

**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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The following persons were present:

Chairman Tray Hawkins

Vice-Chairman Todd Abbott

Commissioner Charles Kent

Commissioner Alan T. Bush

Commissioner Steve Joyner (Not Present)

Also present were County Administrator Jeff Massey, County Attorney Fuqua, Fuqua & Milton, P.A., Clerk of Court, Lora C. Bell, and Finance Director Johnnie Pettis.

I. PROCLAMATION

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

II. PUBLIC HEARING

- Request for variance from vegetative buffering requirements for an approved commercial development – Dawn McDonald, Senior Planner presented the above variance application. The property is located at Elkcam and Highway 77. The request is to allow the use of existing vegetation (more than) in the original plan rather than clearing the entire site and replacing it with vegetation and trees. There is more vegetation at the western portion of the site. This is located within

the Sunny Hills Planning and Development area.

Letters were mailed by the applicant to neighboring residents within 500'. A neighborhood meeting wasn't held. The Washington County Planning Commission and staff recommended approval based on the request meeting the variance criteria.

- Request a Future Land Use Map change from Agriculture/Silviculture to Low-Density Residential to allow an additional dwelling unit on a parcel of property – Dawn McDonald, Senior Planner presented the Mccadden application. The parcel is 5-acres and currently has a home on the site. All notification requirements were met. The Washington County Planning Commission and staff recommended approval.
- Request for a Type V Special Exception request for a proposed sand mining operation – Dawn McDonald, Senior Planner presented the application for the site location on Highway 77 and Lincoln Drive. The site had been previously used for a borrow pit, however, there is a new operator which required new permitting. State permits require that the applicant meets local government and code requirements. The site is approximately 90.65 acres. The property is currently designated as agriculture/silviculture. The plan is to begin mining on the eastern portion of the site and reclaim and move toward the west. All notification requirements were met.

Concern that was expressed by a neighbor was that access remains on Highway 77 and that the site remains fenced. Concerns were expressed regarding how deep the digging would be, natural resources, and the fence replacement on the site. The site meets the special exception criteria. Due to two buildings being on the site the applicant will have to return for a minor development review

application. The Washington County Planning Commission and staff recommended approval of the use.

Chairman Hawkins confirmed that the county holds a bond, which ensures that there is security once the site is no longer used as a borrow pit that it will be reclaimed.

Dawn McDonald, Senior Planner advised that a reclamation plan is included in the plans. County Aggregate reclaims as they mine. They will also maintain a 100' buffer.

Dick Alt expressed concern about how deep they will dig.

Dawn McDonald, Senior Planner advised that digging will be to 35' and about 12' below the water table. Any deeper they would be required to provide additional studies and analysis to the state and request that.

III. ADOPT THE AGENDA –

Agenda Additions – (3) Kevan Parker regarding the pumping project for the flooding (4) Carol Rudd to certify the election results and (final) Karen Shaw regarding the Safer Grant

**Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve the agenda as amended.**

IV. ADOPT PREVIOUS MINUTES

- December 16, 2021 – **Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent, 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.” Everyone shall have three (3) minutes to speak on the proposition before the Board. Before the time a meeting has been called to order, should an individual or group wish to address an item which is on the agenda for consideration, the individual or group shall obtain, from the Commission Secretary or Clerk, a public comment form and shall write on the form their name and the agenda matter which they wish to address. The completed form(s) shall be returned to the Commission Secretary/Clerk who shall provide the form(s) to the Chairperson. Should a particular group wish to address an item, they shall nominate a spokesperson to voice their ideas, comments, and concerns. In the event, an individual would like to speak on an item and has not signed up in advance, those who have signed shall be given priority and those who have not signed up may speak at the sole discretion of the Board Chair.

- Benita Crittendon requested the board add workshops to the schedule and videotape the meetings.
- John West commented that the pumps around the Pine Ridge Drive area are doing an excellent job and they should be continued. He expressed concern about the pumps being stopped in the future. Once the water recedes homes that have been purchased can they be torn down?

- James Brooks addressed the board regarding FEMA projects and how the schedule was put together. The board was commended on the work the contractor did on Hagan Road. Is the scope for the other FEMA projects the same?

The ditch-digging for the FEMA projects toward the beginning of the project isn't noticeable now. \$2.2 million was spent on ditches around the county. It was wasted money that could have been locked in with sod the way it was done on Hagan Road. Culverts are also beginning to wash out.

#### VI. AGENDA ITEMS

- Recognition of Ms. Susan Cook, Library Branch Manager, retiring with 30-years of service – Renae Rountree, Librarian accepted the award on behalf of Ms. Susan Cook.
- Recognition of Mr. David Morris for 25-years of service to the Washington County Planning Commission – Jane Dellwo read a recognition letter on behalf of Mr. David Morris, District 5 Planning Commissioner.
- County Flooding/Pumping – Kevan Parker, Wheeler Emergency addressed the board. The pumping plan and the flood plain map of the area were displayed and discussed.

Water Management's mechanism for giving money to the county was via a grant for \$30,000.00. \$23,361.00 has been spent on fuel as of Friday. The remaining funds can cover six more days. Local money ranges from \$60,000.00 - \$70,000.00, which has covered expenses for a wrecker, hotel for

JEA, labor, equipment, and materials.

Permitting shouldn't be an issue.

Chairman Hawkins commented that it is not their intent to stop the project. The plan is to make the project more successful. Meetings are scheduled tomorrow in Tallahassee to discuss different strategies. The county coffers can't cover the cost. The plan is to continue until the funds are depleted. The water needs to be moved at a faster pace so that one rainfall doesn't deplete the advancements that have been made.

Nancy Harrelson informed the board that her nonfunctioning well is the one that is being used to take measurements. The wells that are functioning for their homes are not being measured. It was requested of the board to bring the issue up to the state level and that the pumping continues.

Charlie Brown expressed appreciation of the assistance that has been provided to the Pine Ridge area/flooding and hopes that it continues.

Benita Crittendon suggested that the Washington County Commissioners should put pressure on other areas; Water Management being the main one.

John West requested communication updates.

- Election Update – Carol Rudd, Supervisor of Elections provided the board the certificate of results that have been signed by the canvassing board for the election on January 21, 2022. Question 1 – For Selling Intoxicating Liquors, Wines, or Beer containing more than 6,243 percent of alcohol by volume

For – 3,049

Against – 1,729

Question 2 – For Sales by the Package and Drink

For – 3,370

For Sales by the Package Only

For – 1,358

**Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent, to accept the election results presented by Carol Rudd, Supervisor of Elections.**

James Brooks addressed the board. Advanced Washington County displayed on their Facebook, that petitions were requested by the end of September/the cut-off date was October 15. Advanced Washington County informed that there were 120-days to collect the signatures, validate the signatures, and present the petition to the county commissioners. The original petition was presented on June 17, 2021. The completed petition was presented to the commission on November 23, 2021, which was 159-days. This was 39 days beyond what the Florida Statute called for. In the last days, it was reported that Advanced Washington County lacked several hundred petitions. The board had a constitutional duty to invalidate the ballots. It was an unlawful act to authorize the ballot. Compounded by this unlawful action was a failure of the first ballot to be properly formatted. The printer made a mistake or the Washington County Supervisor of Elections failed to proofread it. It has been reported that instructions on how to answer the ballot questions were answered incorrectly by some of the Washington County Supervisor of Election's staff. It was reported that some voters didn't receive the second ballot. It is suggested that the Washington County Board of Commissioners

broke the law. The citizens need to hear from the board why it occurred.

**The motion on the floor carried unanimously.**

- Request for an addendum to the current county ordinance regarding exclusions as to persons convicted and bus stops (Section 38-3(b) – Patricia Klein, Citizen addressed the board seeking clarification of the ordinance referenced above. The rule doesn't define a way of measuring where the bus stops to the distance of an offender; if the offender has children, and what constitutes a bus stop.

Chairman Hawkins advised Patricia Klein to leave her information with Wendy White so that the county attorneys can respond.

- Request for variance from vegetive buffering requirements for an approved commercial development – **Commissioner Kent offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve the above-referenced variance request.**
- Request a Future Land Use Map change from Agriculture/Silviculture to Low-Density Residential to allow an additional dwelling unit on a parcel of property – **Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent, and carried to approve the above-referenced FLUM request.**
- Request for a Type V Special Exception request for a proposed sand mining operation – **Commissioner Kent offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve the special exception request.**



- Requests of New Planning Commissioners for Districts 2 and 5; Reappointment of District 1 and 3 Planning Commissioners – **Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent, and carried to appoint Richard Kunde for District 2, Lance Bush for District 5, Roger Hagan for District 1, and Al Keown planning commission members.**
- Washington County Public Library ARPA Grant Agreement – Renae Rountree, Library Director informed the board that Washington County had been approved for \$33,692.00 in grant funds. Board approval is requested for Chairman Hawkins to execute the agreement.  
**Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, and carried to authorize Chairman Hawkins to sign the ARPA Grant Agreement for the Library.**
- 2021 – 2022 FDACS Contract for Mosquito Control – Tray Hawkins, Chairman requested approval of the agreement. – **Commissioner Kent offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, and carried to approve the FDACS Contract.**
- Request for the Chairman to sign an Inter-local Agreement regarding revenue sharing between The Highway 79 Corridor Authority, Washington County, Holmes County, and The City of Bonifay – Tray Hawkins provided an update and request. Every year Washington County has pledged a specific amount of money to the corridor until it is going to offset the cost until now it would be reviewed every year. What was in the corridor was taken for what was in the tax agreement; the parcels were segregated out so the money would go straight to the corridor instead of having to do a budget line every year. Once the corridor becomes more successful, the numbers will back out and come back

to the county. The amount is \$83,000.00.

**Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, and carried to approve the Highway 79 Corridor agreement.**

- Gubernatorial Appointment of District 14 Medical Examiner – Tray Hawkins, Chairman – **Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent, and carried to approve the medical examiner appointment.**

- Acquisition of Capital Engineering and Consulting, LLC, and Reassignment Contracts – Jason Crenshaw, P.E., Vice President, Capital Engineering, LLC informed the board they are in negotiations with HMB Professional Engineering to acquire Capital Engineering around February 1, 2022. As part of the acquisition, the contract with Washington County would be transferred to them. Capital Engineering has been working with the company since around 2018. The merger will allow full-service engineering services to be provided. He and Donald will be the owners of the company.

Attorney Fuqua informed the board that their written approval is required to accept the modification.

**Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to accept the reassignment from Capital Engineering to HMB Professional Engineering per the acceptance of the legal staff.**

James Brooks expressed concern about part of the procurement process is trying to keep service local when possible. Is there a local engineering service?

- SAFER Grant Application – Karen Shaw, Grants requested approval to apply for the SAFER Grant. – **Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent, and carried to approve the authorization to apply for the SAFER Grant.**

VII.FEMA COORDINATOR – Kevan Parker addressed the board.

- FEMA Projects Update
  - Hurricane Michael - \$1.9 million of the road base has been submitted. \$600,000.00 has been approved, and the other is in the validation stage. \$150,000.00 is awaiting RFR's through December.
  - Hurricane Sally - \$1 million has been received. Meetings for the amounts appealed have been set up.
  - Legacy Storms (2013/2014)- \$600,000.00 remains to be received.
  - Road Projects – The bids that were rejected in December are out for bid. Included in the bid are Carter Circle, Houston Road East, Farrell Nelson, Jessie Way, Old Mill, and Shackelford.
  - Milled Roads – Peel and Earl Gilbert Road contract includes the contractor excavating the milled material and hauling it to the road and bridge department. A cost for a change order to mill the road has been requested. This would include the county trucks picking it up and hauling it to the yard. The change order quote is around \$900.00 daily. Approval is requested for Chairman Hawkins to approve the change order once it is worked out.

Chairman Hawkins asked if the board would approve it if it doesn't exceed \$10,000.00 for 80 loads.

**Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent,**

**and carried to approve the change order not to exceed \$10,000.00.**

- Generators – The bid is for the annex, health department, sheriff’s office, administrative building, EOC, and the Town of Wausau.
- Buyout Program – 6 houses have been closing procedure. The money was received upfront except for the first four.
- DEP Permits – DEP has requested additional information. The wetlands may have to be reflagged.

VIII.MSBU ADVISOR COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN – Gary Hartman updated the board.

- District 1 and 2 Term Completion – Cherry Sherman, and Andrea Smith-Blackwood terms end on April 30, 2022. They have indicated that they would like to continue on the board. The chairman suggests that they remain on the board. – **Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent for Cherry Sherman and Andrea Smith-Blackwood to remain on the MSBU Board.**
- Meeting Schedule – The meetings will be held every other month instead of once per quarter. The next meeting is on March 9, 2022.
- Roads – Striping has been discussed for the budget this year.

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

- Request to purchase two tractors for mowing and one mini excavator - The quote from Beard for tractors is \$164,913.85. The Caterpillar quote for the 309 Excavator is \$142,514.00. – **Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve the equipment**

**purchase from the public works budget.**

X.COUNTY ENGINEER – Cliff Knauer addressed the board.

- Chipley Landfill – The additional testing that was requested by DEP came back clean, which has been submitted to DEP. The next step is for the Solid Waste Division in Tallahassee to review the package.

The restrictive covenants must be done for the wells on the site. Attorney Fuqua has sent a draft resolution, but this can't be done until the review from the Solid Waste Division.

- Greenhead Road – There is a gas line crossing which will require an agreement and permitting to be done.

- Water Management District – Two easements and sketches will be transmitted to Water Management District to obtain two easements on their property for two ponds.

Karen Shaw, Grants is composing a list of the remaining residents that haven't signed an easement.

- Brickyard Road – Roberts and Roberts should have their performance and payment bonds this week. Once this is received the notice to proceed and a preconstruction conference will be scheduled.

- Sunny Hills Paving – All the leveling is complete. The cap is on everything south of Elkcam and everything north of Elkcam has to be capped.

- Crystal Lake Drive – The intersection is being redesigned to match the

property that the county already has instead of acquiring additional right-of-way.

- South Boulevard – Comments from DOT are being responded to.
- Sunday Road – It is under design.
- Culpepper Landing – It is around 50%-60% complete. The completion date per the contract is early April but they should be complete before that.
- Alford Road – The road is complete. There is a double 30” RCP that goes under the highway that has leaking joints. C.W. Roberts provided a quote to repair the internal bands to seal the joints for \$5,650.00. – **Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent, and carried to approve the quote from C.W. Roberts to repair the bands on Alford Road.**
- Alford Driveways – Commissioner Abbott commented that it is his understanding that driveways were not included in the contract. There are some areas where driveways have been brought out to the road with milled asphalt, some with rock, and some have been narrowed by bringing grass in. Residents are expressing frustration about their driveways. The driveways need to be fixed.

Chairman Hawkins suggested to Commissioner Abbott to fund the repairs of the driveways from his maintenance budget. The ordinance covers the first 50’ of the driveway can be done by the county.

County Engineer Knauer advised that the time for this to be done would have been when they were doing the safety improvements. It wasn’t part of C.W. Robert's contract.

Commissioner Abbott requested an update on Dustin's response after viewing the project.

County Administrator Massey informed the board that the work on Buckhorn is currently at a stop.

Commissioner Hawkins informed the board that AT&T has relocated their mainline cable.

XI. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Jeff Massey addressed the board.

- Sale of County Owned Property – Pine Avenue, Vernon – The assessed value is \$6,000.00, which is the offer. There was no opposition to the sale. The second property is Gasdsen Road, the assessed value is \$4,200.00, which is what was offered. There was no opposition to the sale. – **Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent, and carried to approve the sale of the properties listed above.**

- Door Locking System at the Annex – Three quotes have been obtained to update the key system. The quotes are \$17,735.00, \$18,911, and \$15,871.45 (Georgia/Florida Burglar Alarm Company). The best fit is the quote for \$15,871.45, which doesn't have a monthly service fee. – **Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent, and carried to approve the quote for \$15,871.45.**

- Greenhead Fire – The concrete has been poured and is cured. Johnny Evans has the mill on-site.

XII. CLERK

- December Vouchers Totaling \$6,279,693.95 – Informational item.

Mrs. Bell informed the board the standing meetings on Wednesday will resume next week.

XIII. COUNTY ATTORNEY – Attorney Fuqua addressed the board.

- Engagement Letter Request for Warner Law Firm, P.A. – It is recommended for the Warner Law Firm to defend the case of A&W Excavation and Wesley Griffin v. Board of County Commissioners Washington County. The fees are the same as the county attorney or lower. – **Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to retain Warner Law Firm.**

- Shade Meeting – One should be scheduled for case# 2022-05 (A&W Excavation and Wesley Griffin v. Board of County Commissioners Washington County. The board agreed to schedule a meeting on February 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

XIV. ADJOURN – Commissioner Kent offered a motion to adjourn.