

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 28, 2023, 9:30 a.m., Commission Board Room
1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT 5
Alan T Bush	David Pettis, Jr.	Tray Hawkins	Wesley Griffin	David Corbin

I. PROCLAMATION

- A. Call to Order - Chairman Hawkins
- B. Invocation – Danny Jackson
- C. Pledge

Present – Commissioners Pettis, Hawkins, Griffin, and Corbin. Also in attendance were Clerk Bell, Deputy Clerk Brantley, and County Administrator 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/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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.”

- The Washington County Board of County Commissioners has expanded this provision to allow members of the community to speak on a topic that is not currently before the Board/Agenda. To do so the community member should, before the start of the meeting, sign the public participation form provided at the door of the commission room, and shall state their name and the topic on which they wish to speak. During the Non-Agenda Audience portion of the meeting, the individual shall be given up to three (3) minutes to speak.
- Each individual shall have three (3) minutes to speak about a 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 shall 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 an individual wishes to speak on an item and has not signed up in advance, those who have signed shall be given priority.
- Any public comment before the board shall be directed to the Chairperson of the Board. It is not a question-and-answer period. Public comments concerning individual employees (other than those hired directly by the Board (County Administrator/County Attorney) shall not be entertained. Any comment, pro or con, regarding a county employee who does not report directly to the board, shall be addressed to the Human Relations Department or the County Administrator.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Request for Approval of Local State of Emergency (LSE) – Lynne Abel, Public Safety Director addressed the board. Since the request for the meeting, there have been changes to the forecast track of Tropical Storm Idalia. A storm surge watch has been issued from the coastline of Apalachicola, eastward. A tropical storm watch has been issued from Leon, Monticello, and portions of Wakulla counties. A hurricane watch has been issued for portions of Gulf, and Wakulla Counties, north to Madison County, and eastward continuing down the west coast and inland areas of the Florida peninsula. Idalia is expected to intensify to a hurricane later today and continue strengthening as it moves through the warm gulf waters. It will likely be a major hurricane at landfall late Tuesday night into Wednesday morning. Due to tropical systems being erratic in their movements, there is always a chance for track shifts especially this far out from impact. Shifts to the west could pose concerns for our area. In an overabundance of caution, the request before the board this morning is to declare a local state of emergency effective immediately and until the threat from the storm is passed. Currently, there are no plans to activate the local EOC but the department is on standby.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pettis to approve a local state of emergency (LSE) as presented by the public safety director.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if there would be a presurvey of the road conditions mapped out with the last presurvey work if the storm changed to the west.

Kevan Parker, Wheeler Emergency Management said that what they have would likely suffice. If there was a turn in the storm the company would do something.

Lynne Abel told the board that FPL is staging at the Chipley Football Stadium. There may be additional staging. If shelter assistance is requested the LSE will put the county in a better position for that, however, it has not been requested at this time.

Commissioner Hawkins said that the use of the industrial park is an option for staging if FPL needs to be relocated due to the upcoming game.

Commissioner Griffin asked if everything was documented on the roads that have been completed through FEMA.

Commissioner Hawkins said that is a guarantee. There are signed and sealed engineered plans for the highway construction, however, dirt road construction does not have that. That is the reason a video is needed for prestorm conditions. That is the only way to be obligated. That is why Hurricane Sally is being fought for.

The motion on the floor carried unanimously.

V. ADJOURN