

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 called the meeting to order.
- B. Invocation/Pledge – Jeff Massey offered the invocation, which was followed by the pledge.

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners met for a workshop beginning at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday July 18, 2018, which was followed by a special meeting.

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, Shawna Faison, Executive Assistant to Lora C. Bell, Clerk and Risha Brantley, Deputy Clerk.

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

III. AGENDA ITEMS

- Audit Presentation, Sara Applewhite, Carr, Riggs, & Ingram addressed the board in regard to the most recent audit, pointing out pages 4.1, and 4.7, which are a summary.

The county is in a healthy financial position and the staff does a good job

of compiling the financial information.

Page 73 displays the grant revenue that the county receives. In the current year, the figure was \$7.6 million, and last year the figure was \$14.7 million, with the difference being the courthouse.

The majority of the grants are spent on roads. FEMA funds received were \$5.8 million this year. The FEMA amount includes funds that have not been received.

The county borrowed \$3 million to fund the completion of the projects, which has been repaid.

Per accounting rules because the work had been done and the money was earned it was booked as a receivable and revenue.

Next year will show the funds received from FEMA and the debt being repaid.

Items that needed to be brought to the staff's attention are located in the back of the audit report listed as comments.

It has been found that staff is working toward reducing comments from prior years.

Items of concern in the current year were none.

- Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, Kenny Messer, NW Florida Regional Housing Authority addressed the board in reference to the

request to transfer the HUD program from Tri-County to themselves.

County Attorney Fuqua addressed the board. As of September 30, Tri-County has relinquished their administration of the program.

The options were to subcontract the HUD voucher program or to relinquish it to another agency, which would omit the audit responsibility from the county as well as any financial obligation.

The HUD vouchers would continue to be assigned to Washington County as needed.

County Attorney Fuqua suggested the county relinquish the vouchers to North West Florida Regional Housing Authority.

Chairman Hawkins requested Washington County have a representative on their board on the board directors.

Kenny Messer advised the board is appointed by the governor's office. The county would have to apply there.

The board approved to list the transfer on the consent agenda.

Kenny Messer informed the board that they service nine (9) counties and twelve (12) cities.

The transfer request would have to be brought before the North West Florida Regional Housing Authority's board, estimating a 2-week time schedule to do so.

- Crystal Lake Right-of-Way Surveys, Tony Syfrett, Southeastern Surveying addressed the board per their request.

Commissioner Joyner suggested the \$21,000.00 quote given for the survey for the right-of-way at Crystal Lake could be avoided if it were looked at differently.

There is concern with the section at the southwest boat ramp, in which a survey was done on it prior. Was there are re-plat.

Tony Syfrett advised there is one to the west of the boat ramp but it is unrecorded.

Commissioner Joyner advised that he would like the county's right-of-way identified.

There is also concern around the old boat ramp; a retention pond around there.

The established pins on the waterfront lots could be used.

Tony Syfrett advised the board the \$21,000.00 covers all around the lake.

He suggested they use that without changing the proposal and they work by the hour identifying problems areas. The original proposal will not be exceeded. The cost does not include mapping, but right-of-way staking, enough fieldwork to establish the exact location of the lake, and the road

as it is platted.

Commissioner Joyner advised that he does not want to cause any issues with the landowners. However, his concern is a safe passage and the county using their 50' of right-of-way that is platted.

The area located at the other boat ramp on the southwest side should be identified.

Four (4) easements are located around the lake that goes into the water.

The main concern is traffic.

Chairman Hawkins commented the board's intent is to make drainage, and traffic better.

County Attorney Fuqua suggested Fuqua and Milton have a discussion with Tony Syfrett.

Chairman Hawkins suggested Tony Syfrett, County Attorney Fuqua, County Administrator Massey, and Commissioner Joyner meet and discuss the issue, and provide clear direction to Tony Syfrett.

As long as the cost is under County Administrator Massey's spending limit, proceed.

Commissioner Joyner advised that he would like the landowners to know what they are doing.

Commissioner Bush addressed the board. There are fences and sheds on the county right-of-way.

If the board approves, it needs to be followed through.

Tony Syfrett suggested mail outs be sent to the property owners.

There wasn't any opposition by the board to sending the mail outs.

- Proposed Benefit Renewal Options – Robin Riley, Public Risk Insurance addressed the board. Florida Blue renewal presented a 13% rate increase, due to manual rating. The county is not large enough to be rated experienced with their claims. The current county rate is lower than Florida Blue's manual rating.

Since the 13% renewal was presented, the Florida Blue representative presented a 5% renewal.

Due to the county being on the pro-share plan \$124,000.00 plus was received this past year. Using those funds, the 5% can be brought down to a 1.5% increase with Florida Blue.

It is projected that additional funds will be received again due to the claim history.

The county currently pays for a telehealth program through MD Live, which is estimated at \$10,000.00 annually. This is included with United Healthcare and the consortium program.

Claudia Burchstead, Benecon, program administrator addressed the board. The program in Florida is owned by members. The board is made up of the governing entity of the program.

Quarterly reporting is provided, which eliminates surprises at renewal.

Benecon has been operating in Florida since 2014, however have been involved with government entities since 1991. Over 300 government entities participate in the program.

Transparency is a benefit of the program. If there is an overpayment, the return of the surplus is not 50% but 100%.

The program is an annual commitment.

Upon joining the program, an entity will be a party to an inter-local agreement.

Sheriff Crews commented that it is about quality and cost of insurance.

Chairman Hawkins advised that he met with Brian Burch, Florida Blue on July 17, who initially provided a 13% increase. Within the same meeting provided a 5% increase.

This was not pleasurable.

County Attorney Fuqua advised that United Health Care presented a proposal that provided at least as good of service, and quality healthcare at a substantially lower rate.

Chairman Hawkins advised with this there is some rate guarantee. With 100% ownership, the rates can be kept to the same level by utilizing a portion of that money to pay down the rate and use the other part of the money to give the employees a benefit on their health care, as a reinvestment into their family plans.

Robin Riley addressed the board in reference to the insurance projections. Keeping the same three plans with Florida Blue would mean a 1% rate decrease from the current pricing, which is a savings of \$17,038.00, annually.

Utilizing the telehealth program that United Healthcare offers would mean a savings of \$10,000.00 from the expense of MD Live.

Per the request from Chairman Hawkins, scenarios utilizing the surplus to subsidize the dependent coverage with Florida Blue have been provided. The plan 03559, subsidized allocation is \$16,800.00, 03359, subsidized allocation \$33,360.00, and 05773, subsidized allocation is \$38,136.00 for dependent coverage.

Marla Hayes, Human Resource updated the board on plan 05773 for family coverage. The current cost is \$1,028.48 versus the presented cost of \$511.12.

The option with Benecon is an additional \$11,027.00. On the base plan, the employee cost would be \$532.00 for family coverage versus the \$1,128.00 they are currently paying.

With the middle plan, the family cost is \$622.00 versus \$1,264.00. The buy up plan with family coverage is currently \$1,399.00, versus the rate with Benecon of \$1,021.00.

The different allocation of the money is to assist the employees, however to protect the plan.

Chairman Hawkins advised that utilizing the Telehealth service could directly affect the return at the end of the year on premiums.

Commissioner Bush suggested that the contribution per employee should be the same.

Robin Riley advised the board an option is when entities subsidize dependent coverage they do a subsidy for employees who have other coverage.

Chairman Hawkins suggested they would have to provide proof of other health insurance.

Robin Riley advised the board another option in order to protect the plan is spousal surcharge, because you are subsidizing all those spouses as well.

Commissioner Bush suggested that it would not be fair to provide the employees the lower rate and then remove it the following year.

He expressed concern about some employees receiving an additional benefit based on the plan they choose.

Commissioner Kent expressed concern about the provider coverage remaining similar.

Chairman Hawkins called a recess. (10:11 a.m. – 10:29 a.m.)

- Firefighter Assistance Grant, Caryville Fire Department – Karen Shaw, Grants/Special Projects Coordinator requested board approval to apply for the Firefighter Assistance Grant.

This is a consent agenda item.

- Resolution for SR 77 Widening Project – South of Ben Road to South of Cane Mill Road – Karen Shaw, Grants/Special Projects Coordinator addressed the board. The Department of Transportation is seeking an easement south of Ben Road and South of Cane Mill Road.

This is a consent agenda item.

- EMS Land Swap – Commissioner Tray Hawkins requested approval of the following transaction: Approval for the BOCC to deed parcel #1, 0.21 acres (corner line of the EMS property that is south of the entrance where there is ingress and egress of their driveway) to the City of Vernon, which would allow them to conduct the land swap with Jim Harris. In turn, Jim Harris would deed the parcel at no cost, which is known as the parking lot for the Sportsplex to The City of Vernon.

This is a consent agenda item.

IV. PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR

- Bat Wing Bush Hog – Johnny Evans addressed the board. Quotes were received from John Deere, \$18,000.00 plus, Panhandle Tractor, \$16,500.00, and T & H Sales & Salvage, \$17,500.00. T & H Sales & Salvage has a galvanized bush hog, 5-year on the gearbox and 10-year on the deck.

He requested approval to purchase the bush hog from T & H Sales & Salvage (Modern Ag Products). The funding is in the public works budget.

The board held discussion, agreeing to list the purchase on the consent agenda.

- Beaver Control – Johnny Evans updated the board. The individual providing beaver control services is currently in town working on Ledger Road.

The water tables being down have affected the process.

County Administrator Massey requested Johnny Evans look at getting the water truck operable, as well as looking at a spray truck, based on the budget.

Johnny Evan advised the board he has shown a contact from Anderson Columbia some of the roads that have been milled up. The mileage has to be computed and he will provide a quote for sanding and tacking the roads.

Commissioner Joyner confirmed the bush hog mowing cycle is on the fourth, suggesting that may be too many cycles. The mowing cycles may need to be spaced out and focus on other items, such as ditches, and guard rails.

Johnny Evans expressed concern about lessening the cycles advising that some areas grow quicker than others do.

Chairman Hawkins advised Johnny Evans to use his judgement

V. COUNTY ENGINEER - Cliff Knauer addressed the board.

- Old Bonifay Highway Bridge – Did the board approve to proceed with the borings on the bridge.

Chairman Hawkins directed County Administrator Massey to contact AWP to see if they would set up the maintenance of traffic for a lower price; if so contract them.

If not, bring it back before the board.

Commissioner Joyner requested additional quotes on the borings.

Commissioner Bush requested County Engineer Knauer research where the bridge is in line from the Department of Transportation's schedule.

County Administrator Massey and Commissioner Kent will schedule a meeting with the Department of Transportation in reference to the bridge.

- FDOT Design Project Request – County Engineer Knauer addressed the board in reference to the area on Campbellton Highway to Highway 77, to the county line. At the intersection on Bahoma Road, the aprons need to be widened and the culvert needs to be extended to allow for better access to the road.

On Kirkland Road from Brown Street to the county line headed east on Highway 90 there are no major issues known.

County Engineer Knauer suggested making a request to address the drainage coming off of Highway 90 that ends up coming through the parcel that is located in the southeast corner of the intersection.

- Culpepper Landing – The Army Core permit that was obtained in 2015 expired in 2017.

He suggested revising the plans and including the revisions with a permit application to the army core to renew the permit.

The board supported County Engineer Knauer's suggestion.

County Engineer Knauer suggested building a platform and a stairwell/ramp that would accommodate canoes and kayaks.

Chairman Hawkins advised that Nestle has put forth \$15,000.00 for the project.

County Engineer Knauer updated the board. The approval for the Department of Transportation has not been received for Bonnet Pond

Road North, or Obie Street.

Cope Road is progressing, with a possible submission date to the Department of Transportation within one to two weeks.

Kent Road is progressing as well.

Commissioner Abbott questioned about Orange Hill Road.

Johnny Evans updated, they are currently putting down topsoil, and the plan is to mix Monday morning and turn the sample in Monday as well.

County Engineer Knauer updated the board. There is currently 8" of lime rock base and 2" of asphalt.

The LBR is currently 58 and the recommendation is not to pave anything lower than a 70. There will not be the structural number at that location versus the rest of the roadway. Going from 1 ½" to 2" will assist with that.

Commissioner Abbott requested an update on the tree on Brown Street.

Johnny Evans updated that he is currently working with Gulf Power.

The projected removal timeframe is this week.

VI. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Jeff Massey addressed the board.

- 2018 – 2019 Proposed Millage Rate – The target date to select a millage rate is July 31.

The board agreed to list on the agenda 25% lower, which is 9.2235.

- Big Bend – County Administrator Massey updated the board. He received the contract for Big Bend this morning. The contract reflects \$200,000.00 net, with Big Bend covering all cost.

County Attorney Fuqua advised the board they are taking the building as is.

After approval of the contract, they will obtain a survey and a legal description.

This item will be listed on the consent agenda.

- Code Enforcement Amnesty Compliance – Cheryl Pingatore, Code Enforcement informed the board that the amnesty program was a success. Seven (7) out of (ten) complied. Two chose not to participate and one could not be located.

The special magistrate hearing was held on July 17.

Orders were issued on four (4) out of six (6) cases.

The fines will continue on the ones that did not comply.

Commissioner Abbott requested the names of the ones that did not comply.

The release for the seven (7) that complied will be listed on the consent agenda.

County Attorney Fuqua advised that it is included in the contract with Big Bend that the board will pay the title insurance.

VII. CLERK – None

VIII. COUNTY ATTORNEY -

- Holmes Creek Wayside Park – County Attorney Fuqua updated the board. He has spoken with Mark Davis in regards to the Holmes Creek Wayside Park. Discussion was held on the owner deeding the county a particular portion.

The chairman has suggested giving him an easement on the top portion of the property.

- Resolution of Watson Case – The resolution to resolve the case would include the county paying \$10,000.00 for a drainage and utility easement.

Commissioner Abbott confirmed that this would end this.

- Foreclosure Case – County Attorney Fuqua advised the board they were served with a foreclosure case on a SHIP buyer's assistance mortgage.

IX. CALL TO ORDER – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - Chairman Hawkins closed the workshop and opened the special meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent

and carried to adopt the agenda.

- X. 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.

Candace Blackmon addressed the board in reference to Wayside Park and the boat ramp, and the recent turmoil.

She advised that she is concerned about the liability issue. The land the boat ramp is on is in a private party's name. The boat ramp is not a part of the Wayside Park.

Hal Everett Kirk advised the board that he was never paid for his property that was taken by the county. The county built the boat landing without a deed.

County Attorney Fuqua advised this is not the time to determine ownership of the property.

Chairman Hawkins advised that the board has approved for a survey to be done on the property.

Candace Blackmon advised that she has not prevented anybody from using the public boat ramp. The allegations previously made are false.

She requested that the fence that Hal Kirk put up prior to this that was

taken down, be put back up. This was during the time the issue was taken to court the first time.

She also expressed concern about the need to have some trees removed in the area.

Candace advised the board that she would like confirmation that they have an easement through there.

XI. AGENDA -

- Proposed Benefit Renewal Options – Robin Riley, Public Risk Insurance

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve to go with the proposed benefit renewal options, continuing with vision and health.

The health insurance will change from Florida Blue to United Healthcare.

Commissioner Bush expressed concern about the county's cost increasing in the event more employees select family coverage.

The county's contribution could be increased by 50%.

Marla Hayes, Human Resource advised there was a survey previously done seeking input in regards to this.

Discussion was held in regard to the proposed insurance.

Robin Riley suggested using \$42,000.00 of the surplus money toward the

base plan for the dependents and the other two buy up plans remain as they are.

This would allow for a plan that is being subsidized and being affordable.

If the employee desires a better plan, they could pay the difference.

This would lower the county's liability.

For plan 03559, without the subsidy the employees pay \$1,399.00 per month. The county would be paying \$748.05, which the county is currently paying versus the \$1,021.00 for the employee and \$1,048.00 for the county.

Commissioner Bush confirmed that on plan 05773 the county would pay \$1,332.00 for the employee.

Chairman Hawkins referred back to the motion on the table to change to the Benecom United Healthcare plan, which carried unanimously.

Robin Riley clarified with the board that he subsidy will be used across the board.

Chairman Hawkins confirmed that is correct.

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

Deputy Clerk Brantley

Date Board Approved