56 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:06 a.m.

**Public Hearing(s)(10:00 a.m.)**

9. The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing, to consider adopting an updated 5-Year Capital Improvements Schedule as part of the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Pierce reported every year the Board adopts the Capital Improvement Schedule which is a wish list for items they would like to see funded for the next 5 years. He explained they add items that they will apply for grants for because they get points on the grant application. Mr. Pierce said Mr. Curenton came up with this list based on conversations he had with the Board but they can add items if needed. Commissioner Jones said on 2021 under Parks & Recreation there is \$150,000 for the St. George Island Lighthouse Park Restroom Renovation and TDC has agreed to pursue a loan to rebuild and reconstruct the restrooms so he would like to remove this item but leave the \$150,000 there for additional parking on St. George Island. Mr. Pierce stated they will rename the project the St. George Island Lighthouse Parking Lot Improvements. Commissioner Jones clarified Parking Lot Improvements in the Business District. Commissioner Boldt reported this is a good guide for 5 years. He said Mr. Curenton probably uses this as a tool to monitor timely grant funding. Mr. Pierce reported that is the value of it. He stated the schedule can be modified at any time but must be done once a year. Chairman Lockley asked for public comment. Commissioner Massey asked if Ryan Drive is included because the culvert pipe needs to be redone. Mr. Pierce questioned if Ryan Drive is in the city or county. Commissioner Massey replied they are still debating who owns the road. Mr. Pierce stated they normally do not list items that are in the cities. He explained the document can be amended when Attorney Shuler makes a determination on ownership of the road. Attorney Shuler reported Ryan Drive belongs to the City of Carrabelle just like 12<sup>th</sup> Street inside the municipal boundaries belongs to the City of Apalachicola. He explained the cities own the roads inside the municipal boundaries unless the county decides to adopt and accept them as a county road and the city agrees. Chairman Lockley asked for public comment again. There was no public comment. Commissioner Boldt asked if the Island View Park should be considered on this list. Mr. Pierce stated that is a FEMA project and no FEMA projects are included on this list because they have separate funding. He explained if they run into a problem with the project then they could add it later. **On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Capital Improvement Schedule.** Attorney Shuler stated in relation to Ryan Drive and 12<sup>th</sup> Street just because the municipalities own the roads does not mean the county cannot help them through grant applications. He said the county's assistance does not mean the county owns the roads

or has accepted ownership of the roads. Commissioner Jones explained the county does this because no one in the municipalities is LAP certified. Attorney Shuler agreed the county has the only LAP certified person needed to apply for the grants. Commissioner Massey stated the county needs to help write the grant to do Ryan Drive. Attorney Shuler said that is a policy decision the Board has to make in conjunction with their administrative staff. Mr. Moron explained if the project meets DOT requirements to be a LAP project then the county will assist in getting this done. Commissioner Massey stated it will not be long before the area caves in. He explained the area has been addressed several times.

## **Weems Memorial Hospital**

### **CEO – David Walker – Report**

Mr. Walker presented his report, as follows:

#### 10. CEO Report

**Weems Annual Hospital Audit** – We are during our Annual Audit and after the Audit is completed, we will ask Carr, Riggs & Ingram to give a presentation to the Board of County Commission with the findings.

Mr. Walker stated this will tell them where they are on the finances and they are looking forward to the report.

**October 2019 Request for Funds Update** – In October 2019, we had anticipated needing additional funding from the County to assist us with our payroll for last month because we had 3 payroll dates. We made our payroll without needing the additional money. Therefore, we did not request it.

Mr. Walker said they are monitoring their expenses to live within their means. He stated he is working on increasing their revenues and minimizing their expenses.

**Managed Care Contracting Update** – We are still in the process of reviewing and renegotiating our Managed Care Contracts. Our current contract rates are low, and we are re-negotiating for higher rates. Blue Cross/Blue Shield has been re-negotiated for better rates.

Mr. Walker reported they are looking at their third party contracts as well.

**Florida Department of Health Office of Rural Health** – The Office of Rural Health assisted us with applying for a grant with the Center for Optimizing Rural Health at Texas A & M University. Texas A & M has a Vulnerable Rural Hospital Assistance Program which offers Technical Assistance to vulnerable hospitals. Notifications of grant awards will be release at the end of December 2019.

**Partnership with Franklin County Health Department** – Will have partnered with the local health department to provide Hepatitis and Rabies Vaccinations.

Mr. Walker said this will allow people to be vaccinated here and not have to go to neighboring counties.

**IT Update** – We need to update our IT equipment and systems. Our IT equipment is very outdated. A more pressing need is to update our email software for protection against phishing and outside threats. We have a quote for \$9,516 to update our email and web protections.

Mr. Walker stated this cost will be taken care of out of the hospital budget.

at FSU College of College of  
Medicine's Rural Health Policy & Research Center. He is interested in partnering with us to jointly apply for federal grants which targets Population Based Health Initiatives in Rural communities.

Mr. Walker said they are looking to expand their outpatient radiology, respiratory, and lab services in Apalachicola. He explained they currently close for business at 4:30 p.m. and are looking to expand until 8:00 p.m. because the technicians are on campus at the hospital. Mr. Walker reported they are looking for additional revenue. He explained one of the things they need to do at the hospital is diversify their funding sources. He reported a portion of the money they receive from the county should be placed in reserves. Mr. Walker stated he will continue to look beyond Franklin County for help for the hospital. Mr. Walker thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve them and the Hospital Board. Commissioner Boldt praised Mr. Walker for pursuing the managed care contracts because that is another way of access to the hospital. He said that will increase revenue because many of the contracts have been stale for years. Commissioner Boldt stated he is pleased that the FSU School of Medicine is actively involved in the county because they add a huge amount of life blood and medical talent that has never been seen in the county. Chairman Lockley reported they can have a session at the hospital. Mr. Walker agreed they want to open up the hospital on whatever they want to partner with them on.

Chairman Lockley asked if he knows when he and Mr. Doug Creamer, Hospital Board Chairman, will have a decision about the hospital. Mr. Walker stated Mr. Creamer wants to make a decision by December or no later than the first of the year.

### **Plant Operations – Nikol Tschaepe – Report**

#### 11. Plant Operations Report

Ms. Tschaepe presented her report, as follows:

New Construction – AHCA Stage II review was completed on November 18, 2019. We are waiting the ACHA letter to be issued.

**Recommended Action:** None/Information item

Ms. Tschaepe stated they do not have the official letter yet but anticipate receiving it soon.

### **SynergyNDS -- Keith Bassett -- Report**

#### 12. Weems Roof Replacement Project Update

Re-roofing project - Keith Bassett with SynergyNDS will provide a MS PowerPoint presentation.

**Recommended Action:** None/Information item

Mr. Bassett said he will review not just Weems Memorial Hospital items but everything Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT) has done for the county since the hurricane. He discussed the emergency stabilization they did and their accomplishments to date. He explained the FMIT Turnkey Recovery Program has teams that come before the storm, ride the storm out at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and then start evaluations as soon as it is safe to help identify what the county would need to get critical infrastructure up and running. Mr. Bassett read the statistics on Hurricane Michael and the damages that occurred. He explained evaluations was being done in real time and Mrs. Griffith was receiving the emails as they were being done. He reported contractors were pre-staged outside of the target zone and as soon as they could get them in they set up a large staging area in Panama City. He said within 48 hours they had generators out to get critical items up and running. Mr. Bassett stated they completed the Franklin County Recycling Center work and replaced one trailer at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. He reported they also performed all the interior repairs on the classroom trailer. Mr. Bassett explained the emergency stabilization at Weems Memorial Hospital cost \$350,000. He reported they secured the roof temporarily, dried it out, got it cleaned up from all the damage and brought in the temporary facilities. He stated that allowed them to keep the hospital open while they did the roof project which kept employees working and kept the medical services here. Mr. Bassett stated by the 13<sup>th</sup> the project will be 100% complete and everyone will move back into the hospital. He said some of the temporary facilities will still be there as there are different lead times for the companies to pick up the structures. Mr. Bassett reported as soon as everyone is back in the hospital then they will start removing these facilities and the county will have a new roof on the hospital. He stated work to date is at \$2.8 million and none of that is a cost incurred to the county. He said the only cost to the county will be the named storm deductibles and that will be reimbursable by FEMA. Mr. Bassett stated the total reimbursable is \$174,953. He explained under the county's policy they have an extra expense endorsement which does not go to the limit of the actual location so Weems Memorial Hospital was insured for up to \$3 million which meant they had up to \$3 million to do repairs. Mr. Bassett stated the extra expense endorsement covered getting all the temporary facilities to keep the hospital open. He reported \$600,000 was spent out of the extra expense endorsement. Mr. Bassett offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Parrish said he received public comments from several different people as to the amount of

work they were doing. He stated the individuals said they were working 7 days a week and late in the evening. Commissioner Parrish reported the public keeps an eye on things and said they put in a lot of hard hours and extra time trying to expedite the project. He stated they have done a good job and they appreciate it. He explained he wanted them to know the public brought this to his attention. Mr. Bassett introduced Mr. Nick Harper who was the day to day field PN on site. He stated Mr. Harper stayed on the contractors to make sure they had a smooth transition from one phase to another and did an excellent job. Mrs. Griffith said they are extremely impressed and grateful to have Synergy on their team because the county could not have done this. She explained they did damage assessments of every damaged location and they were able to use that with the FEMA Project Worksheets (PW's). She said they did the damage assessment, provided an estimate of the value and what repairs were needed and described the damage in every location. Mrs. Griffith pointed out within 2 weeks after the storm someone had visited every location. She reported the county does not have the staff so they do not know how they would have done this work without them. Mr. Moron said he was worried their plan would not work and a month and a half later everyone was pleased with the progress. Chairman Lockley reported he could hear the noise at his house and they were steadily working. Commissioner Boldt said he was impressed to read they stayed with the hospital during the storm. He asked them to hang in as they decide what they will do with a new health care facility and their expertise would be welcome.

#### Information Items

##### 13. EMS Update

#### **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**

Update on the status of the ambulance fleet.

**Recommended Action:** None/Information item

#### **EMS Director -- Richard Lewis -- Report**

Mr. Lewis stated there are 3 primary trucks and 1 is a 2015 model and 1 is a 2016 model and both have surpassed 150,000 miles. He reported they got a new truck so the primary is now 1 of the backup trucks and they are a 2000 model and a 2008 model and both have surpassed 200,000 miles. He stated they are averaging 5,000 miles per month per primary truck and 2,000-3,000 per month per backup truck. Mr. Lewis reported as of November 18<sup>th</sup>, their 2019 Ford F-350 was put into service and stationed in Apalachicola. He explained they have a lead time of 9-12 months from the time they order a truck and they must keep this in mind pending the outcome of the USDA grant. Mr. Lewis asked if the Board has any questions or concerns. Chairman Lockley said the truck has a lift. Mr. Lewis stated the lift provides good safety for the crew and the patient. Commissioner Jones asked if Mr. Lewis could find out for a future meeting if it is possible and what it would take to add the same lift system to all the primary

trucks if they do not currently have it. Mr. Lewis agreed to look into this matter and provide an update on the feasibility.

**Community Action Agency -- Angela Webster -- Report (15 minutes)**

Action Items

Ms. Webster said their agency has assisted with Limerock fire survivors. She reported they originally provided temporary housing for 22 survivors and of those 22 they only have 7 still in camper trailers. Ms. Webster reported they have helped 5 families secure permanent housing and have 12 pending cases. She said of the 12 pending cases there are 4 that are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) eligible contingent upon modifications to mortgages and securing land in compliance with the grant. She explained 5 families are interested in keeping the trailers but they are waiting on appraisals before that can happen. Ms. Webster offered to answer any questions. Chairman Lockley questioned the families keeping the trailers. Ms. Webster explained they will transfer the title to receive a camper as a replacement for the loss of residence. She said campers are what they originally had prior to the fire. Commissioner Parrish stated he does not understand because they cannot live in a camper on a 1 acre lot in Franklin County. He said some have accepted the campers and moved to RV parks and asked if that is what these 5 are planning to do. Ms. Webster replied yes, the requirement is they must show they have space that is legally permitted for campers. Mr. Moron asked Ms. Webster to stay at the meeting while Mrs. Belcher gives her report in case there is some further discussion. Commissioner Jones thanked Commissioner Parrish for asking his question because he had the same question about the legal use of the campers. He stated he knows they are getting closer to helping everyone which was the intent of the Board and he thanked her for part in this work. He explained they want to know where they are with her organization and the amount of donated funds that is left over and that is not on the report. Chairman Lockley stated they are doing a good job.

**CDBG Administrator – Deborah Belcher -- Report (15 minutes)**

Mrs. Belcher presented the following report:

Action Items

14. Current activities: continuing to take and process applications for CDBG housing assistance; taking calls from individuals who are not eligible for assistance; working on site-specific environmental reviews to submit to DEO for clearance; assisting Shelby and Colby Nowling with their new modular home at 275 Smith Street which is now ordered; assisting individuals who do not currently have title to property but might become eligible for CDBG assistance; ongoing administrative and fair housing tasks; and confirming bids for mobile homes.

We received bids from 3 dealers for mobile home replacement, deadline 11/14/2019. The bid package contains the project for Annie R. and William Banks, 638 Ridge Road, which involves replacing a donated mobile home (going

to Jason Millender) with a new CDBG mobile home. This project has been approved by the Board and has DEO environmental clearance. The bid package also contains 4 other mobile home replacements which have not yet been approved by the Board or environmentally cleared by DEO. These bids will not be awarded until/unless the Board and DEO approve, but are being obtained to expedite progress when approved. In addition, the bidders are asked for generic proposals for 2 bedroom and 3 bedroom models with standard set-up situations, and for pricing for additional items, which can be used for upcoming projects.

Bid approval: The 3 dealers who submitted bids for new mobile homes came in fairly close together in pricing. The first contract to be awarded is for Annie Rebecca and William Banks, 638 Ridge Road. Bids ranged from a low of \$73,514.64 to \$91,419.09 for an upscale alternate model. I reviewed the specifications and floorplans to compare the proposals to the bid specifications. The lowest priced model appeared to have poor cabinets and the interior doors are not wide enough for a disabled person (Mr. Banks), which I pointed to the owner. There were 4 proposals in the \$76,028 - \$76,849 range, 1 from Ironwood Homes of Perry, and 3 from Clayton Homes of Panama City. The price differences were so negligible, I presented each proposal to the Banks, with a table showing the various features of each model. Their selection was the Ironwood Homes of Perry proposal, at \$76,335.56, which is the same model that 2 homeowners recently received (Boatwright & Gilbert).

**Requested Action:** Approve CDBG funding for Annie and William Banks in the amount of \$76,335.56, to purchase a new home from Ironwood Homes of Perry. Funding approval shall also include up to \$500 if necessary for changes (to be approved by the County Coordinator or Planner), and funds for the CDBG mortgage recording and tax.

Chairman Lockley asked if this is one of the replacements for the fire. Mrs. Belcher answered yes, this is one the Board approved. She explained they have a home that was donated by a church and that home will go to Mr. Jason Millender whose home burned. She reported Mr. Millender will take care of the set up costs. She said he owns the property and all the arrangements have been made. Chairman Lockley asked if they are in the right zoning. Mrs. Belcher answered yes, the utilities are there and the owners will pay all the costs. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.**

15. Homeowner application approvals: Two more homeowner applications are ready for Board approval. The environmental reviews have been submitted to DEO, and their properties were included in the recent bid package for potential awards. When DEO issues environmental clearances, I will present requests to the Board for approval of CDBG funding for their mobile home purchases.

Kathy Hill, 773 Buck Street, has applied for CDBG home replacement. She is living in her fire-damaged mobile home. She recently received the quit-claim deed from her husband, following their divorce. She is apparently eligible for



CDBG mobile home replacement.

**Requested Action:** Approve the application for a new mobile home for Kathy Hill, 773 Buck Street, subject to final verifications and DEO environmental clearance.

Mrs. Belcher explained this environmental review has been submitted but she does not have it yet. She reported her home was included in the bid package. She stated when they get the environmental clearance she will bring this back for approval of the funding. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve the application. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked since this was a divorce he wants to know what they need to do so they are not liable for buying 2 trailers. Attorney Shuler verified the facts with Mrs. Belcher. He asked if she has discussed this with the applicant. Mrs. Belcher responded yes and said the husband has not resided there for some time and she does not think he was residing there at the time of the fire so he was not displaced. She explained they had other property and split the property so she is the owner of this property and he is the owner of the other property. Attorney Shuler asked if the property she received in the divorce is the property inside the fire zone. Mrs. Belcher replied yes and the property that had their mobile home on it and the other property did not. Attorney Shuler reported he has a lack of information but it sounds like they resolved this matter between them as to who gets the property and receives the free trailer. He said they will deal with this when it comes up if he requests a second trailer. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

16. Mary Louise Thomas, 633/645 Ridge Road, has applied for CDBG home replacement. She is living in a camper with her husband and baby grandson. She is eligible for CDBG mobile home replacement, although her ex-husband (Kelley A. Shiver) still owns the land with her. I recommend a modified CDBG mortgage between Thomas and the County, which Shiver would not be party to, and the mobile home provided for Thomas only. If the County wants more enforceable security, the new mobile home could be titled to the County until the CDBG mortgage expires or is paid off, which is normal for financed mobile home purchases.

**Requested Action:** 1. Approve the application for a new mobile home for Mary Louise Thomas, 663/645 Ridge Road, subject to final verifications and DEO environmental clearance. 2. Provide direction on type of security arrangement to obtain.

Mrs. Belcher stated mortgages are not normally done with one party and not the other and she is not sure if they can record a mortgage that is securing her interest in the property and not encumbering him. She explained the county could decide when they buy the mobile homes to show the county as the mortgage holder and then the county could transfer the title to the owner when the mortgage is completed. She reported they would then hold title on the mobile home and not the actual property. Attorney Shuler stated if they did not resolve the property then her husband has an undivided ½ interest as a tenant in common and she has a ½ interest as a tenant in common. He said he does not recommend the county take back a chattel

mortgage on the trailer and not the real property because the owner on the title is responsible for what happens on the inside. He explained many times in real estate transactions both parties sign the mortgage but only one person signs the promissory note. Attorney Shuler stated then the ex-husband does not have an obligation to pay the note. Attorney Shuler asked how long the CDBG mortgage is for. Mrs. Belcher answered 10 years. Attorney Shuler questioned if they each have housing now. Mrs. Belcher said Ms. Thomas is in a camper with her husband and grandchild. Attorney Shuler asked what they have done to try to resolve the ownership with the ex-husband. Mrs. Belcher said she has not been able to communicate with him. Attorney Shuler reported they do not want a chattel mortgage and they should go back and make another attempt to get a proper mortgage. He said if they cannot resolve this issue then they could have her mortgage her ½ interest. Attorney Shuler explained if they ever foreclosed the county would be a half owner with the other party and there are remedies to take care of that. He suggested they go forward with a standard mortgage. Commissioner Parrish asked if there is a requirement in this program that they maintain ownership of the property. He said there are rules and they cannot hold people to different standards or make exceptions for everyone. Commissioner Parrish stated he does not want the county to own the trailer and be liable for what happens. Commissioner Parrish explained he thought some people were turned down because they did not own the property. Mrs. Belcher agreed some of them did not own the property at all but Ms. Thomas is one of the owners. Commissioner Parrish said they drafted the rules before they started the program and people must comply to enter the program. He stated if they do not meet the rules then they do not qualify. He expressed concern that every time this comes up they are wanting to change the rules and that is not fair. Mrs. Belcher said she will ask Ms. Thomas to make another attempt to get a quit claim deed from her ex-husband or his agreement to sign the mortgage. She explained using a non-occupant owner mortgage. Chairman Lockley said it is best to go by the rules. Commissioner Parrish stated the owners of the property need to work out these issues. Commissioner Massey asked if the ex-husband lives in Eastpoint. Mrs. Belcher answered no, he does not live in the county anymore. Commissioner Massey stated Ms. Thomas needs to try and contact him and get the property in her name. Mrs. Belcher agreed to work on this matter. She explained she is working on another one that is also an ownership situation.

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

Clerk Johnson did not have a report.

Mr. Moron asked if they can allow Ms. Dorris Evans, Small Business Administration (SBA), Office of Disaster Assistance, to provide an update. He explained she was going to be here this morning to speak during Public Comments but they closed the road between here and Panama City this morning. The Board agreed to let Ms. Evans speak. Ms. Evans reported she has been assigned to do outreach in Franklin County and contiguous counties as a result of Hurricane Dorian that came through the area from August 28th-September 9th. She said the Governor of Florida requested disaster assistance in regard to damages. Ms. Evans reported the declaration covered 26 counties and 19 contiguous counties for economic assistance (working capital) only. She explained Franklin County is one of the primary counties and that is why she is here

reaching out to the businesses and non-profits that may have been affected. She reported they are eligible to borrow from the SBA federal disaster low interest loan program working capital and the deadline is August 13. Ms. Evans stated she has visited their offices and left information for them. She said they have also reached out to the chambers and cities. Ms. Evans explained businesses that were affected can borrow up to \$2 million. She emphasized it is only for working capital and not physical damages. She stated the other counties she is reaching out to are Gulf, Liberty and Wakulla. Commissioner Boldt asked what the average interest rate is on an SBA loan. Ms. Evans responded the average interest rate on this type of loan which is an economic injury loan is 4% and they get up to 30 years to pay it back. Chairman Lockley said they appreciate the information.

**County Coordinator – Michael Morón – Report**

Mr. Moron offered his report, as follows:

17. Action Items

- A. Workforce Agreement: Attached to the agenda packet is CareerSource Modification To Worksite Agreement. The original agreement, that allows the placement of CareerSource funded workers within different County departments to assist with Hurricane Michael recovery, has expired. The modification will extend the end date of the agreement to September 30, 2020 or until funds are no longer available.  
**Request:** Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the CareerSource Modification To Worksite Agreement.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman's signature on the CareerSource Modification to the Worksite Agreement.**

- B. Ward Park Security Cameras: At a recent meeting the Board authorized the installation of a security access system control system at the Olan "Buddy" Ward Seafood Landing Park and requested that I get additional quotes for security and camera CCTV systems for any of our parks, boat ramps, or other locations that have been burglarized or are open to vandalism and burglary. This action was based on an attempt to enter and burglarize the museum building at the Seafood Landing Park. I have received two CCTV security system proposals for the park that I am currently reviewing, and if the Board is willing, I would ask for approval to spend up to \$5700 to purchase the equipment and have the CCTV security system installed at the park. I should complete my review by week's end and would like to have the vendor order the equipment prior to the Board's next meeting. The project cost will be paid from the Parks and Recreation budget.  
**Request:** Board action to authorize up to \$5700 for the purchase and installation of a CCTV security system at the Olan "Buddy" Ward Seafood Landing Park.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize up to \$5,700 for the purchase and**

**installation of a CCTV security system at the Olan "Buddy" Ward Seafood Landing Park.**

Commissioner Parrish asked about a system for Abercrombie Boat Ramp. Mr. Moron said he is doing these one at a time. Commissioner Parrish stated they have been waiting over a year and the Board has already voted to spend the funds so he is ready to get moving. Mr. Moron agreed to get this done.

- C. Animal Control Meeting: The City of Carrabelle has requested a meeting to discuss the Board's request to have each City contribute \$3500 this budget year and \$7000 next budget year along with redirecting all animal control calls to their local police department. Once their police officer responds to the call he will determine if the County's Animal Control officer is needed. This request is based on the County's Animal Control Officer spending so much time in both cities, that the Board was forced to add a part-time officer to its department. In addition, the Animal Control Officers are responding to calls that are actually human conflict issues that result in threats to the Animal Control Officer. Are there any specific items the Board would like me to discuss at this meeting? The meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 6 at 10am here in my office and the City of Apalachicola is invited to attend.

**Request:** Board discussion and direction.

Chairman Lockley said they either need to get on board or get their own officer. Mr. Moron said this Board wants a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to continue with the current coverage and they contribute this amount of money and their police departments will respond first and then contact the animal control officers. He asked if that is still the same. Chairman Lockley answered yes. He stated the Board wrote a letter saying what they were offering and if they do not want this then they can get their own officer. Commissioner Parrish explained the original discussion was the county is hiring another officer because they are getting so many calls from within the municipalities. He said if each city contributes \$3,500 that is only \$7,000 and that is not enough to hire a part-time animal control officer. Commissioner Parrish reported a county employee starts at \$25,000. Mr. Moron agreed and said the part-time officer salary was \$14,000. Commissioner Parrish said he does not see how the cities can provide their own officer and this service for the amount of money the county requested. He stated he has been on calls with the animal control officers in Apalachicola and seen how they are berated and that is the reason they want the officers to respond. He went on to say the police officers do not respond and the animal control officers cannot arrest anyone and are in harm's way. Commissioner Parrish stated the officers of the two municipalities should respond and help diffuse the situations. He explained if they do not believe him then they should ride with the animal control officers and see the abuse they receive. Commissioner Parrish reported if the cities do not respond and the county goes back to the original ordinance and only responds outside the municipalities he does not think the cities can pay for the officer, truck, and a place to take the animals. He pointed out the county is still paying more than half of the salaries for the animal control officers. Commissioner Parrish said it is a very nominal fee to have the county provide this service. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion if the cities do not accept this proposal then direct Attorney Shuler to draft an ordinance and go back to**

**responding only outside of the cities.** He explained he does not want this ordinance adopted until they conduct this meeting but he wants to be prepared and not push this out 2-3 months. He stated the police officers must respond but they do not want to because of human conflict. **Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked Commissioner Parrish to include that both cities get a copy so they know what is going on. Commissioner Parrish said they are supposed to be at this meeting and there must be a public hearing to adopt the ordinance. Commissioner Boldt asked if the Humane Society would have any interest in amending the animal control officer's activities. Mr. Moron responded no, there are two different agencies and one is government and one is private. He stated the animal control officer is bound by the ordinance. Commissioner Jones reported when they have this meeting with the City of Carrabelle make sure they know if the Board is agreeable that when they speak of animal control they are talking about domestic animals and no other animals. He stated there are some situations they do not need to put any of their officers in. Commissioner Jones said they are asking the city police officers to respond within the cities but are they having the Sheriff's Department respond outside the cities. Mr. Moron agreed they should respond.  
**Motion carried; 5-0.**

- D. Census Committee Meeting: The first Census Complete Count Committee meeting was held on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. Representatives from the City of Apalachicola, Franklin County Schools, and different committee members were part Ms. Evelyn Ramirez of the U.S. Census Bureau training presentation. There was a lot of valuable information along with an eye-opening question and answer segment that showed how important the census count is to county and school district funding. What is needed on the committee is members from different unincorporated areas of the county that could assist with focusing on areas where residents did not complete the online census survey. You were probably contacted by the Committee Chair, Mrs. Pat O'Connell, about suggesting a member from your district to serve. If you have someone to suggest today let me know at the end of today's meeting or you may contact Mrs. O'Connell late this week.

**Request:** Board recommendations for the Census Complete Count Committee.

Mr. Moron explained they are going to get a card in the mail with a pin to go on the computer and fill out the survey. He reported if they do not fill out the survey online then someone will visit their home. He stated they need people in each area to tell them how to focus on the group of people that will not go online to complete the survey. He said they could hold days at the library to have people come in and complete they surveys because the census equals money for the county. Mr. Moron reported the Commissioners were contacted by the Chair Mrs. O'Connell to suggest a member from their districts. He stated if the Commissioners have a member to suggest today they can let him know or contact Mrs. O'Connell. Commissioner Parrish asked if they can run this in the newspaper so the citizens know how important it is to fill out this information. He said there should be public service announcements on the radio. Mr. Moron reported there are advertisements that Ms. Ramirez will send them that can be sent to the newspaper and radio station. Commissioner Parrish asked why she is not sending these advertisements. Mr. Moron stated that is what the Census Complete Count Committee does.

Commissioner Parrish inquired what Ms. Ramirez does. Mr. Moron said she goes to 12 counties and trains the committees. Mr. Moron explained at some point the Committee will approach the Board for a small budget and most of it will go to advertising. He estimated the budget will be approximately \$5,000. Commissioner Parrish questioned who is paying the people going to the houses. Mr. Moron responded the federal government. Mr. David Adlerstein, a member of the Apalachicola Census Committee, stated the Chair of their committee is Ms. Pam Richardson and they have met a couple of times. He explained they are trying to coordinate in the middle of March or April at Holy Family to set up computers and have a Census Count Day Program to get people to come out and they will assist them. He reported they hope to work with the county committee to get a joint statement out. He reported he will be covering this for the newspaper. Chairman Lockley asked about the City of Carrabelle. Mr. Moron said they have their own committee. He stated they are all hoping to work together which will also help with the budget. Commissioner Jones said he talked with Mr. Billy Fuentes, Eastpoint Water & Sewer District, and they can add some wording about the census to their water bills for Eastpoint and St. George Island. He stated if they are going to have something at the libraries then this would be a cheap way to advertise. Mr. Moron reported Mrs. O'Connell has people in different areas to help and this is a good idea. Commissioner Boldt explained it is worth \$14,000 per person that they count so it is important to find everyone. He reported the \$5,000 they spend will be outweighed by the benefit they get long term.

#### Information Items

- E. Duke Energy Light Fixtures Changes: Inform the Board that I received an email from Ms. Kathleen Gardner of Duke Energy that provided an update on lighting changes for several types of light fixtures and one type of light pole. Ms. Gardner email states "The Florida Public Service Commission recently approved an adjustment to the current LS-1 lighting tariff. The adjustment has restricted use of Metal Halide (MH), High Pressure Sodium (HPS) and Sodium Vapor (SV) for existing installations only. Moving forward, only LED fixtures will be installed for new light fixture installations. This transition away from MH/HPS/SV lighting is due to industry changes and customer demand towards more efficient and reliable LED lighting technologies." Her email goes on to explain under what conditions the HPS/MH/SV light fixtures will be replaced instead of repaired and when fiberglass poles will be replaced by aluminum or concrete poles. There will be changes to customer billing once the equipment has been changed. A copy of the email is included in the agenda packet.

#### **Non-Agenda Information Item(s)**

##### 19. Mediacom Rate Increase Letter

Commissioner Parrish said if they increase the rates more people will cancel their service. Mr. Moron agreed their justification for the rate increase is the loss of customers.

- F. Library Part-time Position Advertisement: The Franklin County Library is advertising for a permanent part-time position. A copy of the ad is included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Moron said this position is in Carrabelle. He reported the new Library Director had a lot to accomplish with the recommendations from the labor attorney and learning the day to day management but he will be at one of the upcoming meetings along with Mrs. Kate Aguiar, Library Advisory Board, who will officially introduce him to the Board. Mr. Moron stated he has a meeting with him on Wednesday to see how things are going. Commissioner Parrish asked if anyone has met him. Commissioner Massey answered no, but they want to meet him. Commissioner Massey stated the lady that spoke today was not mentioned during the conversation about the library.

**RESTORE Coordinator – Alan Pierce – Report**

Mr. Pierce read the following item from his report:

a- At the last meeting I made a long report regarding a study to be done on Alligator Point. The study would focus on alternatives to erosion and flood protection besides the standard beach renourishment approach. The Board voted to allow the ARPC to do the study. In the final hours of putting together the documents, FDEP announced that their share of the funds could not go directly to the ARPC but would have to come to the county. The total project is \$59K, and FDEP is paying \$36,323.

All parties still want to see the project move forward, and ARPC still wants to do the study, so I now recommend the Board make an application to FDEP consistent with the scope of work ARPC has already submitted for \$36,323, and that upon award of the grant the Board allow the ARPC to do the work. The county would receive the FDEP funds, and then reimburse ARPC when the work is done. As the Board may recall, the FDEP work has to be done by April of next year so this is a short term project.

The rest of the study will be funded directly to the ARPC by the Cooperative of Alabama and Mississippi Sea Grant programs.

Board action to submit a grant application to FDEP for \$36,363 to fund the study the ARPC has agreed to do.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to submit a grant application to FDEP for \$36,363 to fund the study the ARPC has agreed to do.**

Mr. Pierce reported he and Mr. Clay Kennedy, Dewberry, were on the telephone with FEMA regarding Alligator Point. He stated they are trying to get something done and they may be on Alligator Point tomorrow trying to look at the scope of work one more time. He said the man coming down may be the person who signs off on the scope of work. Mr. Pierce stated when they were here before they had 3 different scopes of work depending on the different storms and he hopes that has been resolved.

Mr. Pierce reported in relation to the water wars The Wall Street Journal has an online edition and Mr. Ricky Banks, a resident of Eastpoint, is quoted on his opinion on the water wars. He

stated the article also confirms the State of Florida is now approaching the water wars as a battle against agricultural water and the southern farmers in Georgia.

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

#### Action Items

Attorney Shuler brought into discussion the contract to administer the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP) Grant for \$1.2 million. He stated there is a 15% administrative portion to the grant that will be used to pay both for the administration of the grant and certain costs associated with the grant. He explained it became apparent that there needed to be a new contract with Ms. Lori Switzer, SHIP Administrator, for her to administer the new grant. He reported he has prepared this contract and discussed it with Ms. Switzer and emailed a copy to the Board. Attorney Shuler presented the contract for consideration and recommended approval. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this contract.**

#### **Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Jones invited the Commissioners to the first annual Lighting of the Palms on St. George Island this Thursday. He reported the parade will line up at 4:30 p.m. and everything will start after that. He stated the next day the Eastpoint Christmas Parade will line up behind Seller's Plaza at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Jones said Apalachicola had some events after Thanksgiving and Carrabelle will be celebrating in the middle of the month. Commissioner Boldt stated the celebration last Friday in Apalachicola was wonderful and was standing room only.

Commissioner Boldt said he is beginning to think about Alligator Harbor and the oyster leases in his district. He reported the state sold leases and made money but the infrastructure has never been considered to support the leases. He questioned where the boat ramps are and the opportunity to facilitate seeding of the oysters. Commissioner Boldt said he is thinking about how the state can help them with improving infrastructure. Commissioner Boldt explained at Sun and Sand there are a lot of commercial fishermen going to their oyster leases and the traffic is overflowing onto the highway and some of them have received tickets. He suggested a tag technique where they have a window sticker that designates them as a commercial oysterman different than a recreational person. Chairman Lockley said they always come in and do a study and make money but if they had studied the situation they would have had room for parking and facilities. He reported the state knew this would happen. He referenced the presentation about the trail this morning and said the county will have to maintain the walkway. Chairman Lockley questioned why the state cannot maintain the trail if they have a prison system with inmates. He said the county will have to hire someone to maintain this area because it is not in their budget. Chairman Lockley reported these things should be in the studies just like with the leases they knew people would need somewhere to park. Mr. Pierce stated the county offered the state two different options and they have not responded to either. He explained the first one is the old FSU Marine Lab at Alligator Point that is closed and could be opened to the public. He reported the second option is to come back on Highway 98



and request some land from St. Joe Company and build a boat ramp. Commissioner Boldt said they could also get some land from the Mormons. Commissioner Boldt stated maybe they did not get the letter and the county should send another one. Mr. Moron said they acknowledged the letter but there were people that did not want it there and they contacted their legislative representatives. He reported a representative from DACS said the people there do not want it there so they are not pushing it. Commissioner Boldt agreed he is hearing this in his district. Commissioner Parrish stated the people on Alligator Point do not want oyster boats down there. He explained they really do not want anyone there because there is no parking or facilities for them. He went on to say they do not want a park built either because that will attract people there. Commissioner Parrish reported the state issued the leases after the county opposed it. He explained one of the reasons the county opposed it was because there is no infrastructure there. Commissioner Parrish reported the state created the problem and they need to build a boat ramp and parking to solve it. He said the county needs to send a demand letter and tell them to correct their own problem and let them maintain the boat ramp. He stated it is not the county's responsibility to straighten this out. Commissioner Parrish said they do not need to write a letter asking for the FSU Marine Lab but if the state wants to open the FSU Marine Lab that is between the state and the citizens of Alligator Point not the county. He stated in relation to the proposed zoning change at Alligator Point, he received a lot of emails and none of them want the hatchery. Commissioner Boldt said the state needs to look at these issues and what happens when they do not provide the infrastructure. He asked if there is any other area in the county where the state has done something like this and not provided the infrastructure to support it. Chairman Lockley stated they sold licenses for wild caught oysters and did not provide enough shells to put back. Mr. Moron said in relation to the other leases on this end of the county they assumed they could use county parks. Mr. Moron stated DACS said they just issue the license and are not responsible for infrastructure. Chairman Lockley asked what the charge is for the license. Commissioner Massey replied \$10,000 per acre. Chairman Lockley asked how many leases there are. Commissioner Parrish said 48 right now. Chairman Lockley questioned what they are doing with the money. Mr. Pierce estimated the cost of the lease is about \$500 but the cost of the equipment is more. Commissioner Massey reported someone bought the leases from the state and then sold them for \$10,000 apiece.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

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Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts