

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 11, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Commission Board Room

1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

DISTRICT 1 Alan T Bush	DISTRICT 2 David Pettis, Jr.	DISTRICT 3 Tray Hawkins Chairman	DISTRICT 4 Wesley Griffin	DISTRICT 5 David Corbin Vice-Chairman
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I. PROCLAMATION

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

Present – Commissioners Pettis, Hawkins, Griffin, and Corbin, County Attorney Milton, Deputy Clerk Risha Brantley, Clerk of Court, Lora C. Bell, and County Administrator, Jeff Massey.

II. ADOPT THE AGENDA – Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

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 about 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 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 supply 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 wishes to speak on an item and has not signed up in advance, those who have signed up shall have priority and those who have not signed up may be allowed to speak at the sole discretion of the Board Chair.

Troy Cunningham, Haskin Drive addressed the board about his mailbox being damaged multiple times. 20+/- years ago the land was given to the county to continue the road. According to the property appraiser’s website, the road continues. The county has not done maintenance on the road for years; however, he does keep it up. The post office will not allow the mailbox to be moved unless the county is keeping the road up. Is the county willing to begin maintaining the road?

Johnny Evans informed the board that he did not find any official record that the road would not be maintained by the county. The road would not take much maintenance.

Chairman Hawkins clarified grading the road was not board action, then action is not needed for public works to continue with what they need to do.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Request for approval for Northwest Florida Community Hospital to Build a Surgery Center – Michael Kozar informed the board of the cause for the haste of this request. The attorneys found that since the hospital is seeking New Market Tax Credits to assist with building the hospital addition. Per the lease, any investment by the hospital over \$2 million requires approval by the

WCBOCC. The closing date on the note is April 24, 2023.

The hospital is continuously growing. The standard procedure for an operating room is 1,200 per year. Between the two operating rooms, 2,358 procedures were done since last August. This was close to maxing out the standard procedure.

The hospital plans are for a 14,000+/- square foot addition, which will add four operating rooms to the hospital, which will be located behind the specialty center. There is a modular building in the location that will be removed. Board approval is requested to approve the consent agreement allowing them to go ahead with the construction of the building.

The hospital is surpassing its status pre-pandemic. Growth continues in all outpatient services. Physicians continue to be added, with Tallahassee Orthopedic being one. In a year, Tallahassee Orthopedic will have full-time staff in Chipley. The hospital leased Dr. Sloan's building and Dr. Sloan is working with the hospital. The hospital's financial strength supports being able to add the addition. The cost is right under \$10 Million.

Commissioner Corbin questioned if this had any comeback on the county.

Mr. Kozar responded, "There is not. The New Market Tax Credit is a federal program, where the federal government allows lending institutions tax credits for investing money into deserving communities. The hospital will contribute \$1.5 Million in cash, borrow \$5 Million and the rest will be covered by a Community Development Program. The Community Development Program will fund approximately \$2 Million. Over 7 years the money is forgiven. The New Market Tax Credit requires the ground to be broken on the day of closing. The addition is projected to be completed in a year.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to approve the Landlord Estoppel and Consent Agreement.

V. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Pay Scale Update – County Administrator Massey requested approval to update the pay scale for Veterans Affairs from 106 to 107.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve the pay scale update as presented by County Administrator Massey.

VI. ADJOURN – Commissioner Corbin offered a motion to adjourn.