

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
MAY 04, 2021  
9:00 AM  
MINUTES**

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

**Others Present:** Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron—County Coordinator, Jessica Gay-Deputy Clerk to the Board

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Prayer and Pledge**

Chairman Jones led the Board in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

A. April 20, 2021 Regular Meeting

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the minutes from the meeting held on April 20, 2021. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Payment of County Bills**

**On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve payment of County Bills. Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Lockley questioned the payment to Mr. Jay Abbott. Clerk Maxwell said that she would check into the payment and provide more details.

Mr. Moron reported Sheriff Smith would like to recognize some members of his staff for Correction Officers/Professionals Week. Sheriff Smith recognized Major Summerhill, Lieutenant Millender, and Captain Varnes (not present), and all of the administrative staff for the jail.

Sheriff Smith announced Major Summerhill's upcoming retirement. Major Summerhill thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the community for 32 years and said he had enjoyed working in corrections and never desired to be a deputy. Major Summerhill encouraged young people to consider corrections as a career. Lieutenant Millender also thanked the Board saying she had served the county for 21 years. She stated she loved her job and consider her job to be a vital job of the sheriff's department.

Commissioner Ward thanked the sheriff's department staff for all they do. Commissioner Boldt commented on the link between affordable housing and job opportunities. Sheriff Smith said they had consider adding a couple of trailers to sheriff's department property. Commissioner Lockley thanked the sheriff's department staff. Chairman Jones asked that they make sure to thank Captain Varnes for his service also.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Gordon Hunter spoke regarding the new EOC location expressing his concerns that the Board rushed in making a decision. He feels that having it located so close to the runway will cause difficulties and asked the Board to revisit the location decision. Mr. Hunter said the fuel farm is fully functional and he doesn't believe

that it needs to be replaced. He believes those funds could be used for improving infrastructure around the fuel farm.

Ms. Shirley Walker spoke on behalf of her granddaughter who was approved for the SHIP program. Ms. Walker said after the home was inspected by the county inspector, it was determined that the home was too far gone to repair. Chairman Jones asked that Mr. Moron follow up on this issue and see what was going on. Commissioner Lockley said we should repair what we can with the funds that we have at the time and then when more funds come available do the rest.

Chairman Jones asked Mr. Moron to find out what the report from SHIP states so that the county has a clear understanding. Mr. Moron said he believed the state may have changed the rules, and if so, the county may need to change the caps. Chairman Jones said the Board should be aware when the state changes things so that we can adjust. Commissioner Lockley spoke in favor of repairing the older houses, noting some of them withstood Hurricane Michael when some of the new ones did not. Ms. Walker said she was the administrator of the program about 16 years ago and she had to go back and ask for more funds. Ms. Walker said if the money is there we need to use it.

### **Clerk of Courts – Michele Maxwell – Report**

#### B. Report

Clerk Maxwell presented the following report to the Board.

RE: Immobilization/"Booting" of Vehicles in Alligator Point

Clerk Maxwell said that she had reached out to other Clerks throughout the state concerning "booting" in their counties. In doing so, she discovered that Walton County just adopted an ordinance this year allowing for the booting of vehicles and she provided a copy of their ordinance 2021-6 for the Board's review. Clerk Maxwell reported that she did not find any small counties that have "booting" in place. She did report finding larger counties, including Brevard, Desoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties that are "booting". However, all counties that she found were using licensed security officers, and or approved companies that have met the requirement of Florida Statute 316.193(13). Once their application has been reviewed and it is confirmed all requirements have been met, the name of the immobilization agency is added to the Court's Order of Impoundment of Immobilization. Clerk Maxwell provided a copy of Administrative Order 2010-3.3 for Desoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties.

Clerk Maxwell expressed her concern if the Sheriff's department is the agency that will be administering the "boot" how will the payments be received? Would the fee go directly to the Sheriff's department? If the Board decides to impose a fine amount that needs to be processed through the Clerk's office then the payment would have to be received by an officer and brought to the Clerk's office for processing. If the person receiving the fine pays with a credit card, how would the payment be processed?

Furthermore, Clerk Maxwell reported that she had reached out to the Florida Clerk's Association and was informed that this is not typically something that is handled by the clerk's office. This is normally handled by a private "booting" company.

Clerk Maxwell requested direction from the Board on who will be responsible for the "booting" and questioned if the Board wanted to impose a fee that the Clerk's office would have to process. She said that once she receives clear direction from the Board, she will be able to address the issue and give a suitable recommendation on the distribution of the fines and fees.

Commissioner Lockley asked if the county would receive money for the booting. Clerk Maxwell said the Board would have to impose a fine. Attorney Shuler said the way the ordinance is currently structured the sheriff's office would apply the boots and the money would be turned over to the Clerk of Court. There would not be a booting company. Attorney Shuler said there are some issues and concerns that he has but we should wait until the actual hearing to discuss further.

Senator Ausley stopped by to give the Board a brief update on the recent legislative session. Senator Ausley said there is a lot of dollars coming down from Washington that will benefit the smaller counties. She said funds have been approved, pending a Governor veto, for the Fort Coombs Armory sprinkler system in the amount of \$250,000, the City of Apalachicola stormwater pipe and backflow devices for \$100,000, as well as funds for Forgotten Coast Cultural Coalition, Southeast Archeology Association, Shipwreck of Dog Island, and Franklins Promise. Senator Ausley said one million dollars have been allocated for the Apalachicola Bay oyster restoration and she will provide more details to the Board once she receives it. Senator Ausley stressed the importance of staying in close communication with the Board. Senator Ausley said that her broadband bill and early learning expansion bill had passed as well as funds for mapping for \$1.5 million. The statewide mapping process will begin determining who has broadband access and who does not. She reported that the prison closures were not mandatory and left to the discretion of the Department of Corrections if they determine a facility should be closed they can apply the savings to correction officer pay increases. School board term limits nor FRS changes passed. Senator Ausley expressed the importance of maintaining close contact communication as these funds come down from federal and state sources for once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to benefit Franklin County.

Chairman Jones asked if it would be appropriate to discuss item R. 6 at this time.

**Mr. Moron presented Item R. 6 from his report.**

6. 8 County Oil Spill Meeting: I received an invitation from State Senator Doug Broxson's office to attend an 8 County Oil spill Administrator's meeting on Monday, May 24th at 12:30 p.m. (ET) at the Walton County Courthouse Annex in Santa Rosa Beach. One of the main meeting topics for discussion are projects that the Board would like to fund with TRIUMPH dollars. I think it is proper for the Board to create a list of projects to submit to the Senator's office for Triumph funding before the May 24th meeting. The Board could finalize this list, hopefully, a one-page list, at your May 18th regular meeting.

Chairman Jones said he we would like the Board to consider using these funds to take the mapping for the broadband or cell phone towers however that plan is, use Triumph dollars to pay for that project. Chairman Jones feels like it would be beneficial to our economy and community.

Commissioner Lockley asked Senator Ausley to talk to Ms. Walker regarding the SHIP program.

Commissioner Boldt said he would like to look into a tradeoff of property bought by the State and possibly creating infrastructure.

Senator Ausley said the County might want to think about Triumph funds to be a match for federal funds.

Commissioner Parrish brought up the issue of the sprinkler requirement for the Armory and how it was not required when the National Guard had the building. He said the County has a plan for it to be the convention center for the county. The building requires repairs which include landscaping, refinishing floors, and painting. The indirect benefits for jobs and economic value is huge. Commissioner Parrish would like to see this project on the list.

Senator Ausley said that it is particularly important to her for smaller counties to benefit. She mentioned affordable housing as a possible project. Senator Ausely said this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity we have to be creative and move the dialogues back and forth.

Commissioner Parrish said that Triumph is trying to use the same form for all counties and it doesn't fit all sizes.

Chairman Jones highlight Commissioner Parrish's comments regarding the armory convention center Visit Florida was going to hold an eco-tourism convention at the armory before covid and plan to hold it in February.

Chairman Jones would like to find out if we are trying to expand our hospital and add ancillary facilities can Triumph dollars be used.

Commissioner Parrish said a good hospital adds to economic development and that people don't want to move into a community that doesn't have good health care.

Mr. Moron said maybe they should amend the rule so that under a certain population you don't have to create new jobs but maintain the jobs in place.

Commissioner Lockley said we've been asking for jobs for twenty years but it's two hours off the interstate one way. It would be nice if they would put a four-lane down Highway 65 or 67.

Commissioner Boldt said the county is a tremendous steward of our resources. He highlighted the upcoming repair of Alligator Point, and maintaining our hospital. He said our bay is shut down but our tourism is up over 112%.

Commissioner Ward thanked Senator Ausely for stopping by.

Chairman Jones thanked Senator Ausley for her patience and for allowing the Board to speak about the issues.

## **Department Directors Report**

### **Superintendent of Roads and Bridges – Howard Nabors**

#### **C. Informational Items**

1. Detail of Work Performed and Material Hauled by District (agenda packet)
2. We hauled to our stockpile 38 loads (approx. 684 cubic yards) of milled asphalt from Graham Creek on 65 in Eastpoint from Roberts and Roberts.

All roads grated and grass cut throughout county.

#### **Mr. Moron presented Item R. 1 from his report.**

1. Jingoli Power Laydown Yard: I was recently contacted by a Jingoli Power representative asking if the County would be interested in a lease for a storage and laydown yard for telephone poles, transformers, services trucks, heavy equipment and other related products. Jingoli Power acts as a subcontractor for Duke Energy. The requested area was next to the County's "State yard" off of Bluff Road (see attached map). Prior to seeking your approval today, Jingoli's representatives have cleared the use of this area with AVCON, as this is Airport property but outside of Runway 6/24 Protection Zone, and with Mr. Howard Nabors your Road and Bridge Superintendent, as this is located next to the County's Road Department storage and staging "State yard" that is used mostly during storms and disasters. Jingoli Power would like approval from the Board as soon as possible since hurricane season is approaching and it will take some time for them to prepare the site for use. If the Board is inclined to approve this request, it should be contingent on Attorney Shuler's review of the lease. Board action to approve the lease agreement for a storage and laydown yard with Jingoli Power for the area shown on the map contingent on Attorney Shuler's review.

Attorney Shuler asked what amount of property would be cleared. Mr. Moron said the runway protection zone and buffer will be left. Attorney Shuler said he would like more specifics of the lease. Mr. Moron said there will be improvements to the property,

Mr. William House addressed the Board to answer any questions they may have. Mr. House said they intend to leave a buffer and improve the surface, he estimates it to be roughly about eight acres. Estimates it to a minimum of 30-40 feet off of the main road. The proposed lease would be for five years at \$15,000 a month plus sales tax. He estimates a headcount of 50 contractors on-site, subcontracted through Duke Energy. They plan to hire locally with a local outreach program. They are trying to get it set up before hurricane season.

Commissioner Boldt said this just proves the value of commercialism of the airport.

Commissioner Parrish said his main concern is to make sure the entrance and exit aren't near a curve. Mr. House said it would be at the farthest north end of the property so as not to affect traffic and away from the curve. Mr. House said they would put an exit and entrance at the back of the property also.

Mr. Moron said he did call Mr. Collins from Duke Energy and he gave the thumbs up.

Commissioner Boldt expressed concerns there was concrete in that area and Mr. Nabors said there was none. Mr. Nabors said he is okay with sharing this area with Jingoli Power.

**Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the Jingoli Power Laydown Yard lease agreement contingent on the approval of Attorney Shuler.**

**Commissioner Ward amended the motion to authorize Attorney Shuler to negotiate the Jingoli Power Laydown Yard lease agreement and bring it back to the Board for approval, seconded by Commissioner Parrish.**

Attorney Shuler asked for clarification of where the staging area is located and whether it would be co-leased. Mr. Nabors said it was his understanding they would leave a green buffer between the storage areas and the Bluff Road side. Attorney Shuler will contact Mr. Nabors and Mr. House for further details.

Mr. House will provide Mr. Moron with job advertisements so they can be shared on the Board website.

Commissioner Jones clarified Jingoli Power is proposing a lease for about seven acres of usable property.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

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

### **D. Informational Item**

#### **1. Right-of-Way Debris Pickup / Recycle Material Hauled**

**Attorney Michael Shuler presented the following item from his report for discussion.**

City of Apalachicola –

The City of Apalachicola has asked for an amendment to the Animal Control Interlocal Agreement which would allow them to call a Sheriff's Deputy to the scene instead of sending a local police officer. Any amendment to the Interlocal Agreement will require a public hearing to amend the ordinance because it was adopted by the ordinance.

Chairman Jones said he would remind residents who live inside the municipality what are they paying for. Commissioner Parrish agrees with the Chairman. If you have a call within a the municipality and you don't have an officer how are you going to handle it? Commissioner Ward said there are times when only one officer is covering Carrabelle. It would give them the option to call the sheriff's office if the police officer was not available. Mr. Moron asked Mr. Davis if a sheriff's officer is not available would he hold off on sending an animal control officer. Mr. Davis said he would send someone to check out the situation. If someone calls in we need to attend to it. Attorney Shuler said the ordinance is written so that the first response is by a police officer and the police officer will determine whether an animal control officer is required to be called. Chairman Jones said it would be easier for the municipalities to respond within their boundaries. Commissioner Lockley asked why this issue was being discussed again and wasting the commissioners' time. Commissioner Parrish restated that the way the ordinance is written Mr. Davis isn't going to get a call unless law enforcement determines that animal control is needed.

**Mr. Moron presented Item S. 2 and S. 3 from his report.**

2. CareerSource Funding: At your last meeting the Board was informed that the last day for the workers participating in the Hurricane Michael program would be on April 30th as there was no additional funding. Once the accounts were balanced, there is actually enough funds for a few more weeks of work. Mr. Fonda Davis, CareerSource, and QLM (the employment agency) worked together to create a list of the current employees and supervisors that will continue to work for the next few weeks. I will ask Mr. Davis to inform the Board once the funds are completely expended.

3. Equal Shot Program: I wanted to use this opportunity to bring some attention and exposure to the Equal Shot basketball program led by JT Escobar. My 6-year-old grandson, Xavier Lewis, participated in this program for the first time this year and that exposed me to some of the great things this program is providing to the County's youth. What makes this program unique from other sports programs is the core mission, "to develop and launch notable leaders & creative problem solvers in the community". They focus not only on athletic development, but also leadership development and skill acquisition. This program is a great compliment to the successful baseball, soccer, and football programs already in the County. I've included a hand-out that provides additional information on the program.

Commissioner Ward noted there are some batting cages in need of repair. Mr. Davis said he would like to repair the fencing throughout the county in all complexes and will be adding that in the upcoming budget.

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

### **E. Informational Items**

1. EOC Hosted a G-400 Class on 04/27 – 04/28/21.
2. IPAW/WEA/EAS System test was completed on 04/28/21.
3. EOC Staff along with our CERT Volunteers continue to distribute washable & reusable cloth mask throughout our community. We have partnered with the City of Carrabelle and City of Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce along with the St. George Island & Eastpoint Visitor Centers to assist with distribution to local businesses and residents. We will continue this effort as long as supplies are available.
4. EOC Staff continue to participate in conference calls with State DEM, Region 2, DOH, FEMA, etc. regarding COVID 19. We also continue to update WebEOC with Local State of Emergency and SitReps.
5. EOC Staff is participating in the K0705 Class.
6. EOC Staff filed quarterly reports for EMPG and EMPG-S.
7. EOC Staff participated in the FDEM Director Call on 04/28/21.
8. EOC Staff participated in the EMPA/EMPG Call on 04/15/21.

Mrs. Brownell asked for clarification on the specific site to be leased by Jingoli Power saying she wanted to make sure she would still be able to store the sandbags. Mr. Moron and Mr. Nabors confirmed the area where the sandbags are stored will not be impeded by the leasing of the property to Jingoli Power. Mr. Nabors said he had met with them and clarified what we use and what we would need access to.

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

### **F. Informational Items**

General Extension Activities:

1. During this period, the Extension office assisted citizens on the topics of disease in *Thuja arborvitae* trees, Master Gardener topics, snake identification, and more.

2. Extension Director participated in the NW District Natural Resource Agent program team webinar on the topic of Importance of Wetlands.

3. Extension Director participated in statewide Extension Symposium meeting virtually and provided two presentations related to collaborative work and sea turtle lighting project work.

Sea Grant Extension:

4. Planning continues for this Summer's Scallop-Sitter volunteer project. Volunteers will place and monitor bay scallops in predator-exclusion cages in St. George Sound to help restore the scallop population in this area.

5. Extension Director assisted with teaching a virtual Seafood HACCP class for students in a "seafood policy" course in the Florida Keys.

4-H Youth Development:

6. Extension Director assisted with the District III 4-H Public Speaking Competition, held at the Wakulla IFAS Extension facility. First place winners this year were from Leon and Wakulla Counties. However, Franklin County was well represented by Bailey Allen in the 4th/5th grade division and Elena Rodriguez in the 6th grade division.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

7. Family Nutrition Program assistant continues providing nutrition programming in local schools.

Agriculture/Home Horticulture:

8. Two Master Gardener classes took place at the local Extension office during this period. There are ten people currently taking the training.

## **Library Director – Whitney Roundtree**

### **G. Updates, Informational Items, & Events**

Updates:

April 12th – Attended WILD Board Meeting

April 14th- Attended Friends of the Franklin County Public Libraries meeting

April 16th- Mailed My Florida Library advocacy statement postcards to Senator Lorraine Ausley.

April 28th- Attended WILD library directors meeting.

Informational Items:

1. The Friends of the Franklin County Public Library are offering a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.

They are looking for someone who wants to continue their education, particularly at a vocational school.

They are not necessarily looking for a high achieving high school student but would like to hear from GED recipients, homeschoolers, or students who have had to overcome difficulties and may not have considered applying for a scholarship.

Applications are available from the Franklin County School guidance counselor as well as at the public libraries in Eastpoint and Carrabelle.

2. June 1st will kick off our annual Summer Reading Program. The theme this year is "Tails and Tales" and when feature animals and stories. The library will offer a mix of live performances,

educational programming, and fun reading incentives. The Franklin County Summer Reading Program is an all-ages event and is free and open to all members of the public.

#### Events

##### Carrabelle Branch:

May 7th- Book Chat at 1:30 PM

May 8th- Story Time at 11:00 AM

May 11th- Anime Club at 4: PM

May 20th- Makerspace at 4:00 PM

##### Eastpoint Branch:

May 4th- Diabetes Awareness at 10:00 AM

May 4th- Book Chat at 1:30 PM

May 11th- Story Time at 10:30 AM

May 13th- Anime Club at 4:00 PM

May 19th- Writer's Forum at 1:00 PM

The meeting recessed at 10:35 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

#### **Eastpoint Civic Association – Rex Pennycuff – Request**

Mr. Pennycuff, on behalf of the Eastpoint Civic Association, asked the Board for assistance with the clean-up of the Eastpoint waterfront area. Mr. Pennycuff stated that Mrs. Lynn Martina, the President of the association, was unable to attend due to a family matter. He thanked the Board for the assistance already given and said the number one goal in each of their meetings is to clean up the waterfront. There is one large stretch of property owned by one individual and the association would like to see if the county can help with tipping fees to facilitate cleaning up the property. Chairman Jones asked if anyone had gotten a quote. Mr. Pennycuff said no one had gotten anything yet, but they had reached out to Mr. Davis and a couple of contractors. Mr. Pennycuff said the estimate was around thirty loads but they had hoped some of the concrete can be used for roads, etc. Mr. Pennycuff said there are three buildings, one burnt, and one that the hurricane took the most of. Mr. Pennycuff said the sheriff's department and fire department are very supportive of the idea. Chairman Jones said an idea may be if the concrete is usable the concrete can be moved so that we can store it to use in areas needed in the county. Mr. Pennycuff believes the owners are interested in getting the property in a manner that they can maintain. Commissioner Ward said she appreciated the efforts of the association but she had concerns about waiving fees. She said she did believe the good this effort would do outweighs her concerns. Chairman Jones would like the property owner to determine the amount of tipping fees to be waived. Chairman Jones said he attends the association meetings and said this is a continual discussion. Mr. Pennycuff said they are hoping to weed out some of the problems and make the Commissioners' jobs easier. Commissioner Ward said the same issues have been expressed at the ARPC meetings. Commissioner Parrish said that once we set a precedence of waiving or reducing tipping fees we have several buildings along the waterfront and he would expect everyone to be treated the same on both sides of the bridge. Mr. Pennycuff said he believes the owner was waiting to see if the Board could provide an incentive for them to clean the property. Commissioner Parrish suggested the owners hire a company to grind the concrete on site. Commissioner Lockley said he is not opposed to cleaning up but if it is owned by a bank he is not going to agree to give them a break. Mr. Moron said he thinks we need to get with Mr. Davis to see what effect the concrete will have on the landfill. Once the county knows what the cost of that will be, Mr. Pennycuff would then relay that to the owner and the owner could decide how to proceed.

Mr. Moron recommended the owner contact the contractor and then come back to the county with an amount to be disposed of. At that time, Mr. Davis could give an estimate of tipping fees to the owner and the Board.

Attorney Shuler advised that the county's involvement should be limited at this point. He recommended Mr. Davis give the property owner the information needed and then let the owner move forward from there. The property owner needs to acquire the quote from the contractor and provide that to Mr. Davis for him to provide an accurate tipping fee quote.



### **Airport Manager – Jason Puckett – Update**

Mr. Puckett announced the airport inspection on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> went well and everything passed. Mr. Puckett thanked Centric Aviation.

Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. Puckett what he was doing to create jobs. Mr. Puckett explained that his job was not necessarily one that would create more jobs.

Commissioner Boldt said he would like to make sure all runways remain viable.

Chairman Jones said he had not received the requested documentation from Centric showing that the Board had designated 18/36 as a utility-only runway. Chairman Jones said he had searched the Board minutes and did not find it there, nor in any of the reports received from Centric. Also, Chairman Jones said he had requested a quote to clear the runways and a designation of how long of a runway is needed to accommodate air freight.

Mr. Puckett responded to Chairman Jones saying he had reached out to AVCON on the designation of 18/36 as well as clearing the runways. He will follow up on both of those. On the air freight question, Mr. Puckett said it would cost tens of millions of dollars to bring in international freight. He noted 18/36 is not lit and there are no approaches but it does serve a purpose. He said if the County wants to change the designation then he is 100% agreeable to do that. Chairman Jones said in talking with Triumoh Board Member Matt Terry he felt that if it was a good project they may could get the money.

**Attorney Shuler announced the public hearing at this time.**

### **Public Hearings 11:00 a.m. (ET)**

- M. Notice is given that on the 4th day of May, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. (ET), or as soon thereafter as is possible, in the courtroom at the Courthouse Annex, located at 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, Florida, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners shall conduct a public hearing to consider adopting a county ordinance entitled:

An Ordinance Prohibiting the Parking or Leaving of Private Motor Vehicles, Trailers or Fifth Wheels on the Public Right of Ways on Alligator Point and St. George Island In Areas Marked No Parking; Providing Areas For Parking; Providing For Immobilization Devices; Providing for Towing at Owner's Expense on Authorization of County Sheriff; Providing for Penalties; Revoking All Other Ordinances Regulating Parking On Alligator Point and St. George Island; Providing for Severability and Providing for an Effective Date.

Attorney Shuler opened the floor for the public hearing. Attorney Shuler explained that he had removed the position no longer in existence, removed parking fines, adding additional parking areas at Alligator Point, St. George Island, and Bald Point Road. He asked the Board to consider additional parking as a first step to address this issue and not move forward with the ordinance today. As requested by the Board, he presented a drafted ordinance for discussion.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Jones said he believes there is a parking issue and that we do need to address it. However, there are a lot of areas that we have not clearly marked parking spaces. There are a ton of no parking signs on Alligator Point that appear to be citizen installed and not installed by the county. This needs to be stopped. Any no parking signs should be installed by the county. Commissioner Ward agrees the booting is a great idea but also agrees that we did not take into account the logistics of payment. She also agrees with the sign issue and having a workshop. If citizens are putting up their signs that is a violation of the law.

Commissioner Boldt said he had a discussion with Representative Shoaf and he welcomed a tour of Alligator Point.

Commissioner Parrish said he made a trip to Alligator Point the weekend before Easter and there was plenty of parking. Our seafood industry is down and all we have is tourism. We are going to invite people down here and then not have the correct infrastructure in place to accommodate them. We have to find a common ground. How we affect the people that we are bringing in here needs to be thought about. We also have to look at how Covid is affecting our economy. He said he doesn't want us to adversely affect our tourism and creation of our jobs. Tourism creates a lot of jobs here. The proceeds affect the county's budget and ad valorem taxes. We have to create a plan that works best for everyone. Commissioner Lockley said we may have to put in high rise parking unit.

Sheriff Smith said there are many complaints on Alligator Point and said every weekend a deputy is working there. It seems like residents in Alligator Point are very aggravated. Sheriff Smith said there are places down there that the state can expand it's parking. We do not want to be parking enforcement. However, we are not going to accept them peeing on the road and littering. Hopefully, the Board can look at Alligator Point separately. Sheriff Smith said there are a lot of no parking signs that have been added by the sheriff's department. He said they are trying to find a solution for day traffic and they just wished they would respect our laws. The ones who disrespect the parking law are the ones who break all of the other laws. Sheriff Smith said they would not be able to continue monitoring Alligator Point daily for parking issues. He said the wrecker service is not always available and that is why they were looking for an alternative solution.

The Board and Sheriff Smith discussed the issue with receiving payments if no one is there to collect them. Sheriff Smith said the sheriff's department would not be able to purchase the boots and they are estimated to cost between \$200-\$500 each. Commissioner Parrish asked if there may be a civic organization that would be willing to purchase the boots. Commissioner Boldt indicated that he believed there may be. He also suggested customizing a temporary ordinance for Alligator Point or maybe contracting with a booting company specifically for Alligator Point. Commissioner Parrish said he would be in favor of a separate ordinance for Alligator Point and St. George Island because there aren't commercial businesses on Alligator Point. Sheriff Smith said he would love for someone else to take over the parking issue if there is a private company to take over it. It may be a job that can pay for itself. Commissioner Lockley said sooner or later we are going to have to do something about parking and bathrooms.

**Commissioner Ward made a motion to table and to schedule a workshop to formulate a plan, seconded by Commissioner Boldt. Commissioner Boldt said he would like a telephone survey of towing companies who would be willing to patrol Alligator Point. Commissioner Ward amended the motion to include a telephone survey, seconded by Commissioner Boldt. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Weems Memorial CEO – David Walker – Report:**

H. Report (agenda packet)

Mr. David Walker along with several members of the hospital staff joined the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Walker announced that next week is National Hospital Week and National Nurses Week. Mr. Walker recognized all of the hard-working staff who work diligently but especially over the past year through Covid-19. Mr. Walker gave special recognition to Ms. Lily Mills for 49 years of service; Ms. Jean Roberts for 43 years of service; Ms. Mary Brown for 40 years of service; Ms. Betty Gay for 37 years of service; Ms. Glenda Wilson for 35 years of service. Mr. Walker thanked the Board for their continued support of the hospital.

The Board expressed their appreciation to the hospital staff for their service and dedication.

**Alliant Management CEO/President – Jim Coleman Jr. – Update**

I. Presentation

Mr. Jim Coleman, Jr. gave a status update to the Board. The update included but was not limited to information on the action plan, teamwork, finance, operations, growth, and project tracking.

Commissioner Ward thanked Mr. Coleman for addressing the salary and benefits for the employees of the hospital.

Mr. Moron told the Board Mr. Coleman had made notes during the previous conversation with Senator Ausley regarding applying for Triumph funds for the hospital.

The meeting recessed at 12:45 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 1:45 p.m.

### **ARPC & WSP – Evan Blythe – Update**

- J. Evan Blythe (ARPC), Rick Harter (WSP), & Josh Adams (ARPC) will update the Board on the Franklin-98 project

Mr. Rick Harter and Mr. Josh Adams gave a status update on the Franklin 98 Project. They have submitted permits to the Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Environmental Protection and hope to break ground early next year. The project is planned to extend from Eastpoint breakwater to Carrabelle Beach and should create reef and marsh in the general zone. The goals for the project are to create a new reef and new marsh, increase fishery, employ local workforce, in doing so use innovative ways to create reefs to look natural just like an oyster reef in the wild. Phase 1 of the project was funded by FDE and Phase 2 was funded by NFWF.

Chairman Jones asked what the timeline is for beginning the actual project. Mr. Harter said the bottleneck is the permitting so it will be about a year maybe less. He said designing should be wrapped up in the fall.

Chairman Jones asked if it appeared DOT was catching up on the paving on their current five-year plan. Mr. Harter said no he doesn't believe so. He said he does believe their shoulder planting maybe but they will work together with their roadway engineer. They will have to get two permits from DOT so they continue to have conversations with them throughout the project. Chairman Jones mentioned two million dollars coming down from American Rescue Plan so they may be moving up their timelines.

Commissioner Boldt said he likes the oyster pillow and asked if they planned to work with commercial fishermen and seafood workers.

Commissioner Parrish said it would be awesome if this restoration could take place before the paving to protect the roadway. He said the Eastpoint Civic Association was in this morning and they may have riff rap to use if you work together with them. It is a possibility the concrete can be used. Mr. Adams said they would provide an environmental assessment on the building to be destroyed. Mr. Moron will exchange their contact information.

### **CDBG Administrator – Deborah Belcher – Report**

#### **K. Information Items**

1. As of Wednesday, April 28, 2021, all of the replacement mobile homes for the Eastpoint Wildfire CDBG project are set up. There is some minor work still underway, which is scheduled for completion by Friday, April 30, 2021, which is the grant expiration date. A total of 23 homes have been replaced in the Eastpoint Wildfire CDBG program.

2. Although I have inquired about the status of the County's Hurricane Michael CDBG-Disaster Recovery application for restoration of dunes on Saint George Island, we have not received any news from DEO about the odds of funding. I did advise the Board during the application process that the score would be low, because the project would not primarily benefit low/moderate income persons, and it is not a potable water/sewer/drainage project. However, we have not received any notice of rejection.

Chairman Jones inquired if we were past the normal CDBG cycle. Ms. Belcher said that we were not and she wanted to go ahead and submit the report.

**SHIP Administrator – Lori Switzer-Mills – Report**

**L. Action Items:**

1. Hurricane Housing Recovery Funds (HHRP)

We advertised in April for bids for bid package #2 for 4 more mobile home replacements and had the pre-bid meeting on April 14th. The bid opening was April 28th. There were two bidders, Ironwood Mobile Homes of Perry and Clayton Homes. Ironwood Mobile Homes of Perry won all 4 of the bids.

Since bid package #1 last July, the prices of the mobile homes have went up 25-30% due to cost of materials to build them. When I opened the bids I was concerned that we will not have the funds to help the last few applicants on the list. I called Florida Housing to see if there are any more funds available to cover the increase in cost. There are no more funds. I spoke to Angela Webster with Capital Area Community Action (CAP) to see if they can cover the cost of some of the extra necessary things needed, i.e. septic replacement, engineered foundation, land clearing, tap fees. I was told that they can help with some or all of the costs. Their limit is \$10,000 per applicant.

Even with CAP taking care of some of the costs, we will still be over the \$75,000 mobile home replacement limit.

The bids are as follows:

**Patricia Moore-552 Oyster Road, Apalachicola**

**2 bedroom, 2 bath singlewide.**

Ironwood bid: **\$72,399.05** (price does not include engineered foundation \$8,500, if needed)

Clayton Homes Bid: \$124,000

I have already had the septic system pumped out and inspected. It did not pass inspection. She will need a new septic system. I spoke to Capital Area Community Action who will most likely be able to pay this cost.

**Merry & Christopher Stokes-123 Long Road, Apalachicola**

**3 bedroom, 2 bath single-wide**

Ironwood bid: **\$80,269.80**

Clayton Homes bid: \$136,000

I have already had the septic system pumped out and inspected. It passed inspection.

**Emily Sullivan-151 Bear Creek Road, Eastpoint**

**3 bedroom, 2 bath singlewide**

Ironwood Homes bid: **\$79,069.80**

Clayton Homes bid: \$138,000

**Robert Lattimore-611 Ave D-7th Street, Carrabelle**

**3 bedroom, 2 bath singlewide**

Ironwood Homes bid: **\$85,869.80** ((price does not include engineered foundation \$8,500, if needed)

Clayton Homes bid: \$148,000

Capital Area Community Action will possibly pay for the engineered foundation if it is required.

**Action Item: Increase the limit for mobile home replacements from \$75,000 to \$86,000.**

**On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve increasing the limit for mobile home replacements from \$75,000 to \$86,000.**

Chairman Jones asked if we were getting the same quality with the huge difference in the two quotes. Ms. Switzer-Mills said yes.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**Action Item: Approval of bids**

**Patricia Moore**

Mobile Home	\$72,399.05
Possible Engineered Foundation	\$ 8,500.00
Pump out & Inspection (paid)	\$ 425.00
<b>Total not to exceed</b>	<b>\$81,324.05</b>

**Merry Stokes**

Mobile Home	\$80,269.80
Pump out & Inspection (paid)	\$ 425.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80,694.80</b>

**Emily Sullivan**

Mobile Home	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$79,069.80</b>
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**Robert Lattimore**

Mobile Home	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$85,869.80</b>
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I am planning to put together bid package #3 in the near future in which we will be replacing two more mobile homes and possibly 1 more mobile home repair depending on the amount of funding we have left.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve the mobile home bids. Motion carried 5-0.**

**SHIP 2018-2019 Funds**

We are required to have the 2018-2019 funds spent by June 30th. As of this board meeting we have spent all of the funds \$497,870.11.

We are required to have the 2019-2020 funds encumbered by June 30th. Total funds \$376,925.35. As of this date we have spent \$96,817 and encumbered \$198,942. We are working to get the remaining \$80,000 encumbered.

As you know, we did not get our funding for this year, 2020-2021. We have a total of \$68,945.84.

The Board discussed the possibility of increasing the caps on repairs to account for increases in contracting prices and materials.

**Item previously addressed after Airport Manager – Jason Puckett – Update**

## **Public Hearings 11:00 a.m. (ET)**

- M. Notice is given that on the 4th day of May, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. (ET), or as soon thereafter as is possible, in the courtroom at the Courthouse Annex, located at 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, Florida, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners shall conduct a public hearing to consider adopting a county ordinance entitled:

An Ordinance Prohibiting the Parking or Leaving of Private Motor Vehicles, Trailers or Fifth Wheels on the Public Right of Ways on Alligator Point and St. George Island In Areas Marked No Parking; Providing Areas For Parking; Providing For Immobilization Devices; Providing for Towing at Owner's Expense on Authorization of County Sheriff; Providing for Penalties; Revoking All Other Ordinances Regulating Parking On Alligator Point and St. George Island; Providing for Severability and Providing for an Effective Date.

## **RFP / RFO / Bids Opening**

- N. FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE COMPLETION OF A COUNTY-WIDE DUNE RESTORATION STUDY

Mr. Moron and Mrs. Griffith opened the sealed RFQs received for the County-wide Dune Restoration Study.

### **RFQs received from:**

- 1. MRD ASSOCIATES, INC. - DESTIN**
- 2. WSP USA, INC. - TALLAHASSEE**

- O. FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN – ST. GEORGE ISLAND STORM WATER DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Moron and Mrs. Griffith opened the sealed RFQs received for the Professional Consultant Services for Planning and Design – St. George Island Storm Water Drainage Improvements.

### **RFQs received from:**

- 1. KIMLEY HORN - TALLAHASSEE**
- 2. DRMP - TALLAHASSEE**
- 3. DEWBERRY ENGINEERS, INC. - PORT ST. JOE**
- 4. KEITH ENGINEERING - POMPANO BEACH**

## **Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator – Erin Griffith – Report**

### **P. Action Items**

1. Release RFQs to ranking committee RESTORE Projects

The Board is opening the RFQs for the County Wide Dune Restoration Study and the St. George Island Storm Water Drainage Improvement Projects today. Once the RFQs are opened, the Board will need to turn the RFQs over to the Evaluation Committee (as designated at your April 6th meeting: myself, Alan Pierce and Mark Curenton) to evaluate the responses and make a recommendation to the Board. Upon selection/confirmation of the recommended firm, county staff will then begin negotiations to create a budget to accomplish the Scope of Work in the RFQ. As reported at your meeting on February 16th, the contract will not be able to be awarded until the grant is formally approved by treasury. At this time Franklin County is still awaiting the final review. All costs associated with this work will be paid by RESTORE funds.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved to release the responses to the RFQ solicitations to the Evaluation Committee. Motion carried 5-0.**

## 2. Perimeter Plants for Eastpoint Dredging Spoil Site

At the April 6, 2021 meeting, the Planting Plan for the Eastpoint Dredging Project was discussed and later approved by FWC (attached). The plan calls for a vegetative fringe for perimeter stabilization along the spoil site. As the county owns and maintains the spoil site, the needed plants are the county's responsibility. Ms. Jenna Harper, ANERR, has agreed to use her staff and volunteers to plant the vegetation with corporation from the Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast to harvest, transport, propagate, deliver, install and monitor the plants over a period of up to three years. Included today on the county bill list was a check for \$5,500 made payable to Friends of the Reserve for 2,250 Spartina Alterniflora (marsh grass) in 4" pots which will be split by ANERR and grown into the 4,500-5,000 plants that will be needed at the site. The county is requesting reimbursement for the cost of the plants from the County Soil and Conservation Board.

**On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the \$5,500 expenditure to the Friends of the Reserve. Motion carried 5-0.**

## 3. Budget Request Letters

Franklin County is beginning preparations for the fiscal year 2021/2022 Budget. All budget requests must be submitted by June 15, 2021. I have prepared the attached draft budget request letter with the following instructions: "At the direction of the Board, please keep your request at your current adopted budget. Please be aware, the long term financial impact from COVID-19 as it pertains to the economy nationwide and state shared revenues is uncertain at this time. On March 6th, 2021, the Commission authorized a contract with Evergreen Solutions to perform a wage and pay plan classification study for all county employees due by June 30th, 2021. Changes in compensation and phased implementation of this plan will be considered by the Board during the budget process."

**On a motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized sending the budget request letters as drafted or with any changes/additional instructions.**

Commissioner Boldt asked if there was a way to plan for money-neutral items. Mrs. Griffith said we did increase building department fees last year and now the building department is self-sufficient with a surplus. Mrs. Griffith said we could increase tipping fees.

Commissioner Parrish said he doesn't think it is fair to ask every other office to keep their budget the same when one office is going up. Commissioner Lockley said you tell them no. If you are going to raise the budget here, then there should be an offset somewhere so that it doesn't put the burden on the taxpayers. Commissioner Boldt asked if we can use our county budget officer as the gatekeeper. If it's not budget neutral she just doesn't accept it. Commissioner Ward said that we can use Triumph grant funds to make up the difference for the ad valorem taxes. Mr. Moron you can end up costing yourself more money by adding it than not. Chairman Jones said why we don't ask each department head to come up with a three-year plan of what they think they may need, basically a forecast of what they may need.

**Commissioner Boldt amended the motion to include language in the letter requesting each department head to provide a list of items that will need to be purchased in the next (3) years. Commissioner Ward seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

## 4. Trade-in authorization 2002 Caterpillar 963C

The 2021 Caterpillar 963 Track Loader that was ordered for the Franklin County Landfill in October was delivered in late March. At this meeting Franklin County is processing the payment for the new loader from the Tipping Fee Fund. The old 2002 Caterpillar 963C which was in need of repair was traded-in with a residual value of \$20,000 towards the new purchase. Ring Power will need the attached Bill of Sale signed by the Chairman to credit Franklin County for the trade.

**On a motion by Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the attached Bill of Sale and authorization to remove the 2002 Caterpillar Track Loader County Tag A00410 SN 2DS02657 from inventory. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### 5. Disposal Request Clerk's Office Obsolete Equipment

The Franklin County Clerk's Office has submitted the attached request to remove the following fixed assets from inventory: Savin Mapping Machine County Tag A004382 and Roll Feeder County Tag A004246 both from 2003 and a Minolta Copier County Tag A004168 from 2002. These items were in disrepair and functionally obsolete. The items will be discarded at the Franklin County Landfill upon authorization.

**On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, Commissioner Ward, and Commissioner Lockley and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the removal from inventory and disposal of the three items listed above. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### 6. Sheriff's Department E911 Grants

*Deferred until next meeting*

#### 7. Scott Timber Island Road Project

The surveying, design and permitting work is now complete on the SCOP Timber Island Road Project and the county is ready to proceed with the advertising for the construction and CEI for the project. This project will widen and resurface all of Timber Island Road from US Highway 98 to the Carrabelle River and is funded entirely by a grant awarded through the Florida Department of Transportation's SCOP Program.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board authorized the advertisement for construction and CEI for the SCOP Timber Island Road Project. Motion carried 5-0.**

### Q. Informational Item

#### 1. Eastpoint Fishing Pier Hurricane Michael Washout Repair

For information the bid solicitation for the Eastpoint Fishing Pier Hurricane Michael Washout Repair Project is attached to this report. The bid solicitation is currently posted to the county website and the governmental bid platform DemandStar, and advertised in newspapers the Apalachicola Times and the Panama City News Herald. Bids are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 28th and will be opened on Tuesday, June 1st. The repairs include grading the embankment, patching the damaged asphalt parking area, the installation of articulated concrete block, removing and replacing the damaged guardrail, ADA wooden boardwalk and rubble.

### **County Coordinator - Michael Morón - Report**

#### R. Action Items

1. Jingoli Power Laydown Yard: I was recently contacted by a Jingoli Power representative asking if the County would be interested in a lease for a storage and laydown yard for telephone poles, transformers, services trucks, heavy equipment and other related products. Jingoli



Power acts as a subcontractor for Duke Energy. The requested area was next to the County's "State yard" off of Bluff Road (see attached map). Prior to seeking your approval today, Jingoli's representatives have cleared the use of this area with AVCON, as this is Airport property but outside of Runway 6/24 Protection Zone, and with Mr. Howard Nabors your Road and Bridge Superintendent, as this is located next to the County's Road Department storage and staging "State yard" that is used mostly during storms and disasters. Jingoli Power would like approval from the Board as soon as possible since hurricane season is approaching and it will take some time for them to prepare the site for use. If the Board is inclined to approve this request, it should be contingent on Attorney Shuler's review of the lease.

***Item previously addressed under Department Directors Report-Superintendent of Roads and Bridges – Howard Nabors***

2. Scrivener's Error on Bluff Road: While reviewing the property for the Jingoli Power storage and laydown yard a possible Scrivener's Error was discovered. I asked Mr. Curenton to research this possible error and his statement, attached to my report, is as follows: "The northeast corner of the Apalachicola Airport, where the Franklin County Road Department yard is located is currently Zoned R-4 Single Family Home Industry, as shown on the attached copy of the zoning map, which was originally drawn in 1990. This map was copied from a smaller scale map at that time. The map on the following page from the Franklin County Property Appraiser's website shows the different lots in the area along with the location of the R-4 zoning on the southwest side of Bluff Road. The area highlighted in red is the private residential property located on the southwest side of Bluff Road. In my opinion the R-4 zoned area should only encompass this private residential property. The remainder of the property belonging to Franklin County on the southwest side of Bluff Road should be zoned I-1 Industrial, like the rest of the Apalachicola Airport." Based on Mr. Curenton's information and opinion, will the Board consider declaring this a Scrivener's Error and direct Mr. Curenton to correct the zoning?

**On a motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Lockley, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to declare the Scrivener's Error and direct Mr. Curenton to correct the zoning.**

Commissioner Boldt asked if changing the zoning would affect the airport or landing zone. Mr. Moron said that it would clear it up so that it will all be correctly zoned I-1 Industrial. **Motion carried 5-0.**

3. Gulf County Request: A couple of weeks ago Gulf County sent a request to inquire if Franklin County would be interested in partnering with and participating in funding a dry dock and ship repair facility at the St. Joe Port. I suggested that Mr. Jim McKnight, Director of Gulf County's Economic Development Coalition, meet with each Commissioner to discuss this proposal in detail. Mr. McKnight informed me that he did contact each Commissioner and asked to be added to today's agenda to discuss this with the entire Board. I explained to Mr. McKnight that because the request included a \$5,000,000 commitment of Franklin County's Triumph Allocation to the project, it was important for this Board to discuss it today to voice any concerns or additional questions you may have about the project to each other, before Gulf County representatives appear before you seek a commitment. Mr. McKnight was concerned that even though their request to this Board was last minute, any delay on our end may affect the timeline or deadline for the project, so in the request he is asking for this Board to schedule a workshop as soon as possible to discuss this matter with Gulf County.

Chairman Jones said he had spoken with Triumph Board Member Matt Terry asking how it all works with partnering with other counties for Triumph funds. Chairman Jones said that Mr. Terry told him that a certain amount of funds have been allocated to each county. However, if your county has a good project you are not hindered by that amount of money. Chairman Jones said he does not believe it will increase the chances of approval for Gulf County if we put up

five million dollars of our allocated funds. Commissioner Parrish said that he agrees and that 50% of Triumph funds can be used at their board's discretion. So if Triumph likes their project they could receive all of the funds from them. Commissioner Parrish said he has concerns with committing five million dollars of our funds with no control over the project or the hiring. Also, Commissioner Parrish pointed out that the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners has not voted on the bonding issue, yet our board is being asked to approve the commitment. The Board discussed sending a letter of support.

**Commissioner Ward made a motion to send a letter of support for the dry dock and ship repair facility, seconded by Commissioner Boldt.**

Commissioner Boldt said if we give up the five million dollars we will lose our placeholder position with Triumph. **Motion carried 5-0.**

4. Paving & Striping Projects: Roberts and Roberts is in the County working on a State funded paving project. Due to Leslie Street closer between Highway 98 and Market Street and Forbes Street closer between the main Courthouse Building and the Annex Building, Chairman Jones suggested that I contact the City of Apalachicola about temporarily opening eastern end of Leslie Street, between Market Street and Water Street, as a two-way for access to the Courthouse. The City agreed to the request, so I then contacted Roberts and Roberts for a quote to restripe Leslie Street as a two-way, instead of a one-way with on-street parking, when their striping crew is in the County for the State project, with the expectation that the County would save on mobilization cost. Roberts and Roberts submitted a \$2500 quote for this project. I recommend that since this is for Courthouse access, the cost for this project is divided equally between all five Commissioners from your paving funds. With that same thought process, some of you have requested quotes on small projects in your district. Chairman Jones requested asphalt and striping on portions of 5th, 6th, and 7th streets on St. George Island for a total of \$63,180 which will be paid from District 1's paving funds. Commissioner Lockley asked for asphalt overlay and striping on what is the eastern end of Martin Luther King Jr. Street (Ave J) and also known as the street to the "fish cleaning table" from Water Street. Commissioner Lockley also requested a quote for an asphalt overlay for the Chapman Building parking lot. The total cost for both projects is \$46,530 and will be paid from District 3's paving funds. Commissioner Parish requested repairs, an asphalt overlay and striping on Bluff Road along with grading and an asphalt overlay at the Buddy Ward Park Museum. The total cost for both projects is \$83,070 which will be paid from District 4 paving funds.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve the above-referenced change orders to the County's paving project and authorize Roberts and Roberts to do the projects as stated above. The first for \$2,500 paid from all five district paving funds, the second for \$63,180 paid from District 1's paving fund, the third for \$46,530 paid from District 3's paving fund, and the fourth for \$83,070 paid from District 4's paving funds.**

Commissioner Lockley requested Roberts and Roberts be contacted and make sure they do the roundabout by the fish cleaning table where boats can get in and out. Commissioner Ward said she will have some areas in her district for striping also. Chairman Jones said he would also have some streets to add at the next meeting. Commissioner Parrish said he may add some also.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Moron announced an upcoming FDOT pre-construction meeting for the paving project on US Hwy 98 from Tilton Road to 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

5. CareerSource Agreement: CareerSource Gulf Coast is requesting Board action to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the new Grantee/Sub-grantee agreement, which begins on May 15, 2021 and may continue for three years, through May 15, 2024. This final

Grantee/Sub-grantee agreement serves as a contract between the CareerSource Gulf Coast board and DEO and outlines each partner's roles and responsibilities. Attorney Shuler has not had the opportunity to review this agreement as yet.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the new Grantee/Sub-grantee agreement contingent on Attorney Shuler's review. Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairman Jones noted the construction of the shoreline 98 projects is getting closer and there might be a connection that needs to be made through CareerSource.

6. 8 County Oil Spill Meeting: I received an invitation from State Senator Doug Broxson's office to attend an 8 County Oil spill Administrator's meeting on Monday, May 24th at 12:30 p.m. (ET) at the Walton County Courthouse Annex in Santa Rosa Beach. One of the main meeting topics for discussion are projects that the Board would like to fund with TRIUMPH dollars. I think it is proper for the Board to create a list of projects to submit to the Senator's office for Triumph funding prior to the May 24th meeting. The Board could finalize this list, hopefully a one-page list, at your May 18th regular meeting.

- Broadband infrastructure
- Full renovation of Fort Coombs Armory
- Weems Hospital – Outpatient clinic
- A trust fund for future maintenance dredging of the channel

The Board will finalize the list at the May 18<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

***Item previously addressed after Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Courts***

7. CRS-LMS: Attached to my report and as part of the County recertification process is the Community Rating System (CRS) Progress Report prepared by Mrs. Angela Lolley, your Floodplain Administrator. As part of the CRS, County homeowners are able to save on their premiums as part of the national flood insurance program. Copies of the report are available for the public and must be submitted to the Board at a public meeting and made part of the official records. The County's Local Mitigation Strategy is submitted as part of the report along with information from your Emergency Management Office. The recertification submission deadline is Monday May 10th. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Lolley.

**S. Informational Items**

1. Ethics Class: Inform the Board that your Ethics Class is scheduled for 9 a.m. (ET) here in the Commission meeting room on Saturday, May 15th. This class will certify you for 2020. As you may recall we tried to schedule a number of classes last year but due to COVID and other reasons was unsuccessful. Later this year we will schedule another class for 2021 certification.

2. CareerSource Funding: At your last meeting the Board was informed that the last day for the workers participating in the Hurricane Michael program would be on April 30th as there was no additional funding. Once the accounts were balanced, there is actually enough funds for a few more weeks of work. Mr. Fonda Davis, CareerSource, and QLM (the employment agency) worked together to create a list of the current employees and supervisors that will continue to work for the next few weeks. I will ask Mr. Davis to inform the Board once the funds are completely expended.

3. Equal Shot Program: I wanted to use this opportunity to bring some attention and exposure to the Equal Shot basketball program led by JT Escobar. My 6-year-old grandson, Xavier Lewis, participated in this program for the first time this year and that exposed me to some of the great things this program is providing to the County's youth. What makes this program unique

from other sports programs is the core mission, “to develop and launch notable leaders & creative problem solvers in the community”. They focus not only on athletic development, but also leadership development and skill acquisition. This program is a great compliment to the successful baseball, soccer, and football programs already in the County. I’ve included a hand-out that provides additional information on the program.

4. LSE Covid-19: As authorized by the Board, Chairman Jones signed COVID-19 Local State of Emergency Declarations for the weeks starting April 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th.

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

#### T. Report (agenda packet)

Lease National Guard hanger:

The City of Apalachicola contacted Ms. Erin Griffith and asked for a copy of the lease of the old National Guard hanger at 17 Chapman Drive. There is no such lease. The City has used this facility for decades as its base of operations for its road department and possibly other city functions. The discussion has been that the City would provide liability, windstorm, and fire insurance in the amount of One Million Dollars in lieu of rent. The leases approved by the Board for other entities have been a 15-year lease with a 6-month termination provision.

Commissioner Parrish asked if this building is outside of the airport property. Attorney Shuler said it does not appear to be. Commissioner Parrish said they should be paying fair market value as the County would be and the lease should be contingent upon providing proof insurance. Chairman Jones and Commissioner Boldt as to the fair market value for rent amount. Attorney Shuler said the City has indicated that they have insurance on the building but they have not provided proof of coverage. Attorney Shuler will collect additional information and report back to the Board at a later time.

Interlocal Agreement City of Carrabelle Re: Ryan Drive:

Attached is a draft interlocal agreement for the repair of a box culvert on Ryan Drive, Carrabelle, Florida. As you know, it is the County’s position that Ryan Drive belongs to the City of Carrabelle and is not a County Road. However, assisting with the repair is allowed.

**On a motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, to approve the interlocal agreement with the City of Carrabelle for the repair of Ryan Drive. Motion carried 5-0.**

Supervisor of Elections Building:

The current lease expired on March 1, 2021. I have discussed the renewal of the lease with Mr. Harry Arnold has made the repairs to the building, except for the request that he stabilizes the NE corner and a key padlock on the front door. The monthly rent has been \$2000.00 per month for about a decade. Mr. Arnold requests a 5-year lease at \$2,500.00 per month, with three one-year automatic renewals.

Attorney Shuler noted that a couple of the requested repairs have not been made which include the keypad entry lock and stabilizing the building. The Board discussed the lack of available properties for the office, the remaining repairs needed, the cramped area, and the six-month escape clause being added back in. Attorney Shuler said he did not feel that Mr. Arnold had any plans to jack up and stabilize the building at this time. However, Attorney Shuler said he did not believe Mr. Arnold would have any issue in adding the escape clause to the agreement.

**On a motion by Commissioner Lockley, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board approved the renewal of the lease. Motion carried 5-0.**

Chris Langston In Re: Liberty County, Florida

At the last meeting, the Board approved sending a letter of support to Liberty County for a land swap with the State of Florida to facilitate a mining operation. The minutes provided by Mr. Langston indicate that Liberty County wanted a letter of support to conduct a workshop to consider a land swap.

Mr. Chris Langston said Commissioner Brown from Liberty County was on the line to speak. Commissioner Brown thanked the Board for taking the time. He said they have received letters from most of the counties and would like a letter from Franklin. Mr. Langston asked him to clear up that the Liberty County Board had voted to exchange the land. Commissioner Brown confirmed that the Board did vote to approve the land swap and they would like to get support from surrounding counties. Mr. Moron said he would need the minutes as referenced above. Chairman Jones said the minutes received from Liberty County did not indicate a vote had been made. Attorney Shuler said according to the minutes, which he read, they did not say the Board voted to approve the land swap but to hold a workshop. Commissioner Ward asked if they wanted a letter of support for the project or a letter of support to hold a workshop. Commissioner Brown indicated that they wanted letter of support for the project and he was unaware the minutes did not reflect such. Mr. Langston explained the steps of the process and said the first step was to get the support from surrounding counties. He said there may have been some misconception that the letter was sent out without Liberty County Commissioners' consent. However, he said the letter would not have gone out without the Board's consent. He reaffirmed the request was directly from the Liberty County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Moron will contact the Liberty County Clerk of Court to clarify if the minutes posted are correct as stated, or if the Liberty County BOCC will amend the minutes to state that the project has been approved, or if other minutes are approving this land swap and mining project.

Chairman Jones asked Mr. Moron to clarify with Liberty County Clerk of Court and if there is an issue to bring back before the Board. Otherwise, the Board has approved the letter of support to be sent.

### **Informational Item**

#### **Alligator Point MSBU Assessment**

The Board directed me to review the matter concerning the MSBU increase authorized at Alligator Point in 2013. There has been some concern expressed by some members of the public at Alligator Point concerning the use of the increased MSBU funds for uses other than those represented by a prior board of the APVFD, or words to that effect.

My opinion herein is limited to a review of whether the County Commission or the ballot voted on by the public required the purchase of any specific itemized list of equipment or fire-related expense, and, based on the minutes provided to me, there was no such restriction imposed by either the County Commission or the ballot.

Specifically, there was no mandate by the County Commission that the MSBU funds must be used by the APVFD to buy a fireboat, moving the fire department, purchasing a ladder truck, or any other specific item. If you recall, both St. George Island and Alligator Point sought an increase in 2013 and the County Commission did not place any specific requirement on either VFD that it purchases, or refrain from purchasing, any particular equipment for fighting fires. The County Commission established policy in the MSBU ordinance and relied on the various VFDs to implement fire protection and rescue services consistent with those policies.

Apparently, the issue that members of the APVFD sent a letter out prior to the ballot stating its intent to purchase certain items if the MSBU increase was approved. However, the actual ballot approved by the Board of County Commissioners which was voted on by the public contained no such specific spending restriction. The fact that a subsequent board chose to pursue uses of the MSBU funds other than the representations articulated by a prior board is not unlawful;

provided that the MSBU funds are required to be spent in accordance with the MSBU ordinance. I render no opinion regarding whether the expenditures by the APVFD do, or do not, comply with the ordinance because I have not reviewed any of the expenditures.

**Commissioners' Comments**

Chairman Jones announced the Franklin County Varsity baseball team will be playing a regional playoff game in Chipley on Friday at 7 p.m.

Commissioner Lockley said if the TDC is going to continue promoting tourism on the web, we are going to have to prepare for them. He said we need to build additional bathrooms and parking.

Commissioner Boldt agreed that we need to be preparing. Commissioner Ward said she believed the TDC workshop will help.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

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Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts