

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 – Johnny Evans offered the invocation, which was followed by the pledge.

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

II. PUBLIC HEARING

- Future Land Use Map Amendment - Steve Cramer, Planner addressed the board in reference to a FLUM amendment from agriculture/silviculture to low density residential for 33.8 acres of land at the southeast corner of Bedie Road and Duncan Community Road received from Milton Peel, applicant. The owners of the property are Robert and Robin Collins. They purchased the property after Mr. Peel had started the land use change. The purpose for the amendment is to allow four parcels of land of less than nine acres a piece. The public hearing is required because the request for the parcels is less than 10 acres.

The public hearing was advertised by certified mail to the adjacent property owners, display ads in the newspaper, and signs posted on the property. A neighborhood meeting was held on February 19, with no public attendance. Staff and the planning commission recommend approval.

This amendment has to be transmitted to Tallahassee for review due to the size of the amendment, this hearing is a transmittal hearing.

- Future Land Use Map Amendment – Steve Cramer addressed the board in reference to a FLUM amendment from medium density residential to neighborhood commercial for 0.6 of an acre of land located at 1497 South Boulevard submitted by Northwest Equity Group, which is the applicant and the property owner. The agent is Forrest Boone. The purpose of the land use change request is to convert the residence currently on the property to an office.

The hearing was advertised by certified mail, ads in the newspaper, and signs on the property. A neighborhood meeting was held on February 21, which one neighbor attended from Kirkland Road expressing concern about the trees on the property that have not been removed and the cars parked in front of the residence block the view of the drivers at the inter section.

Per Steve Cramer, Mr. Boone response was that the soil is too wet at this time to remove the trees, however they would be removed at a later date and the parking issue will be addressed.

Staff and the planning commission recommend approval.

- Special Exception Application – Steve Cramer addressed the board in reference to a special exception to allow residential use on 7.4 acres of land on the west side of Highway 277, 1/10 of a mile north of Clayton Road. The application was submitted by Wanda Owens, Realtor/Southway Realty. The owners are William and Joyce Stevenson. The property is currently vacant. The request is to allow residential use on a designated commercial piece of property. The owners have been unable to sell the property as residential due to the commercial land use. The option is to sell the property for residential or commercial if approved by the board.

The hearing was advertised by mail, signs on the property, and newspaper ads. A neighborhood meeting was held, which had no attendance.

Staff and the planning commission recommend approval.

Commissioner Abbott asked if the wetlands on the property would have an effect.

Steve Cramer advised no. The uplands portion of the property will be affected, which is located along Highway 277.

III. ADOPT THE AGENDA – **Commissioner Abbott/Joyner (Motion Carried)**

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.

Leonard Blunt, Vice-Chairman of T.J. Roulhac Enrichment Activity Center, 651 Pecan Street addressed the board for awareness and informational purposes. The center is for community outreach. The facility has a gym, cafeteria, estimated 20 classrooms, basketball court, and track. The facility provides tutoring, music, and athletic programs, in addition to degree seekers, a computer lab, performing arts, electronic classroom, and a free medical clinic.

Many renovations have been done to the building.

Mr. Blunt requested that the board keep the program in mind.

Commissioner Hawkins advised Mr. Blunt if they have a specific need to bring it before the board by direct contact or through the county administrator.

Mr. Blunt suggested to the board that the county's grants system would be of great assistance to them.

Josephine Robinson-Floyd addressed the board. The support of Washington County is needed for the program, not only with grants but any extra funds would be of assistance.

The commission owns the building.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval for the Chairman to sign the Proclamation for Relay for Life in support of the American Cancer Society in Washington County
- b. Approval of renewal of annual Emergency Communication Tower Generator Maintenance Contracts with Florida Detroit Diesel for the Emergency Operations Center, New Mudhill Tower, Dispatch Center, Administration Building, and the County Jail with load bank testing added to the Jail contract
- c. Approval for Public Works to purchase two mulching heads for a Bobcat excavator in the amount of \$18,101.00
- d. Approval to enter into a contract with John Warren, LLC to design and maintain the BOCC website
- e. Approval to pay February vouchers totaling \$1,476,308.84
- f. Approval of February 20, 2019 board meeting minutes
- g. Approval to submit a letter to the Department of Transportation for the county to maintain the reimbursement responsibility for FEMA *(This item was pulled and included on the regular agenda)*
- h. Approval of a resolution urging the United States Congress to pass tax relief for individuals and employers suffering from Hurricane Michael

Commissioner Abbott/Kent (omitting item g.) (Motion Carried)

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

- Hydrogeologist Report – Jeff Brown, Hydrogeologist, Trinity ADC addressed the board in reference to the flooding on Shenandoah Boulevard.

A property owner is using two 3' pumps that are moving 150 – 200 gallons of water over a hill to Preston Circle and through a drainage culvert under the road and into Boat Lake. *(A display of the area was up for review.)*

The flooding is a ground water issue.

By pumping and relocating the water it is causing a recirculation system. The only way to get ahead of the flooding and lower the water level by pumping would be if there was enough restriction between the sediments and where it is being pumped up top to allow for faster pumping than could move up through it.

There is really nothing that could be done there.

A suggestion would be to surround the house with sand bags and pump from in that area.

County Administrator Massey requested a synopsis of the findings.

Jeff Brown confirmed that he would provide that information.

Jeff Brown also advised the board that he would look at the Pine Ridge area per their request.

Jeff Massey mentioned that Wages Pond also has a similar situation.

Jeff Brown advised the board that a note about Econfina would be included in the write up.

- Future Land Use Map Amendment from Agriculture to Low Density Residential, for 33.8 acres of land at the southeast corner of Bedie Road and Duncan Community Road – **Commissioner Abbott/Bush (Motion Carried)**

- Future Land Use Map amendment, from Medium Density Residential to Neighborhood Commercial, for 0.6 of an acre of land at 1497 South Boulevard – **Commissioner Abbott/Kent (Motion Carried)**
- Special Exception Application to allow Residential Use on 7.4 acres of land on the west side of Highway 277, 1/10 of a mile north of Clayton Road – **Commissioner Abbott/Joyner (Motioned Carried)**

Expressions of appreciation were expressed to Marla Hayes, Human Resource for her time with the county.

The expressions were reciprocated by Marla Hayes.

- Approval for Rural Grant for Mapping and Maintenance on Recording Equipment for E-911 – Jeff Massey, County Administrator addressed the board. The board previously approved the grant application. Once Clint Erickson, E-911 Coordinator contacted the company he was advised they didn't work on them. The second bid is \$200.00, which requires board approval to proceed with.

Commissioner Kent offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush and carried to proceed to the second bidder, KOVA for \$200.00 more for the rural grant for mapping and maintenance on recording equipment for E-911.

USDA Grant with Match for Vehicle Purchase – Attorney Fuqua addressed the board. The county, instead of the sheriff has to be the applicant for the USDA grant. It is typically a grant loan program, which has to be done through a bond process. A revenue source will need to be pledged. Local and bond counsel will be required.

The sheriff needs permission to pursue the grant.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, second by Commissioner Kent and carried to approve of the county completing a grant application on behalf of the sheriff.

- Appointment of Ross E. Statham to the Airport Authority Board – James Town, Tri-County Airport Authority addressed the board. There are fifteen seats on the airport board, which are split between Jackson, Holmes, and Washington County.

Mr. Town recommended board approval for Ross E. Statham to fill the vacant seat on the Tri-County Airport Authority Board for Washington County. **Commissioner Bush/Abbott (Motion Carried)**

Jim Town addressed the board. Seat #14 was previously held by Frank Acuff.

- Department of Economic Development Grant Agreement – Tray Hawkins, Chairman addressed the board. The rfp that will be put out will allow an individual firm to provide ongoing construction management services related to the project, such construction management services shall include, but not be limited to a specified scope of work, which is identified in the rfp. DEO has approved of this.

Commissioner Joyner offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and carried to approve of issuing a rfp for a firm to represent the Highway 79 Corridor.

- Department of Transportation Letter – Tray Hawkins, Chairman addressed the board in reference to submitting a letter to the Department of Transportation for the county to maintain the reimbursement responsibility for FEMA.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion to submit a letter to the Department of Transportation for the county to maintain the reimbursement responsibility for FEMA, which was seconded for discussion by Commissioner Joyner.

Attorney Fuqua explained to the board what the responsibility would mean. Throughout the storm process for Washington County Whit O'Brien has been monitoring the debris pick up by Crowder Gulf for the Department of Transportation. The Department of Transportation has not submitted request for payment at this point. Wheeler has asked the board to write a letter to the Department of Transportation asking if the county could take on the responsibility of submitting the request for reimbursement on their behalf.

There are pros and cons. The advantage is that the Hazard Mitigation Program under 404 provides the county with a portion of money for hazard mitigation. This would add an additional \$20,000,000.00 to the amount used to calculate a specific percentage. The con is that the county hasn't been watching the debris pick up. If there is a dispute in the future with the reimbursement process the county could be in the middle of a situation. Currently the county has no obligation in that.

Chairman Hawkins suggested to send a letter to the Department of Transportation showing their stance and let the attorney's review it.

Commissioner Abbott commented that he does not want to be involved at all. He does not want to put the tax payers through that type of liability.

Commissioner Bush commented that he does not want to see the county take on a liability that is unnecessary.

Attorney Fuqua confirmed with the board that his direction is to contact Phillip, go through Kevan Parker, Chairman Hawkins, and Senator Gainer to ensure things are done to everyone's satisfaction.

Commissioner Abbott amended his previous motion to state that Attorney Fuqua will reach out and submit a letter to the state that Washington County BOCC is here to help, however does not want to take financial responsibility.

Commissioner Bush suggested that the letter be written in response to a letter that the Department of Transportation sent out to the monitoring firms, asking them to submit invoices if it hasn't already been done. The letter also requested that staff be identified that will be able to provide assistance when the project worksheets are being put together. Also requested in the letter was a good point of contact for any damage claims that had been related to the debris pickup.

Commissioner Bush advised County Attorney Fuqua that he would provide a copy of the letter to him.

Attorney Fuqua advised the board that he intends to call before writing a letter.

Commissioner Joyner seconded Commissioner Abbott previous motion. Motion carried.

VII. FEMA COORDINATOR – Kevan Park updated the board. The final pass has begun in the western portion of the county. A truck is located in Caryville and is moving south. There is also one in the Ebro area, moving north. These trucks are completing and documenting the completion of roads. There are trucks in between doing normal pick up.

There is about 300,000 cubic yards currently on the road.

A site inspection has been requested for Joiner Road and the one that is on the Alford Highway.

VIII. PUBLIC WORKS – Johnny Evans updated the board. The loader should be delivered Thursday.

IX. COUNTY ENGINEER – Cliff Knauer addressed the board.

- Sunday Road Patching – The quotes haven't been received at this time. Once they are received they will be forwarded to County Administrator Massey.

- Joiner Road – The low water crossing is scheduled to be looked at.
- Kent Road – There is one signature remaining for the first mile on Kent Road.
- SCOP – Clarification is needed for the SCOP submittal. The notes reflect the missing link (CR – 284) extension 2.6 miles from the end of pavement (Highway 279). Deputy Clerk Brantley checked the minutes, which reflected Sunday Road was listed as a SCOP project to be submitted.

The board agreed to list Sunday Road for the SCOP project.

Chairman Hawkins suggested that the road shouldn't be touched until a decision is made by the state.

Commissioner Bush suggested to repair the potholes.

- Joiner Road – The road will be looked at along with Johnny Evans after the meeting. Commissioner Abbott requested signage and barricades be put out.

Wendy White, Human Resource advised they were already out.

Commissioner Bush addressed County Engineer Knauer. When a gps search is done for Port of Panama City it routes through Pipkin Road. The large trucks are running into this and once they get down the road they have to turn around, which is causing signs to be knocked down at the intersection. How can this be corrected?

Commissioner Abbott advised that Clint Erickson is able to submit such corrections.

Bonnet Pond Road – County Engineer Knauer updated the board. The advertisement will be issued for Bonnet Pond Road once approval is sent from the Department of Transportation.

X. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Jeff Massey addressed the board in reference to support for House Bill 191 for Representative Drake. Would the board approve the chairman executing a resolution for the Washington County Board of County Commissioners certifying support for House Bill 191, which is NW Florida Rural Inland Affected Counties Recovery Fund, which stems from BP money.

Commissioner Bush, Abbott (Motion Carried)

Chairman Hawkins requested that the board give Mr. Massey the ability to negotiate with companies that would like to use the Moonseed location for debris.

County Administrator Massey briefed the board. The footprint for Moonseed is 800,000 yards of chipped or vegetative debris. 62,000 yards have been put in there are at this point. There is room for in excess of 800,000.

County Engineer Knauer informed the board that there is room to expand to the south. It wasn't initially done because that is where the debris is being processed. An amendment can be done in order to obtain an additional 150,000 yards.

County Attorney Fuqua advised the board that Mr. Massey can negotiate but a contract has to be approved by the board. If that occurs a special meeting can be called.

XI. CLERK – None

XII. COUNTY ATTORNEY – None

XIII. ADJOURN – Commissioner Bush/Kent (Motion Carried)

Deputy Clerk Brantley

Date Board Approved