

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

**JUNE 16, 2020**

**9:00 AM  
MINUTES**

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

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

**Call to Order**

- A. *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 conference call. Those wanting to view the meeting can use the livestream link (<https://www.youtube.com/user/SGIBeachLife>) or go to Forgotten Coast TV's YouTube Page. The livestream feed will promptly start 5 minutes before the meeting commences. Those wanting to participate during "Public Comments" on the agenda should use the conference call system by dialing 1-844-844-0014 and when prompted enter 540166#. Once the "Public Comments" agenda item is completed, the conference call will be disconnected. 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.*

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

**Prayer and Pledge**

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

- B. Approval of BOCC Meeting Minutes:
1. Approval of May 19, 2020 BOCC Meeting Minutes
  2. Approval of June 2, 2020 BOCC Meeting Minutes

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 19, 2020 and June 2, 2020.**

**Payment of County Bills**

C. Bill List for Payment

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

**Public Comments**

*This is an opportunity for the public to comment on agenda or non-agenda items. When you are recognized to be heard by the Chairman, please sign the speaker's log and adhere to the time limit. An individual will be allowed to speak for three minutes whereas a designated representative of a group or faction will be allowed to speak for five minutes.*

Mr. Moron stated there are 2 individuals on the conference call. Chairman Lockley said they will have 3 minutes to speak.

Mr. John Berry, a resident of Alligator Point, reported he would like to see the no parking signs replaced at Alligator Point as they have been removed by the public. He said his understanding is if there is no signage there can be no tickets or towing. He reported Chairman Lockley mentioned the separation of public versus private property at the beach accesses and he would like the status of this matter. Mr. Berry requested the county perform maintenance on the garbage receptacles at the Alligator Point beach accesses as the receptacles are hard to open. He asked when the Carnival and Chip Morrison dune walkovers are going to be removed.

Commissioner Boldt assured the public the Board is not trying to bar the public from public comment. He stated the Board is following the Governor's Executive Order for meetings. He pointed out Wakulla County is still having virtual meetings and the public is not attending their meetings. He said this is a good prudent process because of the virus pandemic. Commissioner Boldt reported the Board welcomes public input and the Board can also be reached by email, telephone and in person. He said people can also reach the Board through the County Coordinator. He stated he looks forward to their comments. Mr. Moron reported according to the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) website only 12 counties have the public attend the Board meetings. Chairman Lockley agreed they are following the Governor's Executive Order. He explained when the Governor tells them something different then they will do something different. Mr. Moron said they must listen to the Governor and the courts. He reported court administration has marked the Courtroom for social distancing. He said the Board will have discussions about how they proceed and the Health Department will be involved in these plans. Chairman Lockley stated just because they are opening gradually does not mean COVID-19 is gone. He reported they must still follow the guidelines. Mr. Moron said on Saturday Florida recorded its highest one day count of positive cases.

**Department Directors Report**

**Superintendent of Public Works – Howard Nabors**

Mr. Nabors said he does not have a report today. Commissioner Jones said they talked about trying to keep up without inmate labor but have they made a complete sweep of the county on grass cutting. Mr. Nabors answered they have and are back in Carrabelle starting over. He explained they are not

cutting the side roads and state areas until they get the inmate labor back unless the Board wants these areas cut. Commissioner Massey asked what prison representatives are saying about getting the inmate crews back. Mr. Nabors said they do not know yet with all the new cases that are occurring. Commissioner Parrish asked how the inmates are supposed to catch the coronavirus if no one is around them. Mr. Nabors reported the inmates pick up trash and cigarette butts so the prison is trying to be on the safe side. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to write a letter to the Department of Corrections (DOC) and cc the warden at the Carrabelle prison saying the county needs the inmates as soon as possible. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley said he does not think the prison will allow this. Commissioner Parrish stated it is his understanding that they let some inmates out to work on Highway 65 with forestry. Mr. Nabors reported that was mentioned but he does not think the inmates have been out yet. He explained in his department there are basically 5 employees trying to keep all the grass cutting and ditches up for the whole county because the equipment operators and truck drivers are going every day. Mr. Moron explained Mr. Davis will also tell the Board how the lack of inmates are affecting his department with keeping the fields up, Solid Waste operations and cleaning the public bathrooms. He pointed out the Parks & Recreation Department also has a 5 member staff. Mr. Davis reported he talked with DOC yesterday and they let 1 of the state crews come out. He said they were talking about some crews coming out in 2 weeks. Commissioner Parrish said in the letter they need to include the importance of inmates to the Solid Waste Department as well as the Road Department. Chairman Lockley asked for some clarification. Mr. Davis explained the DOC inmate squads are supervised by a DOC officer and the county employees are non-DOC. He stated they are worried about the virus and the inmates having contact. Mr. Davis reported they have 1 squad coming out that is supervised by a DOC officer and the county employees must be temperature checked if they are going to have contact with the inmates. He stated as long as the county keeps their employees away from the inmates then everything is okay but they do not want them having contact with the public or the county employees. Chairman Lockley said they must find out where the inmates are working and then the county employees must stay away from the area. Mr. Davis stated that is what he agreed to this morning so they will help with the ballfield today. Chairman Lockley suggested they contact the coaches and tell them not to go there until the inmates are through. Mr. Davis stated civilians are not allowed around the inmates but they are worried about the county employees being around the inmates. Mr. Moron inquired if county employees can supervise the inmates. Mr. Davis stated hopefully they can in 2 weeks. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Nabors said all the county crews are working as hard as they can. Commissioner Massey questioned how long it will be before they build the Road Department building. Mrs. Griffith said they must review the bids and asked if Mr. Nabors can attend a review committee meeting on Thursday at 9:00 a.m. to look at the bids. Mr. Nabors agreed he can attend.

D. Road Department BOCC Report

Information Items:

1. Filled our inmate supervisor position, person hired is Jeremiah Ard.
2. Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled Report

**Solid Waste Director – Fonda Davis**

Mr. Davis said he did not have any items on his report but some things have come up since he has been at the meeting. He reported the garbage cans and dune walkovers were mentioned at Alligator Point during public comments. He stated 2 dune walkovers have already been removed but then they had to

start working to get the ballfields ready. Mr. Davis reported he received a request through Mr. Moron to leave the dune walkover at Carnival and the public would take care of it. He asked the Board to let him know about this dune walkover.

Mr. Davis stated they have a problem on St. George Island at 12<sup>th</sup> Street west next to the Plantation because someone keeps placing flowers and signs on the county right-of-way to keep people from parking there. He said his department will be there again today removing the items. Commissioner Jones reported there is a problem in this area because the sand is soft and people get their cars stuck. He asked Mr. Davis to contact Mr. Nabors after they remove the items and see if some limerock can be placed in this area. Mr. Davis agreed to address this matter.

Commissioner Boldt reported he received information that the Alligator Point Taxpayers Association (APTA) will fund some portable bathrooms in the beach access area at least during this season so the county will not have to pay for that item.

Commissioner Boldt stated he talked with Mr. Davis and some additional trash containers that are not bear proof will be placed at the beach access areas on Alligator Point. He reported the Solid Waste Department will come in before the weekend to make sure the containers are empty and then come back on Monday to empty the containers. Commissioner Boldt said it shows the action from the county and the participation by the citizens. Mr. Davis stated the problem is the trash is not being placed in the trash cans. He said they would like to have some additional bear proof containers but the county does not have the money for those containers right now. He reported some 55 gallon open top containers will be added in this area. Commissioner Parrish inquired if there is a bear problem on Alligator Point by the dune walkovers. Mr. Davis said not that he is aware of. Commissioner Boldt stated they are just speculating. Mr. Pierce reported they had a single bear last year. Commissioner Parrish said he has never heard of that issue at Alligator Point but he knows they have bears near Highway 98. Commissioner Massey stated he thinks the bear on Alligator Point was captured.

Commissioner Jones asked Mr. Davis to check with the City of Apalachicola about their waste oil collection system because he heard the grass has grown up around the system and people are having to go through weeds to access the system. He suggested Mr. Davis check all the sites but said he has not heard anything negative about the sites. Mr. Davis reported the sites in Eastpoint and Carrabelle have more usage based on a report he receives. Chairman Lockley stated this may go back to the City not having any inmate help with grass cutting and cleaning.

E. Solid Waste Directors BOCC Report

Information Item:

1. Right of Way Debris Pickup/Recycle Material Hauled Report

**Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell**

Mrs. Jennifer Daniels, Emergency Management Coordinator, stated Mrs. Brownell apologizes for not being here today but had an appointment. Mrs. Daniels provided the report, as follows:

F. Emergency Management BOCC Report Items:

Action Items:

1. EMPA, EMPG & EMPG-S Agreements were approved and signed at the board meeting on June 2, 2020. FCEM received Agreement Revisions on all three.
  - a. Request the Boards Approval and Signing of the EMPG – Supplemental Agreement Revision.
  - b. Request the Boards Approval and Signing of the EMPG Agreement Revision.
  - c. Requests the Boards Approval and Signing of the EMPA Agreement Revision.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the EMPA, EMPG and EMPG Supplemental Agreement revisions.**

2. Request the Boards Approval and Signing of the Non-Congregate Sheltering (NCS) Plan.

Mrs. Daniels said the Non-Congregate Sheltering (NCS) Plan has been approved by FEMA. She reported the state will pay for the first 7 days of sheltering at hotels and for food. She explained they are trying to find out if the state will also acquire the hotel rooms or the county will need to acquire the rooms. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve and sign the Non-Congregate Sheltering (NCS) Plan. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt asked who will pay for transportation to get the individuals to the facilities. Mrs. Daniels stated the county can apply for FEMA reimbursement for that item. Chairman Lockley asked if this plan is just for people with COVID-19. Mrs. Daniels answered yes. Chairman Lockley questioned what will happen if they have to stay more than 7 days. Mrs. Daniels said that will fall back on the county. Chairman Lockley asked if they have found some places for these individuals to stay. Mrs. Daniels answered no, they are still in the process of looking for some hotels. Chairman Lockley inquired if they are obtaining places in each direction. Mrs. Daniels responded they are planning for all options that are possible. Commissioner Parrish reported FEMA will pay for the first 7 days but if the person has to be quarantined for 14 days will the CARES Act pay for this item as a direct response to COVID-19. Mr. Moron said he will ask tomorrow during the conference call. Commissioner Parrish explained the state is passing items to the county to pay for that are not in the county budget. He said as they move forward there may be other items that fall within these guidelines and the county can utilize the money from the CARES Act.

Mr. Moron read the following item for the Board's consideration:

2. CARES Act Funding: At your last meeting the Board authorized the Chairman signature on a letter of support to Governor DeSantis asking him to consider funding the 55 counties and 410 municipalities that fell below the 500,000-population threshold stipulated by the CARES Act. This week staff was notified that the Governor did in fact fund those counties and municipalities and based on our population (CENSUS!). Franklin County is slated to receive \$528,930 as part of our first allocation and there will be rules about an additional allocation at a later date. Florida Association of Counties and Small County Coalition is still gathering information but recommend creating a spending plan.

Mr. Moron said last night he received notice that FAC is holding a zoom/conference call meeting to explain what they can and cannot do with these funds.

This spending plan cannot consider using any of these funds to replace lost revenue, only needs that qualify as eligible under the Federal Act and the U. S Treasury Guidelines.

Mr. Moron said the county thought they could use these funds for lost revenue but it is not what it is used for.

Apalachicola and Carrabelle are required to seek reimbursement from the County for their spending plans. However, the County is ultimately responsible for the process, administration, and review of all expense requests and for ensuring that the funds are used appropriately. In other words, if the County approves and pays an ineligible expense, the State will take action to have the County repay those funds. All funds must be expended by December 31, 2020. The County should be receiving an agreement from the Florida Department of Emergency Management any day now.

Mrs. Daniels said Mr. Moron should have the electronic version of the agreement they sent yesterday.

This agreement will require review by Mrs. Erin Griffith, the Clerk, Attorney Shuler, Mrs. Pam Brownell, Jennifer Daniels and myself before Board consideration. Since the next regular meeting is scheduled for July 7, which is three weeks away, will the Board authorize the Chairman to sign this agreement after the appropriate review or wait until the next meeting to continue the discussion?

**Request:** Board discussion and direction

Mr. Moron suggested they wait until July 7<sup>th</sup> since the conference call is tomorrow and he will have more information at that time. Chairman Lockley said this is not right because FAC did not pass out the money and he questioned why they are conferencing with the county. He went on to say the state is giving out the money and putting all these items on the county. Chairman Lockley inquired why the state did not send the cities their portion of the money. He reported if the cities spend the money and anything goes wrong the county is responsible. Chairman Lockley said the state should be giving the money out. He questioned why the county should have to guard the cities when they have different rules and regulations. Chairman Lockley said they are supposed to run the county and the cities are responsible for running the cities. He questioned how they determine what amount the cities get. Mr. Moron said he will find out tomorrow on the conference call. He reported FAC is involved because they along with the Florida League of Cities and Small County Coalition helped with the process or the county might not have received these funds. He explained the original intent was for the cities to get their money through the Florida League of Cities and the county to get their money from FAC but that is not what the Governor agreed to. He said the Small County Coalition made sure the small rural counties got their money. Mrs. Griffith explained as far as the coronavirus relief efforts with FEMA so long as they are under a Local State of Emergency (LSE) those are the items they have already requested reimbursement for through FEMA. She reported this is a large amount of money that is also related to the coronavirus response efforts but she is not sure how much this is going to help because they have already filed through FEMA for these expenditures. Mrs. Griffith was not sure how many more expenditures the county would have but she did not think it would be anywhere near the amount that has been approved for the county or the cities. Mrs. Griffith reported what the county needed was help with the loss of revenue. She stated money to make up for the loss of sales tax

revenue would have been monumental but this additional funding is on top of the funding they already have. Chairman Lockley said the cities or the county could make a mistake but the county has to pay the money back and that is not right. He suggested FAC could be over the program to make sure it was done right. Mr. Moron stated what worries him is the responsibility for making sure the request is right and that the funds are spent correctly is on the Finance Department and some of the county staff but the county is responsible for everyone. Mr. Moron said there were some questions from the city about how the money could be spent but it must be COVID related. Chairman Lockley reported some of their employees and the attorney have to stop what they are doing and go through these requests and he asked who will pay for that. Commissioner Boldt asked Clerk Johnson if she has staff to monitor these monies. Clerk Johnson stated they will try to do what they can. Commissioner Boldt inquired if there is a fee the Clerk can get for deploying and monitoring the money going to the cities. Mr. Moron said they are asking about administrative fees. Chairman Lockley stated they will need a person watching this full time because they have to go through every request to make sure it is correct. Mrs. Griffith stated they also have to make sure the request has not been reimbursed from another FEMA reimbursement. Chairman Lockley asked Mr. Moron to explain that the county does not have the staff a big county has to monitor these funds. He said the county will need more workers. Commissioner Parrish reported they have a committee set up with Mrs. Griffith, Attorney Shuler and Mrs. Brownell to review the invoices and make sure the expenses are paid correctly and he has faith in the committee but does not envy them this job. Chairman Lockley stated he has faith in the committee but he does not believe in putting extra work on them when the Governor could have done something different. Mr. Moron said they need to come up with an appropriate spending plan and then they can compare the requests for money to the spending plan. Mrs. Daniels stated when the county files for reimbursement from FEMA for COVID they are still responsible for the 12 ½% so maybe the funds can be used to pay the 12 ½%. Attorney Shuler explained he will not be a member of the review committee but will provide legal advice to the committee.

**Motion carried; 5-0.**

Commissioner Parrish asked about a motion for the item Mr. Moron addressed. Mr. Moron stated he could take some direction to put it back on the July 7<sup>th</sup> report but they do not need to take any action today. He questioned if they want to wait and hear more information before the Chairman signs the agreement. Mr. Moron explained there will be an agreement coming from the state and then they need to create a spending plan. He stated they must then decide how to put the spending plan in affect to cover the cities and private businesses. Mr. Pierce said they will have a better idea how to handle this on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Lockley recommended the Board ask FAC to go back to the Governor and send the cities their part of the money. He questioned how they decide who gets what portion of the money. Commissioner Boldt agreed this is a burden on the county. Chairman Lockley said in the letter they need to ask the Governor to change this because it is putting too much on the small counties. Mr. Moron stated after the meeting he can draft a letter and send a copy to each Commissioner individually and they can call and discuss it with him individually.

Commissioner Jones reported in relation to the monies that have finally been awarded to redo the Eastpoint Fishing pier and to mitigate it, he would like to coordinate with Mrs. Daniels, Mr. Davis and Mr. Clay Kennedy, Dewberry, about the scope of work so everyone knows what is being done. He explained then when they get the bid package it will be ready to go. Commissioner Jones suggested

they meet next week so they could get the project ready to go out to bid. Mrs. Daniels stated she will send an email to everyone setting up the meeting.

Attorney Shuler said he approved the final revisions on the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) design contract with Dewberry yesterday so they will be circulating a clean version for signature.

Chairman Lockley asked when Mrs. Brownell will be back. Mrs. Daniels replied tomorrow. Chairman Lockley stated they have a problem with the hiring situation and they need to talk to her. Mrs. Daniels said they are in the process of re-advertising the position and the close date will be June 25<sup>th</sup>. She explained they advertised the position and offered the position to 3 people but they all turned down the position because the salary is not enough. Chairman Lockley asked how many people applied. Mrs. Daniels responded 7. Chairman Lockley stated he does not understand why they did not go down the line. He questioned what happens to the people that applied before and were not interviewed. Mrs. Daniels said they interviewed all 7 applicants. Mrs. Daniels explained they interviewed 7 and 3 were offered the job and turned it down. She reported of the 4 applicants that were left 2 will re-apply, 1 does not live in the county and 1 could not guarantee being on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Chairman Lockley asked if those applicants will be re-interviewed. Mrs. Daniels answered yes, that is the plan. Chairman Lockley said he would like Mrs. Brownell to be at the next meeting because he heard a test was administered to the applicants. Mrs. Daniels stated they gave a skills test during the interview and the test was forwarded to Mr. Moron. She described the test for the Board. She stated prior to doing the interviews she took the skills test to see how long it would take and it took her 20 minutes and she is familiar with the work so they gave each applicant 45 minutes to take the test. Mrs. Daniels reported 1 person that applied for the position was able to complete the skills test. Chairman Lockley asked if the state requires this test. Mrs. Daniels answered no. She reported they contacted Mr. Leonard Carson, labor attorney for the county. She reported they are getting requests from other Emergency Management Offices for a copy of the skills test to use for hiring in their counties. Chairman Lockley questioned why this was not sent to the Board for approval and to let them know they were going to add this item. Mrs. Daniels stated she did not know it needed to go to the Board. Chairman Lockley said they need to know about anything that was not there before. Mrs. Daniels apologized for not knowing. She stated when she and Mrs. Tress Dameron were hired there was a skills tests so she did not think they needed to tell the Board about the test. Mrs. Daniels stated they will make sure to let them know next time. She reported the test has been sent to Mr. Moron and Mr. Carson. Chairman Lockley asked how long the interview takes. Mrs. Daniels said she gives the applicants 45 minutes to take the skills test and then another 15 minutes to go over some information so they schedule the interviews 1 hour apart. Chairman Lockley said he would like to talk to Mrs. Brownell.

#### Information Items

3. FCEM received an email from the State regarding the Cares Act. We have forwarded the email to Erin in Finance and have attached the information for the Board to review.
4. Franklin County EOC has been working with FDEM (Florida Division of Emergency Management), FEMA, and DOH (Department of Health) to update our existing Shelter Plans. These updates will address the COVID-19 issues and the unique sheltering requirements needed to protect individuals. The Non-Congregate Sheltering Checklist and Non-Congregate Shelter Request Letter are items needed for these updates. EOC Staff met with FDEM Recovery & NCS Staff on 06/11/20.



5. EOC Staff are working diligently with DOH Staff regarding the COVID-19 virus. This includes hosting meetings with representatives from DOH, Sheriff's Department & Weems, EMS, Conference Calls, pushing out messaging from DOH on Facebook and our EOC Website.
6. EOC Staff continue to participate in conference calls (Approximately 10 calls weekly) with the State DEM, Region 2, DOH, FEMA, etc. regarding COVID 19. We also continue to update WebEOC with missions for PPE, Local State of Emergency, and Sit-Reps.
7. EOC is in the process of re-advertising for the SPN Coordinator/Office Admin position.
8. FCEM Staff continues to work on FEMA reimbursement claims from Hurricane Michael. (Please see the Attached Report regarding Hurricane Michael Projects). This includes working with FEMA staff regarding mitigation of damaged parks, roads, etc. Mitigation takes some time but EOC Staff continue to work diligently with FEMA Staff on the most beneficial repairs for Franklin County. Attached is an update of FEMA projects. EOC Staff has begun the FEMA reimbursement claim process for COVID 19.
9. Franklin County EOC monitored Tropical Storm Cristobal updates, conference calls, and webinars. Messaging and updates were distributed through Alert Franklin, Facebook Post, Website Updates, etc.
10. EOC Staff participated in FEPA Certification Commission call on 06/05/20.
11. EOC Staff participated in the Hurricane Sheltering Management Demonstration Meeting on 06/12/20.
12. EOC will conduct the monthly IPAWS test on 06/23/20.
13. EOC Staff continues to work with Franklin's Promise and the local Food Pantries to assist with Logistics regarding supplemental shelf stable meals.
14. FCEM is working with Alligator Point Volunteer Fire Department to update their NIMS Compliance and issue badges to members. We will be updating NIMS Compliance for all departments throughout the county.

#### **Extension Office Director – Erik Lovestrand**

Mr. Lovestrand said he has no action items. Commissioner Jones stated he knows the Oyster Harvesting License is being done by the City of Apalachicola and the film is shown in Mr. Lovestrand's office. He questioned how people are handling the Saltwater Products License (SPL). Mr. Lovestrand said apparently the process is a little different this year. He explained in speaking with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) they said the City of Apalachicola had a Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) officer at their office last year helping people get the SPL the same time they purchased their Oyster Harvesting License. He reported individuals can purchase their Oyster Harvesting License from the City of Apalachicola after getting the video certificate from his office but now they must apply online or by mail to FWC to get the SPL. Commissioner Jones stated he does not think they are handling this process correctly because someone can have the Oyster Harvesting License but unless they have the SPL they cannot sell the oysters. He said they are creating an undue burden on individuals that are still trying to work the bay. Commissioner Jones went on to say they can pick up the Oyster Harvesting License locally but that is only half of what they need. Mr. Lovestrand agreed and said the Oyster Harvesting License must be done by June 30<sup>th</sup> or there is an additional \$500 penalty. He reported the SPL can be applied for anytime throughout the year so there is no penalty after June 30<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Jones said he has received some questions and was not sure of the answer. Mr. Lovestrand stated the extra step is making this process more complicated because the paperwork is in depth. He reported the video required for the Oyster Harvesting License was shown last Friday and will be shown this Friday. He went on to say the video will be shown every day the last week of June from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at his office. Mr. Lovestrand explained

individuals access the auditorium from outside and are not permitted in the rest of the building. He said he received District approval to allow 10 people in to watch the video at a time and he continues to show the video all day. Mr. Lovestrand reported 16 people viewed the video last Friday but it will get busier the last week of June. He explained they are still showing the video because some people do not have a computer to view the video online. Chairman Lockley asked when the last day is to get the Oyster Harvesting License. Mr. Lovestrand reported June 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day to receive the license and avoid the \$500 penalty. Chairman Lockley inquired about the total cost. Mr. Lovestrand reported the license is \$100 but after June 30<sup>th</sup> it will cost \$600 with the penalty. He pointed out if they buy the Apalachicola Bay Oyster Harvester's License then they will receive the SLP for free instead of paying the \$50 fee. Chairman Lockley questioned if there are very many oysters out there. Commissioner Massey stated some oysters are showing up in some locations. He inquired if the same license is required for tonging oysters and growing oysters. Mr. Lovestrand explained people with aquaculture leases are not required to have an Apalachicola Bay Oyster Harvester's License because these oysters are not a wild grown product. He stated they must have an Aquaculture Use Lease Certificate which requires a fee and must be renewed periodically. He reported there are also fees associated with getting the aquaculture leases. Mr. Lovestrand reported there is a new Aquaculture Use Zone (ALZ) in the miles called the 4 Mile AUZ. He explained this AUZ is comprised of 38 (1.5 acre) parcels that are being surveyed and laid out by Roddenberry & Associates. He reported within the next year people will be putting equipment and oyster seed in this new AUZ.

G. Extension Office Director BOCC Report  
Informational Items

General Extension Activities:

1. During this period the Extension office assisted citizens on the topics of growing muscadine grapes, soil tests, injured wildlife, pine beetle damage, palm tree issues, mimosa wilt disease, Japanese magnolia issues, honey bees in structure, and more.
2. Extension Director participated in natural resources agent team meeting to plan for a monthly webinar series for the public to be conducted via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Sea Grant Extension:

3. Extension Director participated in interviews to hire the Project Coordinator for a Hurricane Michael Marine Debris Grant. The position will be supervised by the Bay County Extension Director and be housed at that facility.
4. The Extension office will be hosting the oyster harvester video that is required for harvesters annually before buying their licenses. Viewing opportunities will take place at the new office location (Mill Pond) on June 12, 19, 22-26, and 29-30. All UF guidelines for sanitation and safety related to COVID-19 will be in effect (no groups larger than 10 people, spaced more than 6-feet apart, sanitized surfaces, etc.).

4-H Youth Development:

5. Our local 4-H club has completed their local photography contest and has submitted entries for the statewide contest to be judged soon.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

6. Family Nutrition Program (FNP) classroom programs are being transitioned to a distance learning platforms to complete lessons for this school year.

Horticulture/Agricultures:

7. Master Gardener classes are still being conducted in an online format. Volunteers are now allowed to return to work at IFAS facilities in limited numbers with several precautions being taken (particularly with higher-risk individuals).

Mr. Moron reported people are calling in for the Board of Adjustment and Planning & Zoning items so they will have Mrs. Bodine present her report after these items.

The meeting recessed at 10:02 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

**Board of Adjustment – Amy Ham-Kelly – Report - 10 a.m. (ET)**

Mrs. Ham-Kelly provided the following report:

- I. Consideration of a request to construct a Rock Revetment 46 feet into the Critical Habitat Zone and 10 feet into both side property lines. Property described as 4376 St. Teresa Avenue, St. Teresa, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Rhumblin Consultants, agent for Edgar Moore, applicant.

**STAFF REVIEW:** Recommendation to Approve

**BOARD ACTION:** Approve, Table or Deny

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

- J. Consideration of a request to construct a Rock Revetment 46 feet into the Critical Habitat Zone and 10 feet into both side setbacks. Property described as 4374 St. Teresa Avenue, St. Teresa, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Rhumblin Consultants agent for Russell Rainey, applicant.

**STAFF REVIEW:** Recommend to Approve

**BOARD ACTION:** Approve, Table or Deny

**On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve this request.** Commissioner Boldt said he typically worries about encroachment into the Critical Habitat Zone but this application has good engineering and studies. He reported they are improving the Critical Habitat Zone and he appreciates it.

**Planning and Zoning – Amy Ham-Kelly – Report - 10 a.m. (ET)**

Mrs. Ham-Kelly read the Planning & Zoning Report, as follows:

- K. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock at 37 Carousel Terrace, Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida. The applicant has all State and Federal Permits. The dock walkway will be 24'5" x 5' with a 25' x 12' terminal platform and a 25' x 12' boat slip with boat lift. Request submitted by Florida Environmental Land Service, agent for Chip Johnson, applicant. (House has been approved by variance on 3/17/2020)

**Staff Recommendation:** To Approve

**Board Action:** Approve, Table or Deny

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

- L. Consideration of a request to construct a Single Family Private Dock located at 1617 Alligator Drive, Alligator Point, Franklin County, Florida. The applicant has all state and federal permits. The dock walkway will be 359' x 4' with a 10' x 16' terminal platform, (1) 12' x 20' un-covered boatlift and (1) 14' x 30' covered boatlift. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Agency, agent for James Sweat, applicant. (House is under construction)

**Staff Recommendation:** To Approve

**Board Action:** Approve, Table or Deny

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

- M. Consideration of a request for a Public Hearing for a Land Use change of a 6.08 acre parcel of land from Residential to Commercial and Re-Zoning from R-2 Single Family Mobile Home to C-3 Commercial Recreation on property lying in Section 22 Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2514 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Justin Ford, agent for Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.

**Staff Recommendation:** To Approve Public Hearing Request

**Board Action:** Approve, Table or Deny

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the request for a public hearing.**

- N. Consideration of a request for a Public Hearing for a Land Use change of a 10 acre parcel of land from Residential to Commercial and Re-Zoning from R-2 Single Family Mobile Home to C-3 Commercial Recreation on property lying in Section 22 Township 6 South, Range 4 West, 2536 Highway 67, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Justin Ford, agent for Jamey and Beverly Sapp, applicants.

**Staff Recommendation:** To Approve Public Hearing Request

**Board Action:** Approve, Table or Deny

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the request for a public hearing.**

- O. Consideration of a request for Commercial Site Plan Review to place 36 moveable storage units at 1013 Bluff Road, Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida. This project will be done in 2 phases: Phase 1 will consist of 24 units indicated in blue and Phase 2 will consist of 12 units indicated in yellow. Request submitted by Jonathan Faircloth, applicant.

**Staff Recommendation:** To Approve

**Board Action:** Approve, Table or Deny

Mrs. Ham-Kelly said they are under the 80% lot coverage and not in a special flood hazard area. She offered to provide the site plan. Commissioner Parrish stated he would like to see the site plan. Mrs. Ham-Kelly displayed the site plan for the Board. Commissioner Parrish asked if these are portable units that can be dropped off at someone's house and then picked up and stored on this site. Mrs. Ham-Kelly explained these units will be on-site and can be removed with a flatbed truck if necessary. Mr. Pierce questioned if these are pods. Mrs. Ham-Kelly answered no. Commissioner Parrish questioned if the units will be on the site. Mrs. Ham-Kelly said the units will be on site but could be moved. Chairman Lockley asked what will happen in a storm. Mrs. Ham-Kelly said the units are not required to be moved because they are not in a special flood hazard area. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish,**

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

- P. Consideration of a request to abandon "Shell Bay Subdivision" a 10 lot subdivision lying in Section 35, Township 7 South, Range 5 West, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for William Simmons, applicant.

**Staff Recommendation:** To Approve

**Board Action:** Approve, Table or Deny

**Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked if they are removing or tearing down something. Mrs. Ham-Kelly reported they are removing the existing plat and the layout of the plat. Mr. Pierce stated this is vacant land and they are reconfiguring the lots. Commissioner Jones asked if this is a plat the Board changed recently and the applicant is changing it back. Mrs. Ham-Kelly answered last year it was changed to R-1A Single Family subdivision which was 1/3 acre lots. She reported they had it rezoned back to its original R-1 Single Family which is 1 acre lots. She explained the cost of doing a central water and sewer system was so high they went back to R-1 with 1 acre lots. Commissioner Jones inquired if there was someone that lived there that was affected when they applied to make the original change. He asked if that is still being handled with what they are doing today. Mrs. Ham-Kelly answered yes. Commissioner Massey said the landowner was to the west and described the lot. Mrs. Ham-Kelly read the following statement from Mr. Mark Curenton, County Planner, based on his review of the request:

According to the Property Appraiser's website there is another property owner in this Subdivision besides Mr. William Simmons. Anthony C. Wood and Wendy C. Wood own Lot 5, Shell Bay. There is no evidence in the file of their consent to abandoning the subdivision plat.

I recommend approving the abandonment of Shell Bay Subdivision if the other owners in the subdivision agree.

Mrs. Ham-Kelly stated that is a stipulation. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

- Q. Consideration of a request for Sketch Plat approval of an 18 lot subdivision named "St. George Bay" formerly known as Shell Bay Subdivision lying in Section 35, Township 7 South, Range 5 West, Carrabelle, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Garlick Environmental Associates, agent for William Simmons, applicant.

**Staff Recommendation:** To Approve

**Board Action:** Approve, Table or Deny

**Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve the sketch plat of an 18 lot subdivision named St. George Bay. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Mr. Pierce asked if this is the same property. Mrs. Ham-Kelly explained there is more property that they own. She presented the sketch plat for the Board. Mr. Garlick was present via telephone. Mr. Garlick said there is one change and he discussed it with Mr. Curenton last week. He explained the change is the subdivision has been reduced to 16 lots because Ms. Cheree Wood has 2 parcels that are outside of the subdivision and she still has access to the road in the subdivision. Mr. Garlick said now they have 16 units at 1 acre a piece versus 18 units. Commissioner Jones asked if the Board needs to amend their approval for 16 lots instead of

18 lots. Attorney Shuler answered yes. Mrs. Ham-Kelly stated they will need a new revised sketch. Mr. Garlick reported Mr. Curenton already has the sketch plat. Mr. Garlick stated he is okay with the Board amending their approval to 16 lots versus 18 lots. Mr. Moron reported Mr. Curenton has the amended sketch plat. **Commissioner Massey amended his motion to approve a sketch plat of a 16 lot subdivision named St. George Bay. Commissioner Boldt amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.**

- R. Consideration of a request to Re-Plat "Island Breeze" to "Island Breeze Phase II" a 4 lot subdivision lying in Section 28, Township 8 South, Range 6 West, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. Request submitted by Thurman Roddenberry, agent for Charles and Angela Overstreet, applicants.

**Staff Recommendation:** To Approve

**Board Action:** Approve, Table or Deny

Mrs. Ham-Kelly stated she has a revised plat that shows a statement at the bottom and she read the statement for the Board. Commissioner Jones asked if they are doing this to abandon the access to Highway 98. Mrs. Ham-Kelly responded they are doing this to abandon the central easement that goes to the C.C. Land properties. Commissioner Jones said they will be accessing from the C.C. land side. Mrs. Ham-Kelly reported Lots 3 & 4 on the north side will be accessing from C.C. Land Road instead of Highway 98. She presented a diagram of the property and described the change. Chairman Lockley asked if the access is already there. Mrs. Ham-Kelly replied yes. She explained there are 2 common areas on the south side of Highway 98 and Lots 1 & 2 will have access to 1 of the areas and Lots 3 & 4 will have access to the other common area. She reported Mr. Curenton worked with Roddenberry & Associates to get the correct language on the plat about the common areas on the south side of the road. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley asked if everyone has access to their property. Mrs. Ham-Kelly answered yes. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

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

- H. CareerSource is requesting Board action for the following:  
Action Items:
1. Letter of appointment for Superintendent of Franklin County Schools
  2. MOU between CareerSource and the National Caucus on Black Aged, Senior Community Service Employment Program
  3. MOU between CareerSource and Gulf Coast State College
  4. MOU between CareerSource and Hanley Technical Center
  5. MOU between CareerSource and Tri-County Community Council, Inc.
  6. MOU between CareerSource and Florida Department of Education Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Mrs. Bodine said they have a lot of agreements they must sign to be in compliance with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). She requested approval of the 5 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) infrastructure funding agreements. She reported these agreements are required by federal law and there are 5 required partners that have to pay a cost of the one stop services. She said these agreements are required by federal law but they do not provide any more money. Mrs. Bodine stated they try to work the agreements out with the partners because even though the agreements are required the partners do not receive any additional money to pay to

CareerSource. She explained the cost can be worked out with in-kind services if an agency chooses or they send their people into Workforce Centers that CareerSource operates. Mrs. Bodine reported some people just want to pay and the cost is approximately \$1,000 a year. She stated each of the agreements has been submitted for the Board's review. Mrs. Bodine offered to answer any questions. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the 5 MOU's.**

Chairman Lockley asked how long the program will last that has people working in the county. Mrs. Bodine said they also received some COVID-19 money and have 1 person working at the Senior Center, some people at Franklin's Promise in addition to the positions under the Hurricane Michael recovery. Mrs. Bodine reported they have sent in a \$29 million, 3 year request for Hurricane Michael clean-up and restoration. She explained the current funding will end in August. She reported they have approximately 220 people working in 3 counties under this program. Mrs. Bodine stated they received a letter of support from the county previously in reference to this grant. She said they may modify that letter because they almost ran out of money a couple of months ago. She reported they will probably request another letter of support and start working with the representatives to make sure this request gets funded. She stated the federal government under the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) will not look at the request until 70% of the funds they just approved are expended. She explained the problem is they allow a 45 days window for approval and by the time 70% of the funds are expended they will not have 45 days left before the funding runs out. Mrs. Bodine said they are trying to work now with member of Congress and senators to get USDOL to break their standard operating procedure and look at the request sooner. She pointed out it is hard to get attention on anything other than COVID-19 at this time but they are working on it. Mrs. Bodine felt like they would extend the funding for Hurricane Michael because it still has the attention that is needed. Chairman Lockley asked what the people are doing that are funded with the COVID-19 monies. Mrs. Bodine stated they deliver meals to seniors or provide a safe place where they can have meals. She reported some of the workers are working with food distribution organizations and child care. She stated they only had enough funding for 12 positions but they have asked for more money.

Mr. Moron asked if the Board approved the letter to appoint Ms. Traci Yoder, Superintendent of Schools. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the letter of appointment for Superintendent Yoder.**

#### **TDC Administrator – John Solomon – Report**

Mr. Solomon presented the following action item:

- S. TDC Administrator BOCC Report  
Action Items:
  - 1. TDC Board voted to recommend a 1% increase in the tourist development tax.  
ACTION: The TDC Board recommends the Board to approve recommendation of increase of TDC Tax from 2% to 3%.

**Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt said in reviewing the statistics of the 67 counties in Florida and where

this money is coming from he thinks they may need to consider a 2% increase. He explained the county's TDC tax is not the highest and not the lowest but the county is surging with tourists and there is a need to support the infrastructure that the tourists are using. Commissioner Parrish stated he prefers to stay with a 1% increase but he would like to know where the 1% is going. Mr. Solomon explained there is a 60/40 split so basically the 1% would be infrastructure. Commissioner Parrish reported he would like to see the tourists better accommodated with parking and rest rooms. He said he would like to approve only 1% and it can be amended going forward if they need to. Attorney Shuler reported the Board has 2 options for moving forward with the increase which are either to adopt an ordinance by a supermajority (4/5) vote of the Board or by referendum. He requested instructions from the Board on which process to follow regarding this 1% increase. Commissioner Jones stated the discussion at the TDC Board was about the 2 options and they felt the 1% would be best because if they increased 2% there would have to be a referendum and that would cost the taxpayers. He said everyone knows there is a need for tourism and tourist related infrastructure in the county and they are also looking at a revenue loss due to COVID-19. Chairman Lockley asked what the highest percent is in the state. Mr. Solomon responded 6% but it can go to 7%. Chairman Lockley stated the county is at 2%. Chairman Lockley asked if a referendum is required to increase 2%. Attorney Shuler agreed that is correct. Clerk Johnson stated she is for parking lots and related infrastructure but she feels like before they vote they need a plan of exactly how they are going to spend the money. She explained because the county is under 100,000 in population there is a limit of up to 10% of the revenues that can only be spent on beach park facilities. She questioned if parking lots fall under this category. Clerk Johnson reported on the 1% there is also a requirement for public facilities and if they do not bring in revenues of at least \$10 million they cannot spend money for certain infrastructure. She said there are all these conditions of the \$10 million they have not brought in. Clerk Johnson explained not more than 70% of proposed public facilities will be paid for with tourist revenues and these facilities must be identified and confirmed by the Board. Clerk Johnson stated at least 40% of all tourist development tax revenue are spent to promote and advertise tourism. She explained there are a lot of conditions in the statute on the money and as the finance person that will be approving the expenditures she feels the Board needs to have a plan from the TDC Board on exactly what infrastructure projects they will do so there will not be questions in the future. Clerk Johnson stated that is her recommendation and they need to know what the infrastructure is and whether it is allowed. Commissioner Boldt stated he likes that strategy. Mr. Solomon said most of the time the infrastructure needs come from this Board. He reported the TDC Board has not made infrastructure decisions. He explained the Board of County Commissioners has made the decisions for the TDC Board to review and approve. He stated the TDC Board can make a plan but it is counterproductive because it comes back to this Board for a decision. He said if you look around the state even Gulf County is at 5% and has less visitors but gain more tourist revenue. He reminded the Board this tax is on lodging accommodations in the county not on the people of the county. Mr. Solomon explained this will not only help with infrastructure but with maintaining the current infrastructure that TDC has paid for. He reported there are a lot of things the TDC Board wants to do but they are handicapped after all these years because of being one of the lowest percentages in the state. He stated the cost of everything has gone up but the tax has not increased. Chairman Lockley asked how much the TDC revenue will be short. Mr. Solomon stated they are predicting \$1.1 million if nothing changes so that will be a \$300,000 loss for this year. Chairman Lockley questioned what amount the Clerk said. Clerk Johnson reported there are certain conditions in the statute for collecting the revenue. Attorney Shuler stated there is a Spending Plan that was adopted originally around 2004 and he does not think it has been



amended to the extent of splitting the use of the funds. He explained the 60/40 split is with 60% going to infrastructure and 40% going to advertising and he does not think this split in the Spending Plan has been amended. Attorney Shuler said in relation to the additional penny the Clerk is correct that the TDC funds are restricted and not like general revenue funds. He explained whatever infrastructure plan is drafted would have to meet those restrictions in the statute just like it always has from the beginning. He agreed with the Clerk it must be a qualified expenditure or it cannot be approved for payment. Attorney Shuler reported the \$10 million threshold are some laws that were adopted to benefit larger counties down south so they can open up the restrictions for additional purposes that Franklin County does not qualify for. Commissioner Parrish asked for Attorney Shuler's recommendation on what they need to do before they vote. Attorney Shuler said he needs direction on the process the Board wants to follow for enacting the additional 1% which is either by ordinance or referendum. Attorney Shuler stated the additional penny is still subject to the same restrictive uses that the 2% has been restricted to from the beginning. He explained this extra penny will not open up new avenues or expand the infrastructure portion because it would still be limited to the same infrastructures that are authorized under the current ordinance. He reported there are a list of items and categories in the statute that the funds can be spent on for infrastructure and there is a sentence that any use not authorized is prohibited. Attorney Shuler stated they will need to look at infrastructure projects on a case by case basis and the Board will have to decide to approve the project if it qualifies or disapprove it if it does not qualify. He reported they cannot pre-judge the infrastructure projects today. Commissioner Parrish stated if they cannot spend the money where it needs to go then he is probably not for the increase. He reported he is not in favor of more advertising but wants to do infrastructure projects to accommodate the people coming to visit. Mr. Solomon explained they can do more infrastructure projects and there are limitations but the funding will increase and they will get the projects done at a faster pace instead of taking out a loan. Commissioner Boldt reported they want to customize where the money goes. He stated the Board should affirm the 1% and work out the strategies according to statute of where the money will be spent before they vote. He said the increase should be done by ordinance and not referendum to save expenses. Chairman Lockley stated he agrees with Commissioner Parrish and he wants to see infrastructure because they have done enough advertising. He reported later on after they have accommodations they can advertise some more. Chairman Lockley stated if it will help with parking and bathrooms then he is in favor of the increase. Mr. Solomon reported the cost of the St. George Island bathrooms will take 4 years to pay for at 10% but if they had the extra 1% it would take 2 years. He explained the additional money from the additional percentage will help complete the projects faster. Mr. Solomon acknowledged that not everyone is for the increase or TDC but after COVID-19 it shows the county is dependent on tourism. Chairman Lockley said the money does not need to be spent in one area but spread across the county. Commissioner Massey stated if this goes to a vote normally people will not vote for it because they think their taxes will go up. Commissioner Jones asked if the Board needs to take action to adopt this increase by ordinance. Attorney Shuler reported that is the direction he is looking for and then they can look at the TDC request, hold a public hearing to discuss the details and vote to approve it or not. He explained he is not ready today to provide examples of what they can and cannot do on the infrastructure portion of the TDC tax. He stated he needs direction on whether to schedule a referendum or a public hearing on an ordinance.

**Commissioner Jones amended his motion to reflect scheduling a public hearing for an ordinance on the issue.** Commissioner Jones said he can list things the money can and cannot be used for but for 3 years he has been trying to find a way to get the bathrooms on St. George Island funded with the TDC

tax. He reported the TDC cannot make a parking lot with the TDC dollars but they can acquire the land so the county can place the parking lot. Commissioner Jones stated there are other things that they will enumerate later with signage at the beach access and alleyways. He said they are talking about re-doing all the signs across the county with TDC funds. Commissioner Jones reported there were 7 different signs at St. George Island and only 1 sign is needed. He stated there is a 10% requirement if items are referred to as beach park facilities but in statute all it refers to is beach restoration, the dunes, the shoreline and those kinds of things. Attorney Shuler added also river systems. Commissioner Jones assured the Board if he continues to represent them on the TDC Board these things will be done by statute and he will not put this Board or anyone else in any kind of peril because he wants something done. Chairman Lockley said usually the Chairman of the Board serves on TDC but he did not want to do that. Mr. Solomon stated in the discussion the main priority was infrastructure. He explained when they are asked to do something the funds are limited and they are trying to do what the Board wants done. He stated not only do they want to advertise but they want to make it comfortable when people come here. Mr. Solomon explained to do that they need to be closer to everyone else that has a tourist economy but the county is a long way from that with their TDC tax. Chairman Lockley reported if they are able to buy the land then that is a tremendous help because the county can try to find a grant. **Commissioner Massey amended his second.** Mr. Moron stated later on his report he is going to ask to schedule a workshop on July 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss parking and beach access and if they agree he can also add to the agenda a preliminary discussion of what they can and cannot do with the TDC funds. He explained then when they get to the public hearing they will have a better understanding of what they can and cannot do with the extra one cent. Commissioner Parrish said he wants to do that. Commissioner Boldt agreed. Commissioner Massey asked if they tried to take this action with the increase before. Mr. Pierce said he brought it up before but it never went to a vote. He explained at the time he was looking at something for beach renourishment because coastal erosion is happening all over the county. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

2. TDC Board voted to recommend amending 2k Web Group contract to reflect budgeted amount for fiscal year of 19-20 in Search Engine Optimization line item of the budget. As well pay outstanding bills of 2k Web Group for the Search Engine Optimization category. There was an oversight by the TDC Board during the 2019-20 budget process \$20,000 was moved from internet advertising to the search engine optimization line item, both were in the Internet budget category. Not realizing that the SEO line item was limited by the contract. The SEO is one of the most important parts of keeping the TDC website visible and easily found during searches for vacation destinations

**ACTION:** The TDC board recommends the Board approve the amended 2K Web Groups contract to reflect the budgeted amount for the 19-20 Search Engine Optimization line item of the budget. Also, pay the outstanding bill for the 2k Web Group's Search Engine Optimization category.

Mr. Solomon explained this will increase the Search Engine Optimization line item from \$8,500 to \$28,500. He reported the TDC Board and the vendor agreed this items lasts a long time for the website and the advertising is just for the second so this money is better spent in this category. **Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Clerk Johnson asked if they have a copy of the contract amendment. Mr. Solomon answered yes, it should be in the Board's packet. Clerk Johnson said her office will need the signed contract. Attorney Shuler said he has seen and approved the form of the amendment. Chairman Lockley asked Mr. Solomon to explain this request. Mr. Solomon said it is prolonging the existence of people finding the webpage

and it makes it easier to use and search for different things. He stated the TDC Board and the vendor felt the money was better spent on optimization than a banner advertisement on a website which is where the money was in the budget for internet advertising. Mr. Solomon reported the website has progressively done better this year. He explained with COVID-19 the TDC websites dropped low but the county's TDC website paced above most of the other counties they compare to because of the optimization they had implemented. Mr. Solomon stated it was still low but they have seen a sudden spike ever since the short term rentals opened. He reported the Visit Florida website was the lowest they had ever seen and he thinks if they had not changed this Search Engine Optimization they would have been in worse shape with people finding the website. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Solomon asked if there are any questions on the information items. The Board did not have any questions.

Information Items:

3. TDC Board approved the creation of a Golf Cart ordinance, rules and regulations trifold brochure for Franklin County.
4. TDC Board approved \$2,500 to Royce Rolstad photography for photos and videos to bolster our TDC photo and video libraries that the TDC uses for advertising.
5. TDC Board approved \$1,200 to place the new sign at the St. George Island Visitor Center.
6. Tax Collections for the month of February 2020 was \$95,017.02 a 43% increase over February 2019. The March 2020 collections were \$71,946.84 a 44% decrease from March of 2019. In the first 5 months of the 19-20 fiscal year the TDC Collections was 20% higher than the previous year during the same time period.
7. TDC Board approved the 2020-2021 Small, Large and Museum Grants applications as well as approved application process to begin on June 14th.
8. TDC Board approved the creation of consolidated beach access signs for all county beach access points.

Commissioner Jones left the meeting at this time.

**Department of Health - Sarah Hinds (Administrator) - Update**

Mrs. Hinds reported as of Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, the state moved into Phase 2 of the Florida Reopening Plan. She said the state continues to update the [floridadoh.gov](https://www.floridadoh.gov) COVID-19 dashboard daily with the number of tests and the number of positive cases. She explained they get a quick peek at what the dashboard will display so they can make sure things are lining up and they have time to alert the state if an error is showing. Ms. Hinds reported over the weekend a positive case showed up and they began investigating the matter but could not get in touch with the individual in time to make the change. She stated because the individual used a Franklin County address they have an obligation to alert the public even if they just say the case is currently under investigation. Ms. Hinds said once they contacted the individual they determined she lives in a different county and was not in Franklin County or did not have any contact with anyone in Franklin County and was isolated. She reported the address was used for billing purposes and they will make a note of that for anyone in that college age group. Ms. Hinds stated every incident is taken seriously and they follow up immediately. Ms. Hinds said if rumors are circulating she encourages the Board to reach out to her because if they have a positive case she will contact the Commissioners first. She reported they may have heard that the Health Department is providing testing at a church and this is happening by request today. She stated the Health Department would do that for any group that feels they had some type of exposure. She said this

testing is also open to the public. Ms. Hinds explained the church asked them to be there today and they will do everything they can to contain any situation that may have occurred and they have a plan in place. She reported each month they will continue to test 2% of the population as part of the state's phased reopening strategy. Ms. Hinds stated health care partners are continuing to provide testing and community testing locations have been set up. She explained they also do closed point of distribution sites which means it is with a particular group by request. Ms. Hinds said they are working with the Franklin County District School to test staff for summer school and later in the fall. She explained this is a great partnership opportunity with Weems Memorial Hospital to do the test for active infection and the antibody test. She said they also have testing available at the Health Department by appointment on Tuesday-Thursday and in Carrabelle on Wednesday. She explained they register individuals over the phone and walk outside and meet them at their car to perform the test. She stated the test is free. Ms. Hinds reported overall Franklin County is still the lowest county in the state for positive cases. She explained as they work through the reopening plan and people coming to the county they may see some positive cases but the goal is to maintain the medical system at capacity. Ms. Hinds reported the Health Department also covers Gulf County and they have seen a little increase in their COVID-19 numbers but they are still the second lowest county in the state. She explained the cases Gulf County has are travel related or close contact to a confirmed positive case. Ms. Hinds reported the Health Department is still promoting social distancing as a key to slowing the spread of the virus. She stated they still promote cloth masks in places where it is difficult to maintain social distancing. She said the Health Education Department at the Health Department has distributed over 20,000 cloth masks to Franklin County residents so hopefully this will help reduce exposure in the community. She reported each Commissioner has either received or will receive a box of masks. Ms. Hinds stated because of hurricane season she is working with Mrs. Brownell on processes to help with sheltering for people that have COVID-19 cases or exposure to COVID-19. She reported these are things they think about as a coastal community dealing with a pandemic and Mrs. Brownell and her team have solid plans in place. She stated everything they look at takes into account prevention and containment of COVID-19. She reported the Health Department works every day in response to the pandemic. Ms. Hinds stated they have been fortunate in the county that everything has been manageable and it has allowed them to work closer with their partners with the reopening plans. She thanked the Board for their support and outreach efforts. Commissioner Boldt stated it is important in the county that they are following a good solid measured response protocols. He said that is why they are relatively virus free in the county. He reported they follow good health practices with the meetings and it also keeps their executive staff healthy as well. Commissioner Boldt stated they are happy to partner with Ms. Hinds. Commissioner Massey asked what time the testing will start at the church. Ms. Hinds said they will be testing from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. She stated there are testing projects going on in the community and some are focused on certain populations and some are just available to the public. She reported testing is also available at the Health Department but they must call ahead to make an appointment.

#### **Weems Memorial - David Walker (CEO) - Update**

Mr. Walker thanked the Board for their support with what they are doing with COVID-19 efforts. He said they are antibody testing in the county and have tested almost 400 people. He reported they will have some testing in Lanark Village soon and they are partnering with the school district to test the employees this week and again in July. Mr. Walker explained targeted testing was conducted on law

enforcement, retail workers, restaurant workers, hospitality workers, vacation rental workers, city employees, county workers, day care workers and senior citizens. He reported these individuals were tested in the beginning because they are the front line personnel. Mr. Walker said he has Ms. Donna Taratoot, Lab Director, with him to discuss a great opportunity for Weems Memorial Hospital to purchase their own COVID-19 testing equipment through a grant. He explained this would test COVID-19 through the nasal swab and they would have the results in 1 hour. He reported currently the tests are sent out to Quest and LabCorp and the results take 4-5 days. He said this will also save the \$100 fee that is paid for each test to be sent out. Mr. Walker stated this is an action item today because the testing equipment is over their spending limit of \$50,000. He explained this money will not come out of the Health Care Trust Fund but directly from a grant they received from the Florida Department of Health Rural Health Office. Mr. Walker stated they could have purchased less expensive equipment but Mrs. Taratoot recommended this equipment to provide COVID-19 testing as well as some other testing. Ms. Taratoot stated the equipment is the GeneXpert manufactured by Cepheid. She explained she reviewed a lot of different instruments and this testing methodology is polymerase chain reaction (PCR) which is the gold standard for doing any type of viral identification. She stated this is a highly sensitive method which is very important to determine if the person has the virus. Ms. Taratoot explained they also want this equipment because it will show negative if the virus is not in the patient. She reported this equipment is very good in that respect and during testing was practically 100% effective for both ends of the spectrum. She stated she also chose this equipment because it has been around for a while and has had FDA emergency use authorization since April. She reported the equipment is used by labs all over the country and it also performs 20 other procedures that are fully FDA approved. Ms. Taratoot said the company is a USA company out of Sunnyvale, California. She described the methodology for performing the testing and said everything is contained in a box so there is no danger of contamination for the lab personnel. She said there are smaller units available but she chose this machine because after COVID-19 there are 4 other tests that they have to do by other means or that are referred to other laboratories that could be placed on this instrument and that would give them a much better turnaround. Ms. Taratoot stated the company is working on getting standard FDA approval and not just on an emergency basis. She reported when someone comes into the Emergency Room and needs a nasal swab depending on the criteria it will go either to the Health Department or the Quest lab and the results take 48-72 hours. Ms. Taratoot stated this procedure would have the results in less than 1 hour. She explained for the patients that are admitted to the floor and waiting for their test results they must be in a special room with negative pressure and the nurses must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) to deal with the patient which is very costly. She stated once the test is negative then there are no extra measures required. Ms. Taratoot explained if the patient is from the nursing home they must keep the patient either in the emergency room or on the floor until the negative test is received and then they can be sent back to the nursing home. She said they will know the status of the patient very quickly with this equipment. Mr. Walker reported one of the reasons they want to be able to test quickly is they can identify quickly who has the virus and isolate them. He pointed out when school starts back this would help identify any students that test positive and allow them to treat them. He reported this would bring in the testing ability and create access to care. Mr. Walker stated they are also working on being able to read their own antibody testing with an instrument they currently have. He explained they are trying to make sure they have everything they need in the county to be a resource for the community. He reported through this grant opportunity it would help them accomplish this. Mr. Moron asked if there is a match requirement for the grant. Mr. Walker answered no, this is total funding from the Rural Health

Office. He explained they are looking at alternative funding options so they do not have to access the Health Care Trust Fund. He stated this equipment costs \$9,000 more than they are allowed to spend with the spending limit. Attorney Shuler advised the Board they are under a declared state of emergency and this is COVID-19 related services so his recommendation is to recognize the state of emergency, waive the local bid policy and purchase the equipment. **On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to recognize the state of emergency, waive the local bid policy and purchase this equipment.** Mr. Walker thanked the Board and said they are actively responding and preparing for COVID-19. Chairman Lockley said they are doing a good job and if they find any other equipment that helps them separate anyone with an active case from the community it is a good thing. Commissioner Massey agreed Mr. Walker is doing a good job. Commissioner Boldt said the hospital is gaining high value every day with another piece of equipment that makes it best for the community. Commissioner Jones asked if the ventilators have been received. Mr. Walker stated they received 4 ventilators and EMS has 3 and the hospital received the other 4. He said they ordered 1 more ventilator for EMS. He reported they received notice that one of the ventilators will be a high flow ventilator for a V60 machine and they will be the first hospital in the nation to have a high flow V60 ventilator. Commissioner Boldt asked about the guidelines for how the \$3 million will be spent and if they are beginning to look at the guidelines. Mr. Walker replied every small rural hospital received \$3 million and it can only be spent for COVID-19 related activities, lost revenue and anything to prevent, respond and prepare for COVID-19. He explained if they had not purchased the equipment out of the money from the Department of Health they would have been able to purchase it with these funds. He reported they are keeping a list of everything that they spend to make sure it is tied to these three elements of funding and then they will complete a report in July. Mr. Walker reported the federal government has not sent out the reporting guidelines yet but they are working on these matters with their auditor Mr. Brian Hall, Carr, Riggs and Ingram. He stated they are hoping they send specific guidelines. He reported there are a lot of things they need as a hospital to prepare for these patients so they will follow the guidelines. Chairman Lockley said he wants the hospital to get what they need to be prepared in case the county gets positive cases. Mr. Walker explained as the cases increase in Florida they must pay attention to the hospitalization rates. He stated if the hospitalization rates increase quickly then they will have a problem in the state. He commented as long as the peak is gradual in the county it will be fine but if it peaks then they will have an issue. Mr. Walker said they are also watching the children because the virus is hitting young people. Chairman Lockley asked him to watch the elderly too. Mr. Walker explained they also tested the elderly population because they have underlying medical conditions. He stated they feel good that they are getting equipment and EMS is getting what they need because there is an elderly population here.

### **Emergency Medical Services - Richard Lewis (Director) Update**

Mr. Lewis offered the following item for the Board's consideration:

T. EMS Grant

Information Item

1. Franklin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was awarded a FL State Emergency Medical Service Matching Grant (75/25) to facilitate the standardization of cardiac

equipment across Franklin County's three (3) ALS/BLS ambulances. The three (3) primary Franklin County ambulances will be equipped with an updated LUCAS device. A LUCAS device is an essential piece of equipment, providing quality chest compressions. Additionally, five (5) Lifepack AED's were awarded to be placed across Franklin County's festival and sports sites. EMS will continue to train First Responders and Franklin County Residents in CPR and AED use.

Mr. Lewis said they are starting an initiative to place AED's across the county. He reported they are looking for other grants to purchase more equipment because at this time they only have 5. He stated he welcomes their input on the replacement of the units. Mr. Lewis reported his recommendation is to place 1 unit at Battery Park or Wilson Sports Complex in Apalachicola, 1 unit at the Courthouse or Annex in Apalachicola, 1 unit at Vrooman Sports Complex in Eastpoint, 1 unit at Kendrick Park in Carrabelle and 1 unit at Chillas Hall in Lanark Village. He explained this will spread the units across the county and as they get more they can fill in the gaps. Mr. Lewis reported barring any unforeseen delays by the end of July they will become an American Heart Association CPR Training Site. He explained this along with AED's is a public CPR initiative throughout the county to give public classes and get as many people as possible certified to do CPR and operate the AED's. He stated this will go along with the Community Paramedic Program they are trying to start this month. Mr. Lewis said this program will be doing telehealth primarily with EMS and Weems East and West. He explained this program is geared to getting to the quarantined people that are at home and people that cannot get to their primary care physician. He stated later they may be able to expand this program to cover other areas of need. Chairman Lockley inquired what an AED is. Mr. Lewis responded an automated external defibrillator. He explained if someone is in a life threatening cardiac rhythm you place the defibrillator on the person and it can save their life. Chairman Lockley asked if the person has to be trained to use the equipment. Mr. Lewis explained it is good to be trained but even if you are not the unit is designed to talk you through the process. Mr. Pierce asked if the one at Battery Park would be in the building. Mr. Lewis answered yes, but accessible if there were festivals or events going on. Mr. Moron suggested 1 unit be placed in the Courthouse and then when they get more units 1 could be placed in the Annex. He stated the unit should be placed close to the deputy and he could be trained to use the equipment. He reported it is also good to have them close to sporting events. Chairman Lockley questioned if the units run on batteries. Mr. Lewis responded yes, and he will be keeping an eye on the batteries to make sure the units are up to date and operational.

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

Clerk Johnson presented her report to the Board, as follows:

#### **U. Clerk's Report to the Board 6-16-2020**

##### **Action Items**

1. Attached is a Draft Credit Card Policy. Upon the audit that was recently conducted on the City of Apalachicola, it was noted that no formal credit card policy had been adopted by the City. Franklin County has not had the issues experienced by the City, but I feel it would be a good idea to go ahead and put a formal policy in place. Franklin County currently has (4) credit card accounts: County Coordinator whose card is utilized by all of the county departments when needed; Emergency Management Director and Assistant Director for purchases relative to emergency operations and travel; and the Tourist

Development Council for online ad charges relative to Google and Facebook. Each month, card statements are reconciled and all charges are documented. This policy will act to solidify the process that is already in place as it pertains to the county-issued credit cards. Action requested to adopt the credit card policy.

**On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to adopt the Credit Card Policy.**

2. Attached is a Draft Travel and Expense Policy. As with the credit card issue, the City of Apalachicola's audit brought into discussion travel expenses. In the past 5 or 6 years, I proposed a similar travel policy that was not approved, and I feel it would be in your best interest to adopt such a formal policy once the county attorney has had a chance to review it. Action requested to have the County Attorney to review the draft policy for possible adoption at your next meeting.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to direct the County Attorney to review the draft Travel and Expense Policy for possible adoption at the next meeting.**

Clerk Johnson reported they are getting ready to set up budget workshops possibly the last week of July. She explained Mrs. Griffith will come up with some dates based on room availability and then call the Commissioners and make sure the dates are okay. She reported the Board can formally approve the dates at the next meeting. Clerk Johnson asked the Board to think about whether it is feasible to have the non-governmental organizations (NGO's) participate in the workshops or leave their budgets where they are until the budget figures are in place. She explained they may not want those individuals to show up when they are trying to limit the number of people to allow for social distancing. Commissioner Jones stated the way the process works if they conditionally approve the budget it can go down but cannot go up so that is a good idea. Chairman Lockley agreed they do not need to be here because it is going to be a bad year and there might be cuts. Clerk Johnson reported they will not know until they get all the figures together. Commissioner Boldt stated he appreciates the Clerk taking proactive action on the credit card reconciliation and being forthcoming to add more quality on how they budget. Mr. Pierce pointed out the county is a larger entity than the City of Apalachicola and the county has 4 credit cards and the City of Apalachicola had 19. He said the more restrictions you have the better it is for everyone because the credit cards can get out of control. Clerk Johnson complimented Mrs. Linda Phillips, Finance Director, and Mrs. Griffith for being watchdogs when it comes to paying bills. She stated the county needs that and it is a protection for the Board that they ask questions and request backup materials. Mrs. Griffith said it is not always popular but it is necessary. She stated someone may be irritated for several hours but in hindsight things do not normally spiral into a big issue so long as documentation is kept along the way.

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

Mr. Pierce read the following report:

##### V. Restore Coordinator BOCC Report

Action Item



1. Board action to ratify Chairman's signature on an FAA grant for \$30K to assist the county in maintaining the airport. These funds came from the federal CARES Act designated for airports. The FAA had been looking for the grant so I asked the Chairman to sign it as soon as Mr. Shuler had reviewed it.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on an FAA grant for \$30,000 to assist the county with maintaining the airport.** Mr. Pierce said they are applying for \$30,000 to reimburse the county for \$40,000 spent on insurance on the buildings at the airport. He stated the money will go into the Airport Fund.

#### Information Item

2. Inform the Board that TRIUMPH staff has requested some changes to the FDOT project list I had submitted as match for the \$1M TRIUMPH grant to the airport. Mr. John Collins, AVCON, is assisting me. TRIUMPH staff believes it will be the August TRIUMPH meeting before the TRIUMPH Board approves the "term sheet" for our project.

Mr. Pierce said Triumph staff has called and asked that he be on the meeting call on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, in case they have any questions.

3. Inform Board that former County Commissioner Cheryl Sanders has inquired about the 17K acre state land acquisition recently approved by the Governor and cabinet. She had read where part of the acquisition is being funded by \$3M from the military. Her concern is that the military is purchasing "rights" to use the property in ways that would interfere with the traditional uses of the land. I called FDEP and they said the military provided funds to insure that the property would not be developed with lights or buildings that would interfere with flying over the property. The military has not been granted or promised any "landing zone" rights. The Board may not be aware but Eglin Air Force Base uses Franklin and Gulf counties coastline as a flyway for jets returning from maneuvers over the Gulf. High rise developments along most of the shoreline between Bay County and Escambia County prevent the military from having direct access to the Gulf, so on some maneuvers returning jets fly over the green space of Gulf and Franklin counties and then turn west along the I-10 corridor for the return flight to Eglin. Apparently Eglin is providing funds to protect their flyway back to Eglin.

Mr. Pierce stated they may not realize how much the military is using the air space and hopefully it will benefit the airport with more assistance. Chairman Lockley said he has a problem with the state getting all this land. He questioned what percentage of land is owned by the state and federal government. Mr. Pierce answered 90%. Chairman Lockley stated the county is not getting any money out of this property and the state should be able to pay something. Mr. Pierce reported they will provide payment in lieu of taxes if that is funded but that money goes to the school system. He stated all the county will get is timber sales. Chairman Lockley said the county does not get anything and the school gets almost nothing so they should challenge them buying the land. Mr. Pierce stated they negotiated this purchase without telling the county because they knew there would be resistance. Chairman Lockley suggested the Board pass a motion to write the state and tell them they do not want this. Commissioner Parrish stated it is already a done deal. Attorney Shuler agreed it is already done.

Commissioner Jones questioned if the design and the plans the Board approved for using RESTORE funds for the stormwater district on St. George Island has already been done and they are waiting on Treasury. Mr. Pierce responded they are waiting for Treasury to approve the county going out to advertise to hire someone to do the planning. He stated Treasury is addressing the COVID-19 issue so they are slow to respond to other items. He said this should have been done in April and they are waiting to hear from them. Commissioner Jones clarified the delay is not on the county. Mr. Pierce said that is correct. Chairman Lockley said right now they are voting on a tax for the school and the state is buying land and should provide a guarantee to the school. Mr. Pierce agreed this changes the perspective and collection of development lands dramatically in the county. He reported they now have development along the coastline which is the area they try to encourage people to move away from. He reported the only big chunk of land left is west of Apalachicola and the Mormon Church owns that land. Mr. Pierce said if that property gets acquired for a St. Vincent Sound Corridor then the county will be squeezed. Commissioner Boldt suggested a letter that says in exchange for all the land the state is taking over would they consider some boat ramp and access to Alligator Harbor and some other issues that will help with infrastructure. Mr. Pierce stated he has already made these comments on the telephone and by email to the staff that was handling the negotiation. He said the Board may have more influence. He explained the most important part is the state created this problem with the boat access and they can solve it but do not seem interested in solving it. Mr. Pierce reported they may have the same problem in the 4 Mile area because he does not know where the aquaculture people will come in. He said if they try to use one of the street ends at 9 Mile someone is already trying to close it off. Mr. Pierce stated access is an issue and the state needs to be attending to it when they issue these aquaculture leases. Chairman Lockley said they are going to tie up the landing and the workers will not be able to use it. Commissioner Boldt suggested they plan some meetings like they did with Representative Jason Shoaf and talk to them about their concerns with infrastructure. Mr. Pierce reported Representative Shoaf may be the person to ask for assistance. He stated Representative Shoaf expressed concern about the affects this acquisition would have on affordable housing. Mr. Pierce recommended county staff contact Representative Shoaf and say they are concerned about the long term impacts and ask him to help the county get some benefits out of this purchase. Chairman Lockley reported they need to address some affordable housing. He said they are taking all the land and he questioned what they are going to do with it. Mr. Pierce reported the management will be split between Tate's Hell State Forest and Bald Point State Park. Commissioner Parrish stated it will be used for bear habitat. Mr. Pierce explained they said after they improve Bald Point State Park it will help the county with tourism. He reported this will only be true if the Legislature funds millions of dollars of improvements. He said the State of Florida does not usually fund state parks at this level. Mr. Pierce reported he sees this land not being developed and not impacting the tourist economy.

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

Mr. Moron praised Mr. Walker and Mr. Lewis for their work and having their own COVID-19 testing site. He said bigger counties do not even have this convenience. He stated the AED's are good too. Mr. Moron presented his report, as follows:

W. County Coordinator's BOCC Report:

Action Items

1. Local State of Emergency: Chairman Lockley has signed the COVID-19 Local State of Emergency (LSE) Declarations for the weeks starting June 8th & 15th.  
**Request:** Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the COVID-19 LSE Declarations.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the COVID-19 LSE declarations for June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>.**

2. This item was handled during the Emergency Management Report.
3. FDOT Contracts: Mr. Mark Curenton received the following three contracts from FDOT for Board approval:
  - a. A supplemental agreement to reduce the funds for the CR 67 sidewalk project based on the low bid that was received. This agreement reduces the construction funds from \$442,849 to \$299,050. This is still sufficient to cover the low bid by M of Tallahassee. Need Board approval of the supplemental agreement and the resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the supplemental agreement.
  - b. An agreement to fund the widening and resurfacing of Highway 67 from Highway 98 to Crooked River Bridge. The cost is \$4,109,841, which will be paid for by the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) grant. Need Board approval of the agreement and the resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the agreement.
  - c. FDOT has provided an agreement to fund the widening and resurfacing of County Road 30A from the Gulf County line to 13-Mile Road. The cost is \$1,376,018, which will be paid for by the Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) grant. Need Board approval of the agreement and the resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the agreement.

**Request:** Board action to approve the three FDOT contracts.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the three DOT contracts.**

4. Coronavirus Funding Application: The Clerk's Finance Office is requesting Board action to authorize the chairman to sign the 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Application and lobbying certification for the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. The Board of County Commission is the applicant, the Sheriff is the implementing agency. The amount of the request is for \$50,000 and was for Coronavirus related preparation and response efforts. The costs cannot be for anything that has been requested for reimbursement through FEMA during the emergency order. The Sheriff's Department is asking that the funds be spent on equipment for enhanced remote communications when officers are on patrol. The requested 24 Toughbook laptops and 10 mobile printers will be more durable and have a more reliable connection for deputies in the field.

A link to additional information in regards to this program can be found at:

<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Grants/Documents/Funding-Opportunities/FY2020-CESF.aspx>

**Request:** Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplement.

**On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman's signature on the 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplement Funding Application.**

5. Library Director: As authorized at the last meeting, I posted an "in-house" advertisement for the vacant Library Director position. I received one application/resume which was from Mrs. Whitney Roundtree, the current Library Assistant Supervisor. I interviewed Mrs. Roundtree yesterday and recommend her for the Library Director position at a salary of \$36,000 per year. I have received letters of support for Mrs. Roundtree from the Friends of the Library, volunteers and co-workers.

**Request:** Board action to accept my recommendation and appoint Mrs. Whitney Roundtree as your Library Director at a salary of \$36,000 per year.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to accept Mr. Moron's recommendation and appoint Mrs. Whitney Roundtree as the Library Director at a salary of \$36,000 per year.**

6. Apalachicola Communication Repeater: I have been informed by the City of Apalachicola that the communication repeater used by the Apalachicola Fire Department was damaged during Hurricane Michael and is now inoperable and requires repairs by service technician. This repeater is part of the volunteer fire department communication system. I received a quote (attached to agenda packet) for \$1062.33 from Williams Communication for the repairs to the repeater.

**Request:** Board action to authorize payment for the repairs to the fire communication repeater in Apalachicola.

**Commissioner Jones made a motion to authorize payment for the repairs to the fire communications repeater in Apalachicola. Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Mr. Pierce stated the repeater is also used by EMS. Mr. Moron explained the Board agreed the volunteer fire departments would get a maintenance contract for the handheld radios and the county would pay for the repeaters throughout the county. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

7. Waiver of Bid Procedure for Paving: Previously, the Board authorized Commissioners to use paving funds to repave roads in their districts and Commissioners Lockley and Jones have submitted a list of roads for repaving. Since Roberts and Roberts is currently in the County paving the new access road at the airport, and it would save the County having to pay any mobilization cost, I asked them to submit a proposal to repave these roads. Based on their proposals, the total cost to repave the roads is \$207,360.00. Since this total is above the County's bid policy maximum amount, would the Board consider waiving the bid procedure which would save the County having to add mobilization cost to these proposals. Since local gas option tax funds are being used, there are no State or Federal requirements to bid these small projects.

**Request:** Board action to waive the County's bid policy and authorize Roberts and Roberts to repave the roads on the list for a maximum amount of \$207,360.00.

**Commissioner Parrish made a motion to waive the county's bid policy and authorize Roberts & Roberts to repave the roads on the list for a maximum amount of \$207,360.00. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish explained he suggested this because the paving company is already here doing a project at the airport and it will save the mobilization fee. Mr. Pierce said the

mobilization fee is usually 10% of the bid so it is a large cost. Commissioner Parrish reported if the company had not already been here in the county, he would have followed the normal bid policy. He stated they will save approximately \$40,000 since the company is already in the county. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

8. Health Transportation Plan: The Big Bend Community Based Care has sent the County's updated Designated Receiving System and Behavioral Health Transportation Plan. The first plan was signed in 2017 and expires this year. A copy of the proposed plan along with the attestation is included in the agenda packet. Attorney Shuler has not had the opportunity to review the updated plan.

**Request:** Board action to approve the new plan and authorize the Chairman's signature on the required attestation after the County Attorney's review.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the new plan and authorize the Chairman's signature on the required attestation contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review.**

9. Beach Access and Parking Workshop: At your last meeting there was an extensive discussion with the Sheriff regarding the possible closing of certain beach access points in Alligator Point, parking issues at County beach locations, and alternative funding (private, civic organizations, grants, and surtax) to assist the county with creating additional parking and better traffic control at all county beach locations. If all schedules allow, I recommend having the Workshop on Tuesday, July 7th at 1:30 pm. Since this is a Workshop and not a Public Hearing, there will be no additional testimony from the public, besides the Public Comment agenda section. Currently only Sheriff Smith, Attorney Shuler, and myself are scheduled to address the Board, so if there is anyone else you would like on the agenda to address the Board let me know. The Workshop will be live-streamed.

**Request:** Board action to authorize the Workshop on Tuesday, July 7th at 1:30 p.m. (ET).

Mr. Moron said he will add a separate item for the TDC so they can explain what they would like to do with the extra 1%. The Board agreed that would be okay. Commissioner Boldt stated the Clerk needs to be at the meeting for guidance. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to add this item and authorize the Workshop on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.**

10. Lanark Review Committee: The Lanark Review Committee reviews permit requests within the S-4 Lanark Village Zoning area as stated in the Ordinance. Currently there is a vacant seat on this two-member committee. Ms. Pat Funderburk has expressed interest in serving on the committee. Mr. Tony Johnson is the other committee member.

**Request:** Board action to appoint Ms. Funderburk to the Lanark Review Committee.

**On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to appoint Ms. Funderburk to the Lanark Review Committee.**

#### Information Items

11. Broadband Initiative: Inform the Board that I took part in a call with Representative Lorraine Ausley on a broadband initiative. The group discussed how the lack of available and

affordable broadband affected their communities, especially rural counties. Economic development and opportunities, working and learning from home especially during COVID-19 were some of the major reasons reviewed during the call. I explained that the lack of available and affordable broadband is attributing to Franklin County's low census count. This was a subject that wasn't considered or discussed prior to the call.

The goal of the meeting was to convince Governor DeSantis to sign into law the Broadband Bill, sponsored by Representatives Drake and Ausley, which would move oversight from DMS to DEO. It also included a funding allotment to further the development of broadband infrastructure within a multi-use corridor. On Tuesday June 9th, Governor DeSantis signed the bill. This is considered a benefit for our internet underserved rural areas.

12. Ethics Class: I will reach out to Attorney Daniel Cox about prospective dates for your required ethics classes. Hopefully we will be able to confirm a date at the next meeting.

Mr. Moron said they can have the class in this meeting room.

Mr. Moron reported Mr. Davis sent a message that staff is finding a lot of holes and trenches on the beach. He stated they need to contact Mr. Solomon and do a public service announcement (PSA) because this is dangerous as people can fall in the holes. Attorney Shuler said he believes this issue is covered in the Leave No Trace Ordinance. Commissioner Jones explained there is also an increase in people wanting to create fires on the beach. He said he received a report from someone that there were over 20 fires at one time. Attorney Shuler reported the county has already had one lawsuit about this matter. Commissioner Jones stated these are some of the issues that were addressed by the TDC Board and were one of the informational items. He explained not only are they addressing re-doing the signage but it also needs to reflect these things.

Mr. Moron presented a draft of the one page advertisement for the 2020 Census. He said the Commissioners should contact Mrs. Bankston if they have any problems with the advertisement.

Mr. Moron stated the FAC meeting about the CARES Act will be tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Parrish asked if county staff will attend this meeting. Mr. Moron agreed he would be on the call. Commissioner Jones stated he will also be on the call as the county representative.

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

Attorney Shuler stated he does not have a report today. He offered to answer any questions the Board may have.

### **Commissioners' Comments**

Chairman Lockley reported in reference to his discussion with Mrs. Daniels about the Emergency Management position she did not do this but Mrs. Brownell allowed it. He said when there is a change in the process it should come through the County Commission. Commissioner Parrish left the room. Chairman Lockley stated they cannot change the process and start interviewing without the County Commission. He said they cannot just change things and put it on the application. Chairman Lockley explained it is the same thing that happened with the library when they found out a master's degree was not required. He reported this is an entry level job and a test is not required. He said this is not right and he wants to talk with Mrs. Brownell about it. Commissioner Parrish returned to the meeting.

Mr. Moron stated he and the Chairman received complaints about the interview process and some of the questions that were asked. He reported there were some things he was uncomfortable with so he asked them to contact the labor attorneys. Mr. Moron explained there was a veteran involved also and they are supposed to receive preference. He reported this person has called back to meet with Mrs. Brownell but he is not sure what it is about. Mr. Moron stated there was a test involved that none of the other departments use. He reported the process was different and they received some complaints about the interview process. Chairman Lockley said any changes are supposed to go through Mr. Moron's office and be presented to the Board. He reported this cannot be changed just because they want a change.

Commissioner Boldt said in relation to his district Mr. Moron will put together a conference meeting to address some of the code violations. He stated that meeting will be scheduled with county staff and the Building Official to develop a strategy to address the residential code violations.

Commissioner Boldt reported Mr. Hugh Hartsfield has assumed leadership of the Alligator Point/St. Teresa Volunteer Fire Department and they are continuing to move in a good quality direction.

Commissioner Boldt stated he is coordinating concentrated input to the County Commission through the leadership entities in his district. He reported APTA is working with an internal committee to develop policies and procedures to present to the County Commission. He said he is also beginning that at Lanark Village so they have single focused direction of recommendations to the County Commission.

Mr. Pierce informed the Board he will not be at the meetings on a regular basis for a little while. He explained he will have an I-pad and a telephone but will not be here in person.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

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Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts