
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 4, 2022, 9:00 a.m., Commission Board Room

1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

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

I. PROCLAMATION

- A. Call to Order – Vice-Chairman Abbott
- B. Invocation – Jeff Massey
- C. Pledge

The following persons were present at the beginning of the meeting: Vice-Chairman Todd Abbott, Commissioners, Charles Kent, Alan T. Bush, and Steve Joyner. Also present were County Administrator Jeff Massey, County Attorney Matt Fuqua, Fuqua & Milton, P.A., Clerk of Court Lora C. Bell, and Deputy Clerk Risha Brantley.

II. ADOPT THE AGENDA

Agenda Additions – Brickyard Road and Blue Lake Baptist Church

County Attorney Fuqua requested the opioid settlement agreement be moved to 1 a. and call a recess after item 1.

Commissioner Kent offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve the agenda as modified. The motion carried 4 – 0 with Commissioner Hawkins not present.

- III. 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
- Summary Minutes Prepared by Risha Brantley

an item that is on the agenda for consideration, the individual or group may obtain, from the Commission Secretary or Clerk, a public comment form and may 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, that an individual wishes 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 be allowed to speak at the sole discretion of the Board Chair. The board has modified this slightly to allow public comment on non-agenda items within a (3) minute timeframe. – Attorney Fuqua.

1. Simon Sheffield requested a paving road schedule east of Highway 77. No roads have been paved around the area, except Buckhorn. It is requested that the board include this item on the workshop agenda.

Simon Sheffield suggested the board attend to the terrible condition of Saint Joseph Community Park.

IV. AGENDA

1. Request for Approval of Agreement, Jessica Hawkins vs. Washington County – Matt Fuqua – There was a shade meeting held before this meeting. A general release is presented before the board for approval, which outlines the terms and the resolution regarding former employee, Jessica Hawkins. – **Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Joyner, and carried 4 – 0 to approve the settlement agreement regarding former employee Jessica Hawkins.**

Commissioner Hawkins wasn't present at this point of the meeting.

The board recessed for five minutes.
Summary Minutes Prepared by Risha Brantley

Commissioner Hawkins joined the meeting after it resumed from recess.

1 a. CVS Subdivision Settlement, Allegan Settlement, and Teva Subdivision Settlement – Ted Howell, Perry & Young informed the board this is consistent with the memorandum that was previously signed. The total settlement value for the State of Florida is \$813,000,000.00 +/- \$484,000,000.00 of that will come from CVS to be paid over 18-years. \$329,000,000.00 +/- of that will come from Teva and Allegan. Washington County is entitled to \$133,000.00 for this settlement.

Chairman Hawkins questioned the stipulations.

Ted Howell, Perry & Young informed the board that the perimeters haven't been defined but they must be related to opioid rehabilitation or mediation.

Attorney Fuqua informed the board that a plan will be set forth to identify the perimeters.

Commissioner Hawkins and Commissioner Bush expressed concern about the funds possibly being used toward baker acts. A lot of the cases are linked to opioid abuse.

Commissioner Bush suggested that the stipulations be generic to allow for records not having to be requested to identify each case.

Commissioner Abbott suggested that it could be used in the school system as a preventative measure.

Commissioner Kent offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to approve the three opioid agreements.

2. Request for Budget Amendment for Supervisor of Elections – Carol Rudd, Supervisor of Elections addressed the board.

Commissioner Hawkins questioned if Inspired Technologies for \$42,000.00 was included in the original budget.

Carol Rudd, SOE advised that was covered by a grant for the year. It is not included.

Commissioner Hawkins questioned if the Albert Server was part of the \$139,000.00.

Carol Rudd, SOE advised that it is not.

Wendy Mayo informed the board that it is for informational purposes. It will be included in the next budget.

Commissioner Hawkins confirmed that the two items will be in addition to the \$139,000.00.

Carol Rudd, SOE informed the board with state mandates there may be more additions. There are concerns about cyber security and physical security. Counties of similar size with a similar number of voters have a budget of close to \$700,000.00. An armed deputy would be requested during election times. The deputy is recommended by the Department of State. Some things can't be disclosed but the threat is real.

Commissioner Hawkins questioned if the expense for the deputy is included in the \$139,000.00.

Carol Rudd, SOE informed the board they haven't received the quote for that but hope to cover the expense with the funds allocated for poll deputies and election workers. In prior years, between the city and the county, an officer's time was donated.

Wendy Mayo informed the board the request is \$139,800.81, which is less than the amount provided at the meeting with the clerk's office. Some invoices being

quarterly instead of monthly contributes to the adjustment. The request is to cover the operating expenses, salaries, and election material that must be purchased before the election.

Commissioner Hawkins commented if there are any funds left at the end of the year, they should be returned to the board.

Commissioner Hawkins confirmed that the amendment went from \$160,005.00 to \$139,800.81.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion to approve the budget amendment for \$139,800.81 for the Washington County Supervisor of Elections.

Commissioner Abbott commented that he isn't questioning the expenses. The audit for the last 3-years showed funds that should have been returned to the board, however, it wasn't.

Carol Rudd, SOE informed the board the last audit reflects that \$38,000.00 was due from the board.

Commissioner Hawkins commented that he doesn't understand how that is possible. There would have been bounced checks. When funds aren't turned back it is considered unbudgeted revenues.

Carol Rudd, SOE commented there wasn't. Those two took care of each other.

Commissioner Kent seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Deputy Clerk Brantley informed Chairman Hawkins that the expense would be taken from cash carried forward.

- V. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Jeff Massey addressed the board.
- Budget Amendment for the Tax Collector – The budget amendment is for \$53,948.00 to replace existing hardware, server, and equipment for the

Washington County Tax Collector's Office.

Chairman Hawkins commented that the tax collector has returned over \$100,000.00 over the last 3-years in revenues collected from his office.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent, and carried to approve the budget amendment for \$53,948.00 for the Washington County Tax Collector's Office.

Chairman Hawkins confirmed with Deputy Clerk Brantley the above expense will come from cash carried.

- ITB 2022-11 Mowing/Landscaping Services – Bids were received from Fresh Cut Lawn and Legendary Lawn. Fresh Cut submitted a bid for \$73,500.00 annually, however, they didn't bid on all items that were listed in ITB 2022-11.

The second bid was from Legendary Lawn for \$87,900.00 for all the items listed in bid ITB 2022-11.

Public works and the recycling center were removed from the bid by the county. Sunny Hills Community Center wasn't included because it is covered under the current mowing contract.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, and carried to accept the bid from Legendary Lawn.

County Administrator Massey informed the board the contract is annually and renewable each year.

Commissioner Bush suggested having a means of allowing the contract to increase based on the increase in fuel.

Kimberly Powell, Legendary Lawn addressed the board regarding a separate contract with a different county. The contract includes the option to review a percentage growth upon renewal. 1% – 3% renewal growth can be asked for during renewal.

Chairman Hawkins requested a copy of the contract with Lynn Haven so that Attorney Fuqua can review the terms.

Commissioner Abbott requested a 2 – 3-month evaluation meeting with the owners since this hasn't been done at this magnitude.

Kimberly Powell informed the board that they have used compliance reports to identify issues.

- Blue Lake Baptist Church – The county has an easement down the road that extends into the Blue Lake Baptist Church parking lot and goes to some private property behind the church. The easement is used by residents; however, it is not maintained by the county. The church would like to pave their parking lot and pave over the easement. There isn't an issue with that if they don't obstruct the easement with lines, curbing, etc.
- Brickyard Road Paving Process – While the contractors are here Usery and a portion of Nearing Hills can be done via a change order. The contractors are ready to proceed. The cost is estimated at \$90,000.00 for both roads. \$50,000.00 should cover the Nearing Hills area.

Commissioner Hawkins questioned if the parking lot could be tied in at the

same time and recoup the funds. If they are going to pave over the culvert that was replaced, the funds should cover most of the road there.

Kevan Parker commented that the project is already approved.

County Administrator Massey informed the board the contractor has already cut the sides on the grass on Usery and is ready to pave tomorrow.

Commissioner Hawkins informed County Administrator Massey the money is already allotted for the culvert. Kevan Parker can provide the number for that. The culvert and the headwalls have been done. Once the paving is done a request for reimbursement can be done.

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried to authorize the contractor to proceed with the expense being covered by the land sale monies minus the amount covered by FEMA.

VI. ADJOURN