

**WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 3, 2015 Special Meeting - Commission Board Room**  
**1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428**

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT 5
Alan Bush Chairman	Charles Kent	Charles Brock	Todd Abbott	Lynn Gothard Vice-Chair

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I. PROCLAMATION – Deputy Harris

Present at the meeting were Chairman Bush, Commissioners Kent, Abbott, Gothard, and Brock. Also attending the meeting were County Attorney Goodman, Clerk Bell, County Coordinator Corbin, Deputy Clerk Brantley, and Deputy Clerk Odom.

A. Call to Order – Chairman Bush

B. Invocation/Pledge – County Coordinator Corbin/Chairman Bush

II. ADOPT THE AGENDA – **Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and carried to adopt the agenda.**

III. NON AGENDA AUDIENCE – Effective October 1, 2013, Florida Statute 286.0114 mandates that “members of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a proposition before a Board or Commission.” Each individual shall have three (3) minutes to speak on the proposition before the board.

There were no public comments.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

- Staffing for Adequate Fire Emergency Response Grant – Karen Shaw, Grant Coordinator addressed the Board in reference to the SAFER grant. August 26, it was confirmed per a phone call Washington County had been

selected to receive the SAFER grant for \$1,160,000.00.

It is the Board's decision whether or not to accept the grant.

The breakdown is as follows:

\$140,800.00 annual stipends, which will increase by \$3,000.00 for each additional year

\$41,477.00 for (22) set of personal protective equipment annually

\$15,000.00 annually for marketing fund

\$26,000.00 annually for training

\$62,700.00 annually for a retention and recruitment officer, which is salary and fringe benefits

Commissioner Kent asked if the Board accepts the grant is there any other period, other than the (90) days that the Board can opt out.

Karen advised she will research to provide him an answer.

Commissioner Kent asked Gene Brandow if he had a current plan.

Gene Brandow advised the Board the largest goal is to show appreciation to the volunteers.

Commissioner Kent asked if the stipend is available to all departments or a selected (4).

Gene Brandow advised all departments.

Commissioner Kent expressed concern about the expense going over.

Gene Brandow advised the Board it is a work in progress, and the SOP will contain more detail.

Commissioner Brock addressed the Board there are not many volunteers that respond during the daytime.

Commissioner Abbott addressed the Board that he does not want to see the Board in a situation where someone is hired and the funding runs out.

Karen Shaw advised the SOP would clearly state the positions are available until the funds are expended. The funds will be monitored and quarterly reports will be done.

Commissioner Abbott advised he does not want to see the Board in a position where they have hurt themselves.

Commissioner Abbott clarified the stipend is for new recruits.

Karen Shaw advised that is the (1) stipulation was included in the application.

Commissioner Abbott advised the current fire fighters have to be considered.

Commissioner Abbott asked after the (4) year grant period is complete, what obligation does the County have.

Karen advised she has not seen anywhere that the County would be obligated to continue after the (4) year period. The money is for the County to get a start.

Commissioner Abbott clarified the County does not have any financial commitment during or after the grant.

Karen advised that is correct.

Commissioner Brock advised the Board needs to plan for the future to continue funding.

Services cannot continue to be increased without increasing revenue. All residents should pay for fire services.

**Commissioner Brock offered a motion to approve the SAFER grant.  
Chairman Bush seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call –**

<b>Commissioner Brock -</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Kent -</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Chairman Bush -</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Abbott -</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Commissioner Gothard -</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**The motion carried 3 to 2.**

Commissioner Kent advised Gene Brandow and Karen Shaw he is proud of their work but would like a plan to look at.

Commissioner Abbott advised it was his understanding it would be brought before the Board in the workshop in September and then vote.

Karen advised the SOP is for the workshop, which is the spending plan.

Marla Hayes, Human Resource advised she would like the hiring process included in the standard operating procedure.

- V. **Commissioner Kent offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott and carried to adjourn.**

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Deputy Clerk Brantley

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Date Board Approved