

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF  
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**AUGUST 27, 2020**

Present: Commissioner Steven L. Barry, Chairman, District 5  
Commissioner Robert D. Bender, Vice Chairman, District 4  
Commissioner Jeffrey W. Bergosh, District 1  
Commissioner Lumon J. May, District 3  
Janice Gilley, County Administrator  
Alison Rogers, County Attorney  
DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office  
Shamara Jernigan, Agenda Program Coordinator, County Administrator's Office

Absent: Commissioner Douglas B. Underhill, District 2

Location: Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building, Board Chambers, First Floor  
221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida

Minutes prepared by: DeLana Allen-Busbee

**AGENDA NUMBER**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Barry called the Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Commissioner Bergosh led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Advertisement of the Meeting

The Board was advised by DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office, that the meeting was advertised in a block ad in the *Pensacola News Journal* on August 22, 2020.

FOR INFORMATION: County Attorney Rogers provided an update to the Board regarding punitive damages from the BP Oil Spill and the Board held a brief Commissioners' Forum.

FOR INFORMATION: The Board allowed for public speakers and heard comments from Calvin Avant.

MINUTES – AUGUST 27, 2020

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Recommendation: That the Board adopt the agenda as prepared (or duly amended).

<b>Motion:</b> So moved
<b>Made by:</b> Commissioner May
<b>Seconded by:</b> Commissioner Bergosh
<b>Disposition:</b> Carried 4-0, with Commissioner Underhill absent

5. Escambia CARES Act Plan and Implementation

Recommendation: That the Board discuss and approve the Escambia CARES Act Plan.

<p><b>For Information</b> – Relative to CARES Act Funding for Escambia County Families, the Board discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For families with a household size of five and under, the funding amount will be \$1,500, and for families six and over the funding amount will be \$2,500; County Administrator Gilley and Natural Resources Director Chips Kirschenfeld advised the Board that there are various types of COVID-19 related hardships that would qualify for this area of funding</li><li>• The maximum income per household to receive funding will be \$45,000 (Modified Adjusted Gross Income) and the funding will be limited to one distribution per household</li><li>• A tax return (specifically only the form 1040) will be required, the applicant can self-certify the hardship otherwise, there will be various ways for citizens to apply for funding, and the applicant will need to redact their social security number; County Attorney Rogers advised that once staff is in possession of sensitive information they do take on some responsibility for its safe-keeping</li><li>• There will be a mechanism for those citizens making below the minimum income threshold for being required to file a tax return to still apply for aid</li><li>• \$5 million in additional funds should be pulled into this funding “bucket” and ten percent of the funds should be set aside for those who have issues filing their applications</li><li>• Temporary employees need to be hired to augment current employees required to staff community centers throughout the County and City to assist citizens with their applications for funding; the Board was advised that the start date will likely be around September 15th</li><li>• The application period will likely be for 11 days and occur from a Friday to a Monday</li></ul>
<b>Speakers:</b> Mayor Grover Robinson, IV

(Continued on Page 3)

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

5. Continued...

**For Information** – Relative to CARES Act Funding for Escambia County Business Assistance Grants, the Board discussed the following:

- Home-based businesses should be lumped in with all businesses, but not-for-profit entities warrant a larger discussion and may be addressed at a later time
- For businesses with 1 to 24 employees the funding amount will be \$7,500, and for businesses with 25 to 50 employees the funding amount will be \$15,000
- To receive funding, businesses must not have received more than \$10,000 in PPP funding
- The legitimacy of the businesses will be verified and the Small Business Development Center will be involved in processing applications
- \$5 million will be pulled into this funding section and ten percent set aside for application issues, just as in the “bucket” for families

**Speakers:** Todd Thomson, Scott Luth, Brian Wyer, and Kelly Massey

**For Information** – Relative to CARES Act Funding for the Escambia County Rapid Testing Program, the Board discussed the following items:

- COVID Testing of inmates at the Escambia County Jail and Road Prison; Chief Rich Powell advised the Board that there is currently only one known positive case being monitored
- The jail will receive its own analyzer for processing tests and the Board wants to see the analyzer and rapid testing deployed as quickly as possible
- The Board reaffirmed its direction that any inmate who wants a COVID test, whether symptomatic or not, is to receive a test

**Speakers:** Chandra Smiley

(Continued on Page 4)

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

5. Continued...

**For Information –** Relative to CARES Act Funding for the Escambia Serves Program, the Board:

- Heard a request from Scott Luth, President and CEO, FloridaWest, to set aside \$250,000 for a deep dive into long-term infrastructure and broadband issues
- Discussed the need to devote more resources to broadband and the issues both in the availability of broadband in parts of the County and with citizens being able to financially access broadband
- Discussed providing broadband in all community centers, reallocating resources into broadband if needed, and moving \$1 million each from the housing and business “buckets” to this funding section
- Heard comments from IT Director Bart Siders regarding the logistics of implementing broadband in the community centers; Director Siders will bring back information on speeds and costs for the Board to consider

**Speakers:** Calvin Avant

**For Information:** The Board discussed the City of Pensacola’s request for CARES Act funding, the request from the Pensacola Police Department for Virtual Reality training to limit COVID exposure during training exercises, and agreed that the City would not be limited to receiving funds from a certain section of funding.

**Speakers:** Mayor Grover Robinson, IV, Amy Lovoy, and Pensacola Police Chief Tommi Lyter

**For Information –** Relative to CARES Act Funding for Escambia County Public Health and Safety, the Board:

- Was advised by County Administrator Gilley that there will be an increase in Medical Examiner expenses and that the County is applying to FEMA for everything they can
- Discussed Baptist Healthcare’s ask and the need for not only physical health services, but mental health services as well

**Speakers:** Jennifer Grove

**For Information:** The Board discussed the General Government pot of funding and that Visit Pensacola was coming from this section.

**Speakers:** None

(Continued on Page 5)

MINUTES – AUGUST 27, 2020

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

5. Continued...

**For Information:** The Board briefly discussed the replenishment account and the desire to leave it as is.

**Speakers:** None

**For Information –** Relative to CARES Act Funding for COVID-19 Operations and Oversight, the Board:

- Viewed a presentation of the portal for citizens to apply for CARES Act funding
- Discussed the Neighborly software versus Integrity and the cost for Integrity to maintain the portal
- Discussed whether Neighborly could be used to process family and business applications in addition to the mortgage and rent programs it was initially purchased for, and after hearing comments from IT Director Siders, agreed to use fillable PDFs for online applications until the full implementation of Neighborly
- In regards to consulting services, discussed bundled services versus hourly rates with a not-to-exceed figure and the importance of having assistance with navigating auditing, accounting, and anti-fraud measures
- Gave direction to County Administrator Gilley to interact with each Board member to see what scope of services need to be provided and to look at the State Contracts for consulting services

**Speakers:** Eric Miller, Gary Yates, and Jeremy Tidwell

FOR INFORMATION: The Board recessed at 12:51 p.m. and reconvened at 1:01 p.m.

6. Accenture's Report on the Strategic Organizational Assessment of Escambia County's Procurement Process

Recommendation: That the Board discuss Accenture's Report on the Strategic Organizational Assessment of Escambia County's Procurement Processes. Jim Bard, a Principal Director in Accenture's Public Service Industry in North America, will address the Board and provide an overview and summary of the Procurement Assessment for Escambia County.

**For Information:** This item was not discussed and Commissioner Barry advised that it was dropped.

**SUPPLEMENTAL COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

- 1. Recommendation: That the Board:
  - A. Discuss and approve three CARES Act Funding Agreements with Community Health Northwest Florida, Feeding the Gulf Coast, and Visit Pensacola; and
  - B. Authorize the Chairman to sign the three Funding Agreements.

<b>Motion:</b> I’ll make that motion for the recipient agreements
<b>For Information:</b> County Attorney Rogers advised that the agreements would be amended to include required reporting on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> of each month and that the effective date would be as soon as the agreements were executed by both parties.
<b>Made by:</b> Commissioner May
<b>Seconded by:</b> Commissioner Bergosh
<b>Disposition:</b> Carried 4-0, with Commissioner Underhill absent
<b>Speakers:</b> Kyle Scholar

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Barry declared the Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Barry, Chairman

ATTEST:

Pam Childers  
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved: September 24, 2020