

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Washington County, Florida**  
**1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428**

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

- A. Call to Order – Chairman Hawkins
- B. Invocation/Pledge – Jeff Massey offered the invocation, which was followed by the pledge.

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners met for a regular board meeting at 9:00 a.m., on Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

Present were Chairman Hawkins, Vice-Chairman Abbott, and Commissioners Bush, Kent, and Joyner. Also present were Jeff Massey, County Administrator, Attorney Fuqua, Fuqua, & Milton, PA – County Attorney, Lora C. Bell, Clerk, and Risha Brantley, Deputy Clerk.

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

Additions – Personnel Policy Revision – Sick Leave Payout –  
Commissioner Bush

III. ADOPT PREVIOUS MINUTES

- March 14, 2018 – Board Meeting
- March 26, 2018 – Special Meeting
- April 6, 2018 Special Meeting

**The board unanimously approved the above reference 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.

V. AGENDA ITEMS

- Updating Building Codes, Dana Whipple, Building Official – Mr. Whipple advised the board that the state adopts a new building code every three years. In order to simplify the process he suggested that he prepare a draft ordinance that would automatically update the Florida Building Code in Washington County.

Chairman Hawkins requested Mr. Whipple prepare the draft for review by the county attorney and to bring it before the board at the May workshop.

Commissioner Abbott requested to be informed of any major changes.

- Senior Homestead Exemption, Gil Carter, Property Appraiser advised the board their intent is to implement the senior citizen exemption as an automatic renewal by ordinance.

Gil Carter, Property Appraiser advised County Attorney Fuqua that he would provide him with ordinances from other counties.

He would like to have the ordinance in place before January 2019 and a board decision before the forms are ordered in May/June.

- Relay for Life, Paint the County Purple Week, Jody Bush requested the board approve a proclamation declaring the week of April 22 – 27 as Paint the County Purple. The event will take place April 27.

At this point Washington and Holmes County have raised \$41,954.55. ACS has a set a goal of \$71,000.00.

**Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and carried to adopt the proclamation declaring the week of April 22 – 27 as Paint the County Purple.**

*The original proclamation is maintained by Jody Bush.*

- Kirkland Road Closeout, Rod Adams, David H. Melvin Engineering, Inc. requested board approval to approve the closeout documents, final pay request, retainage release and final close completion documents for Kirkland Road.

**Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and carried to approve the closeout documents for Kirkland Road.**

- Reappointment to the Planning Commission Members, Steve Cramer, Planner requested reappointment to the planning commission Roger Hagan, Al Keown, and David Morris for four years.

**Commissioner Joyner offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott and carried to reappoint Roger Hagan, Al Keown, and David Morris as Planning Commission Members for four years.**

- Personnel Policy Revision – Commissioner Bush advised the board the recent personnel policy revision affected some employees that were saving their leave time as a part of their retirement plan.

He suggested the abrupt cut-off was an error on the board's part.

Anybody that retires within the next five years would be eligible for his or her sick leave payout.

Marla Hayes, Human Resource requested clarification. Will the old policy be honored for the next five years or for anybody that retires?

Chairman Hawkins advised that it would be if an employee retires within the next five years the previous policy will be honored.

Marla Hayes advised that would be carried out to 2023.

Is it for an employee who leaves county/government or retires?

The board advised, retires.

Marla Hayes advised the board the old policy read that if you left county/government an employee was entitled to that.

She clarified that the old policy would be honored up until October 2023 in regard to the sick leave pay out for an employee that retires.

Commissioner Kent offered a motion that the old personnel policy in

regards to the sick leave payout would be honored for employees that retire in the next five years.

County Attorney Fuqua requested that human resource create a draft for his review, before the board approves, which will be addressed at the next meeting.

Commissioner Joyner addressed the board. There were not any benefits taken from the employees, they still have their sick leave. A portion of the reason for the policy change was the effect on budget in regards to leave payout.

Commissioner Kent rescinded his motion.

VI. COUNTY ENGINEER – Cliff Knauer updated the board.

- Kent Road – Right-of-way is progressing and plan adjustments have been made as well on Kent Road.
- Orange Hill Road Project – Two cross drains will be added to the plans in two locations where there could be possible drainage issues. A couple of side drains will be added. The culverts included on some of the platted roads off of that segment are being removed and the ditches will be continued past the roads, which are not being used for access.

Commissioner Joyner asked if changing the grade on the road was necessary.

County Engineer Knauer advised yes. There is a considerable amount of

cut on the south end a considerable amount of fill on the north end. The north end has minimal shoulders that drop off very steep and the travel lane is narrow. The south end does not have any swells. Swells are being cut on the south end and the dirt will be relocated from the south end to the north end to assist with building the shoulders.

- Bonnet Pond Road – Bonnet Pond Road from Pioneer Road north is being submitted to the Department of Transportation this week for final approval, as well as Olie.
- Cope Road – The road is progressing well. The survey is complete and plans are at 60%.
- Culpepper Landing – Southeastern Surveyors have completed a survey in order for a site plan to be created for the FBIP submittal. The project has previously been award by FBIP. A better set of plans need to be created.

A proposal will be presented before the board at the next meeting for the design and inspection on the project.

#### VII. PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR –

- USDA Beaver Update – Jeff Massey, County Administrator advised the board that there are areas in the county where water is backing up due to beavers.

USDA will be in the area the first week of May for one week and will return in June.

#### VIII. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Jeff Massey, County Administrator addressed the board on the following items.

- Greenhead Voting Precinct – The Department of Transportation has offered \$46,250.00 for a voting precinct in Greenhead located off of Highway 77 that is owned by the county.

He and Commissioner Joyner have worked on this transaction.

Discussion has been held to use the funds from the transaction and apply them toward the Greenhead Fire Department project in order to enhance the building.

Commissioner Joyner advised the board they looked at the building to also be used as a voting precinct.

The property that is being observed for the possible location is property owned by the county located on Spring Pond Road.

Jeff Massey advised the board the property is 5.09 acres.

- Code Enforcement Update – Jeff Massey advised the board that as of the 17<sup>th</sup> there are four cases progressing toward the expectation of compliance before the program is over. The locations are Garner Way, South Boulevard, Orange Hill, and Pike Pond Road. The total number of cases was eleven. Follow-ups are ongoing with the mail outs that have been signed for.

**Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush and carried to accept the offer from the Department of Transportation of \$46,250.00 for the purchase of the voting precinct located off of Highway 77.**

Commissioner Bush requested the funds be separated, allowing the board to know the funds are available.

- Caryville Worm Fiddlin' Parade Route – Jeff Massey advised the board the City of Caryville has requested to close County Road 279 for an hour for a parade during the Caryville Worm Fiddlin' parade route, per resolution, Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and carried to approve the resolution closing Highway 279 for an hour during the Worm Fiddlin' event on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

Commissioner Hawkins advised the board the City of Vernon accepted the agreement to give the county the library back.

County Administrator Massey advised the board when the MSBU Board was designed district 1 and 2 appointees term was for one year, which will expire April 30, 2018.

The next MSBU meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2018.

**Commissioner Kent offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush and carried for Andrea Blackwood and Brian Goddin to be placed on the MSBU Board for the continuation of the next term.**

IX. CLERK – Clerk Bell addressed the board.

- March vouchers totaling - \$2,244,359.59 – **Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and carried to approve**



**the March vouchers for \$2,244,359.59.**

Chairman Hawkins recessed the meeting from 9:50 a.m. – 10:03 a.m.

NON-AGENDA AUDIENCE

- Carol Creel, 3426 Twin Pond Road addressed the board in reference to drainage issues damaging her property, which includes a pond. She requested a solution from the board.

County Engineer Knauer advised the board the issue is that the location is in the sand hills, which is an area that is hard for grass to grow. The water coming down the hill is high velocity.

A section of the area would need concrete flumes in order to handle the velocity of the water. The road needs to be stabilized.

A survey is needed to identify the current right-of-way and any that may be needed.

Chairman Hawkins asked Carol Creel if she would be willing to give the board right-of-way to come in and clean the sediment out of her pond.

Carol Creed advised, yes.

County Engineer Knauer suggested a boundary and topographic survey should be done. Both sides need to be addressed.

Chairman Hawkins clarified that the county did not do anything to route

the water there.

County Engineer Knauer advised that the drainage has been ongoing.

County Attorney Fuqua advised the board he would prefer to have a survey done. A legal description is needed on what is being done.

County Engineer Knauer suggested that a topographic survey be done of the roadway and pick up Carol Creel's property lines that are adjacent to the roadway.

He advised the board he would provide them a proposal for the work.

Carol Creel advised the board that she has a recent survey of the markers.

County Administrator Massey clarified with County Engineer Knauer that there is not anything they can do to stop the water from going on Mrs. Creel's property.

The result of the discussion is for County Engineer Knauer to provide County Administrator Massey with a proposal to do the work survey and identify markers.

Doris Place, 3275 Siers Road suggested the taxes should be raised for undeveloped land.

- X. COUNTY ATTORNEY – County Attorney Fuqua addressed the board.
  - Lawsuit – The board has been named in a lawsuit, Peel v. Hayes in

regard to Blueberry Lane. A board member needs to be appointed to attend mediation along with himself on May 21.

Chairman Hawkins appointed Commissioner Abbott.

- Watson Case – Attorney Fuqua addressed the board, per board direction to purchase the alleged property being affected, discussion has been held with the landowner’s attorney. The landowner will not agree to accept the appraised value of the property. Would the board like to proceed with the settlement of the underlying claim or tie everything together, accepting a settlement or proceed to court.

The board held discussion.

County Attorney Fuqua advised the board that Watson’s attorney has advised that their client would like \$50,000.00.

The property appraiser has the property appraised around \$30,000.00.

This \$50,000.00 would be in addition to the \$50,000.00 the insurance company would be paying.

Attorney Milton clarified with Attorney Fuqua that the underlying issue is if that does not get dissolved, there is still the trial on the trespass side. The insurance company would cover \$50,000.00 and if he were able to sell the property for \$50,000.00, everything would go away.

Attorney Fuqua suggested he could contact someone to appraise it without going on the property.

Commissioner Bush suggested the purchase would not be a bad investment for the county and it eliminates any of the lawsuits.

Commissioner Hawkins agreed but went on to say that he would like to see something, which would justify the number.

- Purchasing County Property – County Attorney Fuqua advised the board the county could adopt an ordinance, which would simplify the process for the sale of property. This would allow the county administrator more discretion.

The board agreed with County Attorney Fuqua presenting them with an ordinance at the next meeting.

- Letter of Credit – County Attorney Fuqua addressed the board in regard to the 365-day letter of credit they have that is coming due through Regions Bank to cover the FEMA funding cycle. There is a possibility of the letter of credit maturing before all the funding is received from FEMA.

He requested permission to contact Mark Mustian, Nabors & Giblin to use as a bond lawyer seeking an ongoing letter of credit.

Commissioner Hawkins briefed the board. \$2,000,000.00 has been paid of the \$3,000,000.00 debt. \$1,600,000.00 has been received from FEMA.

The funding is available to pay the loan off but that would cut things too close, in which the clerk and himself were concerned with doing.

Before the \$2,000,000.00 was paid on the loan, \$4,500.00 was being paid monthly in interest, which has been lowered to \$1,500.00.

The line of credit would allow the remainder of the \$3,000,000.00 to be paid off.

County Attorney Fuqua advised the board he would look at providing them some preliminary information.

Clerk Bell advised the board agreed that they all would like progress in the area of the debt.

- XI. **ADJOURN – Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush and carried to adjourn.**

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Deputy Clerk Brantley

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Date Board Approved