

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
February 13, 2017, 6:00 p.m. – Sunny Hills Community Center
1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT 5
Alan Bush	Charles Kent Chairman	Tray Hawkins	Todd Abbott Vice-Chairman	Steve Joyner

I.

- A. Call to Order – Chairman Kent
- B. Invocation/Pledge – Hank Hamilton/Chairman Kent

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners met on the above referenced date with the following members present: Chairman Kent, Commissioners Bush, Hawkins, Abbott, and Joyner.

Also attending the meeting are as follows:

Lora C. Bell, Clerk of Court
Hank Hamilton, County Administrator
Johnnie Pettis, Deputy Clerk

Chairman Kent advised of the (3) minute speaking time limit that has been implemented by the legislature.

Ron Jones addressed Chairman Kent requesting that comments are limited to property owners of Sunny Hills and the MSBU assessment.

Chairman Kent addressed Mr. Jones that is the purpose of the meeting, although he does not feel that he can make that decision. The Board is here to listen.

- II. AGENDA ITEMS –
- Municipal Service Benefits Units

- Jim Gesslein, 1983 Baldwin Street, Sunny Hills addressed the Board. He and his wife have been residents of Sunny Hills for 2 ½ years. He asked that the county commissioners continue the MSBU ordinance as well as reinstate the advisory board, which would be made up of residents or owners from Sunny Hills.
- Bob Booher, 1745 Salem Dr., Chipley addressed the Board. He purchased property in Sunny Hills an estimated 3 years prior and was well aware of the assessments. What has been going on for \$0.10 per day, he cannot see any better assessment. He expressed his support of the assessment.
- Warren and Judi Courtsmanche, 3951 Concord Boulevard, Sunny Hills addressed the Board. He does not want to see the community in debt as they were prior. He advised that he is against starting the MSBU assessment back.

Todd Abbott, Commissioner addressed the Board/Public. The MSBU assessment is currently active. There are more funds that are actually being put toward those 2 areas. The purpose of this meeting is for the Board to understand what the residents would like.

Warren and Judi Courtsmanche suggested that the expenditure decisions should not be left up to one group.

- Jim Town, 4116 Adlen Court, Sunny Hills addressed the Board. He purchased his first lot in Sunny Hills in 1974 and built his first home in 1985 and second in 2002. He expressed support of the MSBU funds.

There are some additional service that were provided but are no longer available. He would like to see some of the main roads cut with mowers, rather than bush hogs. He is in favor of the current MSBU continuing at the current assessment or less as long as the residents would like to have it.

The community has went downhill in the last seven years and he would like to see it where it was in 2005.

- Perry Beote, 3388 Domer Drive, Chipley addressed the Board. He suggested the community needs to come together and expressed his support of the MSBU. He suggested the advisory board should work under the Board. The services are needed back, referencing the fire department. The Washington County Fire Department's response time is ridiculous. Grass cutting and beautification crews need to be a service that remains as well as the lights. He also suggested a patrol officer in the community.

The funds from the assessments should allow for better services than what are being received.

- Patricia Naylor, 1668 Ambassador Ct., Chipley (Sunny Hills) addressed the Board as a resident of Sunny Hills for 17 years. She expressed her support of MSBU but expressed concern about knowing what services should be received from the assessment. They don't feel as they have any input. They pay property taxes, which should allow for the same amenities/services that are received throughout the county. She expressed support of Sunny Hills having representation in order to allow their voice to be heard as well as receive an accounting of the revenues/expenses and ownership of properties in Sunny Hills, such as

the lakes.

- Brian Goddin, 1981 Ambassador Ct., Chipley (Sunny Hills) addressed the Board as a resident of Sunny Hills for 10 years. The assessment isn't much for the services that the residents should receive. The lights on the boulevard are one of the main security features and should be maintained.
- Jason Paridon, 1784 Quintara Ct., Sunny Hills addressed the Board as a resident of Sunny Hills since 1982. He expressed his love of the area and advised that he supports the assessment but the residents should receive what they deserve/need. The roads are terrible in the community and the funds should be used toward that.
- Alex and Bo Diaz, 2260 Sunny Hills Boulevard addressed the Board as a resident of Sunny Hills for over 4 years. He advised that he supports the MSBU. The lighting is necessary in as many places as possible. Better law enforcement in the area is also needed, as well as a fire department. Safety of the people is a concern.
- Sal Zurica, 3892 Belmar Place, Sunny Hills addressed the Board as a Sunny Hills residents for over 43 years. MSBU is good if it works right. The residents don't have adequate protection in regards to law enforcement. He asked what does the county plan to do for them. What will be given back to Sunny Hills? The mowing crew did not perform the best services in the previous year and were paid almost \$5,000.00. There is too much dumping in the area, however it is picked up when a call to complain is made. The county has to help. Thus far this year the assessment collected is \$224,000.00. The assessment is currently being spent on lights, which is \$2,000.00 - \$2,100.00 monthly. The people have to get out and help maintain the area.

The county has an agreement with Deltona that states they should maintain the right-of-ways, drainage, and water ways.

The roads are in terrible shape.

- Kristi Futch, 2134 Sunny Hills Boulevard addressed the Board in reference to the funds that have been received this budget year in MSBU assessments, asking where the rest of the money is going and who is in charge of the money.

Chairman Kent addressed Kristi Futch. Those are the funds remaining after the debt was paid off and what was collected. The reason for this meeting is to receive feedback from the residents.

Kristi Futch advised that she has been a resident of Sunny Hills for an estimated 5 years.

Chairman Kent advised the intent of the meeting is to receive input from the residents and not to dredge up the old.

Kristi Futch asked who is in charge of the funds.

Chairman Kent advised the Board.

- Lee Edwards, 2008 Shenandoah Boulevard, resident of 10 years addressed the Board asking if the previous debt has been paid off.

Chairman Kent advised yes.

Lee Edwards asked the MSBU rate.

The Board clarified the rate as \$31.90.

Lee Edwards asked why anybody would want to give up the assessments that are used to benefit the area where you live. He expressed his support of paying the assessment.

- Lee Lucker, 3952 Vistula Drive addressed the Board as a resident of Sunny Hills for 32 years. Are the funds that are paid by Sunny Hills MSBU being used by Chipley?

Chairman Kent and Deputy Clerk Pettis advised no.

- Dorota Rokosz, 4117 Lynnwood Drive, addressed the Board as a 5 month resident asking what MSBU funds pay for.

Chairman Kent advised that he would meet with her after the meeting.

- Bob Farley, 1728 Salem Drive addressed the Board as a resident of a year. He spoke on the beauty of Sunny Hills and the natural environment that has been torn up. Law enforcement should be used to protect the natural environment.
- Andrea Smith Blackwood, 4110 Thrush Court, Chipley addressed the Board as a 4 year Sunny Hills resident asking how she could have their road fixed.

Chairman Kent directed Andrea Smith Blackwood to speak with Tom Terrell, Public Works Director.

- Charles Suggs, 4112 Fairbanks Drive, addressed the Board as a resident of 21 years. People are going to have to step forward to help the community. He spoke on neighboring properties, and trash decreasing the value of other properties. He suggested the residents be shown how the revenues are being spent.

He expressed support of the assessment.

Commissioner Joyner expressed that he would like to see the entire county flourish and do better. The MSBU assessment is only spent in Sunny Hills. Budgets can be obtained at the Clerk's office.

He advised that he intends to assist the residents with the way that they want the MSBU to work while working along with the Board.

Alan Bush expressed his support of MSBU. The MSBU assessment provides services that other areas in the county do not receive on a regular basis. With the loan being paid off there is \$200,000.00 available to be used otherwise. He does support the advisory board but it must contain the correct people that are working together.

Tray Hawkins advised that the Board is very concerned with making Sunny Hills successful. The key items discussed at the meeting included roads, mowing, trimming, parks, lighting, policing, fire department, and bulk trash pick-up.

He is advised that he is also in support of an advisory board that is

willing to work together.

Charles Kent commended the residents for the hospitality shown to the Board. This is the beginning step to making MSBU its best. He advised that he would like to see an advisory board as well.

III. Meeting adjourned.

Deputy Clerk Brantley

Date Board Approved