

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Washington County, Florida
Board Meeting
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 special meeting at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 10, 2018.

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

II. PUBLIC HEARING – Chairman Hawkins opened the public hearing.

- Sales Tax Referendum – One-Half Percent School Capital Outlay Surtax

Attorney Fuqua read the ordinance by title as follows: An ordinance of Washington County, Florida calling for a referendum election of the electors of the school district of Washington County, Florida, to authorize the school board to levy of a one-half percent (0.5%) school capital outlay surtax on sales in Washington County, Florida, for the purpose of funding the cost of construction, renovation and renewal of school facilities and educational technology needs for a period of ten (10) years beginning January 1, 2019; Providing for notice of the referendum election; agreeing to comply with the

provisions of section 212.055(6)(B) and 212.055(6)(C); Providing for an official ballot; Providing for referendum election procedure; Providing certain other matters in connection therewith; Providing for severability and providing for an effective date.

Attorney Fuqua advised that before the school board could bring the ordinance forward they were required to have an audit by OPPAGA, which was completed within the required 60-day timeframe prior to the election, which turned out positive results.

Joe Taylor, Washington County School Board Superintendent spoke on the Sales Tax Referendum, which should generate revenue estimated at \$940,000.00.

The tax is applied on the first \$5,000.00 of a purchase.

Vann Brock, Washington County School Board member commented that infrastructure and technology are ever changing and technology is a part of education.

Chairman Hawkins closed the public hearing and re-opened the regular board meeting.

III. ADOPT PREVIOUS MINUTES –

June 7, 2018 Special Board Meeting

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, and carried to adopt the minutes dated June 7, 2018.

IV. ADOPT THE AGENDA

- Addition – Survey for Holmes Creek Park - Chairman Hawkins

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and carried to adopt the agenda.

- V. 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.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

- Sales Tax Referendum – One-Half Percent School Capital Outlay Surtax – Joe Taylor, Superintendent, Washington County Schools –

Attorney Fuqua read the ordinance title.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott and carried to pass the ordinance pertaining to the one-half percent surtax for the Washington County School Board to be placed on the ballot. The motion carried unanimously.

- Memorandum of Agreement for Elections Security Grant – Chairman Hawkins updated the board. The grant referenced was previously presented to the board by Mrs. Rudd at a prior meeting, where \$12,000.00 was approved to be funded from general revenue. The additional \$44,000.00 plus would be for harboring the Supervisor of Elections facilities.

Commissioner Bush expressed concern about the board approving funds prior to the evaluation of the facility determining the needs of the election security.

The board funds being spent differently than what the inspection could present could impact the amount of funds Washington County receives.

Chairman Hawkins advised the board per text with the Supervisor of Elections assurance was given that the funds would be refunded. This refund is based on the grant funds.

Commissioner Kent offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Joyner and carried to authorize approval for the chairman to sign the grant for the Supervisor of Elections to apply.

Commissioner Abbott questioned if the grant would cover ongoing monitoring fees.

Chairman Hawkins updated Commissioner Abbott. Next year the monitoring fees would be inherited by the county.

- Holmes Creek Park – Chairman Hawkins addressed the board in reference to the Vernon Park requesting that the board approve of Southeastern Surveying locating the pins on the south side, in order to identify property ownership in the area.

The property owners to the south are concerned about liability.

Mike Gainey offered to pay for a fence in the event it is needed.

Commissioner Bush suggested after the survey is complete, fencing the area from the water's edge to the Department of Transportation's right-of-way line.

The board agreed with Chairman Hawkins in regard to obtaining pricing to present before the board at the meeting scheduled for the 18th.

Chairman Hawkins directed County Administrator Massey to have Southeastern Surveying complete a survey, which is covered under his signature authority and obtain pricing on a chain link fence.

Commissioner Bush requested that pricing be obtained for a galvanized chain link fence versus a colored chain link fence.

VII. COUNTY ENGINEER - None

VIII. PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR - None

IX. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - Jeff Massey addressed the board.

- 2018-2019 Proposed Millage Rate – The TRIM process schedule and millage rates lowered by .25 and .50 have been provided to the board for discussion.

Chairman Hawkins commented on a previous assurance the board made to drop the millage rate when implementing the franchise fee.

Commissioner Abbott advised that he would like to review the expenditures and look at increasing emergency services.

Commissioner Kent expressed concern about making a decision that would adversely affect another department, suggesting lowering the millage rate by .25 and another .25 the following year.

X. CLERK – Clerk Bell addressed the board.

- June vouchers totaling \$1,522,736.95

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott and carried to approve the vouchers totaling \$1,522,736.95.

XI. COUNTY ATTORNEY – County Attorney Fuqua addressed the board.

- Inter-local Agreement for Highway 79 Corridor Authority - The agreement establishes a three (3) person committee.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and carried to approve the inter-local agreement for the Highway 79 Corridor Authority.

- Watson Case – The property has been appraised at \$27,000.00. The amount owed is \$60,000.00 plus.

Watson’s attorney advised that he has authorized a settlement to give the board an easement for drainage on the property in the places where the county’s property allegedly flooded in the past for \$10,000.00.

County Attorney Fuqua advised the board that he would provide a map of the location at the next meeting.

- Palmer Case (Acy Road) – Palmer has lost in circuit court, and appeals. A motion to set aside the circuit judgement, has also been denied. He has currently filed suit in federal court.

County Attorney Fuqua advised the board he is in the process of a motion to dismiss and a motion for sanction for attorney fees.

He advised that he is seeking a way to confirm that Mr. Palmer cannot represent himself if he decides to go further. He would have to hire an attorney.

XII. ADJOURN – **Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and carried to adjourn.**

Deputy Clerk Brantley

Date Board Approved