

**WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
February 23, 2017 – Commission Board Room
1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428**

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

- A. Call to Order – Chairman Kent
- B. Invocation/Pledge – Pastor Vince Spencer, New Life Fellowship/Chairman Kent

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

Also attending the meeting are as follows:

Jeff Goodman, County Attorney
Lora C. Bell, Clerk of Court
Hank Hamilton, County Administrator
Risha Brantley, Deputy Clerk

- II. ADOPT THE AGENDA – Commissioner Abbott requested item I. (Sunny Hills Library Closure) be pulled from the consent agenda.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda with the above referenced adjustment.

- III. ADOPT PREVIOUS MINUTES – January 18, 2017 Workshop
January 26, 2017 Board Meeting

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner

Bush and unanimously carried to approve the above referenced minutes.

- IV. 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.

Sharon Bahr, 3447 Voyager Court, Sunny Hills addressed the Board in opposition of the closure of the Sunny Hills library. She expressed concern about the library being open one day per week and also about what would happen to the Council on Aging group that meets there on Wednesday. She suggested the MSBU ordinance be updated to include that some of the funds be used toward the library.

Kathy Gesslein, 1983 Baldwin Street, Sunny Hills addressed the Board suggesting that if the library is closed other functions that occur there will be affected.

Chairman Kent advised that the library would close but not the other functions located at the building.

Kathy Gesslein suggested that the safety concerns should be looked at. She requested the Board table the closure.

Betty Dickey, 2121 Angora Drive, Sunny Hills addressed the Board in opposition of the library closure. The library should not be responsible for the expenses that occur by the rentals, referencing the utilities. The internet should be better. The numbers would increase if the hours were increased. She asked the Board to table the library closure.

Lucy Mikutis, 1768 Qunitara Ct., Sunny Hills addressed the Board in opposition of the library closure. The library should not carry the full expense of the building. A possible library closure would hurt incoming residents. She suggested that the library should be open more days. Also, the lighting at the building is inappropriate.

County Administrator Hamilton advised that the expense is not currently covered by the library budget. She pays her portion.

If the Board keeps MSBU the Board could see if they could do something or have a workshop to keep the library open.

- Citizen Recognition - The Board and Sheriff Crews recognized Mr. Raymond Nelson for his efforts during a recent emergency event. Milerd Frinch, 736 Rice Creek, Caryville addressed the Board as the Caryville City Council Chairman. He requested the Board give the fire department back to the city. The city will make the Board proud.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Request for the Clerk of Court to pay vouchers for January 2017 totaling \$1,683,664.43
- B. Florida Economic Opportunity Resolution – BP Oil Spill
- C. TDC Seat #7 Appointment – Bill Maphis to serve a residual term ending September 30, 2019
- D. TDC Visitor Guide – TDC Board recommends Gatehouse Media to provide the Tourist Development Guide
- E. Transportation Alternative Grant Resolution – Supports staff to apply for a grant to fund the construction of lighting of the Falling Waters Multi-Use Path
- F. Florida Boating Improvement Program Resolution – Supports staff to apply for funding to add additional facilities and improvements at Culpepper Landing
- G. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Supports staff to apply for funds through the Hazard Mitigation Grant for the purchase and installation of a generator at the Washington County Health Department
- H. Communication Committee Expenditure – County Warning Point Communication Committee to assist in purchase of three computers for Washington County’s Warning Point (Dispatch Center)
- I. (Item Removed)
- J. Task Order 9 – Wheeler Emergency – March 2017 – April 2017
- K. SCOP – Staff to submit Greenhead Road (SR 77 to Fox Pond approximately 4 miles) and River Road (CR-284 from the end of the pavement to Pate Pond)
- L. 319 Grant Program
- M. Engineering Continuing Professional Services Agreement Addendum – The addendum to assignment of Preble-Rish Inc. to Dewberry Engineers Inc.
- N. Dump Truck Repair – Mack Dump Truck #2959 be repaired by Mann Automotive Diesel.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Joyner and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda with the prior removal of item I. Sunny Hills Library closure.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS –

- Sunny Hills Library Closure – Commissioner Abbott advised the Board that he would like to ensure that all efforts have been exhausted to keep the library open. His understanding is that finances are down and it is not as cost effective as the other libraries.

Commissioner Hawkins addressed Commissioner Abbott. The Board expressed the same concerns at the workshop. There were some ideas brought up today about using MSBU funds for the library. Is that something that can legally be done?

County Attorney Goodman advised that he has not researched that.

Commissioner Joyner offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott and unanimously carried to table the library closure until they possibly set a MSBU Advisor Committee and look at it further.

Susan Cook, Library expressed her understanding of the concerns and supports efforts of trying harder if there is any way to do it.

Chairman Kent advised the public the Boards definition of tabling the issue as tasking County Administrator Hamilton to find out what can be done, County Attorney Goodman will look at the MSBU option, compile all the information and ask Renae Rountree to be available at the next meeting this issue is discussed in order to have question and answer.

Commissioner Hawkins clarified for the public's purpose that MSBU will be discussed at the next workshop.

Susan Cook addressed the Board in reference to a question in reference to internet services from the audience. AT&T as well as some wiring problems with the building have been a perpetual problem and for some reason the internet has been down for about a month. Calls have been made and service calls have been made but the service continues to be down.

Commissioner Hawkins advised that he would work with the County Administrator in reference to rectifying the internet problem.

Sal Zurica, Sunny Hills advised the Board that AT&T U-verse runs down the South side of Sunny Hills Boulevard. A wire could be run from that to the library.

Commissioner Hawkins advised that he would look into the situation.

- Communication Committee Purchase – School Repeaters – Randy Truette, Communications Committee Chairman addressed the Board following up from the workshop. He and Officer Jenkins did testing at the school on February 12th and issues were found. Testing was done with two radios off of the repeater system and one of the radios on the repeater system. The repeater system completely fixed all the dead issues.

Chairman Kent asked if the Communications Committee had met.

Randy Truette advised that he received unanimous approval via e-mail correspondence.

The repeater system for Chipley will be located at the middle school, but will cover all three schools. The repeater system for the Vernon schools will be at the EMS station on the tower, which will also cover all three schools.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of two repeater systems for Chipley and Vernon Schools pending approval from the Communication Committee.

County Attorney Goodman suggested that the Communications Committee hold a physical meeting.

Randy Truette advised that they would likely hold a special meeting.

Chairman Kent advised Randy Truette that the repeater at the Chipley location had been previously approved.

VII. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – Tom Terrell requested Board approval for Dwayne Pippin to use 43.00 hours from his critical sick.

Commissioner Abbott offered the above motion.

Commissioner Bush advised the Board that it is a county policy, which is a routine personnel issue that should not come before the Board.

Commissioner Abbott addressed the Board. It is allowing the employee to use his own leave.

Commissioner Bush seconded Commissioner Abbott's motion to allow 43.00 hours be used from Mr. Pippin's critical sick leave.

VIII. COUNTY ENGINEER –

- County Incentive Grant – County Engineer Knauer advised the Board the purpose of the grant is to remove traffic from state highways. The three projects that were looked at include Orange Hill Hwy. (from the end of the pavement to Quail Hollow Road), Brown Street, which would remove traffic from Hwy. 90, and Church Street, which would remove traffic from 277.

Orange Hill Hwy. is .93 miles, with the estimate including 8” lime rock base and 2” of asphalt, costing \$422,480.00, which includes thermo-plastic striping, sod, and earthwork. The match is estimated at \$210,000.00.

Brown Street is .61 miles, which would require resurfacing, cut out, and replacing base in some areas, with an estimated cost of \$118,490.00. The county match would be estimated at \$60,000.00.

Church Street is a heavy traffic area. There a sections asphalt missing in the road. The base would be replaced with 6” of lime rock. The distance is .27 miles, expensed at \$135,000.00.

Commissioner Hawkins advised the Board that he has been in contact with The City of Vernon suggesting that the City apply, since they are eligible.

Commissioner Bush suggested if Brown Street was fixed to remember 1st street.

Commissioner Bush advised that he favors Orange Hill but would like to ensure that small section by Brown Street is not forgotten.

Commissioner Abbott advised the Board that he would like to meet with the city. There is a lot of water lying areas that have taken place from the old Kay's Corner to the red light located at CVS.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner

Hawkins and unanimously carried to turn in to CIGP the section of Orange Hill from the end of pavement to the inter-section of Quail Hollow and Hartford.

Commissioner Bush requested that when County Engineer Knauer addresses River Road with The Department of Transportation to advise that portion is part of their own secondary systems. It is one of the county's primary paved roads. The road is 18 – 19 miles long and there are 2 miles or less that have not been paved.

County Engineer Knauer suggested Cope Road should be on the SCRAP list. Discussion was held with Tom Terrell, Public Works Director who also agrees.

If the Board approves of Cope Road, he and Tom Terrell would also like to select the second road to submit.

Commissioner Bush commented yes.

Commissioner Bush asked if Bonnet Pond Road (northern section) was in the system.

County Engineer Knauer advised that he does not see Bonnet Pond Road.

Commissioner Kent asked if that road could be submitted this time.

County Engineer Knauer agreed.

Commissioner Abbott advised to look at it with Cope Road being the first. He advised that he would offer that in the form of a motion.

County Engineer Knauer suggested that he and Tom Terrell look at it as well as all the other options.

The Board advised that they thought the road was already in the system.

County Engineer Knauer advised the Board that he will check and if for some reason the road is not included on the list it would be submitted as the seconded road.

Commissioner Bush addressed the Board. He has been contacted by Randy Peel in reference to Hutchinson Road. It is a connector road

between Hwy. 277 and Hwy. 90. He suggested the Board give the road future consideration.

Commissioner Kent asked for a cost estimate to survey and design Hutchinson Road.

County Engineer Knauer advised that he is unfamiliar with the road but he can compile something for the Board to review.

Commissioner Bush suggested prepping the road as close to standard as possible. In the future it would only need to be paved.

Commissioner Joyner suggested those are roads that The Department of Transportation likes to see.

Commissioner Hawkins suggested that Owens Pond Road needs to be widened. It would be idea to look at this road.

County Engineer Knauer confirmed that on Hutchinson Road the Board would like a survey and alignment done in order to hold community meetings similar to what was discussed on Kent Road.

Chairman Kent advised to start with the estimate.

County Engineer Knauer confirmed that the Board would like the same thing done on Owens Pond Road.

Commissioner Hawkins advised yes.

Commissioner Joyner addressed Chairman Bush. The Board needs to look at widening some of the dirt roads because they are dangerous.

Commissioner Hawkins advised that he provided County Administrator Hamilton with packets on chippers that attach to the wheeled excavators.

He suggested using the funds from the equipment sold at the auction.

Commissioner Abbott addressed Commissioner Hawkins. They need to know what they have before proceeding.

County Engineer Knauer addressed the Board in reference to previous direction to make contact with Alex Webster with Commissioner Abbott.

Commissioner Abbott advised that County Attorney Goodman and County Administrator Hamilton are also scheduled to be involved in the call.

The call is scheduled after the board meeting.

County Engineer Knauer addressed the Board in reference to Kent Road. There are some wetlands that need to be delineated as part of that in order to get the alignment based on something they could permit. The survey, wetlands, and the alignment will cost \$24,500.00.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott and unanimously carried to allow County Engineer Knauer to proceed with the alignment survey, including wetland delineation, significant tree identification, and the alignment.

Chairman Kent addressed County Engineer Knauer in reference to the rates on Kirkland Road.

County Engineer Knauer advised they have completed the survey and are starting on the design work, which they intend to have submitted to The Department of Transportation in the next 2 weeks.

The permit is valid to March 18.

The notice to proceed has been received. The plans have to be submitted to The Department of Transportation, who has to review and approve the plans and specs before they can put it out for bid.

County Engineer Knauer advised the Board that bids were taken on the rocks 2/22, which came in substantially over what the FEMA pw's were for. The pw's were for 2,000,000.00 – 3,000,000.00 and the lowest bid was 3,400,000.00/3,500,000.00.

He suggested they would go through bids ensuring that everything submitted is correct and proper.

The Board could hold a special meeting before the next meeting.

IX. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR –

- County Owned Property – County Administrator Hamilton addressed the Board in reference to a bid received from Ms. Grant for the Summer

House Drive property, which is \$2501.00. The assessed value of the land is \$3400.00. Her bid is the only bid that was received. The property has been owned by the Board since 2005.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if she intends to build on the property.

County Administrator Hamilton advised no.

Commissioner Abbott recommended to go back and see if Ms. Grant would give the assessed value, if so he would vote to approve it.

County Administrator Hamilton asked if she accepts does the Board approve of them proceeding.

Commissioner Abbott advised that his recommendation is yes.

There was no opposition from the Board.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously carried to approve the sale of the property if Ms. Grant will pay the assessed value of the property. Other than that it remains with the Board.

County Administrator Hamilton advised the Board of another scenario in Sunny Hills off of Killian Place. Mr. Weekly would like to purchase the adjacent property. He has one neighbor to the South and Deltona located to the North. The lot is currently valued at \$1800.00 and he would like to purchase the lot. The same procedures would have to be followed as with the Summer House Road property, which include certified letters being mailed to the adjoining/adjacent property owners giving them the (10) day opportunity to bid on the property.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion to proceed.

Commissioner Bush asked County Attorney Goodman if there was an across the Board motion that could be made to give County Administrator Hamilton the authority to proceed with the process without having to bring each one before the Board.

County Attorney Goodman advised they could have a standalone process by which if there is a property owner who is interested in purchasing a county lot and it qualifies statutorily under the assessed value threshold

to go ahead and contact adjoining property owners via certified mail. This way the bids could be received by the time it is brought before the Board.

Commissioner Hawkins advised that he would like to see the land advertised, directing interested individuals to contact the County Administrator.

Commissioner Bush rescinded his previous motion.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, to give the County Administrator the authority to proceed when an adjoining property owner expresses an interest to purchase county owned property to contact other neighboring property owners and let them know that it is for sale and proceed with soliciting and accepting bids pursuant to the statute.

County Attorney Goodman addressed the Board. The statute directs is if the assessed value or value of the property is less than a certain threshold they don't have to go out for mass bid on that property. They have an expedited process where they can contact adjoining property owners to see if there is interest.

Commissioner Hawkins seconded Commissioner Bush's motion above, which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hawkins advised that he would like to task the Attorney and Administrator to work on a mass list.

County Attorney Goodman addressed Commissioner Hawkins. The last time the Board tried this a minimum bid of the assessed value was set by the Board, two bids were received.

Jim Town advised that Gary Hartman compiled a list of 50 lots in Sunny Hills that contained sewer and water and were buildable.

- Meeting Schedule Change – County Administrator Hamilton addressed the Board in reference to the upcoming meeting schedule changes. The months to be looked include March, September, and October.

Commissioner Joyner requested the meeting scheduled for October 16 be change to October 23.

Commissioner Abbott requested the March workshop be held March 22, which is the day before the meeting.

The Board agreed to have one meeting in September on September 20.

The Board agreed to hold one meeting in October on October 11.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Joyner and unanimously carried to approve the above meeting changes.

- Waste Management Contract – County Attorney Goodman, Commissioner Abbott, and County Administrator Hamilton met with Ronnie Bell, Waste Management in regards to negotiating the contract, which he would like Board approval.

The cpi will be changed to gt for 2 years and then up to wst for the remaining 3 years. The definition of exempt was defined at a rate of \$7.76. Three cleanups annually, which include winter, spring, and fall.

County Attorney Goodman advised that a formal contract will be brought before the Board at the March meeting.

Ronnie Bell, Waste Management asked County Attorney Goodman if a motion is necessary to extend the contract.

County Attorney Goodman addressed Ronnie Bell. They are extending it pursuant to oral terms.

Ronnie Bell advised nothing is going to change.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush and unanimously carried to approve for Waste Management to continue services in March contingent upon a contract being approved.

The Board and Ronnie Bell held discussion in reference to the pending Waste Management contract.

County Attorney Goodman addressed the Board. There is no current cap

and a cap has not been negotiated in regards to the discounted rate. Qualifiers for the discount will be defined and staff will be responsible for tracking the qualifiers.

There was an intent to reduce the amount for the citizens who they thought needed it and also an amnesty day at least 3 times per year.

Commissioner Abbott expressed concern about paperwork being tracked for qualifying.

Chairman Kent questioned, wouldn't they have to apply annually.

County Attorney Goodman addressed the Board. If it is the consensus of the Board to omit reduced rates that needs to be known.

Commissioner Hawkins advised that he would like it included.

Commissioner Abbott agreed.

Commissioner Hawkins asked what the auction results were.

County Administrator Hamilton advised \$84,450.00. That helps with the vehicles previously purchased.

X. CLERK – None

XI. COUNTY ATTORNEY – County Attorney Goodman advised the Board that he will bring forth at the March meeting a proposed MSBU resolution for the Boards consideration.

County Attorney Goodman advised that they are working on the MSBU mowing contract.

Also, they are cognizant of Caryville's request in reference to the fire department.

Commissioner Bush asked if the Board needs to do anything more to support their efforts to improve the fire department than they have already done as they transition the fire department back to them. If they would like to make change to the fire department, would they need to request Board approval?

County Attorney Goodman suggested to have them come before the Board in the event of any changes until it is handed over.

His position is to be as flexible as possible to ensure that their department looks the way that they would like it to look.

Commissioner Bush advised that he would like them to have the levery to make changes.

Commissioner Hawkins suggested that the Fire Coordinator would be the liaison. The only thing the Board is asking for is documentation of their spending.

Commissioner Abbott advised that he would not like to turn the checkbook over.

County Attorney Goodman addressed the Board. He is not aware that Washington County Fire Department brings their personnel decisions before the Board.

Commissioner Hawkins suggested the Board never get that intense with a fire department.

County Attorney Goodman suggested that County Administrator Hamilton and his staff have the ability to manage the fire department until the keys are handed back over.

Commissioner Abbott advised that his stance is they can have it other than spending the funds.

Commissioner Hawkins suggested that is the way the Board addressed it.

Commissioner Bush advised that he would like them to have it but would not want anything done that would make the county liable.

County Attorney Goodman advised the Board they are yours, just as Washington County is. You are liable for them.

The goal is get them back on their feet and hand them the keys. During that process the Board has a County Manager and a Fire Chief that should ensure that the Board does not have any liability issues in regards to the fire department. It is a management issue. Once it is given back, it is theirs.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if the management is given over to the city to

run the operations of the fire but the Board continues to hold the financial side of it, does that still make the Board liable.

County Attorney Goodman advised yes.

County Administrator Hamilton addressed the Board. It will not be handed over until an inter-local agreement is reached.

County Attorney Goodman advised that his understanding from the Board was to get the fire department on their feet over a period of 60 – 90 days. If the Board chooses to hand it back over to them and have a purchase order requirement in that inter-local that can be done in March.

In that situation the Board is not so much liable because they are being treated almost as a third party contractor to provide services in unincorporated Washington County.

Commissioner Hawkins suggested to Mr. Kerr to keep in constant contact in order to ensure things are going as the county sees fit.

County Attorney Goodman advised the Board that it is not so much his recommendation to keep them for a specified amount of days. If the Board gives it back to them, other than the funding and you don't like how it is going it will be more difficult.

County Engineer Knauer requested approval to give the Chairman authority to sign the letter for advanced funding on Kent Road from The Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Abbott offered the above motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush and unanimously carried.

XII. ADJOURN – Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and carried to adjourn.

Deputy Clerk Brantley

Date Board Approved