

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
MAY 19, 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**

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

1. *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 view via livestream (<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#. 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 are made.*

**Prayer and Pledge**

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of 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 April 9, 2020.**

**Payment of County Bills**

2. May 5, 2020 Bill List
3. May 19, 2020 Bill List

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

Commissioner Massey stated in relation to the virus, our people fought for our freedom and he thinks they are trying to take our freedom. He listed other viruses that have occurred and during those times the country was never shut down. Commissioner Massey stated if the Governor does not want to open Franklin County then he will make a motion to open Franklin County up. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to open up Franklin County.** Mr. Moron questioned if he means vacation rentals. Commissioner Massey answered vacation rentals and getting everything going. Mr. Moron pointed out the county did not close the vacation rentals. He said the state closed vacation rentals under the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). He explained on Friday the Governor's conference explained he will open a window of opportunity and the county can submit a plan for how they recommend re-opening and how the vacation rentals will operate. Mr. Moron explained the Governor was clear the plan must state they will not rent to international visitors or visitors from hot spots or the plan will not be approved. He reported the county's plan includes this language. Mr. Moron explained Gulf County, Bay County and other counties to the west are submitting basically the same plans. He stated they want the Governor to realize this is a regional effort and they will address any issues. Mr. Moron reported the county's plan was submitted on Friday. He reported Mr. Halsey Beshears, DBPR, went over all the plans, gave his stamp of approval and they are in the Governor's office awaiting approval. He stated last night the county received an email with a link to DBPR showing each county and their status on opening and hopefully they will populate the website this morning. He explained the Tourist Development Council (TDC) has a conference call today and Mr. Beshears will explain how they would like to see the county open. He stated they will explain what the state is looking for and under what conditions the county can open. Mr. Moron said he asked Mr. John Solomon, TDC Administrator, to call when the conference call is over and let the Board know what he has learned. He reminded everyone opening of the short term rentals is not a County Commission decision but a state decision. Mr. Moron explained the county has done everything the state has asked them to do and now they are waiting on a decision. Chairman Lockley stated when an executive order comes out from the Governor then the Board of County Commissioners loses power and have no control over the situation. He reported people should send letters to the Governor about this matter because the Board has done all they can. Commissioner Boldt said he empathizes with Commissioner Massey and feels the same way but the standard of practice protects the county as they are following superior guidelines from higher up. He explained in the past with the other viruses the science was different so they need to wait and continue to watch the state guidelines. Chairman Lockley said there is not a cure but they have set up testing and tracing. Mr. Moron said there are a lot of calls coming in about this matter. Commissioner Massey stated he does not understand because people are shopping in other counties and people are mingling. He said people are also hurting in the county and out of work. He reported some people who have a lot of money don't care if the county opens. Commissioner Boldt reported the county also does not have a virus case that originated in the county as both of the cases were imported. He said it appears the county is doing very well. **Commissioner Massey withdrew the motion.**

## Public Comments

Mr. Moron reported they have switched to a new call in system for the meetings which is cheaper but not free. He explained only people that want to speak under public comments should use the call in number. He stated today is the first time the meeting is being live streamed through Forgotten Coast TV. Mr. Moron explained the instructions for indicating you would like to speak. He stated after public comments he will let the phone conference go for a while and then disconnect it if there are no issues with livestreaming so everyone will need to switch over to the livestream at that time. Mr. Moron said there are only 3 people that want to speak at this time. Chairman Lockley stated they will have 3 minutes to speak but if there are over 10 speakers the time will be reduced.

Mr. George Bird, a property owner at St. George Island, said he has been preparing his property for construction since March, 2019. He stated he resides in a rural area of upstate New York not New York City. He explained in April, 2020 after consulting with Florida state officials he traveled to his property to prepare it for construction. He reported he registered his arrival at a checkpoint off I-95 at the state line and completed a questionnaire concerning his stay. Mr. Bird stated he was authorized to continue his trip to the property. He said approximately 24 hours after arriving at his property he was escorted from the property by the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. He explained he was given the choice of jail or a stay at the Franklin Inn in Carrabelle overnight. Mr. Bird said after one night at the Franklin Inn he returned to New York instead of quarantining for 14 days. He reported in addition to the inconvenience he was charged over \$990 for a one night stay at the Franklin Inn which is price gouging. Mr. Bird stated he cannot work on or visit his property but still has to pay taxes. He asked the Board to either accept decisions of the state officials at the border or consider reducing property taxes for the out of state residents that cannot utilize their property. Mr. Bird commended the members of the Franklin County Sheriff's Department for their professionalism while handling this situation. He pointed out New York is a large state and only a small portion is New York City and the surrounding boroughs which have the majority of the COVID-19 cases. He explained Governor Ron Desantis distinguishes between New York City and upstate New York and he requested the Board amend the stricter quarantine regulations for those boroughs and not the entire state. He said he follows the Board meetings and the Board does a good job.

Mr. Craig Rodrigue, a property owner at St. George Island, stated they have done what they asked and stayed away from their property and cannot rent their property. He reported they should discuss property tax reductions because the property cannot be rented and is not valuable like it was before.

Ms. Brenda Karlin, a resident of St. George Island, inquired if it is possible to get a report on the county's website that provides the amount of revenue that is being lost due to the virus. She asked if there are any recommendations to look at the county resources and either lay off people or adjust current expenses. Ms. Karlin said she appreciates that the beaches are open.

## **Department Directors Report**

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

4. Detail of work performed and material hauled by District

Mr. Nabors reported everyone at the Road Department is staying safe, social distancing and using hand sanitizer. He said there are no inmates to assist the department so they are keeping everything up. Commissioner Boldt stated they put some money in the Road Department budget for Alligator Point Road. Mr. Nabors reported they had high winds and waves yesterday but the road at Alligator Point is okay.

Commissioner Boldt said one of the flashing caution lights to reduce speed near Island View Park is out. He requested Mr. Nabors contact the state to have this checked. Mr. Nabors agreed to contact the state.

Mr. Nabors stated he met with the state about the trees on the right-of-way but the trees are on private property. He said he tried to get the trees removed but has not been successful. Commissioner Boldt asked if the trees are in Lanark Village. Mr. Nabors replied no, they are in Eastpoint.

Commissioner Jones asked Mr. Moron to address an item on his report while Mr. Nabors is present. Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

28. Roberts & Roberts Proposal for District 1 Roads: At your February 4th regular meeting the Board authorized Commissioner Jones to contact Roberts & Roberts about paving Plum and Creamer Streets in Eastpoint and Bayshore Drive on St. George Island. This project would be a change order to the airport project Roberts and Roberts is currently working on. The total cost of this change order would be \$135,490.00 and paid from District 1's paving funds. Request: Board action to authorize the Change Order for the paving of Plum and Creamer Streets and Bayshore Drive from District 1's paving funds.

**Commissioner Jones made a motion to authorize the change order in the amount of \$135,490.00 for the paving of Plum Street and Creamer Street in Eastpoint and Bayshore Drive on St. George Island from the District 1 paving funds.** Chairman Lockley said he would like to add 2 streets in his district that are a public health problem. Mr. Moron explained they will follow the same process and have Roberts & Roberts review the area and see what needs to be done. He reported Roberts & Roberts will send a proposal and they will turn that into the change order. **Commissioner Parrish seconded the motion.** Commissioner Jones clarified these are only sections of the roads and not the entire roads. Commissioner Boldt requested the balance of paving funds in their individual districts. Mrs. Griffith agreed to provide the balances to each Commissioner. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Pierce reported he received a complaint about people using the KOA property (county owned property) at Alligator Point as a go cart track. He stated the county purchased this property with state funds and part of the obligation is to maintain the natural vegetation so they have to limit how people are getting on the property. He requested they place barriers and block the accesses. Mr. Nabors stated the people going on the property are moving the

barriers and making other accesses. Mr. Pierce reported they are also having problems at the end of Harry Morrison Road. Chairman Lockley and Mr. Pierce discussed putting signs in the area. Mr. Nabors explained if they put signs there the signs will disappear.

### **RFP/RFQ/BID OPENING**

15. Road Department Building: Project is located at 376 State Road 65 North, Eastpoint, Florida and consists of an approximately 2280sq. ft. conditioned space building. Contractor shall be responsible for completion of new building to plans and permits: construction of new monolithic concrete slab, wood frame walls, painted gypsum walls and ceilings, doors and windows, flooring, provide new plumbing, HVAC and electrical. Exterior work includes new Hardi siding, fascia and soffits, roofing, exterior site lighting, and railing at front entry.

Mr. Pierce stated there are 4 bids but they are asking the Board not to award the contract yet as they need to review the bids and also look at the revenue stream for the Road Department to see if there is revenue to construct the building at this time. He explained the Road Department's budget is based on the state revenue sharing of gas tax and for 2-3 months there was no travel on state roads. He said they will open bids and then the Finance Department can give a recommendation at the next meeting. Chairman Lockley asked how long the bids are good for. Mr. Pierce stated they are usually good for 90 days. Mr. Pierce opened and read the bids, as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Duncan Home Construction, Inc.	Apalachicola, FL	\$416,239.13
OliverSperry Renovation	Tallahassee, FL	\$393,508.00
Storm Construction, Inc.	Carrabelle, FL	\$321,465.00
Certus Builders	Bristol, FL	\$364,168.00

All of the bidders had a bid bond. Mr. Pierce explained OliverSperry Renovation submitted a bid and then submitted an amended bid before the bid deadline so only the amended bid will be opened. Mrs. Griffith suggested Mr. Steve Patterson, County Building Official, be included on the review committee. Mr. Pierce said the review committee for the bids will be Mrs. Griffith, Mr. Nabors, and Mr. Patterson. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to turn the bids over to the committee for review and a recommendation. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley stated these are hard times and he would like to keep this local if possible. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Moron asked the Board to allow the Sheriff to respond to the caller that discussed being escorted away from his property so they will have the whole story. Sheriff A.J. Smith said he saw an email earlier in the week from the gentleman from New York. He reported when the information was provided at the checkpoints it was never given to them. Sheriff Smith stated they received a complaint so deputies went to the property and apparently this gentleman was living in his car. He said the gentlemen was originally going to quarantine for 2 weeks but then only stayed 1 day and he believes that is why he was charged almost a \$1,000.

Mr. Moron addressed the request that the county provide revenue status on the website and said at the last meeting they talked about budget but it is a work in progress. Commissioner Jones said they also had a conversation about a doing a hiring freeze. Chairman Lockley stated everything they do is a public record. Mrs. Griffith explained their revenue estimates and sales tax proceeds have a delay of 2 months so they have not received any of the sales tax proceeds yet for March. She said at this point they are not sure how bad it will be but March may be okay because they got almost halfway through the month before the closures started. Mrs. Griffith stated they do not know the effects of April or May either. Chairman Lockley reported when they get this information it will be public record. Commissioner Boldt asked if they can give the report with a year to date comparison. Mrs. Griffith agreed to provide that information. Mrs. Griffith clarified the county is not 2 months behind but there is a 2 month delay in the distribution coming from the state. Commissioner Boldt stated the Clerk has already alerted them to the problem with her budget and other constitutional officers may have alerts as well so they want to be careful.

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

Mr. Davis read the following action item:

#### FOR BOARD INFORMATION:

Update for the BOCC: the rehabilitation of the incinerator at the landfill is nearing completion. All metal panels have been repaired and redone along with tubing and external air ducts. With this portion of the project nearing completion, the fire bricks and refractory cement that act as the interior fire shield of the unit will also need to be replaced. McPherson Systems out of Tifton Georgia is a regional sole-source supplier for the specific brand of fire brick, refractory cement and installation that is needed for the incinerator. The estimated cost to fire proof the eighteen panels within the incinerator will be approximately \$850/panel or about \$15,300. The tipping fee fund is paying for the repairs to the incinerator and this will extend the useful life of this infrastructure component by approximately twenty years. The engine may still require replacement at some point in the future but for now the necessary repairs are being made.

#### 5. ACTION REQUESTED: Board Approval

Motion to waive the bid policy for a sole-source supplier, McPherson Systems, and to proceed with the necessary replacement of the refractory panels in the incinerator to be paid from the Tipping Fee Fund.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to waive the bid policy for a sole-source supplier, McPherson Systems, and proceed with the necessary replacement of the refractory panels in the incinerator to be paid from the Tipping Fee Fund.**

Mr. Davis reported he is receiving a lot of calls and concerns about the condition of the dune walkovers at Alligator Point. He explained the dune walkovers were damaged in previous storms and then Hurricane Michael did additional damage. He reported the dune walkovers are very unsafe. Mr. Davis stated it will take a lot of money to replace the dune walkovers and they are beyond repair. He requested permission to remove the dune walkovers at Alligator

Point. Commissioner Boldt reported he has heard comments from constituents and has been out to look at the dune walkovers and they are unsafe. He said they do not serve a purpose now except for being a hazard. Commissioner Boldt asked if there are any other consequences of taking the dune walkovers away. He questioned what the state will say about these being removed and the dunes being trampled over which may already be occurring. Mr. Pierce said when these dune walkovers are removed people will walk over the sand unless the Board takes separate action to close the beach accesses. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to take the dune walkovers up at Alligator Point until they can afford to rebuild them. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt inquired if they can have some directional signs about using the designated walkway instead of walking on the sand dunes and sea oats. Mr. Davis agreed they can get some signs. Mr. Pierce reported they can do laminated plastic signs. Chairman Lockley agreed they need signs so people know where private property is and where public property is. Commissioner Boldt inquired about garbage collection in these areas. Mr. Davis stated they collect garbage before the weekend and after the weekend in these areas. Attorney Shuler said based on Commissioner Boldt's comment they need to amend the motion to include adding directional signs for the public beach access. **Commissioner Massey amended his motion to include adding directional signs to the public beach accesses. Commissioner Boldt amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.** Chairman Lockley stated they have a problem with the beach and TDC going together because the Road Department and the Solid Waste Department cannot stay on the beach all the time. He reported TDC is putting up signs everywhere to come to Franklin County's beautiful beaches but they are not paying to put a person there to clean all day. Chairman Lockley stated the Sheriff cannot put deputies there all day. He reported if they want all these things they have to accommodate them and if they are not making enough money to accommodate them then they need to go back and look at it. Chairman Lockley explained there is garbage all over the county and the employees cannot stay in one location all day because they have other jobs to do. Chairman Lockley said they need to meet about this but right now is not a good time since they are in this pandemic. Mr. Pierce reported this has been a dilemma all along but this situation made it worse because last weekend the county was overwhelmed with day trippers. He stated over time hopefully this will even out. Mr. Pierce explained most beach accesses have garbage cans and that was the schedule Mr. Davis referenced for collection. He stated TDC will have limited revenues this year and they already provide some revenue. Commissioner Jones reported they provided \$75,000 but it was increased to \$98,000 last year. Mr. Pierce said the county markets itself as a tourist destination and so does the state because that is how they receive their revenue through tax dollars and sales tax. He explained if they ever build a beach on Alligator Point and want to maximize the funds they receive from the state for the beach they are obligated to build a 100 car parking lot and public restrooms. Chairman Lockley said they need this because people are here and they must accommodate them. Mr. Pierce stated at St. George Island one of the RESTORE plans they are looking at is stormwater and includes a parking plan. He explained previously at Alligator Point they had a plan to convert some county owned property to a park, parking lot and public restrooms but the residents rejected the idea because they did not want tourists down there. Chairman Lockley said that is not happening anymore because TDC is advertising for tourists and they are coming here. He stated they need to get a park over there before someone gets hurt. Mr. Davis reported he received a lot of calls over the weekend

about parking on the right-of-way. He questioned if they should add no parking signs on the right-of-way. Chairman Lockley said they must meet on this issue because people need a place to park. Commissioner Parrish asked where people park at the dune walkovers at St. George Island. Mr. Davis responded on the right-of-way. Commissioner Parrish said everyone needs to be treated the same so if they do something about people parking on the right-of-way at Alligator Point then they must also do something about people parking on the right-of-way at St. George Island. He stated people have been parking on the right-of-way for years. Commissioner Massey explained they want tax money every year to fix the road at Alligator Point but they do not want any tourists there. Commissioner Boldt stated the industry has changed from oysters to tourists and they need a methodical approach on how they deal with these different subjects. He explained one of his constituents posted a white paper which the Board received this morning about the issues at Alligator Point but they cannot solve all of the issues today. Commissioner Boldt reported he visited Alligator Point on Saturday and saw several of the issues. He stated the public needs to know that they have a future vision of a park with a parking lot and bathrooms on the old KOA property and in the meantime they can take care of issues that they have right now. Commissioner Boldt said they can organize the issues and start to address them. Chairman Lockley said he does not want to just spend money on Alligator Point but spread the money over the whole county. He reported they need parking in every section and the cities need to address it in the cities. He said people bring in trash and mandatory trash collection all over the county would help. Chairman Lockley reported it will take one person all day just to collect the trash and another person all day just to clean the restrooms. He stated the restrooms must be cleaned more often with the COVID-19 situation. Commissioner Massey reported Mr. Davis is doing all he can but they can work on these items a little at a time. He said St. George Island invites people and wants them to come there and Alligator Point is pushing them away but that is not going to happen since it is an open beach. Mr. Pierce stated the problem is the state built Bald Point State Park with a lot of parking but it is underutilized because the water is muddy and has a lot of stingrays. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

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

Mrs. Brownell appeared before the board but had no action items. The following items are information items submitted by Mrs. Brownell.

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

7. EOC has been making cloth mask. At this time we have approximately 200 mask made. We will be giving these out to the public to assist with COVID 19 protection.

8. EOC Staff continue to participate in conference calls with the State DEM, Region 2, etc. regarding COVID 19. We also continue to update WebEOC with missions for PPE, Local State of Emergency, and SitReps.



9. EOC has advertised for the SPN Coordinator/Office Admin position. We have begun interviews and will report back to the commission.

10. FCEM Staff continues to work on FEMA reimbursement claims from Hurricane Michael. This includes working with FEMA staff regarding mitigation of damaged parks, roads, etc. Mitigation takes some time but EOC Staff continue to work diligently with FEMA Staff on the most beneficial repairs for Franklin County. Attached is an update of FEMA projects. EOC Staff will begin the FEMA reimbursement claim process for COVID 19 soon.

Mr. Pierce addressed the following item on his report:

19. In order to clarify the Board record, the Board needs to ratify the Chairman's signature on a grant application written by Pam Brownell's office for the purchase of back-up generators for various county owned buildings. The grant is the FEMA HMGP grant I had mentioned to the Board, but apparently there was never a motion by the Board to sign the grant. Ms. Brownell has the details on the grant. At this time the HMGP grant match requirement will be met by using funds from the CDBG-DR program that Franklin County is also eligible for. I defer to Ms. Brownell on the time she expects, but in the past HMGP grants have taken an inordinate amount of time to be approved, sometimes even several years.

Mr. Pierce said there are 6 or 7 sites totaling \$300,000 worth of generators. He reported the grant has been sent in to cover as many opportunities as possible. He explained they are duplicating as Mrs. Brownell submitted a grant and they are also receiving funding from Triumph for a backup generator at the airport. Mr. Pierce reported if they get CDBG money they will not use it for the airport as they have Triumph funds. He went on to say they also may not need CDBG funds for a generator at the hospital as they may receive it from another funding source. Mr. Pierce reported it could take years but they still need to apply for the funds. He stated the City of Apalachicola has also made application but the county is not responsible for their application or matching funds. He said there are funds available for the county and the cities so they are not competing against each other. **On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the HMPG application.** Commissioner Boldt asked if they can divert the funds if both applications are approved. Mr. Pierce stated they are not allowed to divert the funds. He explained they take the grant with the best matching requirement. Commissioner Boldt questioned if this will negatively impact them on the next grant application. Mr. Pierce answered no, it never has in the past.

Mr. Moron read the following item from his report:

22. County-wide Fire Burn Ban Declaration: On Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> the Division of Forestry notified Mrs. Pam Brownell (Emergency Management Director) that due to the dry conditions the State suspended the issuance of any burn permits. Based on that notice, the several wood fires that popped up in the county, and fires in surrounding counties, Mrs. Brownell recommended, and I supported, a county-wide temporary burn ban declaration. Before the Board ratifies this action, are there any changes to the temporary burn ban declaration you would like to discuss?

Request: Board action to ratify the issuing of the county-wide Fire Burn Ban.

Mr. Moron asked when this ban sunsets. Mrs. Brownell reported she will ask the Board to lift the burn ban when the county gets some substantial rain. Chairman Lockley mentioned this is Memorial Weekend. Mrs. Brownell stated it does not affect grills as long as any coals are extinguished before they are dumped. **On motion by Commissioner Boldt, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the issuing of the county-wide burn ban.**

The meeting recessed at 10:10 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

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

Mr. Moron reported Mr. Lovstrand is watching the livestream of the meeting with 115 other people. He stated they are close to maxing out. Mr. Moron said the Board can contact Mr. Lovstrand if they have any questions about his report.

#### 11. General Extension Activities:

- UF/IFAS Extension worked diligently to continue Extension services for clientele at the local level during this period when face-to-face interaction has been curtailed. Modes of assistance were transitioned to utilizing distance-communication/learning platforms. The Public was still able to contact us via phone or email for typical assistance for soil tests, general lawn and garden questions, wildlife, or pest issues. Group gatherings for programming were supplanted with webinars and social media platforms to accomplish educational goals.
- Extension Director implemented the use of task logs for staff (submitted bi-weekly) during the COVID-19 crisis so that Administration could be informed regarding the status of Extension operations. Weekly Zoom meetings took place with staff, in addition to the regular email and phone contacts, to assist with their needs and provide guidance for continuing Extension programming and services for citizens. Extension Director was directed and approved by UF/IFAS to work from an alternate work location (AWL: home office) for a period but is now operating from the Extension office where the public may call for scheduled appointments if service cannot be accomplished by other means. The FNP Program Assistant (Kayle Mears) followed UF/FNP Grant policy by also working from her home office. FNP is in the process of transitioning their lessons for this school year to an online platform that fits with the local school's plans. The Extension Office Manager (Michelle Huber) continued to work from the office with no public access to the facility lobby during the shutdown. This was the most efficient way to conduct her work and manage our business and clientele services as usual. She was safely isolated from others per recommended best practices. The Extension Director participated in 3-weekly Zoom conferences with the District Extension Director and all other NW District CEDs. Our District IT staff was able to assist us remotely regarding computing issues via the use of software that allows him to have control of our machine without being there in person.
- During this period the Extension office assisted clientele with issues related to using the right plants in the right places in relation to soil pH, issues with caterpillars on houses, interpretation of soils test results, dying oak trees in Lanark area, injured and orphaned wildlife, invasive pest plant ID, general lawn and garden issues, plant/insect identification, and more.

- Staff completed the required, annual Affirmative Action report for IFAS compliance with AA policies and submitted it on time to the District Extension office.

Sea Grant Extension:

- Extension Director participated in several trainings and webinars related to the impacts of the shutdown on seafood and aquaculture related businesses and various assistance programs that were being rolled out from the federal level. Clientele were provided with links to surveys that were gathering data to better inform decision-makers on how to best meet industry needs.
- A new grant was approved for cleanup of marine/coastal debris related to Hurricane Michael. The Extension Director collaborated with the Bay and Gulf County Extension Directors to include Franklin County in the project. Several specific targets along our coastline will be included for removal.
- A planned in-service training workshop for UFAS natural resource faculty, on the topic of off-bottom oyster aquaculture, was postponed until it could be conducted in person.
- The Extension Director completed a portion of the final grant report for a small grant done in collaboration with other Sea Grant faculty. The project assessed damage to oyster growing leases from Hurricane Michael and worked with growers to understand what practices and gear types worked best during this type of event. The aim is to minimize damage in the future. Coordination was also provided to assist growers with retrieving displaced gear from the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in Wakulla County.
- Sea Grant Faculty are participated in weekly Zoom meetings to stay in touch and continue collaborative efforts with marine and coastal Extension activities during the shutdown.
- Extension Director participated IFAS Natural Resources Program team conferences to keep NR programming moving forward.
- Extension Director coordinated a group conference call (in lieu of an in-person meeting) with all of the applicants for leased parcels in the new 4-Mile Aquaculture Use Zone in Apalachicola Bay. The purpose was to have the group agree to hire a single surveyor to layout and install the parcel markers and large corner posts according to FDACS requirements. This is a much more efficient and cost-effective method of accomplishing the required surveys than having individuals hire multiple surveyors. Consensus was reached and Thurman Roddenberry and Associates is conducting the survey work at this time.
- Extension Director collaborating with other Sea Grant faculty to host an in-service training on seafood safety during June.
- Extension Director served as a reviewer on 2 new EDIS (electronic) documents regarding oyster-related topics that will be published by UF in the near future.
- Extension Director currently serving an "interim" role as the Wakulla County CED to provide assistance during the transition with a retiring CED and new CED coming in June. Minimal time involvement is required as the Wakulla office personnel are handling all office operations as usual.

4-H Youth Development:

- All 4-H club gatherings are suspended at this time by the University of Florida.
- Summer 4-H residential camp was also cancelled for this year. Full refunds will be provided to all who paid registrations.
- One Local 4-H club is conducting their photo contest by submitting photos to be judged soon, meeting all requirements to participate in the state contest later this year. All judging/awards will be handled virtually with no group meetings.
- Plans for this year's Ag Adventures program are underway in the event that we are able to take schoolchildren out to the UF Research Farm in October.
- The scheduled 4-H District III Council meeting was conducted on April 9 via Zoom conferencing and election of officers took place for the coming year.
- The 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Contest was completed for our County back in February

and the District competition was conducted virtually. Youth uploaded a video of their speeches to a Flipgrid webpage. They were able to see each other's speeches. Judging took place using a UF survey form and awards were issued accordingly. Franklin County had two youth (Bailey Allen and Alexis Webb) who participated with their speeches that won them County-Winner honors. We did not have a District winner this year but both youth did an outstanding job.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

- Family Nutrition Program (FNP) classroom programs will be transitioned to a distance learning platform to complete lessons for this school year. FNP Program Assistant is working with schools to make this happen.

Horticulture/Agricultures:

- All Master Gardener classes were briefly suspended by UF during the shutdown when people needed to be social distancing. This transitioned into an online format so classes could resume. Volunteers are now allowed to return to work at IFAS facilities in limited numbers with several precautions being taken (particularly with higher-risk individuals).
- Many people have been making good use of more time at home to start a spring garden so the number of calls for assistance has been increasing accordingly.

### **County Libraries - Whitney Roundtree**

Ms. Roundtree reported the Franklin County Public Libraries closed to the public on March 18<sup>th</sup> but curbside service has been a success. She presented her report, as follows:

12. Community Awareness / Resources:

- The Franklin County Public Libraries closed to the public March 18<sup>th</sup>, but the staff has been working diligently to continue provide services to the community through new and creative means. Curbside service has been a success, with 187 visits to the libraries in April. There has also been a spike in digital checkouts; reports show 325 digital checkouts in the last 30 days.
- The libraries are now offering virtual programming via Facebook. Patrons can follow along with the videos at home and interact by posting pictures and comments on our Facebook page. Our first "Virtual Story Time" video has already reached 103 views.
- The staff has also been working on collection and maintenance projects. In addition to increased sanitation, the staff has weeded our physical collection, removing old, tattered books to make room for new releases. We have developed a more specialized collection, creating new areas for biographies, graphic novels, and materials specific to our local area. Our hope is that these improvements will make the catalogue collection easier to navigate for our patrons.
- The carpets were cleaned at both branches April 3<sup>rd</sup>, funded by the Friends of the Library.
- The Franklin County Public Libraries will reopen to public Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 25% capacity. The primary consideration in this plan is maintaining the safety of library patrons and staff while finding ways to provide necessary services that the library is uniquely positioned to perform.
- Entrance and Exit into the Building: Staff could resume desk functions with members of the public at a 25% capacity on an appointment entry basis using appropriate distancing procedures, with the number of people in the building being limited through monitoring procedures during open hours.
- Materials Handling: All items returned should be place in book drops. Only books, audio books, Playaways, Launchpads, and DVDs are available for checkout. No items shared via intra or inter-library loan. Return periods should be extended. Four day quarantine of all items required.
- Checkouts: Normal checkout procedures could not be managed under this restriction, though in conjunction with curbside hold pickup, some checkouts of physical items could be

managed with scheduled entry times for family groups numbering four or less.

- Programs and Meetings: Only virtual programs would be allowed. No meeting rooms are opened.
- Internet Access: Only 25% of the Library's public access computers will be open for access. An appointment to enter the building will be required to access the computers. Computer time will be limited to thirty minutes per patron and time on the computer should be used responsibly. Access to seating and power for laptops will be provided with the same stipulations for access to WiFi.
- Technology Help: Technology help would not be provided except in cases where social distancing can be maintained.
- Materials Processing and Ordering: Ordering should remain focused on digital materials. As the Stay at Home Order is lifted, it will be time to consider commencing to order more bestsellers and other high circulation new items in preparation for further lifting of gathering or social distancing recommendations. Processing can occur if it can be done safely while maintaining social distance in work spaces.

Ms. Roundtree offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Boldt thanked Ms. Roundtree for representing the county at the Wilderness Coast Public Libraries (WILD) Consortium teleconference last week.

#### **Department of Health - Sarah Hinds (Administrator) - COVID-19 Update**

Ms. Hinds reported the number of COVID-19 cases in Florida is 46,442 with almost 2,000 deaths. She stated there are 2 cases for Franklin County and both of those individuals have recovered. She said Gulf County and Franklin County still remain the lowest case counties in the state. Ms. Hinds thanked all the health care workers for testing and educating the residents. She said they believe the pro-active approach the Board took to educate the public by working with all the stakeholders involved and to adopt the Resolutions with enforcement strategies all combined with being a rural community made them better situated in the pandemic. Ms. Hinds stated they are appreciative of the decisions made by the state, county and cities to slow the spread of the virus and keep them at a realistic medical capacity. She explained they are looking at the data as part of Phase 1 outlined by Executive Order #20-123. Ms. Hinds reported this is hopeful because it means they are continuing to test for COVID-19 and meeting benchmarks. She explained the percentage of the tests being positive is remaining at a threshold low enough to continue to move in this direction. Ms. Hinds stated on a local level they are trying to do everything possible to support communities reopening. She explained they are trying to insure they do not have active infectious people spreading the virus so they are continuing to test in the county. She stated once they were given approval to test beyond that criteria they started the mass testing sites know as PODs (points of distribution). Ms. Hinds said 102 people were tested at the Carrabelle Health Department and 202 people were tested at the Weems Memorial Hospital site. She thanked Mr. David Walker, CEO at Weems Memorial Hospital, and his team along with the health department staff for their partnership because they had an amazing day and a great turnout. Ms. Hinds reported these are good testing numbers exceeding the benchmarks set for 2% of the population which is 247 tests. She thanked the Sheriff and his deputies for support they provided at these events and during the pandemic and said they were great to work with. Ms. Hinds reported despite the

increase in testing Franklin County only has 2 cases. She explained they will continue to test because it proves the county is safe and healthy and people can come here. Ms. Hinds reported another big focus is the long term care facilities. She stated they have a great partnership with St. James Health & Rehabilitative in Carrabelle and last week all residents and staff were tested and all 145 tests were negative. She said it is important to protect these individuals and they will continue this testing which is now a presidential directive. She explained this is a big focus because almost half the deaths in Florida were in long term care facilities. Ms. Hinds stated they are working with businesses and organizations to help guide what reopening phases look like. Chairman Lockley asked how long it takes to get results from the tests. Ms. Hinds said they changed labs and it now takes 4-5 days. Commissioner Jones asked to clarify the testing numbers and where these tests are reflected in the numbers because the daily report says 239 tests. Ms. Hinds explained the dashboard numbers lag a little behind but will eventually catch up. Commissioner Jones questioned what total will show on the dashboard and if the St. James numbers are included. Ms. Hinds stated the dashboard will show 315 which includes numbers from St. James, Carrabelle Health Department and a portion of Weems Memorial Hospital. Chairman Lockley inquired when people who took the test should take another test. Ms. Hinds said they look at the trending data and she does not see them having to re-test in the community if the number of positive tests remains low. She explained they are trying to eliminate outbreaks but if an outbreak occurs they will do contract tracing. She stated anyone that has symptoms needs to be re-tested. Commissioner Boldt reported getting tested is a public service as they are trying to increase their testing data base. Ms. Hinds agreed they want to meet benchmarks to provide proof that the number of people they have tested aligns with the re-opening phases. She said in order to provide those numbers it was recommended that 2% of the population be tested and they have exceeded that number. Chairman Lockley asked if the test will show positive if the person does not have any symptoms. Ms. Hinds answered yes, the test will show even if the person is asymptomatic. Commissioner Boldt asked Ms. Hinds to identify where the two sites for testing are. Ms. Hinds said they provide updates on the EOC Facebook, through the texting service and also through daily briefings. She reported the next testing site will be at Vrooman Park at the Eastpoint Fire House on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Chairman Lockley thanked Ms. Hinds and her staff for keeping the community safe.

### **Weems Memorial Hospital - David Walker (CEO) - COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Walker reported part of their COVID-19 strategy is to look at a testing platform in house at Weems Memorial Hospital so they can do the tests and get the results locally. He stated the Florida Hospital Association referred them to a vendor for this testing and they have a meeting this afternoon with the vendor. He said this will be important as there is an influx of tourists coming into the county. He reported they must also look at pediatric testing because as children move into more activities they will probably need to be tested for COVID-19. Mr. Walker stated if they have the system in the hospital then the parent can bring the child to one of the clinics to get tested and hopefully get the results that day. He said he will find out today how long it takes to get results. Mr. Walker stated most small hospitals use this testing platform. He explained this is part of their response and important for the community because

children are coming down with COVID-19. Mr. Walker reported they are doing a pilot antibody testing project starting Wednesday. He explained they are targeting certain groups of people that work with the public. Mr. Walker stated this testing is offered in the clinics and people should call to make an appointment. He explained the antibody test is the Abbott Antibody Test and it is one of the highest performing tests in the nation. He said a blood draw is required for this test. He explained they are testing retail, restaurant, and grocery store workers in addition to law enforcement officers because it will detect if they have been infected with COVID-19 in the past. Mr. Walker reported they are also looking at other dates and different locations in the county for this testing. He stated they need to think differently and take services into the communities. He explained they will target different population groups such as city workers, county workers and seniors. He stated they may do some minority testing on The Hill in Apalachicola. Mr. Walker said they will also look at testing the vacation rental workers, school workers and day care workers. He reported he has also talked with the Sheriff about testing inmates. He explained the jail employees can draw the blood and the hospital can send it to the lab for testing. Mr. Walker stated they are doing this testing free of charge as a public service for the community. He explained there is a high number of individuals in the community that have existing medical conditions and testing is the key for rural communities. He said the county does not have a lot of cases now but when the county reopens the cases may go up. Mr. Walker reported if the cases rise smoothly until August the county will be okay but if the cases spike they will have an issue. He stated as part of the COVID-19 response Health and Human Services (HHS) distributed \$10 billion to rural hospitals and health centers. Mr. Walker said every rural hospital in Florida received money and Weems Memorial Hospital received \$3 million. Mr. Walker stated initially the hospital received \$124,000 and the larger hospitals were receiving millions but there was some outcry that caused a focus on small rural hospitals. He explained the \$3 million is to prevent, prepare and respond to COVID-19 and is retroactive to February 1<sup>st</sup>. He reported Mrs. Griffith mentioned earlier about the tourism tax dollars being lower and revenue dropping so these funds will help with the revenue that was lost due to the COVID-19 response. Mr. Walker reported they are working on a social media strategy which includes Ask the Doctor interviews with Dr. Patrick Conrad. He said Dr. Conrad did a segment titled It is Okay to Come Back to the Hospital. He explained people are afraid to come to the hospital and by the time they do their medical conditions are worse. Mr. Walker stated on Thursday he will do an interview with Mr. Royce Rolstad, Forgotten Coast TV, and with Ms. Donna Taratoot, Lab Director, about the antibody test. He explained they have a paramedicine program that they are rolling out. He explained the paramedics will take COVID-19 testing to the homes of people that are afraid to go out or too sick to travel. He stated they will also connect the paramedics to the east and west clinics to do office visits. Mr. Walker said some items still need to be purchased for the alternate care site in case they need it. Chairman Lockley thanked Mr. Walker and his staff for keeping the community safe. He asked if the testing is free to the public. Mr. Walker answered yes, the antibody test is free to the public now because they are trying to remove the barriers as they need the data. He reported in a few months they will look at this again and see if the data is changing especially with opening the county. Chairman Lockley reported they need to stress that the test is free. Commissioner Boldt said he cannot think of a better safe harbor than the hospital with expert people that know how to avoid disease. He stated it also continually shows the importance of the hospital

in the community. Commissioner Jones inquired about the respirators they ordered when this first started. Mr. Walker stated 1 respirator was received but they are waiting for the others. He explained they were going to purchase the respirators with funds from the Health Care Trust Fund and get reimbursement from FEMA but now they can use the funds they received because they are retroactive to February 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Lockley asked if they can purchase an ambulance with these funds. Mr. Walker stated he thought about it before he read the restrictions but they cannot purchase an ambulance. He explained the money has restrictions for preparing, preventing and responding to COVID-19. He reported previously he worked at the Franklin County Health Department and 90% of their programs were grant funded so all items had to be matched back to the grant and meet the requirements. Commissioner Jones said the Florida Sheriff's Bid List had a way to purchase ambulances and emergency responder vehicles through 2021 for 10-20% off in response to COVID-19. Mr. Walker agreed he will look at this with the EMS Director.

### **Carr, Riggs & Ingram - Brian Hall Jr. - Weems Memorial Hospital Audit Presentation**

Mr. Brian Hall, Jr., Carr, Riggs & Ingram, presented the audit results for the September 30, 2019 audit report for Weems Memorial Hospital. He thanked the Board for their business. He said he will highlight the audit and then answer any questions. He said the first page is their (unqualified) opinion, which is the highest level of assurance they provide as Certified Public Accountants (CPA's), that there is no material misstatement of the financials. Mr. Hall discussed cash on hand, patient accounts, accounts receivable and capital assets. He explained they spend a lot of time on the accounts receivable of any hospital audit to make sure they are accurately stated and truly reflect what they will collect in cash. He reported they are comfortable with this number and it is comparable with the year before. Mr. Hall reviewed capital assets and said there is a large addition mostly due to the roof project. He said the roof was damaged by Hurricane Michael and the replacement was funded through insurance. He addressed the liabilities page and said the only number that jumps out is accounts payable at \$908,000 but it is comparable to last year's amount of \$836,000. Mr. Hall said the equity is the difference between what they own and what they owe and equity is strong at almost \$5 million versus \$3 million the year before which is due to profit. He reported this is good strong equity for a hospital this size. He presented the figures from the income statement and said revenue was down a little because the year they were auditing was when Hurricane Michael came through the area and the hospital was shut down for some time. Mr. Hall stated expenses were up \$800,000 but they think that was a reasonable change. Mr. Hall reported the generating operating loss of \$2.6 million versus \$1.6 the year before was increased due to Hurricane Michael. He said the non-operation section which includes Other Income of \$1.44 million is where the insurance proceeds from the roof come in. He explained they put the roof on as an asset and show a credit to revenue for the same amount because it is being covered by insurance. He addressed the County Activity section in the audit which includes about \$3 million in transfers from the county. He said this amount also includes \$690,000 in debt that was forgiven by the county. He stated \$2.3 million of tax and other funding went from the county to the hospital. Mr. Hall reported the change in net position or profit is \$1.8 million in 2019 versus \$3 million the year before. He referenced a page in the audit that shows how the



cash was generated or used by the hospital. Mr. Hall said what is important is the operations of the hospital which is a negative \$2.5 million. He explained this is what it costs to run the hospital without the county subsidies. He reported they must also remember that Hurricane Michael impacted this period. Mr. Hall said the hospital provided \$424,000 in charity care to people that are uninsured. Mr. Hall reported for a hospital of this size, in their financial shape and with a Category 5 hurricane to be able to provide these free services to the community is a good story to tell. Mr. Hall reported the hospital needed \$2.6 million last year in subsidies to break even. He explained other than having the Category 5 hurricane the operations were comparable with the year before. He stated as the auditors they are required to communicate a number of items to the county of anything they deem important enough to put in writing and audit adjustments. He said this was definitely a cleanup year and on Pages 29-32 are their findings. He explained some of the findings were repeated from 2018 and some were new. He said these are triggered by auditing adjustments and because there was a hurricane there was a lot of accounting that went into it. Mr. Hall stated the insurance proceeds paid for the roof directly so in a lot of ways the hospital was not directly aware of the cost that was involved and what needed to go on the books. He reported there were a lot of adjustments that the team at Weems Memorial Hospital can provide to them. He stated these are the Findings and Material Weaknesses. Mr. Hall said the Agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA) will require a Corrected Action Plan and Mr. Walker and Mr. Bill Stork, CFO, are working on that item. He stated they are also working with them to insure these findings do not repeat in 2020. Mr. Hall reported there was no fraud or he would have contacted the Board earlier. He stated there were no difficulties with Mr. Walker and Mr. Stork and they were eager to assist them. Mr. Hall said it is obvious Mr. Walker and his team love the hospital and are putting in late hours to keep the hospital moving forward and they appreciate their dedication. He reported there is nothing of an accounting nature that they need to discuss and he offered to answer any questions about this year's audit and the stimulus packages. Chairman Lockley asked if they are doing alright. Mr. Hall responded the hospital is doing well given the county subsidies but if the subsidies went away it would be a different story. He said next year the numbers will be different because of the funding coming in from the federal government. Mr. Hall stated 2021 should be back to normal. He said he was talking with Mr. Walker this morning about the relationship between the hospital and the county and there is always going to be a need for a subsidy from the county. He explained they see this situation in most hospitals of this nature but the question is what amount is appropriate. He stated they need to get back to an amount that makes sense. Chairman Lockley explained he appreciates his report as a CPA because other people come in and tell them other things. Commissioner Boldt suggested Mr. Hall be connected to Mr. Jim Coleman, Alliant, as part of their management strategy for the hospital. Mr. Moron reminded the Board when they made the motion allowing him and Mr. Walker to negotiate with Mr. Coleman they authorized him to engage Mr. Hall and that has been taken care of. Commissioner Boldt asked about the accounts receivable referenced on Page 31 and how the claims are processed. He said this is one of the areas of cleanup that he would like to discuss. Mr. Hall stated there were a couple of findings from an accounting perspective and they had to increase the reserves. He explained what they bill is irrelevant because they are going to get paid based on their contracts and getting the right amount is the hard part. He said in this case the hospital had either used rates that were not accurate or current so they

had to re-measure it and book an adjustment. Mr. Hall reported the denials were the biggest part and they made a recommendation to management to increase their staff. He said they are not doing anything wrong but there was a large book of denials. Mr. Hall explained the insurance companies use denials to manage the relationship. He stated unless you have someone to follow up on these denials you cannot collect the money. Mr. Hall reported the people working at the hospital were doing a good job of processing the claims but did not have any time to follow up on the denials so there was a significant backlog of claims that were not being worked. He explained the insurance company will deny the claim and then not pay if the claim gets to be a year old. Mr. Hall said their recommendation was to spend time on the denials and he was told this morning that they had worked the denials down to a manageable number. He reported this is an area of focus and the hospital is not surprised to hear this. Commissioner Boldt questioned if they have addressed the contracts. Mr. Hall answered yes, and said as a critical access hospital Medicare pays the hospital the costs plus 1% so they cannot lose money on Medicare but are not making a lot. He said they got all the hospital contracts and calculated what they were being paid and in many cases they were below Medicare which meant if that payer walked in the hospital they were guaranteed to lose money. He stated when they weighed the revenue against those payers the hospital was guaranteed to lose money every year based on the contracts. Mr. Hall reported Mr. Walker and his team were proactive and hired someone and went after these contracts and they have done some very significant re-negotiations that will pay dividends. He explained the problem is no payer will come up to reasonable rates in one year so they will have to continue this fight. He reported the insurance companies knew what a deal they have been getting so they have been willing to change and there have been some big increases. The Board thanked Mr. Hall for this report.

Mr. Moron said he was mistaken and the Sheriff is here to address the parking issue that occurred last weekend around the beaches. He stated he has a couple of suggestions to discuss. He explained this would assist the Sheriff with enforcing the no parking areas around the beaches. Mr. A.J. Smith, Sheriff, stated this past weekend they had a huge influx of people at the beaches from Alligator Point to St. George Island. He said multiple deputies were sent to Alligator Point just to handle the parking issues which is a waste of resources. He reported there are a couple of wrecker services in the county and both of them are probably willing to boot cars. He explained they are looking into that option or adding signage that the cars will be towed and have the wreckers just tow the cars. Sheriff Smith stated a deputy will not need to be there and the wreckers can just tow the vehicles. He explained they will need Board approval to take this action. He reported in the statute it says they notify the Sheriff's Office in 30 minutes, take a picture of the car and then tow it. Sheriff Smith said they need to do something to stop the deputies from having to go there to write parking tickets and standby while the cars are being towed. He explained this is the 4<sup>th</sup> year he has dealt with this and they have done a lot of media, given hundreds of warnings and it is not working. Sheriff Smith stated they write a uniform traffic citation which is a \$106 ticket instead of the \$25 civil penalty listed in the ordinance. He said this price should be increased because people will pay \$25 to go to the beach for the day. Sheriff Smith reported they need to get this fixed so they are not wasting tax dollars and his deputies are addressing other things besides parking tickets. He said

they also had complaints near Bald Point but there was no signage so there was nothing they could do but ask them to leave. He questioned if the Board wants to put some signs in these areas. Sheriff Smith said St. George Island is another issue because when the state park reached capacity they closed and people went to the side roads and Gorrie Drive which created traffic issues. He went on to say they parked on both sides of the road and it was difficult to get a car through and there was no signage. He agreed with Commissioner Parrish that people have been parking like this for years but they are responding to complaints. Sheriff Smith explained they have contacted the state park and they will let them know when they are nearing capacity so they can do some proactive patrols. He said the issues at St. George Island are different than Alligator Point so it is just a matter of how the Board wants to handle it. Sheriff Smith stated they are going to see record numbers of people this year because he has never seen this many people here. Mr. Pierce reported part of the problem is the limited capacity at the state park and once people travel here they will park somewhere if they cannot get in the state park. He said he is worried about towing people that traveled here and did not know the state park was at capacity. Sheriff Smith stated they want to treat everyone equally but the parking situation is more extreme at Alligator Point than St. George Island. Chairman Lockley said they have to start somewhere and cannot tie up the Sheriff's Department with writing tickets. Sheriff Smith suggested it would be good if the wrecker companies could roam and tow these cars. He reported his department wrote 27 tickets and towed 13-14 cars. He said people were mad but the Sheriff's Department and the people that live there expect these visitors to do what they should and yet they continue to violate the rules. He stated they have not even addressed the beach issues of littering and people going onto private property. Sheriff Smith explained they educated the homeowners that if someone is on their private property they can call the wrecker service and have the car towed and do not have to contact the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Lockley stated they need to get the tow trucks because people will talk about it and that will clear up the issue but if you do not take action this will continue. Commissioner Boldt reported this is a financially neutral situation. **Commissioner Boldt made a motion to allow the tow trucks to roam and tow the vehicles and give them the responsibility to do that not only for the upcoming weekend but as they go forward.** Attorney Shuler stated the ordinance for Alligator Point designates no parking areas and there are supposed to be signs warning people that they are subject to being towed. He said the Sheriff is correct if they do not properly notify the public about the towing potential then the county runs into a liability issue. Attorney Shuler reported the county needs to make sure the signage required by the ordinance is in place and has the name and contact number for the towing company. He explained the ordinance already allows for towing so they do not need a motion. Attorney Shuler stated when the proper signage is in place then the enforcement can occur. **Commissioner Boldt amended his motion to include the signage caveat.** Attorney Shuler said the ordinance requires signage but he is hearing from the Sheriff that the signage is not in place. Sheriff Smith stated the signs are there but need to be tweaked and he will work with Mr. Davis to take care of that. He said Major Cliff Carroll just got information that the state park is going to open up to 50% so that may alleviate some of the problem on the Island. Attorney Shuler reported the parking ordinance at Alligator Point authorizes parking along all the right-of-ways except the areas designated as no parking areas. Chairman Lockley inquired if it is different on St. George Island. Attorney Shuler said they do not have a no parking

ordinance for St. George Island. Sheriff Smith stated he does not know how many complaints they received at St. George Island but there were many more at Alligator Point. He explained the areas at Alligator Point where the problems occurred. Chairman Lockley said it sounds like the county did not have the proper signage. Sheriff Smith stated they had not thought about letting the wreckers roam but that is different than someone being illegally parked and the deputy calling for the wrecker. He explained the deputies have to wait on the wrecker and they could be there for a couple of hours on just one car. He reported if the wreckers roam then they can just continue to tow the cars and he thinks one of the companies has a place for the cars at Alligator Point. Sheriff Smith reported they talked about the boots because it is time consuming to tow one car. He said if they place the boot then the person calls when they are back at the car and pays their fee to get the boot off. Sheriff Smith reported a lot of cities use the boot because it is quicker. He explained they do not want to do this or write tickets but people must comply and the people that live there want them to comply. He stated they do not want to come go to the state park because they cannot take their pets and alcohol. He suggested if they outlaw pets and alcohol on the public beach at Alligator Point then people will probably not go there. Commissioner Boldt described a guided tour he got with a deputy to view all these problems at Alligator Point. He stated 2 weeks ago a lady was hit on a bicycle on Alligator Drive. He explained this is a crowded narrow situation and then people arrives in masses. He reported for safety and health they must take responsibility. Sheriff Smith said the ordinance calls for a \$25 fine and it needs to be increased. Attorney Shuler agreed they should consider increasing the fine and examine authorizing the use of a boot with an amended ordinance. He explained there is no authorization in the ordinance for an immobilizing device but only for towing and a civil infraction of \$25.00 for the first offense and a misdemeanor for the second offense. He stated they can look at amending the ordinance to allow these items but they cannot do that today. Chairman Lockley asked if they need a motion to authorize the towing. Attorney Shuler advised the Board no motion is needed they just need to change the signage. Sheriff Smith asked what it will take to change the ordinance. Attorney Shuler said the Board would authorize him to schedule a public hearing and then the Board would hold a public hearing which normally takes about a month but may be ready the first meeting in June. Sheriff Smith said if the consequences are more severe people may think twice about doing it. He stated the majority of the people coming to Alligator Point are day trippers that are in college. Chairman Lockley asked for a motion to schedule a public hearing. Attorney Shuler recommended Commissioner Boldt withdraw his motion and start the process of amending the ordinance. Commissioner Boldt asked about the boot. Attorney Shuler reported they cannot do that right now. **Commissioner Boldt withdrew his motion. On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize Attorney Shuler to schedule a public hearing to amend the ordinance.** Chairman Lockley asked for authorization to get the signs done. Attorney Shuler said the ordinance already has a requirements for the signs. Mr. Moron explained the Sheriff will work with Mr. Davis to get the signs and they will be ready before Friday. Commissioner Boldt said what they did is county-wide and also addresses St. George Island. Attorney Shuler answered no, the ordinance is just for Alligator Point. Sheriff Smith thanked the Board for working with him. He recognized his command staff (Major Carroll, Captain Webb, Captain Coulter, Captain Martina and Lt. Segree) for their hard work because they work and do not get

overtime. He explained they work 50-70 hours a week and supplement staff on the weekends but are being paid a straight salary and do not receive comp time or overtime. Sheriff Smith reported they are dedicated to Franklin County and he is proud of them. Sheriff Smith stated the traffic is heavy and he has Officer Jim Ward working traffic full time. He said he was talking with Secretary Beshears this morning and he wanted to assure everyone he is working on the vacation rental issue.

The meeting recessed at 11:35 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:45 a.m.

### **Census CCC - Evelin Ramirez & Pat O'Connell – Update**

13. Census Complete Count Committee Report
14. Census Power point

Mrs. O'Connell said the Commissioners should have a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. She reported unless something changes the next decade will be tough because the numbers in the 2020 census are the lowest they have been. She reviewed the PowerPoint with the Board. Mrs. O'Connell explained the state and federal government did not provide any money for the census but the county provided \$4,500. She reported the Census Complete County (CCC) Committee raised \$3,000 in private donations and completed a grant to the National League of Cities and received \$4,500. She detailed their efforts in advertising the 2020 Census. She explained the Bureau does not send mail to post office boxes so they paid to mail information to the post office boxes in the county. Mrs. O'Connell said the Bureau did provide promotion items for the 2020 Census and these were given out at events they had prior to COVID-19. She stated these items are now being sent to places where food is being distributed. Mrs. O'Connell explained they had presentations at special events before COVID-19. She reported they created neighborhood assistance centers but the centers were closed due to COVID-19. She said they are using the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) system to remind people about completing the census. She reported the self-response rate for the United States is 60%, the state rate is 57.1% and the county rate as of May 14th is 28.6% which means 1 person in 4 is answering the census. Mrs. O'Connell presented the rates for different areas of the county. Mrs. O'Connell stated according to these figures the county will only get 30% of the federal funding they have received in the past 10 years. She explained the census count affects schools, roads, bridges, fire departments, hospitals, healthcare, Medicare, Medicaid, early childhood education, special education and vocational education. Mrs. O'Connell reported one of the challenges they faced in the county was completing the census online. Mrs. O'Connell stated the Census Bureau calculated 85% of people would respond online and almost everyone that responded did respond online. She reported the Bureau did not send paper copies so those were just received about a week ago. She explained in the county there is a very low rate of in-home internet access. She stated the most important thing they can do for the future of Franklin County is to get high speed internet everywhere because that divides the county. She reported the people that do not have internet are not answering the census. Mrs. O'Connell

said the Census Bureau relies on street addresses and there are a large number of people in the county that use post office boxes. She explained when they realized that they did a mail out to these individuals. She stated there is also a high rate of second homes in this area. Mrs. O'Connell said there are 2,400 homes on St. George Island according to the Property Appraiser and only 340 homes are homesteaded. She reported 800 homes according to DBPR and Department and Revenue are short term rentals. She stated second homes count against the county and there is no one there to respond in these homes. Mrs. O'Connell said COVID-19 also hurt the process. She explained trust in government at all levels is low and there are actually websites dedicated to telling people not to respond to the census because local government does not need any more money. Mrs. O'Connell stated the money that comes back to the county is money that is paid on income tax and nothing to do with the census. She explained the census is the way to draw the money back to the county. Mrs. O'Connell stated her term on the CCC Committee is up. She explained the CCC Committee was created last November and they were planning to work until June because the census was ending in July but now it has been extended until October 31<sup>st</sup>. She said they are asking for the CCC Committee to continue and raise more funds to continue the process. Mrs. O'Connell reported no one is listening to her so she needs the Board to do something big to get their attention. She suggested they have every county department make sure their employees have responded to the census. Mrs. O'Connell said there are many people that work for the county or constitutional officers and they need to ask them to complete the census. She stated not one of the county entities at the meeting that reported mentioned the census and the future of some of these agencies depends on the census. She stated they have \$4,500 coming in that they can spend to advertise but they need help or the county is going to suffer for the next decade. The Board thanked Mrs. O'Connell for her work. Commissioner Parrish said he does not know if the problem is what is occurring with COVID-19 but there is a lot going on. He stated this is the first time they have had to fill out the census online and he wonders if the government does not want them to fill out the census and get the federal dollars back to the county. Commissioner Parrish reported the Census Bureau thinks they are making this easy by doing it online but they are not because a lot of people do not have a computer in their home. He said in the past the census did not have a committee but they had their workers that went door to door. Commissioner Parrish stated now the local government has this responsibility and he feels like Mrs. O'Connell has done the best she can and he thanked her for her effort. He agreed they need signs at the library so people fill out their census forms while they are online. Commissioner Parrish stated he is glad they extended the deadline for the census. He reported people are now receiving the paper form so he thinks the numbers will come up. Commissioner Parrish asked what the dollar amount is for each person that fills out the census. Commissioner Massey reported the amount is \$14,500 per person. **Commissioner Parrish made a motion to direct staff to write up an advertisement and explain what it will cost the county per person if they do not fill out the census.** He said they may even need to buy an entire page advertisement. **Commissioner Massey seconded the motion.** Commissioner Parrish said they need to explain the areas that will suffer from the loss of these funds. Commissioner Boldt asked about the \$14,500. Mrs. O'Connell stated the 14,500 is what can be earned per person per year. She explained another disadvantage is the census bureau created telephone lines so people that cannot do the census online can call in and she has tried 6 times

and never gotten through. She said the call centers are not fully staffed because of COVID-19. Mrs. O'Connell reported there was a telephone number to request a paper census but now you have to wait to receive the paper copy. She explained for a county with such low internet access the fall back plans does not fit with their needs. She requested the Board ask every department at every meeting until October to provide an update on what they have done for the census. Mrs. O'Connell reported if they will mention the census at every meeting then everyone listening will be reminded that the census is the most important thing they can do for the next decade for the county and its people. Commissioner Boldt said each Commissioner should do a public service announcement about the census. Commissioner Parrish stated it is an important issue for the county and for the Board as they are trying to provide services and leverage the federal dollars. He explained the county will already be behind next year because of everything that has happened but the census figures are for the next 10 years. Commissioner Parrish discussed the problems facing Bay County with so many people leaving the area because of Hurricane Michael in addition to all the expenses and losses from the storm. Chairman Lockley stated he did a message about the census at the beginning of the year. Mrs. O'Connell said the message is playing again now because the Census Bureau is hiring in this county. She explained they are not going door to door but are leaving paper copies at the door. Commissioner Jones stated during the breaks in the meeting today they have been running census commercials on the livestream. Mrs. O'Connell said they hope to spend the \$4,500 on paid media. She said the videos airing are done by local people and are specific to Franklin County. Commissioner Boldt asked about adding some information about the census on the county payroll checks. Mrs. Griffith said they can include a notice at bottom of the payroll checks. Mr. Moron thanked Mrs. O'Connell for her work. He reported Ms. Evelin Ramirez will be on the next meeting Agenda to address some of the issues. Chairman Lockley asked for the motion to be amended to include sending a letter to both cities and the school to help with the census. **Commissioner Parrish amended his motion to include sending a letter to both the cities and school requesting their help with the census. Commissioner Massey amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mr. Moron stated he has Representative Jason Shoaf on the phone to provide an update for the Board. Representative Shoaf reported they received word from Secretary Beshears that the Governor has given approval for 7 counties to reopen and Franklin County is one of the counties. He explained details will be posted shortly on DBPR's website. He said the message is it is time to reopen the vacation rentals. Mr. Moron asked if they will receive an email. Representative Shoaf said it should be updated on the website and he will capture it and text it to him and the Chairman and any other members that would like it. Mr. Moron thanked Representative Shoaf. Representative Shoaf thanked the Board for moving quickly to support the tourism industry in Franklin County.

### **RFP / RFQ / Bids Opening**

16. CR 67/Tallahassee Street Sidewalk Improvements: Project is located in Franklin County, Florida and consists of approximately 6,062 linear feet of sidewalk construction on CR 67/Tallahassee Street in Carrabelle, Florida.

Mr. Pierce opened and read the bids, as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
M of Tallahassee	Tallahassee, FL	\$272,134.00
American Design Engineering Constructing, Inc.	Weston, FL	\$411,408.00
Hale Contracting, Inc.	Midway, FL	\$822,553.00

Commissioner Massey left the meeting at this time. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to turn the bids over to the county engineering firm for review and a recommendation.**

17. Apalachicola Regional Airport: Rehabilitation of existing runway and taxiway lighting system for Runway 6-24, Taxiway B, and Taxiway D.

Mr. Pierce said this project is funded by money from the Department of Transportation (DOT) so they will turn the bids over to Avcon to review. Mr. Pierce opened and read the following bids:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Kobo Utility Construction Co.	Sandwich, MA	\$1,081,597.00
TCA Electrical Contractors, Inc.	Omega, GA	\$ 464,385.00
Southeast Site Services, LLC	Gray, GA	\$ 848,500.00

Commissioner Massey returned to the meeting. Mr. Pierce reported this project is 100% funded from federal and state funds and there is no local match. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to turn the bids over to Avcon for review and a recommendation.**

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

Clerk Johnson did not have a report at this time.

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

Mr. Pierce read his report, as follows:

#### Action Item(s)

18. Board approval for a land lease at the airport for a Mr. Robert Kasper. The payment will be \$1800.00 a year annually with a 3% increase annually, and for 20 years. Mr. Kasper will build a hanger for his use at his expense on the parcel, and at the end of 20 year lease the building will become the property of the county. At that time Mr. Kasper would have the choice of renegotiating



the lease. The county is leasing him a parcel of land next to another private hanger leased by Mr. Pete Burgher. Mr. Jason Puckett, Airport Manager, and Mr. John Collins, AVCON Engineers, have approved the location and size of the parcel to be leased. Mr. Puckett and I recommend the lease be approved by the Board contingent upon Mr. Shuler's review. Board action.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the lease for Mr. Robert Kasper contingent upon Attorney Shuler's review.**

19. This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Information Item(s)

20. Inform the Board the TRIUMPH Board, on April 30, did approve the county's \$1.059M grant application to replace the fuel farm at the airport and to install a back-up generator. The TRIUMPH Board received comments from the TRIUMPH Chief Economist, Dr. Rick Harper, and the TRIUMPH Executive Director, Ms. Susan Skelton, and asked me some questions during the meeting before approving the project. The TRIUMPH Board saw this project as a benefit to the region. The staff was directed to work with Franklin County to create a "term sheet", which is a list of requirements for receiving the funds, so in the near future the county will be receiving some documents from TRIUMPH.

21. Inform the Board that in April FEMA consultants instituted bi-weekly conference calls on the status of Alligator Drive. I have kept the Board informed of the progress so I have no additional information at this time. The county's engineering team, being Mr. Clay Kennedy, Dewberry Engineers, and Mr. Joe Morrow, MRD Associates, has assisted me in providing the FEMA consultants with additional information when requested. FDEP recognized that Alligator Drive was not going to be completed during the time the existing Emergency Order was in place, so FDEP has issued an Emergency Order specific to Alligator Drive allowing the county until November 2021 to complete the rebuilding of the road. I have provided the Clerk's Office with a copy of this Emergency Final Order.

Mr. Pierce reported there is another conference call today and they are trying to get the environmental assessment (EA) done.

22. Update on Eastpoint Channel and Two Mile Channel- The Consortium Grant Application is complete and waiting for Consortium approval on June 10 Board. The Corps of Engineers has contacted me to assure me the Memorandum of Agreement between the Corps and the county for receiving the Consortium funding is going through the review process in Atlanta. There are no issues at this time. Initially the Corps had the County Attorney as the signature for the county, but I advised the Corps it should be the Chairman.

Chairman Lockley asked about the date. Mr. Pierce said they will probably not see the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) draft until June. He reported they do not know when the dredging will occur but he estimated maybe September. Chairman Lockley said the guide fishermen are having problems getting in and out of not only the channels but also the boat ramps. Mr. Pierce reported it is not part of the COE's plan but he is hoping to take a little out of the Eastpoint Boat Ramp while they are there.

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

Mr. Moron presented his report for the Board, as follows:

### Action Items

1. Local State of Emergency Declarations: As authorized by the Board, Chairman Lockley has signed COVID-19 Local State of Emergency Declarations for weeks beginning May 4<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>, and May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Request: Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the COVID-19 Local State of Emergency Declarations.

**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 the COVID-19 Local State of Emergency Declarations.**

2. This item was addressed during the Emergency Management Department report.

3. Short Term Vacation Rental Submitted Request: On Friday, Governor DeSantis authorized counties to submit a vacation-rental reopening plan to the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). Attached is a copy of the letter that was submitted to DBPR and copied to both Representative Jason Shoaf and the Governor's office. This letter is basically the same format with the same information as letters sent by other counties in the panhandle area. At the time of this report, there were no notifications from the State.

Request: Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the vacation-rental reopening plan letter sent to the State.

**On motion by Commissioner Parrish, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the vacation rental reopening plan letter sent to the state.**

4. Rural Broadband Letter of Support: Earlier in the month U.S. Senator Rick Scott's staff advised county staff of an US Senate Commerce Committee discussion on the state of Broadband in the COVID-19 environment. Knowing the limitations of Broadband in Franklin County and the impending deadline, the Chairman signed a letter of support to Senator Scott reaffirming the need for reliable and affordable high-speed internet in rural areas, especially during this pandemic when everyone working and learning from home.

Request: Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the letter sent to Senator Scott on the importance of Broadband in rural areas.

Mr. Moron stated Commissioner Jones was instrumental in seeing that this letter was submitted on time. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Boldt, and**

**by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the letter sent to Senator Scott on the importance of broadband in rural areas.**

5. E911 Rural Grant: The Sheriff's Department requested the Chairman's signature on an E911 grant to pay for renewal of services and support for the 911 communication network. Chairman Lockley signed the grant agreement.

Request: Board action to ratify the Chairman's signature on the E911 grant agreement.

**On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to ratify the Chairman's signature on the E911 grant agreement.**

6. The Board addressed this item during the Road Department report

7. Alligator Drive (CR 370) Multi-Use Path Resolution: At your April 30<sup>th</sup> special meeting the Board approved the FDOT contract for the Alligator Drive Multi-Use path, however the required resolution was not included in that request.

Request: Board action to authorize the Chairman's signature on the required resolution for the FDOT funded multi-use path project.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman's signature on the required Resolution for the FDOT funded multi-use path project.**

8. CDBG Report & Request: Included in your agenda packet is the Housing CDBG Grant for Eastpoint Fire Victims from Mrs. Deborah Belcher. Included in the report is an action item which is an application for a new mobile home for Lucy Bettinger located at 697 Ridge Road. Approval of this home is contingent on the transfer of Ms. Bettinger's current donated home to Mary and Jesse Page, also Eastpoint Fire victims. Setup costs for the Page's home will be paid by the donated funds managed by Capital Area Community Action Agency.

Request: Board action to approve the Lucy Bettinger application with the stated contingency.

**On motion by Commissioner Massey, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the application of Ms. Lucy Bettinger with the stated contingency.**

9. Alligator Point Beach Access Request: At your April 30<sup>th</sup> special meeting, Commissioner Boldt requested that the Board discussed a request from Mr. Pierce Withers, an Alligator Point resident, about the possible closing of the small beach access points on Alligator Point. Included in your packet is an email from Mr. Withers summarizing the concerns of Alligator Point residents and property owners. Commissioner Boldt and Attorney Shuler may have additional information and comments regarding this request.

Request: Board discussion and direction regarding the request to close the small beach accesses on Alligator Point

Mr. Moron stated the white paper is part of the packet and they sent some pictures last night that can be added later.

10. P&Z & BOA Meetings: Included in the agenda packet is a list of pending Planning and Zoning (P&Z) and Board of Adjustment (BOA) requests. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board cancelled the April and May P&Z and BOA meetings. Staff reached out to the members of both boards about attending June meetings and received a “mixed” message. After discussing this issue with Attorney Shuler, he agreed to create a proposed emergency ordinance, for your review, that would temporarily suspend P&Z and BOA meetings and grant your County Planner, Mr. Mark Curenton, the power and duties of both Boards.

Request: Board action to approve the emergency temporarily ordinance authorizing the County Planner the power and duties of the P&Z and the BOA.

Commissioner Jones asked if the ordinance needs to be read into the record before they vote. Attorney Shuler stated at the beginning of the meeting he presented documents to the Board and item #1 on the report is an action item for the Board to consider an emergency ordinance suspending for a 3 month period the Planning & Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment and transferring and delegating those duties and powers to Mr. Curenton for the review and recommendation of development applications. He explained if the Board approves this matter in the motion the Board would need to declare that an emergency exists and that enactment of the ordinance is necessary. Attorney Shuler reported the motion would require a 4/5 vote of the Board to be effective. **Commissioner Jones made a motion declaring that an emergency exists, that enactment of the ordinance is necessary and adopting the ordinance.**

**Commissioner Lockley seconded the motion.** Chairman Lockley stated Mr. Curenton is going to have to do this in addition to his work and he needs extra compensation. Mr. Moron stated he will discuss this matter with Mr. Curenton. Mr. Moron reported Mr. Curenton will have a report at the meetings of his findings on the applications. Chairman Lockley said depending on how long this goes on it could be a lot of work and he should be compensated. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

11. Library Director In-House Advertisement: The Library Director position has been vacant since January; I have been serving as the interim director. I recommend the Board authorize advertising this position at a salary not to exceed \$36,000 per year. As Board policy, I will advertise in-house for a couple weeks. If there are no successful candidates from the in-house advertisement, I will advertise in the local newspapers.

Request: Board action to authorize the in-house advertisement for the County’s Library Director at a salary not to exceed \$36,000.

**Commissioner Massey made a motion to authorize the in-house advertisement for the County’s Library Director at a salary not to exceed of \$36,000.** Mr. Moron reported he will ask WILD to help with the advertisement. **Commissioner Parrish seconded. Motion carried; 5-0.**

12. Brewfest Change of Location Request: The County has received a request from Ms. Amy Hobson, president of the SGI Brewfest organization, to permanently move the event from in

front of Paddy's Bar to the same location in the center of the island where the annual Chili Cook-Off is held. The change in location would allow for an expanded food court along with additional space for the growing number of visitors and participants. Usually, the event is held in late April, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the new event date is Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This event is the primary annual fundraiser for the Franklin County Humane Society.

Request: Board action to authorize the change in location for the SGI Brewfest event.

Mr. Moron said he presented this to Commissioner Jones and he talked with the fire chief and he has no problems with it. Commissioner Jones stated the Sheriff's Department did not have a problem either. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to approve the change in location for the St. George Island Brewfest.**

Mr. Moron reported the remaining items on his report are for information. He commented Mr. John Solomon, TDC Director, submitted a report which is in the package but said the Board should not be fooled by the numbers because by next month he will have more accurate numbers and will bring the bad news in person. Commissioner Jones explained just like Mrs. Griffith relayed to the Board their numbers also run a couple of months behind. He reported the numbers were looking very good but they are not sure what they are going to look like now.

#### Information Items

13. TDC Report: Attached to your agenda packet is the TDC information and collection report. Mr. John Solomon (TDC Administrator) warns that the collection report for February shows really good numbers, but due to the COVID-19 closures, your subsequent reports will be dismal. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Mr. Solomon.

14. CRS Progress Report: Inform the Board that Mrs. Amy Ham-Kelly (Floodplain & Zoning Manager) has submitted the County's Community Rating System (CRS) progress report. This report consists of projects that are proposed with the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) that is managed by your Emergency Management department. The CRS Progress Report notes all projects that have been submitted by different agencies and the current status of the projects. If you need more information on the CRS progress report do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Ham-Kelly.

15. Carrabelle CRA Meeting Notice – County staff received notice that the City of Carrabelle has scheduled a special meeting today at 1:30 p.m. (ET) to review and adopt the Community Redevelopment Plan Amendment. The meeting will be conducted via Communications Media Technology and a dial number is provided on the notice.

Mr. Moron reported previously the Board increased the permitting fees and they authorized Attorney Shuler to proceed with an Ordinance penalizing people who complete work without permits. He asked the Board to put a pause on this action because with the new fee schedule if they charge them double the permit fee if they work without a permit it may be enough and

they may not want to move forward with additional fees. Commissioner Parrish asked what the increase in fees has to do with someone doing work without a permit. Mr. Moron explained when he came to the Board with this problem the permit fees were so low it did not really hurt the person to do unpermitted work and that is why he requested the ordinance that would have other penalties. Attorney Shuler reported the current ordinance provides a double permit fee as the only penalty for people that do construction or development without a permit. He stated at Mr. Moron's request the Board had directed him to create a new ordinance increasing the penalties beyond the double permit fee and imposing new penalties. He said last week Mr. Moron contacted him and explained with the new fee schedule the double permit fee may be a sufficient penalty because it is so high now. Attorney Shuler explained while they are waiting for this to play out factually, he still has direction from the Board to create an ordinance so he wanted to make sure it was on the record that the Board was okay with the pause in this action. Chairman Lockley asked how much an increase in the fee will be. Mr. Moron said it depends on what they are building but they did a study and have collected twice as much as they normally would for the same period. He stated it is working out very well and the contractors are not complaining because they are used to this in other counties. Chairman Lockley asked Mr. Moron to bring it back if it is not enough.

Mr. Moron thanked Mr. Rolstad and said so far the livestreaming is working very well.

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

Attorney Shuler said he provided his report to the Board and does not have any further action items. He offered the following information items:

##### Action Item

1. Emergency ordinance temporarily halting meetings of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment and authorizing the County Planner to exercise their powers and duties until August 18, 2020.

Board Action Requested: Motion declaring that an emergency exists and that enactment of this ordinance is necessary.

(This item was handled as Item #10 under Mr. Moron's report.)

##### Non-Action Items

2. Letter for the record: April 1, 2020, letter from the law firm of Clark Partington on behalf of the developer of the Dollar General in Lanark Village invoking mediation procedures pursuant to s. 70.51 and s. 163.3183(4) concerning the Board's denial of the application for a land use change and zoning change in Lanark Village.

Attorney Shuler said there is also an item 2 A not included in the report but it is a letter from him dated April 14, 2020 that he is required to send by statute to the neighbors surrounding the Dollar General proposed site.

3. Letter for the record: April 20, 2020, letter from Ms. Patricia Funderburk expressing opposition to the Dollar General Store in Lanark Village.
4. Letter for the record: Undated letter from Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Janie Shafer of Lanark Village stating their opposition to the Dollar General Store in Lanark Village.
5. Letter for the record: May 11, 2020, letter from the County Attorney to Mr. Hinson and Mr. Smith regarding a beach access point east of Lot 1, Block E, St. George Island Gulf Beaches, unit 2.

### **Commissioners' Comments**

Chairman Lockley congratulated the Senior Class of Franklin County. He stated they are sorry this year was different in the way they graduated but the Board is proud of them.

Chairman Lockley announced if people were not listening they received the message from Representative Shoaf that the vacation rentals will be open. He said more information will be provided on the website. Mr. Moron explained the information will be on the DBPR website. Chairman Lockley stated Mr. Moron will also add it to the county website. Chairman Lockley reported the COVID-19 virus is still out there so people should be careful. He said they know people have to go back to work but they need to keep Franklin County safe.

### **Board Information Items**

38. Consummating Order from Duke Energy

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

---

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

---

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts