

**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.

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 Johnnie Pettis, Finance Director.

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

III. AGENDA ITEMS

- 2018-2019 Proposed Budget

Jeff Massey addressed the board. The franchise fees were put in to aid the board in lowering the millage rate. The board would like to see the millage rate at 8.500. Lowering the millage would mean an estimated drop in revenue of \$508,000.00.

Future funds received from the consortium will help offset the insurance, and go back in the general fund.

The franchise fees for 2018-2019 are projected at \$1,200,000.00.

Using the cost of the drop of revenue in ad valorem and the cost of the first year in the consortium, \$425,255.00 will remain, which is money for budgeted revenue purposes.

This is a future projection.

Chairman Hawkins advised that he does not want to approve funds in this budget year, only to ask for a budget reduction the following year.

Commissioner Bush advised that using the franchise fees on anything but reducing ad valorem is not appropriate.

Commissioner Hawkins suggested raises should be done when the board is self-sufficient, and debt isn't being funded.

A projected increase in insurance of 5%/\$320,000.00 was reduced to \$266,000.00.

Jeff Massey updated the board. The actual cut in road and bridge was approximately \$149,000.00.

An \$800,000.00 overstated revenue error in transportation was inherited. In order to fix this, contingency and FEMA funds were used, and funds were cut.

Jeff Massey advised the board a portion of funds are included in the

budget for a public works director. Funds can be adjusted if that is something that the board would like to pursue.

In reference to budgeting ahead, the intent is to bank money that will cover the financial impact of dropping the ad valorem in the future to 8.500.

Commissioner Bush requested a list of grants that would be affected by a reduction in ad valorem.

Commissioner Bush suggested to leave room in the budget to hire employees. The county needs to have fair market wage.

Commissioner Joyner asked how much franchise fee monies are being used to balance the budget.

Chairman Hawkins advised \$425,000.00.

Johnnie Pettis commented on the employees receiving a different benefit based on an employee's selection of single or family coverage.

Chairman Hawkins advised that all employees are receiving some benefit.

Commissioner Abbott advised there is no way to make it level.

Chairman Hawkins advised the \$220,000.00 will stay in the budget for next year.

Sheriff Crews asked if the board was okay with the \$160,000.00 for the EMS budget to add a 12-hour ambulance during peak call hours.

Chairman Hawkins requested Randy Truette provide the board a report at the April meeting on utilization.

Sheriff Crews addressed the board. Going back to the initial \$370,239.15, the resource officer has been removed, and both sets of raises have been removed. However, the budget does include a retirement increase for \$31,000.00. With the adjustments the request has been lowered to \$193,790.67.

Jeff Massey advised the board the \$30,000.00 included in the budget for civil fees is shown going back to the sheriff.

Sheriff Crews confirmed that the \$30,000.00 would be in addition to the \$193,790.67.

Chairman Hawkins suggested that it is important that the school board be lobbied for the funding from the governor mandate to fund the school resource officer position that was included in the \$370,000.00.

The board is still putting over \$91,000.00 into the school resource officer program.

Commissioner Joyner suggested that the school board is responsible for what they run and vice-versa.

The board is okay with the proposed budget request from the sheriff.

Chairman Hawkins advised Sheriff Crews to come back before the board if the school board does not fund the school resource position.

Ted Everett addressed the board. The county does not give the Chamber of Commerce any funds for its operation. There is a separate account set up for the funds received from the county for economic development (EDC).

Chairman Hawkins confirmed that the county currently gives \$30,000.00 to economic development (EDC).

Ted Everett clarified with the board that \$25,000.00 of those funds are for his salary and \$5,000.00 is for the website for economic development (EDC).

The remaining expenses are paid for by chamber membership fees.

Running the economic development (EDC) has cost the chamber \$80,000.00. The chamber cannot uphold spending this type of money annually for economic development.

EDC lies within the chamber though an MOU with the county.

Chairman Hawkins confirmed that EDC's request is for approximately an additional \$37,000.00.

Chairman Hawkins requested Ted Everett bring a budget back before the board for \$50,000.00.

Commissioner Joyner addressed Chairman Hawkins. It seems as if all the franchise fees have been budgeted, commenting that is a problem with him.

Commissioner Bush agreed.

Chairman Hawkins advised all the franchise fees have not been budgeted out because they are going toward 8.500 millage. Right now all of the reoccurring funds are being budgeted out.

Commissioner Joyner addressed Chairman Hawkins. The budget was put back where it was last year, and then spent the rest of it on top of that and that is not what he agreed on.

Commissioner Joyner requested to be on record, that is not what he agreed on when he voted for it.

There is no contingency left.

Chairman Hawkins advised Commissioner Joyner there is a great contingency.

Commissioner Bush addressed the board. When he voted for the franchise fee, it was not to increase services and expenditures, but to offset the ad valorem.

Johnnie Pettis, Finance Director advised Chairman Hawkins that Early Learning Coalition has not requested the funding that was budgeted for

them per requisition request for two years; the funding was removed from the 18/19 budget.

The board confirmed to leave the funding for \$5,000.00 in the budget.

Chairman Hawkins advised the clerk's office to include \$50,000.00 in the budget for economic development.

Johnnie Pettis, Finance Director advised the board that Opportunity Florida is dues, which is located under the administrative budget.

The board agreed to remove the requested amount for Opportunity Florida from the budget next year.

Chairman Hawkins clarified that the change in the human resource department is to bring the two employees within the salary study.

Jeff Massey, County Administrator advised the board there is also funding included in the human resource budget for Accufund.

Commissioner Bush advised Jeff Massey if he would like to look at a public works director in the budget, to make sure there is funding in the budget.

Chairman Hawkins clarified that with the two employees in the human resource department being brought up in the pay study, that would be everyone.

Marla Hayes, Human Resource advised that it would be complete.

Jeff Massey, County Administrator advised the board it is necessary to bring them up with the workload in that office.

Commissioner Abbott advised County Administrator Massey that he has the support of the board.

Commissioner Bush suggested that the brush cutter positions are key.

Jeff Massey, County Administrator advised the board that if someone is hired in an entry level position, unless they are temporary they are required to have a CDL, which separates potential employees.

Chairman Hawkins addressed County Administrator Massey. It is his understanding that it is not a policy, which would be something that he could fix.

Jeff Massey, County Administrator confirmed that he intends to fix that.

Chairman Hawkins advised to remove any 3% wage increase from the budget that is funded by the board.

Clerk Bell advised the board the state side of her budget has been approved for 3%. Included in the budget there was \$9,000.00 for the non-court employees. There is revenue that has come into the office that is \$20,000.00 more than what was projected, which will come back to the board, which covers that.

Johnnie Pettis, Finance Director advised the board the current budget projection has cash carried forward, which is franchise funds.



\$750,000.00 was added. \$46,843.00 is economic development. The total is \$796,843.00.

- IV. ADJOURN – *Commissioner Joyner 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