

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

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

The following persons were present: Chairman Hawkins, Vice-Chairman Abbott, Commissioners Bush, Kent (via Polycom), and Joyner (via Polycom). Also present were County Administrator Jeff Massey, County Attorney Milton, Fuqua & Milton, P.A., Clerk of Court Lora C. Bell, and Deputy Clerk Risha Brantley.

I. PROCLAMATION

- Call to Order - Chairman Hawkins
- Invocation – Johnny Evans
- Pledge

II. PUBLIC HEARING - Request for a variance from vegetative buffer requirements within a residential development - Dawn McDonald, Senior Planner presented an application request that would close out the development order. The request is for the apartment off of Kirkland Road. The property was approved in 2019 and the development order was completed in December. The code requires a Type C buffer between commercial and residential and in this case the development order was approved for a 6' privacy fence and a line of trees. During the construction of the apartments, the electrical infrastructure had to be placed in that area. The other buffering required per code was installed. The certified mailing requirements were met. The planning committee and staff recommended approval.

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

IV. ADOPT PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Joint Workshop with the Washington County School Board
12/17/2020
- Board Meeting for 12/17/2020
Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to adopt the above referenced minutes.

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 minutes to speak on the proposition before the board. – None

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

- Request for a variance from vegetative buffer requirements within a residential development – Dawn McDonald, Senior Planner –
Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve the vegetative buffer referenced above.
- Request for waiver of Planning Department fees related to the expansion of an existing cemetery – Dawn McDonald, Senior Planner presented a request from New Bethany Assembly of God, a non-profit group intending to expand their existing cemetery. Fees associated with this include public noticing and application.

After discussion, Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, and carried to waive the application fees per

the recommendation of Dawn McDonald. The public noticing fees were not waived because they are not county fees.

- Gulf Power Update – Tracy Andrews, External Affairs Manager updated the board on significant changes and an update for 2021. As of January 1, 2021, Gulf Power officially merged with Florida Power and Light. The merger will create operational and financial benefits for customers. FP&L and Gulf Power intend to file a new rate proposal to be approved by the commission. The details of the rates are still in the development phase. The plan is for the new rates to be effective January 2022. No matter the name, the commitment to the community and customers will remain the same.

More emissions-free solar energy is being put on the grid as more solar energy centers are developed. Each center generates about 74.5 megawatts, which is enough to generate power annually to 15,000 homes. There are two additional solar sites scheduled for the end of the year and nine sites that are under development.

Retirement of coal has occurred for Gulf Power. The largest generating facility located in Pensacola is running 100% on US natural produced gas. The plant Smith located off of Highway 77 has been running off of natural gas for a few years.

Around 4,800 transmission wooden structures are being replaced with concrete/steel and the mainlines are being hardened to extreme wind loading criteria. Equipment is being installed to isolate and avoid some outages and restore power remotely with

self-healing networks. More than 5,000 automated lateral switches will potentially be in service by the end of this year.

In March of 2020, an enhanced online experience was put in place, which includes a new mobile app, an improved web experience, easy to understanding billing, and self-service options have been increased.

During the 2020 pandemic disconnections were suspended for more than eight months. Payment arrangements were made with customers and assistance was provided with local community funding agencies. A bill relief program was implemented to allow past due accounts to be caught up.

The local leadership team will continue to seek ways to provide support through fundraising events.

- Brickyard Road Resurfacing Agreement – Karen Shaw, Grants/Special Projects Coordinator – **Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve the Brickyard Road Resurfacing Agreement.**

Chairman Hawkins advised making contact with the Washington County School Board to see if they have approved the alignment for the ingress and egress. A workshop should be scheduled if necessary.

- FDAC 2021 State Financial Assistance Recipient Agreement – Lee

Duke, Mosquito Control Director requested approval of the agreement. The annual funds have increased from \$34,496.88 to \$36,960.24.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, and carried to approve the FDAC agreement.

- Regional GIS and Tactical Mapping Analytics Grant – Clint Erickson, E911 Coordinator requested approval to apply for grant funds totaling \$95,450.00, which is a supplemental mobile device local integration system allowing call takers and dispatchers to see location information on apple and google as well as other technical items.

Approval to apply for an Analytic Mapping Grant for \$271,948.00 is also requested.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to authorize approval to apply for both grants referenced above.

- Interlocal Agreement for Highway 79 Corridor – County Attorney Milton informed the board the contract for Gortemoller Engineering has expired. An RFQ/RFP has to be issued for engineering services.

The amendment is intended to address the pass-through issue and the administration of the grant by the county for the benefit

of the corridor. The county is the grant recipient and the grant is that of the corridors.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, and carried to approve amendment #2 to the Inter-Local Agreement between the Highway 79 Corridor Authority and Washington County.

- Sexual Offender Ordinance – Attorney Milton advised that the ordinance has to be re-advertised. The commission agreed to table this item until the February meeting.

Rebecca Finch requested a route of public awareness if the ordinance is passed.

- Pine Bluff Maintenance – Tray Hawkins, Chairman informed the board the cost for the road repair discussed at the last meeting could come from moving 428 dollars to mitigate the damages on that road.
- Stacey Redmond Life Jacket Locker – Tray Hawkins, Chairman suggested that this be done to honor a local man who lost his life last year saving a child that was drowning.

Chairman Hawkins informed the board that he would donate the first life jacket. Culpepper Landing will be the first landing.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, and carried to approve the Stacey

Redmon Life Jacket Locker Proclamation.

County Attorney Milton informed the board that FWC has a similar program.

- Extension and Modification of Dunford Lake Agreement – Tray Hawkins, Chairman informed the board that Paradise Lakes Home Owners Association has requested to increase the vehicle permit fees.

Commissioner Bush informed the board that it was a commitment they made to allow the Washington County residents access to the lake.

The board agreed to table this item.

Deputy Clerk Brantley agreed to provide the agreement to County Attorney Milton and Commissioner Bush.

- Resolution for Davidson Road – Tray Hawkins, Chairman informed the board the resolution is to show support for paving Davidson Road. The Highway 79 Corridor has asked for approval of the same resolution from Holmes County, and the City of Bonifay.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve the resolution for Davidson Road.

VII. FEMA COORDINATOR – Kevan Parker addressed the board.

- Invitation to Bid 2020 – 003 Road Striping – The committee recommends awarding to the low bidder Roadscape North Florida for Washington County road striping.

Commissioner Abbott offered the above motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried.

- Michael Projects – The permits are complete for culverts, headwalls, and rip rap. 3.2 and 3.4 are the road zones that are being focused on for paving. A couple of RFP's will be done for each road zone. 3.1 and 3.3 are in the permitting stage. December 20, the permits went from the Core to DEP, which has impacted the conversion.
- Ag Center – The roof has been completed, and the lean-to has been torn off the back. The plywood has been completed in the arena. There is an issue with the lights in the arena. The contractor has provided a change order for all nine lights because the six lights that were damaged aren't being made anymore. The change order is \$5,580.67. The bathroom equipment is on backorder.

The commitment from the contractor is to have the east end to the auditorium completed by June 1.

Nothing has been seen outside of the deductibles that FEMA will cover.

County Administrator Massey informed the board that grant money has to be used by June 1.

Kevan Parker informed the board that County Engineer Knauer is designing catch basins for drainage at the ag center.

All damage inventory for Hurricane Sally is due at the end of January.

- Vaccinations – 200 vaccinations are being done per week at the First Baptist Church. There has been discussion about a state-sponsored site in Washington County. The plan is for 500 vaccinations to be given per day. A plan is currently being developed for the sod farm to be used. A pole barn would be built, which would be able to accommodate four car lines. The road would also need to be rocked.

Chairman Hawkins informed the board that the Supervisor of Elections is receptive to moving her facility to the west wing of the ag center.

VIII. MSBU ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN – Gary Hartman addressed the board.

- MSBU Committee voted to approve of adding two street lights on Shenandoah
- Security is being worked on at Wilder Park
- Meetings have been scheduled for April, July, and October; Emergency meetings are optional

- The coordinator has a repaving plan
- Increasing the assessments has been tabled
- Members for District 3, Geislen, District 4, Hartman, and District 5, Parrish, terms end April 30. All members have expressed interest in continuing to be on the committee.
This item will be listed on the February consent agenda.
- A couple of lights and a pump has been replaced on the fountain

IX. PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR – Johnny Evans addressed the board.

- Beaver Update – 17 in 3 days
- Caterpillar Skid Steer Shoulder Machine Package, Grapple, Bucket, and Forks Purchase Request for \$122,319.00 –
Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins, and carried 4 – 0 to approve of the purchase for \$122,319.00.

Commissioner Abbott stepped out of the meeting prior to this vote.

Chairman Hawkins advised this will be reimbursed with Hurricane Michael equipment funds when they are received.

X. COUNTY ENGINEER – Kyle Adams addressed the board.

- Williams Road Bridge – The plans have been submitted to County Administrator Massey.
- Johns Way Bridge Replacement – The bridge is ready to be permitted and a proposal has been provided for approval.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, and carried to accept the proposal from Dewberry for survey, design, and permitting for \$64,050.00.

- Culpepper Landing Boat Ramp Improvements Bid Tabulation – Kyle Adams recommended accepting the base bid from Hall Contracting for \$186,657.00 and the alternate 1 for \$51,978.00.

Chairman Hawkins addressed County Attorney Milton regarding FBIP funds being unable to be used for alternate 1.

Attorney Milton advised that Hall Contracting is the low bidder if alternate 1 is going to be approved.

Nestle previously contributed \$15,000.00 toward the boat landing. It will be asked of them to cover the additional \$37,000.00.

Chairman Hawkins addressed the board. There is \$500,000.00 in Water Management to pave Cypress Springs Road. The money was given from Nestle to Water Management. There is a \$250,000.00 to \$400,000.00 shortfall between the \$500,000.00 of being able to pave the entire road. If the county would dedicate the mitigation funds from the Sally Project to finish up Cypress Springs Road and be able to 428 that project.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, and carried to award the bid for Culpepper Landing Boat improvements to Hall Contracting.

XI. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Jeff Massey addressed the board.

- Sale of County Owned Property –
 1. Derek McDavid offered the assessed value of \$1,800.00 for Sunny Hills property parcel number 00000000-01-0135-0004. The parcel size is .275 acres.
 2. Dennis Montaque offered the assessed value of \$1,800.00 for Sunny Hills property located on Zinnia Drive, parcel number 00000000-01-0044-0016. The parcel size is .275. A counteroffer of 2,010.00 was received from Wilson Hair. The recommendation is to accept Wilson Hair's offer.
 3. Patricia Lambert offered the assessed value of \$1,800.00 for Sunny Hills property parcel number 00000000-02-0224-0009.
 4. Barney Manual offered the assessed value of \$1,800.00 for 14 parcels located in Sunny Hills. A counteroffer of \$2,500.00 was received from Shirley Yard for parcel 00000000-03-0285-0007. The recommendation is to sale the following 13 parcels to Barney Manual for the assessed value: 01-0007-0014, 01-0007-0015, 02-0227-0012, 02-0227-0013, 02-0227-0014, 02-0227-0015, 02-0227-0016, 03-0295-0014, 03-0286-0001, 02-0262-0007, 02-0251-0004, 03-0285-0009, and 02-0299-0030. Parcel 03-0285-0007 will be sold to Shirley Yard.

All requirements were met for the sale of the county-owned properties.

**Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by
Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve the sale of the**

county-owned properties listed above.

- Crystal Lake Update – There will be 50’ right-of-way from Mr. Chavers fence back the other way and beyond that, there will be the area for the retention pond. The attorneys are working on the paperwork.
- Greenhead Fire Department – A walkthrough was done recently of the building along with Jim Palmer and there are items incomplete. Jeff Carter, the attorney will be moving forward with the lawsuit.
- 5 Temporary Fire Positions – These positions will be temporary to assist with the vaccination process for up to 6-months. They will be on-call as needed.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve of hiring the 5 temporary workers.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve the job description for the 5 positions.

XII. CLERK – Lora C. Bell addressed the board.

- Vouchers – December \$3,419,515.52

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve the December vouchers.

XIII. COUNTY ATTORNEY – Attorney Milton addressed the board.

- Alcohol Ordinance – Approval is needed to advertise a local notice of intent to request the local bill.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins, and carried to approve to advertise the local notice of intent to request the local bill regarding the alcohol ordinance.

- Miller’s Ferry Road – Mr. Keisler’s mother previously deeded a 50’ x 750’ strip of land to the county. The board discussed abandoning the property at a previous board meeting.

Attorney Milton suggested deeding the strip of property to Mr. Keisler.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to deed the property to Mr. Keisler.

- MSBU – Additional parcels will be included for assessments for MSBU. The uniform collection method through the tax collector’s office would be the option for collection. A resolution has to be approved. Approval is needed to advertise the resolution.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to advertise the resolution.

County Attorney Milton suggested retaining Nabors Giblin to review the MSBU ordinance and provide a recommendation.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, and carried for approval of retaining Nabors Giblin to review the MSBU ordinance and update it if necessary giving the MSBU Board the liberty to do what is needed while adhering to the statutes.

County attorney Milton informed the board the insurance company denied the nursing home claim. Notice of intent has been received that the nursing home will be filing a lawsuit.

Attorney Milton requested authority to retain Bill Warner in regards to the claim.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to hire Bill Warner as suggested by County Attorney Milton.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion to adjourn.

Deputy Clerk Brantley

Date Approved